

Revelation 1-3

REVELATION 1

1. What is the Book of Revelation? **(1)**
 - A revelation (vision) of JC
2. Why was Revelation written? **(1)**
 - *To show ... things that must shortly (quickly) come to pass*
3. Who wrote it? **(1-2)**
 - It was given to John by an angel, who received it from JC, who received it from the Father
 - A testimony of the vision John saw of JC
4. Why study it? **(3)**
 - A blessing promised for: reading, hearing, keeping
5. To whom was Revelation written?
 - To 7 churches in Asia Minor **(4, 11)**
6. What is the vision? (A VISION OF CHRIST GLORIFIED) **(12-18)**
 - 7 golden candlesticks = 7 churches
 - Jesus as a priest & judge
 - 7 stars in His right hand = angels (messengers)
 - Out of His mouth a two-edged sword
 - His countenance was like the sun
 - Revelation (Apocalypse) = a symbolic forecast of the final judgments of God
7. What was John to do w/ the vision?
 - Write the symbolic forecast of the final judgments of God
 - Send the symbolic forecast of these judgments to the 7 churches
8. What John was commanded to write is the outline of Revelation
The outline is the key to understanding Revelation
 - Write the things you have seen (chapter 1)
 - And the things which are (chapters 2-3)
 - And the things which will be hereafter (chapters 4-22)

REVELATION 2-3

1. EPHESUS (2:1-7)

- Christ commended them for their works & doctrinal purity. They had lost their 1st love
2. SMYRNA (2:8-11)
 - They refused to worship Caesar. They were persecuted. Some were martyred
 3. PERGAMOS (12-17)
 - They held fast to Christ & did not deny the faith. They compromised their doctrine. The Doctrine of Balaam = doctrine of compromise. The doctrine of the Nicolaitans (Gr. *Nicolaos* = victor of people) = establishment of priests over the people.
 4. THYATIRA (18-29)
 - They had faith and good works, but had a woman pastor named Jezebel who seduced the church to spiritual unfaithfulness
 5. SARDIS (3:1-6)
 - This church had no spiritual power. Very few were saved
 6. PHILADELPHIA (7-13)
 - This was a revival church. Christ set before them an open door (7).
 - Christ will keep them from the hour of temptation which shall come upon the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth (10)
 7. LAODICEA (14-22)
 - This church was lukewarm (tepid, warm). They refused to take a stand for Christ. Jesus was on the outside, knocking to get in (20)
 - Jesus said, *I will vomit you out of my mouth* (16)

WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO W/ TODAY?

1. What Jesus saw in the church then is what He sees no
2. This is a picture of Christ's judgment of the church today
 - EPHESUS = loveless church
 - SMYRNA = persecuted church
 - PERGAMOS = compromising church
 - THYATIRA = corrupt church
 - SARDIS = dead church
 - PHILADELPHIA = faithful church
 - LAODICEA = Christless church

3. The church age was a ***mystery*** (20)

- The church is a mystery (**Ephesians 3:3, 4, 9**)
- In the church age there is good & bad
- Christ will separate the good & the bad at the Rapture

4. The Parables of the Kingdom are ***mysteries*** of the Kingdom

- PARABLE OF THE SOWER – 4 types of soil – good & bad
- WHEAT & TARES – error will grow alongside the truth
- THE MUSTARD SEED – evil will become a large tree – birds are in it (evil)
- LEAVEN – evil will spread rapidly
- HIDDEN TREASURE = Israel hidden in a field will be purchased by Christ
- PEARL OF GREAT PRICE = Church is a valuable pearl purchased by Christ
- DRAGNET - at the end of the age the wicked will be separated from the just

CONCLUSION

1. Christ is walking through the candlesticks (churches), evaluating the good & bad
2. Good & bad is determined by obedience to the Word of God
3. Good & bad in churches is largely determined by the messengers (angels)
4. The rapture will separate the good from the bad
5. The Tribulation is a judgment of the bad