

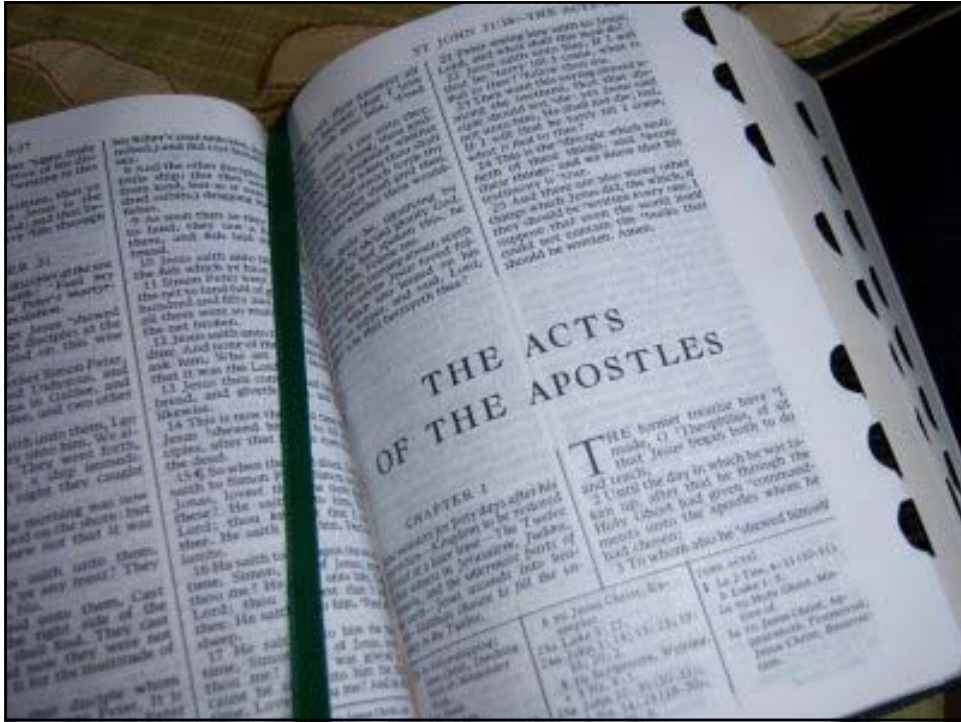


5

WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
Is ABOUT

**Revelation**  
Part 1 – Chapters 1-3

A dark blue rectangular box containing the number "5" in a large, white, sans-serif font on the left. To the right, the text "WHAT THE BIBLE Is ABOUT" is written in a white, serif font, with "BIBLE" being the largest word. Below this, a white-bordered rectangle contains the word "Revelation" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, followed by "Part 1 – Chapters 1-3" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.



KEY THEME

‘Surely I come quickly.’ Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!’

Revelation 22:20b

## KEY VERSE

<sup>19</sup> “Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;”

<sup>14</sup> “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.”

