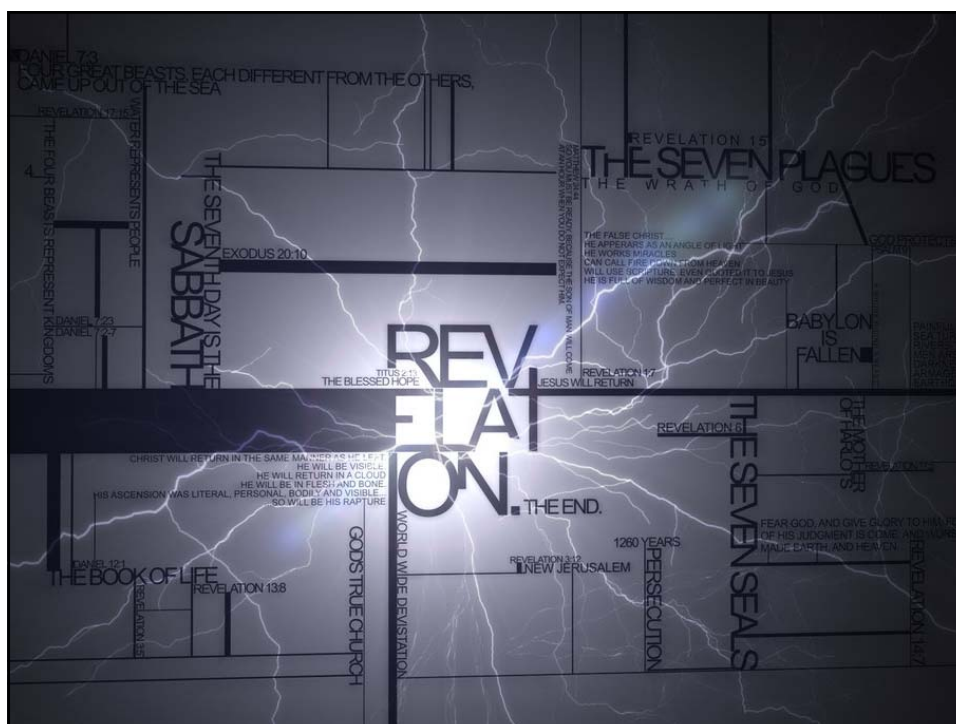


WHAT THE
BIBLE
Is ABOUT

WHAT THE
BIBLE
Is ABOUT

6
SESSION SIX



A Unique Promise

THE BOOK OF
REVELATION

“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)

