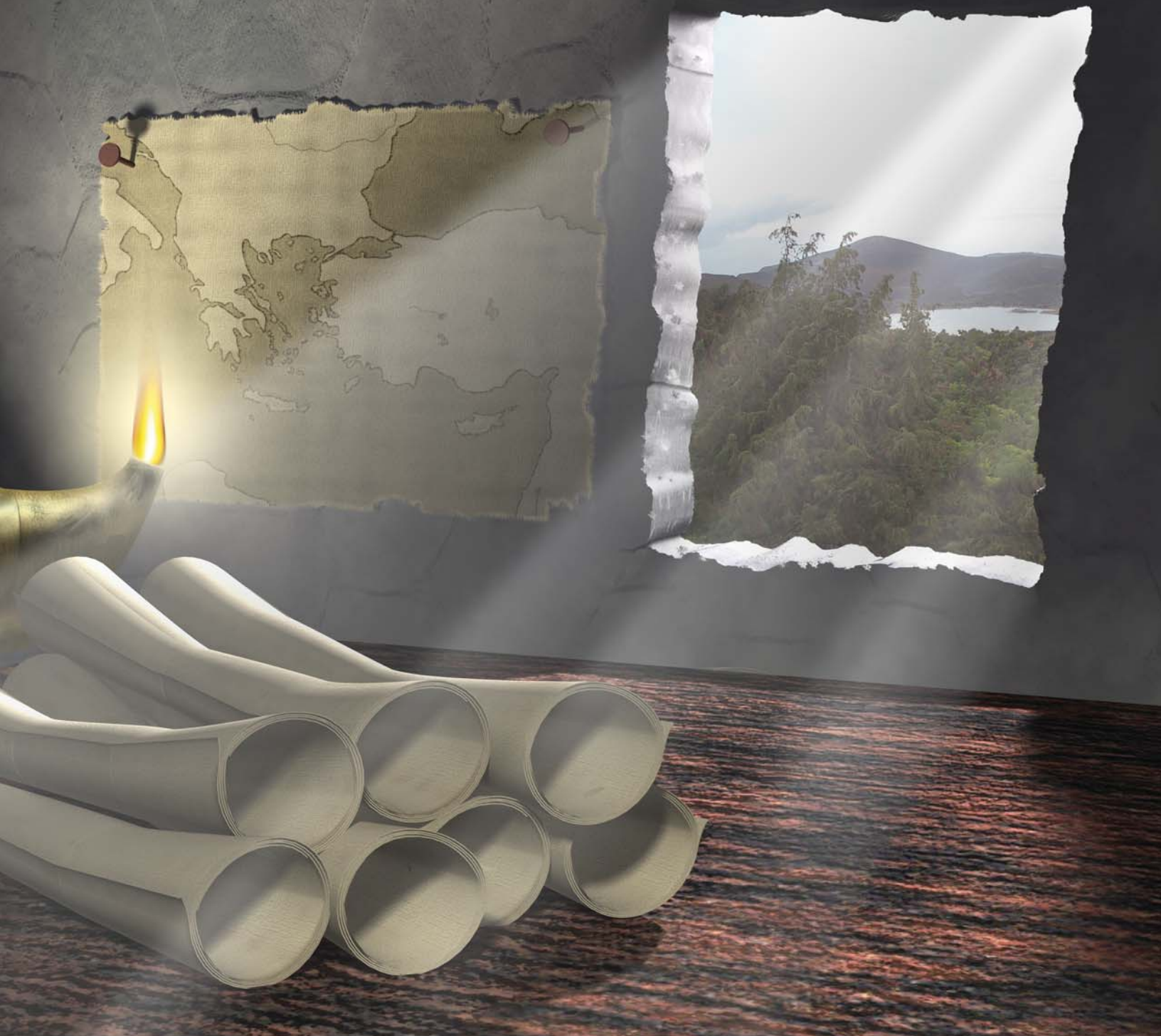


A Study Guide  
by Kay Arthur and the staff of Precept Ministries International

# REVELATION

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## GOD'S MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH



# REVELATION

## GOD'S MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH!

Interactive Radio/TV Study Guide

By Kay Arthur and Precept Ministries International staff

*Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.*

—Revelation 1:3

GOD'S MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH

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**I** am so excited that you want to study God's precepts for life with us in the book of Revelation! We're going to look at God's message to seven very interesting churches that existed in the time when John sat down on the Isle of Patmos and was told to write what he saw.

We're going to look at this wonderful book and see what God said to those churches through Jesus Christ. And do you know what? When we get those messages, we're going to understand what He's saying to the church today, and to you and to me personally.

You couldn't have chosen to do a better thing, Beloved, than to sit at Jesus' feet, listening to His every word—something that will not be taken away from you. God's Word, the Bible, has an answer for every situation of life.

If you listen to what God is saying to the churches of Revelation—and to you—you'll find yourself face-to-face with the Truth, and that Truth will surely bring transformation in your life!

## **Inductive Study Method**

To study the Word of God inductively, you begin with the Bible itself as your main source of truth. Rather than seeking biblical insights from another person or book, you get into the Word of God yourself and begin by OBSERVING the text.

To observe the text, you slow down to carefully study what it SAYS. This sounds simple, and it is, but it takes time and discipline. The investment is more than worth it, because the truths you will discover are profound!

To observe the text accurately and discover exactly what it says, you need to watch for what we call "THE 5 W'S AND AN H": who, what, when, where, why and how.

In a book like Revelation, it's good to begin observing the text by discovering WHO wrote the text and to WHOM it was written.

Then you want to discover WHAT you learn about the author and recipients from the text itself.

You also want to watch for references to time so you can know WHEN something happened or will happen.

WHERE gives you the geographical context. This is very important in many books of the Bible and will give you special insights as we study the book of Revelation.

WHY is a very important question to ask, which you will see right from the very beginning of Revelation. When you ask WHY—like "Why was this said or done?" or "Why should they, or I, do what's commanded?"—you learn so much.

And finally, there is HOW, which gives you greater understanding and practical insights for application.

So as we study the book of Revelation together, our careful **OBSERVATION** will lead to **INTERPRETATION**—discovering what the text **MEANS**.

The more you observe, the greater your understanding of God’s Word. By the way, Scripture is the best interpreter of Scripture, so you and I will be looking at other Scripture passages besides those in the book of Revelation to get a clear understanding of God’s message.

Where do **OBSERVATION** and **INTERPRETATION** lead?

They need to lead to **APPLICATION**. Although the Bible is a very old book, it is God’s Word, which gives us everything that we need to know in order to live life in a way pleasing to God. After we’ve observed the text and discovered what it means, we need to think and live accordingly. The result is a transformed life—the more you and I are in the Word of God and adjusting our thinking and behavior to its precepts for life, the more we will be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ! He is the living Word of God who became flesh, the Savior of the world, and our coming King of kings!

## So Where Do You Begin?

At the end of this study guide you will find a printout of the first three chapters of Revelation. It’s taken from what we believe to be one of the best and most accurate word-for-word translations of the Bible, the updated *New American Standard* version. Use these “Observation Worksheets” to mark key words and phrases as we study together.

The first thing to do is read through the first three chapters of the book of Revelation at one sitting to get a general sense of this book. Then begin your **OBSERVATION** by reading through each chapter again, this time slowly, looking for **WHO** wrote Revelation and to **WHOM** it was written. To discover the answers, get out some colored pencils and mark your Observation Worksheets like this:

- Pick a color for *the author* (I use blue) and color every reference to the author. Also mark (in the same color) all pronouns like *I, me, my* that refer to the author.
- Pick a different color for *the recipients*—those to whom the book was written (I use orange). Color every reference to the recipients, including pronouns like *you, your, yourselves* and synonyms (words that substitute) for the recipients.

It would be good to do this as soon as you receive this booklet and before you listen to the next broadcast.

## What's Next?

- As you listen to each program on radio or TV, keep a pen or pencil handy to write down or mark KEY WORDS that I'll point out on the program. You'll find many of these key words on the back cover of this study guide, with suggested colors to use in marking them so that you can spot them quickly in the text. Mark each key word in the same way throughout the text.
- You can mark these key words ahead of time or after the program, whichever is easier. You can also get the audio or videotape of the program and mark the key words later while listening.
- Also feel free to mark them your own way. There is nothing "sacred" about the particular symbols I use. Do what is best for your own learning style. We all learn differently.
- You will also find in this study some GREEK WORDS that will amplify your understanding of God's message to the church. The New Testament was originally written in Koine Greek—the common language at that time. Periodically throughout these lessons, I will give you the original Greek word and its meaning. You can later turn to these sections and read the meanings again. We included Strong's numbers, which you will recognize as a # sign followed by four numbers (e.g., #3202). If you have a Strong's Concordance, you can look these up to get further insights into the meanings of biblical words. Keep in mind that the Concordance has two sections—one for Old Testament words, another for New Testament words. Make sure you know which Testament the reference is from.
- All the cross-references I'll give you in these programs are given to you under the sections called CHECK IT OUT! If you can, look them up with me. If not, look them up and mark them later. You can write these in the margin of the text of the Observation Worksheets in this study guide, or if you have a *New Inductive Study Bible*, there are nice wide margins where you can write them. I suggest you use a pencil at first, then write them in ink later.
- At the end of each day, think about what you learned and how you can apply that truth to your life. Write out these personal applications on the "Notes" page at the end of this study guide. You may also want to write out prayers related to what you learn, what you're dealing with, and where you need to be.
- After you study these chapters of Revelation, you might want to continue to mark your own Bible in the same way. I find that it helps me greatly to have my notes in my Bible when I have my morning quiet time with God in the Word and in prayer.
- If you do not have a *New Inductive Study Bible*, you might want to consider getting one. (See page 31 of this study guide, go to your local Christian bookstore, call us at 800.763.8280 or order online at [www.precept.org](http://www.precept.org).) This unique study Bible is awesome! It gives you instructions for studying each book of the Bible inductively so that you can discover truth for yourself.

