



**Come Follow Me 2023**  
**Revelation 1-5**





*Revelation*

**The Book of Revelation: A Testament to the Lamb of God**

By Nicholas J. Frederick, Assistant Professor of Ancient Scripture,  
Brigham Young University

**Messages of the Book of Revelation for Latter-day Saints (digital only)**

By Richard D. Draper, Emeritus Professor of Ancient Scripture, Brigham  
Young University

**BYU New Rendition of Revelation (read for free online)**

By Michael D. Rhodes, Richard D. Draper

## **New Testament Seminary Manual (2016)**

**The Apostle John, the beloved disciple of Jesus Christ, is the author of this book. The Book of Mormon affirms that John was foreordained to write the things recorded in the book of Revelation (see 1 Nephi 14:18–27; Ether 4:16).**

**The book of Revelation was written at a time when Christians were facing false teachings, apathy, and severe persecution (see Revelation 1:9; 2:4, 10, 14–15; 3:16; 6:9). This persecution most likely came at the hands of Roman officials in the final two decades of the first century A.D. John wrote from the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea, about 60 miles (100 kilometers) southwest of Ephesus (see Revelation 1:9).**

## **New Testament Seminary Manual (2016)**

**John wrote a message of hope and encouragement to the Saints in his day (see Revelation 1:4, 11) and those in the latter days. The first three chapters of Revelation were specifically addressed to seven branches of the Church in Asia Minor (see Revelation 1:4, 11; 2–3). Because of intense persecution, the Saints were in great need of the encouraging message found in Revelation. In addition, the prophet Nephi testified that “God hath ordained the apostle” John to write about the end of the world (1 Nephi 14:25) and that his words would come forth to both the Gentiles and the remnant of Israel in the latter days (see 1 Nephi 13:20–24, 38; 14:19–27).**

## **New Testament Seminary Manual (2016)**

**As “the Revelation of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 1:1), this book is sometimes called the Apocalypse, which in Greek means a revelation, uncovering, or unveiling of that which is hidden (see Bible Dictionary, “Revelation of John”). This book is an unveiling of the Lord Jesus Christ and a revelation of His authority, power, and preeminent role in the Father’s plan of salvation. The book also reveals much important information about the events leading up to the Second Coming and the Millennium.**



# Some Things We Know about the **BOOK OF REVELATION** Because of **JOSEPH SMITH**



*Because of the additional light revealed through Joseph Smith, we are better able to understand Revelation's theme of the victory of Christ and His Saints over the devil and the world.*



*After the seventh seal is opened, Christ will return, and the wicked will be destroyed.*

**REVELATION 7:1-8**

**D&C 77:8-11**

The four angels and the 144,000 servants sealed from the tribes of Israel relate to the work of the Restoration and gathering in the last days.



*The earth will be cleansed, and the Millennium will begin* (see D&C 88:89-110).

**REVELATION 20:2**

**1 NEPHI 22:26**

Satan will be bound during the Millennium "because of the righteousness of [Christ's] people."



**RESTORATION**



**RESURRECTION**

**REVELATION 20:11-13**

**D&C 128:6-7**

The books (on earth and in heaven) from which men will be judged by their works include records related to the salvation of the dead.

**REVELATION 17:5**

**1 NEPHI 13:6; 14:10**

The entity identified by John as "Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abominations" is the church of the devil. This church encompasses all forces opposed to Jesus Christ, His gospel, and His Church,

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to understand Revelation's theme of the victory of Christ and His Saints over the devil and the world.



**REVELATION 5-8**

**D&C 77:6-7, 12**

The seven seals represent seven time periods. The final two deal with our day and beyond.

**REVELATION 20:5**

**D&C 76:81-85**

Those who will not be resurrected until after the Millennium are those who will inherit the telestial kingdom.

*"The earth shall pass away so as by fire"*  
(see D&C 43:32-33).

*"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven"*  
(Revelation 21:2). *This could refer to the return of the city of Enoch* (see Moses 7:63).

**RESURRECTION**

**REVELATION 12:4, 7-9**

**D&C 29:36-37;**  
**76:25-29**

John's vision briefly harks back to the pre-mortal war in heaven in order to highlight the ongoing war on earth between God's and Satan's forces.

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of nations" is the church of the devil. This church encompasses all forces opposed to Jesus Christ, His gospel, and His Church, for there are only two churches: the Church of the Lamb of God and the church of the devil.







*Revelation 1*

## **JST, Revelation 1:1–3**

**1 The Revelation of John, *a servant of God*, which *was given* unto him *of Jesus Christ*, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass, *that* he sent and signified by his angel unto his servant John,**

**2 Who *bore* record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.**

**3 Blessed *are they* who read, and they who hear *and understand* the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein, for the time *of the coming of the Lord draweth nigh*.**

## **New Testament Institute Student Manual**

**The book of Revelation contains several “blessed is” statements (see Revelation 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14). These are similar to the Beatitudes found in Matthew 5:3–11. The progression of actions described in Revelation 1:3—read, hear, and keep—shows that besides reading or hearing the book of Revelation (or any other book of scripture), we must also “keep those things which are written therein.” By doing all of these things, we receive the promised blessings. The Joseph Smith Translation of verse 3 adds the word understand to this sequence, showing the importance of understanding the teachings of this book (see the Bible appendix).**

## **New Testament Institute Student Manual**

**Revelation 1:3 includes the phrase “for the time is at hand.” The Joseph Smith Translation of verse 3 clarifies this concept: “For the time of the coming of the Lord draweth nigh” (in the Bible appendix). When John said that he was shown “things which must shortly come to pass” (Revelation 1:1), the Second Coming was one of the things he referred to. As with all things, the Second Coming will occur in accordance with the Lord’s timetable (see 2 Peter 3:8).**

pulling *them* out of the <sup>a</sup>fire; hating even the <sup>b</sup>garment spotted by the flesh.

24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present

*you* <sup>a</sup>faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

# THE REVELATION

## OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE

### CHAPTER 1

*Christ chooses some as kings and priests unto God—Christ will come again—John sees the risen Lord.*

**T**HE <sup>b</sup>Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his <sup>c</sup>servants things which must <sup>a</sup>shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified *it* by his <sup>e</sup>angel unto his servant John:

2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

3 <sup>a</sup>Blessed *is* he that <sup>b</sup>readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the <sup>c</sup>time *is* at hand.

4 **J**OHN to the <sup>a</sup>seven churches which are in Asia: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from him which <sup>b</sup>is, and which was, and

which is to come; and from the seven <sup>c</sup>Spirits which are before his throne;

5 And from Jesus Christ, *who* is the faithful witness, and the <sup>a</sup>first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and <sup>b</sup>washed us from our sins in his own <sup>c</sup>blood,

6 And hath made us <sup>a</sup>kings and <sup>b</sup>priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* <sup>c</sup>glory and <sup>d</sup>dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

7 Behold, he <sup>a</sup>cometh with clouds; and every eye shall <sup>b</sup>see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all <sup>c</sup>kindreds of the earth shall <sup>d</sup>wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

8 I am <sup>a</sup>Alpha and Omega, the <sup>b</sup>beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the <sup>c</sup>Almighty.

9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and

Greeting to the Seven Churches

Vision of the Son of Man

in the kingdom and <sup>a</sup>patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the <sup>a</sup>Lord's <sup>b</sup>day, and heard behind me a great <sup>c</sup>voice, as of a trumpet,

11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the <sup>a</sup>first and the last: and, What thou seest, <sup>b</sup>write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto <sup>c</sup>Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto <sup>d</sup>Laodicea.

12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden <sup>a</sup>candlesticks;

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the <sup>a</sup>Son of man, <sup>b</sup>clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

14 His head and *his* hairs *were* white like wool, as white as snow; and his <sup>a</sup>eyes *were* as a flame of <sup>b</sup>fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his <sup>a</sup>voice as the sound of many waters.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged <sup>a</sup>sword: and his <sup>b</sup>countenance *was* as the <sup>c</sup>sun shineth in his strength.

17 And when I <sup>a</sup>saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

18 *I am* he that <sup>a</sup>liveth, and was <sup>b</sup>dead; and, behold, I am alive for <sup>c</sup>evermore, Amen; and have the <sup>d</sup>keys of <sup>e</sup>hell and of death.

19 <sup>a</sup>Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven <sup>a</sup>stars are the <sup>b</sup>angels of the seven churches: and the seven <sup>c</sup>candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

### CHAPTER 2

*He who overcomes will gain eternal life, avoid the second death, inherit the celestial kingdom, and rule many kingdoms.*

UNTO the <sup>a</sup>angel of the church of Ephesus <sup>b</sup>write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

2 I <sup>a</sup>know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are <sup>b</sup>apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

To the Church in Ephesus

Prologue

23a Amos 4:11; Mal. 4:1.  
b D&C 36:6.  
24a Rev. 14:4 (2–5).

[REVELATION]

1 1a JST Rev. 1:1–8 (Appendix).

c D&C 34:7.  
4a D&C 77:5.

b TG Jesus Christ, Jehovah.

c Rev. 3:1; 4:5.

5a TG Jesus Christ, Resurrection.

Priesthood.

BD Priests.

c TG Celestial Glory.

d GR might, power.

7a 1 Thes. 2:19; 3:13;

Heb. 9:28; 2 Pet. 3:12; Rev. 22:12.

9a TG Patience.

10a TG Sabbath.

b TG Jesus Christ, Types of, in Memory.

c D&C 29:4.

11a TG Jesus Christ, Firstborn.

b TG Scriptures, Writing of.

c Rev. 2:18.

d Col. 2:1; 4:15 (12–16).

15a Ezek. 1:24; 43:2; D&C 110:3; 133:22.

16a Rev. 2:12 (12–17).

b D&C 110:3.

c JS—H 1:16 (16–17).

17a TG God, Privilege of Seeing; Jesus Christ, Appearances, Postmortal.

18a TG Jesus Christ, Resurrection;

20a Rev. 3:1.

b JST Rev. 1:20 . . .

servants . . .

Rev. 2:18.

c Ex. 37:17; Zech. 4:2 (1–14); Rev. 2:5.

2 1a JST Rev. 2:1 . . . servant

. . . (Note: JST uses “servant” in place of “angel” in vv. 1, 8, 12, and 18.)

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2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

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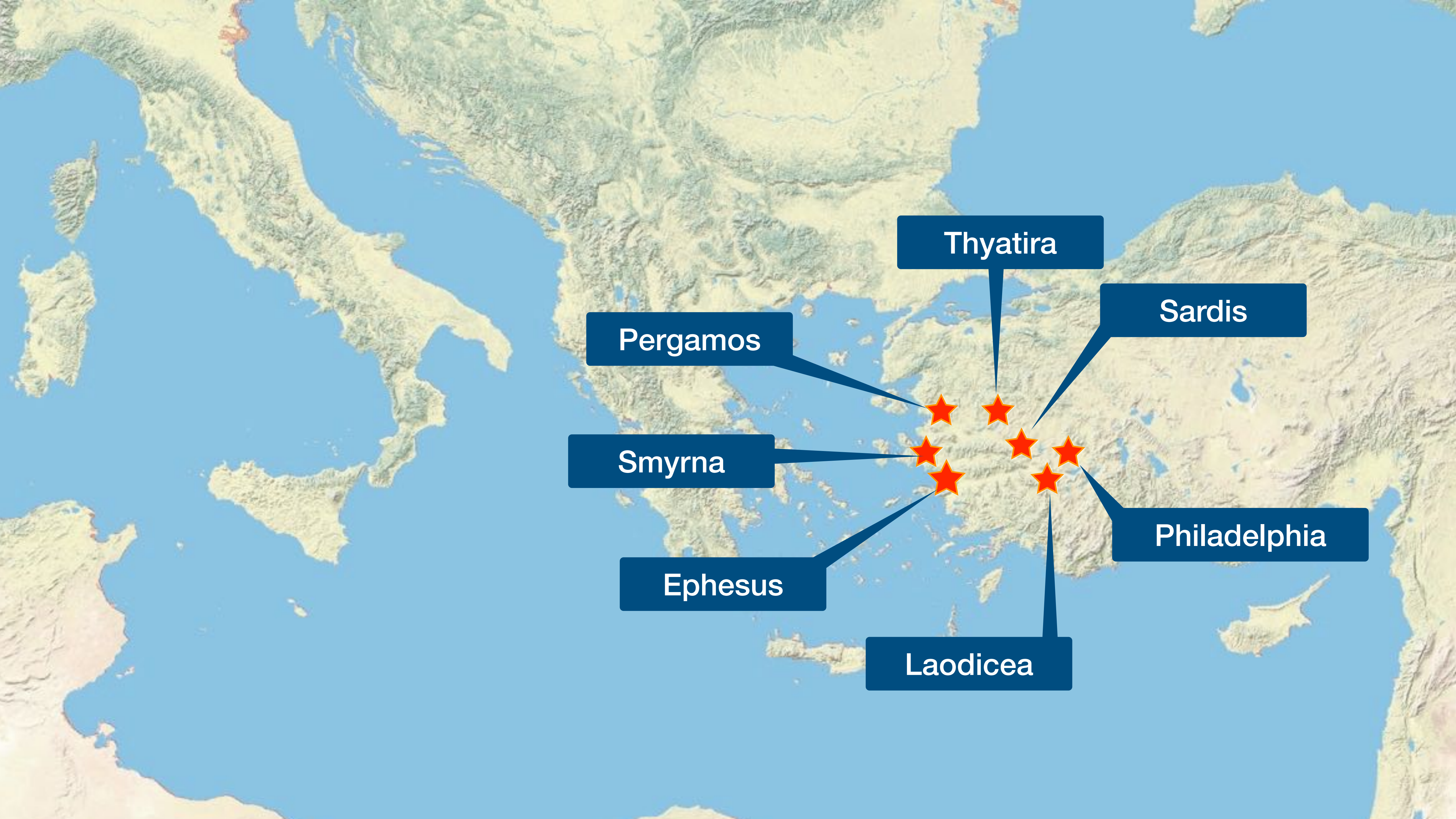
5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the <sup>a</sup>first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and <sup>b</sup>washed us from our sins in his own <sup>c</sup>blood,

