

THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY

A SURVEY OF
THE NEW TESTAMENT
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Study Number Twenty-Two REVELATION

August 12, 2009

1 We come tonight to the final session of THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE
2 GLORY. We have walked together through the entire New Testament, although only on
3 a “survey” jaunt. A thorough study of the New Testament would require your life time.
4 Since I have taught this wondrous book of Revelation in some detail in earlier studies, we
5 will go through it quickly tonight, spending our time primarily on chapters 2 and 3.

6
7 For your memory boost, here’s an outline of the entire book:

8
9 Chapter One: The Apostle John, now an old man, is visited on Rome’s Death Island,
10 Patmos, and given the vision of the end time.

11
12 Chapters Two and Three (which we will study in detail tonight): Christ’s messages to
13 the seven churches of Asia (western Turkey).

14
15 Chapter Four: Our introduction to the Presence of God at His Throne.

16
17 Chapter Five: The book of judgment in God’s hand, sealed by seven seals.

18
19 Chapter Six: Six of the seals opened.

20
21 Chapter Seven: The 144,000 “sealed” Jewish witnesses.

22
23 Chapter Eight: The 7th seal and the first four trumpet judgments.

24
25 Chapter Nine: The 5th and 6th trumpet judgments.

26
27 Chapter Ten: The book in God’s hand, bitter to taste and touch.

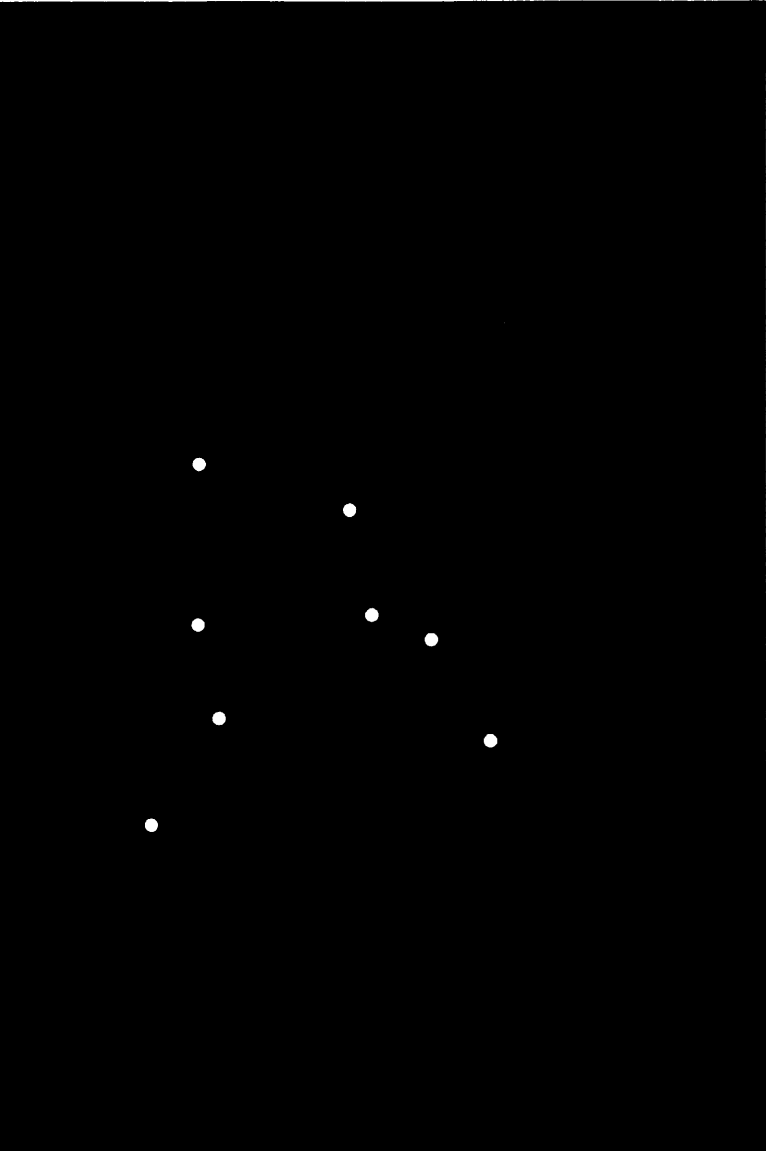
28
29 Chapter Eleven: The Two Great Witnesses.