## How to Get the Greatest Benefit From This Study

- Try to stay one lesson ahead of me. That way, you'll be learning directly from the Word of God, and our broadcast time together will be like a "discussion group" as we reason together through the Scripture passage you have already read and studied. You'll get much more out of our time together if you've done this preparation than if you just join me for the radio or TV program cold.
- Always begin your study with prayer. Ask God to lead you into all truth.
- Read these first chapters of Revelation over and over. If you read them aloud, you will find yourself automatically memorizing them. When you read something three times in a row, on three separate occasions during the day, you usually end up memorizing it quickly.
- Memorize a key verse or two for every topic covered in the book of Revelation. God will bring these to your remembrance when you need them! And He will show you the verses you need to memorize.
- Make it a habit to pray about what you learn each day. Ask God to remind you of these truths and to give you another person with whom you can share them. These two exercises will accomplish amazing things in your life.
- Get the tapes or CDs of the program and play them in your car or listen to them when you get ready in the morning, do chores, or have family devotions. Listen with an open Bible and discuss what is taught—how it strikes you, what seems reasonable or unreasonable, what you can apply to your life. Get together with a friend, listen to the message, and discuss it. Spend some time in prayer for yourself and for others.
- When you receive one of our mailings from Precept Ministries International, read it to stay abreast of what God is doing around the world and pray with us for the needs we share with you. You, Beloved, can become a part of this global ministry that is being uniquely used by God to establish people in His Word so that they can become exemplary followers of Jesus Christ, studying the Bible inductively, viewing the world biblically, and serving the church faithfully in the power of the Holy Spirit. Here's what you'll receive each month:
  - A study booklet on various practical topics that will help you grow into a man or woman of God who won't be ashamed when you see Him face-to-face.
  - A prayer list so you can partner with us in prayer as we minister in 119 countries and 67 languages.

- Advance notice of conferences at our headquarters in Chattanooga and throughout the United States and Canada.
- Information about our teaching tours overseas in countries such as Israel, Jordan, Greece, Turkey, and Italy, where we teach various books of the Bible right where it all happened.
- Finally, stay in touch with me. I would so love to hear from you by email (info@precept.org) or letter so I can be sensitive to what you are experiencing, what you are wrestling with, and the questions you have. This will enable me to teach you in a more effective and personal way. Don't worry, Beloved, I won't mention you by name; but as you listen, as you watch, and as I produce these programs along with our wonderful godly team, you'll know I've heard you.

I want you to know that, because of Him, I am committed to you. The purpose of this program is YOU realizing your full potential in God, to live out what God intends for a man, a woman, a teen, a child; YOU studying the Bible inductively, viewing the world biblically so that you know which end is up and that there are absolutes because there is a God; and finally, YOU serving the church (the body of Christ) faithfully in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*That's my vision for YOU, Beloved!*



## LESSON 1 Revelation 1:1-3

# Don't Be Confused

### SYNOPSIS

Revelation is a book of hope. It's also a book of warning. We can take heart reading it as we get a clear picture of Christ's return and realize that He will come for His people and settle accounts with all who defy Him. Chapter 1 gives us an overview of the whole book of Revelation and puts God's messages to the seven churches in context.

As you read Revelation chapter 1, look for who wrote the book and to whom it was written. Mark *God* with a purple triangle, *Jesus* with half triangle and a purple cross, and the *Holy Spirit* with a half triangle with the ends connected by a cloud. Keep an eye out for time references, and mark them with a clock symbol. See our samples of colored symbols on the back cover of this study guide.

### CHECK IT OUT

Amos 3:6,7

Isaiah 45:7

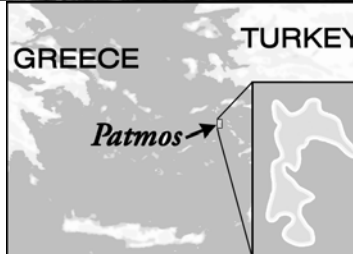
Revelation 22:12

### QUESTIONS

1. Now that you've read chapter 1, what is the book of Revelation all about?
2. Who is the book of Revelation written for? Where was it to be sent?
3. From Revelation 1:1, diagram the flow of how the revelation is passed down.
4. Are you one of the "bondservants" of Jesus Christ the book is addressed to? How does the promise in Revelation 1:3 apply to you?
5. Make a list everything you're learning about Jesus. You'll find a special page for this list before the Observation Worksheets at the end of this guide.



Patmos is a small rocky Greek island in the Aegean Sea, about 60 miles offshore from the city of Ephesus on the Asia Minor seacoast.



## IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

We included Strong's numbers, which you will recognize as a # sign followed by four numbers (e.g., #3202). If you have a Strong's Concordance, you can look these up to get further insights into the meanings of biblical words. Keep in mind that the Concordance has two sections—one for Old Testament words, another for New Testament words. Make sure you know which Testament the reference is from.

**Apokalupsis (#602):** revelation: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 1:1), the noun associated with the verb *apokalupto*, from the roots *apo*, from, and *kalupto*, to cover. It means to unveil something previously hidden, and is one of three nouns used to describe Jesus' Second Coming (1 Corinthians 1:7; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:7, 13).

**Doulos (#1401):** slave, bondservant: "... which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants . . . and He sent and communicated it . . . to His bond-servant John" (1:1). The term means subservience to another (a master). A slave contrasts with a free man (*eleutheron*). God gives the special prophesies in this book to those "having been freed from [*eleutherothentes*] sin and enslaved [*doulothentes*] to God" (Romans 6:22). Those who read and keep the words of the prophecy will be specially blessed (Revelation 1:3).

**En (#1722):** in, and **tachei (#5034):** swiftness, quickness - "... things which must soon take place" (1:1, also in 22:6). The adverb means quickly, speedily, shortly. We get our English words *tachometer* and *tachycardia* from this Greek adverb *tachos*.

### How Firm a Foundation

from *A Selection of Hymns from the Best Authors* by John Rippon, 1787

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said, To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."*

### APPLY IT!

Many people are hesitant to speak about their faith in Christ because they don't think the change in their lives has been spectacular enough. But you don't qualify to witness for Jesus because of what you've done for Him. You qualify because of what He has done for you! Christ set us free from our sins through His death on the cross, making us priests to bring God's love to others. The fact that an all-powerful God has given eternal life to you is definitely spectacular! You do have something to talk about!

### Prayer:

*Lord, thank You for Your great love that brought You here to earth to release me from my sins. You are the Ruler of the kings of the earth. You are the One who's coming again. And You love me! Thank You for Your forgiveness and Your grace. Thank You for making a way so that I can live with You forever! Let my life radiate for You, O God, that others will see me and be drawn to You. In Christ's precious name, Amen.*

## LESSON 2 Revelation 1:4-7

# Jesus Is Coming!

### SYNOPSIS

He's really coming soon! Jesus gave His message to the apostle John with visions of certain future events so they could be an encouragement to all believers. Remember: although this book is nearly 2,000 years old, it still speaks words of truth, comfort, and challenge to God's people today. Pray before you study that God will speak to you personally through His Word. As you read the entire first chapter of Revelation again, mark these key words in distinctive ways (again, we've made some suggestions on the back cover):

- *see* along with all its tenses and synonyms: saw, looked, and have seen.
- *prophecy*
- *church* and *churches*
- *from* (with a red cloud)

### CHECK IT OUT

- Matthew 11:2,3
- John 14:6
- Revelation 19:5-9
- Psalm 2:11,12

### QUESTIONS

1. From your reading of Revelation chapter 1 so far, what do you think is the main theme of this first chapter? Write it here and at the beginning of chapter 1 in your Observation Worksheets.
2. What's the significance of the verb tenses about Jesus in Revelation 1:4? (three in particular)
3. Where are these seven churches located? What is that area of the world called today?
4. What did you observe from marking the word "from" in this chapter?
5. What did you learn about Jesus Christ in Revelation 1:5? What difference does this insight make in your life? (Be sure to add it to the "List of What I've Learned About Jesus" you're making on the page before the Observation Worksheets.)
6. What does Revelation 1:6 say that Christ has made us? In light of this truth, do you need to change anything you've been thinking or doing?

Compare the locations of the seven churches in Revelation 1–3 in the map below to the map at right showing modern-day countries.



## IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

“The One who is [#1510, *on*] and was [#1510, *en*] and is to come [#2064, *erchomenos*] (Revelation 1:4) - two present participles sandwiching an imperfect (“was”). This title signifies God’s sovereignty over time, therefore over all history and events, therefore your whole life. It corresponds to things John has seen (past), things that are (in his time), and things that will be later, according to 1:19.

The terms are not in the normal sequence of past, present, and future as in 4:8 and 17:8. The order may be to highlight God’s timeless sovereignty—a present (is) over past (was) and future (to come).

*Erchomenos* (“is to come”) is dropped from God’s formula once the seventh trumpet is blown (Revelation 11:17: “You . . . who are and who were” only). At that point, the Almighty has “come”—His judgments have been completed; the kingdoms of the world have become His and His Christ’s; He has taken His power and begun to reign (11:15,17). We’ll study this in another series.

## Be Thou My Vision

Ancient Irish poem translated by Mary E. Byrne, 1905, versified by Eleanor Hull in 1912.

*Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.*

## APPLY IT!

The future can be very scary when we don’t know what’s coming and who’s in control. That is why God gave us His Word and indwelling Spirit—to lead and guide us into all truth. What we need to do is read and heed the Word of God. Don’t let anything keep you from studying and understanding the unveiling of “things which must soon take place” (Revelation 1:1). Don’t be in the dark about the future, Beloved! Study well!

## Did You Know??

The “seven Spirits” represent the Holy Spirit. “Seven” is used throughout Revelation to symbolize completeness and perfection.

## Prayer:

*Lord, thank You so much for Your willingness to reveal Yourself to us. Thank You that You don’t want me to be confused about the past, present, or future. I want to know You, Lord, and I want to be prepared for the days to come. Please help me to be Your obedient bondservant, to faithfully read Your Word, and to carefully heed what You tell me. In the precious name of Jesus Christ, Amen.*

## LESSON 3

# *A Kingdom of Priests*

### SYNOPSIS

Prophecy is fascinating, but it's more than an intellectual pursuit. It's not just something to try to figure out. Rather, it's something given to you so that you might order your life accordingly. This first chapter of Revelation tells us the things that are shortly going to take place. Things were not as they should have been in the Christian churches at the time the book of Revelation was written, and you'll be interested to learn how these churches were instructed to get back on course!

### CHECK IT OUT

- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Romans 6–8; 8:1
- Hebrews 9:22
- Leviticus 17:11
- 1 Peter 1:18,19
- Daniel 7:26,27
- 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10
- 1 John 2:18
- John 1:12
- Romans 12:1
- Revelation 5:4-9, 12
- Genesis 49:8-12
- 2 Samuel 7:8-16

### QUESTIONS

1. Read the first chapter of Revelation again. What does the text mean by “released...from our sins” (1:5)? Why is this significant?
2. Add insights about Jesus Christ to the page for this list found just before the Observation Worksheets.
3. Do you belong to Christ's kingdom mentioned in Revelation 1: 6? How do you know for sure?
4. What's the significance of your being a “priest to [Jesus'] God and Father” in Revelation 1:6?
5. If you're a priest, what do you sacrifice?
6. What have you learned from Revelation 1 so far that applies to your own personal life?