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9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and



Thyatira

Sardis

Pergamos

Smyrna

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

## **New Testament Institute Student Manual**

**Symbols are powerful teaching tools because they can communicate to people in different generations and cultures. They can communicate multiple messages. God often uses symbols to teach eternal truths, including truths about His Beloved Son. To understand symbols, the following guidelines may be helpful: (1) study the scriptures to determine if other passages provide an interpretation or insight, (2) examine the context in which the symbols are used, (3) consider the nature and characteristics of the symbols, (4) use the study aids in the scriptures, and (5) most important, seek personal revelation from God. The following chart summarizes prominent symbols found in Revelation 1 and some possible interpretations:**



## Symbolism in Revelation 1

Verse	Symbol	Possible Interpretation	References
4	Seven spirits	Servants or leaders over the seven churches in Asia	Joseph Smith Translation, Revelation 1:4 (in the Bible appendix)
6	Kings and priests	Those who receive exaltation in the celestial kingdom	D&C 76:50, 56–57
8	Alpha and Omega	First and last letters of the Greek alphabet, representing Christ's eternal role in God's work	Revelation 1:4; Bible Dictionary, "Alpha"
12	Seven candlesticks	The seven churches that are to hold up the light of the gospel (see Revelation 2–3)	Revelation 1:20; 3 Nephi 18:24
16–17	Right hand	Covenant hand and symbol of power; Christ holds the seven churches in His right hand	Psalms 110:1; Mark 16:19; Acts 7:55
16	Seven stars	Another image representing the servants or leaders over the seven churches	Revelation 1:20; Joseph Smith Translation, Revelation 1:20 (in footnote <i>b</i> )
16	Sharp, two-edged sword	The word of God, pronouncing judgment on the wicked and freeing the innocent	Hebrews 4:12; D&C 6:2
18	Keys of hell and of death	Keys that unlock the doors of (overcome) spiritual and physical death	2 Nephi 9:10–13

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5 And from Jesus Christ, *who is the faithful witness, and the <sup>a</sup>first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and <sup>b</sup>washed us from our sins in his own <sup>c</sup>blood,*

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9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and

## President Joseph F. Smith

**“The object of our earthly existence is that we may have a fulness of joy, and that we may become the sons and daughters of God, in the fullest sense of the word, being heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ [see Romans 8:14–17 ], to be kings and priests unto God, to inherit glory, dominion, exaltation, thrones and every power and attribute developed and possessed by our Heavenly Father. This is the object of our being on this earth. In order to attain unto this exalted position, it is necessary that we go through this mortal experience, or probation, by which we may prove ourselves worthy, through the aid of our elder brother Jesus.”**

*(Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph F. Smith [1998], 150)*

## President Joseph Fielding Smith

**“[The faithful] have been promised that they shall become sons and daughters of God, joint heirs with Jesus Christ, and if they have been true to the commandments and covenants the Lord has given us, to be kings and priests and queens and priestesses, possessing the fulness of the blessings of the celestial kingdom.”**

*(Joseph Fielding Smith, Answers to Gospel Questions, comp. Joseph Fielding Smith Jr. [1963], 4:61)*

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**The message of Joseph Smith Translation, Revelation 1:5–7 conveys comfort and hope. These verses describe the Savior’s Second Coming: “Therefore, I, John, the faithful witness bear record of the things which were delivered me of the angel, and from Jesus Christ, the first begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. For behold, he cometh in the clouds with ten thousands of his saints in the kingdom, clothed with the glory of his Father. And every eye shall see him; and they who pierced him, and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen” (in the Bible appendix). These teachings help us understand that the many faithful Saints who died at the hands of persecutors did not die in vain and will be rewarded for their righteousness (see 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17; D&C 88:96–98; 101:15).**

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23 *a* Amos 4:11; Mal. 4:1.

*b* D&C 36:6.

24 *a* Rev. 14:4 (2–5).

[REVELATION]

1 1 *a* 1ST Rev. 1:1 8

*c* D&C 34:7.

4 *a* D&C 77:5.

*b* TG Jesus Christ, Jehovah.

*c* Rev. 3:1; 4:5.

5 *a* TG Jesus Christ

Priesthood.

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7 *a* 1 Thes. 2:19; 3:13;

Heb. 9:28; 2 Pet. 3:12.

## **New Testament Institute Student Manual**

**The title “Almighty” is the English translation of the Greek word *Pantokrator*, which suggests one who rules and regulates all things. One theme of the book of Revelation is that even though God’s people in all ages face persecution and trouble, God does indeed govern all things and will one day put an end to all evil. Several images from the first chapters of Revelation reinforce the Savior’s role as “the Almighty” (Revelation 1:8): His word is represented as “a sharp twoedged sword” ( Revelation 1:16), He holds “the keys of hell and of death” ( Revelation 1:18), and He knows people’s works (see Revelation 2:2, 9, 13, 19).**





## Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

**“Nothing is so pervasive in our lives, nothing so encompassing and enfolding and upholding, as the Savior of this world and the Redeemer of all men. Alpha, the first letter of the Greek alphabet, suggests commencement and inception. ‘... I was in the beginning with the Father, ...’ he reveals (D&C 93:21), and, as the Firstborn, he stood at the right hand of the Father in the councils of heaven and in the work of creation. It was by our unity with him (as he was one with the Father) that we survived a great conflict between good and evil before this world was created. By the ‘blood of the Lamb, and by the word of [our] testimony,’ we overcame the opposition of Satan, ‘that old serpent, called the Devil’ (see Rev. 12:7–11). ...**

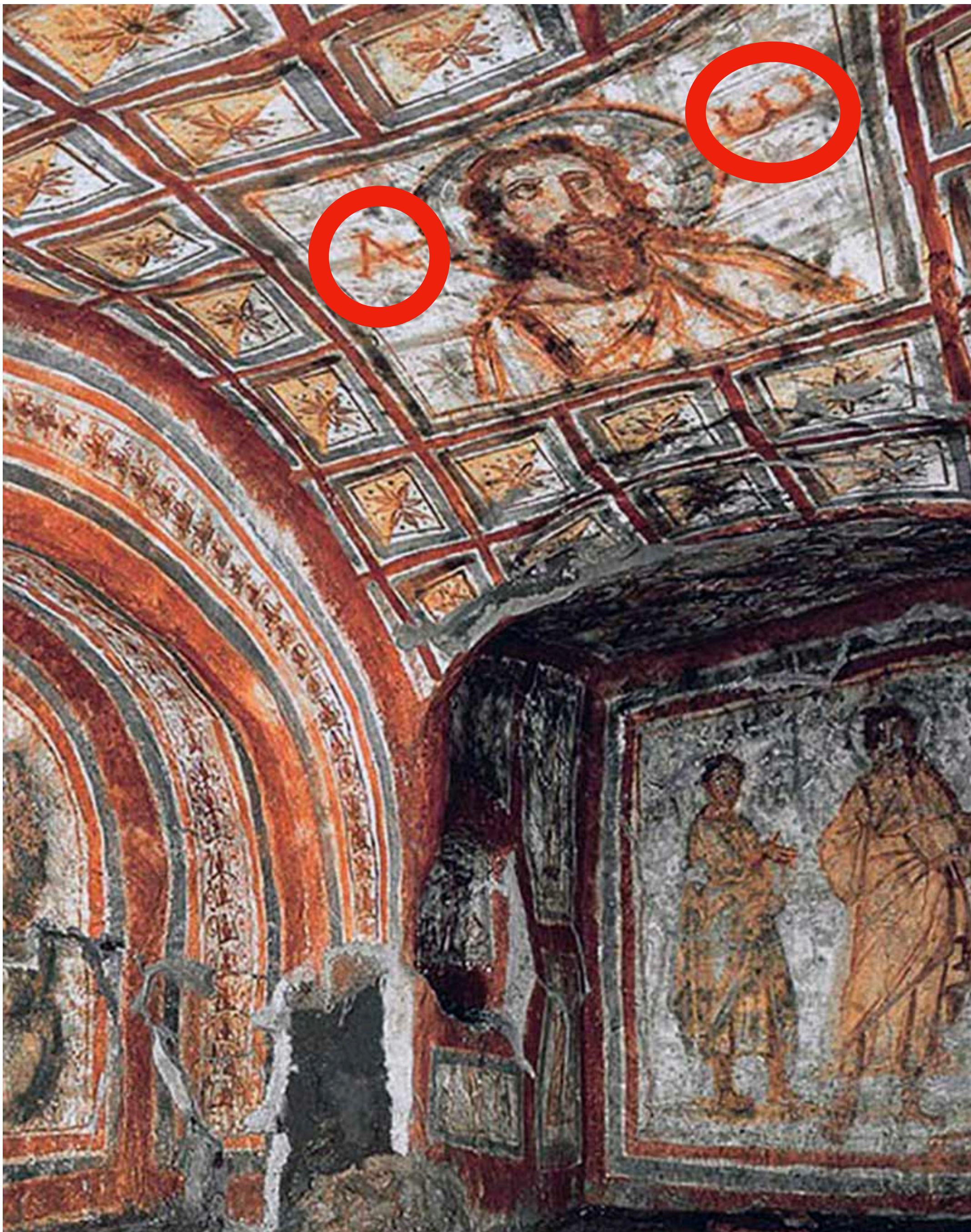


## Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

**“As he was in the beginning, so will he be when this world ends. As Omega, a name taken from the last letter of the Greek alphabet, Christ is the terminus, the end cause as well as the end result of mortal experience. ...**

**“These letters from the Greek suggest the universal role of Jesus from the beginning of the world to its end. But he ought to be Alpha and Omega in the particular as well—our personal beginning and our individual end.”**

*(“Whom Say Ye That I Am?” Ensign, Sept. 1974, 6–7).*



## the Catacomb of Commodilla, Rome

This was a painting created in the 4th century A.D. You can see a portrait of Christ and the Greek letters alpha and omega on either side of Him.

our sins in his own <sup>c</sup>blood,  
6 And hath made us <sup>a</sup>kings and <sup>b</sup>priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* <sup>c</sup>glory and <sup>d</sup>dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

7 Behold, he <sup>a</sup>cometh with clouds; and every eye shall <sup>b</sup>see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all <sup>c</sup>kindreds of the earth shall <sup>d</sup>wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

8 I am <sup>a</sup>Alpha and Omega, the <sup>b</sup>beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come. the <sup>c</sup>Almighty.

9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and

in the kingdom and <sup>a</sup>patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the <sup>a</sup>Lord's <sup>b</sup>day, and heard behind me a great <sup>c</sup>voice, as of a trumpet,

11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the <sup>a</sup>first and the last: and, What thou seest, <sup>b</sup>write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto <sup>c</sup>Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto <sup>d</sup>Laodicea.

