

Printing and Finishing Guide

This file is for making lesson booklets that are bound with either spiral or comb binding. We prefer the spiral binding if the equipment is available. The content of the booklet is the same as in the stapled booklets, but this format is

- * Easier to make
- * Better for use during presentations (because the pages don't turn by themselves)
- * Typically more expensive
- * Typically this results in a thicker (less portable) booklet
- * Better picture quality.

Materials:

Select paper that is not easily torn and that produces the nicest quality pictures on your printer. When printing on our Cannon inkjet printer with the standard ink, we prefer to use the Office Depot brand Premium High Gloss Photo Paper (Item # 652-001), because we like the image quality and the the resulting product is essentially water resistant.

For the front and back covers, we cut standard clear plastic presentation cover sheets to be the same size as the booklet.

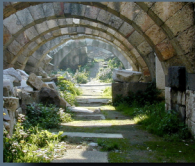
Printing:

1. Print on only one side of the pages by using Adobe Acrobat Reader's settings:
 - Both Odd and Even Pages
 - Auto-Center
 - Pages 1-endIf printing on European A4 paper size, depending on which printer model you are using, it might be necessary to choose the option to reduce oversized pages to fit.

Finishing:

1. Place this page on top of the rest of the printed pages and enough clear cover pages to make front and back covers for each booklet.
2. Cut on the solid lines to make pages that are about 9.95cm wide and 13.35cm tall. You can reduce the number of cuts by stacking partly cut pages for the remaining cuts, but careful planning is required.
3. Arrange the pages into their final order. Page numbers are on the bottom center of each page following the cover page.
4. Punch holes for binding along the top edge of the pages and covers.
5. Bind the pages to form the booklets.

The Seven Churches



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs License. To view a copy of this license, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 559 Nathan Abbott Way, Stanford, California 94305, USA. Additional use may be granted by written permission of the copyright holder.



Unit K

The Seven Churches

Bill and Shelley Houser

The Bible quotations are from the King James Version. The remaining text unless indicated otherwise was created by Bill and Shelley Houser.

The photographs are from Todd Bolen's *Pictorial Library of Bible Lands, Volume 8: Turkey* and are used with his permission. The few photographs from this collection that are included here have been adapted for this use, but a much more extensive collection is available via www.bibleplaces.com.

Credit information for each picture is given in the picture sources section of this book.

Copyright © October 22, 2004
Ready Answers, William and Rochelle Houser, 2013 Old State Rt 66,
Newburgh, IN 47630, Phone: 812-858-9241.

1



This is the beginning of a series of studies on the book of Revelation and related prophecies. Although Revelation can be hard to understand, it is worthwhile to study, because there is a blessing promised to those who read and study it.¹ It is believed to have been written in AD 96² by the apostle John, while he was a prisoner on the island of Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.³

2



John saw a vision of Jesus⁴ holding seven stars in His right hand, and walking among seven golden candlesticks. Jesus explained that the stars were the angels, or messengers, of the churches,⁵ and the candlesticks were the seven churches in Asia Minor.⁶

3

Write the things which...
thou hast seen

**The Gospel According
to Saint John**

are

Revelation 1-3

shall be hereafter

Revelation 4-22



Jesus instructed John,⁷ “Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;” John recorded in his gospel the things he had seen. In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, Jesus was telling John specific messages to give to the seven churches that were in Asia Minor at that time. The rest of Revelation⁸ was telling John what would happen in the future from his time.⁹

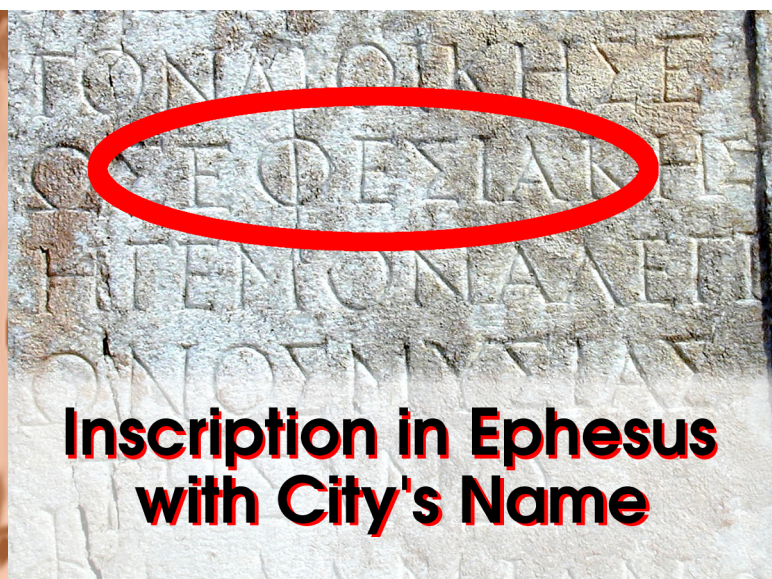
4

This study will focus on the specific messages to the churches, because they tell us how to prepare for the future events. Jesus emphasized that everyone should listen carefully to these messages, when He repeatedly said, “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit sayeth unto the churches.”

