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*St. Mark's Church
Sunday School*

Introduction to the Book of Revelation

The writer : St John the Beloved while he was tortured and exiled at Batmos

Date : ~ 95 AD

The Place of writing : Patmos' Island

Major Theme : Final victory of the Jesus and His people over Satan and his powers ,
His second coming , the final judgement and the new heaven .

To whom it is written : to the persecuted church at the end of the first century and in
all generations , to comfort her and declare her final victory and the
glories waiting her at the end of days.

The nature of the book :

- 1) The only prophetic book in the NT (Apocalypses in Greek means revelation)
- 2) The revelation is recorded in a coded style (symbolic numerology), so many
of its secrets are hidden , but declared only to the faithful in a spiritual way.
- 3) The interpretation of Revelation: There are mainly three approaches to interpret this
difficult book:

1: The contemporary approach : It assumes that the book is written for
specific group of churches (1:11) with specific needs and at specific time

2. The future approach : It assumes that the book is addressing the last
days only before the next coming, and all the events mentioned are actual
events.

3. The Ideal(spiritual) approach: It assumes that the book highlight the
relationship and conflicts between God , His Kingdom and Satan. It reveals
past , present and future events.

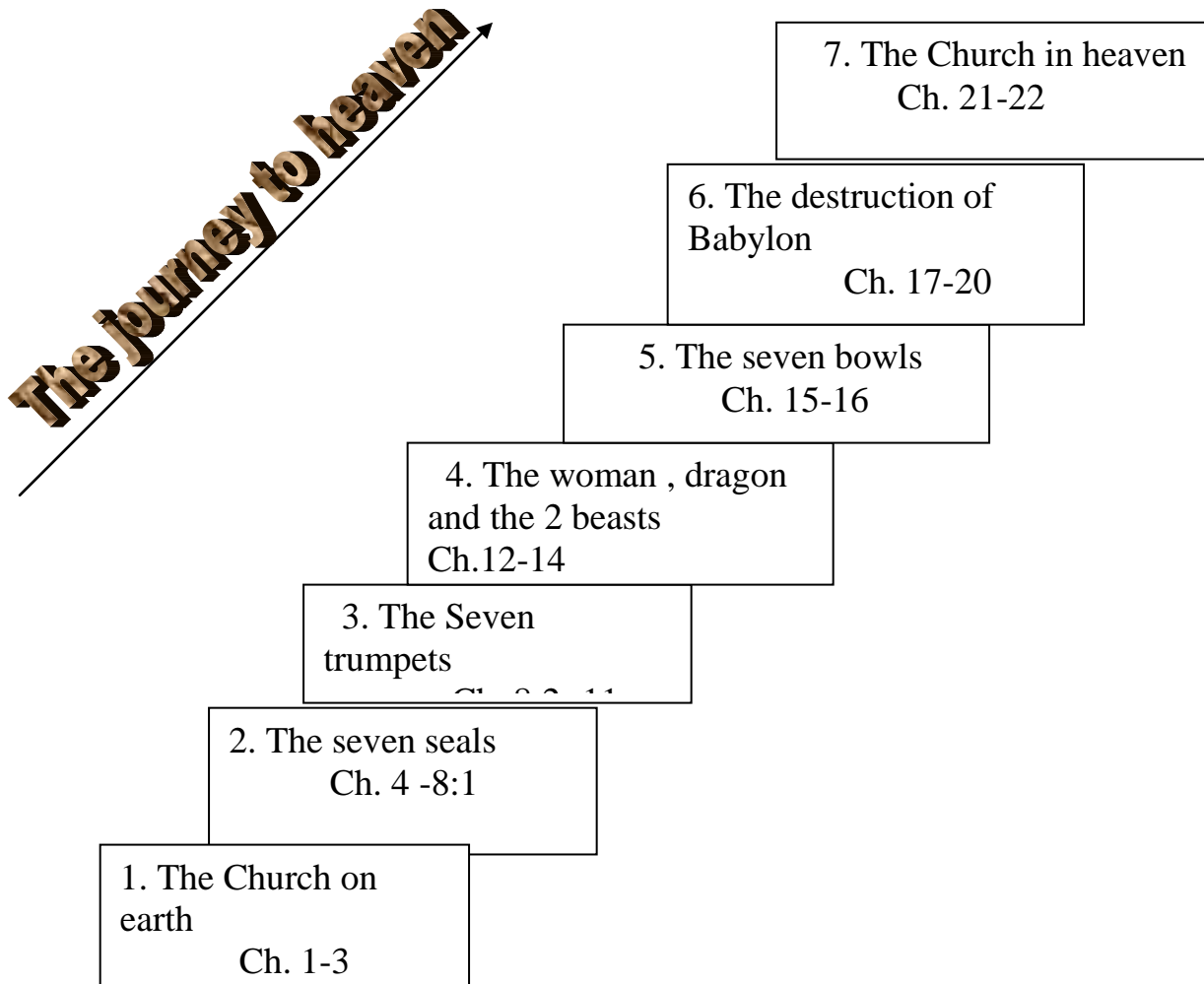
These three approaches may be used in conjunction.

