

## Living Word Fellowship Church

### Revelation

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#### I. An Introduction to the Book of Revelation

##### A. The Purpose:

1. The purpose of the Book of Revelation is to reveal events which will take place immediately before, during, and following the second coming of Christ.
2. In keeping with this purpose the book devotes most of its revelation to this subject in chapters 4-18.
3. The Second Coming itself is given the most graphic portrayal anywhere in the Bible in chapter 19, followed by the millennial reign of Christ described in chapter 20. The eternal state is revealed in chapters 21-22.
4. The obvious purpose of the book is to complete the prophetic theme presented earlier in the prophecies of the Old Testament (e.g., Dan.) and the prophecies of Christ, especially in the Olivet Discourse (Matt. 24-25).
5. Along with the predictive character of the Book of Revelation is extensive revelation in almost every important area of theology. In addition, many verses suggest practical applications of prophetic truths to a Christian's life. Specific knowledge and anticipation of God's future program is an incentive to holy living and commitment to Christ.

##### B. Revelation begins with the Church of Ephesus; Why?:

###### 1. Background:

- a) "It was the foremost city of Asia Minor, the temple-keeper of Artemis and her wonderful temple (Acts 19:35), the home of the magic arts (Ephesian letters, Acts 19:19) and of the mystery-cults.
- b) It was the place of Paul's three years' stay (Acts 19:1-10; 20:17-38).
- c) The place where Aquila and Priscilla and Apollos labored (Acts 18:24-28)
- d) The place where Timothy wrought (1 and 2 Tim; a place where Timothy worked).
- e) The Apostle John preached in his old age. Surely it was a place of great privilege, of great preaching.
- f) It was about sixty miles from Patmos and the messenger would reach Ephesus first. It is a free city, a seat of proconsular government (Acts 19:38), the end of the great road from the Euphrates.
- g) The port was a place of shifting sands, due to the silting up of the mouth of the Cayster. Ramsay (Letters to the Seven Churches, p. 210) calls it "the City of Change." (from Robertson's Word Pictures in the New Testament, Electronic Database. Copyright © 1997, 2003 by BibleSoft, Inc. Robertson's Word Pictures in the New Testament. Copyright © 1985 by Broadman Press.).

2. "People live in villages or small groups of houses, often without protective walls or fences. In such cases it will be necessary to refer to a city as "a large (or, chief) village" or "a large group of houses surrounded by a strong wall." (from the UBS Handbook Series. Copyright © 1961-1997, by United Bible Societies.).
3. Ephesus was the most important city in the Roman province of Asia; it was a busy seaport, had a thriving commerce, and was the center of the cult of the goddess Artemis (see Acts 19:27,35), and also a place where magical arts were practiced (Acts 19:19).
4. As the book of Acts shows, it soon became a very important center of Christian activity, and at the time of the writing of this letter, it may have been the most important Christian church in the Roman empire.

### C. Why did Revelation Begin with the Churches?:

1. "In addition to passages that suggest practical application of prophetic truth, chapters 2-3 are especially important for they consist of messages to seven local churches which appropriately represent the entire church."<sup>1</sup>
2. "The pointed message of Christ to each of these churches is the capstone to New Testament Epistles dealing with the practical life of those committed to the Christian faith."<sup>2</sup>
  - a) "On the one hand believers are exhorted to holy living, and on the other hand unbelievers are warned of judgments to come.
  - b) The book provides solid evidence that the righteous God will ultimately deal with human sin and bring to consummation the salvation of those who have trusted in Christ.
  - c) A solemn warning is given to those who are unprepared to face the future. A day of reckoning, when every knee will bow to Christ (Phil. 2:10), is inevitable in the divine program. Because of its broad revelation of events to come as well as its pointed exhortation to righteousness, the book pronounces blessing on those "who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near" (Rev. 1:3)."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. 1983-c1985. *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Victor Books: Wheaton, IL

<sup>2</sup>Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. 1983-c1985. *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Victor Books: Wheaton, IL

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<b>Focus</b>	<b><i>“Things Which You Have Seen”</i></b> 1:1 1:20	<b><i>“Things Which Are”</i></b> 2:1 3:22	<b><i>“Things Which Will Take Place”</i></b> 4:1 22:21				
<b><i>Divisions</i></b>	<b><i>The Lord Jesus Christ</i></b> 1:1 1:20	<b><i>The Seven Churches</i></b> 2:1 3:33	<b><i>The Judge</i></b> 4:1 5:14	<b><i>The Tribulation</i></b> 6:1 19:6	<b><i>The Second Coming</i></b> 19:7 19:21	<b><i>The Millennium</i></b> 20:1 20:15	<b><i>The Eternal State</i></b> 21:1 22:21
<b><i>Topics</i></b>	<b><i>Vision of Christ</i></b>		<b><i>Vision of Consummation</i></b>				
	<b><i>Theophany</i></b>	<b><i>Talks</i></b>	<b><i>Tribuations</i></b>	<b><i>Trumpets</i></b>	<b><i>Together</i></b>		
<b><i>Place</i></b>	<b><i>Written on the Island of Patmos</i></b>						
<b><i>Time</i></b>	<b><i>C. A.D. 95-96</i></b>						