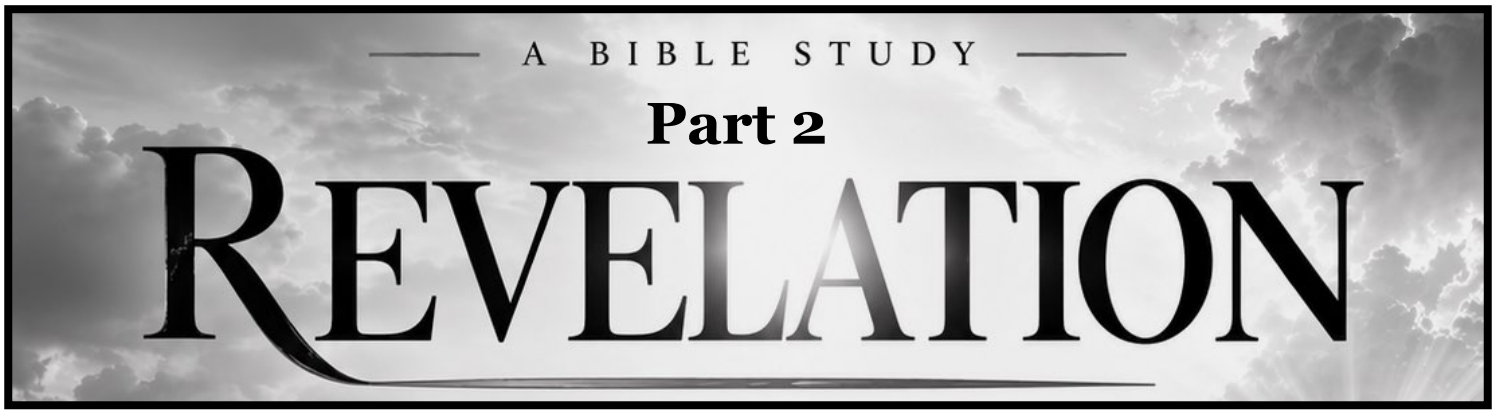


Revelation 1:1-3 AMPC

*1 [This is] the **revelation** of **Jesus Christ** [His **unveiling of the divine mysteries**]. God gave it to Him to **disclose and make known** to **His bond servants** **certain things** which **must shortly and speedily come to pass in their entirety.** And He sent and communicated it through His angel (messenger) to His bond servant John,*

*2 Who has testified to and vouched for all that he saw [in his visions], **the word of God** and **the testimony of Jesus Christ**.*

*3 **Blessed** (happy, to be envied) is the man **who reads aloud [in the assemblies] the word of this prophecy;** and **blessed** (happy, to be envied) are those **who hear [it read]** and **who keep themselves true to the things which are written in it** [heeding them and laying them to heart], **for the time [for them to be fulfilled] is near.***

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The book of Revelation or the Apocalypse is divided into three periods .

O	Pre-tribulation	Rev 1:1 thru Rev. 4:1
O	Mid-tribulation	Rev. 11, 12 and 13
O	Post-tribulation	Rev. 19:20-21

Note: Chapter 4 thru 19 deals with the 7 year Tribulation.

All Bible prophecy is primarily addressed to one of four groups:

The Message to	**The Person(s)**	**Rev. References**
Individuals	the pastors	Chapters 2 and 3
Israel the Nation	the Jewish people	Chapters 7 and 12
Gentile Nations	the judgments	Chapters 8, 9, 15, 16
The Church	the 7 churches	Chapters 2 and 3

Biblical Prophet: A Biblical prophet is a God-called man who, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, could foresee into the future, often through dreams or visions, and relate them through inspired writings or verbal pronouncements. A Prophet by the Biblical definition, is Never Wrong. Jesus, Paul, Peter, John always referred back to the Never Wrong Prophets. Today, the mouthpiece(s) of God (pastor, preacher and teacher) are to prophetically bring forth or forth-tell what was already foretold.

Biblical Prophecy: Biblical prophecy is the writings of holy men of God, as recorded in the Scriptures, which predict events, often thousands of years before they come to pass.

