

# Introduction: The Seven Churches

### Message to reader: John's Introduction

As you read **Revelation chapter 1, verses 1-9**, keep in mind that John is writing an introduction to the seven churches in Asia concerning the events that will unfold in the book of Revelation.

### Objectives:

After reading this report the reader should understand the following;

1. That John wrote detail descriptions of what he saw and heard concerning events in his time period, and the things/prophecies that would occur thereafter (the signs of the coming of Christ, Christ's return, the kingdom of Christ, and the kingdom of Heaven);
2. That John bore record of the word of God, the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw by writing and sending the book of Revelation to the Seven Churches in Asia;
3. That the churches of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea were the Seven Churches in Asia;
4. That the rewards, contained in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 (To him that overcometh), are for The Servants of God/144,000;
5. That the people in the seven churches in Asia who were disobedient, those who refused to repent, will be punished both in their time and in the future.

## Revelation 1:1-20

### INTRODUCTION AND BLESSING TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

**Revelation 1:1:** *"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him,"* [Christ] *"to shew unto his servants"* [The 144,000, see **Revelation 7:3-4**] *"things which must shortly come to pass; and he"* [Christ] *"sent and signified it by his angel"* [One of the seven angels which had the seven vials, see **Revelation 17:1** and **Revelation 21:9**] *"unto his servant John:"*

**Revelation 1:2:** *"Who" [John] "bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw."* John bore record by following the commandments he received, see **verses 10-11, 19** and **Revelation 22:10**.

**Revelation 1:3:** *"Blessed is he that readeth,"* [The book of Revelation] *"and they" [The Servants of God/144,000] "that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."* **Now!** The time began when John sent the book of Revelation to the seven churches in Asia, this will be explained in **Revelation chapters 2 and 3**.

**Revelation 1:4:** *"John to the seven churches which are in Asia:"* [See **verse 11**; these churches consisted of Jews and Gentiles who followed the New Covenant/New Testament (the commandments of God, which Christ taught), this will be explained below in the **Message to reader: The Gentiles in Christ**] *"Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come;"* [The Most High, see **Revelation 4:8**] *"and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;"* See **Revelation 4:5**.

**Revelation 1:5:** *"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead,"* [See **Colossians 1:18**] *"and the prince of the kings of the earth."* [See **Revelation 19:16**] *"Unto him" [Christ] "that loved us,"* [The Servants of God/144,000] *"and washed us" [The Servants of God/144,000] "from our sins in his own blood,"*

**Revelation 1:6:** *"And hath made us" [The Servants of God/144,000] "kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him" [God] "be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."*

**Revelation 1:7:** *"Behold, he" [Christ] "cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him,"* [Christ] *"and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him."* [Christ] *"Even so, Amen."* See **John 19:33-34** and **Jeremiah 25:30-33**.

**Revelation 1:8:** *"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."*

**Revelation 1:9:** *"I John, who also am your brother,"* [Fellow servant of God] *"and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."* During

the time of the Romans, John was imprisoned and persecuted on the island of Patmos for teaching the word of Christ.

### Message to reader: The Angel Sent from Christ

The angel sent from Christ begins to show/reveal the book of Revelation to John, see **Revelation 17:1**.

### THE ANGEL OF CHRIST SENT TO JOHN

**Revelation 1:10:** *"I" [John] "was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,"*

**Revelation 1:11:** *"Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea."*

**Revelation 1:12:** *"And I" [John] "turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I" [John] "saw seven golden candlesticks;"*

**Revelation 1:13:** *"And in the midst of the **seven candlesticks**" [See **verse 20**] "one like unto the Son of man," [Christ] "clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle."*

**Revelation 1:14:** *"His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;"*

**Revelation 1:15:** *"And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters."*

**Revelation 1:16:** *"And he had in his right hand **seven stars**:" [See **verse 20**] "and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword:" [See **Revelation 19:15**] "and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength."*

**Revelation 1:17:** *"And when I" [John] "saw him," [Christ, see **verses 12-16**] "I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:"*

**Revelation 1:18:** *"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen;"* [See **Roman 6:9**] *"and have the keys of hell and of death."* Christ has the keys/power to save and deliver from hell and death.

