



JESUS IS COMING

JoLynn Gower

493-6151

jgower@guardingthetruth.or

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VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **Hebrews 9:27-28** And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without *reference to sin*, to those who eagerly await Him.
- Today we are beginning a brief survey of the first six chapters of the book of the Revelation given to John while he was in exile on the island of Patmos
- **Revelation 1:1-3** 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, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he saw. **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

THE RECIPIENTS

Revelation 1:4-5 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, 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—



ON PATMOS

- ❑ **Revelation 1:9-12** 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. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet, 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
- ❑ Eusebius: "the sentences of Domitian were annulled, and the Roman Senate decreed the return of those who had been unjustly banished and the restoration of their property...the Apostle John, after his banishment to the island, took up his abode at Ephesus"
- ❑ Nerva, who annulled the sentence, ruled 96-98 A.D.

BEFORE PATMOS?

Tertullian and others record that Domitian first ordered John to be removed from Ephesus and brought to Rome where he was boiled in oil. He suffered no ill effects and was then sent to Patmos. This event is also recorded in Foxe's Book of Martyrs



WHAT JOHN SAW

- **Revelation 1:12-16** Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; 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. His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. 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. 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.
- **Revelation 1:17-18** 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, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

EPHESUS

- **Revelation 2:2-4** '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; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. 'But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.
- **Revelation 2:5** '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.
- **Revelation 2:6-7** 'Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. '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.'

SMYRNA

- ❑ **Revelation 2:9-11** '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. 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. 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.'
- ❑ ENTIRELY POSITIVE MESSAGE
- ❑ The Jews in Smyrna, many of whom had escaped persecution in Jerusalem, were known to be openly hostile to Christians
- ❑ There was also a strong presence of Emperor worship that is known to have existed in Smyrna, largely because it was a port city with trade ships coming and going
- ❑ **Philippians 4:1** Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long *to see*, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

PERGAMUM

- ❑ Pergamum was a fortress city, known for sophistication, education and culture rivaling Ephesus in idol worship
- ❑ The Babylonian cults had relocated here during the Medo-Persian reign in Babylon; their altar to Zeus (Enlil, Bel) was their crowning achievement
- ❑ People came to Pergamum for healing
- ❑ Followers on Nicholas and Balaam there and too much tolerance had become the norm
- ❑ **Revelation 2:16** 'Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.'
- ❑ **Revelation 2:17** '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.'

THYATIRA

- ❑ Industrial city with trade guilds for weaving/dyeing, pottery
- ❑ Lydia, the first convert in Philippi, was from Thyatira
- ❑ **Revelation 2:19-21** I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. '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. I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality.
- ❑ **Revelation 2:26-28** 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; 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; and I will give him the morning star.

SARDIS

□ **Revelation 3:1-5** 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. 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. '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. 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. 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.

PHILADELPHIA

- ❑ Founded by people from Pergamum, it was destroyed by an earthquake in 17, many still lived outside
- ❑ **Revelation 3:8-10** '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. 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. Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing...
- ❑ **Revelation 3:12** 'He who overcomes, I will make 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.

LAODICEA

- **Revelation 3:15-22** 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. 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, 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. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. '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. '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.

STAND AT THE DOOR

□ AND KNOCK...

□ **Matthew 7:7-11** Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!

□ **Matthew 7:13-14** "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

A GLIMPSE OF HEAVEN

- ❑ **Revelation 4:1,2** 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." Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne
- ❑ **Revelation 4:3-4** 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. 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.
- ❑ Jasper stone: *iaspis*: a translucent/ red or yellow-orange
- ❑ Sardius: *sardion*: a red stone from Sardis
- ❑ Crowns: *stephanos*: John distinguishes victory/royalty
- ❑ Emerald: *smaragdinos*: green: merciful covering

ISAIAH'S VIEW

- **Isaiah 6:1-3** In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."
- **Daniel 7:9-10** "I kept looking Until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took *His* seat; His vesture *was* like white snow and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne *was* ablaze with flames, its wheels *were* a burning fire. A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, and the books were opened."

