



A message of condolence and hope for the struggling church

- + The Book of Revelation is not riddles or equations that if we solve it, we will know the date of the end of the world.
- + It is a message to 7 churches facing persecution. It is a trial for every arrogant human kingdom (like Babylon). It is symbols and visions that indicate the promise of the second coming of our Lord Jesus as a victorious king who gather his people and make a new creation and glorious eternal. And hope in this promise encourages and confirms the children of our Lord in their hardships or persecution.
- + Of course, this summary does not at all dispense the personal reading of the Bible and deep meditation on its words. This is just a simple summary, not a book lesson.
- + **Number of chapters:** 22 chapters.
- + **The book writer:**
 - St. John the Beloved (the Theologian) the son of Zebedee.. He was the last disciple to live on earth after all the remaining disciples were martyred.
- + **The Writing circumstances:**
 - Saint John was banished by the Roman Emperor (Domitian) at the end of the first century (85 AD - 100 AD) on the island of Patmos.. there at this time the book was written.
 - The book a collection of prophecies that began on Sunday (the Lord's Day).
- + **The book purpose:**
 - The purpose of the book from the first verse: It is a group of symbolic visions that tell God's viewpoint on the history and future of humanity. In order to see our lives and distresses in the hope of the final result (the coming of our Lord Jesus).
 - A book of condolence to all the tempted (John was old and exiled and far from his church and his people...but our Lord comforted him with this book). And condolence to the whole Church, because it shows us - even if in a symbolic way - the beauty of eternity that awaits us.
 - A rich source of church rituals.. There are many rituals in the church from the Book of Revelation (The lights, the white color, the incense...) and we see in it our Virgin Mother and the angels.
 - The Book of Praise, we see forms and types of praise from the angels, the 24 priests and the 144 thousand.. Heaven is a form of praise to our Lord and joy in Him.
 - The book involves a continuous sorting process.. He who holds on to our Lord will reach heaven, and he who is stubborn and does not want to repent will not reach.. And the goal of the plagues and the bowls is to repent of people, rather than eternal doom.



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+ **Keys to understanding the book:**

- This book is the only prophetic book in the New Testament.. an extension of the books of prophecies in the Old Testament (such as Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and the minor prophets). Full of mysteries and symbols, because the sky we will not be able to express it with our words.
- This book was written as a message to 7 real churches that existed at this time in the region of Asia Minor and were facing real problems (not symbolic).
- This book contains scenes from the Old Testament, and it needs us to know and understand good the Old Testament in order to relate and understand the symbol from the vision.
- The book is a collection of visions (not a single vision) .. Their order is ascending (looking at heaven, Christ and the victory) descending (looking at the earth and the evil in it..), Until the last vision, he ascends and does not descend (the New Jerusalem and the invitation of our Lord that He come).
- The number 7 is used a lot in the book (7 churches, 7 angels, 7 bowls, 7 trumpets..). This is a number that indicates the completion of our life on earth.. But in general, trying to interpret all numbers with events from ancient or new history is just a matter of contemplation.. But we focus on saving ourselves, not on interpreting numbers and symbols.

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+ **The book arrangement:**

- The book begins with a special part about the struggling church on earth (the first 3 chapters).
- It ends with a section on the victorious Church with its King Christ in heaven (the last 3 chapters). In the middle; the journey from earth to heaven and the stages of preparation for the coming of Christ.

CHAPTERS 1 - 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Message for 7 churches. - Part for the struggling church on earth.
CHAPTERS 4 - 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Throne. - St. John's vision of the throne of God... and the heavenly multitudes around him.
CHAPTERS 6 - 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 7 seals. - Events that happened and are happening before the second coming.
CHAPTERS 8 - 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 7 trumpets. - Strong blows before the second coming.
CHAPTERS 15 - 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 7 bowls. - 7 plagues, after which Christ comes.
CHAPTERS 17 - 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The fall of Babylon. - The fall of Satan and his kingdom.
CHAPTERS 19 - 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heavenly Jerusalem. - Part of the Church Victorious.



