



Logos Class

Book of Revelation- Ch 2A

June 1, 2025
Module 5, Room 1

Class Schedule for the next few weeks

- ✓ *May 25, 2025 – Revelation- Ch 1B*
- ✓ *June 1, 2025 – Revelation Ch 2A – Church of Ephesus*
 - *June 3, 2025 – Manor Lake Daniel 12*
- *June 8, 2025 – Revelation Ch 2B*
- *June 15, 2025 – Revelation Ch 3*
- *June 22, 2025 – Revelation Ch 4*

This is the last week in our current location. Next week we will be in the new building, Rooms 123/124

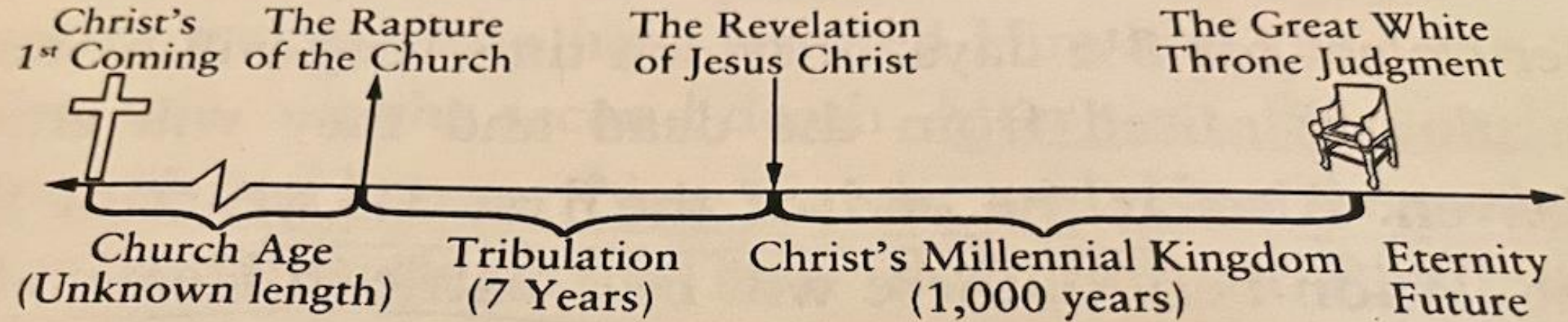
Quick Update ...ICYMI

Middle East

- *IDF Operation **Gideon's Chariots** is in force in Gaza. +360,000 reservists called up with a strategy of **Clear, Hold, Build** for the Israeli holding of Gaza*
- *No movement on hostage deals –US has provided another proposal that Israel has accepted, but it looks like Hamas will not.*
- *Israel is continuing to eliminate Hamas terror leaders and infrastructure*
- *Aid is now managed by the US*
- ***US/World***
- *Little progress on the Russia-Ukraine war. Poland and the Baltic states are shoring up defenses against the possibility of a Russian Invasion.*
- *Antisemitic hate groups and Christian hate groups are protesting with violence in America and Europe.*

Condensed Timeline of Revelation

Chart: A Walk Through Revelation



This chart shows the Church Age (where we are now). In this timeline, we await the Rapture of the Church, to be followed by the Seven-Year Tribulation Period. The Second coming of Christ, the 1000-year reign, GWT judgment, then Eternity.

Revelation – How the Book of Revelation Unfolds- 1

The book of Revelation presents Jesus Christ in 3 areas:

His Person, His Power, His Program

*This unfolds in **5 Parts**:*

Part 1: Rev 1-3 - Jesus and His Church

- ✓ *Introductions 1:1-8*
- ✓ *Unexpected Meeting 1:9-20*
- ✓ *Introduction to the Church*

Love Letters to the 7 churches

Part 2: Rev 4-5 – Journey to Heaven

Heaven's Open Door- Ch 4

Lion and Lamb – Ch 5

Revelation - How the Book of Revelation Unfolds - 2

Part 3 – The Judgments of the Lamb – Rev 6-18

The lamb opens the seals – Ch 6

First interlude – Ch 7

The Trumpets sound – Chapters 8-9

Second Interlude – Part 1 -John eats the book – Ch 10

Second Interlude – Part 2 – Two witnesses

Third Interlude – Part 1 – The Invisible War – Ch 12

Third Interlude – Part 2 – Antichrist comes to power – Ch 13

Third Interlude – Part 3 – Preview of things to come – Ch 14

A Song for the End – Ch 15

The Pouring of the Bowls – Ch 16

The Fall of Babylon – Ch 17-18

Revelation - How the Book of Revelation Unfolds - 3

Part 4 – The Reign of the King – Rev 19-20

The Return of the King – Ch 19

Wrapping Things Up – Ch 20

Part 5: Eternity – Rev 21-22

All things new – Ch 21-22:5

Even So...Come – Ch 22:6-21

Maranatha!!

