



THE REVELATION OF JOHN

The Revelation of Jesus Christ found in the Last Book of the New Testament



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The death and resurrection of Christ took place decades before this revelation was written. All the letters of Paul have also been written. Each of the four gospels are probably recorded by now. The Book of Revelation will be the last entry of the New Testament. The second coming of Christ, widely assumed as imminent, has still not occurred. Those who knew the earthly Jesus and witnessed the Risen Lord are dying off. The Romans are still in power and are increasingly less tolerant of non-Roman religions and cultures. The Jewish Temple and the city of Jerusalem were destroyed twenty years earlier (70 AD). Christians have been martyred at times for refusing to recognize Roman authority and religions.

John is likely a pastoral supervisor of seven churches in Asia Minor (Modern Turkey). He has been banished for a couple of years to the Isle of Patmos for being an uncooperative leader of the Christian movement inside the Roman empire. John writes his inspired words of Revelation in a way which could get past the censors but still be understood by the intended church audience. Jewish Christians would already be familiar with apocalyptic literature and the mystic language used in telling this story. In a similar style to that of Daniel and Ezekiel, John lets his hurting congregations see how the present conditions of their day are part of a bigger picture, encompassing time and eternity, martyrs and kings, angels and demons, heaven and earth.

Introduction & The Letters to the Seven Churches (Chapters 1-3)

Jesus reveals to John what must soon take place. John writes what he is told to the seven churches in Asia Minor. On the Jewish Sabbath, John has a prophetic vision. Jesus is surrounded by seven stars and seven lampstands, representing the seven churches of Asia Minor. In the vision, John is told to deliver **a message from Jesus to each of the seven churches.** (Ch. 2-3)



The Revelation of John

1	Ephesus	Positive word: Hard working, good endurance, and hate the Nicolaitans. Negative: You let go of the love you had at first. Proscription: Change your hearts and rekindle your first love.
2	Smyrna	Positive: I know your hardship and poverty. I know the insults the so-called Jews say to you. Negative: None. Proscription: Don't be afraid to suffer on my behalf, even if it kills you. They can't kill you twice!
3	Pergamum	Positive: You are holding on to my name and faithful even when Antipas was killed among you. Negative: Some are following Balaam's tactic to trip up the faithful to be unfaithful by following the Nicolaitans. Proscription: Change your ways and I give you hidden manna to eat.
4	Thyatira	Positive: Just about everything. Negative: you put up with Jezebel. Proscription: She is going down. Don't go down with her!
5	Sardis	Positive: Just about nothing. Negative: You look alive but are spiritually dead. Proscription: Wake up and change your hearts. Follow the few faithful left. They will be clothed in white.
6	Philadelphia	Positive: Faithful over the little you have, even as the so-called-Jews try to bring you down. Negative. Nothing. Proscription: I will keep you safe during the time of testing. Hold on to what you have. I am coming soon.
7	Laodicea	Positive: Nothing. Negative: You are lukewarm. You think you are rich and have it all. Spiritually you are miserable, poor, blind, and naked. Proscription: I admonish those I love. Change your hearts and lives. I am standing at the door and knocking. Let me in so we can eat and talk!

The Heavenly Throne (Ch. 4)

Afterward, in a Spirit-inspired trance, a door opens in heaven. I see a throne. Seated on the throne is someone looking like jasper and carnelian. A rainbow surrounds the throne, along with twenty-four other thrones with elders seated in them. In front of the throne are seven torches, representing the seven spirits of God. Also surrounding the throne are four living creatures in a circle. One like a lion. A second like an ox. Another has the face of a human. The fourth is like a flying eagle. All have six wings.

The four creatures praise God continually. The twenty-four elders bow down and worship the one on the throne.

The Big Scroll (Ch. 5)

John sees a scroll in the hand of the one on the heavenly throne. It is sealed with seven seals. An angel asks, "Who is worthy to open the scroll?" At first no one on heaven or earth appeared who was worthy. Then the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, emerges who had been victorious. He is worthy to open the scroll. The twenty-four elders bow before the Lamb. Angels joined in. Every creature in heaven and on earth join in to praise the Lamb.

The First Six Seals of the Scroll (Ch. 6)

1	Rider on a white horse	He goes from victory to victory with a bow and crown.
2	Rider on a red horse	He takes peace from earth. He is given a large sword.
3	Rider on a black horse	He carries a balance in his hand.
4	Rider on a pale green horse	His name is Death. The Grave is right behind. Gives authority to destroy over a fourth of the earth.
5	Martyrs of the faith.	Given white robes and told to wait until the future martyrs join them.
6	Earthquake	Sun becomes black. Moon turns red. Stars fall to earth. Sky rolls up. Mountains are moved. The people of earth, great and small, cry out.

