

A person with long hair and glasses, wearing a dark leather jacket, is shown from the chest up, looking out over a body of water. The image is split vertically down the middle. The left half is in a dark, muted color, while the right half is in a warm, golden-brown color. The person's face is partially visible on the right side, looking towards the right.

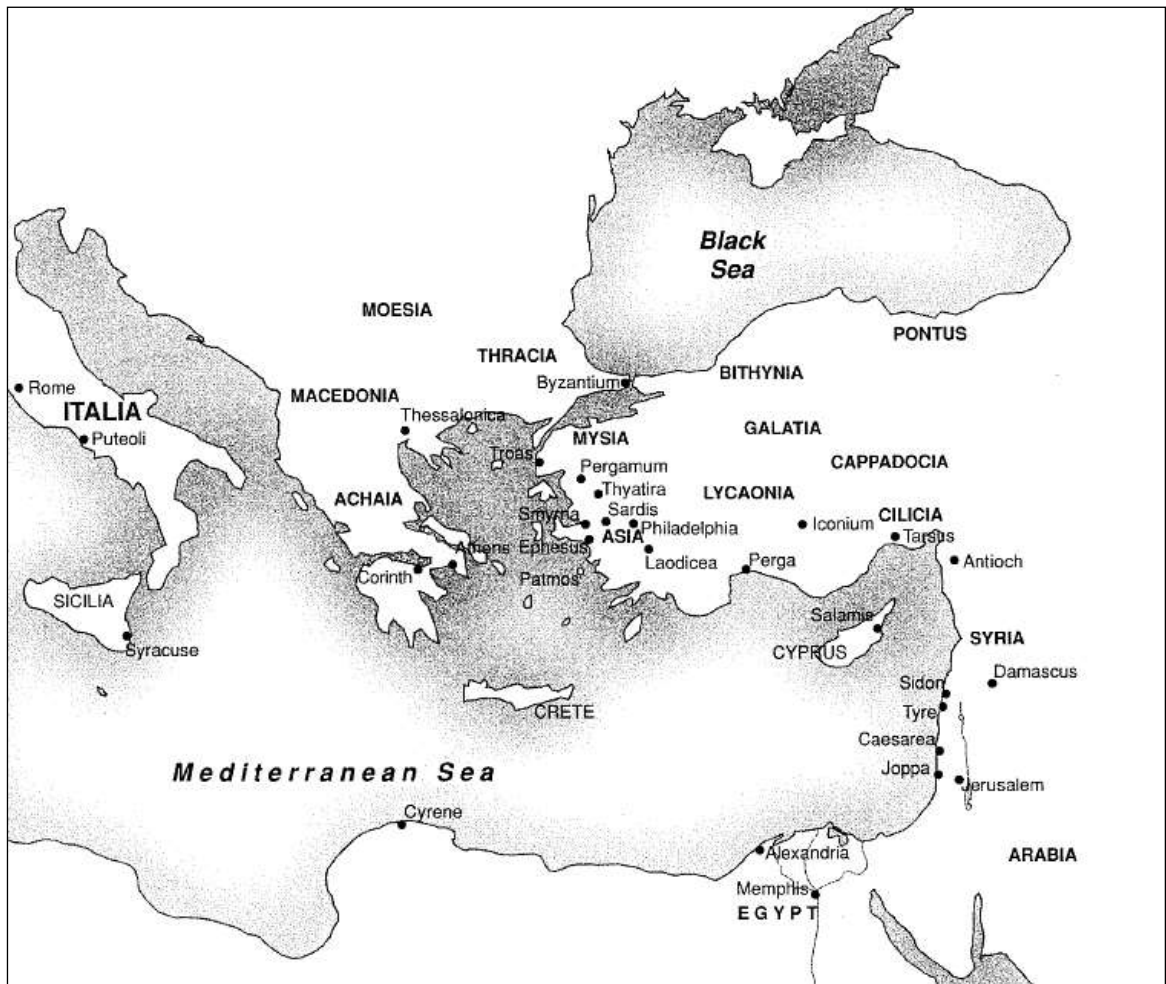
A MATTER OF  
**PERSPECTIVE**

THE BOOK OF  
REVELATION

**Part 1: Chapters 1-3**

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A matter of perspective. The Book of Revelation (Part 1)

## 1

# Getting Our Bearings

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## Revelation 1:1-8

1. How do you feel about studying Revelation? What excites you? What worries you?
2. What would be important questions to ask as you begin a new book like Revelation?

