



The REVELATION of JESUS CHRIST

ALPHA / OMEGA



THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION

Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3 —

- ➊ Ephesus
- ➋ Smyrna
- ➌ Pergamos
- ➍ Thyatira
- ➎ Sardis
- ➏ Philadelphia
- ➐ Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision





LAODICEA

THE LUKEWARM CHURCH



Historical Background









LAODICEA

THE LUKEWARM CHURCH

- Syrian King Antiochus II rebuilt the town and renamed it after his wife, Laodice.
- Laodicea stood midway between the hot springs of Hierapolis and the cold waters of Colossae. (It was fed by an aqueduct from Hieropolis, the water being lukewarm when it arrived.)
- Very wealthy commercial, medical and recreational city known for its unique black wool and eye salve etc...



Lycus River Valley

Meander R.

 **Hierapolis**

Laodicea

Lycus River

 **Colossae**



7 Design Elements In Each of the Letters

1. Name of the Church

2. Title of Christ Chosen

3. Commendation

4. Concern

5. Exhortation – [Repent]

6. Promise to the Overcomer

7. “He that has an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of **the Amen**, the faithful and true witness, **the beginning of God’s creation.**”*

[Revelation 3:14]

Jesus – the Amen



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*“For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. **20 For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.**”*

[1 Corinthians 1:19-20]

Jesus – the Beginning of Creation



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*“He is the image of the invisible God, **the firstborn of all creation.** **16**For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—**all things were created through him and for him.** **17**And **he is before all things,** and in him all things hold together. **18**And he is the head of the body, the church. **He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.**” [Colossians 1:15-18]*

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.** **2**He was in the beginning with God. **3All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”**

[John 1:1-3]

CONCERN





The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*"I know your deeds, that you are
neither cold nor hot; **I wish that**
you were cold or hot.*

*So because you are lukewarm,
and neither hot nor cold, **I**
will vomit you out of My
mouth."*

[Revelation 3:15-16 - NASB]

*The
Revelation of
Jesus Christ*

When we become
spiritually **lukewarm**
and **useless**, we
literally make God
want to **vomit!**

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, **unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.** **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, **for apart from me you can do nothing.** **6** **If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.**”*

[John 15:4-6]

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8By this my Father is glorified, that **you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.**”*

[John 15:7-8]

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*“For you say, **I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing**, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.*

[Revelation 3:17]

*The
Revelation of
Jesus Christ*

The **desire** to get **rich**
plunges us into **ruin**
and **blinds** us of our
need for God!

*“But **those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.** **10**For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have **wandered away from the faith** and pierced themselves with many pangs.”*

[1 Timothy 6:10-11]

*“No one can serve two masters, **for either he will hate the one and love the other,**
or he will be devoted to the one and
despise the other. **You cannot serve God**
and money.”*

[Matthew 6:24]

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."***22***Disheartened by the saying, **he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.***

[Mark 10:21-22]

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “**How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of**

God!” **24** And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children,

how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! **25** It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for **a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.**”

[Mark 10:23-25]

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*“Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. **2** Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. **3** Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days ... You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.”*

[James 5:1-3, 5]

*The
Revelation of
Jesus Christ*

*Total commitment to
follow Christ – though
costly – will always
leave us completely
satisfied in the end.*

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

"I counsel you to buy from me
gold refined by fire, so that you
may be rich, and white garments
so that you may clothe yourself
and the shame of your
nakedness may not be seen, and
salve to anoint your eyes, so that
you may see."

[Revelation 3:18]

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and **he who has no money, come, buy and eat!**

**Come, buy wine and milk without money and
without price.** **2** Why do you spend your money for
that which is not bread, and your labor for that
which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and
eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich
food. **3** **Incline your ear, and come to me; hear,
that your soul may live.**”

[Isaiah 55:1-3]

*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness, **for they shall be
satisfied.**”*

[Matthew 5:6]

*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness, **for they shall be
satisfied.**”*

[Matthew 5:6]

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. **38**Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" **39**Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive."*

[John 7:37-39]

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" Let the one who hears say, "Come!" And let the one who is thirsty come, and **the one who desires the water of life drink freely.**"*

[Revelation 22:17]

TREASURES
in
HEAVEN



*The
Revelation of
Jesus Christ*

*Only two things in
this world last
forever – the **Word**
of **God** and the **souls**
of **men**.*

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, **20**but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21**For **where your treasure is, there your***

heart will be also ...