### Message to reader: Hell and Death

Hell and Death came into the world when Adam sinned. **I Corinthians 15:21:** *"For since by man came death, by Man came also the resurrection of the dead."* **Verse 22:** *"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive"*

#### Death:

The punishment of "death" was given to Adam in **Genesis 3:17:** *"And unto Adam He said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it, cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life."* **Verse 18:** *"Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee, and thou shalt eat the herb of the field."* **Verse 19:** *"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread till thou return unto the ground,"* [Die/death] *"for out of it"* [The ground] *"wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."* Adam broke the Lord's commandment, by eating the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. As a result, his punishment was a physical death; Adam's **life** also changed, it was replaced with hard work and sorrows (death). Additionally, the earth was cursed, Adam was removed from the garden of Eden and had to work for his food.

#### Hell:

The punishment of death as explained above also includes hell. **2 Peters 2:4:** *"For if God spared not the angels"* [Or messengers (people)] *"that sinned, but cast them down to hell,"* [Hell is a place, in the nether parts of the earth, a place where the dead are, see **Ezekiel 32:17-24**] *"and delivered them"* [The angels or messengers that sinned] *"into chains of darkness,"* [Death and hell] *"to be reserved unto judgment;"* The day of the Lord. The punishment of death that fell upon all flesh as a result of Adam's sin, will be taken out of the earth, see **Revelation 21:1, 4**.

**Revelation 1:19:** *"Write the things which thou hast seen,"* [See **verses 12-18**] *"and the things which are,"* [The seven churches in Asia, **Revelation 2:1** through **Revelation 5:14** and **Revelation 22:6-21**] *"and the things which shall be hereafter;"* **Revelation 6:1** through **Revelation 22:5**.

**Revelation 1:20:** *“The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand,”* [See **verses 13, 16**] *“and the seven golden candlesticks.”* [See **verses 12-13**] *“The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”*

### Revelation 2:1-29

#### Message to reader: Christ to the Seven Churches in Asia

Christ was aware of the sins in the seven Churches located in Asia, see Revelation, chapters 2 and 3; he warned his followers to repent. Additionally, those in the churches who repented and overcame were promised rewards. Likewise, the rebellious were told of their punishments.

**Note:** Christ commanded John to write to the leaders (angels/messengers) of the seven churches located in Asia, see **Revelation 1:11**.

#### The Followers Of Christ Will Be Raise Up In The Last Day

**John 6:37:** *“All that the Father giveth me”* [Christ] *“shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”*

**John 6:38:** *“For I”* [Christ] *“came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.”*

**John 6:39:** *“And this is the Father's will which hath sent me,”* [Christ] *“that of all which he hath given me”* [The Servants of God/144,000 given to Christ] *“I should lose nothing, but should raise it”* [The Servants of God/144,000] *“up again at the last day.”* Before Christ returns!

**John 6:40:** *“And this is the will of him that sent me,”* [Christ] *“that every one”* [The elect/followers of Christ, who lived during the time period of the New Testament] *“which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”* Before Christ returns!

### Message to reader: The Gentiles in Christ

The gospel has not changed! The promises and teachings of Christ which were delivered to the Gentiles by Paul and Christ's disciples remain in effect, **Colossians 1:25**: *"Whereof I" [Paul] "am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;"*

**Colossians 1:26**: *"Even the mystery" [The Gentiles in Christ, see Acts 28:28] "which hath been hid from ages and from generations," [The generations/time periods before Christ] "but now" [The time of Paul's ministry] "is made manifest to his saints:" [The Servants of God/144,000]*

**Colossians 1:27**: *"To whom" [The Servants of God/144,000] "God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:" See Acts 10:34-35 and Acts 11:16-18.*

**Ephesians 3:6**: *"That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs," [Or joint heirs with Israel] "and of the same body," [Christ] "and partakers of His promise in Christ by the Gospel." See Acts 13:44-48, Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26-28 and Revelation 3:5, 21.*

For additional information see, **The New Covenant of Christ** report.

### THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

**Revelation 2:1**: *"Unto the angel" [Messenger/leader] "of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;" Christ, see Revelation 1:12-13, 16.*

**Revelation 2:2**: *"I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:"*

**Revelation 2:3**: *"And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted."*

**Revelation 2:4**: *"Nevertheless I" [Christ] "have somewhat against thee," [The leader and congregation of the church of Ephesus] "because thou" [The leader and congregation of*

the church of Ephesus] *"hast left thy first love."* The teachings of Christ.