SUMMARY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

The book consists of seven visions:

1. the church on earth : (Ch. 1-3)
2. The seven seals (Ch.4-8:1)
3. The seven Trumpets (Ch. 8:2 -11)
4. The woman, dragon and the two beasts(Ch.12-14)

- 5. The seven bowels (Ch. 15-16)
- 6. The destruction of Babylon (Ch. 17-20)
- 7. The Church in heaven (Ch. 21- 22)



The Seven Visions of the book of Revelation

The Book of Revelation

Vision 1 –The CHURCH ON EARTH Chapters 1-3

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3
1. The writer 2. To whom it is sent 3. Jesus among the seven lampstands	Messages to the churches of: 1. Ephesus 2. Smyrna 3. Pergamos 4. Thyatira	Messages to the churches of : 5. Sardis 6. Philadelphia 7. Laodicea

Basic information about the first vision:

- 1. Jesus is** *“the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth”*.(1:5) ; *He is coming with clouds,(1:7) , “the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End” (1:8); like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.(1:13) ; His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;(1:14-15); out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.”(1:16) ; He is “in the midst of the seven lampstands” (1:13) ; He had in His right hand seven stars,(1:16)*
- 2.** The seven churches are existing churches in Asia Minor at that time , and also represent the status of the church at different ages till His next coming.

 - a. **Ephesus** represents “ the Church in the Apostolic era “
 - b) **Smyrna** represents “the Church in the martyrdom during the Pagan Roman empire era”
 - c) **Pergamos** represents “the Church associated with the civil authority in the era of Christian Roman Empire “
 - d) **Thyatira** represents “the Church in the middle ages when it is full of earthly treasures and fainted spirit.
 - e) **Sardis** represents “the church in about the 16th. century when the Catholic church sell the forgiveness document, and the revolution of Martin Luther. ”
 - f) **Philadelphia** represents “ the church in our time now where the different churches try to come near together and unified”.
 - g) **Laodicea.** Represents “ the church of the last days when it became lukewarm and apostate”

The Lampstands are the churches and the stars are the angels of the churches who are the pastoral leadership of the local churches (the Bishops)

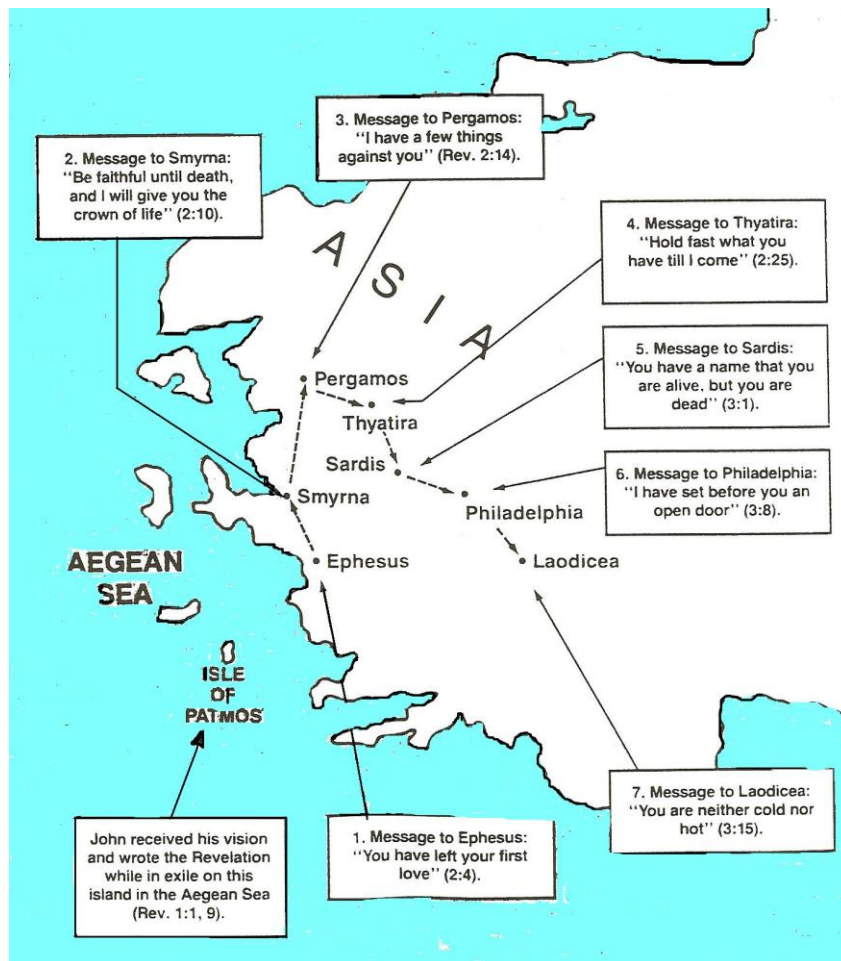
3. For each church there are:

- a) Short introduction of Christ with descriptive title
- b) Summary of the state of the church , with praise or rebuke.
- c) Exhortation is given
- d) The message concluded by : *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”* and a promise

4. The advice for four of the seven churches of the Lord is “Repent”

5. **Nicolaitans** : are the followers of one of the seven deacons “Nicolas” who spread a heresy encouraging living in lust without control, and allowing adultery and eating idol’s offerings.

6. **“doctrine of Balaam”** is the devilish advice given by the “Balaam the false prophet” to “Balaak” [refer to Num.22-25] . The advise is to teach the people to *“ eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality”*



The Seven Churches in Asia Minor

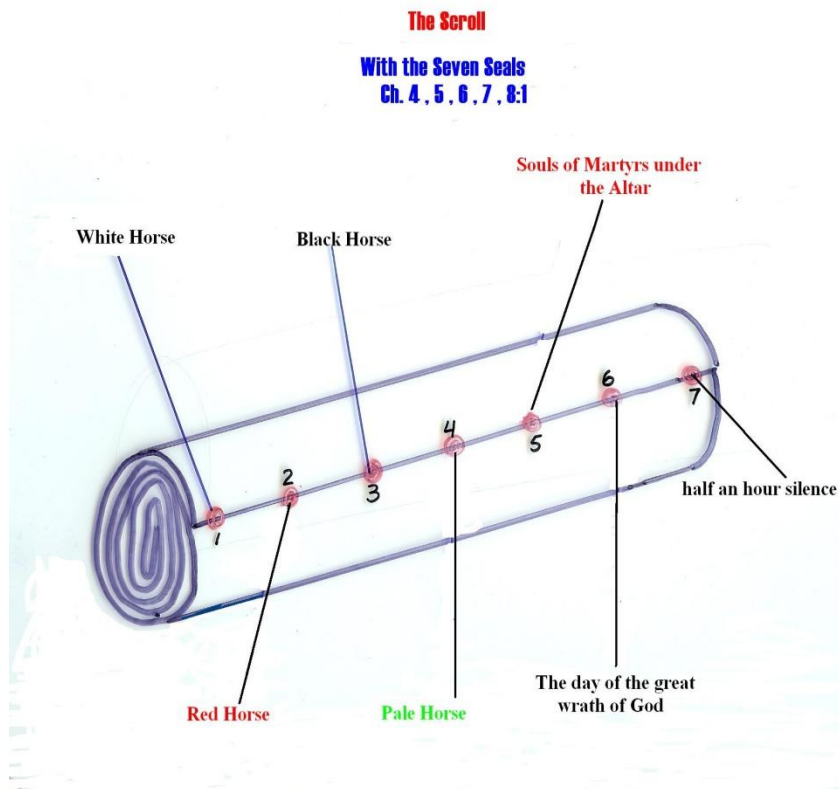
THE SEVEN CHURCHES
 Chapters 2-3

Church	Positives	Problems	Advice	Warning	Reward
1. Ephesus <i>(Beloved)</i> [church of the Apostles]	1.Hard labour 2.Patience 3.Perseverance 4.Not weary 5.Hate the deeds of Nicolaitans	Left your first love	1. Remember 2. REPENT 3. do the first works	Remove your lampstand from its place	Eat from the tree of life
2. Smyrna <i>(Persecuted)</i> [The era of Martyrdom]	1. great works 2. Poverty 3. Blasphemy of the Jews	Expected tribulations for 10 days (10 circles of the Pagan Roman Empire)	1. Do not fear 2. Be faithful to death	-----	1.Do not hurt by the 2 nd . death 2. Crown of life
3.Pergamos <i>(Associated with)</i> [Church associated with the Emperors since Constantine]	1. Hold fast to the name of Christ 2. Did not deny the faith 3. The church dwell in Satan's place	1. Doctrine of Balaam 2. Doctrine of Nicolaitans	REPENT	Jesus Himself will fight them with the sword of His mouth	1. eat from the hidden Manna 2. White stone with a new name
4.Thyatira <i>(Corrupt)</i> [5 th . -7 th . century]	Works , love service ,faith , patience and increasing works	1. Allow Jezebel to teach and seduce believers to commit moral immorality and sacrifice for idols	Hold fast to what you have till Jesus comes	1. Punishment by sickbed , great tribulations 2. Kill her children with death	1. Authority over the nations 2. Morning star
5. Sardis <i>(Dead)</i> [The middle age church]	1.Few names have not defiled	1.False appearance as alive but really dead. 2. Not perfect works before the Lord	1. Remember what you receive and heard 2. Hold fast	I'll come as a thief without warning	1. White garments 2. His name will not blot out from the book of life

Church	Positives	Problems	Advice	Warning	Reward
			3. REPENT		3. Confess his name before the Father and the angels
6. Philadelphia <i>(Faithful-loving the brethren)</i> [the recent centuries]	1. Acceptable work 2. Kept Jesus word 3. did not deny His name 4. Kept Jesus command to persevere	-----	Hold fast to what to what you have , I am coming quickly		To be a column in the temple of God inscribed by the name of God ,new Jerusalem and Jesus new name