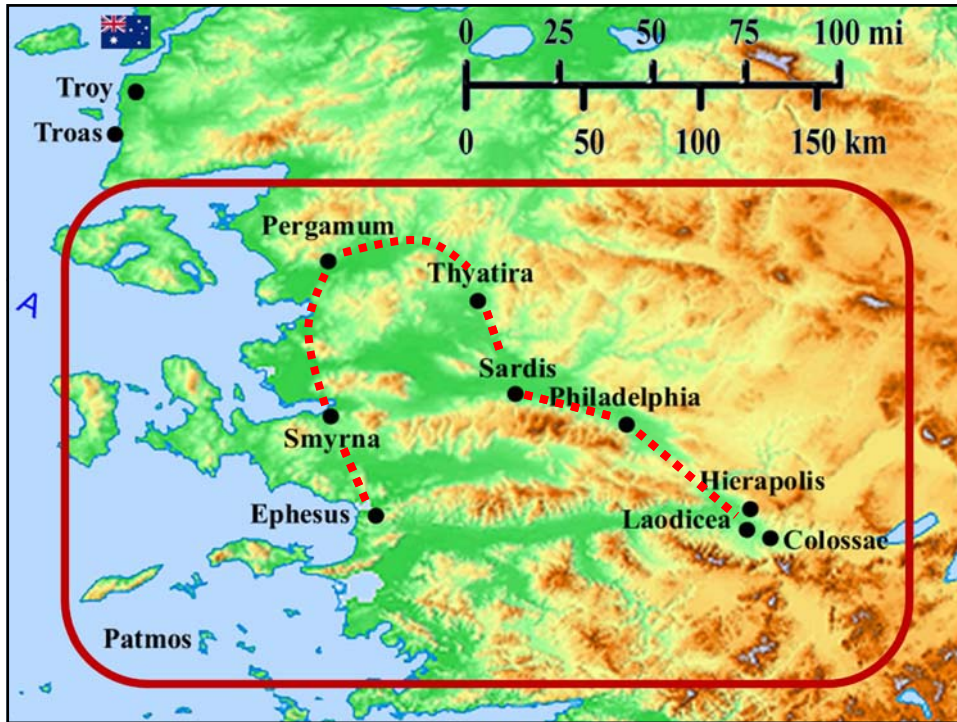
Blessed

(μακάριος, *makarios*)

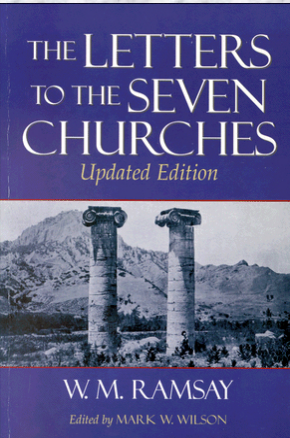

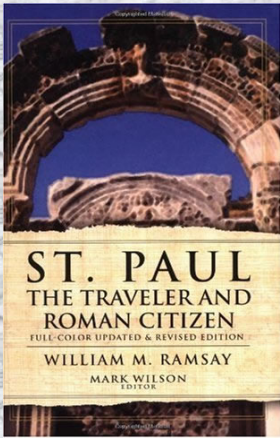
hallowed, consecrated,
approved, made happy
or prosperous





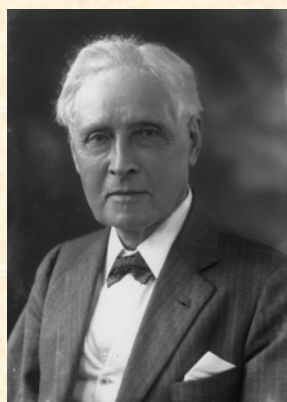


Sir William Mitchell Ramsay
(1851-1939)
Pioneer of the study of antiquity in Asia Minor



**“Acts was written by a great historian
(Luke), a writer who set himself to
record the facts as they occurred...”**

(St Paul the Traveler and Roman Citizen, p. 23)