12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden <sup>a</sup>candlesticks;

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the <sup>a</sup>Son

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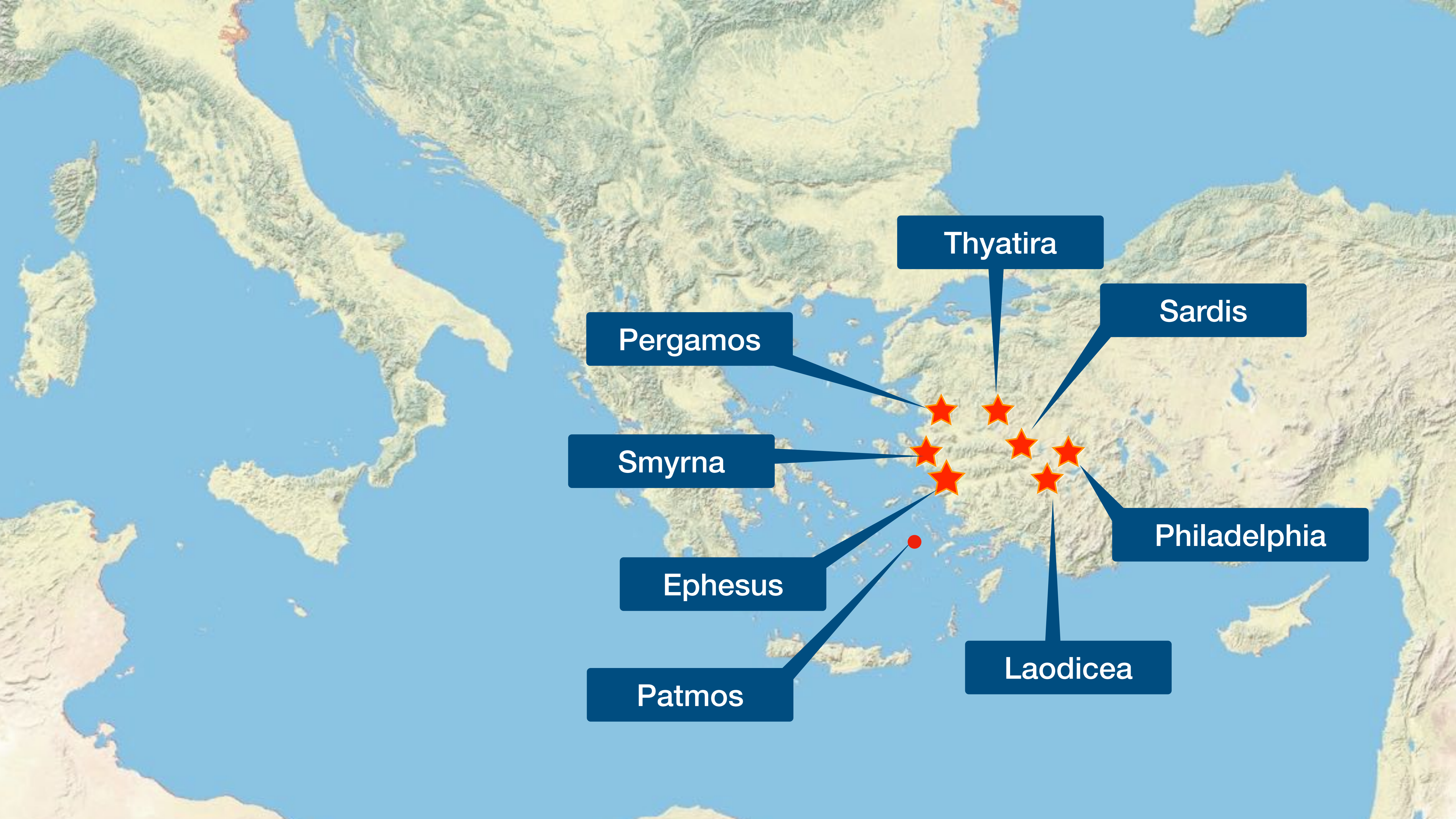
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&C 34:7.  
&C 77:5.  
G Jesus Christ, hovah.  
ev. 3:1; 4:5.  
G Jesus Christ, resurrection.  
G Jesus Christ, redeemer

Priesthood.  
BD Priests.  
<sup>c</sup> TG Celestial Glory.  
<sup>d</sup> GR might, power.  
7a 1 Thes. 2:19; 3:13;  
Heb. 9:28; 2 Pet. 3:12;  
Rev. 22:12.  
<sup>b</sup> TG Jesus Christ, Second Coming



Thyatira

Sardis

Pergamos

Smyrna

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

Patmos

## **New Testament Seminary Manual (2016)**

**John received this revelation during a difficult time for members of the Church. During this time, there was intense persecution toward the Saints and apostasy and divisions among Church members. Additionally, all the Apostles except John had been killed. The book of Revelation may have been written during the time of the Roman emperor Domitian, who had reinstated emperor worship throughout the Roman Empire and exiled or executed those who did not worship gods approved by the Roman government. Many people believe John was exiled to the island of Patmos for that reason.**



Matthew 5:14-16



Matthew 5:13



Ephesians 6

in the kingdom and <sup>a</sup>patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the <sup>a</sup>Lord's <sup>b</sup>day, and heard behind me a great <sup>c</sup>voice, as of a trumpet;

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14 His head and *his* hairs *were* white like wool, as white as snow; and his <sup>a</sup>eyes *were* as a flame of <sup>b</sup>fire;

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UNTO the <sup>a</sup>angel of the church of Ephesus <sup>b</sup>write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candle-





## NT Institute Student Manual

The imagery of the “seven golden candlesticks” (Revelation 1:12, 20) recalls the seven-branched menorah found in the Jerusalem temple. These candlesticks represented the seven churches.

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11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the <sup>a</sup>first and the last: and, What thou seest, <sup>b</sup>write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto <sup>c</sup>Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto <sup>d</sup>Laodicea

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### 3 Nephi 18:24

Therefore, hold up your light that it may shine unto the world. Behold I am the light which ye shall hold up—that which ye have seen me do.

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11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the <sup>a</sup>first and the last: and, What thou seest, <sup>b</sup>write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto <sup>c</sup>Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto <sup>d</sup>Laodicea

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15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his <sup>a</sup>voice as the sound of many waters.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged <sup>a</sup>sword: and his <sup>b</sup>countenance *was* as the <sup>c</sup>sun shineth in his strength.

9a TG Patience.

10a TG Sabbath.

15a Ezek. 1:24; 43:2;

D&C 110:3; 133:2

## New Testament Institute Student Manual

In John's vision, he saw Jesus Christ "in the midst of the seven candlesticks," showing symbolically that He was with or among the seven ancient churches (Revelation 1:13). During His mortal ministry, Jesus promised, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). The assurance that Jesus Christ is with His Saints and watches over them is also found in modern scripture, such as in Doctrine and Covenants 38:7: "Verily, verily, I say unto you that mine eyes are upon you. I am in your midst and ye cannot see me." Such assurances have also been reiterated by modern prophets and apostles. **President Henry B. Eyring** of the First Presidency testified that the Lord "watches with us. He who sees all things, whose love is endless, and who never sleeps—He watches with us" ("Watch with Me," Apr 2001 GC, Ensign, May 2001, 39).

Jesus ascended into heaven, "and sat on the right hand of God." (Mark 16:19). The "right hand" is seen as a place of honor and status throughout the biblical text.



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9a TG Patience.

10a TG Sabbath.

b TG Jesus Christ, Types of, in Memory.

c D&C 29:4.

11a TG Jesus Christ

15a Ezek. 1:24; 43:2;

D&C 110:3; 133:2

16a Rev. 2:12 (12–17).

b D&C 110:3.

c JS—H 1:16 (16–17)

17a TG God, Privileg

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## NT Institute Student Manual

**Thus, the seven stars represent the presiding officers who were then leading the seven churches.**



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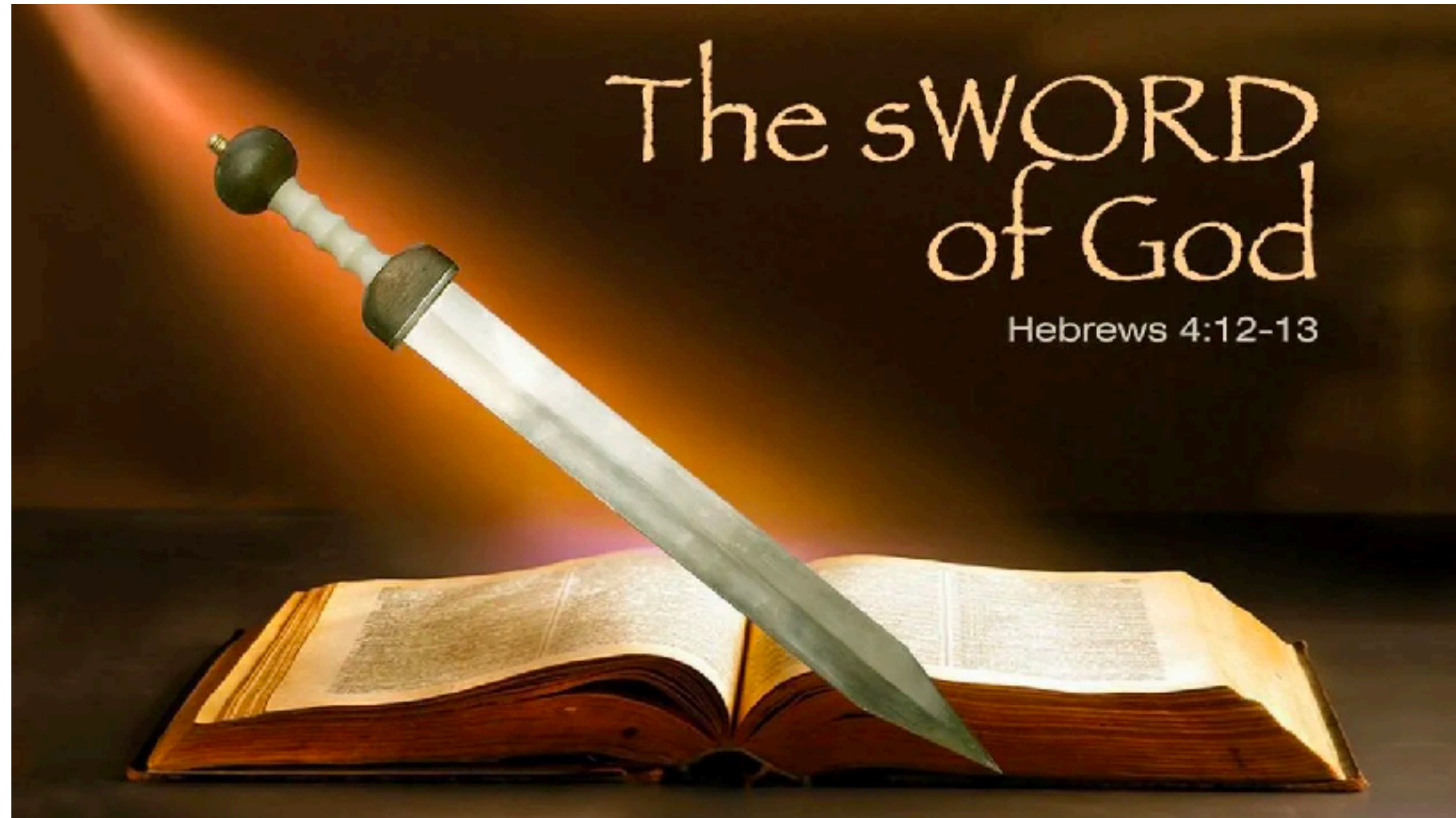
15a Ezek. 1:24; 43:2;  
D&C 110:3; 133:22.

16a Rev. 2:12 (12–17).

b D&C 110:3.

c JS—H 1:16 (16–17).

