



The final vengeance of God

Revelation



The Revelation of Jesus Christ,
which God gave Him to show to His bond-
servants, the things which must soon take
place; and He sent and communicated
it by His angel to His bond-servant John.



Tonight:

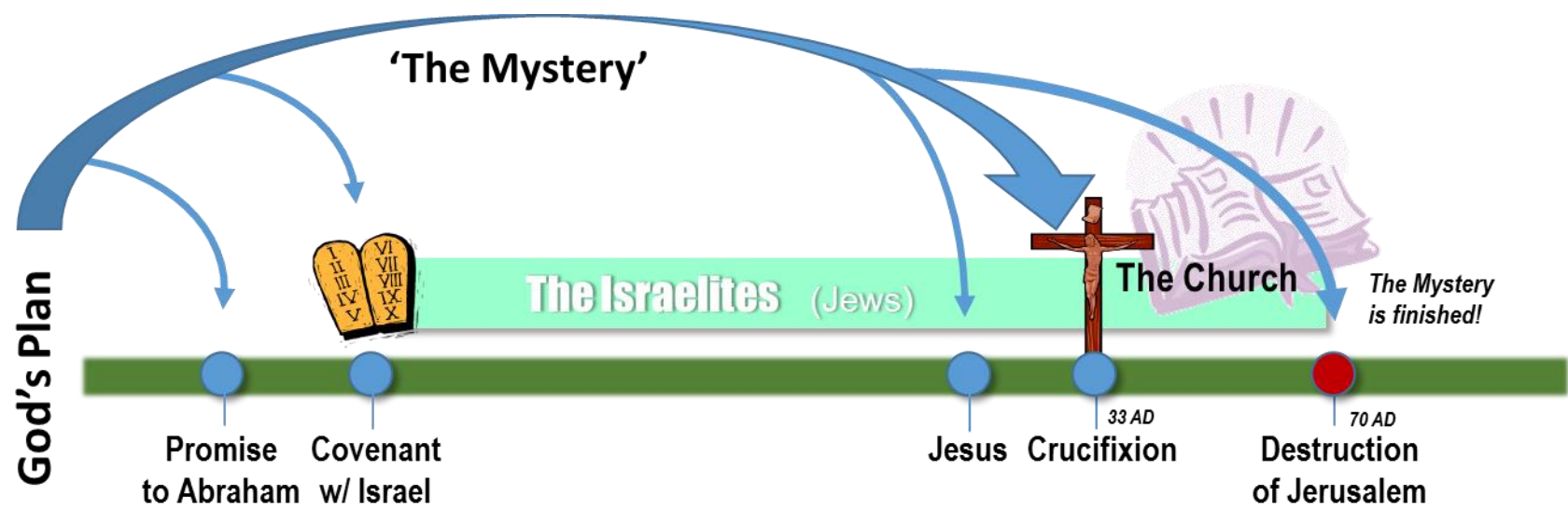
□ **Revelation** chapter One



The Larger Biblical Context

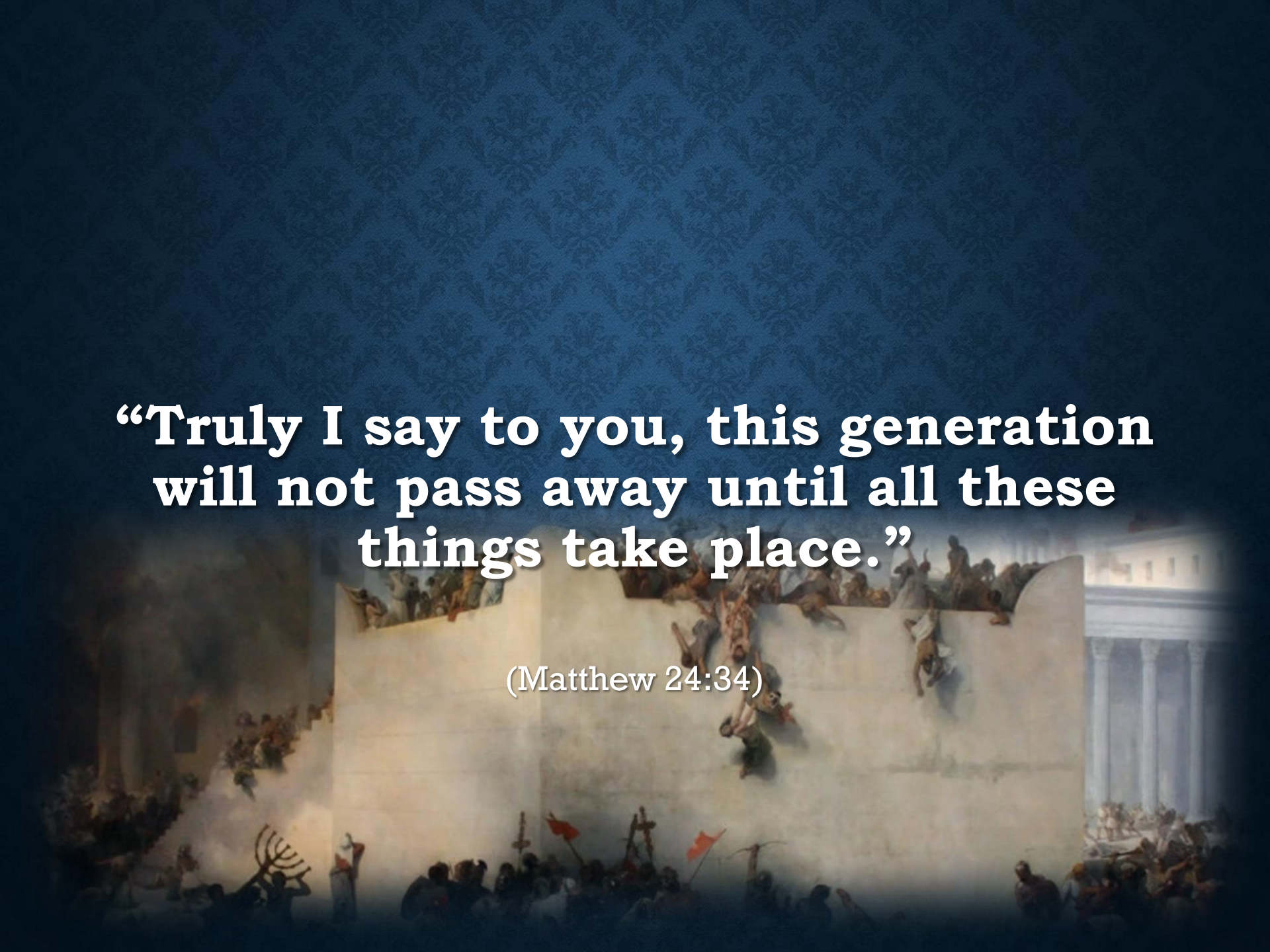
Luke 21:20

“...these are days of **vengeance**, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled.”



“Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.”

(Matthew 24:34)





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Revelation 1



I. **Preamble:** 1:1-20

A. Greeting & Doxology; 1:1-8

B. The Vision of the Son of Man; 1:9-20

1) The Call; 1:9-11

2) The Son of Man; 1:12

3) The Commission; 1:17-20



Revelation

The Covenant Structure: *five parts*

- 1. Preamble:** Christ's lordship over the church
- 2. Historical Prologue:** the individual church's record
- 3. Ethical Stipulations:** obligations and warnings
(call to repentance)
- 4. Sanctions:** curses and blessings
- 5. Succession Arrangements:** promised future
continuity of the covenant relationship

Chiastic structure in Revelation

Prologue (1:1-20)

Seven Epistles (2:1-3:22)

Seven Seals (4:1-8:1)

144,000 saints & Seven Trumpets (7:1-11:19)

The Two Witnesses (11:1-13)

Woman clothed with the sun (12:1)

Dragon in heaven (12:4)

Woman flees to wilderness (12:6)

Satan cast out (12:12)

Woman flees to wilderness (12:14)

Dragon persecutes woman (12:15)

Woman's seed keeps the commandments of God (12:17)

The Two Beasts (13:1-18)

144,000 saints & Seven Angels (14:1-15:4)

Seven Bowls (15:1,5-16:21)

Seven Angels: whore of Babylon vs. New Jerusalem (17:1-22:5)