The Sealing of the 144,000 (Ch. 7)

The four angels at the four corners of the earth stand waiting for the signal to release the seventh seal. First, another angel signals the sealing of 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes of Israel, totaling 144,000.

(Generally, the Levites are not counted among the 12 tribes. They were set apart without owning land, and lived among the 12 tribes. They are counted as part of the 12 in John's revelation. Joseph is not normally listed as one of the 12 either. Jacob blessed Joseph with a double inheritance, letting his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim each have a tribe in his stead among the twelve. Yet in this list, Joseph is listed as tribe, along with his son Manasseh. The tribe of Joseph's other son, Ephraim, is missing (or else is called Joseph in this list). Finally, the tribe of Dan is missing from this list. This is possibly due to the excessive worship of idols and foreign gods that continued while they were in the Promised Land.)

The Great Crowd of Faithful in Heaven (Ch. 7)

In addition to the 144,000 who are sealed for protection, John sees a great crowd from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They are those who have endured tribulation because of faith in God and in the Lamb. They are in heaven at the throne of God, worshipping day and night. God is going to wipe away every tear from their eyes.

The Opening of the Seventh Seal (Chs. 8-9)

First four trumpet plagues of the Seventh Seal (Ch. 8)

1	Hail and fire mixed with blood	A third of earth burns up
2	Burning mountain thrown into sea.	A third of the sea burns up
3	Star named Wormwood falls from heaven	A third of fresh water burns up. Water becomes bitter to drink.
4	Sun, Moon, and Stars struck	A third of each becomes dark, causing day and night to lose a third of their light.

An eagle flies overhead, crying with a loud voice, "Woe, Woe, Woe" for those who live on earth during this time because the remaining three trumpets are about to blast.

The Fifth and Sixth Trumpet Plagues of the Seventh Seal (Ch. 9)

5	Woe #1: Locusts like scorpions, who follow King Apollyon	They are not to kill but only torture the unsealed ones.
6	Woe #2: Release of the four angels bound at the river Euphrates. (Woe # 3 is the 7 th Trumpet below in chapters 11-18)	Angels gather 200 million cavalry troops. The horses kill a third of humankind by three plagues spewed out of the horses' mouths: fire, smoke, and sulfur.

The Small Scroll (Ch. 10)

John sees another angel come down from heaven. He holds an open scroll. He has one foot on the land, the other on the sea. A voice from heaven speaks to John, saying, "Go, take the scroll, and eat it. It will make you sick to your stomach but tastes sweet as honey to your mouth. He takes the scroll and eats it. It was sweet in the mouth, but nauseous in the stomach. The voice says, "you must prophesy again about many people, nations, languages, and kings."

The Two Witnesses (Ch. 11)

John is given a measuring rod to measure the temple, the altar and those who worship there. But he is told not to measure the court outside the temple or those who meet there. They have been given over to the nations to trample the holy city for 42 months.

God's two witnesses will prophesy for 1,260 days (3 & ½ years). These witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord. When they have finished, the beast that comes up from the abyss will kill them. Their dead bodies will lie on the street that is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. After 3 & ½ years, the breath of God enters the two witnesses, and they stand up. They ascend to heaven in a cloud. There is a great earthquake, destroying 1/10th of the city. The second woe is over now. **The third woe** is the seventh trumpet.

The Seventh Trumpet of the Seventh Seal (Chs.11 – 18)

The seventh angel blows his trumpet. God's temple in heaven opens and the ark of the covenant appears. There is an earthquake and severe hailstorm.

The Woman, Her Child, and the Dragon (Ch. 12)

A pregnant woman with twelve stars on her head appears in heaven. She is followed by a fiery red dragon with seven heads, ten horns, and seven royal crowns. He stands in front of the woman so he can devour her child at birth. She gives birth to a son who is to rule the nations. God snatches up the child to the safety of his throne. The woman flees into the desert. There she will be taken care of for 1,250 days (3 & ½ yrs.).