17a TG God, Privilege of



## Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

sticks;

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the <sup>a</sup>Son of man, <sup>b</sup>clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

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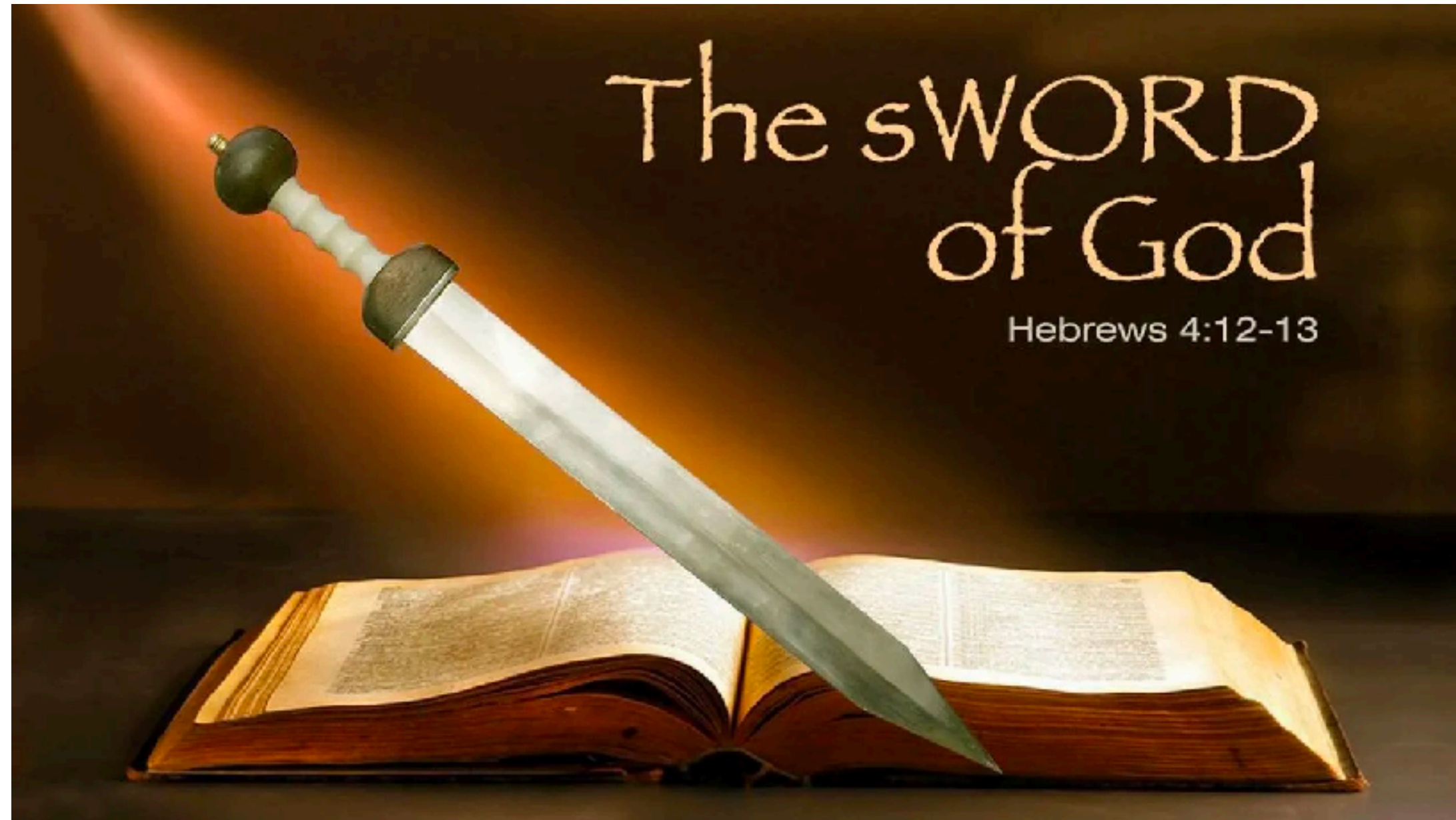
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## Helaman 3:29

Yea, we see that... the word of God... is quick and powerful, which shall divide asunder all the cunning and the snares and the wiles of the devil...

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## CHAPTER 2

*He who overcomes will gain eternal*

## 2 Nephi 9:12-13

... wherefore, death and hell must deliver up their dead, and hell must deliver up its captive spirits, and the grave must deliver up its captive bodies, and the bodies and the spirits of men will be restored one to the other; and it is by the power of the resurrection of the Holy One of Israel.

O how great the plan of our God! For on the other hand, the paradise of God must deliver up the spirits of the righteous, and the grave deliver up the body of the righteous; and the spirit and the body is restored to itself again, and all men become incorruptible, and immortal, and they are living souls, having a perfect knowledge...

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## Bible Dictionary, "Revelation of John"

**"The message of Revelation is the same as that of all scripture: there will be an eventual triumph on this earth of God over the devil; a permanent victory of good over evil, of the Saints over their persecutors, of the kingdom of God over the kingdoms of men and of Satan."**

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ances, Postmortal.  
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UNTO the <sup>a</sup>angel of the church of Ephesus <sup>b</sup>write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

2 I <sup>a</sup>know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are <sup>b</sup>apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

20a Rev. 3:1.  
b JST Rev. 1:20 . . . servants . . . Rev. 2:18.  
c Ex. 37:17; Zech. 4:2 (1-14); Rev. 2:5.  
2 1a JST Rev. 2:1 . . . servant . . . (Note: JST uses "servant" in place of "angel" in vv. 1, 8, 12.

To the Church in Ephesus

To the Church in Smyrna

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first <sup>a</sup>love.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy <sup>a</sup>candlestick out of his place, except thou <sup>b</sup>repent.

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the <sup>a</sup>Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the <sup>a</sup>Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that <sup>b</sup>overcometh will I give to eat of the <sup>c</sup>tree of life, which is in the midst of the <sup>a</sup>paradise of God.

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 <sup>a</sup>blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.

10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt <sup>a</sup>suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be <sup>b</sup>tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto <sup>c</sup>death, and I will <sup>a</sup>give thee a <sup>c</sup>crown of life.

11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second <sup>a</sup>death.

4a D&C 4:2 (1-7).  
5a Rev. 1:20.  
TG Apostasy of the Early Christian Church.  
b TG Repent.  
6a TG Secret Combinations.

12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp <sup>a</sup>sword with two edges;

13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan's seat *is*: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful <sup>a</sup>martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of <sup>a</sup>Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit <sup>b</sup>fornication.

15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that <sup>a</sup>overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden <sup>b</sup>manna, and will give him a <sup>c</sup>white <sup>a</sup>stone, and in the stone a new <sup>e</sup>name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it*.

18 And unto the <sup>a</sup>angel of the church in <sup>b</sup>Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his <sup>c</sup>eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass;

19 I know thy works, and charity, and <sup>a</sup>service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last *to be* more than the first.

b TG Test.  
c D&C 6:13; 31:13.  
TG Martyrdom.  
d TG God, Gifts of.  
e D&C 20:14.  
TG Reward.

To the Church in Pergamum

To the Church in Thyatira

20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

22 Behold, I will cast her <sup>a</sup>into a bed, and them that commit <sup>b</sup>adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which <sup>a</sup>searcheth the <sup>b</sup>reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

25 But that which ye have *already* <sup>a</sup>hold fast till I come.

26 <sup>a</sup>And he that <sup>b</sup>overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give <sup>c</sup>power over the nations:

27 And he shall rule them with a <sup>a</sup>rod of iron; as the <sup>b</sup>vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

28 And I will give him the morning <sup>a</sup>star.

29 He that hath an ear, let him

22a JST Rev. 2:22 . . . into hell, and them . . .  
b TG Adulterer.  
23a TG God, Omniscience of.  
b GR (from Hebrew) desires and thoughts.  
25a 2 Ne. 31:20.  
26a JST Rev. 2:26-27 (Appendix).  
Rev. 22:16 (6-16).  
3 1a JST Rev. 3:1 And unto the servant of the church in Sardis, write These things saith he who hath the seven stars, which are the seven servants of God; I know thy . . .

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## Revelation 2–3. The Lord's Instructions to the Seven Churches

Church	Description of Jesus Christ	Praise and Commendation	Correction and Counsel	Promise to Those Who Overcome
<p>Ephesus (Revelation 2:1–7)</p> <p>Largest city in Asia Minor. Famous for its magnificent temple of Artemis—one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.</p>	<p>"He that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks."</p>	<p>"I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil . . . and hast not fainted. . . . Thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans."</p>	<p>"Thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will . . . remove thy candlestick."</p>	<p>"I [will] give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."</p>
<p>Smyrna (Revelation 2:8–11)</p> <p>Early center of emperor worship. Major shipping port and trade center. Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, was martyred there.</p>	<p>"The first and the last, which was dead, and is alive."</p>	<p>"I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art [spiritually] rich)."</p>	<p>"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: . . . be thou faithful unto death."</p>	<p>"I will give thee a crown of life. . . . He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death."</p>
<p>Pergamos (Revelation 2:12–17)</p> <p>Provincial center for emperor worship. Three</p>	<p>"He which hath the sharp sword with two edges."</p>	<p>"I know thy works, . . . and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even</p>	<p>"Thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, . . . to eat things sacrificed unto</p>	<p>"I [will] give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone</p>

<p>Smyrna, was martyred there.</p>				
<p>Pergamos (Revelation 2:12–17) Provincial center for emperor worship. Three temples dedicated to emperor worship. Library housed over 200,000 scrolls.</p>	<p>“He which hath the sharp sword with two edges.”</p>	<p>“I know thy works, . . . and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr.”</p>	<p>“Thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, . . . to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. . . . So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. . . . Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly.”</p>	<p>“I [will] give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written.”</p>
<p>Thyatira (Revelation 2:18–29) Famous for wool dyeing. A military city. Principal deity was Tyrimnas (sun god), who was often portrayed with military prowess.</p>	<p>“The Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass.”</p>	<p>“I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last [works] to be more than the first.”</p>	<p>“Thou sufferest that woman Jezebel . . . to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. . . . Them that commit adultery with her [I will cast] into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.”</p>	<p>“I [will] give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron. . . . And I will give him the morning star.”</p>



<p>Sardis (Revelation 3:1–6)</p> <p>Crossroads of five major highways. Reputation for great wealth and low moral standards.</p>	<p>“He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars.”</p>	<p>“Thou hast a few [people who] have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.”</p>	<p>“Thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die; for I have not found thy works perfect before God. . . . Hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief.”</p>	<p>“Shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”</p>
<p>Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7–13)</p> <p>Called the “gateway to the East.” Famous for wine production. Center for worship of Bacchus, god of wine. Relatively unimportant city in its day.</p>	<p>“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.”</p>	<p>“Thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.”</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>“I [will] make [him] a pillar in the temple of my God, and . . . I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, . . . and I will write upon him my new name.”</p>
<p>Laodicea (Revelation 3:14–21)</p> <p>Wealthy commercial and banking center. Hot springs at Hierapolis sent warm water flowing to Laodicea. Medical school produced an eye salve.</p>	<p>“The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God.”</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>“Thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot. . . . Buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; . . . anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.”</p>	<p>“I [will] grant [him] to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”</p>

- Largest city in Asia, fourth largest in the Empire.
- Temple of Diana (one of the world's seven wonders).
- Port filling with silt, city declining
- After the fall of Jerusalem, Ephesus was the center of the Church.

# Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7



## Descriptive Statement About Christ

*(Possible Relation to City)*

"He that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks." (2:1; Christ is the center of these churches just as Ephesus is the center of Asian and Christianity).

## Praise and Commendation

I know your works (actions), labor (efforts), and patience (endurance), and that you do not tolerate evil teachers (v. 2). You have labored without fainting and hate Nicolaitans (vv. 3, 6).

## Correction and Condemnation

You have left your first love. Remember from where you have fallen and repent, or I will remove your candlestick from its place. (Christ is He who is in the midst of the candlesticks; vv. 4-5).

## Challenge and Promise

"To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life" (v. 7). It is interesting to note that in 1 Nephi 11:22 the tree of life is a representation of the love of God. The Ephesians were wavering in their love.

## **New Testament Institute Student Manual**

**The Nicolaitans were “an Antinomian sect in Asia Minor that claimed license for sensual sin” (Bible Dictionary, “Nicolaitans”). Antinomians were permissive Christians who claimed that the grace of God freed them from having to obey commandments. The Lord commended some Saints for rejecting the deeds of the Nicolaitans, while chastising other Saints for holding to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans (see Revelation 2:6, 15).**

# Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11

- Original city destroyed by earthquake in 627 B.C.
- Rebuilt 400 years later
- One of the earliest centers of emperor worship.
- Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, martyred.



## Descriptive Statement About Christ

*(Possible Relation to City)*

“The first and the last, which was dead, and is alive” (v. 8; Smyrna had been a dead city but was alive again).

## Praise and Commendation

I know your works, tribulation, and poverty. Though you are temporally poor, you are spiritually rich (v. 9).

## Correction and Condemnation

None

## Challenge and Promise

“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer... be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life... He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death” (vv. 10-11).

## **New Testament Institute Student Manual**

**The Lord told the Saints in Smyrna that some of them would be imprisoned and would have temptations and trials, but they should not fear. If they were “faithful unto death,” He would give them “a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).**

## **New Testament Institute Student Manual**

**A fulfillment of the Lord's words can be seen in the life of Polycarp, a bishop of the church in Smyrna, who lived from A.D. 69 to 155. Polycarp was a disciple of John and one of the last surviving Church leaders who had personally heard the teachings of an Apostle and eyewitness of Jesus Christ. Because he would not renounce his faith, he was burned at the stake as a martyr. When he was told that he could avoid martyrdom by worshipping the Roman emperor and cursing Christ, Polycarp replied: "For eighty and six years have I been [Christ's] servant, and he has done me no wrong, and how can I blaspheme my King that saved me?" (*The Apostolic Fathers, vol. 2, trans. Kirsopp Lake, Loeb Classical Library [Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1913], 325*). Later Christians remembered Polycarp for the courage and faith he showed in the face of great adversity.**

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17 And when I <sup>a</sup>saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

18 I *am* he that <sup>a</sup>liveth, and was <sup>b</sup>dead; and, behold, I am alive for <sup>c</sup>evermore, Amen; and have the <sup>a</sup>keys of <sup>e</sup>hell and of death.

