



## 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

## Revelation 1:1

- <sup>1</sup> The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John, <sup>2</sup> who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

## PROMISE

“Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.”

(Revelation 1:3)

## DANGER

“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.”

(Revelation 22:18-19/ESV)

## CAUTION

<sup>19</sup> Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this [Greek *meta tauta*: “things which you are about to see after these things”].

<sup>20</sup> The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels [messengers] of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

(Revelation 1:19-20, NKJV)

## 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,

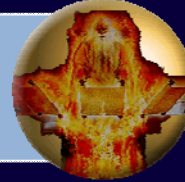
**What follows after the Churches** .. Chapters 4-22

(Revelation 1:19)

## The book of Revelation

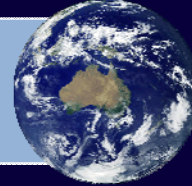
**THINGS  
WHICH THOU  
HAST SEEN**  
(Chapter 1)

- 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, 6-19
- The Kingdom of Christ, 20
- The new heavens and earth



## The Outline of the book of Revelation

### PAST

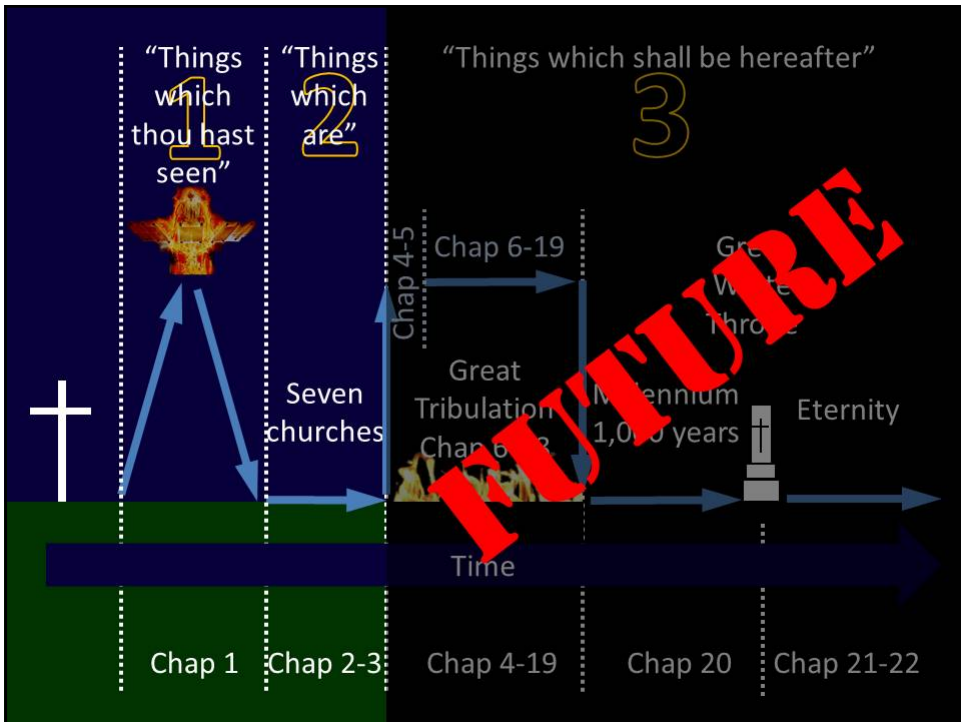
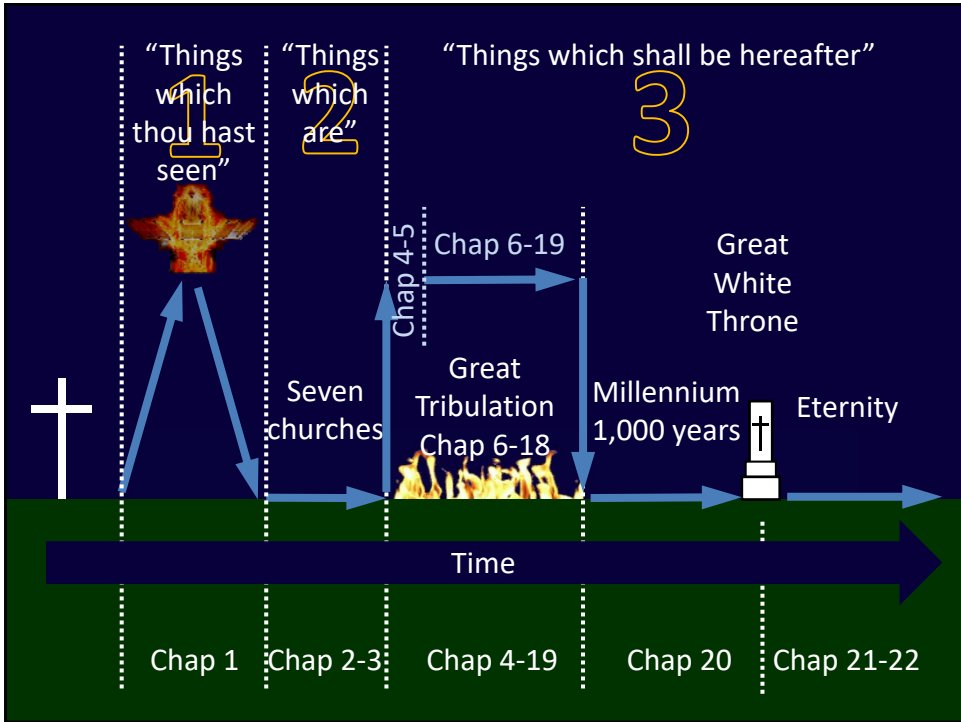
Son of Man  
in Heaven  
"I am He that liveth"