Michael and the Dragon and the Woman (Ch. 12)

There is war in heaven. Michael and his angel fight the dragon and his angels. Michael wins. The great dragon is thrown down from heaven to earth. He is the old snake, called Satan. The dragon chases the

woman who had given birth to the male child. The woman is given two wings to fly to her hiding place in the desert. She will be safe for a while. The dragon pours a river on water from its mouth to sweep her away, but the earth swallows the river. The dragon is furious and goes off to wage war on the rest of her children. They are the ones who keep God's commandments and hold firmly to Jesus Christ.

The Beast from the Sea (Ch. 13)

John sees a beast coming up out of the sea with ten horns and seven heads with seven crowns with blasphemous names. It looks like a leopard with bear's feet and a lion's mouth. One of his heads appears to have been slain, but the wound has healed. The dragon gives the beast his power. The world is amazed at his power and worships the dragon who gave power to the beast.

The beast will be able to act for forty-two months (3 & ½ yrs.). It will be allowed to make war on the saints and gain victory over them. Some believers will die. Some will be taken captive. Either way, remain faithful to the end. God is with you.

The Beast from the Land (Ch. 13)

John sees another beast arise from the earth. It has two horns like a lamb but spoke like a dragon. It makes the people worship the first beast whose wound was healed. It forces everyone to have a mark put on their right hand or on their forehead. No one can buy or sell without the mark showing the number of the beast's name. The number is 666.

The Lamb and the 144,000 (Ch. 14)

In the vision John sees the Lamb standing on Mount Zion. The Lamb is with the 144,000 (mentioned in chapter 7) who have the name of the Heavenly Father written on their foreheads, not the mark of the beast from the land. They are faithful and undefiled. God has purchased them. They are safe.

The Messages of Three Angels (Ch. 14)

The first angel says, "The hour of judgment has come. Fear and worship God." The second angel says, "Babylon has fallen! She made the nations drink the wine of her lustful passion." The third angel says, "If anyone worships the beast, they will drink the wine of God's passionate anger, poured in the cup of wrath. Keep the faith and endure." A voice from heaven says, "**Favored are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.**"

Two Harvests of the Earth (Ch. 14)

On a cloud is seated someone who looks like the Son of Man. He wears a gold crown on his head and holds a sickle in his hand. An angel tells the one seated on the cloud to use the sickle and reap the harvest. It is done. The earth is harvested.

Another angel comes out of the temple carrying a sharp sickle. He is told to use the sharp sickle to cut the clusters in the vineyard, because the grapes are ripe. It is done. He harvests the grapes and puts them in the great winepress of God's wrath. The winepress is trampled outside the city, and the blood comes out of the winepress as high as the horses' bridle for almost two hundred miles.

Song of Moses and the Lamb (Ch. 15)

John sees another sign in heaven: seven angels with seven plagues. These will be the last ones. Before anything proceeds, John notices what looks like a sea of glass mixed with fire. The saints who have been faithful (mentioned in chapter 7) are gathered around it. They sing the Song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb.

Seven Bowl Plagues (Chs. 15-16)

Then the tent of witness (temple) opens. The seven angels come out with the seven plagues. One of the four living creatures gives the each angel a bowl of God's wrath. No one may enter temple until these plagues have run their course.

1	Bowl poured on the earth	Terrible sores appear on those with the mark of the beast
2	Bowl poured on the sea.	The sea turns to blood and the creatures of the sea die.
3	Bowl poured on rivers, lakes, and springs	The fresh water turns to blood
4	Bowl poured on the sun	People are scorched but they do not change their hearts.
5	Bowl poured over the beast's throne	Darkness covers the kingdom. People curse God because of their pain but they do not repent.
6	Bowl poured on the Euphrates River	Water dries up to make a path for the king from the east. Three unclean spirits, like frogs, come from the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. They gather the kings of the world to do battle against the army of the Lord. They gather at Armageddon.
7	Bowl poured into the air	An earthquake like no other strikes the great city of Babylon, splitting it into three parts. Babylon is forced to drink the cup of God' anger. They curse God for the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

Babylon and the Beast (Ch. 17)

John is shown the judgment upon the great prostitute, who is seated on the deep waters. In a trance, John sees a woman seated on a scarlet beast covered with blasphemous names. It has seven heads and ten horns. The woman was drunk on the blood of the saints and the blood of Jesus' witnesses. The angel explains the trance-induced vision. The beast John saw "was, and is not", and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. The seven heads are seven mountains upon which the woman is seated. They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. When that king comes, he will only remain for a short time. As for the beast that was and is not, it is itself an eighth king that belongs to the seven, and it is going to destruction. The ten horns that you saw are ten kings, who haven't yet received royal power. But they will receive royal power for an hour, along with the beast. These kings will be of one mind. They will make war on the Lamb, but the Lamb will emerge victorious."