19 <sup>a</sup>Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven <sup>a</sup>stars are the <sup>b</sup>angels of the seven churches: and the seven <sup>c</sup>candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

CHAPTER 2

*He who overcomes will gain eternal life, avoid the second death, inherit the celestial kingdom, and rule many kingdoms.*

UNTO the <sup>a</sup>angel of the church of Ephesus <sup>b</sup>write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

2 I <sup>a</sup>know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are <sup>b</sup>apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

Ezek. 1:24; 43:2;  
D&C 110:3; 133:22.  
Rev. 2:12 (12-17).  
D&C 110:3.  
JS—H 1:16 (16-17).  
TG God, Privilege of Seeing;  
Jesus Christ, Appearances, Postmortal.  
TG Jesus Christ, Resurrection;

20a Rev. 3:1.  
b JST Rev. 1:20 . . . servants . . . Rev. 2:18.  
c Ex. 37:17; Zech. 4:2 (1-14); Rev. 2:5.  
2 1a JST Rev. 2:1 . . . servant . . . (Note: JST uses "servant" in place of "angel" in vv. 1, 8, 12.

To the Church in Ephesus

To the Church in Smyrna

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first <sup>a</sup>love.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy <sup>a</sup>candlestick out of his place, except thou <sup>b</sup>repent.

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the <sup>a</sup>Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the <sup>a</sup>Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that <sup>b</sup>overcometh will I give to eat of the <sup>c</sup>tree of life, which is in the midst of the <sup>a</sup>paradise of God.

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 <sup>a</sup>blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.

10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt <sup>a</sup>suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be <sup>b</sup>tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto <sup>c</sup>death, and I will <sup>a</sup>give thee a <sup>c</sup>crown of life.

11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second <sup>a</sup>death.

4a D&C 4:2 (1-7).  
5a Rev. 1:20.  
TG Apostasy of the Early Christian Church.  
b TG Repent.  
6a TG Secret Combinations.

b TG Test.  
c D&C 6:13; 31:13.  
TG Martyrdom.  
d TG God, Gifts of.  
e D&C 20:14.  
TG Reward.

12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp <sup>a</sup>sword with two edges;

13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan's seat *is*: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful <sup>a</sup>martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of <sup>a</sup>Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit <sup>b</sup>fornication.

15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that <sup>a</sup>overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden <sup>b</sup>manna, and will give him a <sup>c</sup>white <sup>a</sup>stone, and in the stone a new <sup>e</sup>name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it*.

18 And unto the <sup>a</sup>angel of the church in <sup>b</sup>Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his <sup>c</sup>eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass;

19 I know thy works, and charity, and <sup>a</sup>service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last *to be* more than the first.

b TG Bread of Life; Jesus Christ, Types of, in Anticipation.  
c D&C 130:11 (10-11).  
d TG Urim and Thummim.  
e Isa. 62:2; 65:15.

To the Church in Pergamum

To the Church in Thyatira

20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

22 Behold, I will cast her <sup>a</sup>into a bed, and them that commit <sup>b</sup>adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which <sup>a</sup>searcheth the <sup>b</sup>reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

25 But that which ye have *already* <sup>a</sup>hold fast till I come.

26 <sup>a</sup>And he that <sup>b</sup>overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give <sup>c</sup>power over the nations:

27 And he shall rule them with a <sup>a</sup>rod of iron; as the <sup>b</sup>vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

28 And I will give him the morning <sup>a</sup>star.

29 He that hath an ear, let him

22a JST Rev. 2:22 . . . into hell, and them . . .  
b TG Adulterer.  
23a TG God, Omniscience of.  
b GR (from Hebrew) desires and thoughts.  
25a 2 Ne. 31:20.  
26a JST Rev. 2:26-27 (Appendix).

Rev. 22:16 (6-16).  
3 1a JST Rev. 3:1 And unto the servant of the church in Sardis, write These things saith he who hath the seven stars, which are the seven servants of God; I know thy . . .

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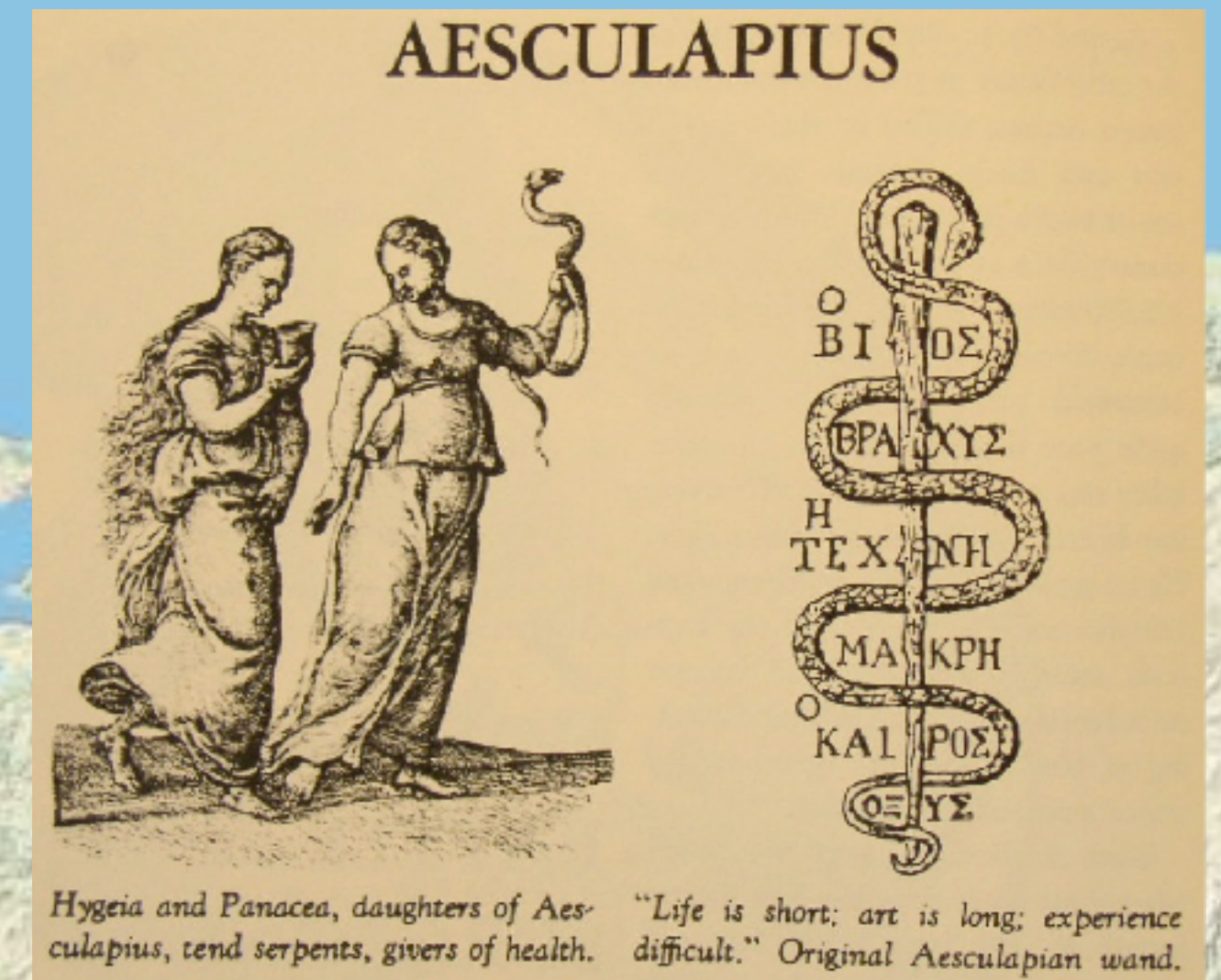
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- Provincial center for emperor worship.
- Three temples to Caesar.
- Center for Worship of Aesculapius (serpent god)
- Capitol of Asia-Roman proconsul in city
- Major library (200,000 scrolls)

# Pergamos

Revelation 2:12-17



## Descriptive Statement About Christ

*(Possible Relation to City)*

“He that hath the sharp sword with two edges” (v. 12; emperor worship was enforced by the swords of the Roman legions).

## Praise and Commendation

I know your works, you have been faithful in even the most negative environment (where Antipas was martyred; v. 13).

## Correction and Condemnation

You tolerate those who hold the doctrine of Balaam by the eating things sacrificed to idols and committing fornication; you also tolerate the Nicolaitans. Repent quickly or I will fight you with the sword of my mouth (vv. 14-16).

## Challenge and Promise

“To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written” (v. 17; if you stop eating meat sacrificed to idols, I will give you bread (manna) rather than smite you with the sword of my mouth).



## **New Testament Institute Student Manual**

**John recorded that “Satan’s seat” was in Pergamos and commended the Saints in Pergamos for not denying the faith even though much wickedness surrounded them (see Revelation 2:12–13). Elder Bruce R. McConkie defined “Satan’s seat”.. [as] the center of imperial worship [meaning the worship of the emperor of Rome which was centralized in Pergamos]**

## **New Testament Institute Student Manual - v. 13 - “Thou Holdest Fast My Name”**

**Christians who were sentenced by Roman officials to prison or death could sometimes save themselves by cursing Christ and worshipping the emperor instead. John recorded the Lord’s praise for the Saints in Pergamos for “holding fast” His name, even under threat of death (Revelation 2:13; see also Revelation 2:25; 3:3, 11). A recurring phrase in Revelation 2–3 is the admonition to “hold fast” to the truth (see Revelation 2:13, 25; 3:3, 11).**

## **New Testament Institute Student Manual - v. 14 - “Balaam”**

**Balaam was an Old Testament prophet, whose actions are recorded in Numbers 22–24; 31:16. He appeared at first to be true to the Lord and His people, repeatedly refusing Balak’s request to curse Israel. Nevertheless, Balaam eventually succumbed to Balak’s offer of riches and taught Balak how to cause the army of Israel to weaken themselves through sexual sin and idolatry (see Numbers 25:1–5; 31:13–16). The plan included having Moabite women seduce the men of Israel and persuade them to offer sacrifices to heathen gods, thus destroying them spiritually.**

## **New Testament Institute Student Manual - v. 17 - “Hidden Manna” and “a White Stone”**

**The Lord provided life-sustaining manna for the children of Israel to eat during their 40-year sojourn in the wilderness (see Exodus 16:15, 35). Just as the manna sustained physical life, Jesus Christ is the “bread of life” that sustains spiritual life (John 6:35, 48). The “hidden manna” mentioned in Revelation 2:17 refers to Jesus Christ. Jesus is “hidden” from the wicked. But, as He taught in John 6, those who symbolically partake of His flesh will receive everlasting life (see John 6:47–58).**

who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit <sup>b</sup>fornication.

15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that <sup>a</sup>overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden <sup>b</sup>manna, and will give him a <sup>c</sup>white <sup>d</sup>stone, and in the stone a new <sup>e</sup>name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

18 And unto the <sup>a</sup>angel of the church in <sup>b</sup>Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his <sup>c</sup>eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass;

19 I know thy works, and charity, and <sup>a</sup>service, and faith, and thy pa-

## Doctrine and Covenants 130:10-11

When the earth becomes sanctified it will be a Urim and Thummim to the celestial inhabitants who dwell there.

10 Then the white stone mentioned in Revelation 2:17, will become a Urim and Thummim to each individual who receives one, whereby things pertaining to a higher order of kingdoms will be made known;

11 And a white stone is given to each of those who come into the celestial kingdom, whereon is a new name written, which no man knoweth save he that receiveth it. The new name is the key word.

- Famous for its many craft guilds
- Famous for wool dyeing (see account of Lydia in Acts 16:14)
- Smallest city, but received longest letter
- Principle deity was Tyrimnas (sun god)

# Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-29



## Descriptive Statement About Christ

*(Possible Relation to City)*

“Who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire and his feet are like fine brass” (v. 18; fire and brass both remind us of the sun, perhaps an allusion to their false worship of a sun god).

## Praise and Commendation

Strong commendation of works, charity, service, faith, and patience. Your last works are more than the first (opposite of Ephesians).

## Correction and Condemnation

You tolerate that woman, Jezebel, who seduces my servants to “commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed to idols” (v. 20). Except they repent, I will smite her children with death (see v. 23).

## Challenge and Promise

“But that which ye have already, hold fast till I come. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations; And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star” (vv. 2-28).