Revelation 1:19; 17:14

## The book of Revelation

**THINGS  
WHICH THOU  
HAST SEEN**  
(Chapter 1)

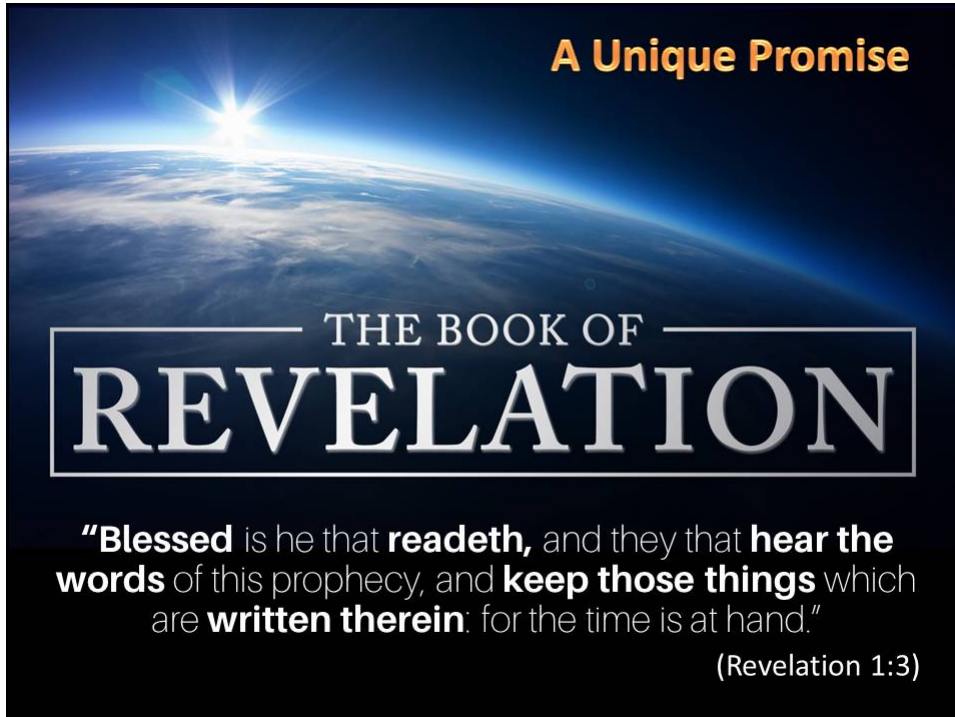
- John’ vision of the exalted Christ, 1

**THINGS  
WHICH  
ARE**  
(Chapters 2-3)

- The messages to the seven churches, 2-3

**THINGS  
WHICH SHALL  
BE HEREAFTER**  
(Chapters 4-22)

- Throne in heaven, 4-5
- Tribulation on earth, 6-9, 10-14, 15-19
- The Kingdom of Christ, 20
- The new heavens and earth, 21-22



**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)

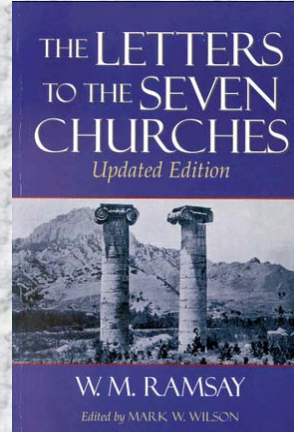
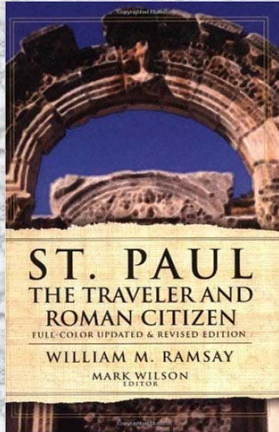