"the things  
which thou  
has seen"

### Rev. 1

Christ in Glory

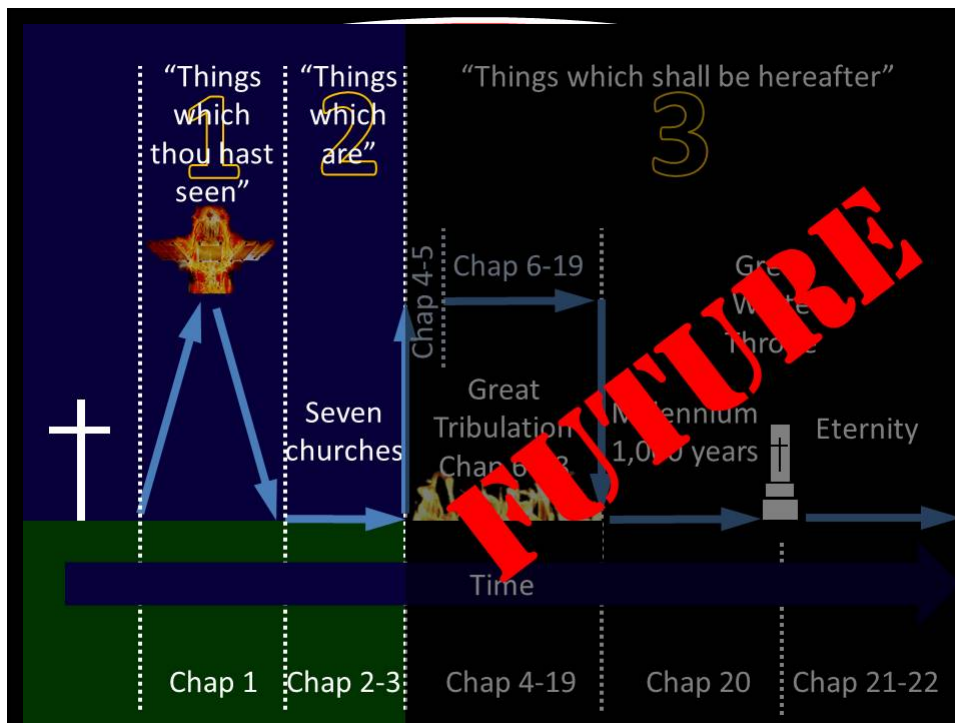






# WARNING

1. Revelation begins with the Cross.
2. Chapter 1 shows the glorified Christ.
3. The “church” in Ch. 2 & 3 is on earth.
4. The “church” in Ch. 4 & 5 is in heaven.
5. The Great Tribulation on earth in Ch. 6-18.
6. Christ returns in Ch. 19, and judges.
7. Christ reigns 1,000 years in Ch. 20.
8. Eternity begins in Ch. 21-22.



