



PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

English Standard Version

Revelation

PART 1

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

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English Standard Version

REVELATION PART 1

JESUS' MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH

(REVELATION 1-3)

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—English Standard Version

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2013

Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

GAEBELIEN, FRANK E.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 12

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishers, 1990

THOMAS, ROBERT L.

Revelation 1–7: An Exegetical Commentary

Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1992

AUNE, DAVID E.

Word Biblical Commentary 52a

Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Inc., 1997

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 that must soon 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 English Standard Version. These are called Observation Worksheets. Read 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 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 the reverse side of the bookmark on the back cover of this book. This will be your **Key Word Bookmark**. Mark the words 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. By the way, the bookmark gives suggestions for marking words frequently used in the Bible.

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? Using words from the text, summarize it briefly.

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 “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, simply 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 Divisions.” 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 of Revelation 5, you will find the very last chapter of Revelation (22). Read 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 in chapter 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 or 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 Themes	Main Segment Divisions
Author:	1	
Date:	2	
Purpose:	3	
Key Words:	4	
	5	



REVELATION 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- THE** revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,
- 2 who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.
 - 3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is 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 kings on earth.
To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood
 - 6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and 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 tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. 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 partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account 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 a trumpet



- 11 saying, “Write what you see in a book 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 to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,
- 13 and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.
- 14 The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire,
- 15 his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters.
- 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.
- 17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last,
- 18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.
- 19 “Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.
- 20 “As for the mystery of the seven stars that 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 words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.
- 2 ‘I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.
- 3 ‘I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary.
- 4 ‘But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.
- 5 ‘Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.
- 6 ‘Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
- 7 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers 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 words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.
- 9 ‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that 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 throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto 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. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’
- 12 “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: ‘The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.
- 13 ‘I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.
- 14 ‘But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.
- 15 ‘So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
- 16 ‘Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and 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 the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.’
- 18 “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: ‘The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.
- 19 ‘I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.
- 20 ‘But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.
- 21 ‘I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality.
- 22 ‘Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works,



- 23 and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.
- 24 ‘But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden.
- 25 ‘Only hold fast what you have until I come.
- 26 ‘The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations,
- 27 and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself 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 _____

- “AND to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.
- ‘I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.
- 2 ‘Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.
- 3 ‘Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.
- 4 ‘Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.
- 5 ‘The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. 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: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.
- 8 ‘I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.
- 9 ‘Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and they will learn that I have loved you.



- 10 ‘Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.
- 11 ‘I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.
- 12 ‘The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, 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 from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.
- 13 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’
- 14 “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.
- 15 ‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!
- 16 ‘So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.
- 17 ‘For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.
- 18 ‘I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.
- 19 ‘Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so 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 eat with him, and he with me.
- 21 ‘The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered 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 this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”
- 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.
 - 3 And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.
 - 4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.
 - 5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God,
 - 6 and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind:
 - 7 the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight.
 - 8 And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!”
 - 9 And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever,



- 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,
- 11 “Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.”



REVELATION 5

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- THEN I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.
- 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”
- 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it,
- 4 and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.
- 5 And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”
- 6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.
- 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.
- 8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each 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 scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,



- 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”
- 11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures
and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads
and thousands of thousands,
- 12 saying with a loud voice,
“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”
- 13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth
and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,
“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”
- 14 And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down
and worshiped.



REVELATION 22

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- THEN** the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb
- 2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
 - 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.
 - 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.
 - 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.
 - 6 And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”
 - 7 “And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps 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 them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me,
 - 9 but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep 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 evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.”
 - 12 “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for 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 that they may enter the city by the gates.
- 15 Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.
- 16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about 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 desires take the water of life without price.
- 18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book,
- 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.
- 20 He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
- 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.