- 1
2 Chapter Twelve: Satan (and the world's) enmity with Israel.
3
4 Chapter Thirteen: Antichrist and the False Prophet
5
6 Chapter Fourteen: The Lamb of God on Mount Zion.
7
8 Chapter Fifteen: Introduction to the vial (or bowl) judgments.
9
10 Chapter Sixteen: The seven deadly vial judgments poured on the earth during the Great
11 Tribulation.
12
13 Chapter Seventeen: The Great Harlot.
14
15 Chapter Eighteen: Political Babylon destroyed by God.
16
17 Chapter Nineteen: The Marriage Supper of the Lamb and the Second Coming of Christ.
18
19 Chapter Twenty: Satan bound and the Millennial reign of Christ begins. This chapter
20 also describes the Great White Throne Judgment.
21
22 Chapter Twenty One: A New Heaven and a New Earth.
23
24 Chapter Twenty Two: Life in eternity.

25 26 **THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA (WESTERN TURKEY)** 27

28 Suppose you opened your mail box tomorrow and found a very special and personal letter
29 to you. The letter was written by Jesus Christ Himself to you. Would you consider that
30 letter urgent? Of course, you would. Chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation contain seven
31 letters, written by Jesus, one each to the seven great churches of western Turkey. There
32 were hundreds of other churches in the world, to be sure; but Jesus addressed these letters
33 to seven specific congregations:

- 34 1) Ephesus
35 2) Smyrna (present-day Izmir)
36 3) Pergamos
37 4) Thyatira
38 5) Sardis
39 6) Philadelphia
40 7) Laodicea
41



[The darker areas represent the Aegean Sea and the lighter areas represent western Turkey.]

Christ's messages to the seven first-century local churches in Western Asia Minor are given as exhortation, warning and edification for believers and churches throughout this age. The value of these messages for the church today includes: 1) a revelation of what Jesus Christ Himself loves and values in His churches, as well as what He hates and condemns; 2) a clear statement from Christ regarding (a) the consequences of disobedience and spiritual neglect and (b) the rewards for spiritual vigilance and faithfulness to Christ; 3) a standard by which any church or individual may judge their true spiritual state before God; 4) an example of Satan's methods for attacking the church or the individual Christian.

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27
28 **Chapter Two / The Message To The Church In Ephesus**
29

30 Rev. 2:1-4

31 **Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth**
32 **the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden**
33 **candlesticks; [2] I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou**
34 **canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are**
35 **apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: [3] And hast borne, and hast**
36 **patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. [4]**
37 **Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.**

- 38
39 1. The “seven stars” are the seven churches. The “angel” in each case is commonly
40 accepted to be “the pastor” - or the leader.
41
42 2. Christ lists seven things He loves about the church in Ephesus:

1 A. "I know thy works" We are not "saved by our works," but children of God will
2 produce good works!

3
4 B. "I know thy labor" "Labor" here means "weariness," or "a state of being tired."

5
6 C. "I know....thy patience" Patience (Galatians 5:22) is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

7
8 D. "I know how thou canst bear them which are evil"

9
10 E. "Thou hast tried them which say they are apostles and are not." In other words
11 they tested those who claimed spiritual gifts or titles.

12
13 F. "Thou hast borne....for my name's sake...." This regards a strong theology,
14 staying with the truth of the Gospel.

15
16 G. "And hast not fainted" In other words, they had grown weary IN their work but
17 not weary OF their work. Big difference!

18
19 3. Now Christ states what He CONDEMNS in the Ephesian church: (Verse 4) "Thou
20 hast left thy first love."

21
22 THE BOTTOM LINE OF OUR SERVICE TO THE LORD IS WHY WE DO IT.
23 DO WE LOVE HIM PERSONALLY? OR DO WE JUST ENJOY THE WORK?

24
25 Christ commanded the church (verse 5) to repent and get back to a restored first love
26 once again.

27
28 4. Christ also commended the Ephesian church for its intolerance of the Nicolaitans.
29 They were not unlike the "new agers" of today's generation who espoused a comfort level
30 with sin and a disregard for absolutes.

31
32 Rev. 2:7

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

36
37 ✓ Jesus said, "Pay attention to what I'm saying!"

38 ✓ And He makes it clear to all the seven churches that it's the individual or church
39 who overcomes clear to the end of the journey who will be rewarded in Heaven.

1 **Chapter Two / Christ's Message to the Church in Smyrna**

2
3 It has been forty years since I was in Smyrna (Izmir, Turkey) and I honestly don't
4 remember a whole lot about it. We were docked at the gorgeous harbor - I do
5 remember that and we visited the spot where Polycarp (who pastored there and followed
6 the long, long ministry of his teacher John) was martyred by being burned at the stake.
7 Say the word "Smyrna" slowly and you will include in your utterance the word myrrh. It
8 has the meaning of suffering. Smyrna represents the martyred church from about A.D.
9 100 to 314 A.D.

