

“The Supremacy of Jesus Christ”

Rev. 1:4-6

Sept. 25, 2016

Author: *Divine* – Holy Spirit/Jesus Christ

Human – John the apostle, the son of Zebedee and the brother of James.

Location: Island of Patmos

Purpose: To give believers, in advance, a view of how Jesus Christ judges the church, how He will judge the world, and how He becomes King, resulting in believers being called to holiness, godliness, and faithfulness.

Overview: Content, Alternating Perspectives & Pacing, prophecy – ignored, abused, correctly taught, 5 reasons for a vast number of interpretations, and confusion, if you get Israel and the covenants right – you’ll get prophecy right, timing issues of Revelation – Preterism (Full & Partial), Historicism, Idealism, Futurism, Eclecticism, Amillennialism, Postmillennialism, Premillennialism, and the 4 Pillars of a credible view of prophecy.

Language: Imagery, Symbols, Metaphors, figures of speech, Connotative (figurative literal) & Denotative (plain literal). Always a literal truth behind the imagery, symbols, metaphors, & figures of speech.

Date: Late date (95 AD) vs. an early date (65 AD). 7 reasons for a late date. Early date forces you to spiritualize and allegorize the book of Revelation. Late date allows you to see Revelation 4-22 as still future and taken literally.

Value of the Book of Revelation

O.T Prophetic books: I J E D H J A O M N H Z H Z M

Various pieces of prophecy: D M B L A I F C E B G H A D I

Book of Revelation: A B C D E F G H I J K L M

*Takes prophetic events and puts them in chronological order so that the sequence can be determined.

Rev 1:4-6

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, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the earth, 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.

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Why does John choose “seven churches”?

- Because “seven” frequently represents perfection, completeness, and fullness.
- God commanded seven feasts in the Law.
 - In Joseph’s time there were seven years of plenty and seven years of famine.
 - At Jericho seven priests carrying seven trumpets marched around the city for seven days. On the seventh day they marched around the city seven times.
 - Naaman was instructed to dip in the river Jordan seven times.
 - There are seven mysteries in Christ’s parables of the kingdom.
 - There were seven sayings of Jesus on the cross.

In the book of Revelation:

- Seven Churches – **1:4**
- Seven Spirits – **1:4**
- Seven Stars – **1:16**
- Seven Seals – **4:5**
- Seven Horns – **5:6**
- Seven Eyes – **6:6**
- Seven Trumpets – **8:2**
- Seven Angels – **8:2**
- Seven Thunders – **10:3**
- Seven Heads – **12:3**
- Seven Crowns – **12:3**
- Seven Plagues – **15:1**
- Seven Vials – **17:1**
- Seven Mountains – **17:9**
- Seven Kings – **17:10**

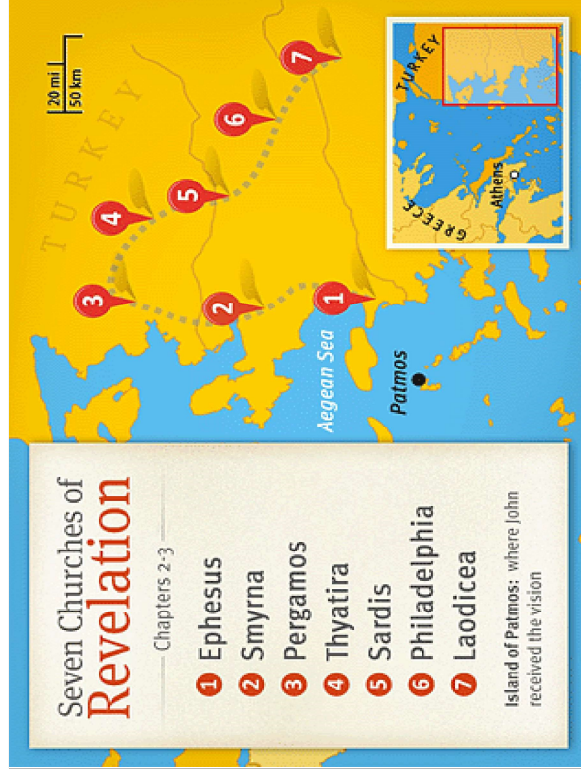
The Apostle Paul also wrote letters to churches in

seven places:

- Rome
- Corinth
- Galatia
- Ephesus
- Philippi
- Colossae
- Thessalonica

7 churches:

1. They were real, literal congregations that existed at the time John wrote revelation. Jesus in addressing each church spoke to them about real saints, real sinners, real situations and real solutions.



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1. They were real, literal congregations that existed at the time John wrote revelation. Jesus in addressing each church spoke to them about real saints, real sinners, real situations and real solutions.
2. These churches are representative of churches that exist in every period of time during the church age.
3. Since “seven” represents completeness, these churches, that John addresses, completely and perfectly describe all churches during the church age. Every church possesses some characteristics found in the 7 churches.