**Revelation 2:5:** *"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I" [Christ] "will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place," [Destroy the church of Ephesus and remove its candlestick, see Revelation 1:20] "except thou repent."*

**Revelation 2:6:** *"But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate."*

**Revelation 2:7:** *"He" [The Servants of God/144,000] "that hath an ear," [Understanding] "let him hear" [Understand] "what the Spirit" [Christ] "saith unto the churches;" [The seven churches in Asia] "To him" [The Servants of God/144,000] "that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." The Kingdom of Heaven/New Jerusalem, see Revelation 21:1-4 and Revelation 22:1-2.*

### **THE CHURCH OF SMYRNA**

**Revelation 2:8:** *"And unto the angel" [Messenger/leader] "of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last," [Christ, see Revelation 1:11] "which was dead, and is alive;" Christ, see Revelation 1:18.*

**Revelation 2:9:** *"I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan."*

**Revelation 2:10:** *"Fear none of those things which thou" [Messenger/leader of the church in Smyrna] "shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."*

**Revelation 2:11:** *"He" [The Servants of God/144,000] "that hath an ear," [Understanding] "let him hear" [Understand] "what the Spirit" [Christ] "saith unto the churches;" [The seven churches in Asia] "He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." See Revelation 20:4, 6, 11-15.*



### **THE CHURCH OF PERGAMOS**

**Revelation 2:12:** *"And to the angel" [Messenger/leader] "of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;"* Christ, see **Revelation 1:16**.

**Revelation 2:13:** *"I" [Christ] "know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth."*

**Revelation 2:14:** *"But I" [Christ] "have a few things against thee," [The leader and the congregation of the church of Pergamos] "because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication."*

**Revelation 2:15:** *"So hast thou" [The leader and the congregation of the church of Pergamos] "also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate."* The church of Pergamos was guilty of breaking Christ's commandments by fellowshiping with unbelievers, see **2 Corinthians 6:14**.

**Revelation 2:16:** *"Repent;" [See **Romans 16:17-18** and **Matthew 18:7-9**] "or else I" [Christ] "will come unto thee" [The leader and the congregation of the church of Pergamos] "quickly, and will fight against them" [The disobedient/those who refuse to follow the teachings of Christ] "with the sword of my mouth." See **Revelation 19:21**.*

**Revelation 2:17:** *"He" [The Servants of God/144,000] "that hath an ear," [Understanding] "let him hear" [Understand] "what the Spirit" [Christ] "saith unto the churches; To him" [The Servants of God/144,000] "that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it."*

### **THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA**

**Revelation 2:18:** *"And unto the angel" [Messenger/leader] "of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;"* Christ, see **Revelation 1:14-15**.

**Revelation 2:19:** *"I" [Christ] "know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first."*

**Revelation 2:20:** *"Notwithstanding I" [Christ] "have a few things against thee," [The leader and the congregation of the church of Thyatira] "because thou" [The leader and the congregation of the church of Thyatira] "sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach" [See **1 Timothy 2:11-12**] "and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols." See **Romans 16:17** and **1 Corinthians 5:11-13**.*

**Revelation 2:21:** *"And I" [Christ] "gave her" [Jezebel] "space to repent of her fornication; and she" [Jezebel] "repented not."*

**Revelation 2:22:** *"Behold, I" [Christ] "will cast her" [Jezebel] "into a bed, and them" [Her followers] "that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they" [Jezebel and her followers] "repent of their deeds."*

**Revelation 2:23:** *"And I" [Christ] "will kill her" [Jezebel's] "children with death; and all the churches" [The seven churches in Asia] "shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works." See **Jeremiah 17:10**.*

**Revelation 2:24:** *"But unto you" [The leader/angel/messenger of the church of Thyatira] "I say, and unto the rest" [The congregation] "in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they" [Jezebel and her followers] "speak; I will put upon you none other burden."*

**Revelation 2:25:** *"But that which ye" [The faithful followers of Christ in the church of Thyatira] "have already" [The teachings of Christ, faith and the book of Revelation] "hold fast till I come." See **Revelation 1:11**.*

**Revelation 2:26:** *"And he" [The Servants of God/144,000] "that overcometh, and keepeth my" [Christ's] "works unto the end, to him" [The Servants of God/144,000] "will I" [Christ] "give power over the nations:" See **Revelation 20:4**.*

**Revelation 2:27:** *"And he" [The Servants of God/144,000] "shall rule them" [The nations] "with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they" [The nations] "be broken to shivers: even as I" [Christ] "received of my Father." See, **Message to reader: The Reign***

**of Christ and 144,000 (1,000 Years).**

**Revelation 2:28:** *"And I will give him" [The Servants of God/144,000] "the morning star."*

**Revelation 2:29:** *"He" [The Servants of God/144,000] "that hath an ear,"*  
[Understanding] *"let him hear" [Understand] "what the Spirit" [Christ] "saith unto the churches."*