Epilogue (22:6-21)

Isaiah 43:13

"Even from eternity I am He, and there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"



Revelation



Revelation 1:4

John to **the seven churches** that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from **Him** who is and who was and who is to come; and from the **seven Spirits** who are before His throne; and from **Jesus Christ...**

- **Is, was, to come:** Exodus 3:14
- **Seven Spirits:** Zechariah 4:1-6
 - **Throne:** used 48 times





Revelation

martyr

'to enforce the law and assist in its execution'

Revelation 1:5-6

And from **Jesus Christ**, the faithful witness, the first-born from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood, 6 and He has **made us to be a kingdom**, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Jesus Christ

1. The faithful **witness**
2. The **first-born** from the dead
3. The **ruler** of the kings
4. Him who **loves** us
5. Him who **released** us
6. Him who made us to be a **kingdom**
7. Him who made us **priests** to His God

Revelation

Grace and peace from:

GOD THE FATHER

- Him who is and who was and who is to come

THE SEVEN **SPIRITS**

- Who are before His throne

JESUS CHRIST

- The faithful witness
- The first born from the dead
- The ruler of the kings





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Revelation 1:7

7 Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, **even those who pierced Him**; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

- The clouds: Matt. 24:30; 26:64; Mark 14:62; Acts 2:19
- 'See' means *experience* (Mark 1:44; Luke 17:22; John 3:36)
- All the tribes will mourn, Matthew 24:30





“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Revelation 22:13

(Isaiah 44:6)

Revelation 1:8

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

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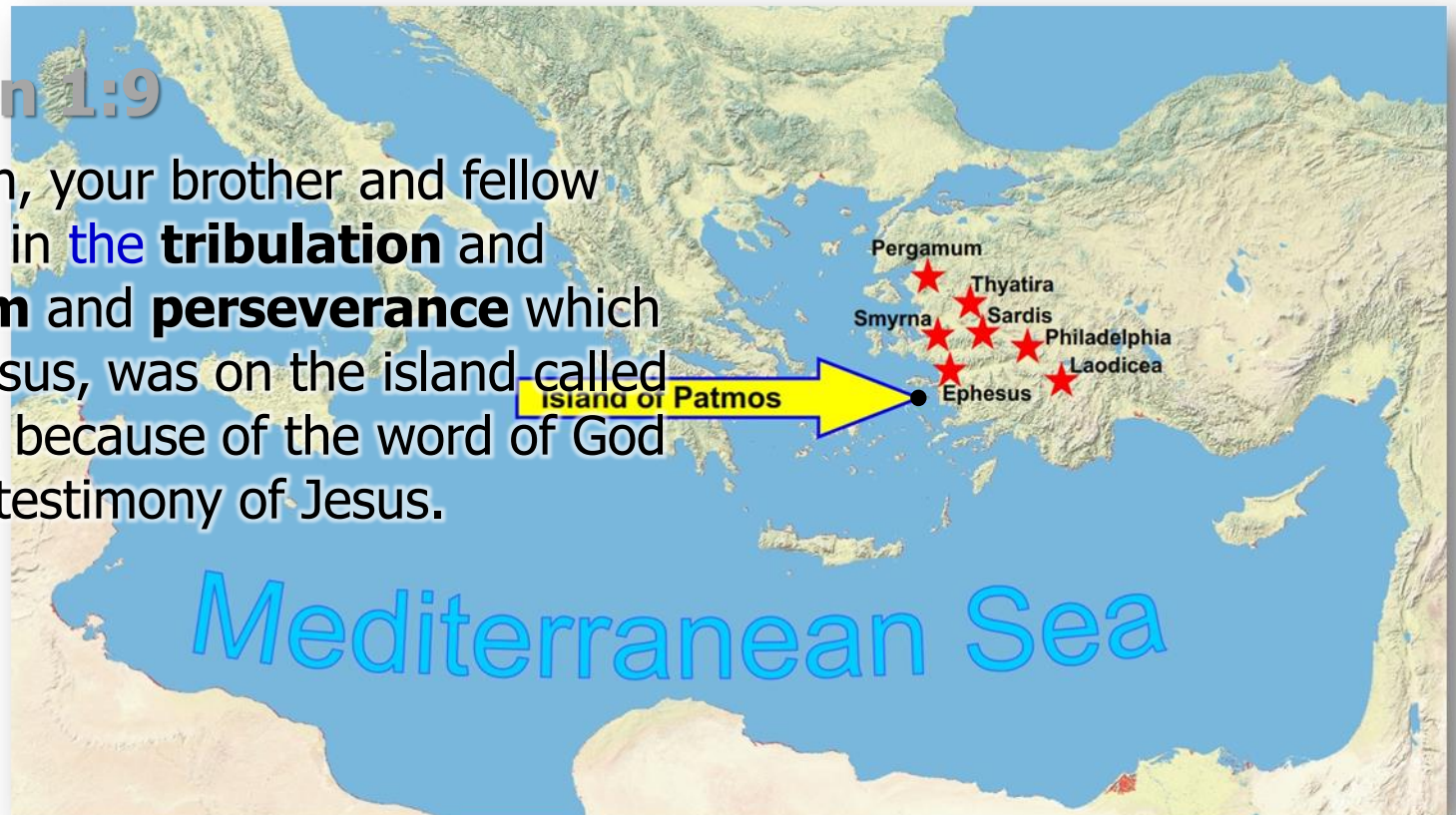
Revelation

