



To Enjoy and Express the Freeing Radical Love of Jesus

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LAODICEA  
PERGAMUM



SARDIS  
SMYRNA



THE  
LETTERS  
OF REVELATION  
EMPIRES AT WAR

REVELATION 1  
*THE UNVEILING*

SEPTEMBER 18

<sup>1</sup> The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him  
to show to his servants the things that must soon take place.



## Revelation 1

<sup>1</sup> The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, <sup>2</sup> who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. <sup>3</sup> Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup> Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

<sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

# How We See The World & Interpret Life



- News Stories
- Relationships
- Failures
- Successes
- Future



# How We See The World & Interpret Life



Real



Blurry



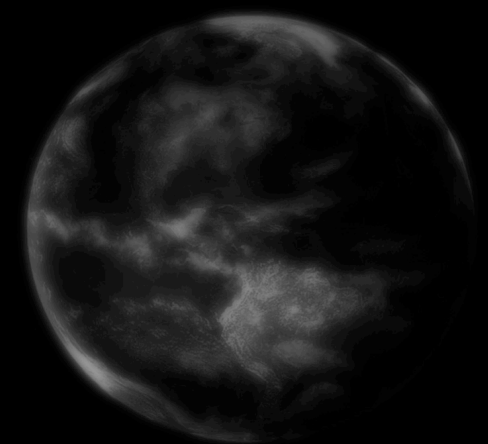
Warped



On Fire



Rose Colored



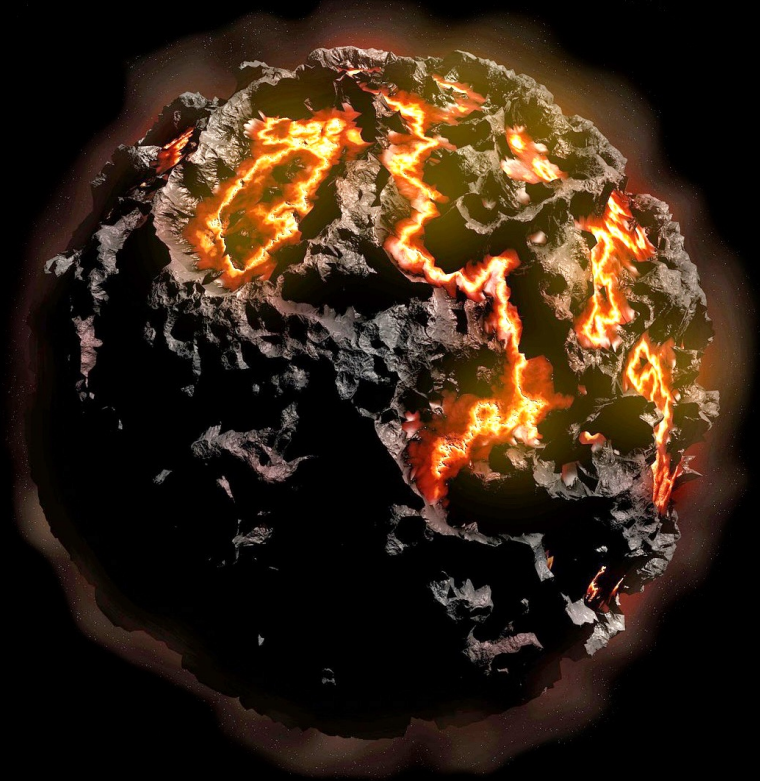
Black & White

<sup>1</sup> ***The revelation of Jesus Christ***, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place.

“Revelation” = “Apocalypse” = “Unveiling”  
(not “End of the World”)

“...of Jesus Christ”

It is FROM Him and ABOUT Him.



“John provides the words, we provide the music of our imagination to make the text come alive by the Spirit.”

Michael Card

The symbols are almost always referring to something from the Old Testament or their current culture.

1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.



# Kingdoms at War

## Pergamum

2:13 I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is.

## Smyrna

2:10b Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison...and I will give you the crown of life.

## Philadelphia

3:10b I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world...<sup>11</sup> I am coming soon.

# Kingdoms at War

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.  
I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

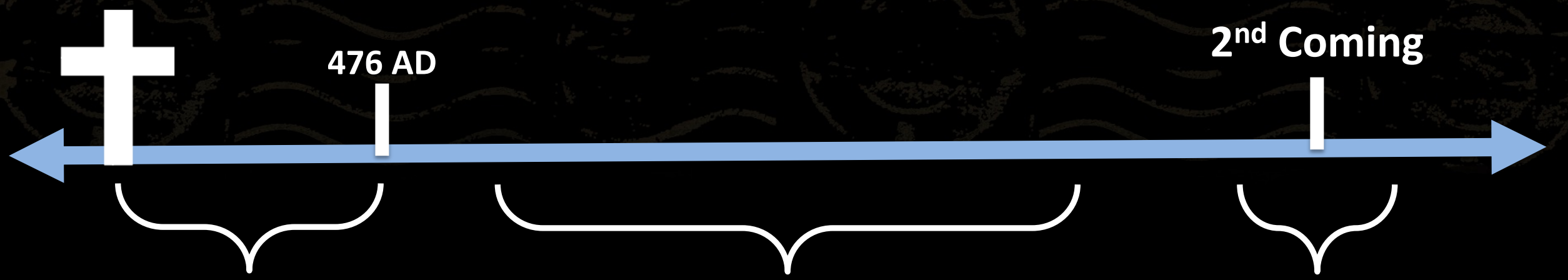
Evil

Love

1 John 4:4

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them,  
for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

<sup>3:21</sup> The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne,  
as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.







## Pretorism

Prophecies fulfilled either  
at 70AD with the fall of  
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### Idealism ("Pastoral")

**It is specifically written to the original readers while also revealing timeless principles of how the world will unfold between the two comings of Christ. It is not written chronologically.**

# Introducing the Main Characters

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

<sup>5b</sup> To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

Amen.

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**All Believers → 7 Churches**



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Father → Is. Was. Will Be.

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Father ➡ Is. Was. Will Be.

**Holy Spirit ➡ 7 Spirits**

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Holy Spirit ➡ 7 Spirits

Jesus ➡ Witness. Firstborn. Ruler



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Jesus ➡ Witness. Firstborn. Ruler

Jesus crossed enemy lines and sacrificed his life to rescue us and bring us into His Kingdom...and then overthrew the Enemy Himself.

# Introducing the Main Characters

All Believers ➡ 7 Churches

Father ➡ Is. Was. Will Be.

Holy Spirit ➡ 7 Spirits

Jesus ➡ Witness. Firstborn. Ruler

<sup>17b</sup> Fear not, I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>  
and the living one. I died, and behold I  
am alive forevermore, and I have the  
keys of Death and Hades.

Jesus crossed enemy lines and  
sacrificed his life to rescue us and  
bring us into His Kingdom...and then  
overthrew the Enemy Himself.

Written to those who are suffering and afraid in order to give us Hope based on the assurance that our Conquering Jesus is returning to set everything right.

What Is Real  
What Will Be  
How To Live

“Because THAT Day is coming,  
THIS day can be lived  
with hope and patience.”

Scotty Smith

“The pastoral role of Revelation is to summon every generation of readers to follow the lamb in its footsteps and to resist the beast within and without and to suffer along with the lamb if need be in bearing witness to what he’s done.”

Bible Project / Michael Gorman



# Benediction

*A 4000 years old tradition of giving a corporate blessing over God's people.*

## Revelation 1

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Amen.