“My friends, I have a book in the Bible called the book of Revelation, and it tells me how this world scene is going to end.

I will be frank to say that I get a little disturbed today when I see what is happening in the world. It is a dark picture as I look out at it, and I wonder how it’s going to work out.

Well, all I do is turn to the last page of the Bible, and when I began to read there, I find that it’s going to work out all right.”

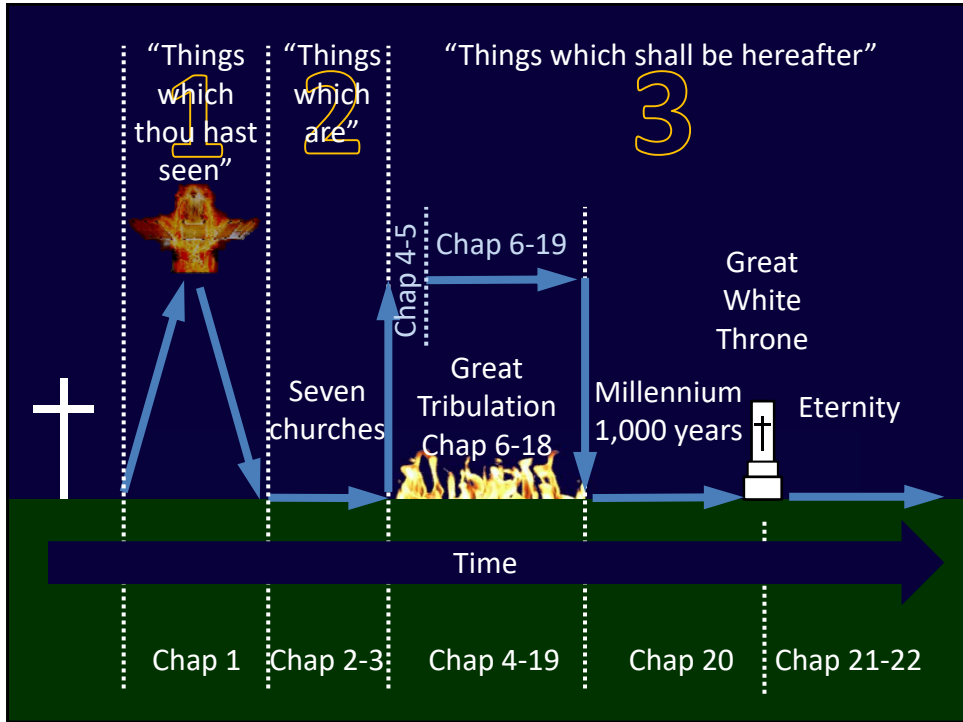
J. Vernon McGee, *Through the Bible* Vol. 58

“I would rather lose now and win later than to win now and lose later.”


