



The Revealing

**Of Blessings to Seven Churches
(& For our Benefit)**

Introduction

Our Plan

apokalupsis

From Who? By Who

Important Warnings

The Gospel Spread

Intro to Seven Churches

Timeline





Apokolypse

The first words of the book of Revelation are:

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ,...” The word translated as “Revelation” is the Koine Greek word “Apokolypse”.

The person of John’s time would understand the word to mean a “revealing” or “unveiling”.

Hermaneutics



From who? By who?

The Revelation of **Jesus Christ**, which **God** gave **Him** to show to **His bond-servants**, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by **His angel** to **His bond-servant John**, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, everything that he saw. [Revelation 1:1,2]

The Apostle John

Personal Story



**Monestary of St. John the Theologian
on the Island of Patmos (1088 AD)
(Cave of the Apocalypse)**

INFLUENCE:

- The subject of the end times (Eschatology) was quite popular in my teen and young adult life. American church culture was saturated with:
 - *The Late Great Planet Earth* (Hal Lindsey)
 - *Charting the End Times* (Tim LaHaye & Thomas Ice)
 - *When your Money Fails: The “666 System” Is Here* (Mary Stewart Relfe)
 - *Revelation Revealed* (Dr. Jack Van Impe)
- The Movie “The Late Great Planet Earth” (1978) Even narrated by Orson Wells

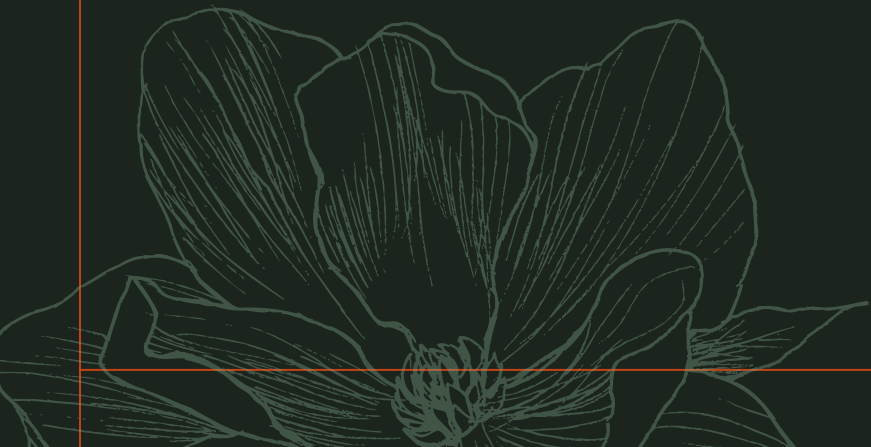
SOMETHING ISN'T QUITE RIGHT:

- My personal Bible study and certain teaching were not agreeing.
- My 2007 Commitment to studying Eschatology in Scripture and deep study of Revelation without commentary.

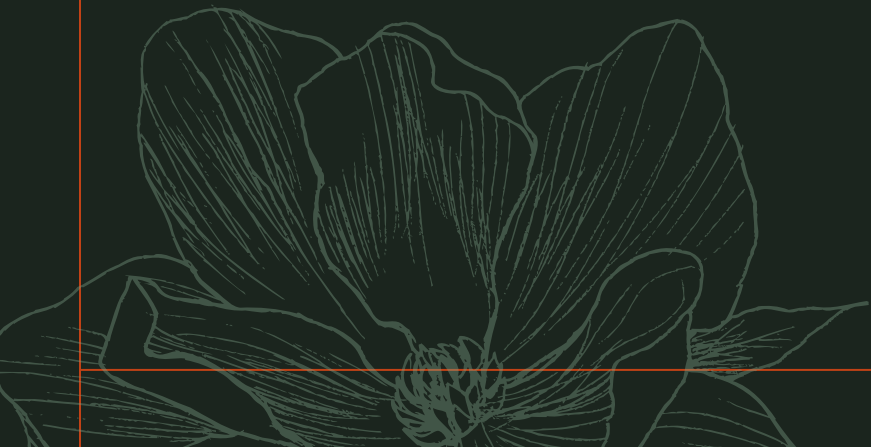
Question Everything!

Now these people (Bereans) were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

[Acts 17:11]



Important Warnings !



“Do not become teachers in large numbers, my brothers, since you know that we who are teachers will incur a stricter judgment.”

