

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

An open scroll with Hebrew text, likely the Book of Revelation, is the central focus. The scroll is unrolled, showing two pages of dense, handwritten text in a cursive script. The background is a dramatic, fiery landscape with a bright orange and yellow glow, suggesting a sunset or a divine light. The overall composition is centered and balanced, with the scroll's edges curving downwards. The lighting is warm and intense, highlighting the texture of the parchment and the depth of the text.

Dispelling The Myth

- Satan has propagated the lie that this book is too hard to understand
 - “There is too much imagery and mystery”
- But God gave this book:
 - *“To show unto His servants the things that must shortly come to pass, and He sent and [gave it to us in signs] by His messenger who gave it to John”* (Paraphrase of verse 1)
- However we must also remember that this book is a book of prophecy
 - We should therefore expect its contents to have prophetic meaning as well as a local application

Rules of Interpretation

- 1) The Golden Rule:
 - *When the plain sense of scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning, unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise*
- 2) The Law of Double Reference:
 - *This law observes the fact that often a passage or a block of Scripture is speaking of two different persons or two different events that are separated by a long period of time.*
- 3) The Law of Recurrence:
 - *This law describes the fact that in some passages of scripture there exists the recording of an event followed by the second recording of the event giving more detail to the first.*

John's Commission

19 Write the things which thou hast seen and the things which are and the things which shall be hereafter;

Revelation 1:19

- We are given a divinely inspired outline for the book
 - Thou hast seen > Chapter 1
 - The things which are > Chapter 2-3
 - Which shall be hereafter > Chapter 4-22

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.

Revelation 1:11

- **Seven = complete**
- **Why these seven?**
- **Why not Antioch or Jerusalem?**



**THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF
THE BOOK OF REVELATION
Rev. 2-3**

The Seven Churches

Four levels of meaning

- Local
- Personal
- Message to all Churches
- Prophetic – 7 church ages

Rev 1:3

“.....the words of this prophecy”

Heptadic Design

- 7 Letters in Revelation 2&3
 - Ephesus / Smyrna / Pergamos / Thyatira / Sardis / Philadelphia / Laodacia
- 7 Churches that Paul wrote to
 - Ephesians / Philippians / Corinthians / Galatians / Romans / Thessalonians / Colossians
- 7 Parables in Matthew 13
 - Sower / Tares / Mustard Seed / Leaven / Hidden Treasure / Pearl of Great Price / Dragnet
- 7 distinct ages of the nation of Israel

Israel

Espousal Jer 2:1-2
38 years Deut 2:14

“Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown”

Jeremiah 2:1-2

Israel

Espousal Jer 2:1-2
38 years Deut 2:14



Victory through time of war
cf: Promised Land

*“Be strong and of a good courage”
Joshua 1:6*

Israel

Espousal Jer 2:1-2
38 years Deut 2:14

↓
Victory through time of war
cf: Promised Land

↓
Complacency brings defeat Prov 29:18
Time of the Judges / Embracing the world

*“And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites to tribute, and did not utterly drive them out“
Then the Angel of the LORD... said...you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.'“
Judges 1:28, 2:1-3*

Israel

Espousal *Jer 2:1-2*
38 years *Deut 2:14*

↓
Victory through time of war
cf: Promised Land

↓
Complacency brings defeat *Prov 29:18*
Time of the Judges / Embracing the world

↓
Rejection of Theocracy *1 Sam 8:7*
Beginning of the Monarchy - Saul

“And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them“

1 Samuel 8:7

Israel

Espousal *Jer 2:1-2*
38 years *Deut 2:14*

↓
Victory through time of war
cf: Promised Land

↓
Complacency brings defeat *Prov 29:18*
Time of the Judges / Embracing the world

↓
Rejection of Theocracy *1 Sam 8:7*
Beginning of the Monarchy - Saul

↓
Division of Kingdom
Solomon's Apostasy

↙ ↘
Israel (Idolatry) **Judah** (Not perfect)
Good works (*Jer 3:11*) worse than Israel (*Jer 3:10*)

“And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the LORD. And the LORD said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah“
Jeremiah 3:10-11

Israel

Espousal Jer 2:1-2
38 years Deut 2:14



Victory through time of war

“Know that thus saith the LORD of the king that sitteth upon the throne of David, and of all the people that dwelleth in this city, and of your brethren that are not gone forth with you into captivity; Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will send upon them the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, and will make them like vile figs, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil.”