**Blessed**  
(μακάριος, *makarios*)  
hallowed, consecrated,  
approved, made happy  
or prosperous

# 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)*

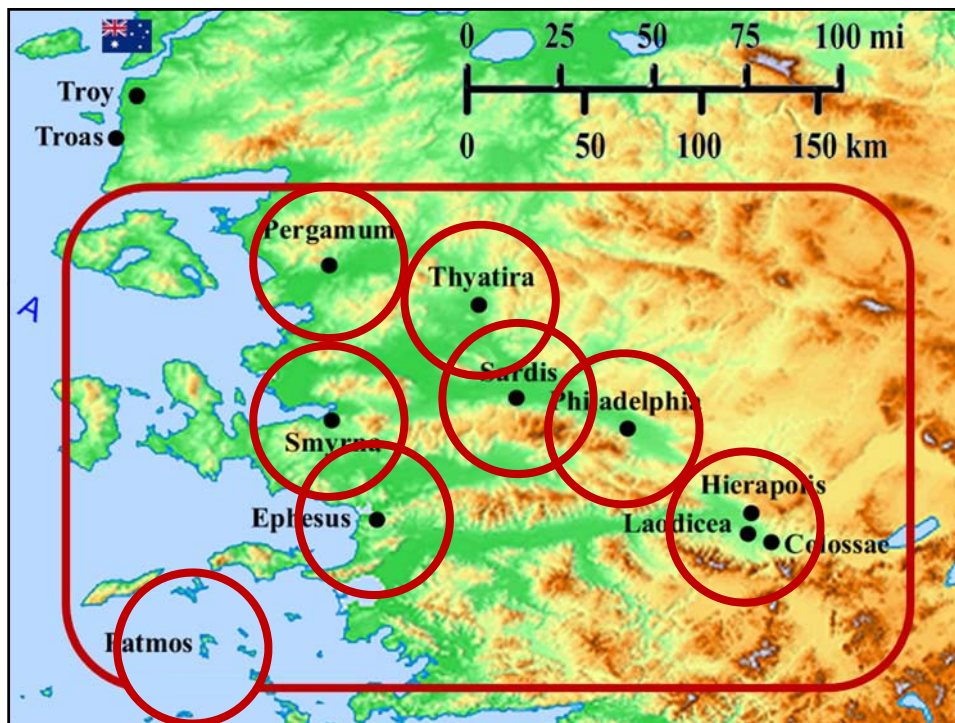


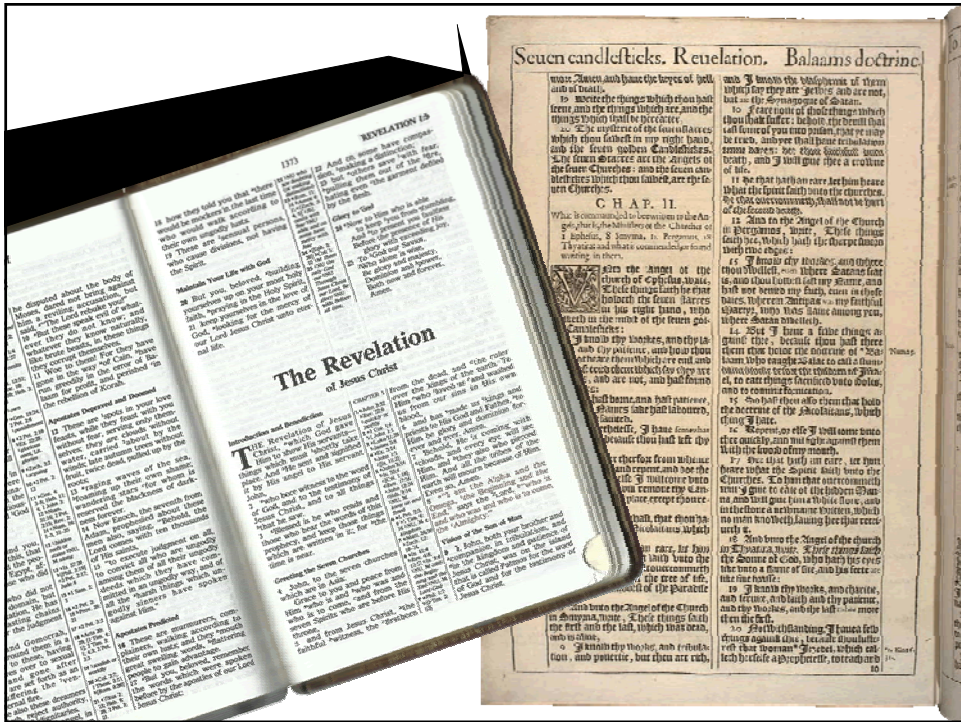
**“Acts was written by a great historian (Luke), a writer who set himself to record the facts as they occurred...”**