[James 3:1, NASB]

Every word of God is pure;

He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

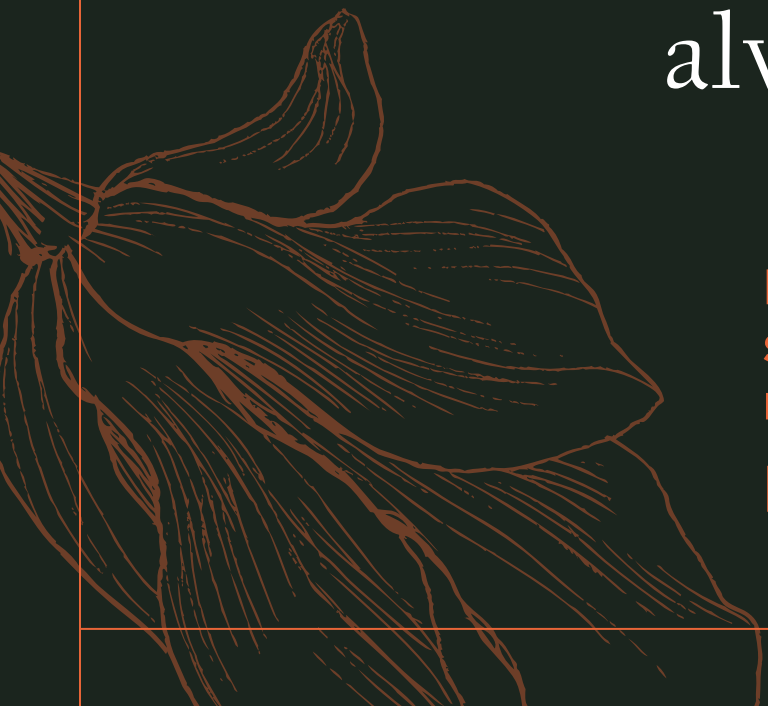
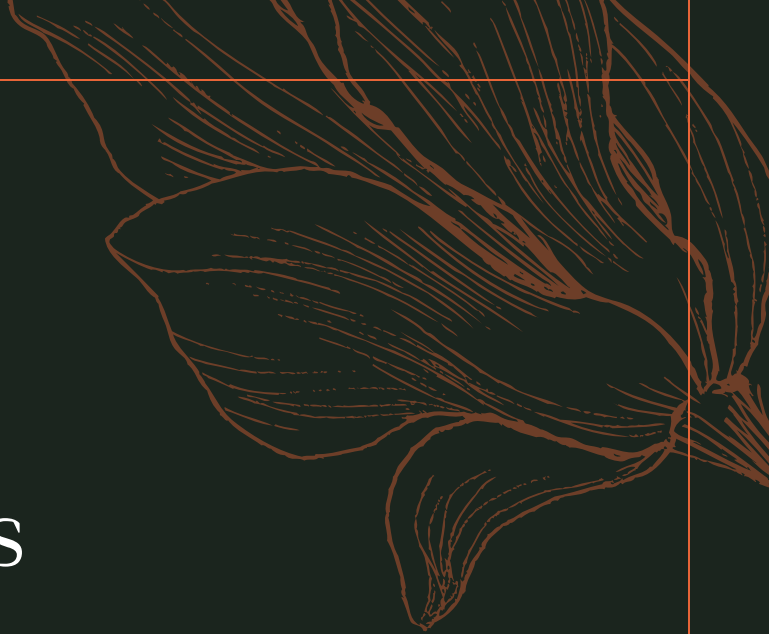
Do not add to His words

Or He will rebuke you, and you will be proved a liar.

[Proverbs 30:5,6, NASB]

I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

[Revelation 22: 18, 19]



“

Prophetic Interpretations
are like buses. There's
always another one coming.

”

**Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the
spirits to see whether they are from God, because
many false prophets have gone out into the world.**

