

## "THE BOOK OF REVELATION"

**"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must shortly take place." (Re 1:1) – Bible in A Year reading: Rev 2:18-3:6  
December 11, 2024 (Presenter: Dr. Sandra K. James)**

**Introduction:** The book of Revelation is one of the most challenging books in the Bible. The word "revelation" in the Greek is **apokalupsis**, which means "an uncovering" or "unveiling." It is therefore a book designed to uncover or unveil, not conceal.

**The Author : John**, identified as one "who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ" (**Re 1:1-2**). While debated by some, he was most likely **the apostle John**, brother of James, and author of the gospel of John and three epistles 1, 2, 3 John.

**Key Verse:** If there is one verse that summarizes the theme of the book of Revelation, it is this one: **"These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful." (Re 17:14)**

### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. **What is this book called? (1:1)** The Revelation of Jesus Christ
2. **What is the meaning of the Greek word (apokalupsis) translated "revelation"?** An uncovering, an unveiling
3. **What style of literature is the book of Revelation?** Apocalyptic literature
4. **What are some of the typical features of such literature?** Highly symbolic; depicting conflict between good and evil
5. **What is important to know to properly interpret the book?** The historical context in which it was written
6. **Who is the author of this book? (1:1-2)** John, who had born witness to the word of God and testimony of Jesus Christ
7. **What is the purpose of the book? (1:13; 22:10,16)** To reveal things which must shortly come to pass
8. **What is the key verse that summarizes the book? Revelation 17:14**

**"THE BOOK OF REVELATION" - Chapter Two** - In this chapter John is instructed to write to four churches in Asia: **Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, and Thyatira**. The Lord generally follows the same format: **His self-designation, commendation, condemnation and related warning, exhortation and promise**. Each letter closes with the admonition, *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."* This suggests the letters were not just for the personal benefit of the churches addressed.

**POINTS TO PONDER**-The condition of each church: their strengths and weaknesses, the warnings and promises given

**REVIEW QUESTIONS:**

1. **What are the main points of this chapter?** Letter to the church in Ephesus (1-7), Letter to the church in Smyrna (8-11), Letter to the church in Pergamos (12-17), Letter to the church in Thyatira (18-29)
2. **What pattern is generally followed in these letters to the churches?** Self-designation, commendation, condemnation/warning, exhortation/promise
3. **What is often the basis for the Lord's self-designation in the letters? (1,8,12,18)** The description of the vision of the Son of Man in chapter one (cf. **Re 1:10-20**)
4. **For what does the Lord commend the church in Ephesus? (2-3)** Their works, labor, patience, testing those who claimed to be apostles, but were liars, Persevering and laboring for His name's sake, not growing weary
5. **For what does the Lord condemn them? (4)** Losing their first love
6. **What solution does Jesus give for restoring their first love? (5)** Remember from where they have fallen, Repent and do the first works
7. **What warning does Jesus give the church in Ephesus? (5)** Repent or else He will come quickly and remove their lampstand from its place
8. **For what does the Lord commend the church in Thyatira? (19)** Their works, love, service, faith and patience, their last works being more than the first
9. **For what does the Lord condemn them? (20)** Allowing Jezebel to teach and beguile His servants to commit sexual immorality and to eat things sacrificed to idols
10. **What does the Lord say about the woman who calls herself a prophetess? (21-23)** He gave her time to repent, but she did not, He will cast her into a sickbed, and those with her into great tribulation unless they repent, He will kill her children with death
11. **What exhortation does He give the church at Thyatira? (25)** Hold fast what they have till He come
12. **What exhortation is given at the end of each letter? (7,11,17,29)** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches
13. **List the promises given in this chapter to those who overcome (7,11, 17,26-28)** To eat from the tree of life which is in the midst of the Paradise of God (cf. **Re 22:2**), Not be hurt by the second death (cf. **Re 20:6**), Some of the hidden manna to eat, A white stone, on which a new name is written which no one knows but him who receives it, Power over the nations, as He received from His Father (cf. **Re 20:4**), The morning star (cf. **Re 22:16**)

**"THE BOOK OF REVELATION" - Chapter Three** - The Lord continues His letters to the churches in Asia, with this chapter containing those written to Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. The church in **Sardis** is rebuked for having a name that they are alive, when in reality they are dead. With their works not perfected before God, they are exhorted to be watchful and to strengthen the things which remain. They are also told to remember how they had received and heard in the past, to hold fast and repent. Otherwise, the Lord will come upon them as a thief in the night. Notice is taken, however, of a few in Sardis who had not defiled their garments and are still worthy, who are promised to walk with the Lord in white (**1-6**).