10
11 Our Lord had strong commendation for this church:

12
13 Rev. 2:9-10

14 **I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know**
15 **the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue**
16 **of Satan. [10] Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil**
17 **shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation**
18 **ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**

19
20 1. There are multitudes of believers today who are being persecuted even to death for
21 their faith in Christ, most of them at the hands of fundamentalist or radical Muslims.

22
23 2. You will note the people in this church were poor. Obviously they had not heard the
24 "prosperity gospel". Their church was made up of slaves, ex-slaves, runaway slaves,
25 freed people, poor people and those who had lost whatever they had when they came to
26 faith in Christ.

27
28 3. Verse 10 speaks of trouble or persecution for ten days. There were ten historical
29 periods of severe persecution under Rome:

- 30 ✓ Nero 64-68 A.D. Paul was beheaded during that time
- 31 ✓ Domitian 95-96. John was put on Patmos under his reign
- 32 ✓ Trajan 104-117 Ignatius was burned at the stake
- 33 ✓ Marcus Aurelius - 161-180 Polycarp burned at the stake
- 34 ✓ Severus 200-211
- 35 ✓ Maximinius 235-237
- 36 ✓ Decius. 250-253
- 37 ✓ Valerian 257-260
- 38 ✓ Aurelian 270-275
- 39 ✓ Diocletian 303-313 (considered by some to be the worst for Christians)

40
41 4. Again the reminder to "overcome:" Rev. 2:11

1 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that
2 overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

4 Chapter Two / Christ's Message To The Church in Pergamum

5
6 It is perceived by many Church scholars that not only was Pergamum a real city in John's
7 day, but it also represents church history from A.D. 314-A.D 590. You must remember
8 that Emperor Constantine in the early 300's A.D. proclaimed that everyone was a
9 Christian by law. Persecution ended. At this point, the church no longer "got into the
10 world, but the world got into the church." We are talking about rank paganism.

11
12 It was a religious (false religion) stronghold. It boasted great temples. Pergamum was
13 also the site of the greatest library in the pagan world at that time with over 200-thousand
14 volumes.

16 Rev. 2:12-17

17 **And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which**
18 **hath the sharp sword with two edges; [13] I know thy works, and where thou**
19 **dwest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not**
20 **denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who**
21 **was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. [14] But I have a few things against**
22 **thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught**
23 **Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed**
24 **unto idols, and to commit fornication. [15] So hast thou also them that hold the**
25 **doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. [16] Repent; or else I will come unto**
26 **thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. [17] He that**
27 **hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that**
28 **overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone,**
29 **and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that**
30 **receiveth it.**

31
32 1. Jesus said first of all to the church there (verse 13), "I know where you are!" He
33 understood their wretched location. Jesus took note of their difficulties. That's one of
34 the reasons you and I are not to judge others. We don't know where they have come
35 from or the situation they live in presently.

36
37 2. "Where Satan's seat (throne) is located." In other words, Pergamum was the
38 headquarters for satanic worship.

39
40 3. Yet, despite the local, the believers there held "fast the name of Jesus." "You have
41 not denied my faith." What little bit of persecution does it take for many of today's

1 professing believers to “deny the faith?”

2
3 4. Christ’s condemnation: “Some there hold the doctrine of Balaam....” Basically this
4 promoted the unequal yoke in marriage which introduced into the church a lot of idolatry.

5
6 The doctrine of the Nicolaitans (Refer to page 4, # 4).

7
8 5. Christ commanded the church to repent. Rev. 2:17

9 **He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him**
10 **that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white**
11 **stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that**
12 **receiveth it.**

- 13
14 ✓ “hidden manna” refers to the very person and passion (death) of Jesus. We feed
15 on the very person of Christ.
16 ✓ “the white stone” The people of that city had a custom of giving little white
17 stones with their names and addresses on them - rather than calling cards. Jesus
18 said, in effect, “I will give you my personal calling card and you can reach me at
19 any time.”
20

21 **Chapter Three / Christ’s Message To The Church In Thyatira**

22
23 Western Turkey is an exceptionally-beautiful region. I have not been in Thyatira but I
24 am told it is a magnificent area. The city was founded by Lysimachus, one of
25 Alexander’s (the Great) generals several hundred years B.C. The city prospered again
26 under Vespasian the Roman Emperor and was the headquarters for guilds - especially
27 textiles. The first-known Christian convert in Europe that we know about was Lydia, a
28 textile manufacturer who came from Thyatira (Acts 16:13-15).

29
30 Rev. 2:18-29

31 **And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of**
32 **God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; [19]**
33 **I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy**
34 **works; and the last to be more than the first. [20] Notwithstanding I have a few**
35 **things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself**
36 **a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat**
37 **things sacrificed unto idols. [21] And I gave her space to repent of her fornication;**
38 **and she repented not. [22] Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit**
39 **adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. [23] And I**
40 **will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which**
41 **searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to**