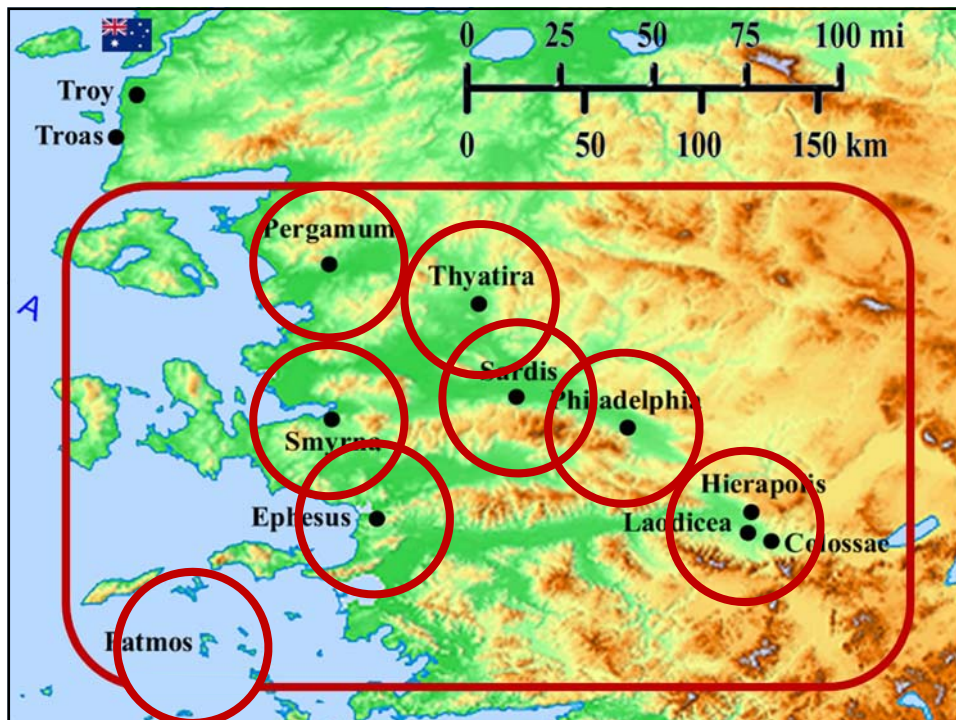


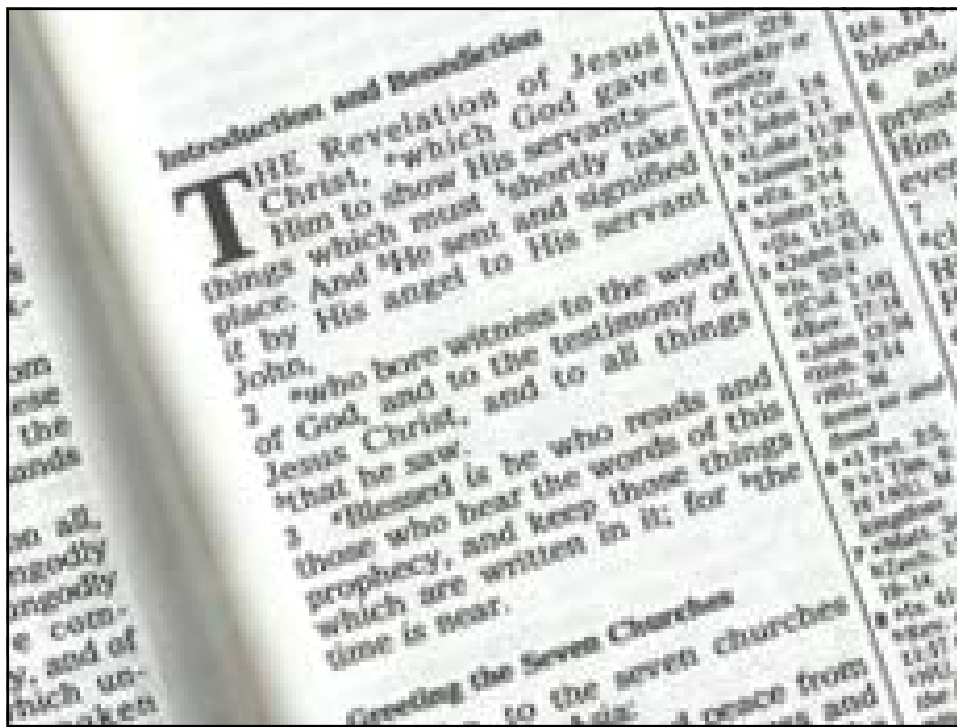