Kay Arthur teaching on Precept Ministries International's Paul's Epistles Greece Study Tour. Visit some of the sites of the churches you're studying now!

## EXTRA CREDIT!

**Precept Ministries International** offers a Study Tour that follows the footsteps of the apostle Paul.

Kay Arthur and Precept's Training Staff teach from Paul's Epistles, Acts and Revelation in:

- *Philippi*
- *Thessoliniki*
- *Athens*
- *Corinth*
- *Ephesus*
- *Patmos*
- *and more*

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### Are You Washed in the Blood?

words by Elisha A Hoffman, *Spiritual Songs for Gospel Meetings and the Sunday School* (Cleveland, Ohio: Barker & Smellie, 1878)

*When the Bridegroom cometh will your robes be white? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? Will your soul be ready for the mansions bright, And be washed in the blood of the Lamb?*

*Lay aside the garments that are stained with sin, And be washed in the blood of the Lamb; There's a fountain flowing for the soul unclean, O be washed in the blood of the Lamb!*

### APPLY IT!

The Bible says we should examine ourselves to see if we're in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5). Do you know beyond a doubt that you are a child of God, born again into His family? Are you looking forward to His soon return or questioning whether or not you'll spend eternity with Him? If you're not sure, Beloved, you can pray right now and surrender your life to Him, and know for certain that you are His and He is yours. Ask Him in simple faith to forgive your sins and save you. He will listen and welcome you into His family. Then you can have no hesitation about watching and waiting for your Bridegroom to come. You'll know that He's coming for you and has a place prepared for you to be with Him forever!

### Prayer:

*Father God, You are worthy of glory! I want to be watching for Jesus' return, and I want to be ready. I don't want to be one of those who mourn over Him—I want to rejoice at His coming. I believe You died to pay the penalty for my sin and to buy my release from sin with Your blood. Forgive me, Lord, and cleanse me. Transform me into the person You want me to be by the power of Your Holy Spirit living inside me. Help me to live as a priest to Your Father, as I wait for You to come again in the clouds. Amen.*

## LESSON 4

# *Purifying Hope*

### SYNOPSIS

Christ's return is guaranteed by prophecy! Of the 404 verses that comprise the book of Revelation, 278 (68%) allude to Old Testament references. The book of Revelation helps us understand Old Testament prophecies that relate to end times. God wants us to understand and to be prepared, Beloved. And He wants us to watch for the signs of His coming, always looking to Him with great expectation! Are you ready for Him, Beloved? Are you looking for the signs of His soon return?

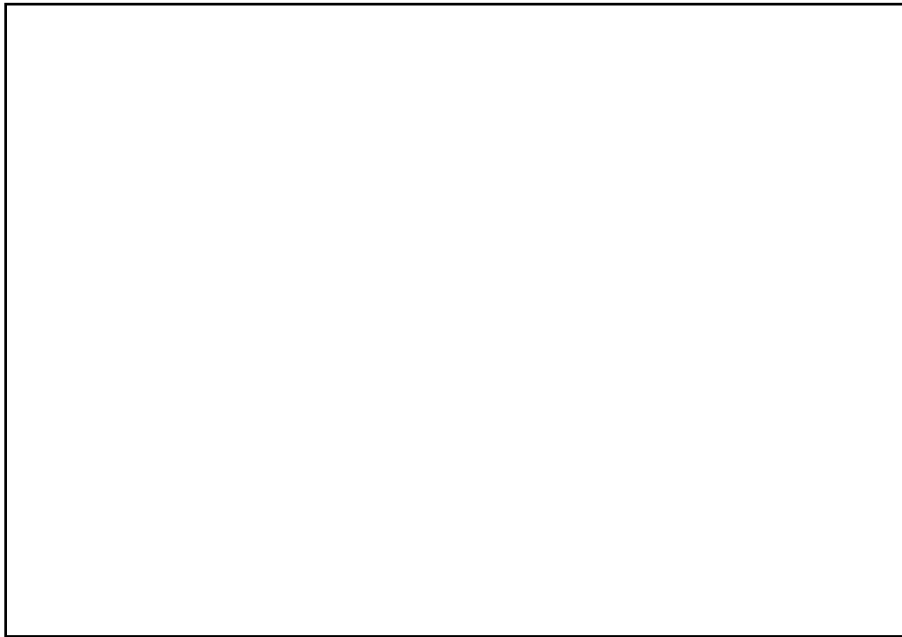
### CHECK IT OUT

- Zechariah 12:10–13:2,8
- Revelation 11:1,2
- Daniel 9:27
- John 19:32-37

### QUESTIONS

1. According to Revelation 1:7, who will see Christ when He returns?
  
2. Who is guilty of piercing Jesus? (Check Isaiah 53)
  
3. How will most people react when Jesus returns? Why?
  
4. How will you react when you see Him “coming with the clouds”?
  
5. Add to your list what you're learning about Jesus, especially from Revelation 1:7.

6. With your colored pencils or pens, draw a picture here of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, as John describes it in Revelation 1:7. Even if you're not a good artist, try to capture the vision of peoples' reaction. This will lock this scene in your memory!



### The Church's One Foundation

words by Samuel John Stone, Lyra Fidelium; *Twelve Hymns of the Twelve Articles of the Apostle's Creed* (London: Messrs. Parker and Co., 1866)

*The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord,  
She is His new creation by water and the Word.  
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her and for her life He died.*

### APPLY IT!

Jesus is more than just a humble, earthly teacher—He is the glorious God! Christ's return will be both visible and victorious. All people will see Him, and they will know it's Him. Has this truth penetrated your life, deepened your faith, and strengthened your commitment to follow Him at any cost? The Scriptures we've been studying are not just an interesting picture of the future—they are an exhortation to us to line up our priorities today in the light of His soon return!

### Prayer:

*Lord, let me look to the clouds today and picture You coming! I want to be ready, Lord! I don't want to waste my time here on earth with frivolous things! Help me to live each day with that excitement and joy of knowing that You're coming soon. The time is short, and I don't want to have any regrets when I see You! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!*

## EXTRA CREDIT!

**Precept Ministries International** offers in-depth inductive Bible studies covering the book of Revelation in the *Precept Upon Precept Series*.

### **Revelation Part 1: Jesus' Message to the Church**

(11 weeks/10 lessons)

Chapters 1–3 of Revelation contain God's messages to the seven churches of Asia. See how His messages recorded by John so long ago still speak to the church today.

**Item# 70079 Workbook**

### **Revelation Part 2: The Unveiling of the Book of Revelation**

(13 weeks/12 lessons)

The focus of chapters 4–22 is the end times. Through careful observation of the text, discover exactly what God says will take place.

**Item# 70111 Workbook**

### **Revelation Part 3: What Is the Sign of His Coming and the End of the Age?**

(12 weeks/11 lessons)

Explore the relationship of the book of Revelation to the Gospels—realize the prophecies and teachings they contain about the last days.

**Item# 70112 Workbook**

### **Revelation Part 4: Interpreting Revelation in the Light of Biblical Prophecy**

(15 weeks/14 lessons)

Passages concerning biblical prophecy, especially from the Old Testament, are included in this final study of Revelation to complete your study of eschatology.

**Item# 70123 Workbook**

**Visit [www.precept.org](http://www.precept.org) or call 800.763.8280 for more information.**



## LESSON 5 Revelation 1:8-9

# Alpha and Omega!

### SYNOPSIS

Before you study, remember to pray that God will speak to you through His Word and nurture you through His truth. You're in good hands with God—the One who created the earth and governs all things. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. God is the beginning and the end of all existence, wisdom and power. He always was, He is, and He always will be *there for you*. What difference does that make in your life today to realize that the eternal God cares for you and your needs?

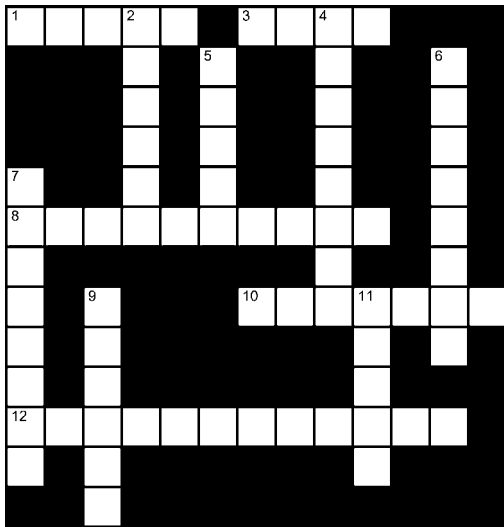
### CHECK IT OUT

- Revelation 4:8
- Revelation 21:1-8
- 1 Corinthians 15:24-28
- Daniel 7:9-27
- Hebrews 3:6,14
- Hebrews 10:35-39

### QUESTIONS

1. Who is speaking in Revelation 1:8? How do you know?
  
2. What difference does this make in your relationship to Him during the ups and downs of everyday life?
  
3. In Revelation 1:9, what three things does John say he shares with the recipients of this book?
  
4. Read Hebrews 10:35–39 (the last cross-reference below under “Check It Out”) and write here why it says you don’t need to lose hope and give up:
  
5. Look over the list you have been making about Jesus Christ, and pray through it today, using it to worship Him!

## ACTIVITY



### Across

1. End, last Greet letter
3. Writer of Revelation
8. Something that is revealed, made clear
10. Promise to readers of Revelation
12. Number seven represents this

### Down

2. Patmos is in this country
4. Perseverance under stress (Greek)
5. Beginning, first Greek letter
6. Seven of these were written to
7. Given to help you know how to live
9. John received the vision here
11. Number of churches addressed

*Solution on page 61*

## Near to the Heart of God

words by Cleland Boyd McAfee, 1903

*There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God,  
A place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.*

*Refrain: O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,  
Hold us who wait before Thee near to the heart of God.*

*There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God,  
A place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God.*

*Refrain: O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,  
Hold us who wait before Thee near to the heart of God.*

## APPLY IT!

Is the Lord your reason for living—the Alpha and Omega of your life? Even when circumstances are difficult for you to understand—someone has hurt or left you and you feel alone—you can know that He’s there. He cares and He comforts, no matter what you’re going through. Honor Him as the Lord of the universe and trust His sovereignty to work all things for good to those who love Him. If we truly trust Him, we can persevere with confidence—no matter what!