## NT Institute Student Manual

The word "reins" literally means "kidneys." To the Hebrews, the word signified strength and vigor. In Greek the word implies desires and thoughts. The phrase "searcheth the reins and hearts" is an idiom, meaning that the Lord knows all things about the inner man. It is because of this perfect understanding that the Lord is able to "give unto every one of you according to your works" (Revelation 2:23; see also D&C 137:9).

of her fornication; and she repented not.

22 Behold, I will cast her <sup>a</sup>into a bed, and them that commit <sup>b</sup>adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which <sup>a</sup>searcheth the <sup>b</sup>reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

25 But that which ye have *already* <sup>a</sup>hold fast till I come.

26 <sup>a</sup>And he that <sup>b</sup>overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give <sup>c</sup>power over the nations:

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## NT Institute Student Manual

“The morning star” is a symbol of Jesus Christ (Revelation 2:28; 22:16). The promise of “the morning star” is given to him “that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end” (Revelation 2:26).

have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

25 But that which ye have *already* <sup>a</sup>hold fast till I come.

26 <sup>a</sup>And he that <sup>b</sup>overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give <sup>c</sup>power over the nations:

27 And he shall rule them with a <sup>a</sup>rod of iron; as the <sup>b</sup>vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

28 And I will give him the morning <sup>a</sup>star.

29 He that hath an ear, let him

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22 *a* JST Rev. 2:22 . . . into  
*hell*, and them . . .

*b* TG Adulterer.

23 *a* TG God, Omniscience of.

*b* GR (from Hebrew)  
desires and thoughts.

25 *a* 2 Ne. 31:20.

26 *a* JST Rev. 2:26, 27

Rev. 22:16 (6–16).

3 1 *a* JST Rev. 3:1 And u

the *servant* of the  
church in Sardis,

These things saith  
*who* hath the seven

*stars*, which are the  
seven *servants* of



# Sardis

Revelation 3:1-6

- Located at the crossroads of five major highways
- Reputation for great wealth and resulting softness
- Inhabitants had reputation of bad morals
- Built on an impregnable cliff, but conquered several times because of inner weakness.



## Descriptive Statement About Christ

*(Possible Relation to City)*

“He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and seven stars; I know thy works, that thou has a name that thou livest, and art dead” (v. 1; Christ knows their true reputation).

## Praise and Commendation

There are a few who have not defiled their garments (v. 4).

## Correction and Condemnation

Strengthen those who are ready to die. Your works are not perfect, and if you do not repent, I will come upon you like a thief in the night.

## Challenge and Promise

“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels” (v. 5).

# Philadelphia

Revelation 3:7-13

- Called the “Gateway to the East”
- Famous wine-growing area
- Center for worship of Bacchus, god of wine



## Descriptive Statement About Christ

*(Possible Relation to City)*

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” (v. 7; keys open and shut gates; Christ is the true gateway).

## Praise and Commendation

You have little strength, you have kept my word, and you have not denied my name even in the face of persecution. Therefore, I will keep you from the hour of temptation (vv. 8-10).

## Correction and Condemnation

None

## Challenge and Promise

“Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. 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” (vv. 1-12; you that have little strength shall be made a pillar by him who holds the keys to the temple).

## **New Testament Institute Student Manual**

**Revelation 3:7 contains a quotation from the prophet Isaiah: “And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open” (Isaiah 22:22). Isaiah was speaking about one of King David’s chief ministers, Eliakim, who was given the keys to open locked doors of the holy temple. These keys can be seen as a symbol of power and governing authority. In Revelation 3:7, Jesus referred to Himself as the one who holds “the key of David,” meaning that He holds the key to the heavenly temple and ultimately to life in the presence of God.**

## **New Testament Institute Student Manual**

The Lord declared that He will write “the name of my God” upon those who overcome (Revelation 3:12). A name can suggest many ideas about a person, including the person’s identity, reputation, family, associations, attributes, role, and abilities. **Elder Bruce R. McConkie** wrote about one of the meanings of this statement: “God’s name is God. To have his name written on a person is to identify that person as a god. ... Those who gain eternal life become gods! [see D&C 132:19–20]” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 3:458).

# Laodicea

Revelation 3:14-21

- Wealthy commercial and banking center
- Center of learning, art, and culture
- Reputation for accommodating itself to all peoples
- Hot springs at Heiropolis sent warm water flowing to Laodicea



## Descriptive Statement About Christ *(Possible Relation to City)*

“The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God” (v. 14; amen is a verbal commitment that witnesses the testimony of the commitment; such a binding oath was uncommon for the Laodiceans).

## Praise and Commendation

None

## Correction and Condemnation

You are neither hot nor cold (lack commitment). You think you are rich but you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.

## Challenge and Promise

“I would thou were cold or hot... I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of they nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see... To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne” (vv. 15, 18, 21).

## NT Institute Student Manual

In Hebrew and Greek the word “amen” means truly, certainly, or faithfully. In Revelation 3:14, Christ’s faithfulness and truthfulness as the great “Amen” are presented as a contrast to the lukewarm attitudes of the Laodiceans

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 <sup>a</sup>name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is* <sup>b</sup>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.

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the <sup>a</sup>faithful and true witness, the <sup>b</sup>beginning of the <sup>c</sup>creation of God;

15 I know thy <sup>a</sup>works, that thou art

7a TG Priesthood, Keys of; Sealing.

9a Isa. 49:23; 60:14.  
TG Worship.

b TG Jesus Christ, Firstborn.

c TG Creation.

15a Isa. 66:18.

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16 So then because thou art <sup>a</sup>lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will <sup>o</sup>spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am <sup>a</sup>rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I <sup>a</sup>counsel thee to buy of me <sup>b</sup>gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and <sup>a</sup>chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice

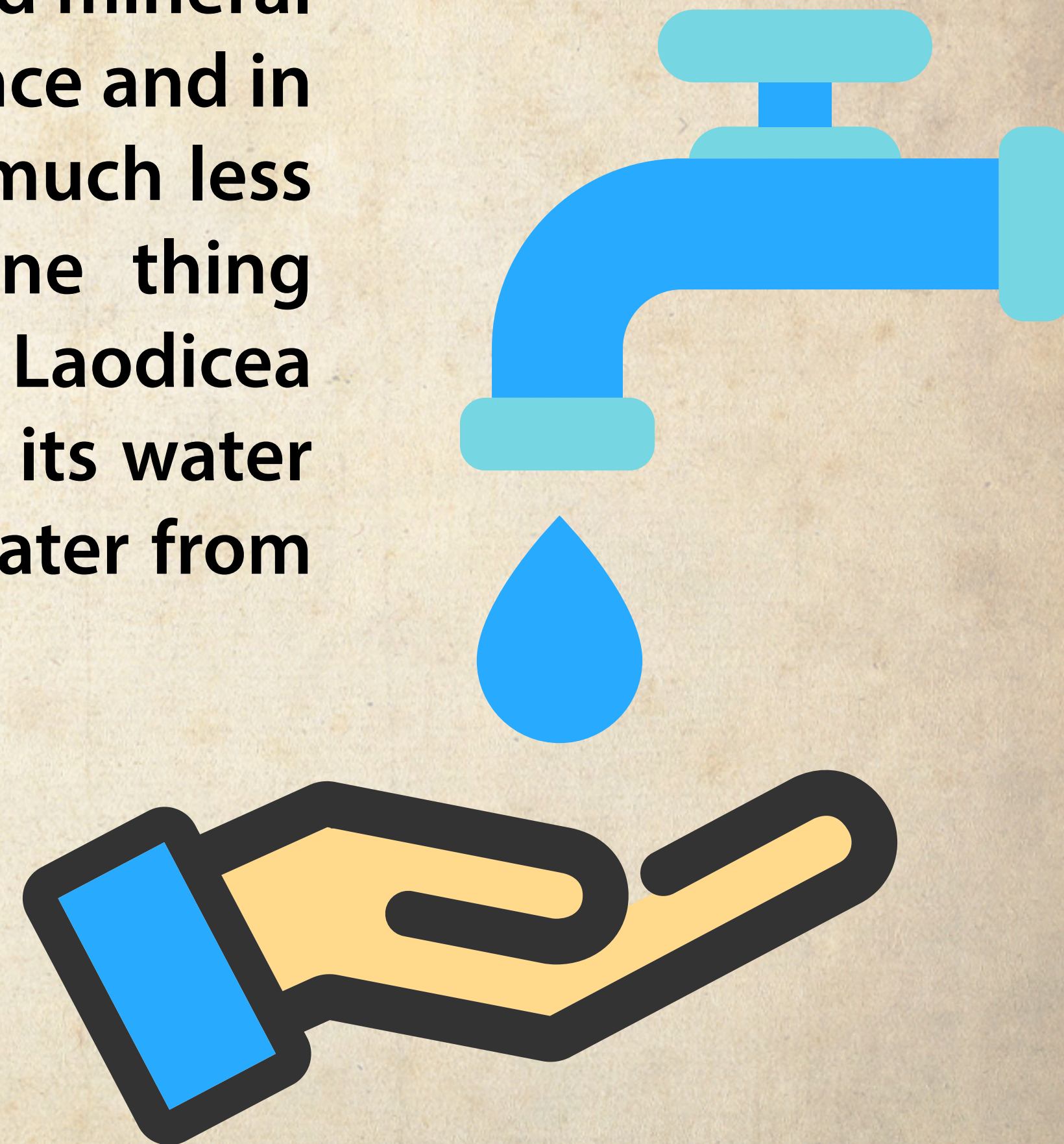
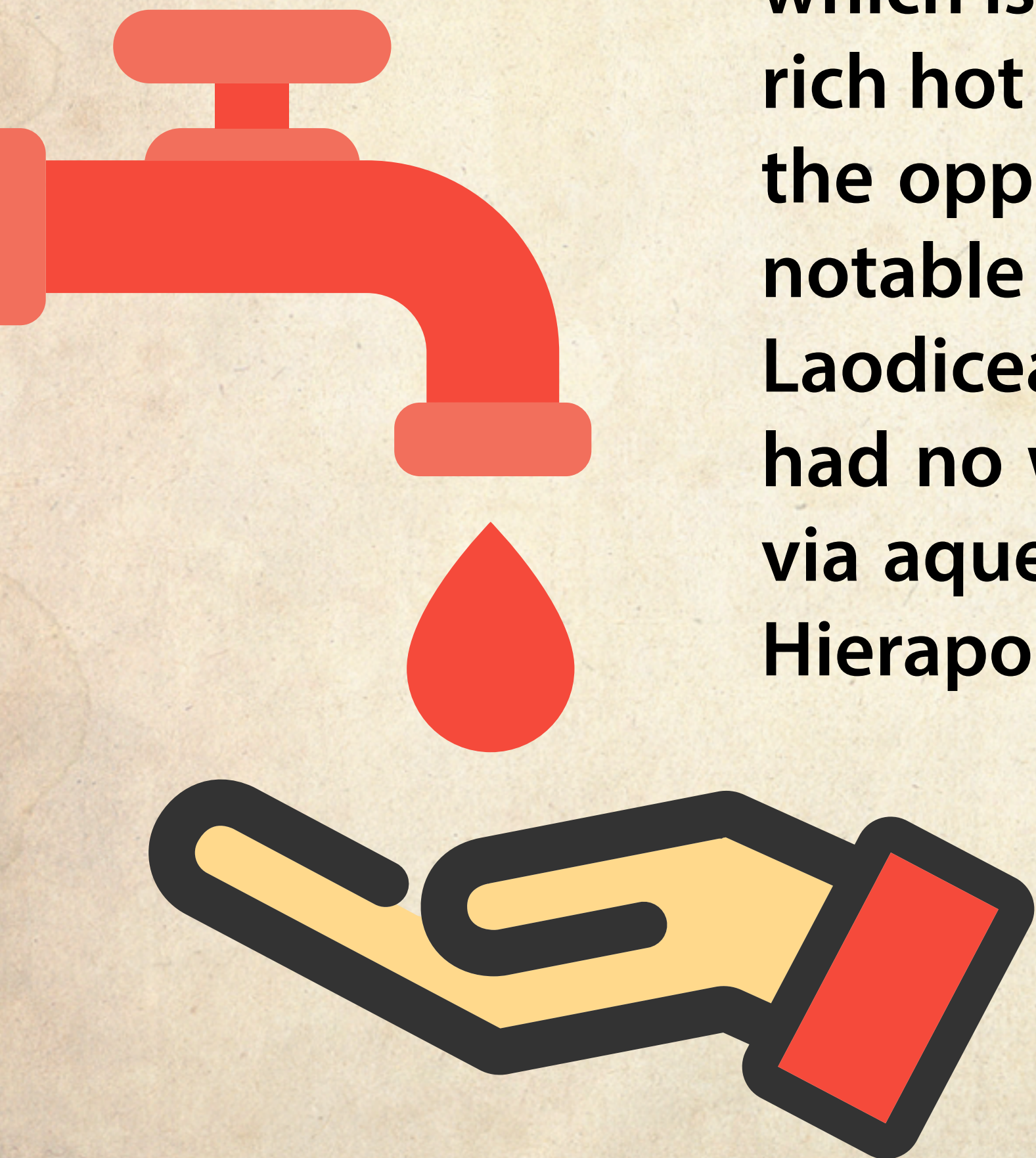
## ESV Study Bible

The waters of the nearby Lycus river were muddy and undrinkable, and the waters flowing by aqueduct from hot springs 5 Mi away [in Hierapolis] were lukewarm when they reached Laodicea. Likewise Jesus found his church's tepid indifference repugnant. Cold and hot water represent something positive, for cold water refreshes in the heat, and hot water is a tonic when one is chilly.