Jeremiah 29:16-17

Israel (Idolatry) Judah (Not perfect)
Good works (Jer 3:11) worse than Israel (Jer 3:10)



Judgment foretold Jer 25:9
Faithful taken to Babylon Jer 29:4-10

Israel

1

Espousal *Jer 2:1-2*
38 years *Deut 2:14*

2

Victory through time of war
cf: Promised Land

3

Complacency brings defeat *Prov 29:18*
Time of the Judges / Embracing the world

4

Rejection of Theocracy *1 Sam 8:7*
Beginning of the Monarchy - Saul

5

Division of Kingdom
Solomon's Apostacy

← Israel (Idolatry) Judah (Not perfect)
Good works (*Jer 3:11*) worse than Israel (*Jer 3:10*)

6

Judgment foretold *Jer 25:9*
Faithful taken to Babylon *Jer 29:4-10*

7

Apostates / False Prophets Destroyed
Jer 52:12-13 Jerusalem burned with fire

Israel

1

Espousal **Jer 2:1-2**
38 years **Deut 2:14**

2

Victory through time of war
cf: Promised Land

3

Complacency brings defeat **Prov 29:18**
Time of the Judges / Embracing the world

4

Rejection of Theocracy **1 Sam 8:7**
Beginning of the Monarchy - Saul

5

Division of Kingdom
Solomon's Apostacy

← Israel (Idolatry) Judah (Not perfect)
Good works (**Jer 3:11**) worse than Israel (**Jer 3:10**)

6

Judgment foretold **Jer 25:9**
Faithful taken to Babylon **Jer 29:4-10**

7

Apostates / False Prophets Destroyed
Jer 52:12-13 Jerusalem burned with fire

8

Faithful return to inherit the land.
Temple built that Messiah will teach from (**Hag2:9**)

Israel

Espousal Jer 2:1-2
38 years Deut 2:14

Victory through time of war
cf: Promised Land

Complacency brings defeat Prov 29:18
Time of the Judges / Embracing the world

Rejection of Theocracy 1 Sam 8:7
Beginning of the Monarchy - Saul

Division of Kingdom
Solomon's Apostasy

Israel (Idolatry) Judah (Not perfect)
Good works (Jer 3:11) worse than Israel (Jer 3:10)

Judgment foretold Jer 25:9
Faithful taken to Babylon Jer 29:4-10

Apostates / False Prophets Destroyed
Jer 52:12-13 Jerusalem burned with fire

Faithful return to inherit the land.
Temple built that Messiah will teach from (Hag 2:9)

*“Now all these things happened unto **them** for ensamples: and they are written for **our** admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*

1 Corinthians 10:11

Israel

Espousal **Jer 2:1-2**
38 years **Deut 2:14**

Victory through time of war
cf: Promised Land

Complacency brings defeat **Prov 29:18**
Time of the Judges / Embracing the world

Rejection of Theocracy **1 Sam 8:7**
Beginning of the Monarchy - Saul

Division of Kingdom
Solomon's Apostacy

Israel (Idolatry) **Judah** (Not perfect)
Good works (**Jer 3:11**) worse than Israel (**Jer 3:10**)

Judgment foretold **Jer 25:9**
Faithful taken to Babylon **Jer 29:4-10**

Apostates / False Prophets Destroyed
Jer 52:12-13 Jerusalem burned with fire

Faithful return to inherit the land.
Temple built that Messiah will teach from (**Hag 2:9**)

Church

Espousal **Rev 2:4**
38 years / Ephesus **AD32-70**

Israel

Espousal **Jer 2:1-2**
38 years **Deut 2:14**

Victory through time of war
cf: Promised Land

Complacency brings defeat **Prov 29:18**
Time of the Judges / Embracing the world

Rejection of Theocracy **1 Sam 8:7**
Beginning of the Monarchy - Saul

Division of Kingdom
Solomon's Apostacy

Israel (Idolatry) **Judah** (Not perfect)
Good works (**Jer 3:11**) worse than Israel (**Jer 3:10**)

Judgment foretold **Jer 25:9**
Faithful taken to Babylon **Jer 29:4-10**

Apostates / False Prophets Destroyed
Jer 52:12-13 Jerusalem burned with fire

Faithful return to inherit the land.
Temple built that Messiah will teach from (**Hag 2:9**)

