

Revelation

Contents

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1 This is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what will happen soon. He sent his angel to reveal it to his servant John ² who confirmed everything he saw concerning the word of God and the testimony ¹ of Jesus Christ.

3 Anyone who reads ² this is blessed, as are those who hear these prophetic words and pay attention to what's written, because the time is near.

4 This letter comes from John and is sent to the seven churches in the province of Asia ³. May you have grace and peace from the One who was, who is, and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ the trustworthy witness, the firstborn from the dead, the ruler of earthly kings. To Jesus who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ who made us into his kingdom, priests to his God and Father—to Jesus be glory and authority for ever and ever. Amen.

7 Look, he is coming surrounded by clouds, and everybody shall see him, even those who killed him. All the peoples of the earth will weep because of him. May it be so! Amen.

8 "I am the Beginning and the End," ⁴ says the All-powerful Lord God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

9 I am John, your brother who shares with you in the suffering and in the kingdom and in the patient waiting that are our experience in Jesus. I was detained on the island of Patmos for sharing the word of God and the truth as revealed by Jesus. ¹⁰ I was filled by the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard a loud voice behind me that sounded like a trumpet. ¹¹ It told me, "Write down in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."

12 I turned round to see who was speaking to me. When I turned I saw seven golden candlesticks, ¹³ and standing among the candlesticks was someone who looked like a Son of man ⁵. He was wearing a robe that reached down to his feet with a golden sash across his chest. ¹⁴ His hair looked like white wool, and his eyes like flaming fire. ¹⁵ His feet looked like polished brass that had been refined in a furnace. His voice sounded like a thundering waterfall.

¹ + 1:2. That is, the witness and evidence given by and about Jesus.

² + 1:3. Referring particularly to those who read this book out loud to others.

³ + 1:4. In Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey.

⁴ + 1:8. Literally, "Alpha and Omega," the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.

⁵ + 1:13. Son of man: the term Jesus often used to describe himself, and also an apocalyptic term used in the book of Daniel.

16 He was holding seven stars in his right hand, and a sharp double-edged sword came out of his mouth. His face shone like the sun at its brightest. ¹⁷ When I saw him I fell down at his feet as if I were dead. But he touched me with his right hand and said, “Don’t be afraid, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ the Living One. I was dead, but look! Now I am alive for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and the grave ⁶ .

19 “So write down what you’ve seen—what’s happening in the present and what will happen in the future. ²⁰ The meaning of the seven stars that you saw me holding in my right hand and the seven golden candlesticks is this: the seven stars are the angels ⁷ of the seven churches and the seven candlesticks are the seven churches.

2 “Write this to the angel of the Ephesus church: This is what the One who holds the seven stars in his right hand says, the one who walks among the seven golden candlesticks: ² I know what you’ve accomplished, your hard work and perseverance. I know you can’t tolerate evil people, and how you investigated those who claimed to be apostles but are not, and discovered they were frauds. ³ I know about your patience, and what you endured for my sake—and that you didn’t give up!

4 “But I have something against you: you have neglected your first love. ⁵ So remember how far you’ve fallen—repent and go back to what you were doing at first. Otherwise I’ll come to you and I will remove your candlestick from where it is—unless you repent. ⁶ However you do have this to your credit: you hate the actions of the Nicolaitans ⁸ , just as I do. ⁷ If you have ears, listen to what the Spirit is telling the churches ⁹ . I will give to those who are victorious the privilege of eating from the tree of life, which stands in the Paradise of God.

8 “Write this to the angel of the Smyrna church: This is what the first and last says, the One who was dead and came back to life: ⁹ I know the troubles you are going through, and how poor you are (but you are rich), and the abuse from those who say they are Jews but are not, but belong to Satan’s synagogue. ¹⁰ Don’t be afraid about what you are going to suffer. Yes, the devil will throw some of you into prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Just remain faithful, even if it means death, and I will give you the crown of life! ¹¹ If you have ears, listen to what the Spirit is telling the churches. The second death will not harm those who are victorious.

12 “Write this to the angel of the Pergamum church: This is what the One holding the sharp two-edged

⁶+ 1:18. Literally, “Hades.”

⁷+ 1:20. Angel means “messenger.”

⁸+ 2:6. Nicolaitans: little is known about this group. It is suggested that they taught the physical had no impact on the spiritual, so the kind of life you led was not important.

⁹+ 2:7. In other words, if you are able to hear what is said, then listen and pay attention.

sword says: ¹³ I know you're living where Satan has his throne, and that you have stayed true to me. You have not denied your trust in me, even when my faithful witness Antipas was killed right among you there where Satan lives!

14“But I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak ¹⁰ how to entrap the children of Israel by means of eating food sacrificed to idols and committing sexual sins. ¹⁵ Similarly you also have some who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ So repent, or soon I will come to you and fight against them using the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ If you have ears, listen to what the Spirit is telling the churches. I will give the hidden manna to those who are victorious. I will give them a white stone with a new name written on it that nobody knows except those who receive it.

18“Write this to the angel of the Thyatira church: This is what the Son of God says, the One who has eyes like flaming fire and feet like polished brass. ¹⁹ I know what you have accomplished, your love and faithfulness and service and perseverance, and that you are doing more now than when you first believed.

20“But I have something against you: you are allowing the woman

called Jezebel who calls herself a prophetess to teach my followers, leading them astray into sexual sins, and to eat food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I gave her time to repent of her sexual sins, but she's not willing to repent. ²² So I'm throwing her into a bed together with her adulterous partners and they will suffer terribly unless they repent of what they have done with her. ²³ I will put her children to death. Then all the churches will know that I am the one who examines thoughts and motives ¹¹. I will repay each of you according to what you've done.