Eschatology: Eschatology comes from eschatos, meaning "last, utmost, or extreme," and the word logos, meaning "word." Eschatology means the last word, or a study of last things.

The Apocalypse: Apocalypse is from the Greek word apokalupsis, meaning "to uncover or unveil what is hidden." It is the Greek name given for the book of Revelation, which was a vision given to the apostle John. The book was originally written in Greek.

Background of John
(Author of:Revelation, John, 1 John, 2 John and 3 John)

John was given care of Mary (John 19:25-27) and the apostles left Jerusalem in 37- 44 AD 2.

John settled in Ephesus with Mary (67 AD); lived there 27 years; then he was arrested at age 90

John penned his name 3 times (Rev.1:1; 1:4 and 1:9), showing who the writer is and to who the angel is communicating.

John wrote the book from Patmos, an island off the coast of Turkey (Rev. 1:9)

John was a political prisoner on the island (tradition says for about 18 months) About 93 AD, John was arrested and went to Rome; he was boiled in oil and survived. After his survival, the Emperor Domitian ordered him banished to Patmos.

Note: The worst political prisoners were taken to Patmos, an island in the Aegean Sea. It was located 24 miles off the coast of Asia Minor (now Turkey) and 60 miles from Ephesus, it was 10 miles long and 6 miles wide; the coast was jagged rocks. John lived in an abandoned cave on top of the island acropolis overlooking the Aegean Sea. There was a niche where John slept; it was called the "Cave of the Revelation" and in 2 BC the island was dedicated to Hermes, the "messenger of the gods".

Jesus loved the 12 disciples but was often shown with Peter, James and John. Peter was chosen to lead the Church, while to John Jesus gave his own Mother. Jesus brought these three men into intimate moments of His ministry that the other nine apostles did not witness.

The Raising of Jairus's Daughter: They were the only disciples permitted to go with Jesus inside the house when He raised the young girl from the dead (Mark 5:37).

The Transfiguration: They accompanied Him up the mountain to witness His glory alongside Moses and Elijah (Matt. 17:1–2).

The Garden of Gethsemane: They were brought closest to Him during His deep distress and prayer just before His arrest (Mark 14:33–34).

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Revelation 1:4 AMPC

4 ***John to the seven assemblies (churches) that are in Asia:*** *May grace (God's unmerited favor) be granted to you and spiritual peace (the peace of Christ's kingdom)* ***from Him Who is and Who was and Who is to come,*** *and from* ***the seven Spirits*** *[the sevenfold Holy Spirit] before His throne,*

At the time the Apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation (around the late 1st century AD while exiled on the island of Patmos), this area was organized under the Roman Empire as the Roman province of Asia or Asia Minor which is modern day Turkey. The land that the Ark rested, the land where each son and a choice to go: Shem, Ham and Japheth, and the land that separates the Eastern and Western Roman Empire.

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John tells us that Jesus is, was and is Coming. He has always been…

John 1:1 AMPC

1 In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself.

The seven spirits represent the seven spirits found in the "one to come" spoken of by the Never Wrong Prophet Isaiah. He foretold of the Messiah and the manifestations of the Holy Spirit He would have and what is to be found in the Church and in the Pastor.

Isaiah 11:1-2 AMPC

1 And there shall come forth a Shoot out of the stock of Jesse [David's father], and a Branch out of his roots shall grow and bear fruit.

2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him—the Spirit of ***wisdom*** *and* ***understanding****, the Spirit of* ***counsel*** *and* ***might****, the Spirit of* ***knowledge*** *and of the* ***reverential*** *and* ***obedient fear*** *of the Lord.*

Revelation 1:5-9 AMPC

5 And from Jesus Christ the faithful and trustworthy Witness, the Firstborn of the dead [first to be brought back to life] and the Prince (Ruler) of the kings of the earth. To Him Who ever loves us and has once [for all] loosed and freed us from our sins by His own blood,

6 And formed us into a kingdom (a royal race), priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the power and the majesty and the dominion throughout the ages and forever and ever. Amen (so be it).