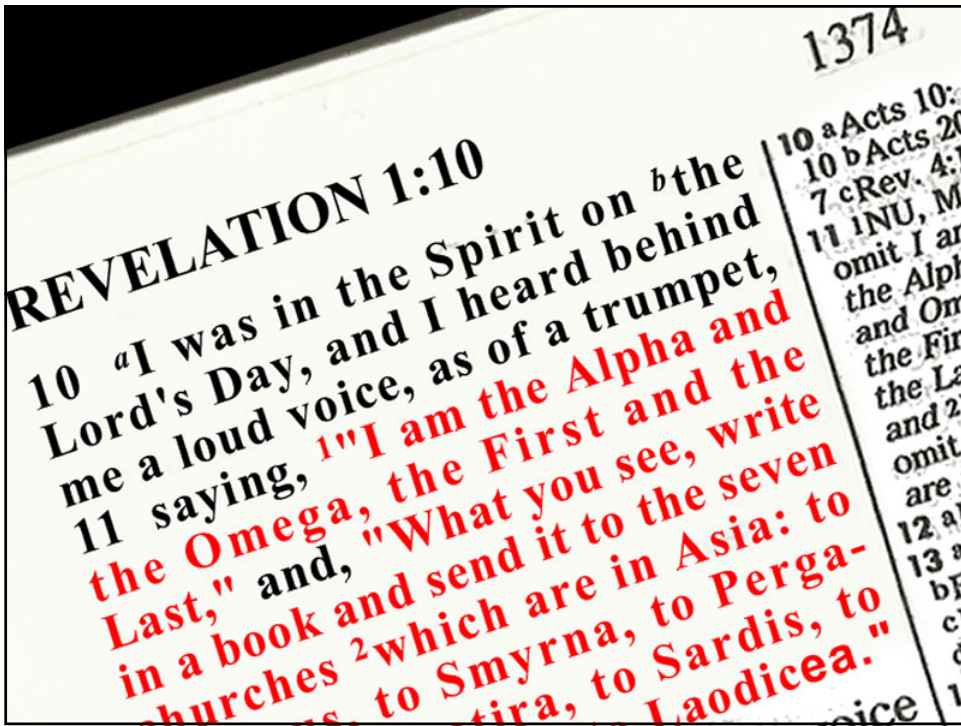
*(St Paul the Traveler and Roman Citizen, p. 23)*

**“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*

# 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.

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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, *apokalypō* (v)) meaning "laying bare, making naked, unveiling, disclose what before was unknown."

## Revelation 1:1-2

- <sup>1</sup> **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**:
- <sup>2</sup> **Who bare record** of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and **of all things that he saw.**

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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)