[Matthew 6:19-21]

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and **sells all that he has and buys that field.** **45** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, **46** who, on finding one pearl of great value, **went and sold all that he had and bought it.**”*

[Matthew 13:44-46]

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*“Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— **13**each one’s work will become manifest, **for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.** **14**If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. **15**If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.”*

[1 Corinthians 3:12-15]

REPENT



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*“Those whom I love, I reprove
and discipline, so be zealous
and repent.”*

[Revelation 3:19]

*The
Revelation of
Jesus Christ*

God **disciplines**
those whom He
loves as a **father**
disciplines his **son**.

And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.

6For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”

[Hebrews 12:5-6]

“It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.”

[Hebrews 12:7-8]

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? **10** For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he **disciplines us for our good**, that we may share his holiness.*

[Hebrews 12:9-10]

*“For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields **the peaceful fruit of righteousness** to those who have been trained by it.”*

[Hebrews 12:11]

Behold
I stand
at the
door and
knock



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*“Behold, **I stand at the door** **and knock**. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”*
[Revelation 3:20]

*The
Revelation of
Jesus Christ*

*Those who are wise
will stay awake and
be ready for the
Lord when He
returns.*

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

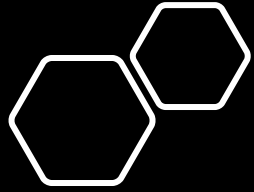
*“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, **36**and be like men who are **waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.** **37**Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and **have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.**”*

[Luke 12:35-37]

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? **43Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.** **44** Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.”*

[Luke 12:42-44]



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

- 1) **Local:** literal churches. Researched archaeologically by Sir William Ramsey...
- 2) **Admonitory:** “..churches”: all of them. Each message applies to each, to some extent. Meant to be shared and read
- 3) **Universal:** “He that hath an ear...” Applies to all churches in all places of every generation.
- 4) ~~**Profile of Church History:** In their *particular order*, they lay out the history of the church???~~
- 5) **Prophetic for the Last Generation:** describe the various complexions and conditions of the end-times church

[PROSPERITY GOSPEL]



*The
Revelation of
Jesus Christ*

*The prosperity
gospel **perverts** the
Word of God,
appeals to the carnal
nature of man, and
denies the cost of
discipleship!*

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and **want to distort the gospel of Christ.** **8But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.** 9As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.”

[Galatians 1:6-9]

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. **2**And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. **3**And **in their greed they will exploit you with false words.** Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.” **[2 Peter 2:1-3]***

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. **2For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money**, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **3**heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, **4**treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **5**having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. **6**For among them are **those who creep into households and capture weak women**, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions.” **[2 Timothy 3:1-6]**

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but **having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,** 4and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 5As for you, always be sober-minded, **endure suffering,** do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”*

[2Timothy 4:3-5]

Overcomer



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

“The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

[Revelation 3:21-22]

*The
Revelation of
Jesus Christ*

*Those who overcome
in Christ forever will
reign with Him have
a place at the **table**
of the **King**.*

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and
the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.

[Daniel 7:21-22]

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*"You are **those who have stayed with me in my trials,** **29** and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, **that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones** judging the twelve tribes of Israel."*

[Luke 22:28-30]

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*“Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but **they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.**”*

[Revelation 20:6]

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*“Hallelujah! **For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.** **7**Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, **for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;** **8**it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. **9**And the angel said to me, “Write this: **Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.**”*

[Revelation 19:6-9]



HE WHO HAS EARS
LET HIM HEAR !

APPLICATION



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

- ✓ Make the most of the one life you have. Stop chasing after the fleeting pleasures of this world and be useful for the Kingdom!
- ✓ Store your treasures in heaven by investing in the Word of God and souls of men.
- ✓ Stay awake and be ready for the Lord's return!
- ✓ Read Revelation Chapter 4 out loud multiple times - take notes