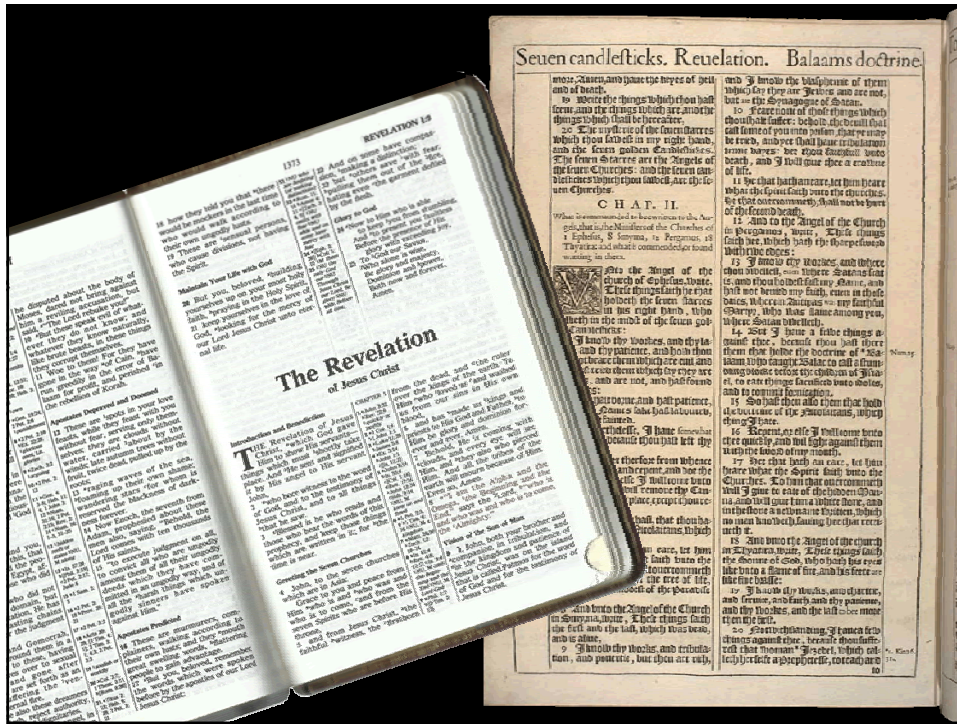
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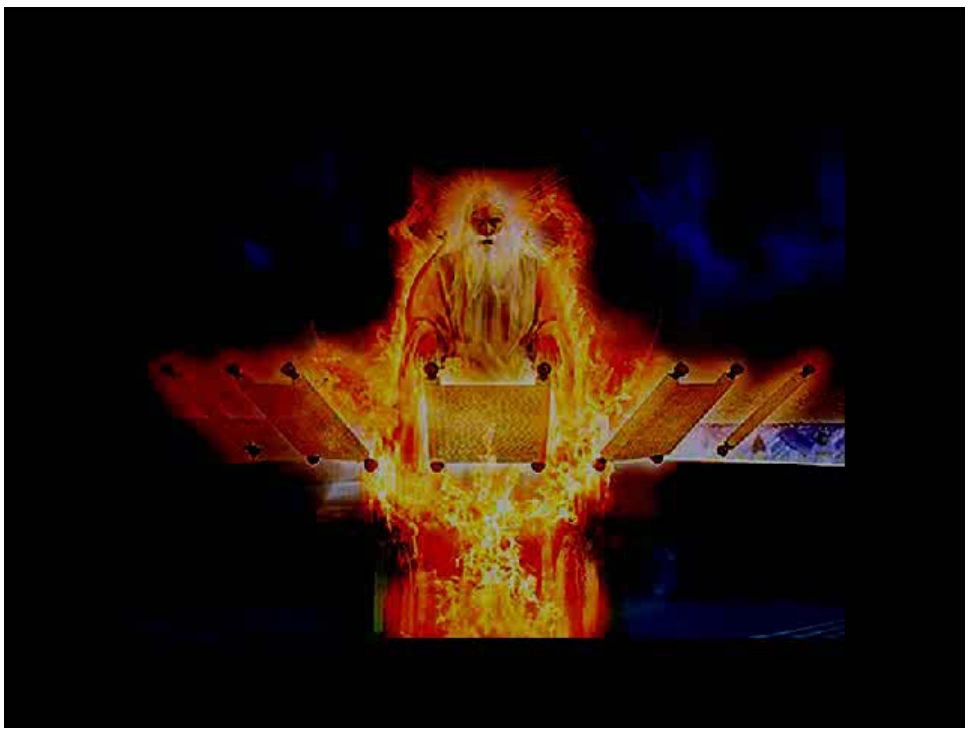