+ The book summary:

1: A message for 7 churches (Chapters 1 - 3)

- St. John begins with facts: The time is near (the second coming). And all men will come to him (including those who have denied and insulted him), and all who have not believed in him will weep and lament.
- St. John saw in a vision our Lord Jesus risen from the dead in His glory, in the midst of 7 beacons, (they are the 7 churches) and in his hand are 7 planets (the bishops of the 7 churches).. he patronizes the bishops and his church.
- And our Lord told him to write letters to the bishops of the 7 most important cities in the region of Asia Minor (these were all under the auspices of Saint John).
- These messages were almost the same pattern: (An attribute of our Lord related to the subject of the message - an encouragement to a positive attribute - a disease or a major sin - a solution and a practical step - a punishment in the case of non-repentance - a reward from our Lord in the case of repentance..) And the reply is the same, and we say it so that we can remember that this speech is for us: He who has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
- The Church took from the words of this chapter and John's description of our Lord Jesus, and made from it an image of the Father's bosom in which is our Lord Jesus, the King, Pantocrator, Alpha and Omega.





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+ Letters of the 7 churches:

The Church	Beatification	War / Sin	Commandment / treatment
1 Ephesus	Intolerance of evil and resistance to evil people and false prophets	Absence of love (leaving the first love)	Repentance and return to the first love and leaving the main sin because of which love was absent
2 Smyrna	Holding fast to the faith even amidst persecutions (the word Smyrna means bitter)	-	Do not be afraid Be faithful to death
3 Pergamos	Adherence to the right faith even amid persecutions and intellectual wars	There are people who adhere to permissive teachings and advocate the idea that the body has the right to live as it wants	You, as a shepherd, are responsible for the people you have.. Repent so that they may be disciplined.. These ideas must be fought vigorously and you should not surrender to them
4 Thyatira	Spiritual growth and trying to maintain faith amid wars of thought	Being in a porn community ... and letting false teachers with wrong thoughts	Adhering to chastity and purity.. and not allowing worldly thoughts to enter the heart or thought
5 Sardis	-	Showing off.. He looks sweet in front of people, but he is dead in front of God	Stay up late and pray in secret.. Remember what you received from the teachings and talents
6 Philadelphia	Hold on to our Lord despite frustration and little strength	Frustration.. There are currents around her trying to make her	Trust me.. When I open the door, no one can lock it.. I will protect you.. Hold on to what you have
7 Laodiceans	-	Spiritual apathy due to pride (he feels that he is rich and does not need God)	Stay rich in the grace of our Lord and in the Holy Spirit.. Stay hot in the Spirit.. Open the door for me



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- + I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. (Revelation 3:18)
- O Lord, I thought that I was rich, and I became self-sufficient, and I do not need anything, although I am wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. What should I do in my lost soul, oh my God?
- There is no one else to enrich me with gold purified by fire... and it is only You, Yourself, O Jesus Christ, the precious pearl and treasure that endured the fire of pain for my sake.
- Cover me, my Jesus, with your fatherhood, love, and grace... The white dress is nothing but my baptismal garment, in which I denied Satan and declared my daughterhood to you alone.
- As for my eyes that have lost sight, return them to me by your commandment... Heal me, O my God, with your life-giving word that enlightens the eyes.
- Take me back to your bosom, O my God, and do not reject me, and do not tell me go away from me I do not know you.

+ What should we learn?

- 7 different spiritual situations, God deals with us with encouragement and warning.. so that we can repent and overcome them.


O Lord, you are the one who knows my deeds and my depths, no matter how people praise or slander... .. Let me take your commandments upon myself and do them to cure me.



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+ The 7 seals:

NO.	The View	The Symbol
1	The white horse	The first victorious church that spreads throughout the earth with the power of the Holy Spirit and great miracles
2	The red horse	The era of martyrdom, violent and bloody persecution of the Church by the Jews and the Romans
3	The black horse	The period of heresies (Arius, Nestorius and Macedonius) after the stability of the Church and the end of persecution (after the reign of Constantine)
4	The green horse (The pale)	A deadly heresy that was continued (symbolized by the sword)
5	A comforting vision of the heaven again and the souls of the martyrs	Persecution Period resemble the second seal
6	Signs of the end times (changes in the sun, moon and planets)	It has a real meaning. . It also has a spiritual symbol, that people who are high in faith fall into heresies and wrong ideas, or powerful states and kingdoms fall because they abandon faith
7	The 7 Trumpets	We'll see them in the next part

+ What should we learn?

