

The Story

Chapter 31

The End of Time

He's Coming

You'd Better Believe It!

The New Testament

- Begins with the first coming of Christ
- Ends with the second coming of Christ

Revelation

- Apocalyptic
 - Deal with end times – the age to come
- Consensus – John wrote – Approx 95 AD
- Circulation
 - 7 churches
 - Accepted as book of prophecy
- Mentioned in
 - Hermas
 - Ignatius
 - Barnabas
 - Andreas
 - Papias of Hieropolis – knew of revelation (150 AD)
 - Justin Martyr knew of prophecy (155-160 AD)

Revelation

- **The Purpose:**
 - The stated purpose of Revelation is to reveal Jesus Christ (1:1): His person, His power and His plan for the future.
- **The Theme:**
 - Central to the book is the existence, power, sovereignty, justice, wisdom and goodness of God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Nutshell Outline

- **Introduction (1:1-20)**
- **Letters to the seven churches in Asia (2:1-3:22)**
- **Visions of the end of this age and the new heaven and earth (4:1-22:5)**
- **Conclusion (22:6-21)**

Descriptions of Jesus from the Old and New Testaments

- a tender shoot
- no beauty or majesty to attract us to him
- despised and rejected by men
- a man of sorrows
- oppressed and afflicted
- born in a barn
- son of peasants
- “Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head”
- “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

Revelation describes Jesus Christ

- The faithful witness (1:5)
- The firstborn from the dead (1:5)
- The ruler over the kings of the earth (1:5)
- The Son of Man (1:13)
- The first and the last (1:17)
- The living One (1:18)
- The Son of God (2:18)
- He who is holy, who is true (3:7)
- The Amen (3:14)
- The Beginning of the creation of God (3:14)
- The Lion that is from the tribe of Judah (5:5)
- The Root of David (5:5)
- A Lamb (5:6)
- The Word of God (19:13)
- King of Kings and Lord of Lords (19:16)
- The Alpha and the Omega (22:13)
- The beginning and the end (22:13)
- The bright morning Star (22:16)
- The Lord Jesus (22:21)

Prologue

The seven churches ◆ 1:9 to 3 end.

The destiny of the righteous (seals, judgment & victory) ◆ 4:1 to 8:1

Trumpet warnings against apostasy ◆ 8:2 to 11:18

Covenant conflict and victory through the sanctuary ◆ 11:19 to 15 end.

Plagues poured out ◆ 16:1 to 18 end.

The destiny of the wicked (judgment & punishment) ◆ 19:1 to 20 end.

The victorious church ◆ 21:1-8

Epilogue

PROLOGUE Revelation 1:1-8

THE SEVEN CHURCHES (CHURCH MILITANT)

Rev. 1:9-3:22

THE SEVEN SEALS

Rev. 4:1-8:13-5

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

Rev. 8:2,6-11:19

DISCLOSURE OF EVIL

EPILOGUE Rev 22:10-22:21

SABBATH REST FOR GOD'S PEOPLE (CHURCH TRIUMPHANT)

