

CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE STUDY
LESSON 591

Revelation
Lesson # 11

Who is Chapter 2 and 3 written to?

- **The 7 Churches**

- **Ephesus** - the church that had forsaken its first love 2. 4
- **Smyrna** - the church that would suffer persecution 2. 10
- **Pergamum** - the church that needed to repent 2. 16
- **Thyatira** - the church that had a false prophetess 2. 20
- **Sardis** - the church that had fallen asleep 3. 2
- **Philadelphia** - the church that had endured patiently 3. 10
- **Laodicea** - the church with the lukewarm faith 3. 16





ITALY

Rome
 Three Taverns?
 Forum of Appius?
 (Appii Forum)
 Tarracina
 Puteoli
 Neapolis
 Pompeii

Brundisium
 Paestum
 Tarentum
 Buxetum
 Sybaris
 Croton

Tyrrhenian Sea
 Sea of Adria
 Panormus
 Messana
 Rhegium
 Sicily
 + Mt. Etna
 Catania
 Agrigentum
 Syracuse

Malta (Melita)

ILLYRICUM

MOESIA

MACEDONIA

Thrace
 Scupi
 Philippopolis

ACHAIA
 Delphi
 Athens
 Corinth
 Cenchreae
 Olympia
 Patrae
 Elis
 Pylos
 Sparta

CRETE
 Cydonia
 Knossos
 Fair Havens
 Lasea

LIBYA
 Cyrene

EGYPT
 Alexandria
 Canopus
 Pelusium
 Heliopolis
 Memphis
 Nile Delta
 Sinai

THRACE

Philippopolis

Philippi
 Amphipolis
 Neapolis
 Apollonia
 Pella
 Beroeca
 Thessalonica
 + Mt. Olympus
 Larissa
 Mytilene

ASIA
 Pergamum
 Thyatira
 Sardis
 Smyrna
 Ephesus
 Laodicea

PHRYGIA
 Antioch
 Lycaonia
 Iconium
 Lystra
 Derbe

PAMPHYLIA
 Attalia
 Lycia
 Xanthus
 Patara
 Myra

SYRIA
 Seleucia
 Pieria
 Tarsus
 Soli

ISRAEL
 Jerusalem
 Gaza
 Joppa
 Caesarea
 Ptolemais
 Tyre
 Sidon
 Berytus
 Tripolis

CYPRUS
 Salamis
 Paphos

AMMONIA
 Amman

ARABIA
 Petra

INDIA
 Jerusalem
 Gaza

AFRICA
 Oea
 Leptis Magna

EGYPT
 Alexandria
 Canopus
 Pelusium
 Heliopolis
 Memphis
 Nile Delta
 Sinai

ASIA
 Bithynia & Pontus
 Paphlagonia
 Amisus
 Heraclea
 Gangra
 Ancyra
 Gordium
 Pessinus
 Archelais
 Cappadocia
 Cilicia

ASIA
 Mysia
 Dorylaeum
 Prusa
 Nicaea
 Cyzicus
 Byzantium
 Achaia
 Corinth
 Cenchreae
 Olympia
 Patrae
 Elis
 Pylos
 Sparta

ASIA
 Mysia
 Dorylaeum
 Prusa
 Nicaea
 Cyzicus
 Byzantium

Intro

- **What do we know about heaven from the Bible?**
- **Why does God spend so little time describing heaven?**
- **Perhaps we are to keep our focus on the cost of heaven**
- **What did heaven cost God?**

C 1 – “Write, therefore, what you have seen” – what had been seen?

- **What had John seen?**
- **This is about the past**

Chapter 2 & 3 – “Write what is now” – what was then?

- **What was now?**
- **The “now” is the church age**

3. *Chapters 4-22 - "Write what will take place later" - referring to?*

- **This was future to John**
- **It is also future to us**

The first words of Chapter 4 are: “After this...” – after what?

- **Review →**
- **John is the writer**
- **God is the inspiration**
- **Written approx. 60 years after Jesus’ resurrection**
- **John is a prisoner @ Patmos – Mediterranean island**
- **His crime was Christianity**

The first words of Chapter 4 are: “After this...” – after what?

- **Chapters 2 & 3 were 7 letters to 7 churches**
- **Each contained – if you have ears – hear**
- **There is an unspecified time gap between 3 & 4**
- **But – the “After this” refers to after the letters**
- **C 2 & 3 were status reports to the churches**
- **Everything will be judged including the churches**

C 2 & 3 – The Risen Christ is where – in heaven or walking amidst His churches?

• **In heaven**

6. *Where is He in the start of Chapter 4?*

- **Who is speaking in C 4?**
- **C 1 described the voice speaking to John as Jesus**
 - **Vs 2 – “testimony of Jesus”**
 - **Vs 18 – “I was dead and behold I am alive”**
- **In heaven sitting on the throne**
- **John didn’t recognize Jesus as His appearance changed**
- **Remember back in 1. 17 Jesus said “Do not be afraid”**

What is His command to John?

