

WHAT THE
BIBLE
Is ABOUT

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Session 6

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

A Unique Promise

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.”

(Revelation 1:3)

Blessed (μακάριος, *makarios*)-hallowed, consecrated, approved, made happy or prosperous

WHAT THE
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BACKGROUND

the revelation

noun | rev·e·la·tion | \ rěv'ə-lā'shən \

1.

- a. The act of unveiling, revealing or disclosing.
- b. Something revealed, especially a dramatic disclosure of something not previously known or realised.
- c. A sudden insight or idea.

2. *Theology.* A manifestation of divine will or truth.

Middle English *revelacion*, from Old French *revelation*, from Latin *revēlātiō*, *revēlātiōn-*, from *revēlātus*, past participle of *revēlāre*, "to reveal"; originally translated from the Greek noun ἀποκάλυψις, *apokalypsis* (root ἀποκαλύπτω, *apokalyptō* (v)) meaning "laying bare, making naked, unveiling, disclose what before was unknown."

Revelation 1:1-2

- 1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by his angel unto His servant John:
- 2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

servant (δοῦλος, *doulos*): devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests.

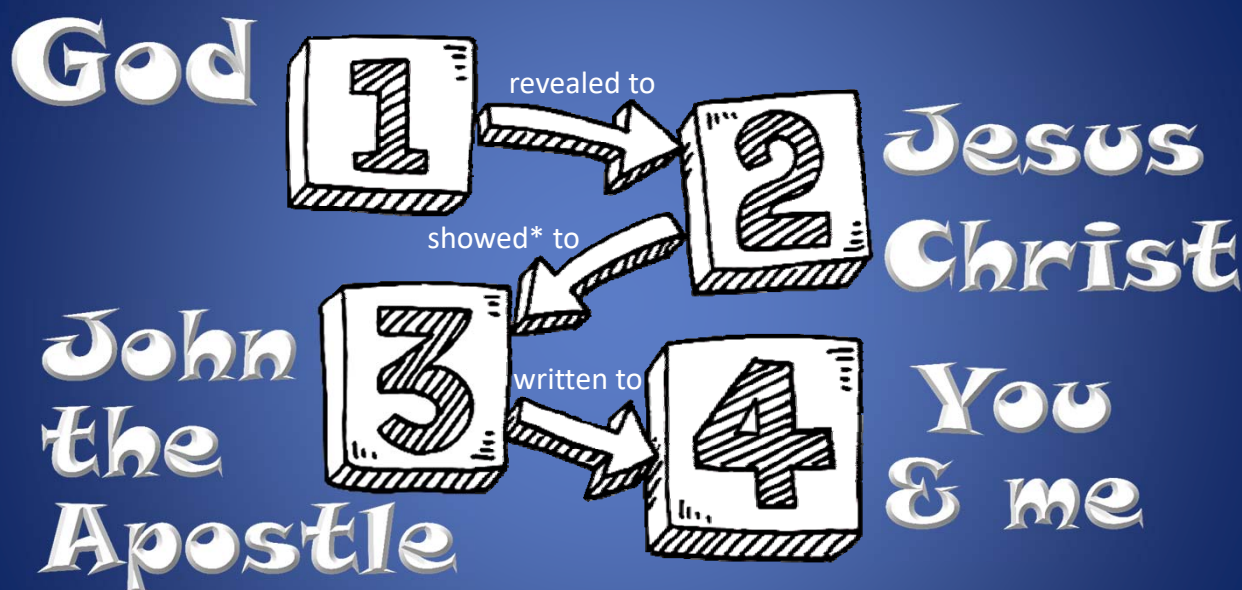
signified (σημαίνω, *sēmainō*): to give a sign, to signify, indicate, render into signs; from *sema* (mark), translated as sign, wonder or miracle in the Bible (e.g., a spiritual code)