7. Laodicea <i>(Lukewarm-the rule of the people)</i> [church of the last days]	-----	1. Not hot not cold but lukewarm. 2. Pretend to be rich, wealthy ,	1. to buy gold , clothe and anoint your eyes . 2. be zealous and REPENT.	I will vomit you out of My mouth.	will be granted to sit with Me on My throne,.

The second Vision (The Seals) Chapters 4-8:1

Chapter 4	Chapter 5	Chapter 6	Chapter 7
1. The open door 2. The throne of God 3. the 24 Priests 4. The 4 Living Creatures 5. The Heavenly Praise	1. The sealed Scroll 2. The Lamb took the scroll and opened its seals 3. The rejoice in heaven	The Seals 1. The white horse 2. The red horse 3. The black horse 4. The pale horse 5. Cry of the Martyrs 6. Cosmic destruction	1. 144,000 2. Great countless multitude 3. Victory of the redeemed <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> Chapter 8:1 7th. seal Prelude to the trumpets </div>



Seal No.	Chapter	Features	Meaning
First	6:1-2	White horse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The church of Apostles. ❖ Jesus is the rider who went out conquering and to conquer.
Second	6:3-4	Red horse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The church of Martyrs ❖ Satan is the rider using the sword of the emperors and rulers

Seal No.	Chapter	Features	Meaning
Third	6:5-6	Black horse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The church during the eras of heresies ❖ Satan the rider uses some from among the believers to attack the faith ❖ wheat and barley which represent the food (the true teaching) will be expensive and rare ❖ But oil (Comfort of the Spirit) and the wine(the spiritual joy will not be affected)
Fourth	6:7-8	Pale horse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Great heresy that cause ¼ of the inhabitants of earth to be killed with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth. ❖ The rider is Death, and Hades
Fifth	6:9-11	Souls under the altar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ They asking for the justice ❖ The Lord comforts them by the white robes ❖ They will not be completed without us
Six	6:12-7:17	Great wrath of the Lord (earthquake; and the sun became black and the moon became like blood.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ These are the punishments of God as a reward for the evils of Satan and man. Most probably in the time of anti-Christ ❖ The Lord Jesus (the other angel ascending from the east) seals His children to protect them from the coming wrath while on earth. ❖ The 12 tribes are all the true Christians (some of the tribes were dropped as the tribe of Gad because they worshipped idols-Judges 18:30- Ephraim as it divide the kingdom and worshipped idols) ❖ The great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, is the church in heaven ❖ Those in heaven are coming out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
Seventh	8:1	Silence in heaven for about half an hour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Short period of time for the people to repent before the coming wrath..