FURTHER ELABORATION

- **Ezekiel 10:1-2** Then I looked, and behold, in the expanse that was over the heads of the cherubim something like a sapphire stone, in appearance resembling a throne, appeared above them. And He spoke to the man clothed in linen and said, "Enter between the whirling wheels under the cherubim and fill your hands with coals of fire from between the cherubim and scatter *them* over the city." And he entered in my sight.
- **Ezekiel 10:9-13** Then I looked, and behold, four wheels beside the cherubim, one wheel beside each cherub; and the appearance of the wheels *was* like the gleam of a Tarshish stone. As for their appearance, all four of them had the same likeness, as if one wheel were within another wheel. When they moved, they went in *any of* their four directions without turning as they went; ... The wheels were called in my hearing, the whirling wheels.

WORSHIP: GOD IS WORTHY

- **Revelation 4:5-8** 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; 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. 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. 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."
- **Revelation 4:11** 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."

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

- ❑ **Revelation 5:1-3** 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. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it.
- ❑ Deeds of purchase were sealed; only the rightful owner (or his heirs) could break the seal
- ❑ There is only one rightful owner because only one person made the redemption purchase
- ❑ **Revelation 5:4-5** Then I *began* to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; 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."

SEVEN EYES??

- ❑ **Revelation 5:6** 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.
- ❑ Horns represent power and headship
- ❑ **Zechariah 3:8-9, 4:10** 'Now listen, Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who are sitting in front of you—indeed they are men who are a symbol, for behold, I am going to bring in My servant the Branch. 'For behold, the stone that I have set before Joshua; on one stone are seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave an inscription on it,' declares the LORD of hosts, 'and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day... "For who has despised the day of small things? But these seven will be glad when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel—*these are* the eyes of the LORD which range to and fro throughout the earth."

EARTHLY REIGN

- **Revelation 5:7-10** And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. 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. 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. You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."
- **Matthew 5:5** "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth."
- **Revelation 21:1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. (kainos not neos)

FOUR HORSEMEN

- ❑ **Revelation 6:1-2** Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come." I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.
- ❑ White: *Leukos*: white; from *Luke*: light
- ❑ Crown: *stephanos*: victor's crown
- ❑ Was given: *didomi*: to grant, to bestow
- ❑ **Revelation 6:3-4** When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come." And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that *men* would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.

THE BLACK HORSE

- ❑ **Revelation 6:5-6** When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come." I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard *something* like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine."
- ❑ Damage: *adikeo*: cut off or hurt; the rider on the horse was directed not to harm the oil or wine
- ❑ War almost always produces famine and/or inflation
- ❑ A denarius was a day's wage; a quart of wheat was a day's ration
- ❑ The Old Testament always links bread, oil, and wine as necessities; grape vines and olive trees might have roots that survive to bear another year whereas a grain crop could be entirely destroyed

ASHEN HORSE AND MARTYRS

- ❑ **Revelation 6:8** I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.
- ❑ Ashen: *chloros*: light green
- ❑ Sword: *rhomphaia*: large broad sword; war, fighting
- ❑ Famine: *limos*: hunger and sometimes famine
- ❑ Pestilence: *thanatos*: death; anything that causes death
- ❑ Wild beasts: *therion*: any untamed animal including insects
- ❑ **Revelation 6:9-10** When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

SEAL #6

- **Revelation 6:12-13** I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth *made* of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.
- **Joel 2:31** "The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes."
- **Matthew 24:29** "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken."
- **Mark 13:24-25** "But in those days, after that tribulation, THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL BE FALLING from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken."

SPLITTING THE SKY

- ❑ **Revelation 6:14** The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.
- ❑ **Isaiah 34:4** And all the host of heaven will wear away, and the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; all their hosts will also wither away as a leaf withers from the vine, or as *one* withers from the fig tree.
- ❑ **2 Peter 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.
- ❑ Pass away: *parerchomai*: to come to; to pass by
- ❑ Roar: *rhoizedon*: a rushing sound
- ❑ Over the course of the tribulation period, it is very clear that things are not transpiring as usual

WHO CAN STAND?

- ❑ **Revelation 6:15-17** Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"
- ❑ **Hosea 10:8** Then they will say to the mountains, "Cover us!" And to the hills, "Fall on us!"
- ❑ This chapter puts to rest the concept that God is a God of love who would never judge or condemn people
- ❑ We now can see that God is more than willing and able to judge those who are violating His righteous standards

GOD IS CONSISTENT

- **Joel 2:10-11** Before them the earth quakes, The heavens tremble, The sun and the moon grow dark And the stars lose their brightness. The LORD utters His voice before His army; Surely His camp is very great, For strong is he who carries out His word. The day of the LORD is indeed great and very awesome, And who can endure it?
- **Malachi 3:1-3** "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness.