



THE END

A STUDY OF REVELATION

Rev. 3:7-13

Rev. 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for **thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.**

9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and **to know that I have loved thee.**

10 Because **thou hast kept the word of my patience,** I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is* new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him* my new name.

13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Scriptural Introduction

Rev. 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Part One – THE PAST: REVEALING GOD – “...the things which thou hast seen...” Ch. 1

Introduction: 1:1-3

- A. The Significance of the Book, 1:1a-b
 - B. The Signature of the Book, 1:1c-2
 - C. The Singularity of the Book, 1:3
- I. THE COURSE OF THE AGE, 1:4-6
- A. The Blessing, 1:4-5a
 - B. The Benediction, 1:5b-6

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B. The Everlasting Triumph of Jesus, 1:8

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B. It Is an Age of Instinctive Worship, 1:10-18

C. It Is an Age of Intelligent Waiting, 1:19-20

Part Two – THE PRESENT: REVEALING GRACE – “...the things which are...” Ch. 2-3

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A. The Churches Viewed Practically

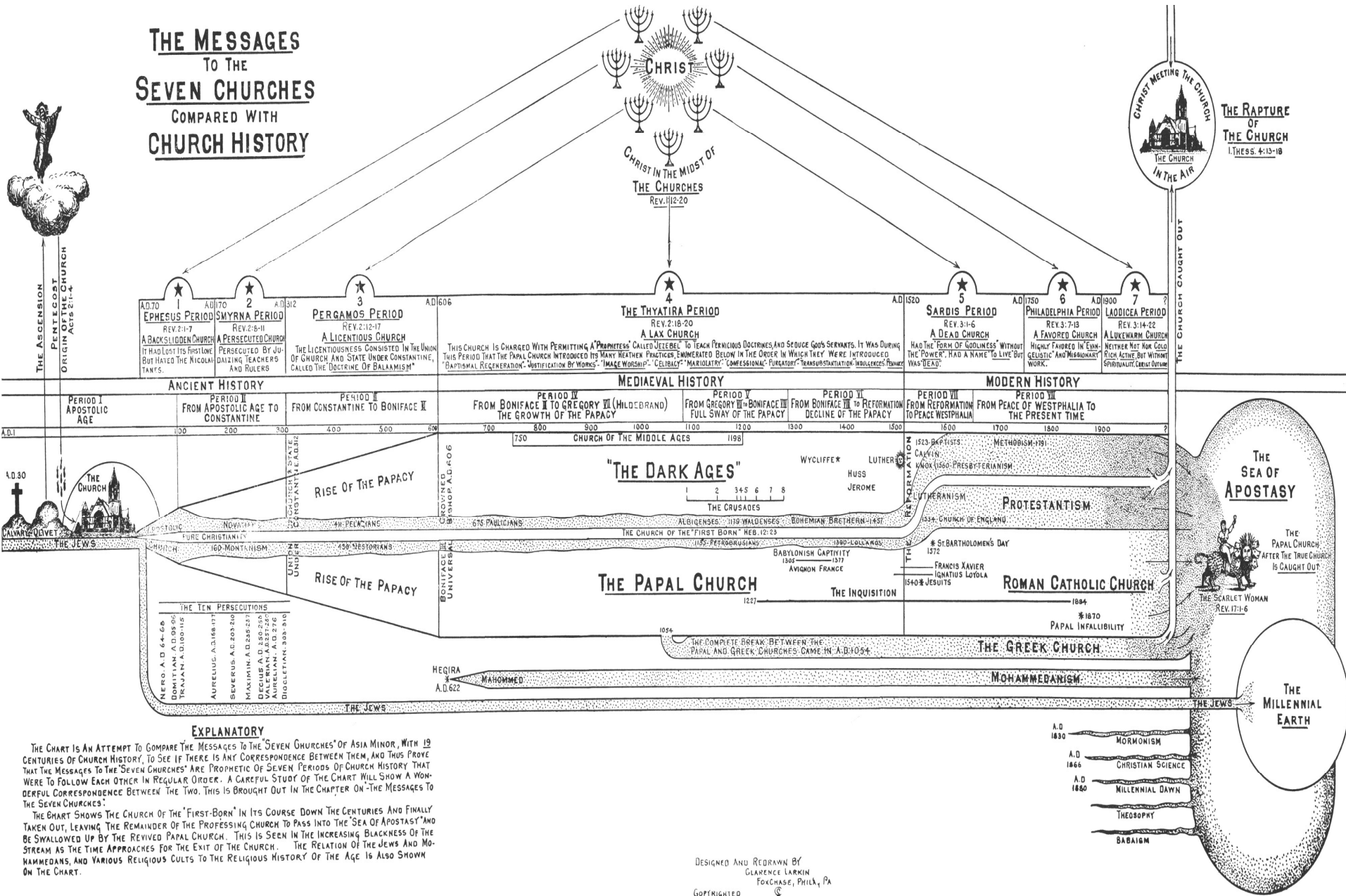
B. The Churches Viewed Perennially

C. The Churches Viewed Prophetically

THE MESSAGES TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES COMPARED WITH CHURCH HISTORY



THE ASCENSION
PENTECOST
ORIGIN OF THE CHURCH
ACTS 2:1-4



EXPLANATORY

THE CHART IS AN ATTEMPT TO COMPARE THE MESSAGES TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA MINOR, WITH 19 CENTURIES OF CHURCH HISTORY, TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THEM, AND THUS PROVE THAT THE MESSAGES TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES ARE PROPHETIC OF SEVEN PERIODS OF CHURCH HISTORY THAT WERE TO FOLLOW EACH OTHER IN REGULAR ORDER. A CAREFUL STUDY OF THE CHART WILL SHOW A WONDERFUL CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE TWO. THIS IS BROUGHT OUT IN THE CHAPTER ON 'THE MESSAGES TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES'.

THE CHART SHOWS THE CHURCH OF THE 'FIRST-BORN' IN ITS COURSE DOWN THE CENTURIES AND FINALLY TAKEN OUT, LEAVING THE REMAINDER OF THE PROFESSING CHURCH TO PASS INTO THE 'SEA OF APOSTASY' AND BE SWALLOWED UP BY THE REVIVED PAPAL CHURCH. THIS IS SEEN IN THE INCREASING BLACKNESS OF THE STREAM AS THE TIME APPROACHES FOR THE EXIT OF THE CHURCH. THE RELATION OF THE JEWS AND MOHAMMEDANS, AND VARIOUS RELIGIOUS CULTS TO THE RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF THE AGE IS ALSO SHOWN ON THE CHART.

DESIGNED AND REDRAWN BY
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I. EPHESUS: THE FALLEN CHURCH, 2:1-7 (A.D. 0-200)

- A. The Faithful Works of This Church, 2:1-3
- B. The Fatal Weakness of This Church, 2:4-5a
- C. The Forceful Warning to This Church, 2:5b-7

II. SMYRNA: THE FEARFUL CHURCH, 2:8-11 (A.D. 200-325)

- A. The False Trend at Smyrna, 2:8-9
- B. The Fiery Trial at Smyrna, 2:10a
- C. The Final Triumph at Smyrna, 2:10b-11

III. PERGAMOS: THE FALTERING CHURCH, 2:12-17 (A.D. 325-500)

- A. The Faithful Christians in This Church, 2:12-13
- B. The False Creeds in This Church, 2:14-15
- C. The Fearful Crisis in This Church, 2:16-17

IV. THYATIRA: THE FALSE CHURCH, 2:18-29 (A.D. 500-1000)

- A. What the Lord Detected About This Church, 2:18-19
- B. What the Lord Detested About This Church, 2:20-23
- C. What the Lord Determined About This Church, 2:24-29

V. SARDIS: THE FRUITLESS CHURCH, 3:1-6 (A.D. 1000-1500)

- A. The Notable Reputation of This Church, 3:1-2
 - 1. The Church is Fully Weighed by the Lord, 3:1a
 - 2. The Church is Found Wanting by the Lord, 3:1b-2
- B. The Needed Reformation in This Church, 3:3-6
 - 1. The Call for a Remembrance by This Church, 3:3
 - 2. The Call to a Remnant in This Church, 3:4-6



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/283304632786978609>

VI. PHILADELPHIA: THE FEEBLE CHURCH, 3:7-13 (A.D. 1500-1900)

A. The Call to Behold, 3:7-11

1. All Saints Are Under His Control, 3:7-8

Rev. 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

8 I know thy works: behold, **I have set before thee an open door**, and no man can shut it: for **thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.**



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/kjfnjy/5248539863>



This broken archway, now with a mosque in the background, is believed to have supported a church dome in ancient Philadelphia. Photo by Karrie Sparrow.

<https://www.imb.org/2018/06/01/what-happened-to-the-seven-churches-of-revelation/>
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Original Word: Φιλαδέλφεια

Transliteration: Philadelpheia

Definition: Philadelphia, a city of Lydia, a city of the Roman province Asia.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5359.htm>

(φιλαδελφία)

Rom. 12:10 *Be kindly affectioned one to another with **brotherly love**; in honour preferring one another;*

1 Thess. 4:9 *But as touching **brotherly love** ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.*

Heb. 13:1 *Let **brotherly love** continue.*

1 Pet. 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned **love of the brethren**, *see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*

2 Pet. 1:7 And to godliness **brotherly kindness**; and to brotherly kindness charity.

(Φιλάδελφος)

1 Pet. 3:8 Finally, *be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, **love as brethren**, be pitiful, be courteous:*

Isa. 40:25 To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith **the Holy One**.

1 Pet. 1:15 But as **he which hath called you is holy**, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

1 Cor. 16:9 For a **great door and effectual is opened unto me**, and *there are many adversaries.*

2 Cor. 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to *preach* Christ's gospel, and **a door was opened unto me of the Lord,**

Col. 4:3 Withal praying also for us, **that God would open unto us a door of utterance,** to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

Original Word: μικρός

Transliteration: mikros

Definition: small, little

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3398.htm>

Original Word: τηρέω

Transliteration: téreó

Usage: I keep, guard, observe, watch over.

tēréō (from *tēros*, "a guard") – properly, maintain (preserve); (figuratively) *spiritually guard* (watch), *keep intact*.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5083.htm>

2. All Sinners Are Under His Control, 3:9

Rev. 3:9 Behold, I will make them of **the synagogue of Satan**, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; **behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.**

First, their Jewish antagonists ("synagogue of Satan") would eventually have to acknowledge that the Christians were the *true* followers of God

Rev. 2:8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; 9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* **the synagogue of Satan.**

3. All Situations Are Under His Control, 3:10-11

Rev. 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, **I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.**

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Second, God promised the Christians in this church that they would not go through the Tribulation period (Rev. 6—19).

Original Word: ὥρα

Transliteration: hora

Usage: (a) a definite space of time, a season, (b) an hour, (c) the particular time for anything.

hōra – properly, an *hour*; (figuratively) a *finite* "season"; *limited* time or opportunity to reach a goal (fulfill a purpose); a *divinely pre-set* time-period; a limited period to accomplish the Lord's specific purpose, i.e. "the hour" in which specific characteristics prevail exactly like that for a limited time.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5610.htm>

Original Word: πειρασμός

Transliteration: peirasmos

Usage: (a) trial, probation, **testing**, being tried, (b) temptation, (c) calamity, affliction.

peirasmós (from *peirázō*) – *temptation* or *test* – both senses can apply *simultaneously* (depending on the context). The positive sense ("test") and negative sense ("temptation") are functions of the context (not merely the words themselves). <https://biblehub.com/greek/3986.htm>

1 Cor. 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Thess. 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* **Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.**

1 Thess. 5:9 For **God hath not appointed us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Third, the Lord also promised to come "quickly".

Original Word: κρατέω

Transliteration: krateó

Usage: I am strong, mighty, hence: I rule, am master, prevail; I obtain, take hold of; I hold, **hold fast**.

kratéō – to place under one's grasp (seize hold of, put under control).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2902.htm>

2 Jn. 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we **receive a full reward**.

B. The Call to Behave, 3:12-13

1. The Divine Initiative, 3:12

Rev. 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is* new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him* my new name.

Fourth, God promised that He will not simply honor overcomers by *erecting a pillar in their name* in heaven, as was the custom in Philadelphia.

Fifth, they would be forever secure.

Sixth, Jesus Christ will identify with His faithful people:

Rev. 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and **hast not denied my name.**

William Carey, the *Father of Modern Missions*

An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens.

"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God!"

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/missionaries/william-carey.html>

2. The Divine Invitation, 3:13

Rev. 3:13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Conclusion

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, **we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;**

13 **Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;**

14 **Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**