### Read 1:1-8

3. What three things does v1-4 tell us about this book?
4. According to v3, why shouldn't we be afraid of studying Revelation?
5. What events do you think the book of Revelation is describing?
  - a. Things happening in the 1st century?
  - b. Various big events down through history?
  - c. What's going to happen at the end of history?
  - d. None of the above?

6. What do you think the overall message of Revelation might be? (see 17:14, for example)
  
7. After reading through this introductory paragraph, what type of book do you think Revelation is?
  
8. How does v5a describe Jesus? What do each of those things tell us about him?
  
9. What else do we learn about Jesus in verses 1-8?
  
10. What do you think v6 means when it says that Jesus “has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father”? How do we live this out?
  
11. What difference does it make to know that God is He "who is, who was and who is to come (v4 & 8)?

Spend some time in prayer, tell God what you would like to get out of studying Revelation. Ask him to help you do your part. Pray that God would use this book to strengthen your relationship with him.

## 2

# Jesus Among the Lampstands

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## Revelation 1:9-20

1. If a Jehovah's Witness came to your door, how might you try to show them that Jesus is God?

### READ 1:9-20

2. Why is John exiled on Patmos? What clues does this give us about the circumstances the Christian church was living in?
3. Describe the vision that John sees in your own words. It might help to try and draw the scene.
4. Read Daniel 7:9-14 and 10:4-6.
  - a. Who is the Ancient of Days?
  - b. In Daniel's vision, what was given to the "Son of Man"?
  - c. How does this relate to John's vision in Revelation 1?
5. John sees Jesus standing among seven lampstands. What are we told that they represent? What does it mean that Jesus is standing among them? Is this a good thing, or a bad thing?

6. In v17, Jesus claims to be “the First and the Last”. Who do these words refer to in Isaiah 41:4, 44:6 and 48:12? What does this tell us about Jesus?
  
7. When John sees the Son of Man, he collapses in fear (see v17-18). How does Jesus reassure him? How is this a comfort to us too?
  
8. Is Revelation about the past, the present or the future (see v19)? Discuss.
  
9. How do people today think about Jesus Christ? How does this compare with how he is portrayed in ch.1?
  
10. Why does a book addressed to suffering Christians start with a heavenly vision?
  
11. From your reading so far, what do you think is the main purpose of Revelation?

# 3

## Dear Ephesus

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### Revelation 2:1-7

1. What would Jesus say to Emmanuel Church today (or your home church)? What do you think he would be concerned about? What would he commend?

#### READ 2:1-7

2. Who's walking among the seven golden lampstands (v1)? What do the lampstands represent?
3. Why is a lampstand an appropriate symbol for a church?
4. What is the significance of Christ walking amongst the lampstands?
5. What does Christ commend this church for in verses 2-3 & 6? What are they doing right?
6. What complaint does he have against this church?

7. What are the different ways that Christians express love?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What do you think it means that they had lost their “first love”? (see Eph. 6:24; Mt. 24:12)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Is it hard to keep your first love for Christ? What causes you to lose your first love?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What must this church do to restore its first love?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. According to verse 7, who is this letter addressed to?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. What is Christ's purpose for the church in the world? Why would He remove a lampstand from its place?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. How is the promise of v7 an encouragement to return to our first love?