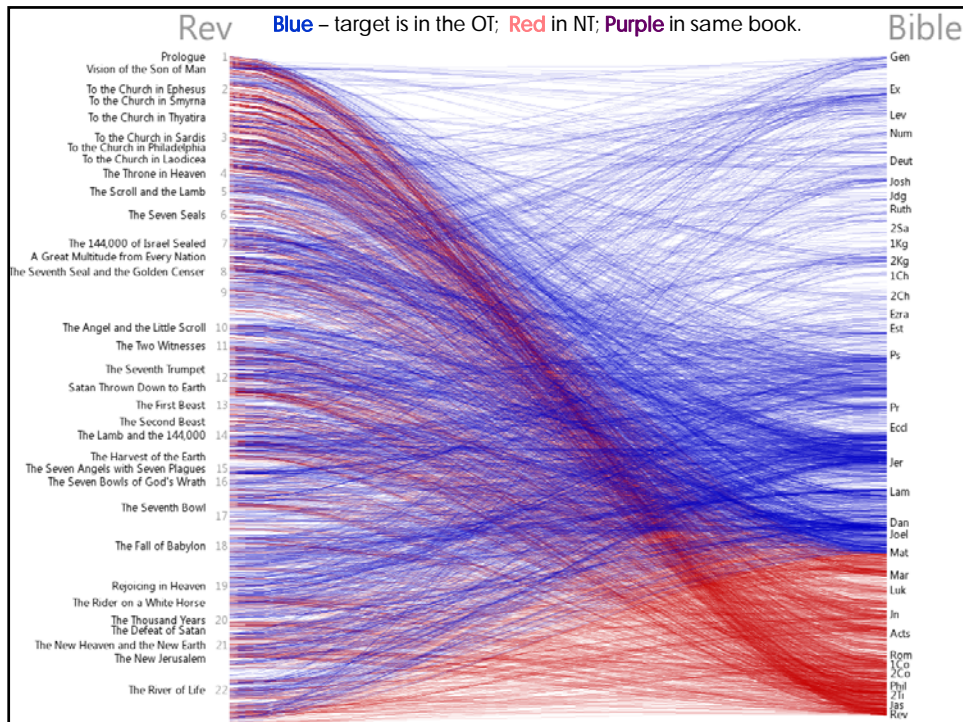


### Key Points

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

<p><b>God means what He says and says what He means.</b></p>	<p><b>The Bible is an integrated whole: Every detail is there by design.</b> (Matthew 5:17,18)</p>
<p><b>Nothing is trivial: all things are for our learning.</b> (Romans 15:4)</p>	<p><b>Use the Bible to interpret the Bible.</b></p>

## A Unique Promise

<sup>3</sup> 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.”

<sup>4</sup> 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;**

(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)

- <sup>5</sup> 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,
- <sup>6</sup> **And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father;** to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

- <sup>5</sup> 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,
- <sup>6</sup> **And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father;** to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

- 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 Melchizedek<sup>1</sup> king of Salem<sup>2</sup> **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.)

## Introducing Melchizedek

**Background:** over 4,000 year ago per Genesis 14, four kings of Babylon and Persia invaded the Valley of Siddim and defeated the five kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim and Zoar, looted the cities, took hostages including Abram's nephew Lot, and returned north. When Abram heard, he mobilised his 318 soldiers with survivors from the Battle of Nine Kings and regained Lot and his goods and the captured women and people. Abram met the defeated king of Sodom near Salem (now Jerusalem).

### Abram and Melchizedek

<sup>18</sup> Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he *was* the priest of God Most High. <sup>19</sup> And he blessed him and said:

“Blessed be Abram of God Most High,  
 Possessor of heaven and earth;  
<sup>20</sup> And blessed be God Most High,  
 Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.”

And he gave him a tithe of all.

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD (יהוה *Yēhovah*) said to my Lord (אֲדֹנָי *adown*),  
 “Sit at My right hand,  
 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”  
<sup>2</sup> The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion.  
 Rule in the midst of Your enemies!
- <sup>3</sup> Your people *shall be* volunteers  
 In the day of Your power;  
 In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning,  
 You have the dew of Your youth.
- <sup>4</sup> The LORD has sworn  
 And will not relent,  
 “You *are* a priest forever  
 According to the order of Melchizedek.”
- <sup>5</sup> The Lord *is* at Your right hand;  
 He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath.  
<sup>6</sup> He shall judge among the nations,  
 He shall fill *the places* with dead bodies,  
 He shall execute the heads of many countries.  
<sup>7</sup> He shall drink of the brook by the wayside;  
 Therefore He shall lift up the head.

**Psalm 110**  
 A Psalm of David

## Hebrews 7

### The King of Righteousness

- <sup>1</sup> For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, <sup>2</sup> to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated “king of righteousness,” and then also king of Salem, meaning “king of peace,” <sup>3</sup> without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.
- <sup>4</sup> Now consider how great this man *was*, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils. <sup>5</sup> And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham; <sup>6</sup> but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. <sup>7</sup> Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. <sup>8</sup> Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he *receives them*, of whom it is witnessed that he lives. <sup>9</sup> Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, <sup>10</sup> for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

### Need for a New Priesthood

- <sup>11</sup> Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need *was there* that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? <sup>12</sup> For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. <sup>13</sup> For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar.
- <sup>14</sup> For *it is* evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. <sup>15</sup> And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest <sup>16</sup> who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. <sup>17</sup> For He testifies:
- “You *are* a priest forever  
According to the order of Melchizedek.”
- <sup>18</sup> For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, <sup>19</sup> for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, *there is the* bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.