7 ***Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him;*** *and all the tribes of the earth shall gaze upon Him and beat their breasts and mourn and lament over Him. Even so [must it be]. Amen (so be it).*

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8 ***I am the Alpha and the Omega****, the Beginning and the End, says the Lord God, He Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty (the Ruler of all).*
9 I, John, your brother and companion (sharer and participator) with you in the tribulation and kingdom and patient endurance [which are] in Jesus Christ, ***was on the isle called Patmos, [banished] on account of [my witnessing to] the Word of God and the testimony (the proof, the evidence) for Jesus Christ.***

2 Peter 1:16-18 AMPC
16 For we were not following cleverly devised stories when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah), but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty (grandeur, authority of sovereign power).
17 For when He was invested with honor and glory from God the Father and a voice was borne to Him by the [splendid] Majestic Glory [in the bright cloud that overshadowed Him, saying], This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased and delight,
18 We [actually] heard this voice borne out of heaven, for we were together with Him on the holy mountain.

Revelation 1:10-16 AMPC

10 I was in the Spirit [rapt in His power] on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a great voice like the calling of a war trumpet,

11 Saying, I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last. Write promptly what you see (your vision) in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia—to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.

12 Then I turned to see [whose was] the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning ***I saw seven golden lampstands,***

13 And ***in the midst of the lampstands [One] like a Son of Man,*** *clothed with a robe which reached to His feet and with a girdle of gold about His breast.*

14 His head and His hair were white like white wool, [as white] as snow, and His eyes [flashed] like a flame of fire.

15 His feet glowed like burnished (bright) bronze as it is refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.

16 ***In His right hand He held seven stars, and from His mouth there came forth a sharp two-edged sword****, and His face was like the sun shining in full power at midday.*

Hebrews 4:12 AMPC

12 For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], **exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart.**

Revelation 1:17 AMPC

17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as if dead. But He laid His right hand on me and said, Do not be afraid! I am the First and the Last,

18 And the Ever-living One [I am living in the eternity of the eternities]. I died, but see, I am alive forevermore; and I possess the keys of death and Hades (the realm of the dead).

19 ***Write therefore the things you see, what they are [and signify] and what is to take place hereafter.***

20 ***As to the hidden meaning (the mystery) of the seven stars which you saw on My right hand and the seven lampstands of gold: the seven stars are the seven angels (messengers) of the seven assemblies (churches) and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.***

Verse 20 tells the reader the definitions of the seven lamp stands (vs 12)and seven stars (vs 16). When studying God's Word, His Word defines His Words… keep reading and don't try and define a word outside of God's Word or let "groupthink" deceive the true meaning of what God said "it" is.

The Seven Churches at the time of John's writing…

Revelation 2:1-3 AMPC

1 To the angel (messenger) of the assembly (church) in Ephesus write: ***These are the words of Him*** *Who holds the seven stars [which are the messengers of the seven churches] in His right hand, Who goes about among the seven golden lampstands [which are the seven churches]:*

2 ***I know your industry and activities, laborious toil and trouble, and your patient endurance,*** *and how* ***you cannot tolerate wicked [men] and have tested and critically appraised those who call [themselves] apostles (special messengers of Christ) and yet are not,*** *and have found them to be impostors and liars.*
3 I know you are enduring patiently and are bearing up ***for My name's sake****, and you have not fainted or become exhausted or grown weary.*

God's Word identifies what they are doing right or what is righteous. God's Word also identifies what they are doing wrong or not righteous. John is telling you and I about a church(es), the people in the church, what they are doing contrary to God's Word and if they habitually keep doing it, although they are doing some good things…the will spend eternity in hell.
(1 Corinthians 6:9–10: Galatians 5:19–21)

Revelation 2:4-5 AMPC
4 But I have this [one charge to make] against you: that ***you have left (abandoned) the love that you had at first [you have deserted Me, your first love].***
5 ***Remember then from what heights you have fallen. Repent (change the inner man to meet God's will) and do the works you did previously [when first you knew the Lord], or else I will visit you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you change your mind and repent.***

