**Revelation of Jesus Christ**

John the Apostle (last original) around 90 AD

 went to Ephesus just before 70 AD (Rome, boiled in oil, audience converted)

 Patmos: island off Turkey – political exile (Rev 1:9)

 letter to seven regional churches (Turkey) (Rev 1:11)

* not scary with Correct Focus (love story – wedding)
* parallel Moses/Exodus (partnership prayer)
	+ Goshen – Powerful Church (Acts)

Chapter 1

Revelation: Correct Focus

 the **Man** – Jesus Christ (1)

 Son of Man (13) – our King (Dan 7:13-14)

 the **Plan** – “must take place” (1, 19)

 not about what’s going to happen to me (blessing)

Blessing: if we Participate in the Plan (3)

 Read, Hear (Understandable), Keep (Partnership)

Leadership: Eternal, All Encompassing, Brilliant

 Him who is and was and is to come; He who lives, was dead, alive forevermore (4, 8, 18)

 Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End, First and Last (8, 11, 17)

 Almighty (8)

 Biblical Numerology: 3 = Trinity/Perfection, 7 = Perfection/Completion

 it’s a Perfect Plan

Identity:

 Faithful Witness (5) – Truth (Jn 18:37)

 Firstborn from the dead (5) – Conqueror of death/hell (18)

 Ruler of kings (5) – Worthy to Reign

Motivation: Love (5), Redemption (5), Partnership (6)

Purpose: He is Coming! (7) (Zech 12:10)

 He is already walking in the midst of the Church (12-13, 20)

 our Partnership in the Plan is necessary (2 Pe 3:12)

Appearance: (13-16) Symbolism (Literal, Biblical)

 long garment – Priest (Heb 4:14)

 golden band – Royalty (Rev 19:16)

 white hair – Purity, Wisdom (Dan 7:9)

 flaming eyes – piercing clarity (Heb 4:13)

 brass feet – Strength, Stability (contrast Dan 2:42 clay)

 voice as the sound of many waters – Authority, Might (Ps 93:4)

 stars (angels of churches – 20) in right hand – Lord of Hosts (200+ references)

 Commander of the Army of the Lord (Josh 5:14, Mt 26:53)

 sharp two edged sword in mouth – Word of Power (Eph 6:17, Heb 4:12)

 countenance shining like the sun – Glory (Rev 21:23, 2 Thes 2:8)

Effect: Revelation of Jesus Christ

 initially Fear (17)

 ultimately Frees us of Fear (17) – conquered death and hell (18)

 Eternal Perspective (Rev 12:11)

I Trust the Man, I’ll Keep the Plan

Chapters 2 & 3

Letters to the Seven Churches

Preparation for Partnership in the Plan

 Ruling through Intercession (king Priests)

 Ruling the Earth (Rev 5:10)

He Overcame, we can Overcome (Rev 3:21)

 He is whatever we need (Revelation)

 Wait on Him (braided together) for Strength to Overcome (Isa 40:25-41:1)

He Motivates with Rewards

(Rev 22:12) And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

 beyond Salvation: different Positions/Authority (Lk 17 Parable of the Talents)

 differing Glory (1 Cor 15:41-44)

\* Messengers (angelos) – also human (ex: John Baptist Mt 11:10, Mk 1:2, Lk 7:24-27)

\* Nicolaitans – unrestrained indulgence, sexual immorality

 Licentiousness – vs Liberty (perverted Grace)

\* Second Death – lake of fire, end of millennium judgement (Rev 20:6, 14, 21:8)

\* Balaam – moral compromise (Num 22-24, 31:16)

 greed (Jude 1:11, 2 Pet 2:15)

\* Jezebel – confronts prophetic (compromise vs wholeheartedly serve God)

 Elijah (1 Ki 17-19), John the Baptist/Herodius

 Control through... Intimidation (Elijah fled – 1 Ki 19)

 Manipulation (Ahab’s vineyard – 1Ki 21)

 Sexual Immorality (Jehu/Eunuch – 2 Ki 9)

\* Morning Star – first, brightest

 Jesus – context of His Coming in Glory (Rev 22:16)

Summary: End Times Church

 Uncompromising Doctrine, Intolerant of Sin, Loving Devotion, Fearless in Persecution,

 Diligent in Prayer, Secure Identity in Jesus (Man), Fully Partnered in Justice (Plan)

 Therefore...Powerful – Expressing the Fullness of Christ

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

 We must Choose Full Partnership with Jesus in the Plan.

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|  | **Revelation of Jesus** | **Commendation** | **Correction** | **Exhortation** | **Overcomer Reward** |
| **Ephesus** doctrine over devotion | holds \*messengers, walks in midst of churches (partnership intimacy) | diligent, patient, perseverence, no compromise, test doctrine \*Nicolaitans | left first love | remember first works repent | tree of life, paradise (garden intimacy) |
| **Smyrna**  fearless in persecution | first and last, dead come to life (eternal life) | tribulation, poverty, spiritually rich |  | don't fear, be faithful to death | crown of life, no \*second death (life, exoneration) |
| **Pergamos** loyal but compromising | two edged sword (word) | hold fast to faith, won't deny Him | compromise idolatry, immorality \*Balaam \*Nicolaitans | repent (distinction - vs 16) | hidden manna, white stone/new name (revelation in word, identity in purity) |
| **Thyatira** loving but tolerant of sin(contrast Ephesus) | eyes like fire, feet like brass (sees, stands firm - unchanging) | love, service, faith, patience | tolerance idolatry, immorality, false prophetic \*Jezebel | distinction: repent (justice - vs 23) hold fast | rule nations (Ps 2) \*morning star (authority for justice, revelation: His return) |
| **Sardis** religious | seven spirits, seven stars (Spirit - Jn 3:5) |  | dead works (religious) name/appearance  | watch (prayer), strengthen, remember, repent, (thief/10 virgins Mt 25) | white garments (vs 4), book of life, confess name (Mt 10:32-33) (imputed rightrousness, salvation) |
| **Philadelphia** faithful | holy, true, key of David, opens/shuts (Messiah) | kept word, not denied name (persecuted by Jews) perseverence |  | open door (favor) kept from trial (Goshen) hold fast, I'm coming | pillar, His name (immovable, identity in His spousal love - vs 9) |
| **Laodiceans** complacent | faithful/true witness, creator from beginning (truth) |  | lukewarm (complacent) due to blessing (vs 17) poor, blind, naked (self deceived) | pursue eternal riches, righteousness, revelation repent, open to Me (respond to love - vs 19) | sit with Him on throne (authority/intercession) |

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