Revelation Ch 2 – The 7 Churches of Revelation



Seven Churches in Asia Minor

- *They were alive and well when Revelation was written*
- *All in Modern Day Turkey*
- *All Ruins today*
- *John was established in Ephesus*
- *Made circuit trips to each church periodically as the only Disciple left*
- *Many people believe they represent the church for all time, and in every age.*
- *Some believe they are stages of the church*
- *There were many other churches in the area*

Revelation 2 *Symbols*

*We will get a Biblical Explanation in later verses, as is common in
Apocalyptic Bible Books*

Golden Lampstands



One like a Son of Man



Seven Stars



Views of the Seven Churches in Revelation

- They are “types” or “examples” of the different kinds of churches that existed then and now in the world. It is also a characteristic of the people in the church. Seven is the number of completion in Jewish thought.
- They are stages of the changes in churches during the church age, with more and more becoming like Laodicea in the end times
- They represent the things Christ praises in the church (and people) and also the things He will judge.
- They paint a picture of aspects of Christ himself with a portion of this revelation in each church discussion.
- Most end with an admonition and reward that can be earned by repenting and changing their ways.
- These church letters are the **last words** from Christ to His Churches in the Bible.
- To each Church->All Seven Churches-> and All Churches today, and all Christians

Why these Seven Churches?

- *There were many other churches in this area during the latter part of the first century...Corinth, Philippi, Colossae...plus many house churches in the smaller towns.*
- *The church needed specific instruction, and these churches were known to follow a circular route, receiving the letter from John with a willingness to receive it. These churches also fit the pattern of Christ's comments.*
- *The number 7 represents completeness, so these letters would also be seen as instructions to all the churches*
- *In Ch 2 and 3, Christ's instructions for John are for what "is".*

Ch 1- past, Ch 2-3 – Present, Ch 4> - Future

The Template of each letter

- *Each is addressed to the “angel” of the church*
- *Each has a message about an attribute of Christ that pertains to the rest of the letter*
- *Each says, “I know your works” meaning Christ understands them and their activities for the Lord.*
- *Most have a commendation and a warning based on their particular church personality and characteristics.*
- *All are commanded to hear. “Those with ears”*
- *Most are commanded to adjust their ways.*
- *A blessing, reward, or discipline with the choice.*

Let's talk about Ephesus as a city

- *Ephesus was 2nd largest city in the area. It was an important Roman City*
- ***The Temple of Diana** – one of the wonders of the ancient world was there, tourism and the business of making silver idols to her was big business for the whole area.*
- *An area full of tradesmen, traders, and supporting businesses*
- *An Important Port city that both received and sent large amounts of business volume throughout the Roman Empire and was on the trade route from the far east to Rome*
- *The church was founded by Paul, who stayed there for 3 years before being run out of town (preaching against idol worship, and idol trade)*
- *Church active for over 40 years*

Ruins of Ephesus



Revelation 2: 1-7 The Church at Ephesus

2 “To the **angel** of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the **words** of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. **² I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not and have found them false. ³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.**

⁴ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. **⁵ Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.** **⁶ But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.**

⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Let's discuss...v 2:1

2 ***“To the **angel** of the church in Ephesus write:***

These are the **words** of him who **holds the seven stars** in his **right hand** and **walks among the seven golden lampstands**.

***To the angel** – I believe this is the pastor or leader of the church. This is the message/words (logos) of Christ to his messenger*

***From Him who **holds** the 7 Stars and walks among the 7 lampstands** – For all (the) churches, Christ holds (with authority) the messengers in His strong right hand, where they are kept divinely safe and held apart for their work. No man can pluck them out of His hand.*

***Christ Himself dwells in the Churches as the Holy Spirit.** We know this today in churches. He is there or He isn't.*

What a comfort to know that we are not alone. Not only is Christ upholding our Pastors/Leaders, but He is among us in the true church

Verse 2:2-3 Commendations- Ephesus

² I know your deeds, your hard work, and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not and have found them false. ³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

I know your deeds – hard work, perseverance, intolerance for sin and wicked people, discernment, boldness, endurance through hardships (for my name), not grown weary

What a testament to sound Biblical teaching by Paul, Timothy, and John. This church is doctrinally sound and bold in its adherence to Biblical principles. Many churches today would not get this commendation

Verse 2:4-5. Yet...I hold this against you

⁴ *Yet I hold this against you: You have **forsaken the love you had at first.***

⁵ *Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. **If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.***

*Despite all the commendations, this church is not a perfect church. **It has lost the innocent love that it had when it started.** In the letters of John, the Apostle taught love for each other and people. We see that this is the reason he was guided by the Holy Spirit to pen those letters to his own church and the others in the area.*

*What to do? **Judge your own situation** – look at before and now, and look at what has happened to you. **Then repent...**ask God for forgiveness and the power to return to what is right in His sight. **Finally, do what you did before.** Sometimes we get the Memories flashback on our phones, or in our memories that guide this effort to see “then and now.”*

*If you do not change your ways, I will come and **take away your ability** to hold the Light of the Gospel, by taking away your lampstand*

Verse 2:6 One more positive...

