

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT

Revelation

PART 1

JESUS' MESSAGE
TO THE CHURCH
(REVELATION 1-3)

REVELATION PART 1
PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT
JESUS' MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY

How to Study Your Bible*Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994***The New Inductive Study Bible***Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000***Word Study Tools***The following is a list of helpful word study tools:*

HARRIS, R. LAIRD; ARCHER, GLEASON L. JR.; WALTKE, BRUCE K.

Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1980*

VINE, W. E.; UNGER, MERRILL F.; AND WHITE, WILLIAM, JR.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1985*

RICHARDS, LAWRENCE O.

Expository Dictionary of Bible Words*Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1985*

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.

LESSON ONE

Overview

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES Observation Worksheets of Revelation 1–5, 22, located in the Appendix

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must shortly take place” (Revelation 1:1a).

Revelation . . . the book given by God to His Church, the bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. Why? What does He want us to know? What does He want to say to the Church?

Listen carefully. . . .

DAY ONE

How thankful we are that you’ve chosen to study *Jesus’ Message To the Church* with us. If you determine before God to hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church (to you) and if you’re faithful in your study, you’ll find yourself face to face with Truth that brings transformation!

1. Before you begin studying the Word of God, you need to remember that truth is revealed! You’re to do your part (study) but you must also allow God to do His part—guide you into all truth. Therefore, always begin your study with prayer, not as a formality but as a necessity.
2. In the Appendix of this book you will find printouts of Revelation 1–5, and 22 from the New American Standard Bible. These are called Observation Worksheets. Read through Revelation 1 and record the following:
 - a. Who wrote Revelation? Where was it written? How (any clues)? Record your insights.

- b. To whom was it written?

 - c. At this point can you tell why it was written—what its purpose is?
3. Now read Revelation 1 again. This time look for the answers to the following questions:
- a. Just from the text, what is Revelation about?

 - b. According to this chapter, there are benefits connected with hearing and studying Revelation. List what they are and the verse(s) where you observed these facts.

 - c. John was told to write three things. Record the verse that tells you this and then list the three things which were to be written.
Verse _____
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)

- d. Later on when you read Revelation 1-5, remember the three things the author was told to write and see if you can discern where he records them.
4. Now using your Observation Worksheets, read through Revelation 1 again. This time color or mark in a distinctive way each occurrence of the word *see* and its tenses and synonyms: *saw*, *looked*, and *have seen*.

Then mark the word *prophecy* and the words *church* or *churches* in distinctive ways.

Record these words on a 3 x 5 card to use as a bookmark. Mark them the same way you plan to do on the Observation Worksheets. As you read Revelation 2-5 and do your assignments for the rest of the week, this card will remind you to mark occurrences as you come to them.

5. On the last page of this lesson you will find the chart “**Revelation 1-5 at a Glance.**” From all you have read in Revelation 1, what do you believe the main theme (main topic) of this chapter is? Summarize it with as few words as possible.

As you write out your chapter theme, you’ll find it helpful to use words from the text rather than your own. Then write the theme next to the appropriate chapter number on the “**Revelation 1-5 at a Glance**” chart.

DAY
TWO

1. Your assignment for today is to read Revelation 2. Each time you come to a verse containing the phrase “And to the angel of the church in _____ write,” mark or color it in a distinctive way so you can easily spot it. If you see any of the words listed on your bookmark, mark them too.
2. Record the theme of this chapter as you did yesterday with Revelation 1.
3. Remember the three things John was told to write? Which category does Revelation 2 fit in and why?

DAY
THREE
AND
DAY
FOUR

1. Read Revelation 3–4 today. Mark the key words listed on your bookmark and record the themes of these chapters on the “**Revelation 1–5 at a Glance**” chart.
2. How does Revelation 3 relate to the three things John was told to write? Where does it fit in?
3. How about Revelation 4? Give reasons for your answer.
4. Since our study focuses on Jesus’ message to the seven churches of Asia, read Revelation 5 and record its theme. Remember to mark the key words listed on your bookmark.
5. Now let’s take one more look at the three things Jesus told John to write. From what you’ve seen in these five chapters, can you conclude how Revelation divides into three parts? If so, record these three segments on the “**Revelation 1–5 at a Glance**” chart under the section entitled “Main Segment Division.” Group together whatever chapters fit under each of the three things John was told to write about.

How are you doing? We pray that God is using this overview to create a real desire to understand Jesus’ message to His Church. We can tell you from experience that God will meet with you in a very personal way as you dig deeper into these chapters and meditate on what the Spirit is saying to those who have ears to hear.

Because you’re going to learn so much that you will be able to translate into your daily living, we’re praying that you won’t allow anything to keep you from finishing this short but powerful study.

DAY
FIVE

1. In the Appendix of this workbook, right after the Observation Worksheet on Revelation 5, you will find the very last chapter of Revelation (22). Read through it very carefully, marking the word *prophecy* the same way you marked it in Revelation 1. Also mark *churches*.