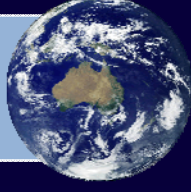
John Calvin

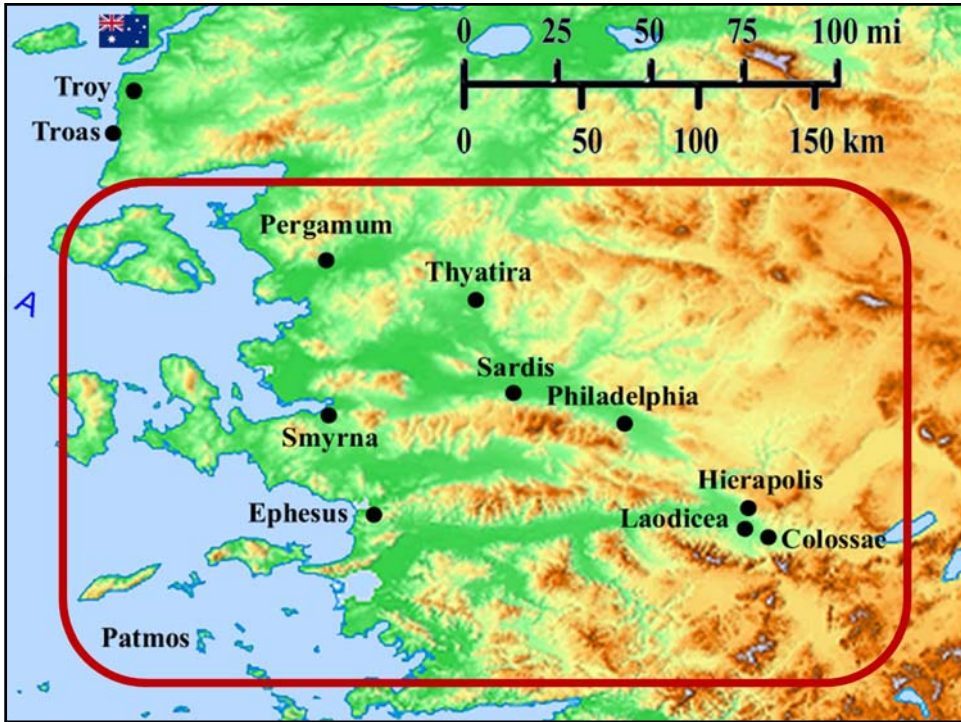
“I’ve read the last page of the Bible. It’s all going to turn out all right.”

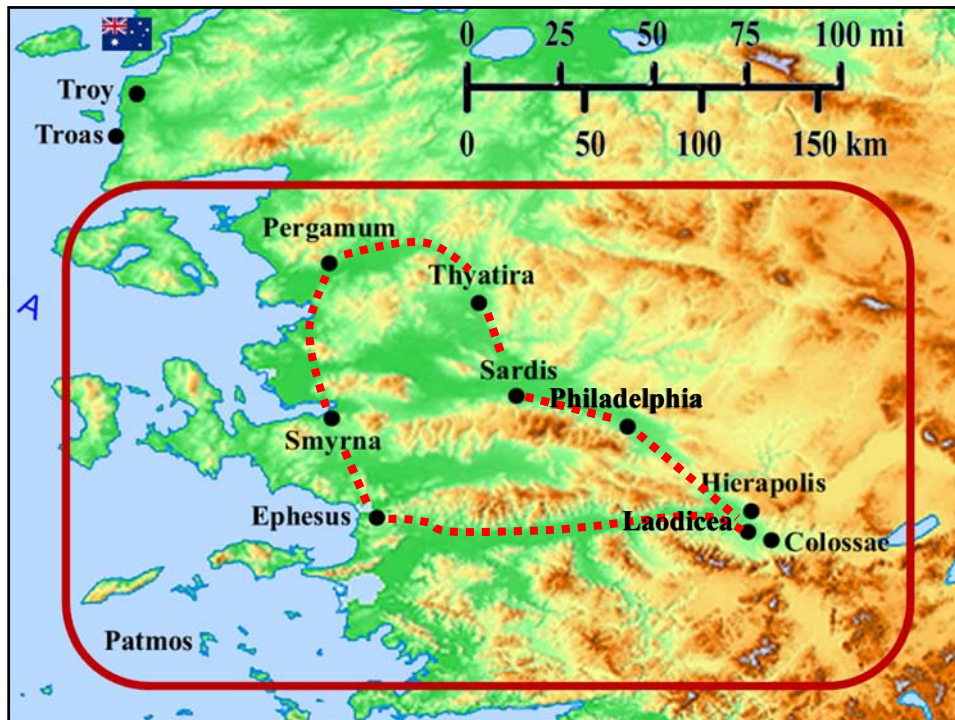
Billy Graham



### The book of Revelation

<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b>THINGS WHICH THOU HAST SEEN</b> (Chapter 1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John’ vision of the exalted Christ, 1</li> </ul>	
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b>THINGS WHICH ARE</b> (Chapters 2-3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The messages to the seven churches, 2-3</li> </ul>	





### **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”)

### Why these churches?

For whatever things  
were written before were  
**written for our learning,**  
**that we** through the patience  
and comfort of the Scriptures  
**might have hope.**