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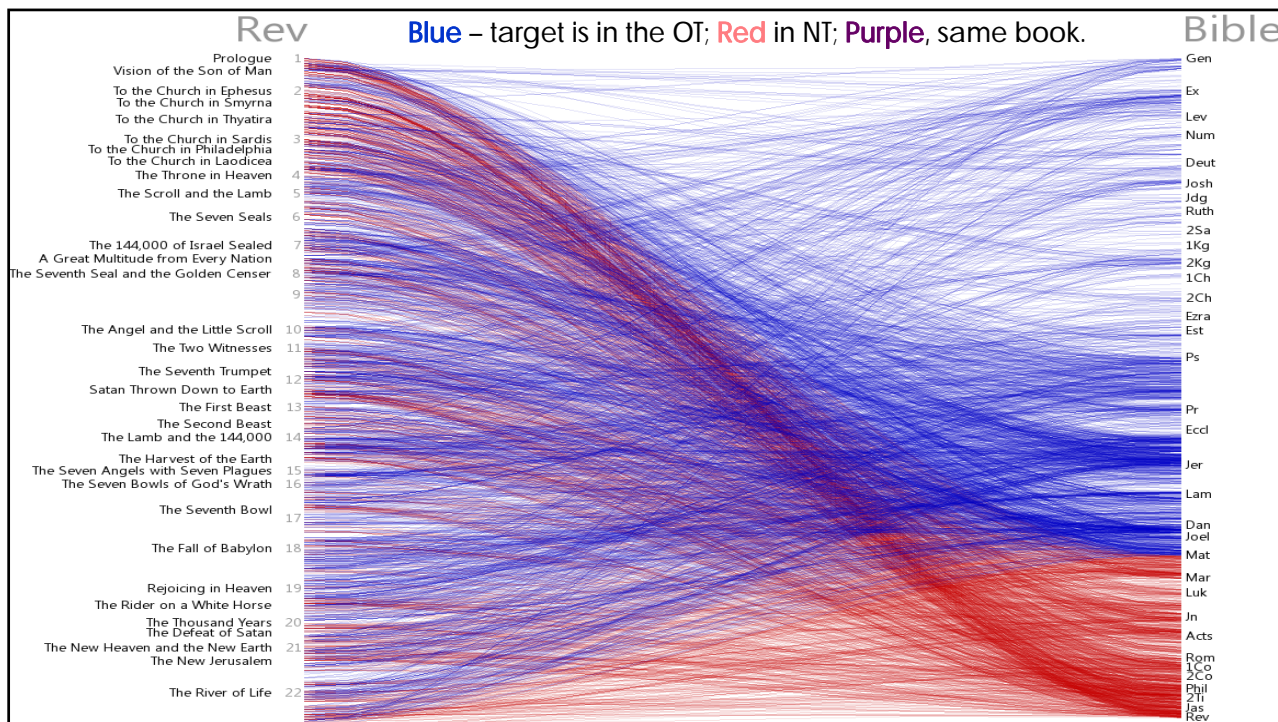
* By Christ, His angel, elders, etc.

Key Points

The book of Revelation is in code

Every code is explained in Scripture

Virtually every book in the Bible is required to interpret the code.



Interpreting the book of Revelation

God means what He says and says what He means.

The Bible is an integrated whole: Every detail is there by design.

(Matthew 5:17,18)

Nothing is trivial: all things are for our learning.

(Romans 15:4)

Use the Bible to interpret the Bible.

A Unique Promise

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.”

(Revelation 1:3)

Blessed (μακάριος, *makarios*)- hallowed, consecrated, approved, made happy or prosperous

⁴ John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and **from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;**

The Seven Spirits

Isaiah 11 ¹ And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

1. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
2. the Spirit of wisdom
3. and Understanding,
4. the Spirit of Counsel
5. and Might,
6. the Spirit of Knowledge
7. and of the Fear of the LORD.