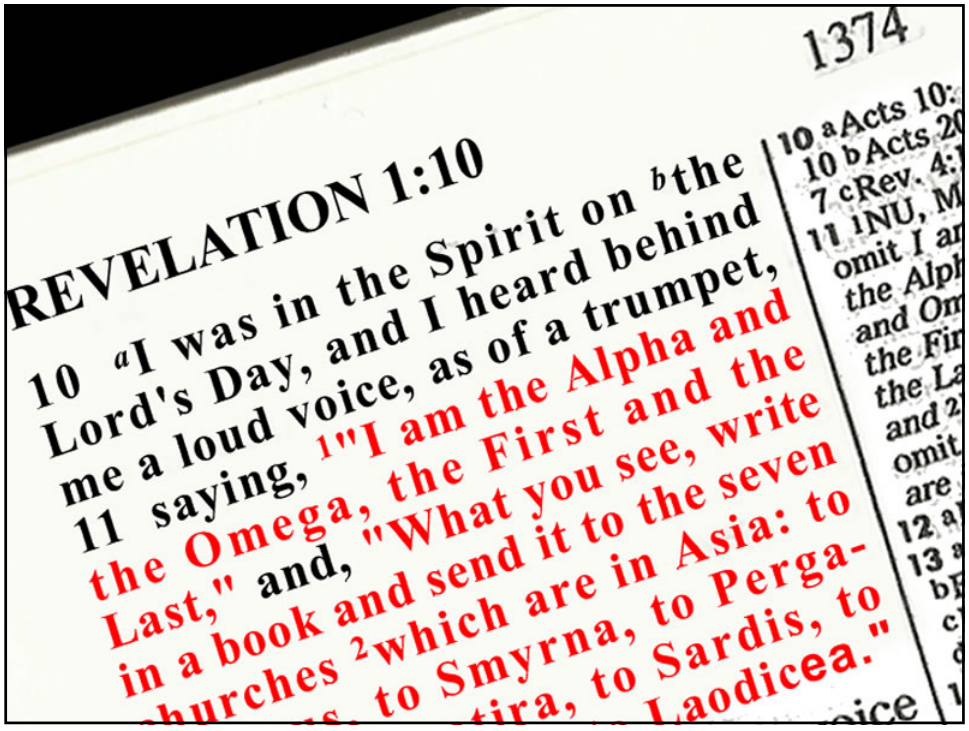
(St Paul the Traveler and Roman Citizen, p. 23)