### Greatness of the New Priest

<sup>20</sup> And inasmuch as *He was not made priest* without an oath <sup>21</sup> (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him:

“The LORD has sworn  
And will not relent,  
‘You *are* a priest forever  
According to the order of Melchizedek’”),

<sup>22</sup> by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.


<sup>23</sup> Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. <sup>24</sup> But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. <sup>25</sup> Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

<sup>26</sup> For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; <sup>27</sup> who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, *appoints* the Son who has been perfected forever.



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**.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

 <sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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

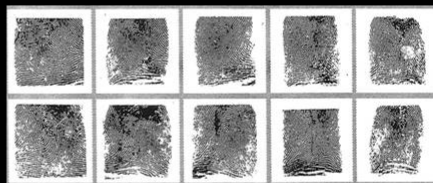
## WANTED BY ROME

### JOHN, SON OF ZEBEDEE

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

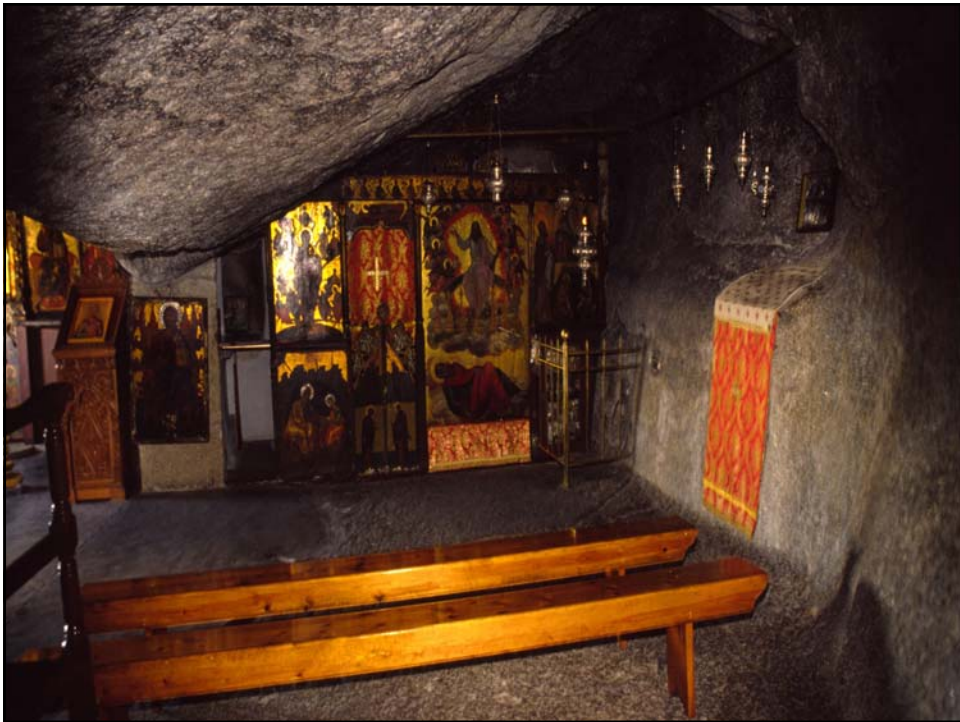


(current photograph not available)



#### DESCRIPTION

**AGE:** 94 est., born c.006AD, Bethsaida, Israel (no birth records)  
 reported death c.100AD, 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"