## **“Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes,”**

- Brandon J. O’ Brien

The author points out that not only does Hierapolis, which is in view of Laodicea, have famous and mineral rich hot springs but at about the same distance and in the opposite direction is Colossae. It was a much less notable city than Laodicea but it had one thing Laodicea didn’t: a cold freshwater spring. Laodicea had no water source at all. “It had to import its water via aqueduct from elsewhere: hot mineral water from Hierapolis or fresh cold water from Colossae.





**“Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes,” -**  
Brandon J. O’ Brien

**The trouble was, by the time the water from either city made it to Laodicea, it had lost the qualities that made it remarkable.” Similarly, the disciples in Laodicea were unremarkable, they were lukewarm and had no special qualities. The Savior taught the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4:14 “...the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”**



## President Gordon B. Hinckley

**“The book of Revelation declares: ‘I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.**

**“So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth’ (Revelation 3:15–16).**

...

**“Each of us has to face the matter—either the Church is true, or it is a fraud. There is no middle ground. It is the Church and kingdom of God, or it is nothing.”**

*(“Loyalty,” Apr 2003 GC, Ensign or Liahona, May 2003, 60).*

mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

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20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and <sup>a</sup>open the door, I will <sup>b</sup>come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21 To him that <sup>a</sup>overcometh will I grant to <sup>b</sup>sit with me in my <sup>c</sup>throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

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

## CHAPTER 4

*John sees the celestial earth, the throne of God, and all created things worship-*





## President Thomas S. Monson

**“With all the strength of my soul I testify that our Heavenly Father loves each one of us. He hears the prayers of humble hearts; He hears our cries for help. ... His Son, our Savior and Redeemer, speaks to each of us today: ‘Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him’ [Revelation 3:20].**

**“Will we listen for that knock? Will we hear that voice? Will we open that door to the Lord, that we may receive the help He is so ready to provide? I pray that we will.”**

*(“Mrs. Patton—the Story Continues,” Oct 2007 GC, Ensign, Nov. 2007, 24).*

## Revelation Fulfillment of Promises

<b>2:7</b>	<b>Will eat from the tree of life</b>	<b>22:2</b>
<b>2:11</b>	<b>Will not be hurt by the second death</b>	<b>20:6; 21:7-8</b>
<b>2:17</b>	<b>Will be given a white stone</b>	<b>21:11, 18-21</b>
<b>2:26-27; 3:21</b>	<b>Will reign with Christ on his throne</b>	<b>20:4</b>
<b>2:28</b>	<b>Will be given the Morning Star</b>	<b>21:23; 22:5, 16</b>
<b>3:5</b>	<b>Will be clothed in white garments</b>	<b>19:7-8; 21:2, 9-10</b>
<b>3:5</b>	<b>Name will be in the Book of Life</b>	<b>21:27</b>
<b>3:12</b>	<b>Will be made a pillar in God's temple</b>	<b>21:22-23</b>
<b>3:12</b>	<b>Will participate in the New Jerusalem</b>	<b>21:10</b>
<b>3:12</b>	<b>Will have God's name written upon them</b>	<b>22:4</b>

A brown paper bag is positioned in the center of the image, serving as a background for the text. The bag is slightly wrinkled and has a natural, earthy tone.

*Revelation 4-5*

in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the <sup>a</sup>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 <sup>a</sup>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 <sup>a</sup>keep thee from the hour of <sup>b</sup>temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

11 Behold, I come <sup>a</sup>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 <sup>a</sup>name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is* <sup>b</sup>new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him* my new name.

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21 To him that <sup>a</sup>overcometh will I grant to <sup>b</sup>sit with me in my <sup>c</sup>throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

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

CHAPTER 4

*John sees the celestial earth, the throne of God, and all created things worshipping the Lord.*

AFTER this I looked, and, behold, a door *was* opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard *was* as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I

will <sup>a</sup>shew thee things which must be hereafter.

2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne.

3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and *there was* a <sup>a</sup>rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

4 <sup>a</sup>And round about the throne *were* four and twenty <sup>b</sup>seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty <sup>c</sup>elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the <sup>a</sup>seven <sup>b</sup>Spirits of God.

6 And before the throne *there was* a <sup>a</sup>sea of glass like unto crystal: <sup>b</sup>and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, *were* four <sup>c</sup>beasts full of eyes before and behind.

7 And the first beast *was* like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast *was* like a flying eagle.

8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about *him*; and *they were* full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, <sup>a</sup>Lord God <sup>b</sup>Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

10 The four and twenty elders fall

down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast <sup>a</sup>created all things, and <sup>b</sup>for thy pleasure they are and were created.

CHAPTER 5

*John sees the book sealed with seven seals, and he sees those people redeemed out of every nation—He hears every creature praising God and the Lamb.*

AND I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book <sup>a</sup>written within and on the backside, <sup>b</sup>sealed with seven <sup>c</sup>seals.

2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is <sup>a</sup>worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the <sup>a</sup>Lion of the tribe of <sup>b</sup>Juda, the <sup>c</sup>Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a <sup>a</sup>Lamb as it had been slain, <sup>b</sup>having

7a TG Priesthood, Keys of; Sealing.

9a Isa. 49:23; 60:14. TG Worship.

10a TG Refuge. b TG Temptation;

b TG Jesus Christ, Firstborn.

c TG Creation.

15a Isa. 66:18.

16a TG Apathy; Apostasy of the Early

19a GR instruct, admonish. TG Chastening.

20a D&C 88:63.

b John 14:23 (23–25). 21a 1 Jn. 5:4 (4–5). b D&C 6:30.

4 1a TG Revelation.

3a Ezek. 1:28.

4a JST Rev. 4:4 And in the midst of the throne . . .

b GR thrones.

c D&C 77:5.

5a JST Rev. 4:5 . . . seven servants . . .

the four and twenty elders; and round about . . .

c D&C 77:2.

TG Cherubim; Symbolism.

8a Isa. 6:3 (2–3); Ezek. 1:28 (9–11, 28).

b TG God, Power of.

2a TG Worthiness.

5a Gen. 49:9.

b TG Israel, Judah, People of.

c Isa. 11:10; Rev. 22:16 (6–16).

6a TG Jesus Christ, Types of, in Anticipation.

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TG Jesus Christ, Firstborn.  
TG Creation.  
Isa. 66:18.  
TG Apathy;  
Apostasy of the Early Christian Church.  
GR vomit.  
TG Treasure.  
TG Counsel.  
Matt. 13:46 (44–46);  
D&C 6:7.

19a GR instruct, admonish.  
TG Chastening.  
20a D&C 88:63.  
b John 14:23 (23–25).  
21a 1 Jn. 5:4 (4–5).  
b D&C 6:30.  
c Matt. 25:21.  
TG Exaltation;  
Man, Potential to Become like Heavenly Father;  
Salvation, Plan of.

### REVELATION 4:2–5:6

will <sup>a</sup>shew thee things which must be hereafter.

2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne.

3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and *there was* a <sup>a</sup>rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

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5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the <sup>a</sup>seven <sup>b</sup>Spirits of God.

6 And before the throne *there was* a <sup>a</sup>sea of glass like unto crystal: <sup>b</sup>and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne *were* four <sup>c</sup>beasts

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## **New Testament Institute Student Manual**

**“The basic structure of the vision is chronological. After seeing the Father and the Son in heaven (Rev. 4–5), the vision of the history and destiny of the world begin to unfold for John. He sees the first five seals (or first five thousand years of history) in rapid-fire, in encapsulated form. Then he sees the opening of the sixth seal, which includes the restoration of the gospel. (See Rev. 6:12–7:17.)**

## **New Testament Institute Student Manual**

**“After that, John sees the seventh period of a thousand years, with great judgments poured out upon the earth, including Armageddon (see Rev. 8–9, 11, 16), which eventually lead to the utter overthrow of Babylon (see 17–18) and make way for the second coming of him who is King of kings and Lord of lords (see 19). Immediately following that, John sees Satan bound and Christ reigning for a thousand years (see 20:1–6), a last great battle between the forces of righteousness and evil (see 20:7–10), and the final judgment (see 20:11–15). Finally, a new heaven and a new earth are brought forth. (See 21:1–22:5.)” (“Seeing the Book of Revelation as a Book of Revelation,” Ensign, Dec. 1987, 52).**

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down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

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3 And no man in heaven, nor in

lightnings and thunderings and voices: and *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the <sup>a</sup>seven <sup>b</sup>Spirits of God.

6 And before the throne *there was* a <sup>a</sup>sea of glass like unto crystal: <sup>b</sup>and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, *were* four <sup>c</sup>beasts full of eyes before and behind.

7 And the first beast *was* like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast *was* like a flying eagle.

8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about *him*; and *they were* full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, <sup>a</sup>Lord God <sup>b</sup>Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

9 And when these beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

10 The four and twenty elders fall

that sat on the throne a book <sup>a</sup>written within and on the backside, <sup>b</sup>sealed with seven <sup>c</sup>seals.

2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is <sup>a</sup>worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the <sup>a</sup>Lion of the tribe of <sup>b</sup>Juda, the <sup>c</sup>Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

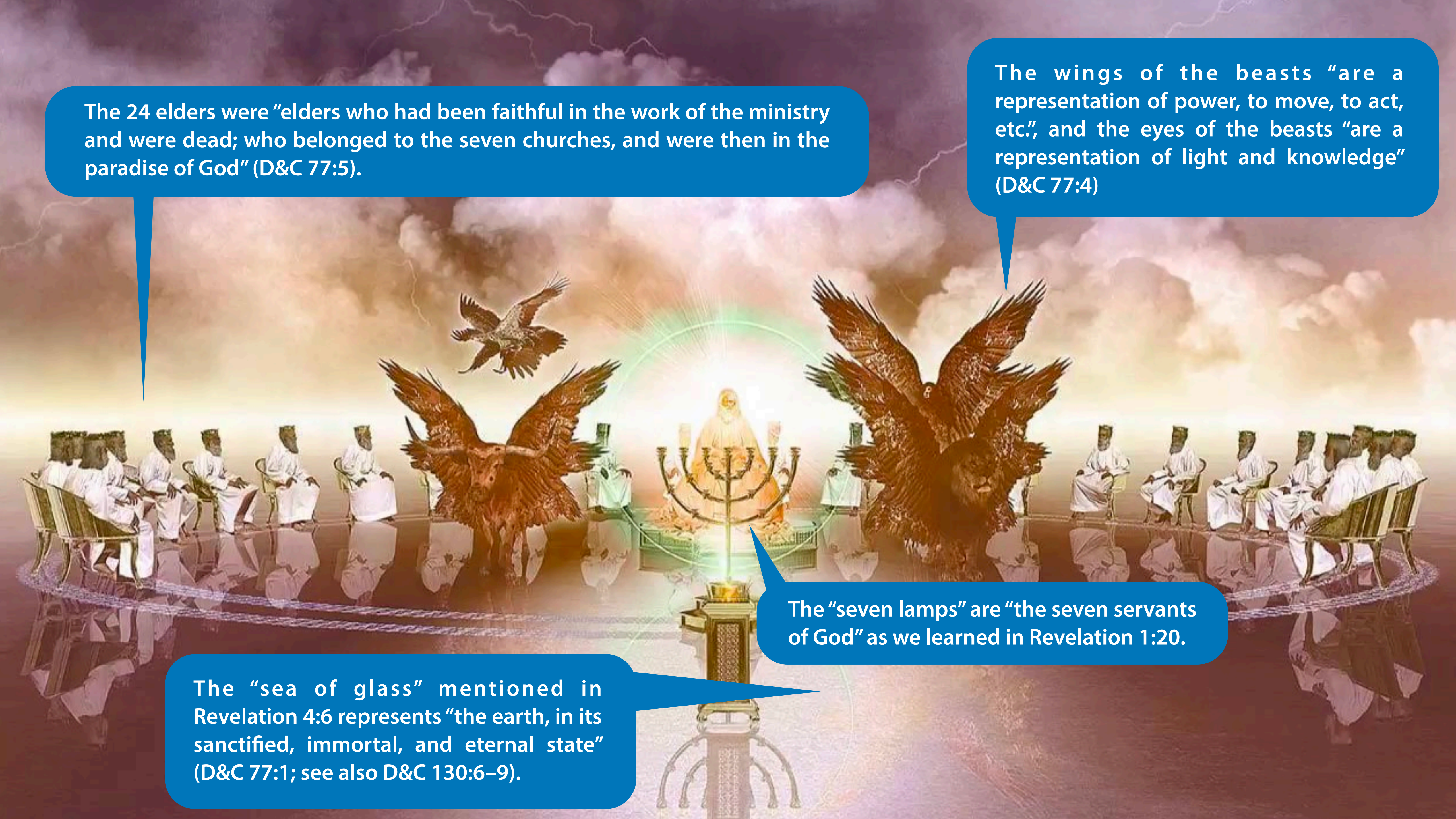
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The 24 elders were “elders who had been faithful in the work of the ministry and were dead; who belonged to the seven churches, and were then in the paradise of God” (D&C 77:5).