### Revelation 3:1-22

#### **THE CHURCH OF SARDIS**

**Revelation 3:1:** *“And unto the angel”* [Messenger/leader] *“of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he”* [Christ] *“that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars;”* [See **Revelation 1:16** and **Revelation 5:6**] *“I know thy”* [The messenger/leader] *“works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.”*

**Revelation 3:2:** *“Be watchful, and strengthen the things”* [Those in the church of Sardis] *“which remain,”* [In Christ] *“that are ready to die: for I”* [Christ] *“have not found thy”* [The messenger/leader of the church] *“works perfect before God.”*

**Revelation 3:3:** *“Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard,”* [The word of Christ] *“and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou”* [The leader of the church of Sardis] *“shalt not watch,”* [See **1 Corinthians 16:13-14**] *“I will come on thee”* [The leader of the church of Sardis] *“as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.”* See **Revelation 16:15** and **Matthew 25:29-31**.

**Revelation 3:4:** *“Thou hast a few names”* [The Servants of God/144,000] *“even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.”* See **Revelation 6:11**.

**Revelation 3:5:** *“He”* [The Servants of God/144,000] *“that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I”* [Christ] *“will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father,”* [See **Matthew 10:32**] *“and before his angels.”*

**Revelation 3:6:** *“He”* [The Servants of God/144,000] *“that hath an ear,”* [Understanding] *“let him hear”* [Understand] *“what the Spirit”* [Christ] *“saith unto the churches.”*

#### **THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA**

**Revelation 3:7:** *“And to the angel”* [Messenger/leader] *“of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he”* [Christ] *“that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David,”* [See **Luke 1:31-33**] *“he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;”*

**Revelation 3:8:** *"I" [Christ] "know thy" [The messenger/leader's] "works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou" [The messenger/leader of the church of Philadelphia] "hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."*

**Revelation 3:9:** *"Behold, I" [Christ] "will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy" [The messenger/leader of the church of Philadelphia's] "feet, and to know that I have loved thee."*

**Revelation 3:10:** *"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I" [Christ] "also will keep thee" [The messenger/leader of the church of Philadelphia] "from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."*  
See **2 Peter 2:9**.

**Revelation 3:11:** *"Behold, I" [Christ] "come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast," [Faith, the teachings of Christ including the book of Revelation] "that no man take thy crown."*

**Revelation 3:12:** *"Him" [The Servants of God/144,000] "that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name."*

**Revelation 3:13:** *"He" [The Servants of God/144,000] "that hath an ear," [Understanding] "let him hear" [Understand] "what the Spirit" [Christ] "saith unto the churches."*

### **THE CHURCH OF LAODICEANS**

**Revelation 3:14:** *"And unto the angel" [Messenger/leader] "of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;" Christ, see **Colossians 1:15-18**.*

**Revelation 3:15:** *"I" [Christ] "know thy" [The messenger/leader of the church of the Laodiceans] "works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot."*

**Revelation 3:16:** *"So then because thou" [The messenger/leader of the church of the Laodiceans] "art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."*

**Revelation 3:17:** *"Because thou" [The messenger/leader of the church of the Laodiceans] "sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:"*

**Revelation 3:18:** *"I" [Christ] "counsel thee" [The messenger/leader of the church of the Laodiceans] "to buy of me" [Christ] "gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou" [The messenger/leader of the church of the Laodiceans] "mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness" [Sin/lukewarm] "do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see." Understand! See **Isaiah 55:1-3** and **Revelation 3:5**.*

**Revelation 3:19:** *"As many as I" [Christ] "love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous" [Enthusiastic, passionate, fervent etc. (not lukewarm)] "therefore, and repent." See **Hebrews 12:6-8**.*

**Revelation 3:20:** *"Behold, I" [Christ] "stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door," [Follow the voice/teachings] "I" [Christ] "will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." See **Proverbs 8:4**, **Song Of Solomon 5:2** and **Isaiah 30:21***

**Revelation 3:21:** *"To him that overcometh will I" [Christ] "grant to sit with me" [Christ] "in my throne," [See **Matthew 25:31** and **Revelation 20:4**] "even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." See **Luke 22:69** and **Colossians 3:1**.*

**Revelation 3:22:** *"He" [The Servants of God/144,000] "that hath an ear," [Understanding] "let him hear" [Understand] "what the Spirit" [Christ] "saith unto the churches."*