

# Revelation

(A Chapter-by-Chapter Overview of God's Picture Book)

## Lesson 04: Revelation 3:1-22

### Review

#### General Background

A prophet's job was to "tell it like it is" and to "tell it like it is going to be."

The word "Revelation" means "uncovering."

John, the author, uses vivid, symbolic imagery to get the message across.

This writing is designed to be a vivid message to a hurting church not a hidden code for a few scholars.

#### What We Observed in Chapter 1

Jesus is pictured in a glorified form. He is standing among seven golden lampstands representing seven churches.

#### What We Observed in Chapter 2

In chapter 2, the one letter (Revelation 1:4) becomes seven letters to seven Asian churches.

This chapter contains four of the seven letters.

The Church in Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7)

Persevered in the face of false teachings but lost their first love.

The Church in Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11)

Practiced Christianity in a hostile environment and encouraged to "stay faithful unto death."

The Church in Pergamum (Revelation 2:12-17)

Had been faithful to live out their faith in "Satan's throne."

Sadly, some had given into the pagan ways of Rome.

Threefold reward offered those who heeded this message.

The Church in Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)

Generally heading in the right direction.

Some had turned to following "Jezebel."

Exhorted to become victorious (overcomers).

### Chapter 3 – Letters to Seven Churches (part 2)

#### The Church in Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6)

##### About the City

Located fifty miles east of Ephesus.

An important industrial center famous for its garment industries.

##### About the Church

Jesus points out the reality of their spiritual decline.

Jesus calls them to repent, warning them of a coming sudden judgment.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

Jesus calls them to put on "clean garments."

1 Corinthians 15:53-54

Jesus promises a threefold blessing

Clothed in white garments

Name in the book of life

Name acknowledged before the Father

## The Church in Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13)

### About the City

The name Philadelphia means "city of brotherly love."  
Known as the "Gateway to the East."  
Subject to earthquakes.

### About the Church

The church is presented with a symbolic "open door" symbolizing the maintaining of a relationship with Christ.  
Jesus gives assurance that those who mistreat them because of Christ will eventually be humbled (Isaiah 60:14).  
Jesus promises a four-sided result for the victorious (overcomers).  
They will be considered a pillar in God's temple  
God's name will be written on them  
The name of God's city will be written on them  
They will be given a new name

## The Church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22)

### About the City

Located southeast of Philadelphia along a great trade route.  
Famous for its medicine, boasting of a remedy for weak eyes.  
Had hot springs that were reportedly medically beneficial.  
Contained important banking and textile businesses.

### About the Church

Jesus does not offer a commendation (compliment) to this church.  
Described as "lukewarm."  
Love was the motive behind Jesus' strong words to the church (Hebrews 12:6)

Jesus knocking at the door was an invitation to \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ.

## Conclusion

It is important for Christians to understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of their relationship with Christ.

Even in the midst of great tribulation \_\_\_\_\_ is possible if we trust Christ and heed his message.

The rewards of this victory make overcoming the opposition \_\_\_\_\_.