Church

Espousal **Rev 2:4**
38 years / Ephesus **AD32-70**

Victory through suffering
cf: Smyrna

Israel

Espousal **Jer 2:1-2**
38 years **Deut 2:14**

Victory through time of war
cf: Promised Land

Complacency brings defeat **Prov 29:18**
Time of the Judges / Embracing the world

Rejection of Theocracy **1 Sam 8:7**
Beginning of the Monarchy - Saul

Division of Kingdom
Solomon's Apostacy

Israel (Idolatry) **Judah** (Not perfect)
Good works **(Jer 3:11)** worse than Israel **(Jer 3:10)**

Judgment foretold **Jer 25:9**
Faithful taken to Babylon **Jer 29:4-10**

Apostates / False Prophets Destroyed
Jer 52:12-13 Jerusalem burned with fire

Faithful return to inherit the land.
Temple built that Messiah will teach from **(Hag2:9)**

Church

Espousal **Rev 2:4**
38 years / Ephesus **AD32-70**

Victory through suffering
cf: Smyrna

Complacency brings defeat
cf: Pergamos/Constantine-Married to the world

Israel

Espousal **Jer 2:1-2**
38 years **Deut 2:14**

Victory through time of war
cf: Promised Land

Complacency brings defeat **Prov 29:18**
Time of the Judges / Embracing the world

Rejection of Theocracy **1 Sam 8:7**
Beginning of the Monarchy - Saul

Division of Kingdom
Solomon's Apostacy

Israel (Idolatry) **Judah** (Not perfect)
Good works **(Jer 3:11)** worse than Israel **(Jer 3:10)**

Judgment foretold **Jer 25:9**
Faithful taken to Babylon **Jer 29:4-10**

Apostates / False Prophets Destroyed
Jer 52:12-13 Jerusalem burned with fire

Faithful return to inherit the land.
Temple built that Messiah will teach from **(Hag 2:9)**

Church

Espousal **Rev 2:4**
38 years / Ephesus **AD32-70**

Victory through suffering
cf: Smyrna

Complacency brings defeat
cf: Pergamos/Constantine-Married to the world

Rejection of Theocracy **Rev 2:6**
Beginning of the Papacy / cf: Thyatira

Israel

Espousal **Jer 2:1-2**
38 years **Deut 2:14**

Victory through time of war
cf: Promised Land

Complacency brings defeat **Prov 29:18**
Time of the Judges / Embracing the world

Rejection of Theocracy **1 Sam 8:7**
Beginning of the Monarchy - Saul

Division of Kingdom
Solomon's Apostacy

Israel (Idolatry) **Judah** (Not perfect)
Good works **(Jer 3:11)** worse than Israel **(Jer 3:10)**

Judgment foretold **Jer 25:9**
Faithful taken to Babylon **Jer 29:4-10**

Apostates / False Prophets Destroyed
Jer 52:12-13 Jerusalem burned with fire

Faithful return to inherit the land.
Temple built that Messiah will teach from **(Hag2:9)**

Church

Espousal **Rev 2:4**
38 years / Ephesus **AD32-70**

Victory through suffering
cf: Smyrna

Complacency brings defeat
cf: Pergamos/Constantine-Married to the world

Rejection of Theocracy **Rev 2:6**
Beginning of the Papacy / cf:Thyatira

Division of Church
Catholic Apostacy / cf:Sardis

Catholic (Idolatry) **Protestant** (Not perfect) **(Rev 3:2)**
Good works **(Rev 2:19)** Nothing good said

Israel

Espousal **Jer 2:1-2**
38 years **Deut 2:14**

Victory through time of war
cf: Promised Land

Complacency brings defeat **Prov 29:18**
Time of the Judges / Embracing the world

Rejection of Theocracy **1 Sam 8:7**
Beginning of the Monarchy - Saul

Division of Kingdom
Solomon's Apostacy

Israel (Idolatry) **Judah** (Not perfect)
Good works **(Jer 3:11)** worse than Israel **(Jer 3:10)**

Judgment foretold **Jer 25:9**
Faithful taken to Babylon **Jer 29:4-10**

Apostates / False Prophets Destroyed
Jer 52:12-13 Jerusalem burned with fire

Faithful return to inherit the land.
Temple built that Messiah will teach from **(Hag2:9)**