- Before any major blow, our Lord reassures His children and tells us that we are protected in our Church by holding on to Him.

Lord, let me trust that any hardship, no matter what happens, will end with victory in heaven and great glory.. as long as I hold on to you and your holy name.



4: The 7 Trumpets (Chapters 8 - 14)

- And when the Lamb opened the seventh seal, the 7 trumpets started.. The seventh seal is the last stage before the second coming.. and God will send 7 trumpets (warnings) in it so that people will repent and prepare for this coming as we will see.
- Trumpet 5 (scorpions) and 6th (serpents) are very difficult.. but as we pray: Our Lord has given us the authority to trample on serpents, scorpions, and all the forces of the enemy.
- But before that, the angel came and took incense in the altar and offered it, and the incense ascended with the prayers of the saints (just as it happens in the Liturgy in the rounds of incense).

NO.	The View	The Symbol
1	Fire and hail and blood on the earth	Great famine
2	A great mountain (a great king) was thrown upon the sea (the world), and a third of the sea became blood	A severe world war, the victims of which are many people
3	A great planet (a great person responsible for teaching in the church), but it fell on the rivers and made a third of them bitter	Spiritual death for some people as a result of the fall of a great spiritual person into false teachings and heresies
4	Darkness for a third of the sun, moon and stars	Belief in Christ (the Sun of Righteousness) and the Church (the moon that reflects his light) and the saints (the stars) on earth has become very weak
5	An army like locusts is destructive and very painful (like scorpions). It only tortures people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads	Satan will be loosen from his chains and start making wars and torturing people
6	Very great armies from Babylon like serpents making (symbol of sin) great wars and killing people	The Antichrist and the war he will wage.. But despite the great torment, people did not repent
7	Great voices from heaven saying: The whole earth has become to the Lord and His Christ	The Day of Judgment in which our Lord gives each one according to his deeds



- + The first 5 trumpets resemble plagues of the 10 plagues in the Book of Exodus.
- + Before the seventh trumpet (the second coming), St. John saw some consoling spiritual scenes:
 - + **(Chapter 10):**
 - A little open book in the hands of Christ the Ruler of the Earth.. And a voice from heaven told John to take the book and eat it... It would be sweet in his mouth like honey and bitter in his stomach.
 - This is the gospel whose words are sweet and gives peace.. and when we digest it, it pricks us and makes us repent.
 - + **(Chapter 11):**
 - The two great prophets who prophesy in the name of our Lord (Just like what the Prophet Zakariyya said about them: The two olive trees and the two minarets) With great miracles after a difficult period of persecution against the Church (but those who have a strong relationship with our Lord through the Church and the altar were saved).
 - After that, the enemy of good kills them (amid the gloating enemies of the Church).
 - Then God raise them from death in great glory that makes many people believe in him.
 - Mostly these are Moses (who turned the water into blood) and Elijah (who prevented the sky from raining) or Elijah and Enoch (who ascended to heaven and didn't die yet).
 - + **(Chapter 12):**
 - The Woman and the Dragon: Here is a detailed description of Trumpet 5 (The Fall of Satan).
 - Our Mother the Virgin, who carries the Christ (the Sun of Righteousness) and John the Baptist at her feet (the Moon) and around her are the 12 disciples (the 12 planets) on her way to give birth.
 - And the devil who fell and many angels fell with him was waiting for her son to kill him. But of course, the Lord Christ came and completed His message, was crucified, rose and ascended.
 - And our mother the Virgin, became the mother of the Church, which lives a life of asceticism and struggle, far from the world and its desires.



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- And the war broke out between the angel Michael and his soldiers, and between Satan and his soldiers.. And the angels were victorious and overthrew Satan, who waged a war of great wrath with mankind.. .. But our Lord, of course, preserves His Church and lifts it up from the world (on the wings of eagles).. And the children of our Lord overpowered by the testimony of faith and the blood of our Lord Jesus .. While the world and its inhabitants who are far from God are defeated.