“I set out to look for truth on the borderland where Greece and Asia meet, and found it there. You may press the words of Luke in a degree beyond any other historian's and they stand the keenest scrutiny and the hardest treatment...”

(The Bearing of Recent Discovery, p. 89)







Something to keep in mind

- **“When I applied my heart to know wisdom and to see the business that is done on earth...**
- **“... then I saw all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun.”**

Ecclesiastes 8:16-17

WHAT THE
BIBLE
Is ABOUT

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.

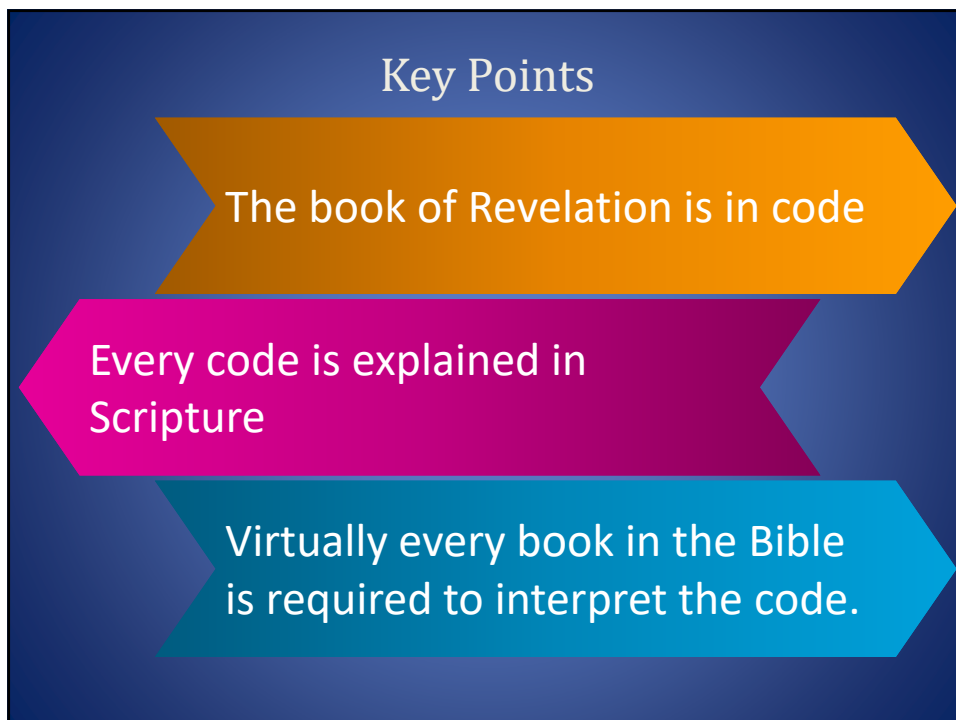
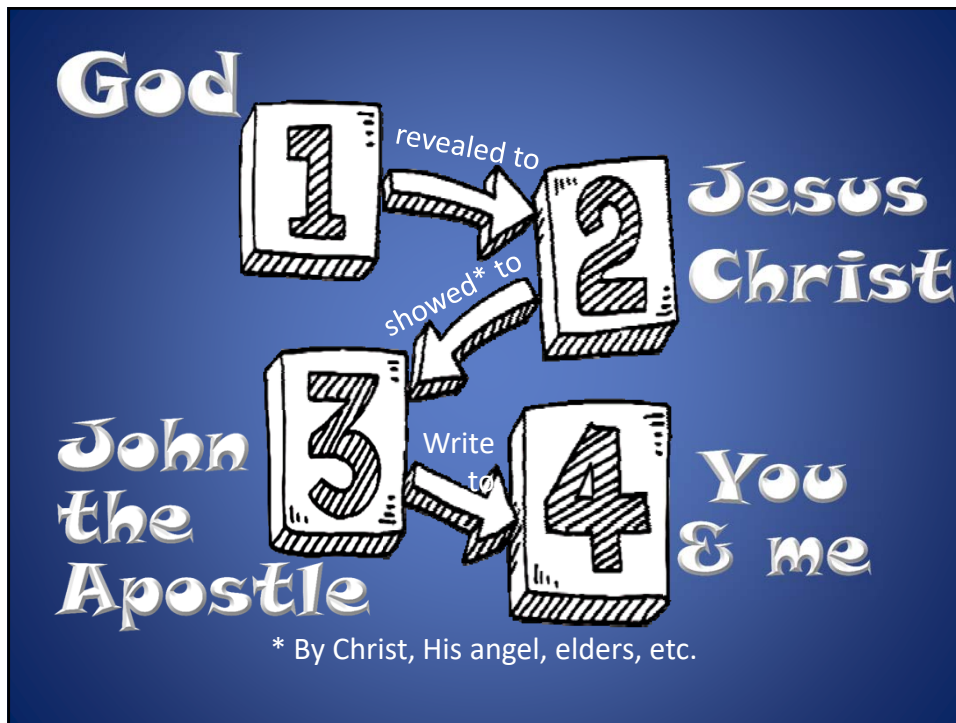
Middle English *revelacion*, from Old French *revelation*, from Latin *revēlātiō*, *revēlātiōn-*, from *revēlātus*, past participle of *revēlāre*, "to reveal"; originally translated from the Greek noun ἀποκάλυψις, *apokalypsis* (root ἀποκαλύπτω, *apokaluptō* (v)) meaning "laying bare, making naked, unveiling,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