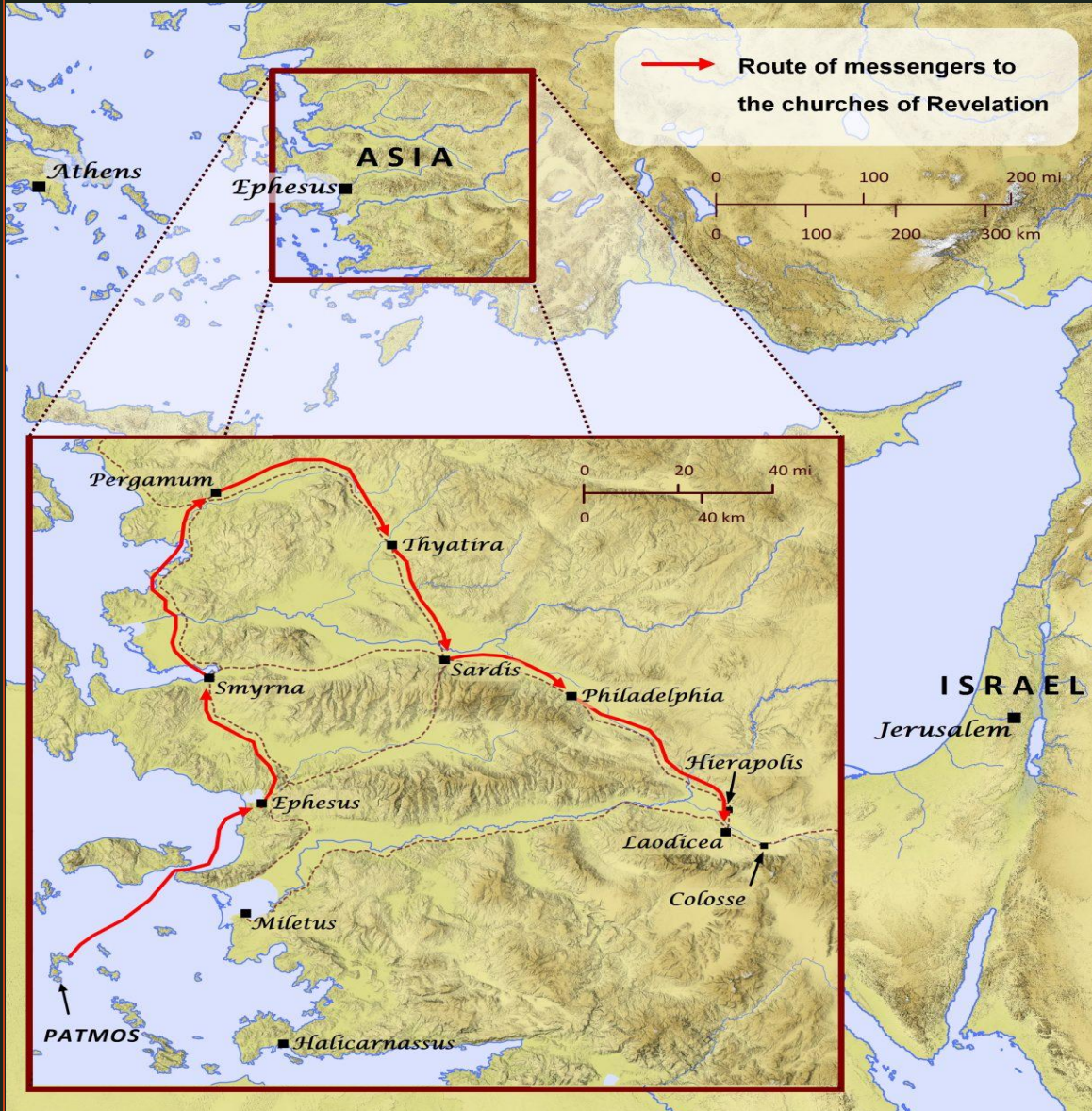
[I John 4:1; NASB]

The Gospel is Spread

The book of Acts provides details of all the cities that the Apostle Paul visited.

Of the seven church cities, the Bible tells us that Paul only visited Ephesus. Paul mentions Laodicea in Colossians but there is no direct evidence he made it there, nor Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia





The Seven Church Cities of Revelation

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Date of Writing

Likely 95 or 96 AD

- Irenaeus states in [*Against Heresies* \(Book 5, Chapter 30, Paragraph 3\)](#) that the Apostle John received his apocalyptic vision near the end of Emperor Domitian's reign around A.D. 95–96.
- Emperor Domitian was Roman Emperor from AD 81 to AD 96

Emperor Domitian

- A cruel, narcissistic and unpredictable autocrat, driven by greed and paranoia to preside over a reign of terror that purged the Roman elite and Senate.
- Tacitus, Pliny the Younger, and Suetonius, Roman Historians – Loathed Domitian.
- There is no historical record that he specifically persecuted Christians – such as did Nero or Diocletian





The First Blessing -

Blessed is the one who reads, and those who hear the words of the prophecy and keep the things which are written in it; for the time is near. [Revelation 1:3]

Thank you

Deeper Digs for Next Week:

1. Read Revelation Chapter 1
2. Read through once – List all the characters represented.
3. Identify the character's functions or roles represented.
4. What really touches you about what is described here. Can you place yourself in John's shoes?