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

<sup>11</sup>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

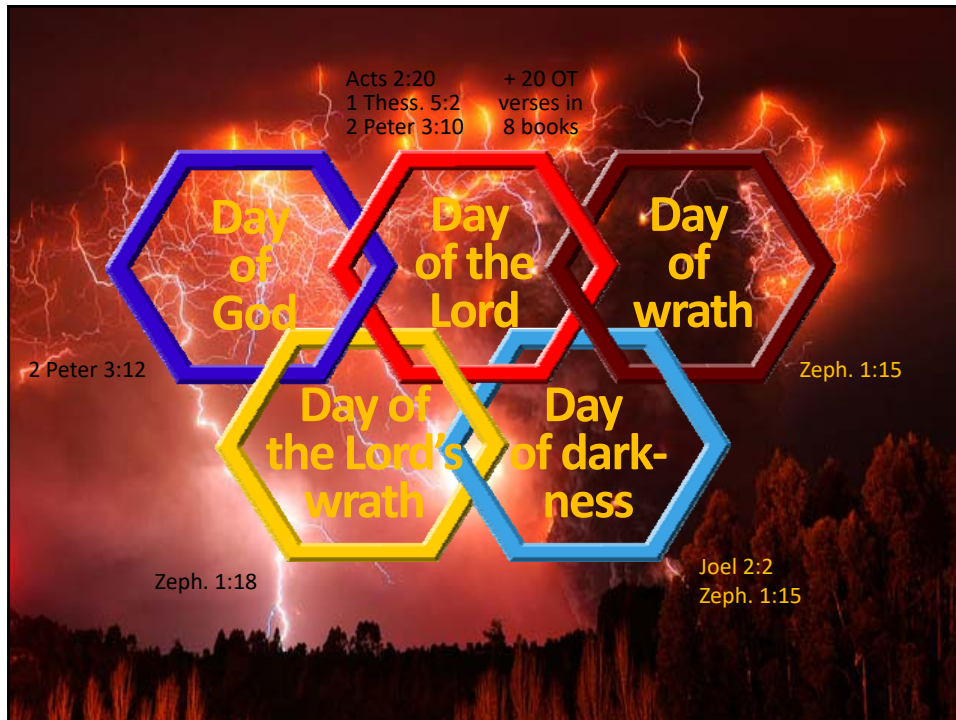
unto **Pergamos**, and

unto **Thyatira**, and

unto **Sardis**, and

unto **Philadelphia**, and

unto **Laodicea**.



## The Risen Christ (Rev. 1:12-17)

- <sup>12</sup> And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden lamp stands;
- <sup>13</sup> 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.*
- <sup>14</sup> His head and *his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;*
- <sup>15</sup> And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.
- <sup>16</sup> 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.



## Matthew 16:18-21

Petros=  
stone or  
fragment



Petra=  
large  
rock, cliff  
or ledge

<sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are **Peter** (*Petros*), and on this **rock** (*petra*) I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> 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."

## Revelation 1: 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.

Jesus used *lithos* (pebble, small stone, building stone, stumbling stone) when speaking of Himself. **(60X)**

## The Divine Outline of the book of Revelation

<sup>19</sup>Write 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

<sup>19</sup>Write 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)

<sup>20</sup> 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”