2. Now read Revelation 1 again, then look for parallels between the first and last chapters of Revelation. Write the verse numbers from Revelation 1 next to the parallel verses from 22 where you see the same phrase, word, or thought expressed.

Record these parallels **only** on Revelation 22's Observation Worksheet. You'll need the space on the Revelation 1 worksheet to do other things later in the course.

3. According to what you saw from marking the words *church* and *churches* in Revelation 1–5 and 22, would you say the entire book of just the first three chapters of Revelation are for the Church? Why?

4. Do you see how important it is to handle Revelation very carefully? Why don't you bring this week's study to a close by talking with the Lord about all you have learned in just this one week of study. Let your worship mingle with those who are before His throne, crying without ceasing, "Holy, holy, holy...."

REVELATION 1-5 AT A GLANCE

	Chapter Theme	Main Segment Division
Author:	1	
Purpose:	2	
Key Words:	3	
	4	
	5	

REVELATION 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- THE** Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John,
- 2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he saw.
 - 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.
 - 4 John to the seven churches that 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,
 - 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—
 - 6 and He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.
 - 7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.
 - 8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”
 - 9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance *which are* in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.
 - 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet,
 - 11 saying, “Write in a book what you see, and send *it* to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

- 12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;
- 13 and in the middle of the lampstands *I saw* one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.
- 14 His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire.
- 15 His feet *were* like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice *was* like the sound of many waters.
- 16 In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.
- 17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,
- 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.
- 19 “Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.
- 20 “As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

REVELATION 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

“TO the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

- 2 ‘I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be* false;
- 3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary.
- 4 ‘But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.
- 5 ‘Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.
- 6 ‘Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
- 7 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.’
- 8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write:
The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:
- 9 ‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
- 10 ‘Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.
- 11 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.’

- 12 “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write:
The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:
- 13 ‘I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.
- 14 ‘But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit *acts of immorality*.
- 15 ‘So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
- 16 ‘Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.
- 17 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give *some* of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.’
- 18 “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write:
The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:
- 19 ‘I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.
- 20 ‘But I have *this* against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit *acts of immorality* and eat things sacrificed to idols.
- 21 ‘I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality.
- 22 ‘Behold, I will throw her on a bed *of sickness*, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.

-
- 23 ‘And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.
- 24 ‘But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you.
- 25 ‘Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.
- 26 ‘He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;
- 27 AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received *authority* from My Father;
- 28 and I will give him the morning star.
- 29 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

REVELATION 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

“TO the angel of the church in Sardis write:

He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

2 ‘Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

3 ‘So remember what you have received and heard; and keep *it*, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

4 ‘But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

5 ‘He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

6 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

8 ‘I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

9 ‘Behold, I will cause *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and *make them* know that I have loved you.

10 ‘Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

-
- 11 'I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.
- 12 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.
- 13 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'
- 14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:
The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:
- 15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot.
- 16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.
- 17 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,
- 18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and *that* the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.
- 19 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.
- 20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.
- 21 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.
- 22 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.' "

REVELATION 4

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

AFTER these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like *the sound* of a trumpet speaking with me, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.”

2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne.

3 And He who was sitting *was* like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance.

4 Around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones *I saw* twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.

5 Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;

6 and before the throne *there was something* like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind.

7 The first creature *was* like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature *was* like a flying eagle.

8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say,

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *is* THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”

9 And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever,

- 10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,
- 11 “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

REVELATION 5

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.
- 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?”
- 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it.
- 4 Then I *began* to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it;
- 5 and one of the elders said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.”
- 6 And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.
- 7 And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.
- 8 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.
- 9 And they sang a new song, saying,
“Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.
- 10 “You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”
- 11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,

- 12 saying with a loud voice,
 “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and
 wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”
- 13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under
the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying,
 “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and
 honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”
- 14 And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell
down and worshiped.