(Isaiah 11:2)

- ⁴ John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;
- ⁵ And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,
- ⁶ **And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father;** to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.


Kings and Priests

- In Israel, the tribe of Judah was the royal line and the tribe of Levi was the priestly line. No one was both.
- Some 2,000 years before Christ (Genesis 14:18) Abram met Melchizedek¹ king of Salem² who was both.
 - Abram tithed 10% and took communion from him.
- Psalm 110 & Hebrews 7 identify Jesus as king & priest.
- So Melchizedek, Jesus and who else? (See Rev. 1:6.)

1. Melchizedek (מֶלְכִי־צֶדֶק) translates to “king of righteousness”.

2. Salem (שָׁלֵם) means “peace,” an early name for Jerusalem. Melchizedek was the king of Peace.

⁷ Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

 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.

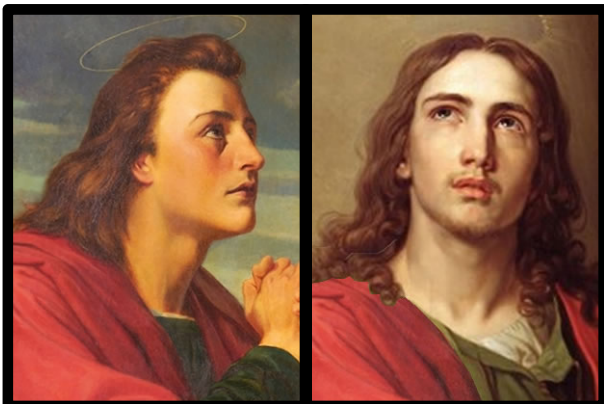
⁹ I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

UNLAWFUL CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY, NO EMPEROR WORSHIP, SPREADING GOD'S WORD

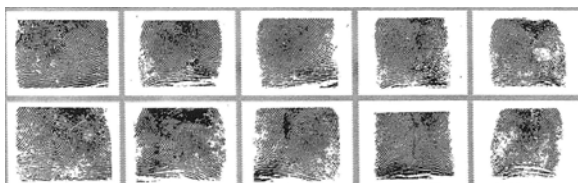
WANTED BY ROME

JOHN, SON OF ZEBEDEE

ALIASES: John the Apostle, Ἰωάννης (*Iōannēs*), John the Evangelist, John of Patmos, John the Elder, the Beloved Disciple



(current photograph not available)



DESCRIPTION

AGE: 94 est., born c.006 AD, Bethsaida, Israel (no birth records)
reported death c.100 AD, Ephesus, Turkey (grave stone)

HEIGHT: 5'8" WEIGHT: 140-160 lbs EYES: brown HAIR: brown

BUILD: medium COMPLEXION: swarthy NATIONALITY: heaven

OCCUPATION: fisherman, author, apostle, aged carer, theologian

FATHER: Zebedee MOTHER: Salome BROTHER: James

KNOWN ASSOCIATES: Jesus Christ, Mary, the "Twelve Apostles"



¹⁰ I was in the Spirit **on the Lord's day**, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

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**.



Vision of the Risen Christ (Rev. 1:12-17)

¹² And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden lampstands;

¹³ And in the midst of the seven lampstands *one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*

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

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

¹⁶ And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance *was as the sun shineth in his strength.*

