

Revelation

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

Stonebriar Community Church

Marathon Fellowship

Stephen S. Kim

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou My Vision

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

REVELATION

The Consummation of God's Plan through Jesus Christ

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)*

The Seven Churches of Revelation

Lycia

Galatia

Asia Minor

Greece

Corinth

Patmos

Pergamum

Thyatira

Sardis

Smyrna

Ephesus

Philadelphia

Laodicea

Cyprus

Crete

Mediterranean Sea

Jerusalem

Antioch

Byblos

Sidon

Tyre

Nazareth

Bethlehem

Alexandria



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 Churches of Revelation (cont.)

- **A Possible Symbolism of the 7 Churches of Revelation Representing the 7 Periods of Church History**
 1. **Ephesus: The apostolic church (1st cent.)**
 2. **Smyrna: The persecuted church (2nd-3rd cent.)**
 3. **Pergamum: The imperial church (4th-5th cent.)**
 4. **Thyatira: The church of the Middle Ages (6th-12th cent.)**
 5. **Sardis: The reformed church (13th-17th cent.)**
 6. **Philadelphia: The missionary church (18th-19th cent.)**
 7. **Laodicea: The apostate church (20th-21st cent.)**

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 7 Churches of Revelation 2–3

Church

Characteristic

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Ephesus | Loveless Orthodoxy |
| 2. Smyrna | Persecuted yet Faithful |
| 3. Pergamum | Faithful yet Compromising Morally |
| 4. Thyatira | Faithful yet Compromising Doctrinally |
| 5. Sardis | Spiritually Complacent |
| 6. Philadelphia | Faithful |
| 7. Laodicea | Spiritually Lukewarm |

The Church in Sardis (3:1-6)

- **The City of Sardis:**

- Approximately 30 mi. SE of Thyatira
- It was a wealthy fortress city set on a hill.
- This city was also a trade center for wool & dyeing, and was thus also characterized by a loose, luxurious living.

- **The Church in Sardis:**

- The church was known for its spiritual complacency.

The Church in Sardis (3:1-6) cont.

1. Christ (v. 1a)

- The Lord of the angelic hosts in charge of the churches

2. Condemnation (v. 1b-2)

- Spiritual complacency (majority)

3. Exhortation (v. 3)

- Wake up! (remember, obey, repent)

4. Promise (vv. 4-6)

- The faithful minority
- The book of life

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