Rev. 20:1-22:9

THE GREAT HARLOT ON THE SEVEN HEADED BEAST

Rev. 17:1-19:21

THE SEVEN BOWLS

Rev. 15:1,5-16:21

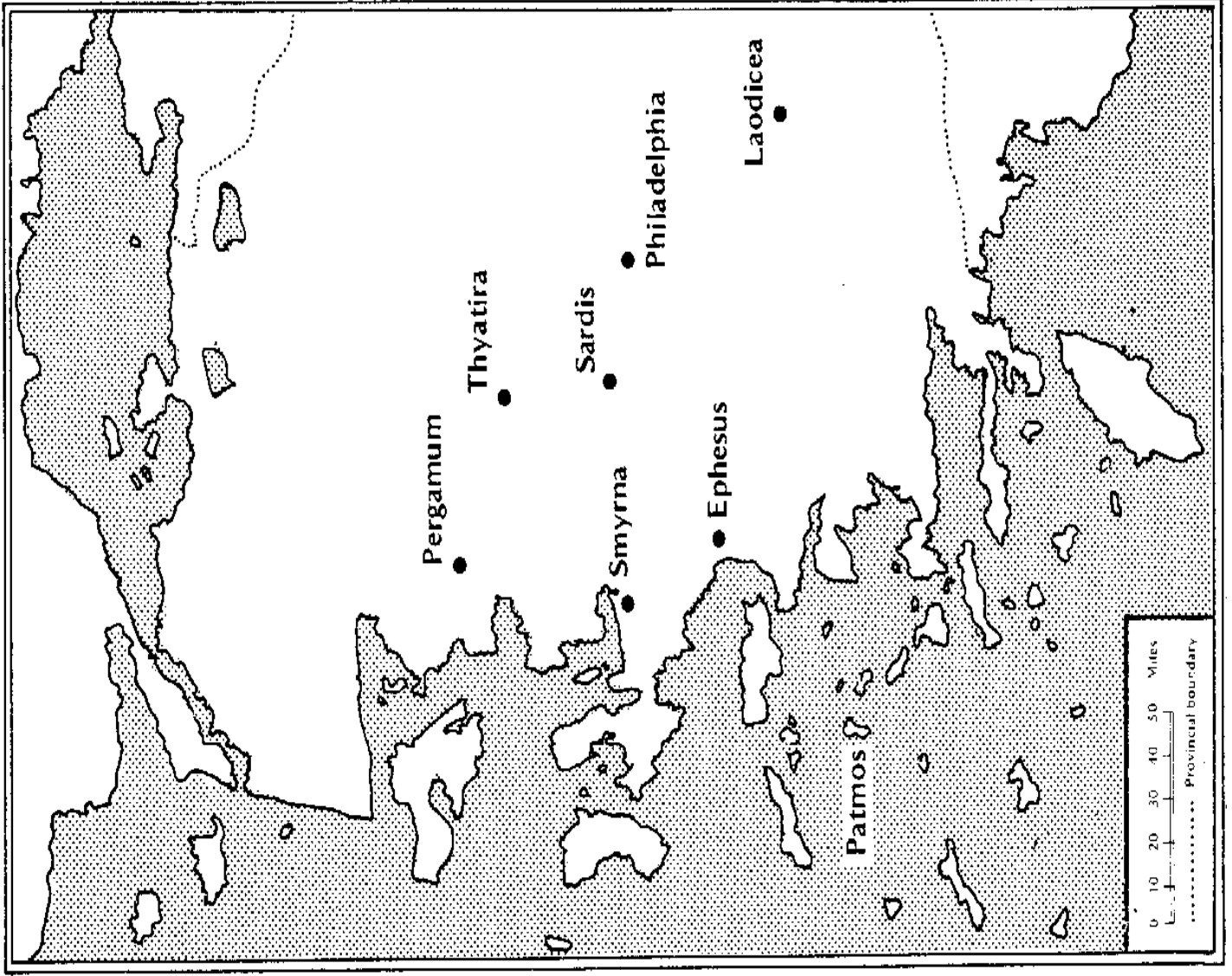
OVERTHROW OF EVIL

WARS & WRATH

Rev. 12:1-15:2-4

1. War of the Dragon with the woman (12:4; cf. Gen. 3:15)
2. War in heaven between Michael and his angels with the dragon and his angels (12:7-9)
3. War of the dragon with the woman's offspring (12:13-17; note esp. verse 17)
4. War of the beast from the sea with the saints (13:7)
5. War of the beast from the earth against those who will not worship the image of the first beast (13:15)
6. Holy War of the Lamb and 144,000 who follow the Lamb wherever He goes (14:1-5)
7. Wrath of God & the victory of the saints (14:19-15:4)

Note the prominence of the number seven in the kaleidoscopic turns. God created the heavens and the earth in six days and rested on the seventh (Genes 1:1-2:3). Seven is the number of recreation through redemption accounted in the building of the tabernacle, which develops through seven speeches God gives to Moses. Each of the seven "recreative" speeches is introduced by the formula "The LORD said (*dābar*) [or] spoke (*āmar*) to Moses" (25:1; 30:11,17,22,34; 31:1,12). The seventh speech (31:12-17) concludes the instructions for the tabernacle with the divine plans for the sabbath day paralleling the creation account of Genesis 1:1-2:4 (Balentine, 138). Seven is prominent in Revelation because all things are being made new through the recreative work of Jesus Christ (Revelation 22:5; cf. Joshua 6:2-5).



THE PROVINCE OF ASIA (MACEDONIA DOMUS)

Revelation

“Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.”

John was told to write:

The “things which you have seen” is the vision of the glorified Christ that John saw in chapter one

The “things which are” are the letters to the seven churches in Asia in chapters two and three

The “things which will take place after these things” reveal the future events of chapters

Church	Christ	Commendation	Rebuke	Exhortation	Promise
<i>Ephesus</i> (2:1-7)	Holds 7 stars in His right hand; walks among lamp stands	Deeds, toil and perseverance; cannot endure evil men; tests; endures; hates deeds of Nicolaitans	You have left your first love	Remember and repent; do the deeds you did at first	Will eat of the tree of life in the Paradise of God
<i>Smyrna</i> (2:8-11)					
<i>Pergamum</i> (2:12-17)					
<i>Thyatira</i> (2:18-29)					
<i>Sardis</i> (3:1-6)					
<i>Philadelphia</i> (3:7-13)					
<i>Laodicea</i> (3:14-22)					

