

When Jesus Comes To Church

1) Introduction

Revelation is prophecy

**But prophecy of a distinct kind -
apocalyptic prophecy**

**Unlike the narratives of the Bible,
whose purpose was to show that God is
active in history, Revelation announces
that God will bring an *end* to history -
not just a conclusion, but a climactic
end in judgment**

'Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen'
(Rev.1:7)

'Behold' is used 26 times in Revelation. It is used to call attention to – 'Listen!' 'Behold He is coming!'

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty”

(Rev.1:8)

Omniscient: Alpha and Omega – the first and last letter of the Greek alphabet, i.e. complete knowledge and understanding

Omnipresent: The beginning and the ending

Omnipotent: the Almighty

Eternal: ‘Who is and who was and who is to come’

Does Satan or the Antichrist frighten you?

Revelation as an Epistle

'John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen'

(Rev.1:5-6)

**It was written as a letter to seven churches in Asia.
The order of these churches is the order
they would have received the circular letter**



- ✓ **His purpose is to encourage the Church to remain faithful in the midst of suffering, false teaching, worldly temptation, etc.**
- ✓ **One of the key words is 'overcome'**
- ✓ **Faithful believers are described as those who overcome the world, the flesh and the devil**
- ✓ **This is mentioned in each letter**
- ✓ **Those who are led by Jesus in this age will reign with Him in the next**
- ✓ **The struggles they were experiencing against the might of Rome were just a symbol of an age-long conflict between Christ's kingdom and the kingdoms of this world, inspired and controlled by Satan**

'I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea." Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands'

(Rev.1:10-12)

**The seven churches are seven lampstands
They are not the light, but *bearers* of the light**

- ✓ **Lampstands without the light are like a tabernacle without the presence of God's glory**
- ✓ **The light in the tabernacle must never go out**
- ✓ **The purpose of each church is to give His light to the world**
- ✓ **When this ceases to happen the lampstand will be judged and may even be removed by Jesus (2:5). Judgment begins at the House of God**
'For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?' **(1 Pet.4:17)**
- ✓ **The priests were responsible for maintaining the light by trimming the wicks and supplying the oil. In a similar way the 'messengers' are responsible for this**

Trimming the wicks:

Ephesus: *'...you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars' (Rev.2:2)*

Smyrna: *'I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan' (Rev.2:9)*

Pergamos: *'...you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality' (Rev.2:14)*

Thyatira: *'...you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols'* (Rev.2:20)

Sardis: *'...you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead'* (Rev.3:1)

Philadelphia: *'...I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you'* (Rev.3:9)

Laodicea: *'...you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked'* (Rev.3:17)

Churches sometimes take a wrong turn

**Jesus, in His love for the Church,
confronts them so they can turn back**

**Satan uses the same tools now as he
used then to get into churches**

That's why Jesus said:

***'He who has an ear, let him hear what
the Spirit says to the churches'***

***'To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,
"These things says He who holds the seven
stars in His right hand, who walks in the
midst of the seven golden lampstands: I know
your works, your labour, your patience...'
(Rev.2:1-2)***

Jesus:

- 1) Is omnipotent – He holds the leaders**
- 2) Is omnipresent – He walks among the
churches**
- 3) Is omniscient – He knows the deeds of the
churches**