Vision 3 –The SEVEN TRUMPETS
Chapters 8:2-11:19

Chapter 8	Chapter 9	Chapter 10	Chapter 11
1.The angel with the golden censor The Trumpets 2. 1 st trumpet 3. 2 nd . trumpet 4. 3 rd . trumpet 5. 4 th . trumpet	1. 5 th . trumpet (1 st . woe) 2. 6 th . trumpet	1. The mighty angel 2.The seven thunders 3. The little book	1. The reed and measuring the temple of God 2. The two witnesses 3. The beast ascending from the bottomless pit 4. The 7 th . trumpet

Remarks : The first 4 trumpets represent warnings from our God to all the humans in every generation and specially in the period before the anti-Christ, but from the 5th. trumpet (the 1st woe) it is for the time of anti-Christ period

Trumpet No.	Chapter	Event	Results	Meaning
First	8:6-7	Hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. (Ex. 9:22-26)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ a third of the trees were burned up, ❖ all green grass was burned up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Disasters to the products of earth (human and animals food). It is a disaster of hunger ; or ❖ Spiritually Trees: proud people grass : people who are not rooted in Christ
Second	8:8-9	a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea,	third of the sea became blood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Great mountain represent a great leader will appear in the world (sea); and cause disasters and wars results in huge inflation . or; ❖ Punishments to the souls which live worldly life (like the sea)
Third	8:10-11	a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood.	A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Shortages in waters ; or ❖ Great Christian personality fall down causing the stumbling of many believers

Trumpet No.	Chapter	Event	Results	Meaning
Fourth	8:12-13	a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars.	a third of sun , moon and stars were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Natural catastrophes ; or ❖ Heresies and sins cover the face of our God so it is hard to see Him or His church (moon) or His Saints(stars)
Fifth	9:1-12	star fallen from heaven to the earth. was given the key to the bottomless pit. he opened it ,	smoke arose out of the pit. So the sun and the air were darkened out . Locusts came upon the earth. as the scorpions of the earth. They hurt only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads, torment them for five months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ This star is either devil himself or one of his strong followers ❖ Locusts represent the worldly philosophies and ideologies which darkens the mind and tormented the humans . They appear in the beginning as humane , crowned with false glory , but all their appearances are false. ❖ This woe will not touch the children of the Lord who have the seal of the Spirit on their foreheads ❖ Abaddon,(Hebrew) = destructive ❖ Apollyon(Greek)= destroyer
Six	9:13-21	The four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released .The army of the horsemen was two hundred million	kill a third of mankind. But the rest of mankind, who were not killed did not repent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ It is a great war near the great river Euphrates near the lost paradise and Babylon where the centre of Satan ❖ The new weapons of war are descried here , the tanks , airplanes , rockets
Between the sixth and seventh trumpets	10:1-11:14	1. mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. 2. the seven thunders uttered their voices, 3. take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel ..	2. Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, 3. ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But my stomach became	1. This is Jesus Christ (7:2 ; 8:3-4) 2. The secrets of the thunders will kept . 3.This book is small because not much events left The news of the destructions are too hard

Trumpet No.	Chapter	Event	Results	Meaning
		<p>4. Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.</p> <p>This is the second woe</p>	<p>bitter.</p> <p>the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. after the three-and-a-half days they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. they ascended to heaven</p> <p>In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. seven thousand people were killed,</p>	<p>and makes the feelings bitter</p> <p>Measuring he temple means assess the believers in the temple according the standard</p> <p>The two witnesses are Elijah and Enoch, they will support the believers during the time of the anti-Christ</p>
Seventh	11:15-19	<p>And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!</p>	<p>The twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God</p> <p>Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple.</p>	<p>This is the time of the next coming after the period of the anti-Christ</p> <p>The place of the arc is the holy of holies which is the our final station and the new heaven where we will be with God forever.</p>