## IT’S ALL GREEK TO ME

**Hupomone (#5281):** perseverance, endurance, particularly under stress. “I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus” (Revelation 1:9, also in 13:10 and 14:12). Those who are “in Jesus” share His tribulation but also His perseverance, meaning they “make it through” (see Revelation 7:9–11). Jesus commends believers in Ephesus (Revelation 2:2, 3), Thyatira (Revelation 2:19), and Philadelphia (Revelation 3:10) for perseverance.



ALPHA



OMEGA

## Prayer:

*Speak to me, Lord, through Your powerful Word. You know where I need to be encouraged and You know where I need to be convicted. Wash me that I might be whiter than snow. Cause me to hunger and thirst after righteousness and long for the day when I will see You and hear those words, “Well done, good and faithful servant”! In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.*

## LESSON 6 Revelation 1:12-20

# *The Living One!*

### SYNOPSIS

We've all seen paintings in which Jesus is depicted as soft, anemic, and spineless. The book of Revelation paints quite a different picture—majesty, glory, and holiness! This is how John describes Jesus from his exile on the Isle of Patmos around A.D. 95. He writes God's message to seven real churches in important cities at that time—seven very different churches that exemplify the problems, strengths, and weaknesses Christian churches have faced through the ages. Look for similarities with the modern challenges you and your church face as you study God's messages to these early churches.

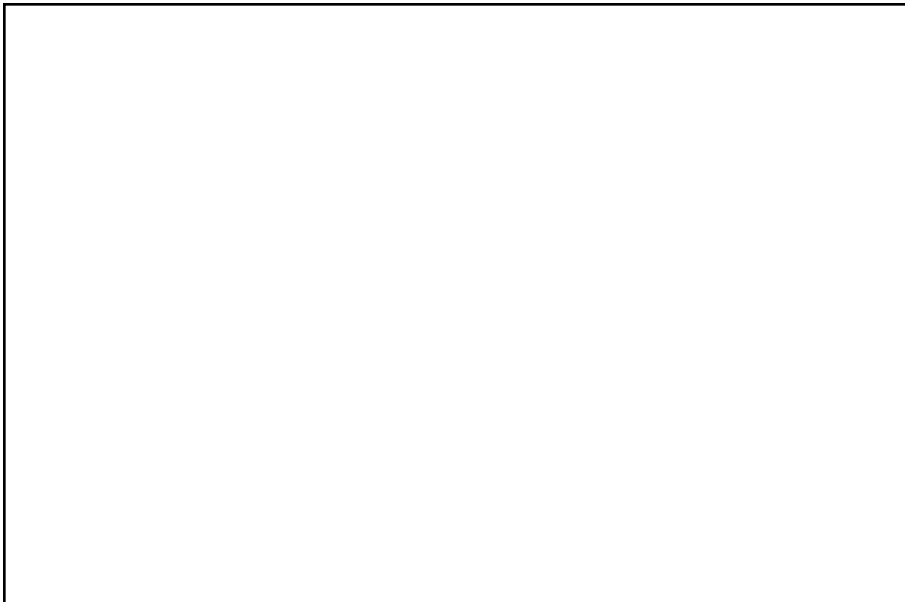
### CHECK IT OUT

- Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
- Ezekiel 1:26-28
- Daniel 10:6
- John 1:1-3, 14

### QUESTIONS

1. List John's descriptions of Jesus' hair, eyes, feet, and voice in Revelation 1:13-16.
  
2. How does the ascended, exalted "Son of Man" John described in Revelation 1:13-16 differ from the Jesus he and the disciples knew on earth?
  
3. How does John react when he sees Jesus? Why?
  
4. What three things was John told to write in Revelation 1:19?
  - 
  - 
  -
5. What are the seven stars and the seven lampstands, according to Revelation 1:20?

Draw John's description of Jesus in Revelation 1:13-18. Even if you're not much of an artist, it will seal this picture in your mind. If you have children or teenagers, read this description to them, ask them to draw on a separate piece of paper, then compare your drawing with theirs and talk about them.



### Holy, Holy, Holy

words by Reginald Heber, 1826

*Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.*

### APPLY IT!

How do you picture Jesus Christ? Do you see Him as a passive, humble teacher or a suffering servant on a cross? If you saw Him the way John did, how would it impact your prayer life? Do you think you would have the same reaction John did if you saw Him in such glory? That risen, glorified, all-powerful Savior tells us, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last." What a message for churches and individuals! Hear it, believe it, and worship Him as the coming, reigning King!

### Prayer:

*Lord, I bow before You. I fall at Your feet in awe. You are the First and the Last, the living One. I praise You for conquering death and being alive forevermore. I look forward to Your coming again in glory and majesty. Lord, in faith I envision You putting Your right hand on me today, just as You did to John, and telling me not to be afraid. Speak to me, Lord, through Your messages to the seven churches, and help me recognize Your still, small voice like the sound of many waters through Your Word.*

## EXTRA CREDIT!

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# LESSON 7 Revelation 2:1,7

## *Ears to Hear!*

### SYNOPSIS

Be sure to mark the repeated phase, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Note that all messages are given to all churches, not just the one immediately addressed. Mark the key words *write* and *written* with a blue book. Remember John is writing what he has seen (1:2,19,20), so continue coloring the phrases “*what you see*” and “*I looked...I saw*” or marking them with orange eyeglasses all the way through Revelation.

When you see the salutation, “*to the angel of the church in...*” color it red, then double underline the city name in green (I like to do this with all geographical places for easy reference). Mark each promise to *overcomers* in a different color (see suggestions on the back cover). Observe in each message how Jesus is described, what He commends the particular church for, what reproofs, warnings, and instructions He gives, and finally His promises. List this information on the chart, “Jesus’ Messages to the Churches” to see how the different churches compare.

### CHECK IT OUT

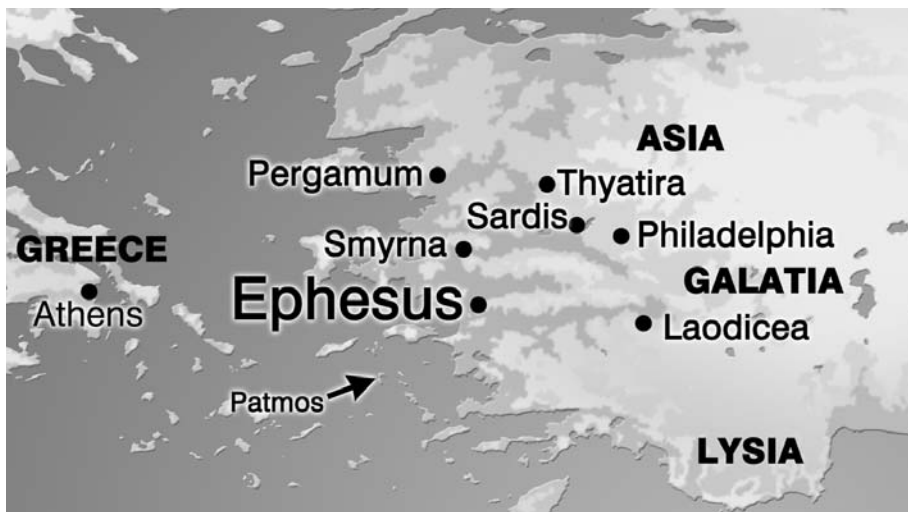
- Revelation 4:1
- Acts 19
- Ephesians 2:13–3:6
- Galatians 3:13

### QUESTIONS

1. How is Jesus Christ described in Revelation 2:1?
2. What does He say to the church at Ephesus? What does He commend them for having and doing in Revelation 2:2, 3?
3. On the chart, “Jesus’ Messages to the Churches,” fill out the section pertaining to the church at Ephesus, based on Revelation 2:1-7.

### ACTIVITY

Make a list about what it was like when you first experienced the love of God and fell in love with Him. How were your prayer life and your desire to read the Bible? With whom did you share your new faith and how did you express it? Did you have an awareness of God’s presence, a desire to talk with Him and do what pleases Him? Were you ready to serve Him and give your time and money generously to His work? Measure yourself today by that “first love” barometer and see how you measure up.



Scenes from ancient Ephesus

### More Love to Thee, O Christ

words by Elizabeth Payson Prentiss, 1856

*More love to Thee, O Christ, more love to Thee!*

*Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee.*

*This is my earnest plea: more love, O Christ, to Thee;*

*More love to Thee, more love to Thee!*

### APPLY IT!

If we're not careful, our Christianity can become routine. It can turn into a ritual...a habit with no heart in it. But you and I CAN have a vital, living, loving relationship with Jesus Christ. In fact, that's just what God intends! Regular time in His Word and in prayer will strengthen that relationship and deepen our faith. You and I do belong to God's eternal family—now that's something to celebrate!

### Ephesus (2:1-7)

Paul visited this prominent seaport city of Asia Minor twice. The second time he remained for three years (Acts 20:31) and addressed an epistle to it, although the letter was probably circulated to several cities just as Jesus' messages in this book are addressed ". . . to the churches [plural]." Timothy was apparently the pastor or bishop of the church in Ephesus, after visiting there with Paul on his second missionary voyage.

At the crossroads of two major trade routes, Ephesus became a postal hub for circulating letters to other cities including the six that follow, which may explain why it's the first church to be mentioned. The location made it the primary commercial center of Asia Minor and its famous temple (constructed in the sixth century B.C.) a central bank for Asia Minor. The temple attracted thousands to its festivals to honor Artemis (Diana; see Acts 19:24-35), the pagan goddess of nature and fertility. After a fire in 356 B.C., the temple was not restored for two hundred years; but when it was, it became one of the Seven Wonders of the World. According to Acts 19:35, some thought the original sacred stone foundation "fell from the sky" (a meteorite?) from Zeus.

Some believe the city's population in Paul's day was about a quarter of a million. Given Ephesus's commercial success and wealth, it's not surprising that some believers there left (not their love of Christ but) their love of Christ as "first" (2:4). The same people are said to have endured and not tired out (2:3). They are commended for proving some apostles to be false and for not tolerating (i.e., not politically correct) the Nicolaitans (see Pergamum for this term).

Today, the ruined remains of Ephesus—including a stadium once used for races, wrestling matches, fights with wild beasts (1 Corinthians 4:9; 15:32) and a theater (Acts 19:29; that held about 24,000 spectators)—lie close to a Turkish village called Ayasalouk. Many cities fell to Tamerlane and the Tartars in 1402, then to the Ottoman Turks. Today, Turkey, (then "Asia Minor") is a predominantly Muslim nation.