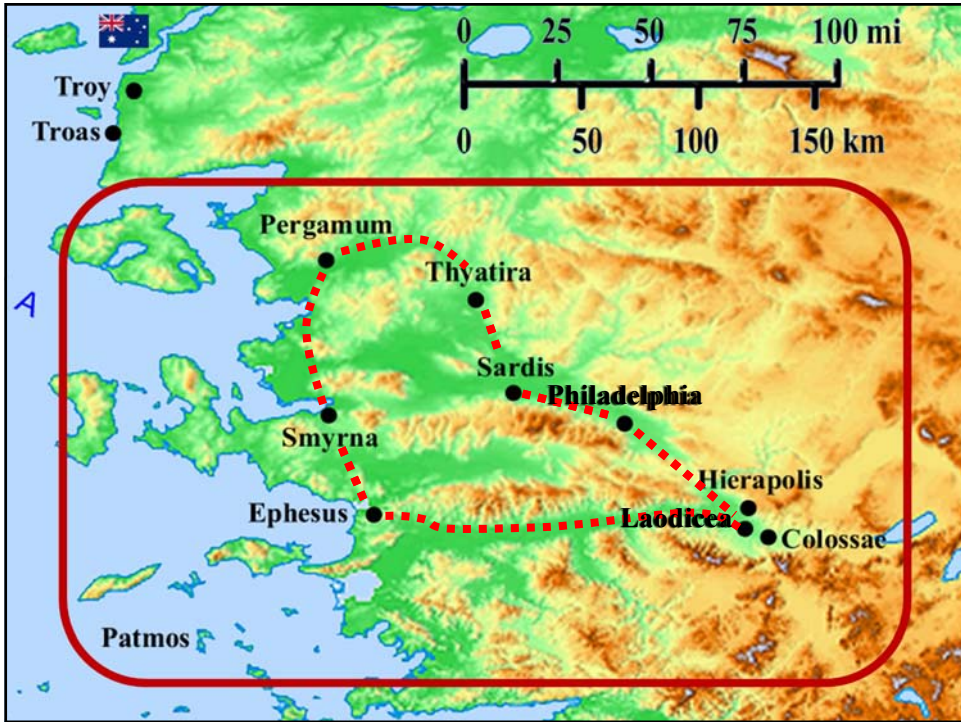
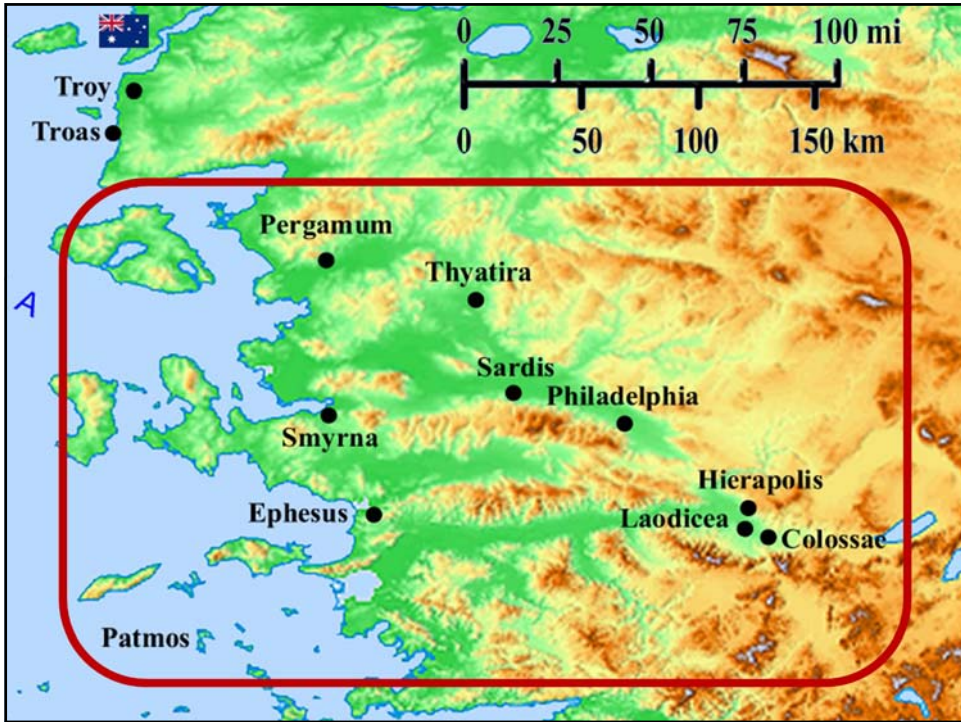
## Who or what are the “Angels”

- 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. Each was written to an actual active church in the day.
2. Each church can be equated to a period of the history of Christianity.
3. Lessons from each church can be applied to our own lives.
4. Each letter alludes to relevant known past history of the city/region.
5. Each letter contains prophetic allusions to current events, over-horizon 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”)