Then the angel said to John, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples, crowds, nations, and languages. As for the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will destroy her and strip her bare. God has moved them to carry out his purpose. They will give their royal power to the beast, until God's words have been accomplished. The woman whom you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth."

Babylon's Fall (Ch. 18)

An angel comes down from heaven, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!" A voice from heaven says, "Come out of her, my people, so that you don't take part in her sins and receive any of her plagues." Then a powerful angel picked up a stone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Those who counted on Babylon will be devastated. They will not hear sweet music ever again. They will not see great craftsmanship ever again. The light will not shine anymore. You were deceived by her spell. You made the fatal mistake of following the one who was drunk on the blood of prophets the saints."

(This completes the Seventh Trumpet - 3rd Woe - which started in Chapter 11)

Christ Defeats the Beast (Ch. 19)

John hears was sounds like a huge crowd in heaven. They chant, "Hallelujah! His judgments are true and just, because he judged the great prostitute, who ruined the earth by her whoring, and exacted the penalty for the blood of his servants from her hand." Then the angel says, "Favored are those who have been invited to the banquet of the Lamb." Then John sees heaven open, and there is a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True. He judges and makes war. He has a name no one knows but himself. He wears a robe dyed with blood and he is addressed as "Word of God". On his robe and thigh is written, "King of Kings, Lord of Lords". Heaven's armies are following him on white horses. He is the one who will trample the winepress of God's passionate anger.

An angel stands in the sun, shouting to all flying birds, "Come to the Great Supper of God! Feast on the flesh of kings and captains and champions!" John sees the beast ready to make war against the rider of the white horse. The beast is captured, along with his false prophet. The two are thrown alive into the fiery lake that burns with sulfur. The rest are killed by the sword that comes from the mouth of the rider on the horse. All the birds consume their flesh.

Satan Confined (Ch. 20)

Another angel comes down from heaven, holding the key to the abyss and a huge chain. He seizes the dragon, who is the devil, and binds him for a thousand years. After this, he must be released for a short while.

Saints Rule with Christ (Ch. 20)

John sees thrones. The faithful take their seats and judgment is granted in their favor. These are the ones who had been beheaded for their faith in Christ, and those who had not worshipped the beast. They come back to life to rule with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead will not come to life until the thousand years are over. This is the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them.

Satan's Defeat (Ch. 20)

When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from prison. He will go to the four corners of the earth to deceive the nations – Gog and Magog. Satan will gather them for battle against the saints. Fire will consume the army of the nations. Satan will finally be thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and false prophet have already been thrown. Painful suffering will be inflicted upon them eternally.

The Scroll of Life with the Final Judgment (Ch. 20)

John sees a great white throne and the one seated on it. He sees the dead standing before the throne. Scrolls are opened. Another scroll, the scroll of life, is opened. The dead are judged based on what is written in the scrolls regarding the life each lived. Then Death and the Grave are thrown into the fiery lake. This is the second death. Anyone whose name isn't found in the scroll of life is also thrown into the fiery lake.

The New Heaven and a New Earth (Ch. 21)

Now John sees a new heaven and a new earth. He sees the holy city, New Jerusalem, come down out of heaven from God. A voice says, "Look! God is with humankind. He will dwell with them. They will be his people, and He will be their God. There will be no more mourning, crying, or pain anymore. Death will be no more."

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues puts John in a spirit-induced trance. He takes him to a high mountain and shows him the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven. It has a high wall with twelve gates. By the gates are twelve angels. The gates have the names of the twelve tribes inscribed on them. The city wall has twelve foundations. On them are the names of the Lamb's twelve apostles. The city covers fifteen hundred miles. The main street is paved with gold, clear as glass. No temple is in the city because God is the temple. No need of sun or moon because God's glory is its light. The gates will never be shut.

A river of life-giving water, like crystal, flows from the throne through the middle of the city's main street. On each side of the river is the tree of life, which produces twelve crops of fruit each of the twelve months. The tree's leaves are for the healing of the nations.

Jesus is Coming Soon (Ch. 22)

Jesus says to John, "I Jesus, have sent my angel to bear witness to all of you about these things for the churches. If anyone adds or takes away from this scroll, God will take that person's share in the tree of life and the New Jerusalem. I am coming soon." The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.

The End