Church

Espousal **Rev 2:4**
38 years / Ephesus **AD32-70**

Victory through suffering
cf: Smyrna

Complacency brings defeat
cf: Pergamos/Constantine-Married to the world

Rejection of Theocracy **Rev 2:6**
Beginning of the Papacy / cf:Thyatira

Division of Church
Catholic Apostacy / cf:Sardis

Catholic (Idolatry) **Protestant** (Not perfect) **(Rev 3:2)**
Good works **(Rev 2:19)** Nothing good said

Judgment foretold **2 Pet2:1-2**
Faithful Raptured / cf:Philadelphia **Rev 3:10**

Israel

Espousal **Jer 2:1-2**
38 years **Deut 2:14**

Victory through time of war
cf: Promised Land

Complacency brings defeat **Prov 29:18**
Time of the Judges / Embracing the world

Rejection of Theocracy **1 Sam 8:7**
Beginning of the Monarchy - Saul

Division of Kingdom
Solomon's Apostacy

Israel (Idolatry) **Judah** (Not perfect)
Good works **(Jer 3:11)** worse than Israel **(Jer 3:10)**

Judgment foretold **Jer 25:9**
Faithful taken to Babylon **Jer 29:4-10**

Apostates / False Prophets Destroyed
Jer 52:12-13 Jerusalem burned with fire

Faithful return to inherit the land.
Temple built that Messiah will teach from **(Hag2:9)**

Church

Espousal **Rev 2:4**
38 years / Ephesus **AD32-70**

Victory through suffering
cf: Smyrna

Complacency brings defeat
cf: Pergamos/Constantine-Married to the world

Rejection of Theocracy **Rev 2:6**
Beginning of the Papacy / cf:Thyatira

Division of Church
Catholic Apostacy / cf:Sardis

Catholic (Idolatry) **Protestant** (Not perfect) **(Rev 3:2)**
Good works **(Rev 2:19)** Nothing good said

Judgment foretold **2 Pet2:1-2**
Faithful Raptured / cf:Philadelphia **Rev 3:10**

Apostates / False Prophets Destroyed
cf:Laodicea *"Lord, Lord...I never knew you"* **Matt 7:22-23**
'burned with fire' **Matt 13:30 / Rev 17 & 18**

Israel



Church



The Seven Churches

- Ephesus ➤ Love of espousal
- Smyrna ➤ Suffering
- Pergamos ➤ Mixed marriage
- Thyatira ➤ Continual sacrifice
- Sardis ➤ Remnant
- Philadelphia ➤ Brotherly love
- Laodicea ➤ The rule of the people
- In this order these churches foretell the history of the church, and are also an echo of the history of Israel!

An open scroll with Hebrew text, illuminated by a warm light, set against a dark, textured background. The scroll is unrolled, showing two pages of text. The lighting is dramatic, with the scroll glowing in the center and the background in deep shadows. The text on the scroll is in Hebrew characters.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 2

Letters to the Churches

EPHESUS

The name means
'love of espousal'



- 1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;
- 2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

Revelation 2:1-2

- 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.
- 4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.
- 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Revelation 2:3-5

- 6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
- 7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:6-7

The Prophetic History of The Church

EPHESUS
'love of espousal'

1st Church Age

The early Church

32AD – 100AD

'The Seed is Sown'

(Cf: Matt 13:3-9)

"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come to thee quickly, and will remove thy candle stick out of his place"

Rev 2:5

1 Unto **the angel** of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

Revelation 2:1

- Gr. 'Angelos' Lit. Messenger
- Angelic being or Pastor?
- The 7 stars are held in His hand v16, 20,

- 2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:
- 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

Revelation 2:2-3

4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy **first love**.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Revelation 2:4-5

- **First as in primary, not simply numerically**

- 4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.
- 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will **remove thy candlestick** out of his place, except thou repent.

Revelation 2:4-5

- Lit. remove your witness
- This is not speaking of Salvation

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Revelation 2:6

- This is an un-translated word:
- 'Nico' - to conquer
- Laity - the people
- This was born from Pagan practices and was infiltrating the church
- This occurred in the first church age and has continued since

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:7

An open scroll with Hebrew text, illuminated by a warm light, set against a dark, textured background. The scroll is unrolled, showing two pages of text. The lighting is dramatic, with a bright glow emanating from the center of the scroll, creating a sense of revelation and importance. The background is dark and textured, possibly representing a cave or a hidden place.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

To be continued...