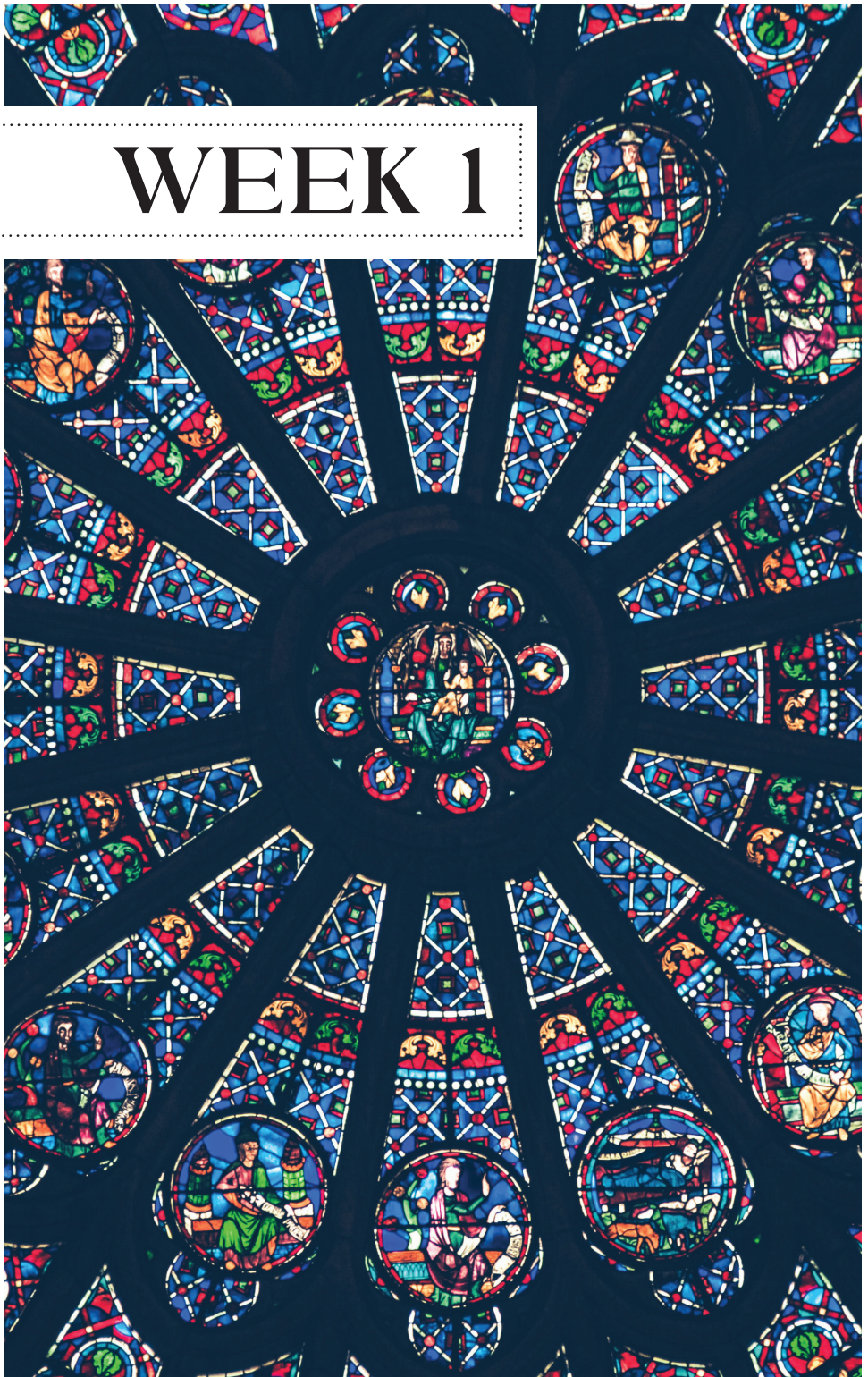


# WEEK 1



# THE LIVING SAVIOR AND HIS CALL TO HIS CHURCH

## REVELATION 1–2:17

### OPENING PRAYER:

Almighty Father, you have promised that your Son would return to be the King of kings and Lord of lords. We wait with holy anticipation. Thank you that Jesus is with us now, guiding his churches and his people. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear what you have for each of us to glean from these ancient words of Revelation. We desire to be blessed as we learn more about Jesus. Unveil our eyes to see the majesty and glory of Jesus. Relate these words to our everyday lives so that we may be men and women who follow the Lamb of God, Jesus. Amen.

### KEY VERSE:

“But he laid his right hand on me, saying, ‘Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades’”. (Revelation 1:17b–18)

### INTRODUCTION:

In the book of Revelation, we will see a new dimension of Jesus Christ—his glory, majesty, and power. He appears to John, the apostle, in his glory. But he has a message that he wants John to record. This message is for his beloved churches. Seven different churches are addressed that were existing churches at that time in history. Each church had some good things going for it, but there were also problems that needed addressing. These messages ring true to the church today. If we are open, we can see aspects of each church in our lives and possibly in our church. The good news is that Jesus does not give up on these churches or on us. His desire is that we be all he has called us to be.

## OPENING QUESTIONS:

1. What are your thoughts as you begin the study of Revelation?
2. This book is about the revealing or unveiling of Jesus Christ. What are your impressions of Jesus at this point in your faith walk?
3. The Gospels reveal certain characteristics about Jesus. Which ones appeal to you?

## VIDEO:

The Living Savior and His Call to His Church

## VIDEO NOTES:

Jesus appears in glory. He is not the gentle Shepherd or the Suffering Servant. He has taken off his robes of humanity, and his deity is shining forth. His message to the first church in Ephesus is that they have forsaken their first love. They were doing some things quite well, but their love and passion for the person of Jesus has grown cold. His love for them will not let them stay in that place.

Smyrna is the second church, and they are suffering persecution but are remaining steadfast. To the world, they looked poor and afflicted, but in the eyes of Jesus they are rich. They are poor in worldly things but rich in spirit. They are up against Satan's followers (the "*synagogue of Satan*," 2:9) but Jesus encourages them to not be afraid. Their faithfulness even to the point of death will result in the crown of life which lasts for an eternity.

Pergamum is doing moderately well and has withstood persecution. They are in the nucleus of evil because Satan lives there, as Jesus put it (2:13). False teachings and compromise have infiltrated their ranks. Sexual immorality and the idolatry that can accompany it were making their way into the church. God's grace was being exchanged for immorality and greed. They needed to clean up their church and go back to the basics of Christianity, or Jesus would judge them soon with his double-edged sword.



## Read Revelation 1:1–2:17

### SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS:

1. What do you think is meant by the description of Jesus as “*the Alpha and the Omega*” (1:8)?
2. Jesus is in the midst of the lampstands which represent the churches, and he is holding the stars which represent the angels of the churches (1:12–13, 20). What does this picture symbolize to you?

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. How do you know if you have “forsaken” your first love, Jesus?
2. Smyrna seems to be in the devil’s territory. Have you ever felt that your life is in the pit? How does this message to Smyrna encourage you?
3. Tolerating false teachings, sexual immorality, and deceit (“*the teaching of Balaam,*” 2:14) are strategies that the enemy uses to waylay a church or individual. How can we identify these pitfalls?

### CLOSING PRAYER:

Thank you, Lord, that you continually draw us back to you when we fall. Quicken to us areas in our lives we need to address so that we can be faithful followers of Jesus Christ. We desire to be the overcomers. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear your voice. We ask this in Jesus’s name. Amen.