# Dear Smyrna

## 4

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### Revelation 2:8-11

1. A best selling Christian author says, “There's a belief that you're supposed to be poor and suffer and show your humility. I just don't see the Bible that way. I see that God came and Jesus died so that we might live an abundant life and be a blessing to others.” Discuss.

### READ 2:8-11

2. In what way is this church suffering? Have they done something wrong?
3. How would the author of the quote above probably see this church? How does Christ see them?
4. How does Christ counsel this church as it faces affliction?
5. How do Christians suffer today?

6. Numbers in Revelation are rarely to be taken literally. What do you make of the “ten days” of suffering (v10)? Does it tell us anything about the suffering (see Daniel 1:11-14)?
  
7. Who is behind the suffering of the church (v10)? Who is behind the one who is behind the suffering?
  
8. What is the second death (see Revelation 20:11-15)? How can we escape it?
  
9. Should Christians expect to suffer for their faith? How is this evident in your life?
  
10. How might Jesus’ description of himself in v8 be a comfort to suffering churches everywhere?

# 5

## Dear Pergamum

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### Revelation 2:12-17

1. Is “tolerance” a good or a bad thing? What should we be tolerant about? What should we be intolerant about?

#### READ 2:12-17

2. You’ve decided to take a one-year job in America. Finding a good church is your first priority. What will be important in your choice? What things could you overlook? What would you be prepared to live with?
3. What aspect of Christ from the vision in ch.1, is spoken of here? What do you think the imagery means? (See Is. 11:4; Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12 and Rev. 19:15 for clues)
4. In what way does “truth” contribute to the church being a lampstand? (see 1 Tim. 3:15)
5. What does this church have going for it as far Christ is concerned?

6. Who is behind the difficulties and persecution?
7. What is it that Christ has against this church?
8. The Nicolaitans are mentioned in 2:6. How did the Ephesian church deal with them? What is wrong with the response of the church in Pergamum?
9. Who was Balaam? Why do you think he is mentioned here? (You might like to go home and read Num. 22-25)
10. What is the only way out for this church?
11. Or else what? What warning does Christ issue to a church that tolerates false teaching? How will he carry this out?
12. What is the promise given to this church if it overcomes? What on earth do you think these things mean?

13. Are there areas where the church today is guilty of tolerating false teachers and false teaching? Can you think of examples?
  
14. What is the Christian's responsibility when listening to someone who claims to bring a message from God? (See 1 John 4:1-3)
  
15. How can you make sure that you, personally, don't get taken in by false teaching?

# Dear Thyatira

## 6

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### Revelation 2:18-29

1. What's more important – doing good or being good?
2. Is it possible for a church to do good, but to be negligent in the area of godliness? Can you think of how this could happen?

### READ 2:18-29

3. What details from the vision of Jesus in ch.1 are mentioned here? What do you think they represent?
4. What is this church doing right? So what's the problem?
5. The church in Pergamum and the church in Thyatira had the same weakness (i.e. the presence of false teaching). However there is a subtle difference in the way each church is addressed. What do you think is the difference (see v14 & v20)?

6. Was there really a woman named Jezebel in this church? Why does he refer to her then (See 1 Kings 16:31-34; 21:25-26 & 2 Kings 9:22)?
  
7. What is this Jezebel person(s) doing in this church that was dangerous? Why was it so dangerous?
  
8. What is different about how Christ speaks about her compared to the way he speaks about the Balaam and Nicolaitan groups earlier? What is the warning here for us?
  
9. There will be a positive spin-off from Christ's judgment of Jezebel – what is it?
  
10. In a world filled with wickedness, what are these Christians urged to do?
  
11. What is promised to the overcomers of this church? What do these things mean? (See Numbers 24:17-19 & Revelation 22:16)
  
12. What are the big moral dangers that we face in the church today?

13. What lesson are we to learn from the way the Lord deals with the church at Thyatira (v23b)? See also Jeremiah 17:10 & 1 Timothy 5:20. How should this affect the way we live?



