Dale Pearson
Grace and Truth

# THE PRESENT & FUTURE OF THE CHURCH Pt. 1

**I. The Key to Understanding the Book of "Revelation"**

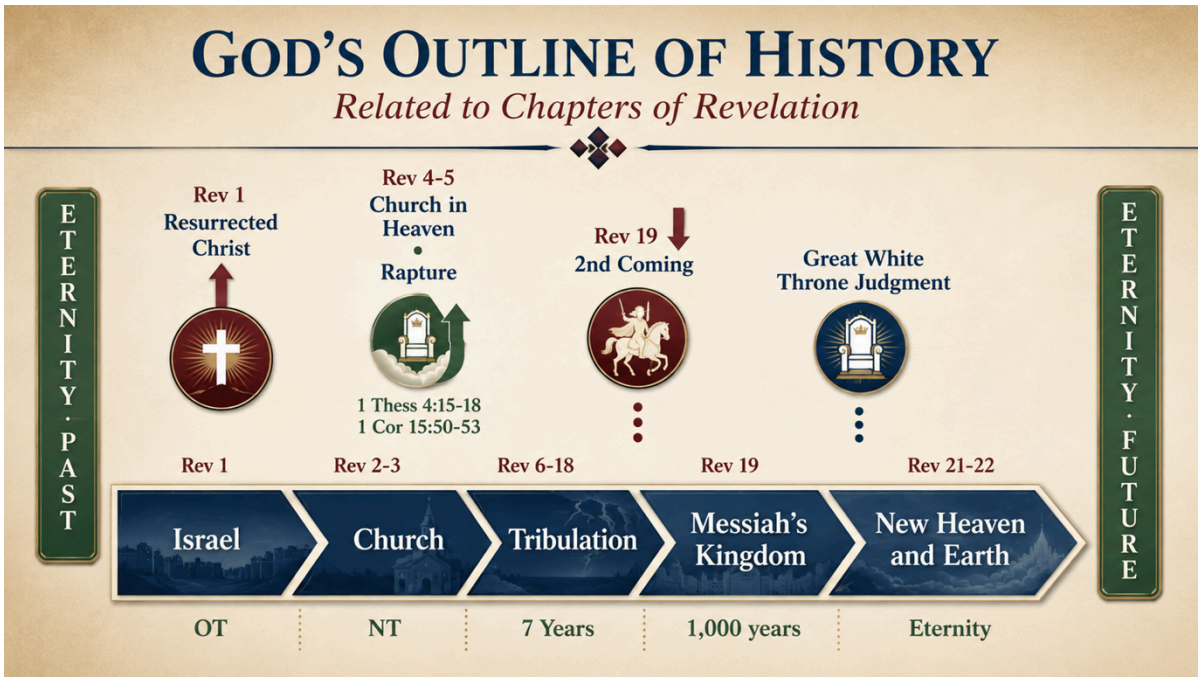
**A. The PROLOGUE of the Book of Revelation. (1:1-8)**

**B. The PERSON of the Book of Revelation. (1:9-18)**

**C. The PARTICULAR OUTLINE of the Book of Revelation. (1:19-20)**




Key Topic: Local Church, Eschatology
Key Verses: Revelation 1:19-20; Revelation 2-3




- What do the seven stars and seven lamp stands refer to? (1:20)

  …seven stars are the angels of the seven churches
  …the seven lampstands…are the seven churches

- What is the significance of these 7 Churches?
  1. They were ____ literal, actual, historical _____ in Asia Minor.
  2. They are _____ of types of churches that exist today and have existed through the _____.
  3. They are _____ of individual believers that exist today.

- What is problematic with the historical church view?
  1. The text clearly establishes that these *were* seven _____ churches.
  2. The spiritual conditions Christ addresses have _____ to churches and believers throughout the entire Church Age.

