

the book of

REVELATION

sermon series

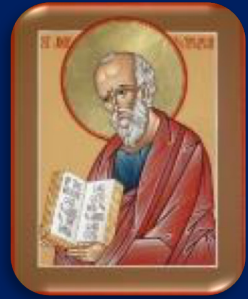


Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

Answering Ten Questions



- 1) What is the title – Revelation of Jesus Christ
- 2) Who wrote it? – John
- 3) Where was it written from? – Patmos
- 4) To Whom was it written? – The Seven Churches
- 5) When was it written? – A.D. 95
- 6) How is it organized (outline)? – 3 part outline
- 7) How was it delivered – Seven steps
- 8) Why was it written? – Encouragement and holiness
- 9) What is it about? – Jesus' final victory
- 10) What makes the book different? – OT relationship

Prologue (Rev. 1:1-8)

- I. Title (1a)
- II. Chain of Communication (1b-2)
- III. Blessing (3)
- IV. Author (4a)
- V. Audience (4b)
- VI. Greeting (4c)
- VII. Source (4d-5a)
- VIII. Subject (5b-8)



Revelation 1:19

“Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things [meta tauta].”



Revelation 1:19

- Seen (Chapter 1)
- Are (Chapters 2–3)
- After these things (Chapters 4–22)



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- Are (Chapters 2–3)
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The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11



Pattern of the Letters in Revelation 2–3

1. Destination
2. Description of Christ (Rev. 1)
3. Commendation
4. Rebuke
5. Exhortation to change
6. Consequence
7. Exhortation to listen
8. Promise to overcomers (Rev. 21–22)



DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Revelation 2–3

CHURCH	SCRIPTURE	DESCRIPTION
Ephesus	2:1-7	Loveless
Smyrna	2:8-11	Persecuted
Pergamum	2:12-17	Compromised
Thyatira	2:18-29	Corrupt
Sardis	3:1-6	Dead
Philadelphia	3:7-13	Missionary
Laodicea	3:14-22	Man-centered

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Philadelphia

Revelation 3:7-13

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2. Description of Christ (7b)
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The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11



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2. Description of Christ to Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7b)

- A. Holy
- B. True
- C. Holds the Key of David
- D. Authoritatively opens and closes doors



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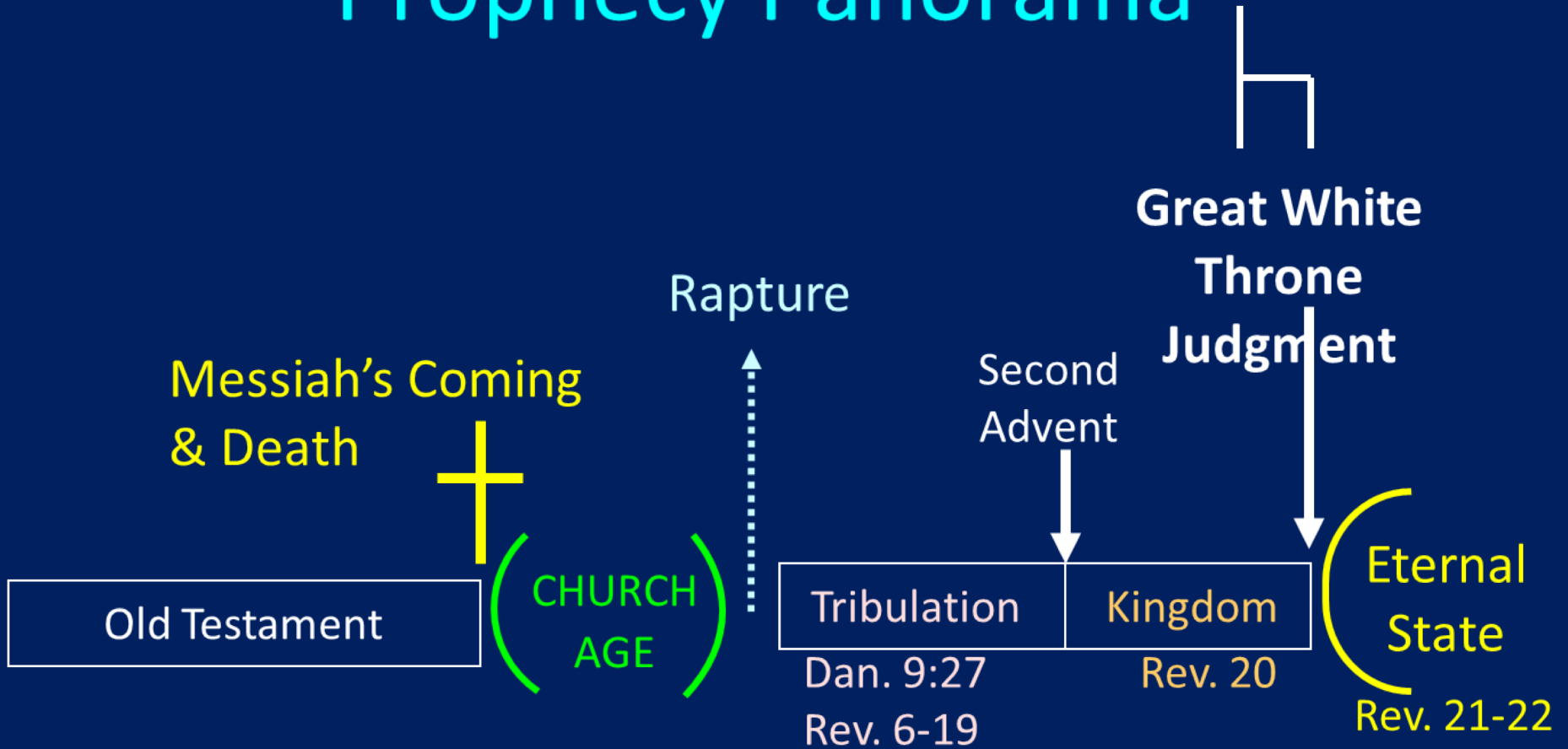


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Prophecy Panorama



Kingdom Now Theology?