### Prayer:

*Lord, thank You that we are no longer strangers or aliens to You—but You have drawn us near and made us fellow citizens and members of Your household! I want to be holy and wholly devoted to You! Help me to persevere in truth and integrity. Help me to differentiate false teachers from true messengers and choose wise teachers and friends. Help me to fall in love with You, Jesus, all over again!*

## LESSON 8 Revelation 2:2-7

# *Loving Him First!*

### SYNOPSIS

What can you do when you realize your “first love” for Christ has gone cold? The passion, zeal, dedication, consecration, commitment, total abandonment . . . all gone. If you want to regain that first love and not waste your affections on temporal things, God’s message to the church in Ephesus holds the key.

Mark the key word *deeds* as you read through Revelation chapters 2 and 3 (see the back cover for suggested markings). The churches’ deeds really show their relationship to God. Also mark *love* and *heart* with a red heart, using your colored pencils or marking pens.

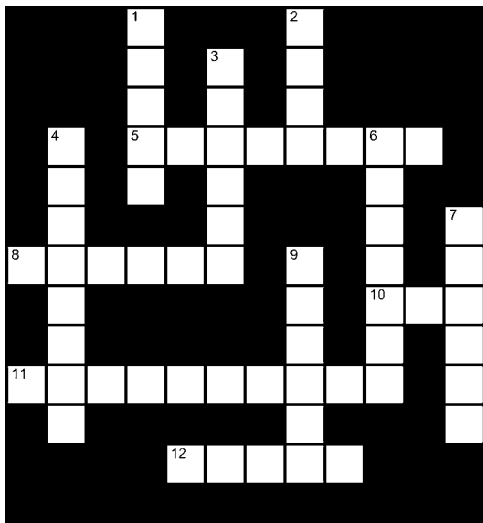
### CHECK IT OUT

- Acts 2:41-45
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
- 1 John 2:9-11

### QUESTIONS

1. What does Jesus commend the church in Ephesus for in Revelation 2:2-6?
2. What is His reproof to this church?
3. What is His warning?
4. What promise does He give in Revelation 2:7 to “him who overcomes”?
5. How is a Christian’s “first love” revealed? Is it in attitudes, ministry in church, our job? Is it faithfulness? Doctrinal soundness? Staying away from false teachers and evil people?

## ACTIVITY



*Solution on page 61*

### Across

5. To repent (Greek)
8. Bonded servant (Greek)
10. Repeated word to mark in this study
11. Seven golden ones
12. Number of completeness

### Down

1. His eyes were like this
2. He wrote down the prophecy
3. Island in Greece
4. Jesus in Rev. 1:13
6. Lost its first love
7. How long He will be there for you
9. His feet were like this

## When Morning Gilds the Skies

Words: From the *Katholisches Gesangbuch* (Würzburg, Germany: circa 1744) (*Beim frühen Morgenlicht*); translated from German to English by Edward Caswall in Formby's *Catholic Hymns* (London: 1854), and Robert S. Bridges in the *Yattendon Hymnal* (Oxford, England: 1899).

*When morning gilds the skies my heart awaking cries: May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer, to Jesus I repair: May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*No lovelier antiphon in all high heav'n is known  
Than, Jesus Christ be praised!  
There to the eternal Word the eternal psalm is heard:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!*

## APPLY IT!

When you examine yourself honestly, do you see that some “delight has turned to duty” in your personal Christian life? Do you have the same passion for God and His Word—the same passion for souls and for service—that you had when you first began to follow Him? Are you passionately in love with Jesus today? Or has your heart turned cold and your zeal diminished? Are you taking the Christian life for granted? Why not carve out some time to spend with Him today and ask Him to renew that “first-love” passion?

### Prayer:

*O God, I confess I've been toiling for You and wearing myself out in well doing...but something's missing. I want that burning zeal, that ardent passion, that “first love” back. I repent, Lord, of letting it dwindle away. Please forgive me and turn me around, Lord. Help me to do the deeds I did when I first responded to Your awesome love. Teach me to order my time so that my love relationship with You won't suffer, no matter how busy I am in my day-to-day life. I love You, and I want my deeds to show it. In Christ's precious name, Amen.*

## IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

**Metanoéo (#3340):** repent, change mind, from *meta* (#3326), after, change, and *noéo* (#3539), to think, to mind. The verb *repent* and noun *repentance* are found throughout the book of Revelation (see 2:14-26, 21-23, and 3:3). In this section, Jesus commands the Ephesian church to “repent [*metanoeson*] and do the deeds [they] did at first” (2:5; *italics ours*)—before they made something else their first love.

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# *Persecution, Poverty, Prison!*

## SYNOPSIS

Are you suffering right now, or are you afraid you'll suffer in the future? Do you sometimes wonder where God is or how you are going to make it through circumstances ahead? (Maybe doctors have told you there's no hope or others have told you you're hopeless.) Then listen to the good news of God's Word. There's always reason to hope in Christ! Jesus' message to the church in Smyrna is equally applicable to our lives and churches today. Read Revelation 2:8-11 and fill out the chart "Jesus' Messages to the Churches" as it pertains to the church in Smyrna.

## CHECK IT OUT

- Isaiah 52:13,14
- Romans 8:16-18
- Romans 8:31-39
- Revelation 20:14,15
- 1 Peter 4:1,2

## QUESTIONS

1. How is Jesus Christ described in this passage? How does this description relate to what He says to them?
2. Why does Jesus say in Revelation 2:9 that the church in Smyrna was both poor and rich? Are you poor and rich in the same way?
3. In Revelation 2:10, what does Jesus say the devil will do? Will the church be rescued?
4. Does Jesus reprove the church in Smyrna for anything?
5. How does this message compare to popular teaching about health, wealth, and trials?
6. If Christians were being persecuted in the U.S. today, would you suffer because of the way you live out your faith? Would your lifestyle "give away" your discipleship to Jesus Christ?



Overlooking modern-day Izmir, site of ancient Smyrna.

### Rock of Ages

words by Augustus M. Toplady, 1776

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;  
 Let the water and the blood, From Thy wounded side which flowed,  
 Be of sin the double cure; Cleanse me from its guilt and power.  
 While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,  
 When I soar through tracts unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.*

### APPLY IT!

Why do we fear suffering, when it can work so much good in us? What a blessing it would be to actually suffer for the cause of Christ instead of for our own messes! Many of your Christian brothers and sisters are being persecuted today. Pray that they will be faithful even to death, and that they will rejoice in the presence of the Lord and in the crown of life waiting for them. Let's resolve to live out our faith with a boldness and confidence, in good times and bad, so that Jesus Christ will not rebuke us when we see Him face-to-face!

### Prayer:

*Lord, help me not to seek a life of compromise for the sake of riches. I want to be sold out to You and You alone! Please prepare me for the days to come. Help me to be willing to suffer for Your sake! Help me to make it a priority to study Your Word and to carefully heed what You tell me. I want to be Your obedient bondservant—a doer of the Word, and not a hearer only. In the precious name of Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen.*

### Smyrna (2:8–11)

Another seaport, roughly 35 miles north of Ephesus, Smyrna was a Hittite settlement as far back as 3000 B.C., according to some dated pottery. By Paul's day, it was a thriving commercial city with a rich culture and population of about 100,000. Huge temples had been erected for the worship of Roman gods. Polycarp (*Vita Polycarpi*, 2) says Paul stopped there on one of his trips to Ephesus.

Of the seven churches Jesus addresses, only Smyrna and Philadelphia escape censure for particular sins. Believers in Smyrna, like those in Laodicea, were materially poor but spiritually rich (Revelation 3:17; 2 Corinthians 6:10).

Several church fathers lived in Smyrna, notably Ignatius of Antioch (ca. A.D. 107, martyred in Rome), bishop Polycarp (burned at the stake in ca. A.D. 156), and Irenaeus (d. A.D. 202). All three were writers.

Church historian Eusebius wrote that Jews fiercely persecuted Christians in this city and were very outspoken in condemning Polycarp and provoking the Romans to execute him for refusing to deny Christ by swearing allegiance to Caesar. This agrees with the Lord's description of these Jews as a "synagogue of Satan" (Revelation 2:9).

Today Smyrna is the modern city, Izmir, Turkey's third largest city.

### IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

**Thanatos (#2288):** death. "Be faithful until *death*, and I will give you the crown of life. 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second *death*'" (Revelation 2:10,11; *italics ours*). Believers are commanded to be faithful until the first death [physical], so the second death [spiritual] will have no effect (Revelation 20:6, 14 and 21:8).

## LESSON 10 Revelation 2:12-17

# *Satan's Throne!*

### SYNOPSIS

Prayerfully read God's message to the church at Pergamum in Revelation 2:12-17. Circle *teaching of Balaam*, in black because it's ungodly teaching. Whom are you listening to and following? Whom do you look up to and want to be like? Sometimes we don't realize dangerous teachings or philosophies in the books we read. We don't realize how an ungodly worldview can impact our minds through movies and television. We don't notice how the values of our culture are seeping into our thinking and corrupting it, leading us into idolatry. Let's learn from the message God gave to this next church.

### CHECK IT OUT

- Revelation 19:13-16
- Hebrews 4:12
- Ephesians 6:17; 1:3-5
- Numbers 23:6-8
- Numbers 25:1-9
- 1 Peter 4:17
- Numbers 31:15-18
- Hebrews 13:4
- 1 Peter 2:5,9,11-12

### QUESTIONS

1. What did we already learn about a "two-edged sword" in Revelation 1:16?
  
2. What is the reproof to the church at Pergamum?
  
3. In Revelation 2:16, what does Jesus warn this church about concerning the two-edged sword?
  
4. Do you see any problems common to the church in Pergamum and churches today?
  
5. What types of idolatry are popular in our culture today? How do you struggle with idolatry in your life?



Scenes from ancient Pergamum and modern-day Bergama.

**Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**  
words by Robert Robinson, 1758

*O to grace how great a debtor, Daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.*

**APPLY IT!**

With the proliferation of pornography and sensuality, it's little wonder the modern Church needs protection and purification. As the temple of the Holy Spirit yourself, do you need a little "temple clean-up"? Let's not read the world's sensual books and magazines, watch its movies and television shows, or be lured to its Internet sites. Let's be careful that our heroes, teachers, and role models are truly leading us to be more like Christ.