**II. The PRESENT STATUS of the CHURCH. (Revelation 2-3)**

**1. The Church of EPHESUS — the Church with the Fatal Flaw (Revelation 2:1-7)**

**a. The PROBLEM: *you have* _____ *your* _____ *love*. (2:4b)**

- Who is our FIRST LOVE?
  - _____ _____ and the _____!

**b. The CORRECTION (2:5):**

1) _____ — *therefore from where you have fallen*…

2) _____ — a command for a decisive change of mind and direction.

3) _____ …*and do the first works*.

- What are the "*first works*" Christ wants them to return to?
    - …abide in Me, and My words abide in you….
- Do we need to take this seriously?
    - _____

**2. The Church of SMYRNA – the Suffering Church (Revelation 2:8-11)**

**a. Their PROBLEM — _____ internally! _____ externally!**

**b. The COMMANDS (2:10):**

1) *Do* _____ _____ the coming persecution brought on by the Devil.

2) *Be* _____ *until death*.

- What would be their reward?

  …and I will give you the crown of life.

**3. The Church of PERGAMOS – that was Wedded to the World (Revelation 2:12-17)**

**a. Their PROBLEMS — you have those who hold the doctrine of _____ and the doctrine of the _____, which thing I _____.**

**b. The CORRECTION was to decisively and urgently _____. (2:16)**

- If they do not repent, what would be the consequence?

  …or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

**4. The Church of THYATIRA – that Tolerated False Teaching (Revelation 2:18-29)**

**a. Their PROBLEM – tolerating a _____ _____ _____. (2:20)**

**b. The CORRECTION – _____ _____. (2:21-23)**

**c. The COMMAND (2:25) is only to _____ _____ *what you have till I come*. (2:24 -25)**

**5. The Church of SARDIS – which was Dead and Dying (Revelation 3:1-6)**

**a. The PROBLEM — you have a name that you are alive, but you are _____. (3:1)**

**b. The COMMANDS (3:2-3)**

**1) Be _____ — wake up spiritually!**

**2) _____*the things that remain* — establish the remnant!**

**3) _____ *therefore how you have received and heard* — remember God's grace to you!**

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4) **_____ _____ — guard the truth you have**

5) **_____ — have a change of heart!**

- How does a church die?

1) They live in the _____ instead of in the _____!

2) They focus primarily on the _____, instead of on _____!

3) They shift from _____ _____ to _____ things!

4) They lose _____ for the _____ and become _____!

5) They replace _____ with _____!

**6. The Church of PHILADELPHIA — the church with the Open Door (Revelation 3:7-13)**

**a. The PROBLEMS — _____ stated!**

**b. The COMMAND is only to _____ _____ *what you have*. (3:11)**

- Why is it so important to hold fast?

Behold, I am coming quickly…that no one may take your crown.

**7. The Church of LAODECIA — which was Lukewarm (Revelation 3:14-21)**

**a. The PROBLEMS —**

**1) There are no _____ !**

**2) because you are _____; I will vomit you out of my mouth.**

- Why did Christ evaluate them so severely?

…. and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

**b. The CORRECTION —**

**1) To the *unsaved* people in the church — *I counsel you to buy from* Me _____… _____ _____… *and anoint your eyes with* _____ _____ (3:18)**

**2) To the *saved* people in the church — *As many as* I _____, I _____ *and* _____, *therefore be* _____ *and* _____. (3:19)**

- What is Jesus Christ offering to the individuals of this local assembly? (Rev. 3:20)
  - A _____ _____ with Jesus Christ!
- Let's Take Inventory of the 7 Churches —

1) Have you left your first love? _____!

2) Are you willing to suffer for the Savior? _____!

3) Are you wedded to the world in your perspectives and pursuits? _____!

4) Have you tolerated false teaching in your life? _____!

5) Do you have a reputation but are dead or dying? _____!

6) Has God given you an open door that no can shut but Him? _____!

7) Are you lukewarm and playing church? _____!

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