1) Hair; head Daniel 7:9

2) Eyes, Heb 1:13; 4:13; Flame of fire
1 Cor 3:13; Malachi 3:2, etc

3) Feet, symbol of walk;
Brass = judgment

4) Voice, many waters
Ezekiel 1:24; 43:2; Dan 10:6

5) Right Hand 7 stars, lampstands: in
the midst; in His hand

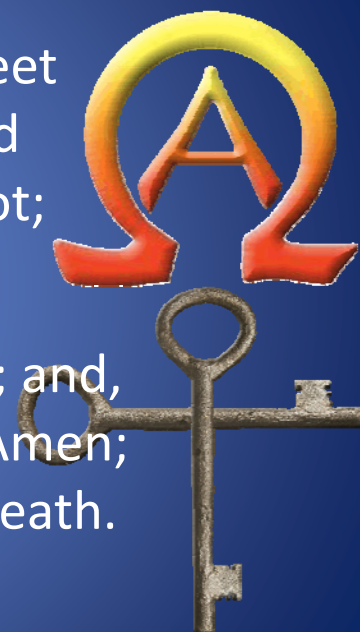
6) Mouth: two-edged sword Heb
4:12; Eph 6:17; Isa 49:2;
Judges unbelievers John 12:48;
Earth smitten Isa 11:4;
Antichrist consumed 2 Thess 2:8

7) Countenance, Sun Matt 17

Similar to Matthew 17:2 (Transfiguration) and Daniel 7 (Ancient of Days).

¹⁷ And when I saw him, 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:

¹⁸ I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.



The Divine Outline of the book of Revelation

¹⁹Write the things which thou hast seen,

and the things which are,

and the things which shall be hereafter,

(Revelation 1:19)

The Divine Outline of the book of Revelation

¹⁹Write the things which thou hast seen,

The Vision of Christ Chapter 1

and the things which are,

The Seven Churches Chapters 2,3

and the things which shall be hereafter,

What follows after the Churches .. Chapters 4-22

(Revelation 1:19)

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 which thou sawest are the seven **churches**.

ἐκκλησία, *ekklēsia*, assembly

1. From *ek*, "out of," and *klesis*, "a calling" (*kaleo*, "to call"); a body of citizens "gathered" to discuss the affairs of State, Acts 19:39.
2. The "gathering" of Israel, summoned for any definite purpose, or a "gathering" regarded as representative of the whole nation.
3. It has two specific Christian applications:
 - a. to the whole company of the redeemed throughout the present era of which Christ said, "I will build My Church," (Mat 16:18) and "the Church which is His Body," (Eph 1:22; 5:23),
 - b. in the singular (Mat 18:17), to a company (congregation) consisting of professed believers, and in the plural, with reference to all believers in a community or district.





Ephesus (“Desired One” or “Darling”)
 Smyrna (“Myrrh”, “Suffering” or “Death”)
 Pergamos (“Mixed marriage” or “Serpent”)
 Thyatira (“Semiramis” or “Daughter”)
 Sardis (“Red Stone” or “Remnant”)
 Philadelphia (“Brotherly love”)
 Laodicea (“Rule of the people”)

Ephesus ("Desired One" or "Dancing")
 Smyrna ("Myrrh", "Suffering", "Death")
 Pergamos ("Mixed", "Throne")
 Thyatira ("Semiramis")
 Sardis ("Red Stone")
 Philadelphia ("Brotherly Love")
 Laodicea ("Rule of the Laodiceans")

Why these seven churches?

Why not Rome?
 Jerusalem? Lystra?
 Antioch? Iconium?
 or many others?

Seven Parts of Each Letter

1. Name of church: "To the Angel in..."
2. Title of Christ: "These are the words of Him who..."
3. Commendation: "I know your deeds..."
4. Concern: "Yet I hold this against you..."
5. Exhortation: "... or I will come ..."
6. Appeal: "He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."
7. Promise to the overcomer: "To him who overcomes I will ..."

EPHESUS



Now

Agora (Shops)

Then





Now

Temple of Hadrian

Then



Now

Inside the Library of Celsus

Then





Now

The Fountain of Laecainus Bassus

Then



The Library of Celsus
The 12,000 scroll library was "one of the most impressive buildings in the Roman Empire" and the third-largest library in the ancient world behind Alexandria and Pergamos.