**Prayer:**

*Lord God, I know I need purifying, too. My heart is vulnerable to the same temptations as the church at Pergamum. I thank You that You have called us to be "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession" (1 Peter 2:9). You have called me out of darkness into Your marvelous light! Please reveal any thoughts or desires that are impure, so that I may be pure, a "vessel unto honor" and fit for the Master's use. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.*

**Pergamum (2:12-17)**

Just 15 miles inland, Pergamum is perched on a 1,000-foot hill. Dating from about 500 B.C., the city was not well known until Lysimachus (who succeeded Alexander the Great) decided to store treasure there. Rome acquired it in 133 B.C.

Pergamum became famous for literary production and idolatry. Engineers learned to substitute goatskins (pergamene) when Egypt refused to sell paper (a papyrus monopoly) to the city for its library—which came to hold 200,000 scrolls. Mark Antony at one point carted these scrolls off to Egypt as a gift to Cleopatra, but later both this library of scrolls and the equally vast library of Alexandria were burned to the ground.

Because Aesculapius's emblem was the serpent, some speculate that "Satan's throne" (2:13) refers to his temple. However, the modern symbol of medicine that features a snake wrapped around a staff may have more ancient roots. Some trace the symbol's use to Imhotep in Egypt, others to Moses' bronze serpent (Numbers 21:8, 9). More likely, "Satan's throne" was the 40-foot high altar of Zeus located at the top of the acropolis and visible for miles. Antipas, we read, was martyred "where Satan dwells" (2:13), possibly on this altar.

Today Bergama stands amid the ruins of the old city.

**IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME**

**Nikolaïtes (#3531)**, from *níkos* (#3534), victory, and *laós* (#2992), people (Revelation 2:6, 15).

An eighteenth-century Hebrew scholar suggested that Nicolaitans and Balaamites are the same, based on a conceptual identity found in wordplays in the two languages—the Hebrew *balaam* (meaning "he has destroyed the people") and the Greek *Nikolaon* ("he has conquered the people"). In addition to this conceptual similarity, Revelation 2:14 (Balaamites) and 15 (Nicolaitans) are connected with the phrase, "in the same way," which implies common doctrine and practices.

## LESSON 11 Revelation 2:16,17

# Overcomers!

### SYNOPSIS

In Christ, each believer is an overcomer. We may not feel like it in our flesh. It's so easy for us to get crushed by circumstances and feel like victims—casualties of people who have hurt us. But you don't need to be defeated. You can be an overcomer in this world and the next, if you listen to the message God gives to the churches in Revelation and the Church you're a part of today. Reread His message to the church at Pergamum and His promise to overcomers in Revelation 2:12-17. Be sure to fill out your chart "Jesus' Messages to the Churches" with what you've learned and remember to add to the list what you're learning about Jesus!

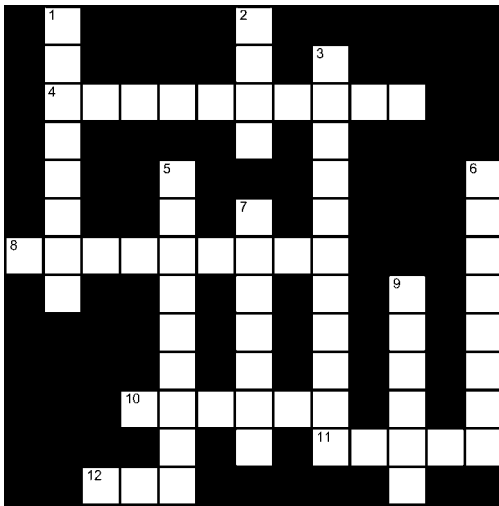
### CHECK IT OUT

- Matthew 16:13
- Daniel 7:13-14
- John 15:18
- 1 Peter 4:1,2
- John 16:33
- Revelation 5:5
- 1 John 5:4,5
- Revelation 20:15
- John 6:47-51

### QUESTIONS

1. What is the cure for idolatry and immorality according to Revelation 2:16?
2. What two blessings are promised in Revelation 2:17 to those who overcome temptation by repenting and trusting in Christ? Draw them here:
3. What did manna do for the children of Israel? What does Jesus mean when He refers to Himself as the Living Bread in John 6:47-51?
4. What sustains believers?
5. Will there be a white stone with your name on it...a new name that signifies that you belong to Jesus? Are you sure, Beloved, that you'll spend eternity with Him?

## ACTIVITY



### Across

4. The book of hope
8. No need to fear this
10. Poor, but rich
11. Proof of faith
12. He who has an \_\_\_\_

### Down

1. Famous for idolatry
2. Let him \_\_\_\_ what the Spirit says
3. Manna for today
5. Given white stone and new name
6. Death (Greek)
7. Success over circumstances
9. \_\_\_\_\_ manna is promised

Solution on page 61

## Am I a Soldier of the Cross?

Words by Isaac Watts, 1709

*Am I a soldier of the cross, A follower of the Lamb,  
And shall I fear to own His cause, Or blush to speak His Name?*

*Must I be carried to the skies On flowery beds of ease,  
While others fought to win the prize, And sailed through bloody seas?*

*Are there no foes for me to face? Must I not stem the flood?  
Is this vile world a friend to grace, To help me on to God?*

*Sure I must fight if I would reign; Increase my courage, Lord.  
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain, Supported by Thy Word.*

## APPLY IT!

To live like an overcomer and to be victorious in circumstances, we need to continue to believe God (see 1 John 5:4,5). Trust in Christ, persevere in His Word, and live unashamed to follow Him. Such a life brings rich rewards. As you study and pray today, ask God to point out the areas of your life you need victory in. Fully depend on His strength to overcome whatever challenges you face.

## Prayer:

*Father, thank you that you have enabled me to become an overcomer! Lord, I feel so weak and powerless sometimes. I feel so overcome by circumstances around me. Help me not to rely on my feelings but to trust in Your promises to feed me, protect me, be with me and reward me as Your faithful overcomer. Thank You for the new name and the new heart You have given me. Thank You for the new body that I will have to live forever with You! Thank you that I am an overcomer!*

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# *Jezebels!*

## SYNOPSIS

“Tolerance” is a politically correct word today, and the Church demands the love of God to be a hospital for broken and hurting sinners, but just how much sin should we tolerate in our local churches? If church members are openly living in habitual sin, what responsibility do brothers and sisters in Christ have? Should we confront them, and if so, what should we say?

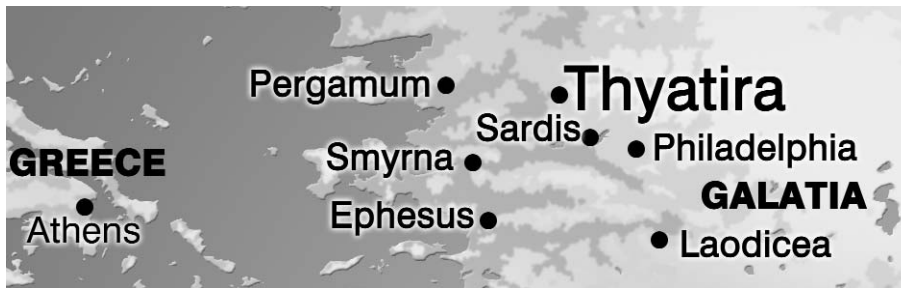
God’s message to the church at Thyatira is very applicable to the problems in our congregations today. This was a church with many good qualities—love, faith, service and perseverance—but their desire to have a broad appeal to everyone led to some teachings that were abhorrent to God. True faith cannot be mixed with idolatrous practices. There is to be no syncretism. Church leaders need to be accountable for their teachings and personal lives since they exert a powerful influence on their followers; and we must search our own hearts for immorality or idolatry that can hurt the cause of Jesus Christ.

## CHECK IT OUT

- 1 Corinthians 8–10
- Exodus 34:5-7
- Revelation 22:12,16

## QUESTIONS

1. How does Jesus describe Himself to the church in Thyatira? (Keep in mind that bronze is a symbol of judgment; Old Testament sacrifices were made at the brazen ([bronze] altar.)
  
2. What message did Jesus give in Revelation 2:20?
  
3. What two things did Jezebel do to God’s servants that displeased Him?
  
4. What did God offer Jezebel in Revelation 2:21? What does this tell you about His heart?
  
5. How should a church address sins that are visible to the entire congregation?
  
6. Are there habitual sins you should repent of right now?
  
7. Remember to fill out your chart “Jesus’ Message to the Churches” with things you learned about the church at Thyatira.



Scenes from ancient Thyatira

### All Glory, Laud and Honor

Words: Theodulph of Orleans (ca. 750-821), ca. 820  
 Trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), 1854,  
 as altered in *Hymns Ancient and Modern*

*Refrain: All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King!  
 to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring*

*Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,  
 who in the Lord's Name comest, the King and Blessed One. Refrain*

*The company of angels are praising thee on high;  
 and mortal men and all things created make reply. Refrain*

### APPLY IT!

Sex outside of marriage always hurts someone. Among Christians, it has wide-ranging consequences, destroying integrity that reflects on the kingdom of God. Immorality hurts God's cause—it shows that we prefer to satisfy desires our own way rather than by seeking God's plan and trusting His timing. Sexual immorality destroys families, churches, and communities. God wants to protect us from hurting ourselves and others. That's why He commands us to abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thessalonians 4:3, 6), even if our culture rejects the idea. Do you find your standards drifting toward the world's values? Are you sometimes more concerned about selfish pleasures and freedoms than about the needs and concerns of other believers?

### Thyatira (2:18-29)

Thyatira was situated in a fertile valley located in Asia Minor (modern Turkey), 42 miles inland from the Aegean Sea. It was 37 miles north of Sardis, and Pergamum was 47 miles to the northwest.

It was a center of trade with many trade guilds and good natural resources. One of its chief products was textiles. It was founded by the Lydians, who first named it Pelopio. Later Seleucus I Nicator, one of Alexander the Great's generals, named it Thyatira. It is now known as Ak-Hissar ("White Fortress"), the name the Turks gave to it in the Middle Ages.

Lydia (Acts 16:14) originally was from this city. Either a Jew herself or a Gentile convert to the Old Covenant but "a worshiper of God." In either case, "the Lord opened her heart" to the New Covenant the moment Paul preached it. Lydia was also a "seller of purple"—either the purple dye artisans in this city learned to produce from the madder root in lieu of shellfish, or purple garments.

Believers here too have persevered, and their works for Christ are growing (Revelation 2:19). But there are some bad elements.

