

REVELATION 1-3 — BEFORE THE CURTAIN OPENS

Fill-in-the-Blank Study Guide

Big Idea: Before Jesus shows John what is going to happen in the _____, He shows John what He sees happening in His _____.

I. THE REVELATION OF CHRIST — REVELATION 1

1. Revelation begins with Jesus.

Revelation 1:1 calls the book “The _____ of Jesus Christ.”

The Greek word ἀποκάλυψις — apokalypsis means an _____, disclosure, or revelation.

Revelation was not given merely to satisfy our curiosity about tomorrow; it was given to shape our _____ today.

2. Revelation comes from God.

The chain of communication in Revelation 1:1 is:

God → Jesus Christ → _____ → John → His servants.

Revelation 1:3 specifically calls this book a _____.

3. Revelation was written to real churches.

Revelation 1:4 addresses the seven churches located in _____.

The seven churches form a geographic circuit:

Ephesus → Smyrna → Pergamos → Thyatira → Sardis → Philadelphia → _____.

4. Revelation gives us an exalted Christ.

When John sees the glorified Jesus, he falls at His feet “as _____.” — Revelation 1:17

Jesus describes Himself as:

“I am the _____ and the _____.”

Before Revelation shows us the Beast, it shows us the _____.

II. THE REVIEW OF THE CHURCHES — REVELATION 2-3

A helpful pattern for studying the seven letters is:

Christ → Commendation → Condemnation → _____ → Promise

Jesus repeatedly tells the churches:

“I _____ your works...”

The central truth of Revelation 2-3 is:

JESUS _____ HIS CHURCH.

Ephesus — Orthodox but had left its first _____.

Smyrna — Suffering but _____.

Pergamos — Struggling with compromise and false _____.

Thyatira — Tolerating immorality and false teaching.

Sardis — Had a reputation for being alive but was spiritually _____.

Philadelphia — Faithful and enduring.

Laodicea — Spiritually _____ and self-sufficient.

III. THE RELEVANCE TO EVERY CHURCH

First, these were seven _____ churches in the first century.

Second, their messages apply to _____ generally.

Each letter says:

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the _____.”

Some interpreters also believe the seven churches prophetically represent seven periods of _____ history.

While that interpretation is possible, it is important to distinguish it from what the text explicitly states.

IV. THE ROAD INTO THE REST OF REVELATION

Revelation 1:19 provides an important outline:

“The things which you have seen” → Chapter _____

“The things which are” → Chapters _____

“The things which will take place after this” → Chapters 4–22

Revelation 4:1 says:

“Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place _____ this.”

The Greek expression μετὰ ταῦτα — meta tauta means “_____ these things.”

Chapters 1–3 show us Christ among His churches.

Chapter 4 opens _____.

And before John sees judgment falling upon the earth, he first sees the _____ of God.

WORD BANK

1 • 2–3 • after • angel • Asia • churches • church • Correction • dead • faithful • faithfulness • First • heaven • history • know • knows • King • Last • Laodicea • love • lukewarm • real • Revelation • teaching • throne • unveiling • world • prophecy