

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

a composite interpretation by Shawn Handran

The resonance chamber of the Bible

Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked? says the Lord GOD, and not rather that they should return from their way and live? Eze 18:23

3 Pergamos tolerates immorality

2:13 You hold firmly to my name, and didn't **deny my faith**...

2:14 But I have a few things against you... you have some who hold the teaching of **Balaam**...

2:16 Repent therefore, or else I am coming to you quickly...

2:17 To him who overcomes, I will give of the hidden manna, and a white stone, and a new name written on the stone...

Πέργαμος

cf. Rev 14:12, Num 22-24, Jn 6:48-50

Sentiment

- Favorable
- Unfavorable
- Mixed

4 Thyatira tolerates idolatry

2:19 I know your works, your love, faith, service, patient endurance

2:20 But I have this against you, that you tolerate **Jezebel**...

2:25 Nevertheless, hold that which you have firmly until I come.

2:26 He who overcomes, and he who keeps my works to the end, to him I will give **authority over the nations**.

Θυάτειρα

cf. 1 Ki 16:31, 21:25, 2 Ki 9:7, Dan 7:27

5 Sardis a dead church

3:1 I know your works, that you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

3:2 Wake up and strengthen the things that remain...

3:3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard. Keep it and repent.

3:5 He who overcomes will be arrayed in **white**, and I will not blot out his **name**...

Σάρδεις

cf. Rev 13:8, 17:8, 19:8, 20:12, 20:15, 21:27

6 Philadelphia a humble, faithful church

3:8 You have a little power, and kept my word, and didn't deny my name.

3:11 Hold firmly what you have, so no one takes your crown.

3:12 I will write on him the **name of my God** and the name of the **city of my God**, the **new Jerusalem**, which **comes down out of heaven** from my God, and my own new name.

Φιλαδέλφεια

cf. Rev 14:1 22:4, Eze 48:35, Rev 21:2, 10

2 Smyrna a poor, suffering church

2:9 I know your works, oppression, and your poverty...

2:10 Don't be afraid... you will have oppression for **ten days**.

2:10 Be **faithful** to death, and I will give you the crown of life.

2:11 He who overcomes won't be harmed by the **second death**.

Σμύρνα

cf. Dan 1:12, Rev 17:14, 20:6,14, 21:8

Patmos ☉
I John, your brother and partner with you in the oppression, Kingdom, and perseverance in Christ Jesus, was on the isle that is called Patmos because of God's Word and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Rev 1:9

1 Ephesus a church losing its zeal

2:2 I know your works, and your toil and perseverance...

2:4 But I have this against you, that you left your **first love**.

2:5 Remember from where you have fallen, and repent.

2:7 To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the **tree of life**

Ἔφεσος

cf. Jer 2:2, Gen 2:9, Rev 22:2

7 Laodicea a rich, lukewarm church

3:15 I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot.

3:16 So because you are lukewarm, I will vomit you out...

3:18 I counsel you to buy from me **gold... and white garments... and eye salve**...

3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

3:21 He who overcomes, will sit down with me on my **throne**

Λαοδίκεια

cf. Mal 3:3, Jn 9:6-11, Rev 16:15, 20:4

Numbers in Revelation

- 1 Uniqueness, God
- 2 Emphasis, certainty
- 3 Trinity, unity, fellowship
- 4 Nature, creation
- 6 Incomplete, imperfect, man
- 7 Perfection, fullness, totality
- 10 Completion, power
- 12 Israel, the church
- 1,000 Fullness, complete
- 144,000 (12 x 12) x (10 x 10 x 10)

☉ **Megiddo**
cf. 2 Ki 23:29, Zech 12:11, Rev 16:15-16

☉ **Jerusalem & Mt. Zion**
cf. Is 2,4,24,29,34,40,49,51-52,59-62,66;
Jer 30-31, 50-51; Eze 8-9; Dan 9;
Joel 2-3; Am 1,6; Ob 1; Mic 1,4;
Zep 3; Zech 1,2,8-9; Rev 14.1

Interpretation Frameworks

- Preterist.** Events described here were largely fulfilled in the first century AD.
- Historicist.** Events have and continue to unfold in history until Kingdom culmination.
- Futurist.** Most events described here have yet to occur, especially Chapters 4-22.
- Idealist.** Events are symbolic and allegorical about the ongoing conflict between good & evil.
- Composite.** Integrates and interweaves multiple framework views together.

This calls for patient endurance...

Revelation 1:9, 2:2, 2:3, 2:19, 3:10, 13:9-10, 14:12 see asterisks on *Structure of Revelation* graphic

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All scripture quotations from the World English Bible.