

Revelation

*The Consummation of God's Plan
through Jesus Christ*

Stonebriar Community Church

Marathon Fellowship

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- When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.

*Refrain: It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

- Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance control, That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

- **My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—
My sin, not in part but the whole, Is nailed to the
cross, and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord,
praise the Lord, O my soul!**

Refrain: It is well with my soul,
 It is well, it is well with my soul.

- **And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be
sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll; The
trump shall resound, and the Lord shall
descend, Even so, it is well with my soul.**

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I. THE MESSAGE TO THE PROPHET:

- “*Write What You Have Seen*” (Chap. 1)

II. THE MESSAGE FOR THE PEOPLE:

- “*What Is Now*”–Present (Chaps. 2–3)

III. THE MESSAGE OF PROPHECY:

- “*What Will Take Place Later*”–Future (Chaps. 4–22)

I. The Message to the Prophet: “Write what you have seen” (Chap. 1)

- ***The Prologue (1:1-8)***

1. **The superscription (vv. 1-3)**

- ***The uniqueness & completeness of the revelation***

2. **The salutation (v. 4)**

- ***The Apostle John to the 7 Churches***

3. **The subject (vv. 5-6)**

- ***Jesus Christ***

4. **The synopsis (vv. 7-8)**

- ***He is coming!***

I. The Message to the Prophet (cont.)

- *The Preparation of the Prophet (1:9-20)*

1. *The setting for the commission (vv. 9-11)*

- *Persecution*

2. *The source of the commission (vv. 12-16)*

- *The risen & glorified Christ*

3. *The statement of the commission (vv. 17-20)*

- *Jesus: The eternal, living, risen Christ*
- *The outline for the book (present & future)*
- *The 7 angels & 7 golden lampstands defined*

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The Seven Churches of Revelation



The 7 Churches of Revelation

- Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia & Laodicea
- They are historic and representative.
 1. The number “seven” is symbolic & representative for John.
 2. The promise to each of the churches at the close of each letter is the exhortation to hear what the Spirit says to “the churches.”
 3. These 7 churches may represent the 7 successive periods of church history.

The 7 Letters to the 7 Churches in Revelation 2–3

- The risen & glorified Christ is the Lord of the Churches and the One who evaluates them.
- The letters follow a common literary format:
 1. A description of the recipient & the Author (Christ)
 2. A commendation of works (except Sardis & Laodicea)
 3. A condemnation or rebuke (except Smyrna & Philadelphia)
 4. An exhortation to specific action
 5. A promise

The Church in Ephesus (2:1-7)

- Christ: Protects & Present in the Church
- Commendation: Zeal for the Truth
- Condemnation: Loveless Orthodoxy
- Exhortation: Repent, Remember, Repeat
- Promise: Eternal Life

The Church in Smyrna (2:8-11)

- **The city of Smyrna:**

- *Approximately 35-40 mi. north of Ephesus*
- *Important seaport city with a large Jewish population*
- *The only surviving city of the 7 churches mentioned, known as the modern Turkey city called Izmir*

- **The church in Smyrna:**

- *No scriptural reference to the founding of a church in Smyrna*
- *Many Christians were executed for refusing emperor worship during Domitian's reign (A.D. 81-96).*
- *The most famous martyr was Polycarp, the Bishop of Smyrna, who was burned alive in A.D. 155.*

The Church in Smyrna (2:8-11) cont.

1. Christ (v. 8)

- *Eternal & Risen*

2. Commendation (v. 9)

- *Their Spiritual Riches*

3. Exhortation (v. 10a)

- *Be Faithful ("Do not be afraid")*

4. Promise (vv. 10b-11)

- *The crown of life (Eternal Life)*

The Church in Pergamum (2:12-17)

- **The city of Pergamum:**
 - *Approximately 45-55 mi. north of Smyrna*
 - *It had one of the finest libraries of antiquity*
 - *It had the great altar of Zeus*
 - *It was the provincial temple of imperial cult worshiping Augustus Caesar*
- **The church in Pergamum:**
 - *The city was known for Christian martyrdom*

The Church in Pergamum (2:12-17) cont.

1. Christ (v. 12)

- *Judging with His Word (cf. Heb. 4:12)*

2. Commendation (v. 13)

- *Their faithfulness in the “world” (Satan’s throne)*

3. Condemnation (vv. 14-15)

- *Their religious/moral compromise (minority)*

4. Exhortation (v. 16)

- *Repentance for the erring believers*

5. Promise (v. 17)

- *The hidden manna*