+ (Chapter 13):

- The Trinity of Evil: Here is a detailed description of the sixth trumpet (Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet).
- John saw a beast emerging from the sea... .. This is the antichrist (antichrist) who was wounded but healed from his fatal wound (trying to imitate our Lord Jesus who was crucified and rose)
- So people prostrated to the dragon (Satan) and the beast who blasphemed against God, and many people followed him (a period of great apostasy), but those whose names are written in the book of life had firmness in faith.
- And John saw a beast emerging from the earth.. This is the false prophet who precedes the Antichrist (an attempt to imitate John the Baptist who preceded our Lord Jesus).. He had great authority and doing miracles.

+ (Chapter 14):

- Earth Reaping: Here is a detailed description of the seventh trumpet (Jesus coming).
- John saw 144,000 virgins (all the children of our Lord: 12 tribes of the old covenant × 12 disciples of the new covenant × 1000 the number of perfection) The pure ones around the Lamb glorify Him with the heavenly ones without blemish.
- After that, 3 angels..
 - * **The first one says:** Fear God and give glory to Him.
 - * **The second one says:** Babylon the great city (symbol of evil) has fallen.
 - * **The third one says:** The one who accepted the mark of the beast (walking after Satan without repentance) will be punished with the same punishment as him and suffer the same torment while the saints rest.
- And John saw the Lord Christ coming on the clouds, and sent his sickle and reaped the land (the hour of judgment)... And the wicked rested in eternal torment, while the righteous rested in eternal rest.



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+ **What should we learn?**

- Difficult wars and many persecutions against the Church and the children of our Lord.. Satan is not silent and all the time his only concern is to fall the children of our Lord.

Oh Lord, make us firm in You. Let us realize that we are in a very difficult war facing a fierce and very strong opponent.. And the result is eternal life or eternal death..Let us be confident that as long as we live in you and in your church, our victory is certain with your strength, your blood, and the grace of your Holy Spirit.



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5: the 7 bowls (Chapters 15 - 16)

- + The bowl = vessel containing fire (similar to the bowl of the censer).
- + After that, Saint John saw 7 angels with 7 bowls representing 7 final plagues before the second coming..These plagues are only for those who follow the beast (as happened in the last plagues of the Egyptians in the Book of Exodus).. so that they may repent before the Day of Judgment.
 - Foul and loathsome sore (difficult diseases).
 - The sea turned to blood and the creatures in it died.. Perhaps this symbolizes a great war near the sea, in which many people die and their blood mixes with sea water.
 - Rivers (drinking water) turned to blood - The sun burned many people with fire. Maybe this symbolizes strange natural phenomena.
 - Complete darkness in the kingdom of the beast. Perhaps this symbolizes an internal war in his kingdom.
 - The Euphrates water dried up...and Satan began to gather all his strength for a final war: Thunders and lightnings, a great earthquake and great hail... and the fall of Babylon.
- + In the end, the wicked did not repent nor give glory to our Lord, but rather blasphemed Him more.

- + **What should we learn?**
 - Sometimes this is the goal of our Lord from the strikes, phenomena and difficult trials: The repentance of people who are far from Him.. Some of them repent as we heard in the previous chapters, but unfortunately, as we hear in these chapters, some of them reject our Lord more and blaspheme Him more during the time of trial.

Lord, help me to see every problem or difficult situation, that in the end it is a message of repentance and personal readiness for me.. I trust in my kind and merciful father who strengthens me, consoles me, and brings me back to him as long as I try to be fixed in him and not to reject him.

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6: The Fall of Babylon (Chapters 17 - 18)