- *“Come up here”*
- *John is to see first hand – heaven*
- *He is to see what will take place in the future*

8. In verse 2 – John is in heaven – how did he get there?

- “Rapture?”
- Means taken up suddenly
- The word Rapture is not in the Bible
- John was in the spirit?
- Pre-Tribulation Period
 - Rapture is prior to the Great Tribulation
 - Great Trib – 7 year period
 - Church is raptured prior to the Trib
 - John is in heaven – does this start the trib?

8. In verse 2 – John is in heaven – how did he get there?

- “Rapture?”
- Means taken up suddenly
- The word Rapture is not in the Bible
- Post-Tribulation Period
 - Church is raptured after the 7 year period
 - Church must go thru tribulation period

8. In verse 2 – John is in heaven – how did he get there?

- “Rapture?”
- Means taken up suddenly
- The word Rapture is not in the Bible
- Amillennialists
 - After the 7 year period comes a 1000 year millennial where Jesus rules over the world
 - Putting a “a” in front of a word creates the opposite definition
 - 1000 year period is not literal, but figurative
 - There is still a rapture, but it is a single wrap-up event
 - No 7 year period – no 1000 year reign – just rapture
- Confused – so are the scholars

10. Where is John taken?

- **To the throne room of God**

11. *How is He who is seated on the throne described?*

- **“³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.”**
- *Not described as God*
- *Appearance of Jasper and ruby or carnelian*

12. What can you find out about “Jasper”?

- **It shone with the glory of God**
- **Its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel - clear as crystal Revelation 21. 11**
- **Perhaps it was a diamond - a diamond as reflected by the light**
- **This light is not a blinding light**
- **John was able to describe other things in the throne room**
- **If this light was blinding John could not describe anything else in that throne room**

13. What can you find out about "carnelian"?

- It was a precious stone - red in color
- The light coming from the throne was clear and had red like the light coming through a red ruby
- Did the red refer to blood?
- Old Testament - the most sacred object - which represents the presence of God - "The Ark of Covenant" was sprinkled in blood to represent the shed blood for the forgiveness of sins
- Now the word picture of the "white or clear light" of purity and it is covered with shed blood
- That would best be described as light shining through perfect jewels as described above

14. *What encircled the throne?*

- Vs 4
 - **“And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.”**
- **A rainbow – resembling an emerald**

15. What was the promise from God in Genesis 9. 13-16?

- **“¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: ¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. ¹⁶ Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”**
- *To never again allow water to destroy life*
- *Created an everlasting covenant*

16. *What is said of a rainbow in Ezekiel 1. 28?*

- **“Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard the voice of one speaking.”**
- *Ezekiel seeing God*

17. So what do you think is the purpose of the rainbow - Revelation 4. 3?

- **God's promise to Noah is that no matter how sinful man becomes - God will not destroy flood the world again**
- **Symbolic of God keeping His promises to mankind - Even though we are unfaithful to God - He cannot break His promises to us**
- **Why did the rainbow resemble an emerald?**
- **Emeralds are green – green is the color of the earth**
- **God is saying He won't destroy all of nature again with a flood**
- **The point of the rainbow on the throne room is to remind us of God keeping His promises**
- **Not just the flood promise, but also all His promises**

18. What 3 colors have been mentioned thus far?

- Jasper → purity of God
- Carnelian (ruby) → Avenging wrath of God
- Emerald → Mercy and justice of God

19. *What surrounded the throne?*

- **“Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.”**
- **24 elders appear repeatedly in Revelation**

20. 24 Elders frequently appear in Revelation: what are they doing in

- 4. 4
 - **“Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders”**
- 14. 3 –
 - **“And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.”**
- *Sit around the throne in white robes and wearing crowns*
- 4. 10 –
 - **“the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:”**
- *Cast their crowns before the throne*

20. 24 Elders frequently appear in Revelation: what are they doing in

- 5. 11
 - **“Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.”**
- 5. 14
 - **“The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.”**
- 7. 11
 - **“All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God.”**
- 11. 16
 - **“And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God”**
- 14.3
 - **“And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.”**
- 19. 4 –
 - **“The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: “Amen, Hallelujah!”**
- *Continually worship and praise God*

20. 24 Elders frequently appear in Revelation: what are they doing in

- 5. 6-
 - **“Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”**
- *Bring God the prayers of the Saints*
- 5. 5-
 - **“Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”**
- *Encourages the seer when sad*
- 7. 13 –
 - **“Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?””**
- *Interprets visions*

21. See if you can discover why "24 elders".

- They represents both the church and the redeemed of Israel
- It represents the 12 apostles and the 12 tribes of Israel
- Jesus told the apostles that they would be in 12 thrones judging the tribes of Israel Matthew 19. 28
- The other 12 thrones would be representing the tribes of Israel
- When we get to the "New Jerusalem" in Revelation Chap 21 there are references to both the 12 apostles and the 12 tribes
- Another theory is that King David divided the Israelite priests into 24 divisions in 1st Chronicles Chapter 24
- Probably the leadership of angelic beings in heaven