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Revelation 1:1-2

# The End Times

# The End Times

What comes next?

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What comes next?

What is the next event on God's calendar?

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The Events in Heaven

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The Events on Earth

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The Tribulation

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What events will precede the Tribulation?

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What is God report card on His church?

# Life Changing Events

# Life Changing Events

Understanding God's Sovereignty

# Life Changing Events

## Understanding God's Sovereignty

Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been (1) appointed to eternal life (2) believed.

Acts 13:14

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But our God is in heaven;  
He does whatever He pleases.

Psalm 115:3

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The Holy Spirit is Just Like Jesus

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“And I (Jesus) will pray the Father, and He (Father) will give you another (*allos*) Helper, that He may abide with you forever (who) the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, (why) because it neither sees Him nor knows (*ginōskō*) Him; but you know (*ginōskō*) Him, (how) for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

John 14:16-17

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Understanding the Reason for Spiritual Gifts

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But the manifestation (expression, to make visible or observable) of the Spirit (what) is given to (who) each one (why) for the profit of all.

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# Life Changing Events

God's Report Card to His Church (You and Me)

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Revelation 2-3

# The Christian Epistles

# The Christian Epistles

Gospels and Acts – 5

# The Christian Epistles

Gospels and Acts – 5

Paul's Epistles – 13

# The Christian Epistles

Gospels and Acts – 5

Paul's Epistles – 13

General Epistles – 8

# The Christian Epistles

Gospels and Acts – 5

Paul's Epistles – 13

General Epistles – 8

Jesus' Epistles – 7

# The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

# The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

# The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

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Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

# The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

# The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

# The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

# The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

# Report Card Summary

# Report Card Summary

Good

Bad

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

Why We Do What We Do

# Why We Do What We Do

Meet in a barn

# Why We Do What We Do

Meet in a barn

Focus on family

# Why We Do What We Do

Meet in a barn

Focus on family

Meet in homes during the week

# Why We Do What We Do

Meet in a barn

Focus on family

Meet in homes during the week

Take vacations together

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Meet in homes during the week

Take vacations together

Intentionally stay small

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Take vacations together

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Train men to be spiritual leaders

Women's retreats

# The Revelation

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To whom was the book written?

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Question:

To whom was the book written?

And why was it written?

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The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God (Father) gave Him (Jesus) to show (who) His servants— (what) things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified (to make known, to declare, to render into signs) it (how) by His angel to His servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

Revelation 1:1-2

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Revelation 1:1-2

# The Revelation

This is the revelation given by God to His Son to reveal to us things that will take place in the future.

# The Revelation

Blessed is he who (1) reads and those who (2) hear the words of this prophecy, and (3) keep those things which are written in it; (why) for the time is near.

Revelation 1:3

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Revelation 1:3

This is the unique promise given to us today.

# The Revelation

Blessed is he who (1) reads and those who (2) hear the words of this prophecy, and (3) keep those things which are written in it; (why) for the time is near.

Revelation 1:3

This is the unique promise given to us today. But the promise is for those who not only read and hear, but also keep (obey) the words of this book.

# The Revelation

## The Outline of the Revelation

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“Write the (1) things which you have seen, and the (2) things which are, and the (3) things which will take place after this.”

Revelation 1:19

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(1) things which you have seen (John's vision of Christ, Rev. 1)

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- (1) things which you have seen (John's vision of Christ, Rev. 1)
- (2) things which are (The Seven Churches, Rev. 2-3)
- (3) things which will take place after this (Rev. 4-22)

“The Things Which Are”

# “The Things Which Are”

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

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The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

# “The Things Which Are”

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

Local

# “The Things Which Are”

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

Local

To all Churches

# “The Things Which Are”

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

Local

To all Churches

Personal

# “The Things Which Are”

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

Local

To all Churches

Personal

Prophetic

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The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

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**Prophetic**

“The Things Which Are”

Prophetic

# “The Things Which Are”

Prophetic

These seven letters to the seven churches lay out church history for us in advance.

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These seven letters to the seven churches lay out church history for us in advance.

They tell us about the times in which we live, what Christ is pleased with and what He is not.

# “The Things Which Are”

## Prophetic

These seven letters to the seven churches lay out church history for us in advance.

They tell us about the times in which we live, what Christ is pleased with and what He is not.

If they were listed in any other order it would not fit.

# The Design of the Letters

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## 1. The Name of the Church

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1. The Name of the Church
2. The Title of Christ Used

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1. The Name of the Church
2. The Title of Christ Used
3. His Commendation (good news)

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6. A Promise to the Overcomer

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1. The Name of the Church
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7. The Closing (“He who has an ear...”)

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The order of the last two sometimes switched.

Ephesus

# Ephesus

Name means “desired one” or “darling”

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“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:”

Revelation 2:1

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# Ephesus – Good News

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“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.”

Revelation 2:2-3

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“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are **not**, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.”

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Focus on doctrine over devotion to Christ.

They were too busy on the business of the Lord to have time for the Lord Himself.

Have you ever been there?

# Ephesus – Exhortation

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“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else (what) I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place— unless you repent.”

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A lampstand is a bearer of light, and not light itself.

# Ephesus – Good News (pt.2)

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“But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”

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The Nicolaitans gave rise to the split in the church between the clergy and laity and the exercise of the clergy's authority over them.

More like a business and less like a family.

## Ephesus – Good News (pt.2)

“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

John 13:14-17

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# Ephesus – Closing and Promise

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“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”

Revelation 2:7

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Note the order: the promise to the overcomer is after the closing statement.

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This time frame runs from the birth of the church until the turn of the first century, 30 AD to 100 AD.

# Ephesus – Report Card

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The Lord said both good and bad things about the church in Ephesus.

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The Lord said both **good** and bad things about the church in Ephesus.

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# Report Card Summary

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Good

Bad

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

# Report Card Summary

Good

Bad

Ephesus

X

Smyrna

Pergamos

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# Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>
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# Ephesus – Our Response

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Are we doing what the Lord praised the church at  
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Or are we doing what He did not praise them for?

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Are we doing what the Lord praised the church at  
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And do we really care?

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Are we doing what the Lord praised the church at  
Ephesus for doing?

Or are we doing what He did not praise them for?  
And do we really care?

If so, what are we (you) prepared to do about it?

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