One is Jezebel (Revelation 2:20). Unlike the Ephesians who proved false apostles to be so (Revelation 2:2), some believers in Thyatira actually fell prey to this woman "who calls herself a prophetess" yet "leads My bond-servants astray" to commit immorality (Revelation 2:20, qualified as adultery in v. 22) and idolatry.

### IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

**Bathea** (the neuter plural of #901, *bathos*, deep, from which we get our English *bathysphere*), deep things: "the deep things [*ta bathea*] of Satan" (Revelation 2:24), which contrasts with "the deep things [*ta bathe*] of God" (1 Corinthians 2:10, KJV). There's a big difference: "deep things of God" are truths the Spirit searches and reveals to us. The "deep things of Satan" are called deep by Jezebel's followers (2:24), but they are ultimately lies, not truths.

### Prayer:

*Gracious and almighty God, help me to be a clean vessel to honor and glorify You. Make me keenly aware of sin and give me a desire to repent and follow You wholeheartedly. Lord, for the people in my church who have come to mind during this study, I pray that You would give me wisdom and discretion to recognize sin and know how to confront it graciously—with words that I pray You'll give me. Please teach me to speak to Your people as the prophets of old did, with boldness and courage following Your lead to speak words "in season" that will draw many back to You. Clean me up so You can use me for Your kingdom, precious Lord! In the holy name of Jesus, Amen.*



## LESSON 13 Revelation 3:1-6

# *The Living Dead*

### SYNOPSIS

The church at Sardis was a lot like many churches today that don't know or teach the Bible because they don't believe it's God's revealed, inerrant Word to us. They pick and choose what they want to believe from the Bible and ignore the rest. Notice the stark contrast in this church between those who "get it" and those who don't. It appears that only a small remnant are following Christ, walking with Him. What a shame to look alive but be dead, unable to help anybody. Examine your own walk for signs of life—real life that comes only through a living relationship with Jesus Christ and a grounding in His reliable Word.

### CHECK IT OUT

- Matthew 24:9-13
- 1 John 3:2,3
- Psalm 2
- Revelation 22:16
- Romans 8:9
- Ephesians 1:13,14
- 1 Thessalonians 5:2-5
- Revelation 19:8,14

### QUESTIONS

1. What's the significance of Jesus having the "seven Spirits of God" in Revelation 3:1?
2. What was Jesus' assessment of the church at Sardis?
3. What were Jesus' instructions to the church in Sardis in Revelation 3:3?
4. What is God's warning to the people in this church if they do not wake up?
5. What are the promises to those in Sardis who have not soiled their garments?
6. Does God have you in a "dead" church to be salt and light? How would you evaluate the "life" of your congregation?



Scene from Ancient Sardis

### Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

words by Thomas Ken, 1674

*Awake, my soul, and with the sun thy daily stage of duty run;  
Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise, to pay thy morning sacrifice.  
Lord, I my vows to Thee renew; disperse my sins as morning dew.  
Guard my first springs of thought and will, and with Thyself my spirit fill.  
Direct, control, suggest, this day, all I design, or do, or say,  
That all my powers, with all their might, in Thy sole glory may unite.*

### APPLY IT!

It's so easy for us to take things for granted and follow rules—habits and rituals we've grown up with. If Christ and His Word are not the center of worship and service, the local church becomes an empty shell—a social club—instead of the living, throbbing, hope-breathing, joy-filled representation of God here on earth that it's supposed to be. Let's take to heart these instructions to the church at Sardis and "wake up," not only in our personal relationship with Jesus Christ but also in the life of our churches. Let's strengthen things that remain—our faith, love, hope, and service to others. Don't be weary in well-doing for the cause of Christ! Let your deeds reflect the pure minds and hearts!

### Prayer:

*Father God, I want to be counted worthy to bear the name "Christian" in that great day when Christ returns. I want to be one of those who have not soiled my garments. I want to walk with You...now and for eternity. Lord, rescue me from death and exhaustion in my own life, and use me to infuse life into our congregation. By Your Holy Spirit, I pray that You will fill me to overflowing so that the world will not see me but You in me. Help me to be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only. In the precious Name that is above all others, I pray. Amen.*

### Sardis (3:1-6)

Lying fifty miles northeast of Smyrna at the foot of Mount Tmolus, Sardis was the capital of ancient Lydia (founded around 1200 B.C.). One of its early kings (Croesus: 560-546 B.C.) became rich from gold found in the Pactolus River and minted the first gold and silver coins. In 546 B.C., he was overpowered and Sardis was captured by the Persian king Cyrus. Later, Alexander the Great acquired it (granting it independence in A.D. 334), then Antiochus the Great (214 B.C.), then Pergamos. According to historians Tacitus and Strabo, an earthquake destroyed the city in A.D. 17 during Tiberius's reign, but it was rebuilt by the Romans.

In spite of this change of hands, Sardis became extremely prosperous, famous for inventing the process of dying wool. The church there ranks second to Laodicea's for blame. No modern city lies on the ancient site, but ruins can be found near the modern village of Sart.

### IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

**Ergon (#2041):** work, performance, deed. "I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead" (Revelation 3:1).

**Pleróo (#4137):** to make full, to complete. "I have not found your deeds completed [*pepleromena*] in the sight of My God" (Revelation 3:2). The perfect passive participle is literally "having been completed." Their works had not measured up to God's standard.

## LESSON 14 Revelation 3:7-13

# *An Open Door!*

### SYNOPSIS

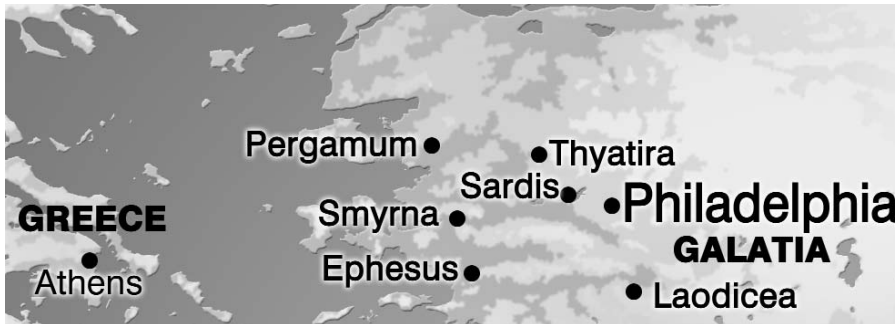
Finally . . . a church that isn't cautioned to repent! How refreshing! What were believers at Philadelphia doing right, and how can we learn from them? Were they mighty and outgoing, accomplishing great things in Christ's name? You may be surprised by what you read in Revelation 3:7-13. The things they were praised for are within your grasp! Take heart and comfort as you read God's message to this next church, and start looking for Christ's soon return!

### CHECK IT OUT

- Romans 9:6,7
- John 8:44
- 1 John 2:22,23
- Galatians 3
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4
- Daniel 7
- Daniel 9
- Daniel 12
- 1 Thessalonians 1:10
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Revelation 21

### QUESTIONS

1. What five things does Jesus say about Himself in this message to the church at Philadelphia?
  - 
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  - 
  -
2. What three things does Jesus commend this church for in Revelation 3:8?
  - 
  - 
  -
3. What will happen to those who say they are Jews but are not? What does this show you about Jesus' power? Think about it and worship Him.
4. Why does Jesus promise to keep the church in Philadelphia from the hour of testing?
5. Which names does Christ promise to write on His friends who overcome, in Revelation 3:12?
6. Are you truly a friend of God today, Beloved? And are you ready for Christ's soon return?



### Philadelphia (3:7-13)

Not to be confused with the city named after the incestuous marriage between Ptolemy II and his sister Arsinoe II (thus, “brother-lover”), this Anatolian city was named for similar reasons: King Eumenes of Pergamum (197–160 B.C.) probably named it after his brother King Attalus of Pergamum (159–138 B.C.) who took the surname Philadelphus for his loyalty (*philos*) to his brother Eumenes. So while tradition promoted the name to a spiritual status between Christians, the ancient word is rooted in blood brothers.

About 25 miles southeast of Sardis and 60 miles east of Smyrna, modern-day Alasehir sits its mixed population of 25,000 Greeks and Turks on a 700-foot plateau. The earliest settlement there was called Callatebus (ca. 900 B.C.), but Cyrus invaded the land in 546 B.C. en route to Sardis. Later Attalus brought in Macedonians to settle it. After the death of Attalus III, it was handed over to Roman rule in 133 B.C. Under Vespasian Flavius, the city was named Philadelphia Flavia.

Jesus praises believers at Sardis for keeping the word of His perseverance and has no offsetting blame to add.

### Fairest Lord Jesus

Written by German Jesuits as *Schönster Herr Jesu* in the 17th century. Published in the *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677, and translated from German to English by Joseph A. Seiss, 1873.

*Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, O Thou of God and man the Son,  
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor, Thou, my soul’s glory, joy and crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring:*

*Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

### APPLY IT!

Whenever you feel powerless and insignificant, remember God’s smile upon the church at Philadelphia. Instead of desiring more power and more influence—perhaps biting off more than you can chew—be content to realize that God has given you power already, and it’s more important to Him that you keep His Word and not deny His name than that you do amazing things that get attention. Oh to be humble like the Philadelphians, to hear God say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.” He asks for faithfulness and obedience, and He gives us power—power to persevere in following Him! He takes us as His bride and promises a great inheritance that includes His name! We’re granted citizenship in the City of God—the New Jerusalem! What a wonderful promise and encouragement to be faithful, even in the little things of our daily lives!

### Prayer:

*Father, open my heart to see the open doors You’ve put before me. Help me to use the power You’ve given me to build Your kingdom. Make me understand more and more the awesome glory of acquiring Your name and being part of the New Jerusalem, inheriting holy fellowship with You for all eternity through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Thank You so much for Your love for me. Thank You for Your love for this world. Help me to keep Your Word and not deny Your name—to be faithful to the end! In Jesus’ precious name, I pray. Amen*

### IT’S ALL GREEK TO ME

**Proskuneo (#4352):** from *pros* (#4314), toward, and *kuneo* (n.f.), to kiss, almost always in ancient times accompanied with prostration and sometimes kissing feet as a sign of respect, as in Revelation 3:9: “I will cause *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down [*proskunesousin*] at your feet, and *make them* know that I have loved you.”