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“Grace & Peace”

1. The word “**grace**” (*charis*) is a Greek greeting, while the word “**peace**” (*shalom*) is a Hebrew greeting to include both their Gentile and Jewish readership.
2. The order: Grace, then peace. Peace is always the product of knowing and appropriating the grace of God in Christ. This order can never be changed. John is seeking to comfort and strengthen these believers in time of persecution.
3. “grace” and “peace” come from the distinct and unique ministries of each member of the Trinity.

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Grace and peace “**from God the Father**” (the source)

This title occurs nowhere else in the Bible except in Revelation. It declares the truth that God is a timeless, eternal Being.

“**who is**”

Ex 3:14

14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”;

“**who was**”

It also means before you were born, He was. Before creation, before time began, before Satan and the angels existed, God was. He has always existed; He is eternal.

“**who is to come**”

Lastly, this speaks of the future coming of God to take control of all things in a world that has been in rebellion to Him. He is coming to put down His enemies and to establish His reign through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**It is never enough to just say that God is, or to just say that He was, or to just say that He is to come. As Lord over eternity, He rules the past, the present, and the future.

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grace and peace “**from the 7 spirits who are before the throne**” (the means)

3 reasons why this is the Holy Spirit –

1. Immediate context: It is sandwiched between the Father and the Son.
2. References in the O.T.

Isa 11:2

- 2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Here we find a sevenfold ministry of the Holy Spirit:

1. The Spirit of the Lord
2. The Spirit of Wisdom
3. The Spirit of Understanding
4. The Spirit of Counseling
5. The Spirit of Might
6. The Spirit of Knowledge
7. The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord

3. References in the N.T.

Rev 3:1

3 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this:

Rev 4:5

5 Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;

Zech 4:1-6

- 1 Then the angel who was speaking with me returned and roused me, as a man who is awakened from his sleep.
- 2 He said to me, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which are on the top of it; 3 also two olive trees by it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on its left side."
- 4 Then I said to the angel who was speaking with me saying, "What are these, my lord?"
- 5 So the angel who was speaking with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."
- 6 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts."

Rev 5:6

6 And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.

* The message to each church closes with the admonition, "**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches**" (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22).

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grace and peace "**from Jesus Christ**" (the agent)

3 titles of Christ:

1. He is the "faithful witness"

- He was a spokesman for God. He was able to give a "**faithful witness**" to the Person and work of the Father.
- Israel was a "witness" and the Church is a "witness", but neither is a "faithful witness".
- Christ was faithful unto death and beyond.

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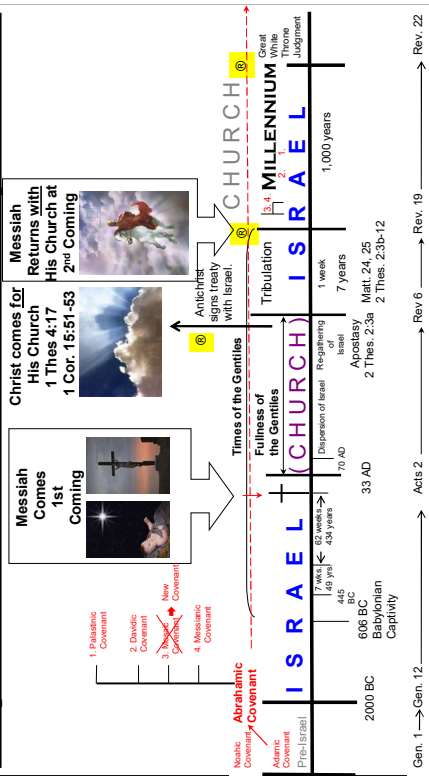
2. He is the "firstborn" of the dead.

By His resurrection:

1. It proved that God the Father accepted the offering of Himself and raised Him from the dead. (Acts 2:23-24, 31-32; 4:25)
2. It proved to the world that He is God's Son (Rom. 1:4),
3. It proved that Jesus will judge the world (Acts 17:31).

- It points to Him as our forerunner in resurrection.
- The first one brought forth from the dead in a glorified body is a promise that more will follow.
 - The Lord Jesus is God’s guarantee of our resurrection and glorification (John 11:24-26).
 - The word translated “**first begotten**” (πρωτοτοκος) comes from the word that gives us the word “**prototype**”. Jesus sets the standard that the rest will eventually follow. When the Bible says that Jesus is the “**first begotten of the dead**”, it does not mean that He is the first One to be raised up. It means that He is first in preeminence. He is the prototype. He is the example of what will happen to all those who believe in Him.

Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events



Ⓜ = Resurrection