⁶ But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

The church at Ephesus has not caved to the social pressure and followed the practices of a group called the Nicolaitans.

While the exact nature of the Nicolaitans is not known, the name means “conquering the people”. This is a heretical sect that believed in a clerical hierarchy that superimposed its beliefs on the people, robbing them of the spiritual freedom granted by the Lord. It is also believed they practiced pagan worship as part of their clerical doctrine.

Purity is important to the Lord, as is the spiritual freedom in being a child of the King

Nicolaitans – Encyclopedia of the Bible

NICOLAITANS A term appearing in the Revelation (2:6, [15](#)) describing members of Christian congregations who held a doctrine that the Lord hated. Irenaeus said that they were followers of Nicolaus of Antioch, a proselyte who was among the seven men chosen to serve the Jerusalem congregation ([Acts 6:5](#)), who had forsaken true Christian doctrine; he said they lived in unrestrained indulgence (*Against Heresies* I; [26:3](#)). Hippolytus confirmed this by noting that Nicolaus left correct doctrine and had the habit of indifference as to what a man ate and as to how he lived (*Refutation of Heresies* 7:24). *The Apostolic Constitutions* ([6:8](#)) described them as “shameless in uncleanness.” Although Clement of Alexandria defended Nicolaus by insisting that his followers had misunderstood him, he observed that the Nicolaitans abandoned themselves to pleasures like goats in a life of shameless self-indulgence (*The Miscellianes* 2:20).

In the letter to the church at Pergamum the Nicolaitans were associated closely with those people who held the teaching of Balaam. This may have been a play on words. “Nicolaitans” could have been derived from two Gr. words, *nikan*, which meant “to conquer” and *laos*, which meant “people.” Likewise, Balaam could be derived from two Heb. words, *bela* which meant “to conquer” and *ha’am*, which meant “people.” Nicolaus and Balaam would then be the Gr. and Heb. forms of the same name, descriptive in each instance of an evil teacher who had influence over the people and brought them into bondage to heresy.

A story is recorded of the seduction of the Israelites into immoral and idolatrous unions with the women of Moab ([Num 25:1-5](#)). Had this situation not been checked, Israel would have been destroyed as a nation. [Numbers 31:16](#) attributed the success of this seduction of God’s people to the evil influence of a prophet named Balaam who advised Balak, king of Moab, to follow such a course of action. Balaam became, therefore, in Heb. history a symbol of an evil man who led God’s people into immorality and sin.

The letter to the church at Pergamum specifically charged them with having seduced people into eating meat offered to idols and into acts of fornication. The decree of the Jerusalem Council ([Acts 15:28, 29](#)) had laid down also two specific conditions upon which Gentiles were to be admitted into Christian fellowship: they were to abstain from things offered to idols and from fornication. These were the very regulations which the Nicolaitans violated.

They were a people who used Christian liberty as an occasion for the flesh, against such Paul warned ([Gal 5:13](#)). The enticement to such a course of action was the pagan society in which Christians lived where eating meat offered to idols was common. Sex relations outside marriage were completely acceptable in such a society. The Nicolaitans attempted to establish a compromise with the pagan society of the Graeco-Roman world that surrounded them. The people most susceptible to such teaching were, no doubt, the upper classes who stood to lose the most by a separation from the culture to which they had belonged before conversion.

It may be that the doctrine of the Nicolaitans was dualistic. They prob. reasoned that the human body was evil anyway and only the spirit was good. A Christian, therefore, could do whatever he desired with his body because it had no importance. The spirit, on the other hand, was the recipient of grace which meant that grace and forgiveness were his no matter what he did. They were those ready to compromise with the world. They were judged by the author of Revelation to be most dangerous because the result of their teaching would have conformed Christianity to the world rather than have Christianity change the world. Eusebius indicated that this sect did not last very long, and in all probability the only knowledge of their teaching that is possible will be found in the slight references to them in Revelation.

Verse 2:7 Closing Words to Ephesians

7 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

These are the words of the Lord to the church at Ephesus. If they hear and obey, they will have eternal life in Heaven. This is a right to all Christians who follow Christ, listen to the Holy Spirit, and do what He asks of us. All faithful Christians hope to hear the words “Well done, my good and faithful servant.”

Rev 2:8-11 The Church at Smyrna

*⁸ “To the angel of the church in **Smyrna** write:*

*These are the **words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.***

⁹ I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

¹⁰ Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.

¹¹ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

Next week

- *Next week, Read Rev 2 and 3*
- *Pray for our country and leaders*
- *Pray for our church and leaders that we would be the lampstand that holds the light of Christ high for all to see. Come to the ribbon cutting for our new buildings to spread the light*
- *Pray for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem*
- *Pray for each other and encourage each other*
- *Pray for a great awakening to continue across the world and in the US in preparation for the things to come*
- *Pray for the Nations, as the world closes in on the prophetic movement of the end times, as it marches to God's timetable*