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<i>Smyrna</i> (2:8-11)	The first and last, who died and came to life again	Tribulation and poverty	NONE	Do not be afraid to suffer; be faithful to death	Will receive crown of life; not hurt by second death
<i>Pergamum</i> (2:12-17)					
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<i>Thyatira</i> (2:18-29)	Son of God, eyes like flaming fire, feet like burnished bronze	Deeds, love, faith, service and perseverance; doing more now than at first;	Tolerates Jezebel's false teaching, immorality and idolatry	Repent and hold fast to what you have until I come	Authority over nations; the morning star
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<i>Sardis</i> (3:1-6)	Has the seven Spirits of God, and seven stars	Deeds, a reputation of being alive	You are dead;	Wake up! Strengthen what remains; remember what you received, keep it and repent	Clothed in white; name in book of life; acknowledged before the Father and angels
<i>Philadelphia</i> (3:7-13)					
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<i>Philadelphia</i> (3:7-13)	Holy and true, who has the key of David, opens and shuts doors	Deeds, kept My word and does not deny My name; perseveres	NONE	Hold fast to what you have	Will be pillars in temple; name of God, of New Jerusalem, Christ's new name written on them
<i>Laodicea</i> (3:14-22)					

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<i>Laodicea</i> (3:14-22)	The Amen, faithful and true Witness, Beginning of the creation of God	NONE	Lukewarm, neither hot nor cold; wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked	Buy from Christ refined gold, white clothes, eye salve; be zealous and repent	Overcomers will dine with Christ; will rule with Christ

Father & Son

- Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which **God gave Him to show to His [Christ's] bond-servants**, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to **His [Christ's] bond-servant John**
- Revelation 2:20 'But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel , who calls herself a prophetess , and she teaches and leads **My [Christ's] bond-servants** astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols
- Revelation 22:3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and **His bond-servants will serve Him [both Father and Son]**

Father & Son

- Revelation 20. 6
 - they will be priests of God and of Christ
- Revelation 22:3
 - throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it
- and will reign with Him for a thousand years.
- and His bond-servants shall serve Him

Throne Room – P 466-467

First & Second Comings 469-470

Matthew 24. 29-44

- ²⁹ “Immediately after the distress of those days “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ ³⁰ “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. ³² “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ³³ Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it^e is near, right at the door. ³⁴ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ³⁶ “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴² “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11

- Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵ You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Titus 2. 11-14

- ¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Revelation 21. 3-4

- 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.
4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

**Is Jesus standing with
churches today?**

From His words to the church in Ephesus

- Continue your hard work, good deeds and service, but remember these **good things cannot replace a relationship with Jesus**. It's possible to do great things, but never substitute doing the best thing, which is offering your heart to God. If your heart is both changed and humbled that God could use someone like you, your service to Jesus becomes a humble act of gratitude, rather than an item on your checklist.

From His words to the church in Smyrna

- **fear nothing of the enemy.** There will be suffering for Christ's sake in this life – some of which you are enduring now. All this is temporal. But your eternal inheritance is being kept safe, where it will never perish, spoil or fade. Remember Paul's epitaph: a crown awaits the faithful.

From His words to the church in Pergamum

- **compromise nothing.** Test everything you hear against the purity of Scripture. There will never be a shortage of idols; may you guard against the seduction of idols such as sexuality, greed, power and busyness. The slope is slippery and you'll be sucked in before you know it. So, as the roll call sergeant from Hill St. Blues used to say, "Let's be careful out there."

From His words to the church in Thyatira

- Remember God searches minds and hearts, and no matter what you do, or where you do it, nothing is hidden from Him. Above all, **do not live a compartmentalized life.** If you are “holy” – or “called out” – “set apart” – it is impossible to bless God and curse men from the same mouth. Your church life cannot be disembodied from your family life or your work life. **You are called to be a “fully integrated package” for God.**

From His words to the church in

Sardis

- **It's not about appearances.** Some of you need to be watchful, strengthen your faith, and repent. And some of you have not defiled your garments – some of you have not stained your character. If you remain faithful, Jesus will forever be your Advocate, confessing your name before His Father and His angels.

From His words to the church in Philadelphia

- Some of you have been through the wringer already. Your strength has been sapped, but you have kept His word and not denied His name. **You will be conquerors** – because you have persevered. **YOU** will be exalted, and everyone will know Jesus has chosen you.

From His words to the church in Laodicea

- Just as the Hebrew writer said, **Jesus loves those He reproves and disciplines**. Don't let what the world gives fool you: your job may be secure, your 401k untouched, but in the end, we are all spiritually poor, blind and naked. If we all don't start here: admitting we are wretched, miserable, and desperately in need of a Savior, then none of this will make sense. Don't be lukewarm, the pompous Emperor with no clothes. Wear Jesus, or remain pathetically naked. He said, **I am here, at the door, knocking**

**He said, I am here, at the door,
knocking**

Will you hear?

Will you open the door?

**“Yes, Lord Jesus, come in.
Come quickly.”**

Upper Story

Lower Story