The Threefold Common Heritage

1. Tribulation (Acts 14:22)
2. Kingdom (Rev. 5:9,10)
3. Perseverance

Revelation 1:9

9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in **the tribulation** and **kingdom** and **perseverance** which are in Jesus, was on the island called **Patmos** because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.



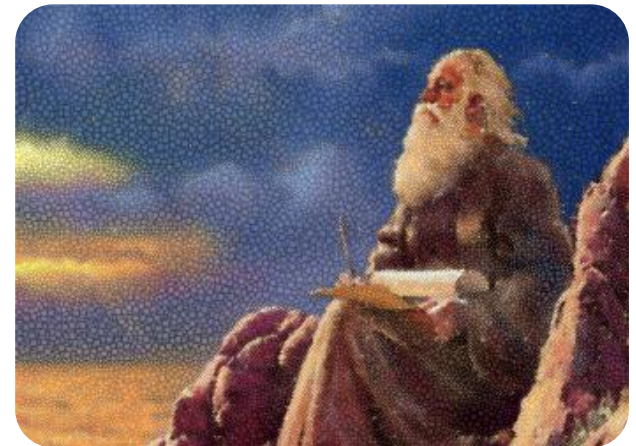


What John heard...

Revelation 1:10

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day,
and I heard behind me a loud voice like
the sound of a trumpet, 11 saying,

“Write in a book what you see, and send
it to the seven churches: to Ephesus
and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and
to Thyatira and to Sardis and to
Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”



Revelation

A *clue* to understanding this book:

“**Write** in a book **what you see**”



The information in this book was shown to John (signified' 1:1) by Jesus. John is bearing witness to all that he 'saw' (1:2), by writing down everything he has 'seen' (1:19).

The Revelation is highly symbolic which requires an understanding of the OT symbols and language that it contains.

Revelation

What John saw...

Revelation 1:9

12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;
13 and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a **son of man**...



Pattern: John first 'hears' and then turns to 'see'
Revelation 22:8

Revelation



'one like a son of man...'

Revelation 1:13-16

...clothed in a **robe** reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. 14 His head and His hair were white like **white wool**, like snow; and His eyes were like a **flame of fire**. 15 His feet were like burnished **bronze**, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of **many waters**. 16 In His right hand He held **seven stars**, and out of His mouth came a **sharp two-edged sword**; and His face was like the **sun** shining in its strength.