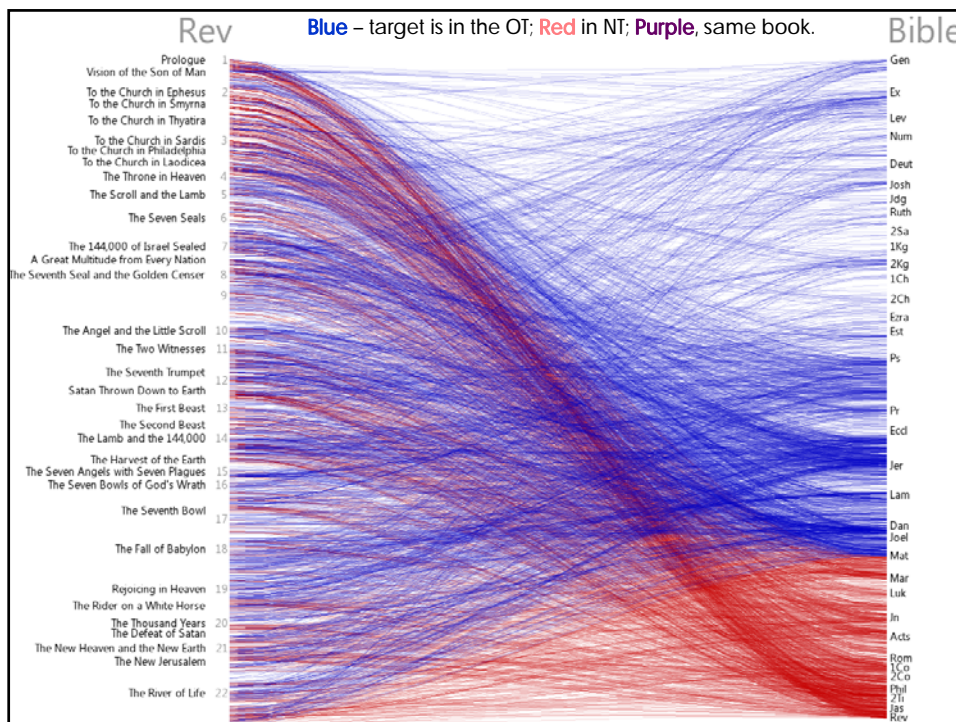
Revelation 1:1-2

- 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)





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

³Blessed 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.”

⁴John 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;**

(Revelation 1:3)

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

The Seven Spirits

Isaiah 11:2 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)


- 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.

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- ◆ 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 4:18), Abram met Melchizedek¹ king of Salem² **who was both.** Abram tithed 10% to and took communion from Melchizedek.
- ◆ Psalm 110 & Hebrews 7 identify Jesus as king and priest.
- ◆ So Melchizedek, Jesus and who else? (See Rev. 1:6.)



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

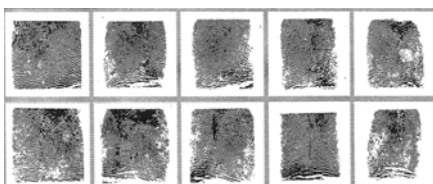
WANTED BY ROME

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**.



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.*



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

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- Hair; head Daniel 7:9
- Eyes, Heb 1:13; 4:13; Flame of fire 1 Cor 3:13; Malachi 3:2, etc
- Feet, symbol of walk; Brass = judgment
- Voice, many waters Ezekiel 1:24; 43:2; Dan 10:6
- Right Hand 7 stars, lampstands: in the midst; in His hand
- 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
- Countenance, Sun Matt 17



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.



<p>Matthew 16:18-21</p> 	<p>Revelation 1: 18</p> 
<p>Petros= stone or fragment</p> <p>18 And I tell you, you are Peter (<i>Petros</i>), and on this rock (<i>petra</i>) I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."</p>	<p>I <i>am</i> he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Jesus used <i>lithos</i> (pebble, small stone, building stone, stumbling stone) when speaking of Himself. (60X)</p> </div>

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**.

Who or what are the “Angels”



Who or what are the “Angels”

- Angels (ἄγγελος, *aggelos*) - a messenger, envoy, one who is sent, an angel, a messenger from God.
 - Some believe the “angels” are pastors, whose role was to read, pray and preach in the assembly.
 - Some believe the “angels” are guardian angels over each congregation.
 - Some think the “angels” weren’t literal beings at all, but the prevailing spirit of each church.
- In any case, notice where the “angels” are – **in the right hand of Jesus.**

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 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) of professed believers, and in the plural, with reference to all believers in a community or district.





The Seven Churches

1. Written to actual active churches.
2. Each church describes a period of Christian history.
3. Apply each church to our own lives (we are the temple of the Holy Spirit)

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1. Written to actual active churches.
2. Each church describes a period of Christian history.
3. Apply each church to our own lives (we are the temple of the Holy Spirit)
4. Actual history of the city/region that was known and alluded to by Jesus.
5. Prophetic allusions to coming events, current events and future events.

The name of each church is relevant

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”)

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Why these seven?

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 ..."