**Tereo (#5083),** to keep, guard, **ek (#1537),** out of: Revelation 3:10: “Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, *I* also will keep [*tereo*] you from [*ek*] the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

The promise of exemption from this specific tribulation called “*that* [literally ‘the’] hour” is based on several points: (1) the contrast between “you” and “those who dwell on the earth,” implying that the “you” is somewhere other than “on earth,” (2) the use of “hour,” which implies position outside the period, and (3) the fact that since the Philadelphian believers had already persevered, the promise of exemption makes more sense than a promise of more trials to endure.

# *Reproof and Invitation*

## SYNOPSIS

We've come to the final church, the church in Laodicea, and what a church it is! Read this section prayerfully, asking God to open the eyes of your understanding and guide you into all truth. It's natural for us to want to be liked by others—to please people around us and not “make waves.” But is this placid, compliant attitude pleasing to God? Can it cause us to overlook evil and not stand up for the things we should? Read Jesus' shocking message to this church—His vow to spit them out of His mouth. It won't do to claim to be a follower of Christ while drifting with the tide of the world's values and lifestyle. We're living today in the wealthiest country of the world . . . where life has become too easy. Take warning from Jesus' words to the church at Laodicea, Beloved, because He loved them, and He loves you so very much!

## CHECK IT OUT

- Hebrews 11:3
- John 1:1
- 2 Timothy 4:1-3
- 1 Peter 1:6,7
- Revelation 6:9-11
- Revelation 7:9,13-14

## QUESTIONS

1. How does Jesus identify Himself to this church?
2. What is His message in Revelation 3:15?
3. The church at Laodicea said, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing” (3:17). What does this reveal about their attitude toward God?
4. What does Jesus think about their perspective?
5. What three things does Jesus advise them to “buy” from Him, and what does each thing signify?
  - 
  - 
  -
6. Draw the three things here, so you won't forget them:

7. Do you think the church in Laodicea was aware of its spiritual condition?
8. What do “hot,” “cold,” and “lukewarm” mean? Does it seem strange that God would actually prefer someone to be consistently good (hot) or bad (cold) to being a mix? Does this give us an idea of how badly He hates hypocrisy? How bad do you think hypocrisy is?
9. What promise does Christ give in Revelation 3:21 to those who overcome?



### Crown Him With Many Crowns

words by Matthew Bridges and Godfrey Thring, 1874

*Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.  
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.*

### APPLY IT!

Jesus was never lukewarm. He was so passionate—so “hot” for God—and He spoke only the truth. He reproved but also invited: His invitation to the churches still stands today, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.” Have you opened the door of your heart to Him all the way, Beloved? Are you “hot” after God today—so hot that the world can look at you and see Jesus? If not, you’re a detriment to the cause of Christ! Remember what Jesus said: those not “with” Him are “against” Him, and those who do not “gather” with Him will “scatter” (Matthew 12:30). There’s no in-between. The world doesn’t need more half-hearted “Christians” that have absorbed the world’s pagan values and sensual priorities. The world hungers for true models of Christ—people who are so “hot” they will turn the world on fire for Him! O Beloved, your Savior invites you to sit with Him on His very throne! Won’t you open your heart’s door today, invite Him to take full control of your life, and commit yourself to follow Him faithfully—no matter what?

### Prayer:

*O Lord, show me where I’m lukewarm and keep me from being complacent. I don’t want to neglect Your Word and avoid witnessing to the truth. I know affluence can dull my spiritual senses into relying on myself. Make me a beacon to my culture! Help me use my remaining time to serve You with passion and selflessness. I want to be clothed in garments of righteousness, ready to see You face-to-face! Help me visualize Your glorious kingdom and live in its light every day. Make me see the real world beyond. Prepare me to sit with You on Your own throne—a privilege I can’t comprehend! I pray in Jesus’ wonderful name. Amen.*

### Laodicea (3:14–22)

Antiochus renamed Diospolis—the “city of Zeus”—after his wife Laodice, about 250 B.C. A part of the kingdom of Pergamum in 190 B.C., Rome took over in 133 B.C.. It became a major crossroad for trade traffic between Mediterranean cities, thereby acquiring great wealth (Revelation 3:17) in spite of its small size. According to historian Strabo, one of its prime exports was black-wool, seamless garments. A popular salve for the eyes known as “Phrygian powder” was ground in Laodicea, which aptly accounts for the reference to “eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see” in Revelation 3:18.

Many Jews settled in the city, but in A.D. 62. Romans seized the twenty-pound annual gold tribute they were making to Jerusalem, since the money was financing an emerging revolt against Rome. In A.D. 70 Tiberias and Titus invaded and destroyed Jerusalem.

Paul mentions Laodicea four times in Colossians (plus one “Laodiceans”) and once in some manuscripts of 1 Timothy 6:21 as “the chiefest city of Phrygia.” The city was located eleven miles from Colossae. Paul or one of his students probably preached there first. Believers living in the city squared off with pagan worship to the Greek gods Zeus and Asclepius (Aesculapius) and also the Egyptian cult of Isis.

In the long run, it wasn’t just the church Jesus warned He would spit out of His mouth (Revelation 3:18); the entire site of Laodicea (Eski Hissar) was eventually abandoned. The former site lies close to the town of Denizli. Remains include a large stadium, gymnasium, two theaters, an aqueduct and public fountain (parts of the extensive piping system), and some churches.

### IT’S ALL GREEK TO ME

Laodicea derives from the Greek noun *laos* (#2992), people, and *dike* (#1349), meaning judgment or justice—thus “a people who make judgments” or “justice of the people.”

# Notes

# Quiz Yourself!

*Answers on page 61*

1. Two of the seven churches of Revelation were not told to repent. Which ones were they and what were they commended for?
  - 
  -
  
2. What phrase tells us that each message was intended for all seven churches?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Which of the seven churches was experiencing the most suffering?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Which of the seven was affluent and proud?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What have you learned from this study that has changed your life and your personal relationship with God?



# Jesus' Messages to the Churches

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira
<b>Description of Christ</b>				
<b>Commendation</b>				
<b>Reproof</b>				
<b>Warning and Instruction</b>				
<b>Promise to Overcomers</b>				

# Jesus' Messages to the Churches

	<b>Sardis</b>	<b>Philadelphia</b>	<b>Laodicea</b>
<b>Description of Christ</b>			
<b>Commendation</b>			
<b>Reproof</b>			
<b>Warning and Instruction</b>			
<b>Promise to Overcomers</b>			

# List of What I've Learned About Jesus

# Revelation 1–3 at a Glance

	Segment Divisions	Chapter Themes
Author:	1	
Date:		
Purpose:		
Key Words:	2	
	3	

# REVELATION 1

## Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

- THE Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John,
- 2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he saw.
- 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.
- 4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,
- 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—
- 6 and He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- 7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.
- 8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”
- 9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance *which are* in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.
- 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet,

- 11 saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send *it* to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."
- 12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;
- 13 and in the middle of the lampstands *I saw* one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.
- 14 His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire.
- 15 His feet *were* like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice *was* like the sound of many waters.
- 16 In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.
- 17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,
- 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.
- 19 "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.
- 20 "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

## REVELATION 2

### Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

“TO the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

2 ‘I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be* false;

3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary.

4 ‘But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.

5 ‘Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.

6 ‘Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.’

8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:

9 ‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

10 ‘Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

- 11 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.'
- 12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write:  
The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:
- 13 'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.
- 14 'But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit *acts of* immorality.
- 15 'So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
- 16 'Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.
- 17 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give *some* of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'
- 18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write:  
The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:
- 19 'I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.
- 20 'But I have *this* against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit *acts of* immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.



- 21 'I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality.
- 22 'Behold, I will throw her on a bed *of sickness*, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.
- 23 'And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.
- 24 'But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you.
- 25 'Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.
- 26 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end,  
TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;
- 27 AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received *authority* from My Father;
- 28 and I will give him the morning star.
- 29 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

# REVELATION 3

## Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

“TO the angel of the church in Sardis write:

He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this:

‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

2 ‘Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

3 ‘So remember what you have received and heard; and keep *it*, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

4 ‘But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

5 ‘He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

6 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

8 ‘I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

9 ‘Behold, I will cause *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will *make them* come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you.

- 10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.
- 11 'I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.
- 12 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.
- 13 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'
- 14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:  
The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:
- 15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot.
- 16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.
- 17 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,
- 18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and *that* the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.
- 19 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.
- 20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

- 21 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.
- 22 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

# REVELATION 21

## Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

THEN I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea.

2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

6 Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

7 "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

- 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
- 11 having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.
- 12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names *were* written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.
- 13 *There were* three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west.
- 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them *were* the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.
- 15** The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall.
- 16 The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal.
- 17 And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, *according to* human measurements, which are *also* angelic *measurements*.
- 18 The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.
- 19 The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald;
- 20 the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.
- 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.
- 22** I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

- 23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it,  
for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp *is* the Lamb.
- 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will  
bring their glory into it.
- 25 In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will  
never be closed;
- 26 and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it;
- 27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and  
lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are  
written in the Lamb's book of life.

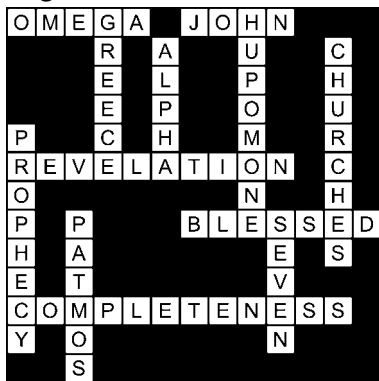
# Answers to Quiz and Puzzles

## ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 41

1. Smyrna—commended for faithfulness during tribulation and poverty.  
Philadelphia—commended for their deeds, for keeping God’s Word and for not denying His name.
2. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”
3. Smyrna
4. Laodicea
5. (Please answer honestly and personally)

## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLES

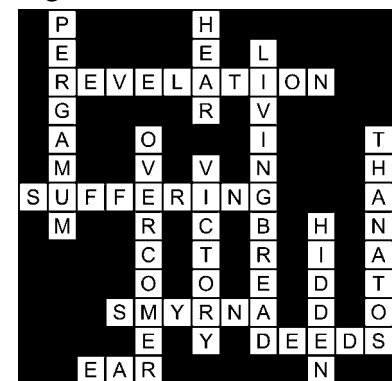
### Page 19



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# REVELATION

GOD'S MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH

## *Suggested Markings for Key Words*

references to the author:

I

my

God

references to the recipient:

you

your

Jesus Christ

geographical locations: Patmos

write/written

Holy Spirit

see

saw

looked

have seen

love  
heart

church

churches

prophecy

deeds

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus”

(likewise for other churches)

promises to overcomers

from

references  
to time

“teaching of Balaam”

the things

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to churches.”