5

Typical Message

- Description of Jesus
- Praise for doing right
- Description of wrong
- Punishment for wrong
- Blessing for repenting



The typical message begins with a description of Jesus, and some praise from Jesus about what that church is doing right. From this part of the message, we can see what we should also try to do. Then, Jesus explains what they are doing wrong, and a punishment for them if they do not change those behaviors. From this part, we can understand what behaviors we should also avoid. Jesus ends the messages with a blessing promised for people who are faithful to Him to the end. We can be comforted and encouraged by these promises, too.

6

Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

Revelation 2 : 1

7



Celsus Library

I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

Revelation 2:2-3



Brothel Advertisement

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.

Revelation 2:4-6



He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:7



Smyrna

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

Revelation 2:8



I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Revelation 2:9

12

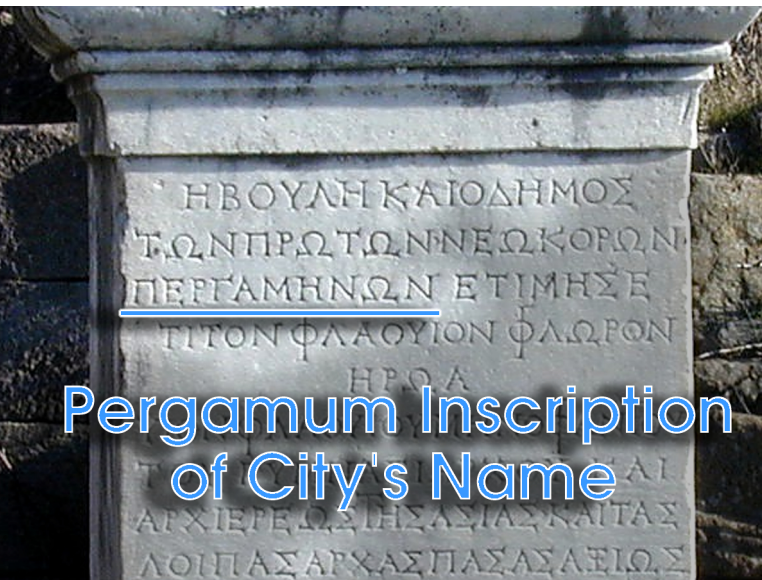


Agora

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Revelation 2:10-11

13



Pergamum Inscription of City's Name

And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

Revelation 2:12

14



Snake in Pergamum

I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

Revelation 2:13

15



Cornucopia

But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. Revelation 2: 14-16



Victor's Name in Pergamum Museum

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it. Revelation 2:17



Thyatira Road

And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. Revelation 2: 18-19



Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. Revelation 2:20

Revelation 2:20



Thyatira



Thyatira
Church of St. John

And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Revelation 2: 21-23

But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

Revelation 2: 24-25



Thyatira
Broken Potsherds



Sardis Columns

And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 2: 26-29

And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Revelation 3: 1



Gymnasium

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Revelation 3 : 2



Sundial

Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Revelation 3 : 3



Sardis Synagogue

Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3 : 4-6



Near Philadelphia

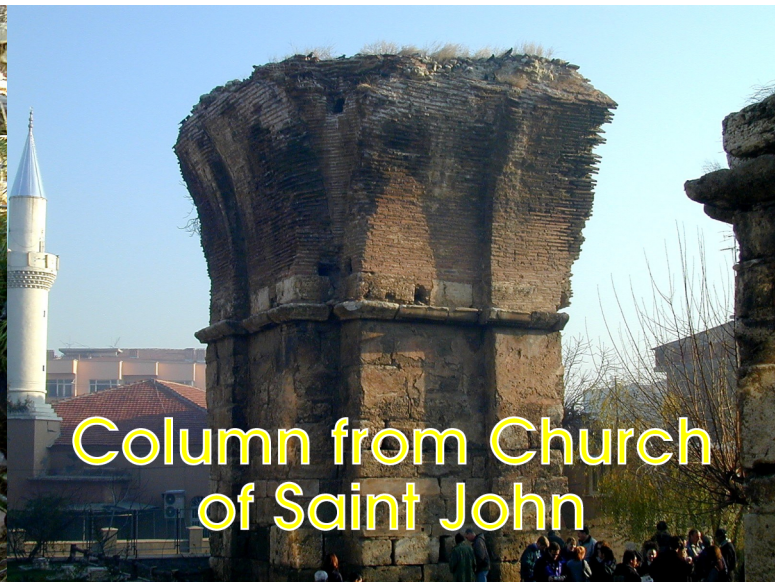
And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Revelation 3 : 7-8