Romans 15:4

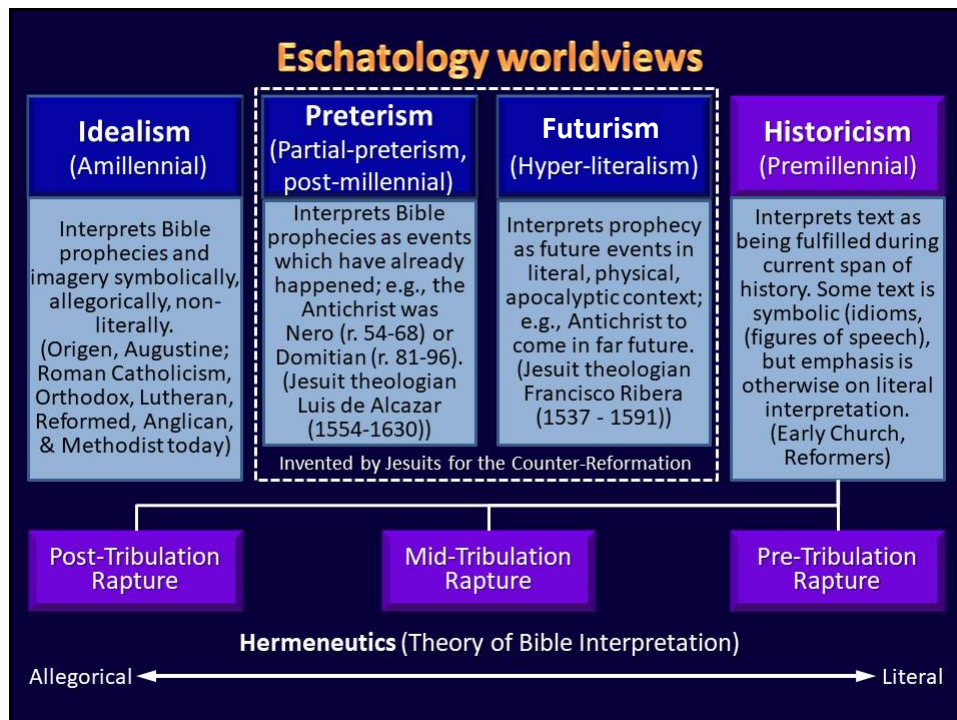
### The Seven Churches

1. Each was written to an actual active *ekklesia* in the day.
2. Each letter alludes to relevant known past history of the city/region.
3. The messages given to them assess the spiritual condition of each church with appropriate compliments and directions for corrective action.
4. Each letter contains prophetic allusions to current events, over-horizon events, and future events.
5. The seven churches represent all churches then and now.
6. Some suggest that the seven in the order given represent seven successive eras in the history of the Christian Church.
7. Lessons from each church can be applied to individuals.

## Common mistakes in reading Revelation

1. Emphasizing almost exclusively the identification of every name, place, and person mentioned in the book and relating them to today's current events;
2. Assuming that we have the ability to clearly interpret allegory and imagery [relating to future reality] well and definitively;
3. Believing that historical settings are insignificant, and that everything pertains only to God's Kingdom today;
4. Believing that the historical [and prophetic] settings can be skipped over in preference to modern day interpretations;
5. Ignoring the book entirely as "too-hard-to-explain" or as pertaining only to Christian character and Church life;
6. Interpreting it on the basis of some external philosophical system [e.g., dogma, tradition, or eschatology worldview].

Mark Brighton, *Revelation* (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2012) p. 8.



## Simplified Guidelines of Bible Interpretation

1. Consider the authors, addressees and their cultures, lives and times.
2. **The Golden Rule.** When the plain sense makes sense, seek no other sense. Take every word at its primary, ordinary, literal meaning, unless the immediate context clearly indicates otherwise.
3. **The Law of First Mention.** The first occurrence of a doctrine may be required to discern its fundamental inherent meaning.
4. **The Law of Double Reference.** The Bible is full of similar or related ideas and patterns, usually separated from one another by long periods of times, which can be blended to form a single picture.
5. **The Law of Recurrence.** Recurrent events or accounts usually give added details, similar to an artist who “blocks out the portrait” of a person at the first sitting and adds details at subsequent sittings.
6. **The Law of Context.** A text apart from its context is a pretext.
7. **The Law of Paronomasia** (*aka*, watch out for plays on words).

## 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 ...”





