

the book of

REVELATION

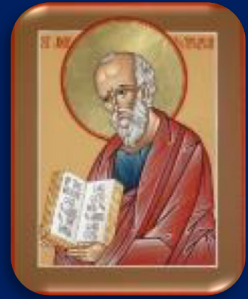
sermon series



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)



Revelation 1:19

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



The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11



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 I
Thyatira	2:18-29	Compromised II
Sardis	3:1-6	Dead
Philadelphia	3:7-13	Missionary
Laodicea	3:14-22	Man-centered

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)



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Pergamum

Revelation 2:12-17

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5. Exhortation (16a)
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2 Timothy 3:16

“¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”



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Names & Titles Demonstrating Satan's Post-Fall, Earthly Authority

(Job 1:7; 2:2; Luke 4:5-8; Rom. 8:19-22)



- Prince of this world (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
- God of this world (2 Cor. 4:4)
- Prince and power of the air (Eph. 2:2)
- Who the believer wrestles with (Eph. 6:12)
- Roaring lion (1 Pet. 5:8)
- Whole world lies in his power (1 John 5:19)

Revelation 11:15

¹⁵ “Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.’”



Satan's Progressive Defeat

1. Initial eviction from heaven (Isa 14:12-15; Ezek 28:12-17)
2. Eden (Gen 3:15)
3. Pre-diluvian world (1 Pet 3:19-20)
4. Cross (John 12:31; 16:11; Col 2:15; Heb 2:14; 1 John 3:8)
5. Mid point of the Tribulation (Rev 12:9)
6. Beginning of millennium (Rev 20:2-3)
7. End of millennium (Rev 20:10)



3. What Christ Commends in Pergamum (Rev. 2:13)

- A. Held fast to His name – 13a
- B. Did not deny His faith – 13b
- C. Positive example of Antipas – 13c



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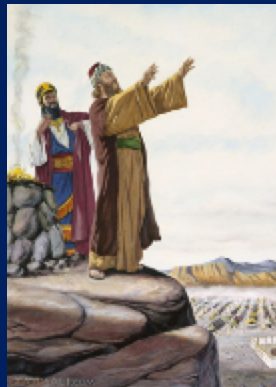
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4. What Christ Corrected in Pergamum (Rev. 2:14-15)

A. Teachings of Balaam – 14

B. Teachings of the Nicolaitans – 15



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Balaam's 7 Oracles Blessing Israel (23-24)

- 1) First oracle (23:1-12), Balaam explained that God's blessings upon Israel were irrevocable.
- 2) Second oracle (23:13-26), Balaam explained that the source of Israel's blessing was her unique relationship to Yahweh
- 3) Third oracle (23:27–24:14), Balaam extolled Israel's beauty.
- 4) Fourth oracle (24:15-19), Balaam explained that a future messianic deliverer (Gen 49:10) would spring forth and exercise dominion from Israel.

Balaam's 7 Oracles Blessing Israel (23-24)

5. Fifth oracle (Num 24:20) predicts Amalek's destruction. Amalek was the first foe that Israel had to fight against after leaving Egypt (Exod 17).
6. Sixth oracle (24:21-22) predicts the destruction of the Midianite group known as the Kenites as well as Assyria.
7. The nations of the seventh oracle are difficult to identify (24:23-24).

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Numbers 24:17

“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob, A scepter shall rise from Israel, And shall crush through the forehead of Moab, And tear down all the sons of Sheth.”



4. What Christ Corrected in Pergamum (Rev. 2:14-15)

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The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11





Grant R. Jeffrey

Apocalypse: The Coming Judgment of the Nations, p. 72-73.

“There is a lot of disagreement about who these Nicolaitans were...Christ created a universal ‘holy priesthood’ (1 Peter 2:5) where every believer is a priest. The Nicolaitans attempted to re-create the hierarchy of the Old Testament priesthood. They sought to establish a priestly authority over laymen. The Greek word is derived from *Nike* meaning ‘victory’ and *Laos* meaning ‘people.’ **It suggests a group of people who seek to elevate themselves into a special class of priesthood over other Christians.** Jesus told us in 1 Timothy 2:5: ‘For there is one God and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.’ **Such men sought the sole right to interpret the Scriptures for other Christians.** Centuries later, after Emperor Constantine’s conversion, this Nicolaitan heresy produced the Babylonian hierarchy of priests, leading to the spiritual “dark ages” of the medieval period.”

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5. So What? - Points of Application!

Rev 2:16

“Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.”



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Lewis Sperry Chafer

vol. 7, Systematic Theology (Grand Rapids,
MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 265-66.

[A] serious Arminian error respecting this doctrine occurs when repentance is added to faith or believing as a condition of salvation. It is true that repentance can very well be required as a condition of salvation, but then only because the change of mind which...has been involved when turning from every other confidence to the one needful trust in Christ. Such turning about, of course, cannot be achieved without a change of mind.