Architrave

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Revelation 3: 9-10



Column from Church of Saint John

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. Revelation 3: 11-13



In Laodicea

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; Revelation 3: 14



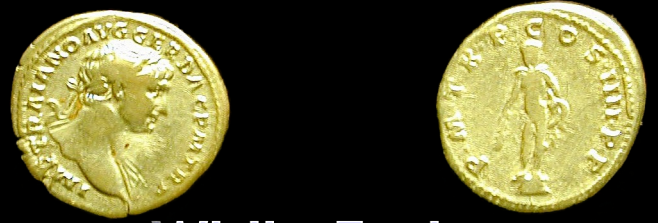
Bathhouse
Aqueduct
Piece

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Revelation 3: 15-16



Laodicean Street

Gold Coins Minted



While Trajan
Was Emperor

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods,
and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art
wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:
Revelation 3:17

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that
thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest
be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not
appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou
mayest see.
Revelation 3:18



"Ephesian Gate"

in Laodicea



Laodicea

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous
therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and
knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will
come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.
Revelation 3:19-20

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my
throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my
Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear
what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:21-22

Picture Sources

- p.0 Conglomerate of 7 churches' pictures used later in this book.
- p.2 *John on the Island of Patmos* by Charlotte Hinson, copyright 2004 William and Rochelle Houser
- p.3 *Jesus In the Candlesticks* by Charlotte Hinson, copyright 2004 William and Rochelle Houser
- p.4 Chart explaining Rev 1:19, copyright 2004 William and Rochelle Houser
- p.5 Map showing locations of Churches, copyright 2004 William and Rochelle Houser
- p.6 Organization of a typical message, copyright 2004 William and Rochelle Houser
- p.7 Ephesus inscription with city's name, tb n010500.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.8 Ephesus Celsus Library3, tb n010500.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.9 Ephesus advertisement for brothel on sidewalk, tb n010500.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.10 *Tree of Life* by Charlotte Hinson, copyright 2004 William and Rochelle Houser

Picture Sources (Continued)

- p.21 Thyatira Church of St John, tb n010801.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.22 Thyatira broken potsherds, tb n010801.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.23 Sardis columns with mountain behind, tb n010700.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.24 Sardis gymnasium2, tb n010700.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.25 Sundial in Manisa museum, tb n010700.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.26 Sardis synagogue, 4th c AD, tb n010700.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.27 Philadelphia view to south from acropolis, tb n010801.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.28 Philadelphia acropolis architrave fragment, tb n010801.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.29 Philadelphia Church of St John column, tb n010801.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.30 Laodicea Byzantine crosses, tb n010301.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen

Picture Sources (Continued)

- p.11 Smyrna agora first level arches, tb n010600.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.12 Smyrna Shalom synagogue, tb n010600.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.13 Smyrna agora, tb n010600.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.14 Pergamum inscription on white stone, tb n010901.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.15 Funerary meal with snake in tree, Hellenistic, tb n010901.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.16 Cornucopia from Pergamum Demeter terrace, tb n010901.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.17 Wreaths with victors' names in Pergamum museum, tb n010901.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.18 Thyatira road and architectural fragments, tb n010801.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.19 /Istanbul/Instanbul Museum/Young woman in marble, Flavian dynasty, tb n122800.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.20 Thyatira excavations from east, tb n010801.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen

Picture Sources (Continued)

- p.31 Laodicea aqueduct piece with bathhouse remains, tb n010301.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.32 Laodicea street near nymphaeum2, tb n010301.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.33 Emperor Trajan gold coins, tb n010600.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.34 Laodicea Ephesian Gate, so called, tb n010301.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen
- p.35 Laodicea tell from southwest, tb n010301.jpg, copyright 2001 Todd Bolen

End Notes

Page numbers are listed in parentheses to help you find where each end note is referenced.

- ¹ Revelation 1:3 describe a blessing for those to study Revelation. (p. 2)
- ² According to both *Matthew Henry's Complete Commentary on the Whole Bible* and *Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible*, Revelation was written in A.D. 96. (p. 2)
- ³ Revelation 1:9 (p. 2)
- ⁴ To see that the person standing among the candlesticks is Jesus, consider these verses: Rev. 1:1 This book is Jesus' message to John, Rev 1:13 He looks like the Son of man, which is a title Jesus frequently used for himself (Luke 22:48, John 8:28, about 80 other times in the Gospels). Rev 2:18 This person is called the Son of God. (p. 3)
- ⁵ Revelation 1:20 (p. 3)
- ⁶ Revelation 1:11, 1:20. (p. 3)
- ⁷ Revelation 1:19 (p. 4)

End Notes (Continued)

- ⁸ In Rev. 4:1 John was told that he was about to see things that would happen in the future. Then near the end of the book, Rev. 22:6 says John had just been told things that would soon happen. (p. 4)
- ⁹ Many people believe that the messages to the churches also prophetically describe periods of church history from John's time and into our future. (p. 4)