# 7

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## Dear Sardis

### Revelation 3:1-6

1. What do you think a dead church looks like? What does a church that's full of life look like?

#### READ 3:1-6

2. What is the meaning of the phrase "the seven spirits"? (See Revelation 1:4-5)
3. In what sense does Christ 'hold' the seven spirits? (see Matthew 3:11)
4. What do we learn about Christ's relationship to his church from the way he is introduced in this letter?
5. What is the impression you get of this church from the way Christ speaks to them? How would you describe them?
6. What is fundamentally wrong with their deeds?

7. What does Christ command them to do in v3?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What do each of those three things mean? What is it that they have to 'remember' and 'hold fast'?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Why is it so important for Christians to remember the gospel?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. How is Christ's return described here? What does that mean for this church and for us?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. These people are promised to be clothed in white (v4). What does 'white' symbolize? Who will be dressed in white according to this passage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. What is the book of life? (see Rev. 20:14-15; 21:22-27)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. Do you think it's possible for Christians to be sure of their salvation? Why/why not?

## 8

**Dear Philadelphia****Revelation 3:7-13**

1. What do you think a dead church looks like? What does a church that's full of life look like?

**READ 3:7-13**

2. In the light of Isaiah 40:25 what does 'holy and true' reveal about Jesus? How is this related to Jesus being 'the faithful witness' (Revelation 1:5)?
3. What do keys normally symbolize?
4. What do you think the Key of David is? Quickly read Isaiah 22:20-24 (see also Rev. 1:18 & Mt. 16:19). What door does it open?
5. What is the importance of knowing that Christ has the key of David?
6. What do the words 'you have little strength' reveal about the church? How does the outside world perceive the church of Jesus Christ?

7. Christ doesn't have a bad word to say to this church? Why? What were they doing right?
  
8. The Bible never promises that Christians will be shielded from suffering or trial in the world. But v10 says they will be kept from trial. How does God 'keep' Christian's from trials that come upon the whole world? (See John 17:15; Rom. 8:28-39; John 10:27-30)
  
9. Christ says He will make the Jews who are persecuting this church bow down (worship) at their feet. What does this suggest about the status of the church?
  
10. Philadelphia had suffered from earthquakes, so that people were afraid to live any longer within the older city limits, and were building houses scattered over the surrounding area. How would this instability make the promise in v12 particularly pointed?
  
11. Christ promises the writing of the name of God on the faithful (v12). What does a name symbolize?
  
12. What do you think it means that Christians will have the name of the New Jerusalem written on them?



## 9

**Dear Laodicea****Revelation 3:14-22**

1. This letter addresses spiritual apathy and complacency. What are some of the common signs of being a lukewarm Christian?

**READ 3:14-22**

2. Discuss different ways in which we use the word 'Amen'? What does the word mean? (Numbers 5:22 / Revelation 1:7)
3. In what way can Christ be described as "the Amen, the faithful and true witness"? (See 2 Corinthians 1:20)
4. The word 'ruler' in Rev. 3:14 is better translated 'beginning'. In what sense is Christ the 'beginning of God's creation'? What 'creation' does revelation have in mind? (See Revelation 1:5; 22:13 & Colossians 1:17)
5. What does v17 reveal about the actual state of the Laodicean church?

6. In what way does Christ offer us 'gold' to make us rich, 'white garments' to cover our shameful nakedness and 'eye salve' to give us sight? (See Isaiah 55:1-3)
7. Why does Christ rebuke and discipline His church? (Hebrews 12:5-6)
8. Think of different ways that people respond to discipline. What is the correct response to the Lord's discipline?
9. Revelation 3:20 has often been used as an evangelistic text, but in its context, who is the more likely target and what is the more likely meaning?
10. According to this letter, what is the issue that makes the Lord disciplining us necessary (v20)?
11. In what way do Christians share in the rule of Christ? (See Revelation 5:10; 20:4 & 22:5) In what way do Christians 'rule' and 'judge' the world? (See Matthew 19:28 & Revelation 3:9)