- + After we saw in the previous part the blows and chastisement of the people who walked after the Beast, the time has come for the judgment of the evil-motivating force.. The kingdom of Satan, which is symbolized by Babylon (the evil kingdom that captivated the kingdom of Israel).
- The vision was a woman (referring to an evil kingdom) dressed in royal clothes and sitting on a large river (many peoples are subject to her) holding a cup while drunk from the cup that is filled with the blood of the saints.. sitting on a beast (Satan and his power is in the Antichrist) on which blasphemies are written, it has 7 heads and 10 horns.
- St. John was very disturbed by the vision...so the angel explained to him: Many people (whose names are not written in the book of life) when they see the great power of the Beast, will believe in him.
- The 7 heads are 7 great kingdoms in which Satan has ruled throughout history (5 of them were pagan kingdoms from the Old Testament and have fallen: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia and Greece, and a kingdom that existed at the time of writing the book: Rome, and a final kingdom that has not come yet). The eighth kingdom is the kingdom of the Antichrist.
- The 10 horns are 10 kings who will appear in the last days. They will unite with the beast (the Antichrist) and fight the Lamb and his followers, but the Lamb and his followers will defeat them.. And in the end, the 10 kings turn against the Antichrist, and the kingdom of evil is divided against itself.
- And the time came for the fall of Babylon (as announced by an angel from heaven.. and the kings and merchants who were benefiting from it and selling and promoting the kinds of sins in it wept) .. And another angel warned the people of our Lord that they should get out of it quickly so that these plagues would not come upon them (as happened with Lot in the Old Testament).
- Thus, this chapter comforts us and tells us that no matter how long the evil lasts, in the end it will fall.





+ What should we learn?

- The love of money and possessions is the root of all evils, as we see here and as St. John said in his epistle (Do not love the world or the things in the world)

Lord, I thank you for my church, which arranges for me fasting and prostrations, and a life in which there is giving and in which there is some abandonment for extra comfort and luxury..Let me live this meaning truly.

7: Heavenly Jerusalem (Chapters 19 - 22)

- + The judgment of the Babylonian kingdom was a source of joy and praise in heaven: all those in heaven (of angels and saints) and those on earth said: Hallelujah.
- + After that, the time came for the judgment of the beast and the false prophet: John saw our Lord Jesus (the King of Kings sitting on a white horse), and the angels behind him, and he trampled the winepress of God's wrath.. And the time came for the judgment of the beast and all who follow it: they tried to resist our Lord Jesus, but He defeated them and cast them into the lake of fire and brimstone.

+ Then came the time of Satan's own judgment:

- John saw an angel with a chain that caught Satan and chained him (this is what happened at the time of the cross) until the resurrection of the dead (a thousand years = a symbolic number).
- Satan became bound and had limited power until a short period before the Last Judgment (the period of the great apostasy as we have seen before) and from the beginning of the cross of our Lord Jesus, all believers in Him when they leave, They will go to Paradise with him until the Day of Judgment (this means that they will reign with him for a thousand years), and then they will go to the heaven forever.. As for those who do not believe and do not repent, they will go to Hell, and at the time of the Last Judgment they will be judged and go to Hell forever.
- And in the last days, Satan will gather all his strength and make war with the Church.. but by the power of our Lord, the Church will overcome him.. and Satan will be cast



into the lake of fire and brimstone with the beast and the false prophet.

- After that, the last judgment that God gives to each one (from the first Adam to the last one on earth) according to his deeds.. After that, there will be no death, but eternal life.

+ The last vision at the end of the book is the heavenly Jerusalem:

- After the end of the world and judgment, St. John saw the heavenly Jerusalem (the victorious Church)..the new city of our Lord descending from heaven as a bride adorned for her heavenly groom.
- The city has its 12 foundations on which are written the names of the disciples of our Lord Jesus (the New Testament).. and its 12 gates are written on them the names of the 12 tribes of Israel (the Old Testament).. A very vast city of pure gold.. There is no temple, because the presence of our Lord fills it all.
- And in the midst of it is a river of the water of life that springs from the throne of God.. And in it is the tree of life that was in Paradise.
- This will be the dwelling place of God with His righteous and repentant children only.. Nothing unclean or anyone who was afraid of the devil, or an unbeliever, or a liar, or who lived in sin without repentance, will enter it.
- And there will be no sorrow, pain, or suffer, but God will wipe every tear from the eyes of His children.
- At that time, our Lord's purpose for creation will be fulfilled: He will dwell with us, and we will be His people, and He is our God.
- And our Lord Jesus with the Church, is inviting people to the heavenly Jerusalem.. And the believers say: Amen, come on, O Lord Jesus!

+ What should we learn?

- The end of the Book of Revelation is the goal of our life on earth.. We live in anticipation of the coming of our Lord Jesus and we invite everyone to prepare.

Lord, keep me always in a state of longing for my true homeland (the heavenly Jerusalem), waiting for your coming and always praying: Amen, come on, Lord Jesus.