Detail





Now

Inside the Library of Celsus

Then



Curetes Street
(The posh end of town)

Two of the main streets in the city

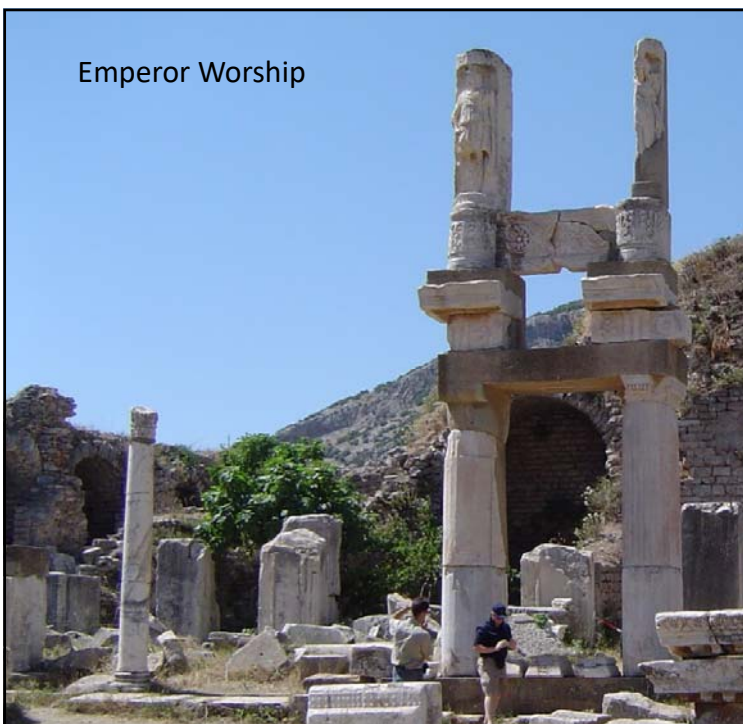
Arcadian Street
(Harbor Street)



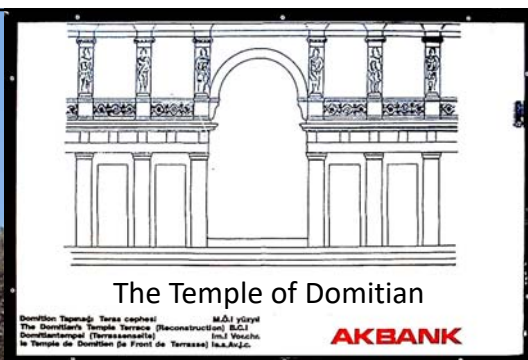


The Temple of Artemis or Artemision dedicated to the goddess Artemis (Temple of Diana of Ephesus)

One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, it was completely rebuilt three times before its final destruction in a fire in 401 AD.



Emperor Worship



The Temple of Domitian

Domitian Tapınağı: Terasa cephesi / M.Ö.1 yüzyıl
The Domitian's Temple Terrace (Reconstruction) B.C.1 /
Domitian Tapınağı (Terasası) / İ.M.1. Yüzyıl
le Temple de Domitian (de Front de Terrasse) I.S.A. An.1.
AKBANK

Overview of Design

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Name	<						
Title	<						
Commendation	<						
Concern	<						
Exhortation	<						
Promise (in text)							
Appeal	"He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the Churches"						
Promise (post-script)	<						





Overview of Design

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Name	<	<					
Title	<	<					
Commendation	<	<					
Concern	<	-					
Exhortation	<	<					
Promise (in text)							
Appeal	"He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the Churches"						
Promise (post-script)	>	>					

PERGAMUM





Overview of Design

	<i>Ephesus</i>	<i>Smyrna</i>	<i>Pergamos</i>	<i>Thyatira</i>	<i>Sardis</i>	<i>Philadelphia</i>	<i>Laodicea</i>
Name	✓	✓					
Title	✓	✓					
Commendation	✓	✓					
Concern	✓	-					
Exhortation	✓	✓					
Promise (in text)							
Appeal	"He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the Churches"						
Promise (post-script)	✓	✓					