The "works", is "acts of obedience" regarding sin, judgment and righteousness. (James 2:26)

James 2:26 AMPC
26 For as the human body apart from the spirit is lifeless, **so faith apart from [its] works of obedience is also dead.**

James 2:26 KJV
26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, **so faith without works is dead also.**

Revelation 2:6-7 AMPC
6 ***Yet you have this [in your favor and to your credit]: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans [what they are doing as corrupters of the people], which I Myself also detest.***
7 He who is able to hear, let him listen to and give heed to what the Spirit says to the assemblies (churches). ***To him who overcomes (is victorious), I will grant to eat [of the fruit] of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.***

Overcomes: (stops habitually doing) these things that are listed as charges against them.

Ephesus: The city of Ephesus was the fourth greatest city in the ancient world and it was the largest city in Asia Minor. It had stadiums, schools of philosophy, temples, gymnasiums etc. It was consider the best of the seven cities and tourists traveled to see the temple of the Greek goddess Artemis, which Romans called Diana. The city was known for prostitution, bathhouses, idol worship and gladiator fights with 10,000 people in attendance.

Who were the Nicolaitons?

The Nicolaitans were a religious group/movement/ideology under the veil of christianity condemned by Jesus. They taught that Christians could blend in with pagan Roman culture, attend their functions, participate in temple rituals outside of God's Word and be sexual immoral without harming their spiritual standing.

They abused the Christian doctrine of grace, claiming that bodily indulgence did not affect the soul and that moral boundaries were no longer required under freedom in Christ. Their teachings are linked directly to the teaching of Balaam, referring to the Old Testament figure who seduced the Israelites into idolatry and sexual immorality.

Revelation 2:8-11 AMPC

8 And to the angel (messenger) of the assembly (church) in Smyrna write: These are the words of the First and the Last, Who died and came to life again:

9 ***I know your affliction and distress*** *and pressing trouble and your poverty—but you are rich! and* ***how you are abused and reviled and slandered by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.***

10 ***Fear nothing that you are about to suffer.*** *[Dismiss your dread and your fears!]* ***Behold, the devil is indeed about to throw some of you into prison,*** *that you may be tested and proved and critically appraised, and for ten days you will have affliction. Be loyally faithful unto death [even if you must die for it], and I will give you the crown of life.*

11 He who is able to hear, let him listen to and heed what the Spirit says to the assemblies (churches). ***He who overcomes (is victorious) shall in no way be injured by the second death.***

The city of Smyrna was a wealthy city and popular because of the science, medicine and architecture. It was also a very political city that housed many christians who were poor and persecuted by government.

The chief goddess was Cybele (fertility goddess) and her Temple was the largest in the city - larger following. The followers of this ideology would have annual festival filled with color, chaotic and frenzied sexualized dancing.

The male priests would castrate themselves using sharp stones or ceramic shards as a supreme act of devotion to the ideology/ goddess of sexuality/fertility. Following this, they adopted feminine attire, jewelry, and new identities to form a third gender, meaning neither male or female.

Paul told the church that this would happen at the Time of the End in Romans 1… (Jesus said it would be as in the days of Lot when he returns Luke 17)

Romans 1 AMPC

21 Because when they knew and recognized Him as God, they did not honor and glorify Him as God or give Him thanks. But instead they became futile and godless in their thinking [with vain imaginings, foolish reasoning, and stupid speculations] and their senseless minds were darkened.

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools [professing to be smart, they made simpletons of themselves].
26 For this reason God gave them over and abandoned them to vile affections and degrading passions. For their women exchanged their natural function for an unnatural and abnormal one,
27 And the men also turned from natural relations with women and were set ablaze (burning out, consumed) with lust for one another—men committing shameful acts with men and suffering in their own bodies and personalities the inevitable consequences and penalty of their wrong-doing and going astray, which was [their] fitting retribution.
28 And so, since they did not see fit to acknowledge God or approve of Him or consider Him worth the knowing, God gave them over to a base and condemned mind to do things not proper or decent but loathsome,

32 Though they are fully aware of God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve to die, they not only do them themselves but approve and applaud others who practice them.

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