The wings of the beasts “are a representation of power, to move, to act, etc.,” and the eyes of the beasts “are a representation of light and knowledge” (D&C 77:4)

The “seven lamps” are “the seven servants of God” as we learned in Revelation 1:20.

The “sea of glass” mentioned in Revelation 4:6 represents “the earth, in its sanctified, immortal, and eternal state” (D&C 77:1; see also D&C 130:6–9).



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**In John's vision of the heavenly throne, he saw four beasts praising God. These four winged creatures described in Revelation 4:6–8 are similar to the heavenly beings described in Isaiah 6:1–3 and Ezekiel 1:5–14. Latter-day revelation explains the meaning of these beasts, as recorded in Doctrine and Covenants 77:2–4. In addition, the Prophet Joseph Smith (1805–44) taught: "The four beasts were four of the most noble animals that had filled the measure of their creation, and had been saved from other worlds, because they were perfect: they were like angels in their sphere. We are not told where they came from" (in History of the Church, 5:343–44).**

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4 1a TG Revelation.

3a Ezek. 1:28.

4a JST Rev. 4:4 And *in the midst of the throne* . . .

b GR thrones.

c D&C 77:5.

5a JST Rev. 4:5 . . . seven

*the four and twenty elders; and round about . . .*

c D&C 77:2.  
TG Cherubim;  
Symbolism.

8a Isa. 6:3 (2–3);  
Ezek. 1:28 (9–11, 28).

2a TG Worthiness.

5a Gen. 49:9.

b TG Israel, Judah,  
People of.

c Isa. 11:10;  
Rev. 22:16 (6–16).

6a TG Jesus Christ, Types

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down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast <sup>a</sup>created all things, and <sup>b</sup>for thy pleasure they are and were created.

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## CHAPTER 5

*John sees the book sealed with seven seals, and he sees those people redeemed out of every nation—He hears every creature praising God and the Lamb.*

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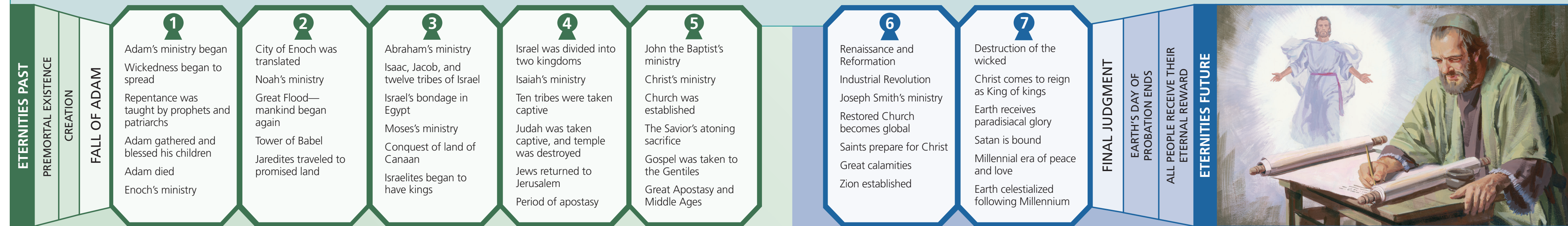
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**Doctrine and Covenants 77:6–7 contains an explanation of the book with seven seals: “The first seal contains the things of the first thousand years, and the second also of the second thousand years, and so on until the seventh” (D&C 77:7).**

# Overview of the Book of Revelation

## The Seven Seals (Seven 1,000-Year Periods of the Earth's Temporal Existence)



### First Five Seals—from the Creation to John's Time

The first five seals described in the book of Revelation are dealt with in 11 verses (see Revelation 6:1–11; only 3 percent of the total verses in the book), while 281 verses (70 percent) deal with the sixth and seventh seals and the final glory of the earth. The Prophet Joseph Smith described this focus of the book of Revelation: “The things which John saw had no allusion to the scenes of the days of Adam, Enoch, Abraham or Jesus, only so far as is plainly represented by John. . . . John saw that only which was lying in futurity and which was shortly to come to pass” (in *History of the Church*, 5:341–42).

### Last Two Seals—the Kingdom of God's Triumphant Destiny

It does not seem to have been the Lord's purpose to arrange every aspect of the book of Revelation in strict chronological order. Like a master teacher who digresses from his presentation with brief interludes to further clarify or expand what he teaches, even so the Lord appears to have included in Revelation several such interludes that interrupt the order of the presentation. These teaching interludes, labeled A–E in the chronology below, are discussed in the corresponding sections.

### Chronology of the Events in the Last Two Seals, Including Teaching Interludes

<b>6</b> Revelation 6:12–17 Great calamities and signs are shown on earth and in heaven.	<b>7</b> Revelation 7:1–8 Destruction is held back while the righteous are sealed; the gospel is restored.	<b>A</b> Revelation 8:1–13; 9:1–21 Fire, destruction, and war are unleashed.	<b>B</b> Revelation 11:1–14 Two special witnesses are slain in Jerusalem and then resurrected.	<b>C</b> Revelation 11:15–19 Voices in heaven announce the triumph of God's kingdom.	<b>D</b> Revelation 15:5–8; 16:1–21 Vials of judgment are poured out on the world; the wicked do not repent.	<b>E</b>
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<b>6</b> Revelation 19:1–10 Voices in heaven praise God and announce the marriage supper of the Lamb.	<b>7</b> Revelation 19:11–21 Christ comes as King of kings; the wicked are destroyed.	<b>A</b> Revelation 20:1–3 Satan is bound at the beginning of the Millennium.	<b>B</b> Revelation 20:4–6 The righteous are resurrected and reign with Christ during the Millennium.	<b>C</b> Revelation 20:7–10 Satan is loosed after the Millennium and wages a final battle; he is defeated and cast out.	<b>D</b> Revelation 20:11–15 The Great and Last Judgment takes place.	<b>E</b> Revelation 21:1–27; 22:1–5 There is a new heaven and new earth; the world is celestialized.
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<b>A</b> <b>John Sees Those Saved in God's Kingdom</b> Revelation 7:9–17 Just before the sounding of the seven trumpets of judgment, John is shown the multitude of those who have achieved salvation praising God and the Lamb in the celestial kingdom.	<b>B</b> <b>The "Little Book" Interlude</b> Revelation 10:1–11 Between the sounding of the sixth trumpet and the vision of the two special witnesses in Jerusalem, an angel delivers a book to John and commands him to eat it. We know from latter-day revelation that this symbolized a special mission given to John to participate in the gathering of Israel (see D&C 77:14). Thus John is shown in vision his part in the great events of the future.	<b>C</b> <b>The Triumph of the Kingdom of God over Satan</b> John sees in vision representations of the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. Though Satan's kingdom will make war against God's kingdom, the kingdom of God will ultimately triumph, and Satan and his followers will be overthrown.  Revelation 12:1–17 (The Kingdom of God) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Church (the ecclesiastical aspect of the kingdom) brings forth the kingdom over which Christ reigns as King (the political aspect of the kingdom).</li> <li>The Church and kingdom of God are opposed by the great dragon (Satan).</li> <li>The opposition actually began in the premortal existence and led to the War in Heaven.</li> <li>The Church of John's time would not bring forth the kingdom but would be driven into the wilderness (apostasy) by the dragon.</li> </ul>	<b>D</b> <b>John Sees Those Saved in God's Kingdom</b> Revelation 15:1–4 Just before the pouring out of the seven vials of judgment, John is shown the multitude of those who overcame the beast; these are praising God and the Lamb in the celestial kingdom.	<b>E</b> <b>The Destruction of Satan's Kingdom</b> Revelation 17:1–18; 18:1–24 After the seven vials of judgment have been poured out, an angel explains the symbolism of the great whore and the beast. John is then shown the overthrow of the whore (symbolic representation of Satan's kingdom and the counterpart to the true Church—the bride of Christ). The world laments in great sorrow the fall of Satan's empire.
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**The 7,000-year period refers to the time since the Fall of Adam and Eve. It does not refer to the actual age of the earth, including the periods of creation.**

claiming with a loud voice, Who is <sup>a</sup>worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the <sup>a</sup>Lion of the tribe of <sup>b</sup>Juda, the <sup>c</sup>Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a <sup>a</sup>Lamb as it had been slain, <sup>b</sup>having

seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of <sup>a</sup>odours, which are the <sup>b</sup>prayers of saints.

9 And they <sup>a</sup>sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast <sup>b</sup>redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every <sup>c</sup>kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and <sup>a</sup>priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the

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<sup>c</sup> D&C 77:2.

TG Cherubim; Symbolism.

2a TG Worthiness.

5a Gen. 49:9.

b TG Israel, Judah, People of.

c Isa. 11:10;

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**John described the Lamb in his vision as having many horns and eyes. In the scriptures, horns are often a symbol of power (see 1 Samuel 2:10; Psalm 75:10). Eyes often symbolize light and knowledge (see D&C 77:4). The Joseph Smith Translation of Revelation 5:6 indicates that the Lamb had “twelve horns and twelve eyes, which are the twelve servants of God” (in Revelation 5:6, footnote b). Since the Lord’s people in ancient Israel were numbered as twelve tribes and the Lord organized His Church with Twelve Apostles, the number twelve can symbolize divine government and organization, or the priesthood. This verse may suggest that all priesthood power and knowledge is centered in the Lamb of God.**

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10 And hast made us unto our God kings and <sup>a</sup>priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand,

*Christ opens the six seals, and John sees the events therein—In the fifth seal, he sees the Christian martyrs; and in the sixth, he sees the signs of the times.*

<sup>a</sup>AND I saw when the Lamb opened one of the <sup>b</sup>seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four <sup>c</sup>beasts saying, Come and see.

2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

3 And when he had opened the <sup>a</sup>second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

4 And there went out another horse *that was* red: and *power* was given to him that sat thereon to take <sup>a</sup>peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld,

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Revelation 5:9–10 declares that through the worthiness and redeeming blood of Jesus Christ, all people may be redeemed and crowned with glory to reign on the glorified earth as kings and priests. After quoting these verses, **Elder Bruce R. McConkie** (1915–85) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles explained that temple ordinances anticipate the fulfillment of these blessings: “Before the time when Christ shall reign personally upon the earth, the elect of God among every kindred, ... having first believed the restored gospel, will go to the temples of God and receive the ordinances of exaltation whereby they qualify to become kings and priests” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1969, 144).

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and <sup>a</sup>priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and <sup>a</sup>thousands of thousands;

12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the <sup>a</sup>Lamb that was slain to receive <sup>b</sup>power, and riches, and <sup>c</sup>wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

13 And every <sup>a</sup>creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and <sup>b</sup>power, *be* unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four *and* twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

*that was red*: and *power* was given to him that sat thereon to take <sup>a</sup>peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with <sup>a</sup>sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.





## **Elder Dean M. Davies**

**“When we worship God, we approach Him with reverent love, humility, and adoration. We acknowledge and accept Him as our sovereign King, the Creator of the universe, our beloved and infinitely loving Father.**

**We respect and revere Him.**

**We submit ourselves to Him.**

**We lift our hearts in mighty prayer, cherish His word, rejoice in His grace, and commit to follow Him with dedicated loyalty. ...**



## **Elder Dean M. Davies**

**When we worship, our hearts are drawn out in praise to our blessed God morning, noon, and night.**

**We hallow and honor Him continually—in our meetinghouses, homes, temples, and all our labors.**

**When we worship, we open our hearts to the healing power of the Atonement of Jesus Christ.**

**Our lives become the token and expression of our worship."**

*("The Blessings of Worship," Oct. 2016 GC, Ensign, Nov. 2016, 94–95)*