Darrell L. Bock, "The Reign of the Lord Christ," in *Dispensationalism, Israel and the Church*, ed. Craig A. Blaising and Darrell L. Bock (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992), 51, 62..



“The rule is extended from the Father to the disciple through the Son, the one who in Revelation 3:7 says he has ‘the key of David.’ . . . Here Jesus refers to himself as ‘the one who has the key of David,’ a phrase that contains a present participle . . . ‘the one who has.’ This is currently held Davidic authority.”

Jesus Holds the Key of David?

(Rev. 3:7)

- 1) Authority to enter a reality is not the same thing as the presence of that reality (Isa. 22:22; Matt. 16:19; Philip 3:20)
- 2) Jesus is in heaven (Rev. 4:1; 5:6) while God's Kingdom is on the Earth (Zech. 14:9)
- 3) Christ's unsubdued enemies (Ps. 110:1-2, 5-6, Rev. 3:9)



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Rev. 3:7

Robert L. Thomas, *Revelation 1–7: An Exegetical Commentary*,
ed. Kenneth Barker (Chicago: Moody, 1992), 275.

"As the root and offspring of David (cf. Rev. 5:5; 22:16), Christ in the fullest sense controls the entrance to David's house, which *ultimately* refers to the Messianic kingdom. . . . He is the genuine Messiah, and in the *coming* reign of glory His power to open the door to His own and close it to the self-styled 'children of the kingdom' is established."

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Revelation 3:8

“I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”



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Grant R. Jeffrey

Apocalypse: The Coming Judgment of the Nations, p. 84-85.

“In a practical way, Christ encouraged them to ‘strengthen the things that remain.’ If there is to be a revival in a spiritually dying church, we must start with the small remnant and build upon their faithful prayers and devotion to Jesus Christ. **Just as in Gideon's army, God delights to accomplish His great victories with a small remnant. Then it will be obvious to all that it is God who has won the victory, not man.** The message to the church at Sardis reminds us that no matter how dead a church or denomination may be, God still has ‘a few names...who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white, for they are worthy.’ The prayer of every believer should be that they shall join that faithful remnant and walk with Him.”

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“I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little [mikros] power [dynamis], and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”



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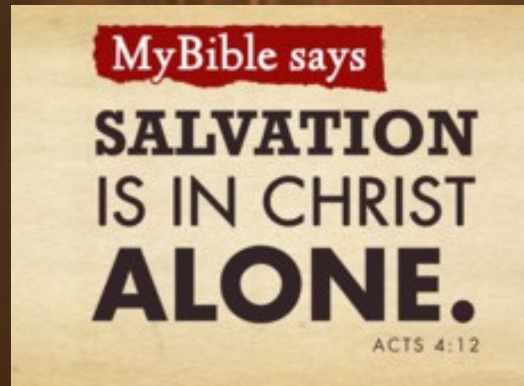
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Acts 4:12

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must [*dei*] be saved.”





“...one of the mistakes that human beings make is believing that there is only one way...We don't accept that there are diverse ways of being in the world; that there are millions of ways to be a human being. And many ways...many paths to what you call God. That her path might be something else and when she gets there she might call it the light. But her loving, and her kindness, and her generosity brings her to the...same point that it brings you...



...It doesn't matter whether she called it 'God' along the way or not...There couldn't possibly be just one way!...There couldn't possibly be only one way with millions of people in the world!...You think...if you are somewhere on the planet and you never hear the name of Jesus but yet you live with a loving heart. You lived as Jesus would have had you to live. You lived for the same purpose as Jesus came to the planet to teach us all, but you are in some remote part of the earth and you never heard the name of Jesus. You cannot get to Heaven...?"

Emergent Missions & Alternative Religions



“I don’t believe making disciples must equal adherents to the Christian religion. It may be advisable in many (not all!) circumstances to help people become followers of Jesus and remain within their Buddhist, Hindu, or Jewish contexts” (Italics added).

Emergent Missions & Alternative Religions

Gibbs and Bolger, *Emerging Churches*, 131



“Evangelism or missions for me is no longer persuading people to believe what I believe, no matter how edgy or creative I get. Its more about shared experiences and encounters. Its about walking the journey of life and faith together, each distinct to his or her own tradition and culture but with the possibility of **encountering God and truth from one another”** (Italics added).

Revelation 3:9

“Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you.”



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Revelation 2:9

“I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.”

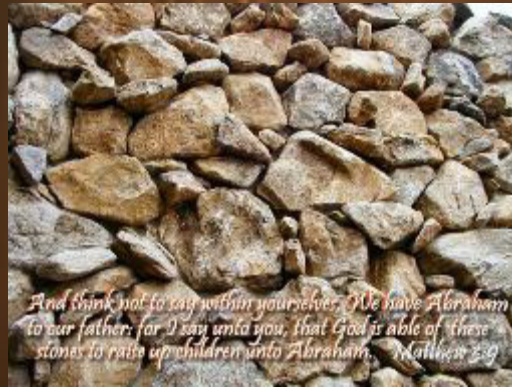
Descendants
of Israel

Israel of
God



Matthew 3:9

“and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.”



Romans 2:28-29

“²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹ But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.”



Romans 9:6

“But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel.”

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Zechariah 13:8-9

⁸“It will come about in all the land,” Declares the LORD,
“That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But
the third will be left in it.” ⁹“And I will bring the third
part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined,
And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My
name, And I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My
people,’ And they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’ ”



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“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (NIV)