

A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

May 17, 2020

Resources used:

- A Study Of The Book Of Revelation by Bob Dodson
- More Than Conquerors by William Hendriksen
- Overcoming With The Lamb, Florida College Annual Lectures, February 7-10, 1994
- Revelation: An Introduction and Commentary by Homer Hailey
- Revelation (Truth Commentaries) by Robert Harkrider
- Revelation (A Study Workbook) by Robert Harkrider
- Revelation by Donnie Rader
- Studies In The Book Of Revelation by Ferrell Jenkins
- The Old Testament In The Book Of Revelation by Ferrell Jenkins
- The Revelation Of Saint John The Divine by G.B. Caird
- The Book of Revelation by Foy E. Wallace
- The Avenging of the Apostles and Prophets by Arthur M. Ogden
- Worthy Is The Lamb by Ray Summers
- Written exchange on "The Domitian Persecution" between Arthur M. Ogden and Ferrell Jenkins presented in Searching The Scriptures, June 12, 1989, pages 7-12

Revelation 1

"John's Vision of Christ Commissioning Him to Write"

John's Vision of Christ Among the Churches (verses 9-20)

Response of John to the vision. (verses 17-18)

- Typical of man in the presence of deity. Genesis 3:8; 17:3; Exodus 3:6; Numbers 22:31; Joshua 5:14; Isaiah 6:5
- Note: Ezekiel 1:28; 3:23; 43:3

Revelation 1

"John's Vision of Christ Commissioning Him to Write"

John's Vision of Christ Among the Churches (verses 9-20)

Revelation 1:17, *"And he laid his right hand upon me, saying, **Fear not** ..."*

Note: The same hand that held the stars could reach in tenderness to tell John to not be afraid. cf. Daniel 10:10-12

Revelation 1

"John's Vision of Christ Commissioning Him to Write"

John's Vision of Christ Among the Churches (verses 9-20)

Revelation 1:17-18, *"I am the first and the last, and the Living one; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades."* (cf. 1:8)

Reason for boldness. Matthew 10:28; 1 Corinthians 15:54-55; Isaiah 53

- Clearly a reference to Christ as eternal. John 1:1-2; Colossians 1:16-18
- Found 3 times in Revelation: 1:17; 2:8; 22:13

Revelation 1

"John's Vision of Christ Commissioning Him to Write"

John's Vision of Christ Among the Churches (verses 9-20)

Commission to write (verses 11, 19)

- To seven churches of Asia Minor.
- *Explanation of vision* (verse 20)
"the mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks are seven churches."

Revelation 1

What Is The Point?

"A living, holy, majestic, omniscient, authoritative, powerful Christ stands in the midst of the churches, holds their destiny in his hand and says: 'Stop fearing, I was dead. I am alive forever. More than that, I hold in my hand the keys of death and the grave. You should not fear to go any place to which I hold the key.'"

– Ray Summers, *Worthy is the Lamb*, 105

Revelation 2:1-7

Letter to the church at Ephesus

Letters To The Seven Churches

•Pattern:

- Salutation.
- Christ's self-designation.
- Commendation of good.
- Condemnation of evil.
- Warning and threat.
- Exhortation to repent and do the first works.
- Promise of reward if they follow.

Letters To Seven Church of Asia
(Revelation 2-3)

- Some were good (Smyrna, Philadelphia)
- Some were good / bad (Ephesus, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis)
- One was bad (Laodicea)

Letters To Seven Church of Asia
(Revelation 2-3)

- "I KNOW THY WORKS." *Revelation 2:2, 9, 13, 19, 3:1, 8, 15*
- God is not mocked. Galatians 6:7-8, Judgment is coming. cf. Romans 2:5-11, 16; 2 Corinthians 5:10
- On the other hand ... Revelation 14:13; Hebrews 4:14-16
- "TO HIM THAT OVERCOMETH." (*Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21*)
- "Overcome" used 14 times in Revelation, means "victory."
- Written to encourage. (cf. Matthew 10:28; 16:26)
 - Continue steadfastly. (Hebrews 12:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:58; cf. 1 Corinthians 9:27; 10:12; 2 Peter 2:20-22)
- NOTE: These letters would have no meaning if it were not possible to fall. (Revelation 2:5, 16, 22-23; 3:3, 18-19; cf. Hebrews 3:12-14)

Letters To Seven Church of Asia
(Revelation 2-3)

- "HE THAT HATH AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAITH ..." *Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22*
 - The Lord does not force anyone. Revelation 22:17; cf. Romans 6:16
 - Though written to "churches," these instructions are individual in application. cf. Romans 14:12
- Note: Sardis was a "dead" church, "... But thou hast a few names in Sardis that did not defile their garments: and they shall walk with me in white; for they are worthy." Revelation 3:4

Letters To Seven Church of Asia (Revelation 2-3)

Good

Bad

Good/
Bad

Good/
Bad

Good

Good/
Bad

Good/
Bad

- Most of us would like to be in a GOOD church (no condemnation)
- None of us would have anything to do with a BAD church (no commendation)
- Reality: May be in a church that is GOOD / BAD (Some commendation and some condemnation)

Revelation 2:1-7

“Letter to the Church at Ephesus” *The Church That Left Its First Love*

- Identification of the Author (verse 1)
- Commendation (verses 2-3, 6)
- Condemnation (verse 4)
- Plea to Repent (verse 5)
- Promise if Overcome (verse 7)

Revelation 2:1-7

“Letter to the Church at Ephesus” *The Church That Left Its First Love*

Key Verse
Revelation 2:4

“Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”

Dear Ephesus,
You Left Your First Love.

Your Fire Is Gone!

Revelation 2:1-7

“Letter to the Church at Ephesus” *The Church That Left Its First Love*

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- Third largest city of Roman empire.
- Population 250,000.
- One of the greatest seaports in the ancient world.

REVELATION: ROME & THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Revelation 2:1-7

Lord Sees and Knows It All

Verse 1: *“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, he that walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks.”*

- What is said (good / bad) is stated by one who holds the destiny of the church in his hand.
- Lord has full knowledge of the inner-workings of this church!

Revelation 2:1-7

A Church That Left Its First Love *When the Fire is Gone*

- Its History

Revelation 2:1-7**Its History**

1. **Paul Visited Ephesus Briefly on 2nd Journey** (Acts 18:18-21)
2. **Aquila and Priscilla Corrected Apollos** (Acts 18:24-28)
3. **Conversion of 12 Previously Baptized** (Acts 19:1-7)
4. **Many Converted on 3rd Journey** (Acts 19:8-20)
 - a. *In midst of controversy* (verses 8-16)
 - b. *Burned their books* (verses 18-19)
 - c. *Stayed three years* (Acts 20:31)

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Revelation 2:1-7**Its History**

5. **Idol Craftsmen Caused a Riot.** (Acts 19:21-41)
6. **Paul Met with Elders at Miletus.** (Acts 20:13-38)
7. **May have Visited Again after Prison.** (1 Timothy 1:3)
8. **Paul Wrote a Letter to Church at Ephesus.** (Ephesians)
9. **Timothy Worked with the Church.** (1 Timothy 1:3)

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