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This vital newness of mind is a part of believing, after all, and therefore it may be and is used as a ***synonym for believing*** at times (cf. Acts 17:30; 20:21; 26:20; Rom. 2:4; 2Tim. 2:25; 2 Pet. 3:9). ***Repentance*** nevertheless cannot be added to believing as a condition of salvation, because upwards of 150 passages of Scripture condition salvation upon believing only (cf. John 3:16; Acts 16:31).

Three Tenses of Salvation

Phase	Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Tense	Past	Present	Future
Saved from sin's:	Penalty	Power	Presence
Scripture	Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5	Philip 2:12	Rom 5:10

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John 10:27-29

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish [*ou mē; aiōnia*]; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”



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Deuteronomy 6:4-7

⁴ “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!...⁶ These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”



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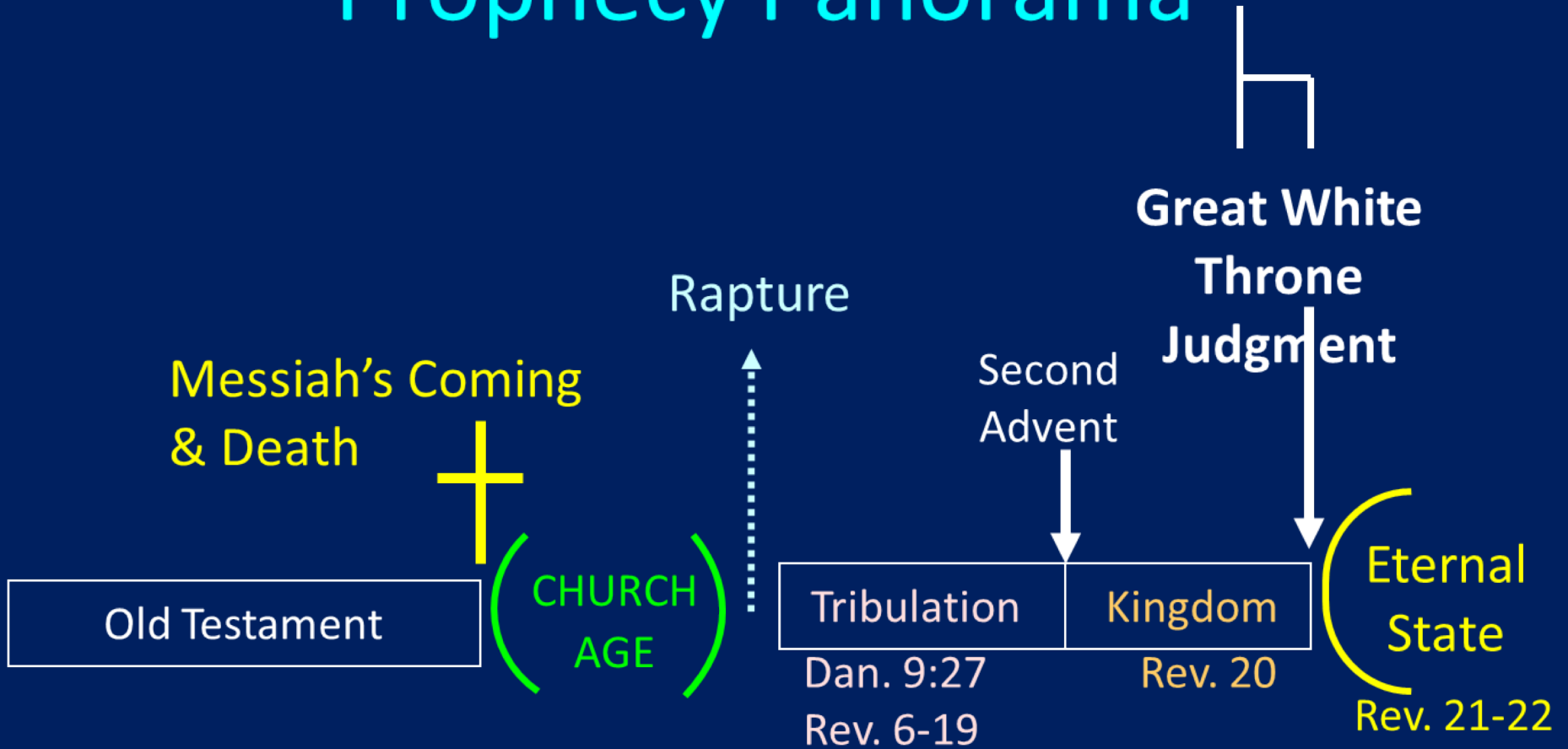


1 John 5:4-5

⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”



Prophecy Panorama



8. Christ's Promises to Overcomers in Pergamum (Rev. 2:17)

- A. Hidden Manna – 17a
- B. White Stone – 17b
- C. New Name – 17c



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Conclusion

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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)