24“For the rest of you there in Thyatira who don't follow this teaching, who have not learned Satan's “deep depravities” as they are called, I don't place on you any other burden. I say to you, ²⁵ ‘Just hold on to what you have until I come.’ ²⁶ I will give authority over the nations to those who are victorious and who do what I say until the end. ²⁷ He will rule the nations with an iron rod, breaking them into pieces like clay pots ¹². In the same way that I received authority from my Father, ²⁸ I will give them the morning star ¹³. ²⁹ If you have ears, listen to what the Spirit is telling the churches.”

3“Write this to the angel of the Sardis church: This is what the One who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars says: I know what you

¹⁰ + 2:14. Referring to the story in Numbers 22-25.

¹¹ + 2:23. “Thoughts and motives”—Literally, “kidneys and hearts.”

¹² + 2:27. See Psalm 2:8, 9.

¹³ + 2:28. “Morning star”—an ancient reference to the planet Venus, associated with victory. It is also a title given to Christ.

have accomplished, and that you give the appearance of being alive—but in reality you are dead. ² Wake up, and try to revive what is left that's about to die! For I have discovered that from the perspective of my God, nothing you've done has been finished.

3“So remind yourselves of how this message came to you, and what you heard. Observe what you were told to do, and repent. If you don't watch out, I'll come unexpectedly like a thief, and you won't know at what time I'll come to you!

4“But there are some among you in Sardis who have not ruined their clothes ¹⁴, and they will walk with me dressed in white, for they deserve to do so. ⁵ Those who are victorious will be dressed in white like this.

Their names will not be removed from the book of life, and I will speak for them in the presence of my Father and his angels. ⁶ If you have ears, listen to what the Spirit is telling the churches.

7“Write this to the angel of the Philadelphia church: This is what the One says, the One who is holy and true, who has the key of David. He can open and nobody is able to shut, he can shut, and nobody is able to open: ⁸ I know what you have accomplished—look, I've opened a door for you that no one can shut. I know that you only have a little strength, but you did what I told you, and you did not deny me. ⁹ From Satan's synagogue I will bring those

who say they are Jews, (but are not, they are liars), making them come and worship at your feet, so that they will acknowledge that I love you. ¹⁰ Because you have persevered as I told you to, I will take care of you during the testing time that is coming on the whole world when those who live on the earth will be on trial.

11“I am coming soon! Keep a tight grasp on what you have, so that no one takes your crown. ¹² Those who are victorious I will make into pillars in the Temple of my God. They won't ever have to leave. I will write on them the name of my God, the name of the city of my God called New Jerusalem which descends from heaven from my God, and my own new name. ¹³ If you have ears, listen to what the Spirit is telling the churches.

14“Write this to the angel of the Laodicea church: This is what the Amen says, who is the faithful, true witness, highest ruler of God's creation: ¹⁵ I know what you have accomplished—you're neither hot nor cold. I wish you were hot or cold! ¹⁶ But because you're lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I'm going to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ You say to yourselves, 'I'm rich, I have wealth, and don't need anything.' But you don't know that you are miserable and poor and blind and naked. ¹⁸ I advise you to buy from me gold refined ¹⁵ by fire so you may be rich; and have white clothes so you can be properly dressed and you won't reveal your nakedness and shame;

¹⁴ + 3:4. Meaning that they had not defiled themselves by doing evil.

¹⁵ + 3:18. Or “purified.”

and ointment to put on your eyes so you can see.

19“Those I love I correct and discipline. So be really sincere, and repent. 20 Look, I’m standing at the door, knocking. If anyone hears me calling and opens the door, I will come in and eat with them, and they with me. 21 I will have those who are victorious sit down with me beside my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down beside my Father on his throne. 22 If you have ears, listen to what the Spirit is telling the churches.”

4After this I saw a door that had been opened in 16 heaven. The voice that I’d heard before, the one that sounded like a trumpet, told me, “Come up here, and I will show you what will happen next.”

2Immediately I was filled by the Spirit and saw a throne set up in heaven, with someone sitting on the throne. 3 The one sitting there shone like jewels, like jasper and carnelian, and there was a rainbow that circled the throne, shining like an emerald. 4 Around the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and twenty-four elders were sitting on these thrones, dressed in white and wearing golden crowns on their heads. 5 From the throne lightning flashed and thunder roared. Seven torches blazed in front of the throne—these are the seven Spirits of God. 6 Stretching out in front of the

throne was a sea of glass, as clear as crystal. In the center and all around the throne were four living creatures covered in eyes, both front and back.

7 The first creature looked like a lion, the second like a young bull, the third had a human face, and the fourth looked like a flying eagle. 8 The four living creatures each had six wings also covered with eyes. Day and night they never stop saying, “Holy, holy, holy is the All-powerful Lord God, who was, who is, and who is to come.”

9Whenever the living creatures glorify, honor, and thank the One that sits on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him that sits on the throne. They will worship the One who lives for ever and ever, and throw down their crowns before the throne. They say, 11 “Our Lord and our God, you are worthy to be given glory, and honor, and authority, for you created everything. Your will brought Creation into existence.”

5I saw the One sitting on the throne holding a scroll in his right hand 17 . The scroll was written on both sides and was sealed with seven seals. 2 I saw a powerful angel shouting in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” 3 Nobody in heaven, or on earth, or under the earth 18 was able to open the scroll and read it. 4 I cried many tears because nobody could be found who was worthy to

¹⁶ + 4:1. Or “into.”

¹⁷ + 5:1. “Right hand.” This is assumed, the Greek simply says “in/on his right.”

¹⁸ + 5:3. “In heaven, or on earth, or under the earth.” This is simply referring to “everywhere.” It does not necessarily imply that there are people who are conscious “under the earth.” Also 5:13.