Ex. 28:4; 29:5; 39:27-29;
Lev. 16:4

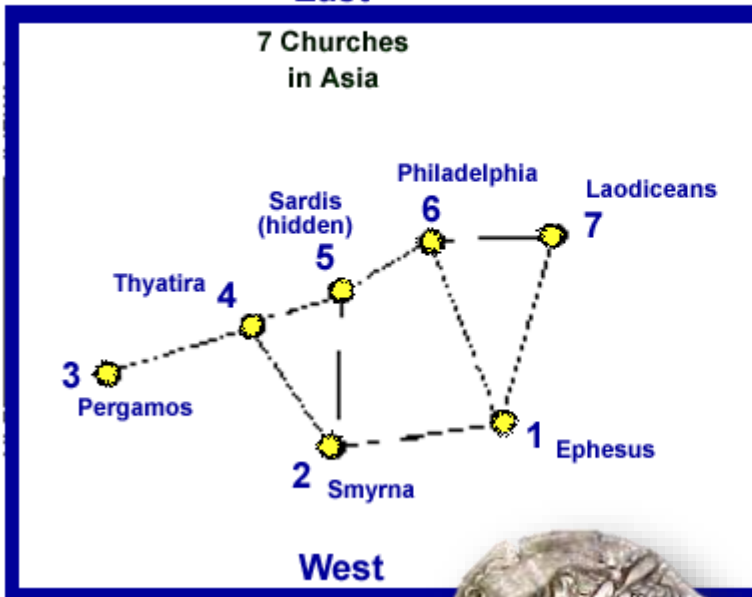
Daniel 7:9-10;
'ancient of Days'

Pleiades: Job 9:5-9;
38:31-33; Amos 5:8.

Isaiah 11:4; Hebrews 4:12

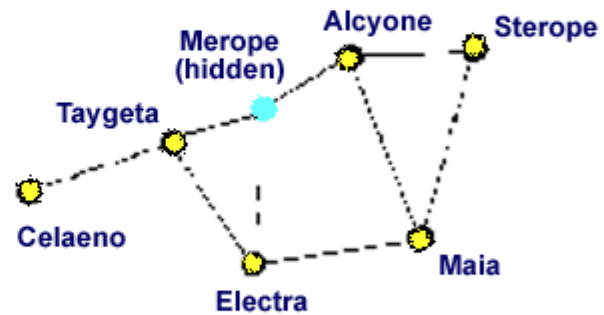
16 In His right hand He held **seven stars**

View of 7 churches of Asia from the heavens
East



A view of Pleiades from the Earth

The Star Clusters Pleiades, or the Seven Sisters, has six visible stars and one star not shown.
(World Book Encyclopedia)





Revelation 1:17-19

17 When I saw Him, **I fell at His feet like a dead man**. And He placed His right hand on me, saying,

“Do not be afraid; I am **the first and the last**, 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. 19 Therefore write the things **which you have seen**, and the things **which are**, and the things **which will take place** after these things.”

[Isaiah 41:4; 44:6](#)

[Isaiah 48:12](#)

"Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called; I am He, I am the first, I am also the last.

[Revelation 2:8](#)

To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of the First and the Last,

[Revelation 22:13](#)

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

Revelation

Revelation 1:20

20 As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the **seven stars are the angels** of the seven churches, and the **seven lampstands are the seven churches**.

“The Church is an earthly heaven in which the super-celestial God dwells and walks about.”

St. Germanus of Constantinople, *On the Divine Liturgy*, Paul Meyendorff, trans. (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1984), p. 57.





Revelation

Revelation is a ~~survival~~ **VICTORY!** manual.

- 2:7 To him who **overcomes**, I will grant to eat of the tree of life
- 2:11 He who **overcomes** will not be hurt by the second death
- 2:17 To him who **overcomes**, to him I will give some of the hidden manna
- 2:26 He who **overcomes**, and he who keeps My deeds until the end,
TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS
- 3:5 He who **overcomes** will thus be clothed in white garments
- 3:12 He who **overcomes**, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God,
- 3:21 He who **overcomes**, I will grant to him to sit down with Me
on My throne,
- 21:7 He who **overcomes** will inherit these things, and I will be his God
and he will be My son.



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Revelation

The Covenant Structure:

Ephesus

- 1. Preamble:** *The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this...*
- 2. Historical Prologue:** *'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; 3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.*
- 3. Ethical Stipulations:** *4 But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first;*
- 4. Sanctions:** *or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent. 6 Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*
- 5. Succession Arrangements:** *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'*



Revelation

Next Week:

- ❑ Chapter 2 & 3: The letters to the Seven churches of Asia
- ❑ Chapter 4: the throne scene

COMEBACK!