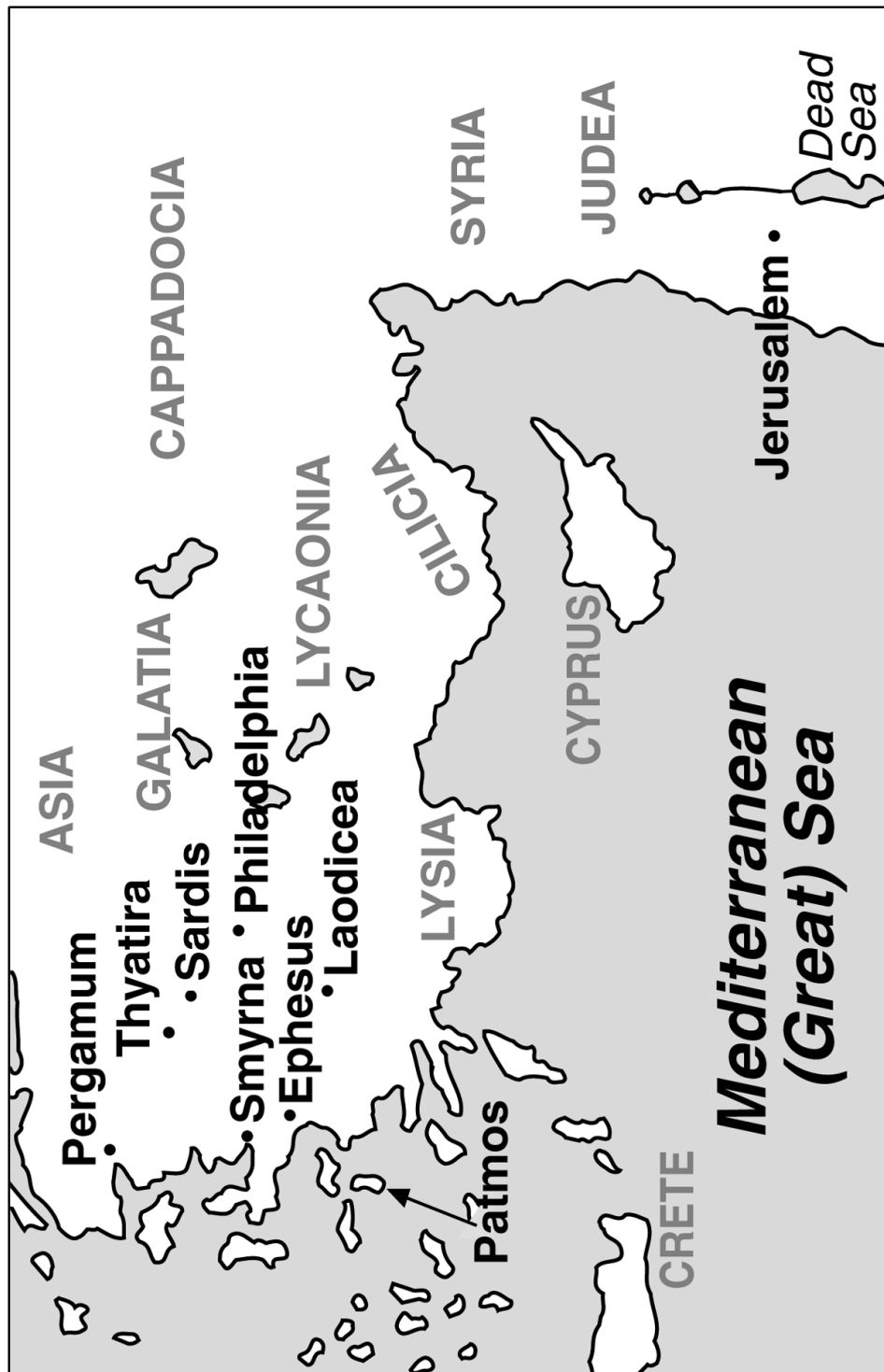
REVELATION 22

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- THEN** he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,
- 2 in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve *kinds of* fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
 - 3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;
 - 4 they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads.
 - 5 And there will no longer be *any* night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.
 - 6 And he said to me, “These words are faithful and true”; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.
 - 7 “And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.”
 - 8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things.
 - 9 But he said to me, “Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God.”
 - 10 And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.
 - 11 “Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy.”

-
- 12 “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.
- 13 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”
- 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.
- 15 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.
- 16 “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”
- 17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.
- 18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book;
- 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.
- 20 He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.



A JOURNAL OF GOD'S BLESSINGS FROM
STUDYING REVELATION

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JESUS' MESSAGE TO THE CHURCHES

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira
Description of Christ				
Commendation				
Reproof				
Warning and Instruction				
Promise to Overcomers				

JESUS' MESSAGE TO THE CHURCHES

	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Description of Christ			
Commendation			
Reproof			
Warning and Instruction			
Promise to Overcomers			

ABOUT PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Precept Ministries International was raised up by God for the sole purpose of establishing people in God's Word to produce reverence for Him. It serves as an arm of the church without respect to denomination. God has enabled Precept to reach across denominational lines without compromising the truths of His inerrant Word. Believing the Word was verbally inspired and given to man as all that is necessary for him to become mature and thoroughly equipped for every good work of life, this ministry does not seek to impose its personal doctrines on others, but rather to direct people to the Master Himself, who leads and guides by His Spirit into all truth through a systematic study of His Word.

Precept Ministries International produces a variety of Bible studies and holds conferences and intensive Training Workshops designed to ground attendees in inductive Bible study. Conferences and weekly Bible studies are held at Precept Ministries International's headquarters and conference center, conveniently located on a beautiful 32-acre, multi-building complex in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Jack Arthur and his wife, Kay, founded Precept Ministries in 1970. Kay Arthur is the creator and coauthor of the Precept Upon Precept and In & Out Bible studies, the New Inductive Study Series, 40-Minute Bible Studies, and Discover 4 Yourself Inductive Bible Studies for Kids. From years of diligent study and teaching experience, Kay and the staff have developed these unique, inductive courses.

If you want more information about Precept's teaching ministries or workshops, please contact **Precept Ministries International**, 800-763-8280, **www.precept.org**. A doctrinal statement is available upon request.