

REVELATION

How To Read Revelation Responsibly?

THE BLESSING

Revelation 1:3

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep what is written in it, because the time is near.

THE 4 VIEWS

- **PRETERIST - MOST PROPHECIES IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION WERE FULFILLED DURING THE TIME OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.**
- **HISTORICIST. THE PROPHECIES HAVE BEEN FULFILLED THROUGHOUT HISTORY AND ARE STILL BEING FULFILLED TODAY.**
- **FUTURIST. MOST PROPHECIES BEYOND REVELATION 3 ARE YET TO BE FULFILLED.**
- **SPIRITUAL (OR SYMBOLIC OR IDEALIST). MOST PROPHECIES PORTRAY THE ONGOING COSMIC CONFLICT OF SPIRITUAL REALITIES AND MAY HAVE MANY FULFILLMENTS THROUGHOUT HISTORY.**

CH. 1 JESUS

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard a loud voice behind me like a trumpet 11 saying, "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."

12 Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me. When I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and among the lampstands was one like the Son of Man, dressed in a robe and with a golden sash wrapped around his chest. 14 The hair of his head was white as wool—white as snow—and his eyes like a fiery flame. 15 His feet were like fine bronze as it is fired in a furnace, and his voice like the sound of cascading waters. 16 He had seven stars in his right hand; a sharp double-edged sword came from his mouth, and his face was shining like the sun at full strength.

CH. 1 JESUS

When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He laid his right hand on me and said, “Don’t be afraid. I am the First and the Last, 18 and the Living One. I was dead, but look—I am alive forever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and Hades. 19 Therefore write what you have seen, what is, and what will take place after this. 20 The mystery of the seven stars you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Message to the Seven Churches

Pergamum•

•Thyatira

•Sardis

Smyrna•

Philadelphia•

Ephesus•

Laodicea•



Message to the Seven Churches

Pergamum•

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CH. 2-3 // PATTERN

- Christ
- The Good
- The Bad
- Challenge
- Promise

CH. 2:1-7 // EPHESUS

Christ: Holds 7 stars, walks among 7 lampstands.

The Good: Works, endures, discerns evildoers, persevering

The Bad: Abandoned 1st love

Challenge: Remember from where you have fallen, repent, do what you did.

Promise: Eat from the tree of life.



TEMPLE TO ARTEMIS

CH. 2:8-11 // SMYRNA

Christ: First and last, resurrected

The Good: Walked through affliction, poverty, and slander

The Bad: None

Challenge: Don't fear impending suffering, jail, or affliction. Persevere to death.

Promise: Crown of life, escape from 2nd death

CH. 2:12-17 // PERGAMUM

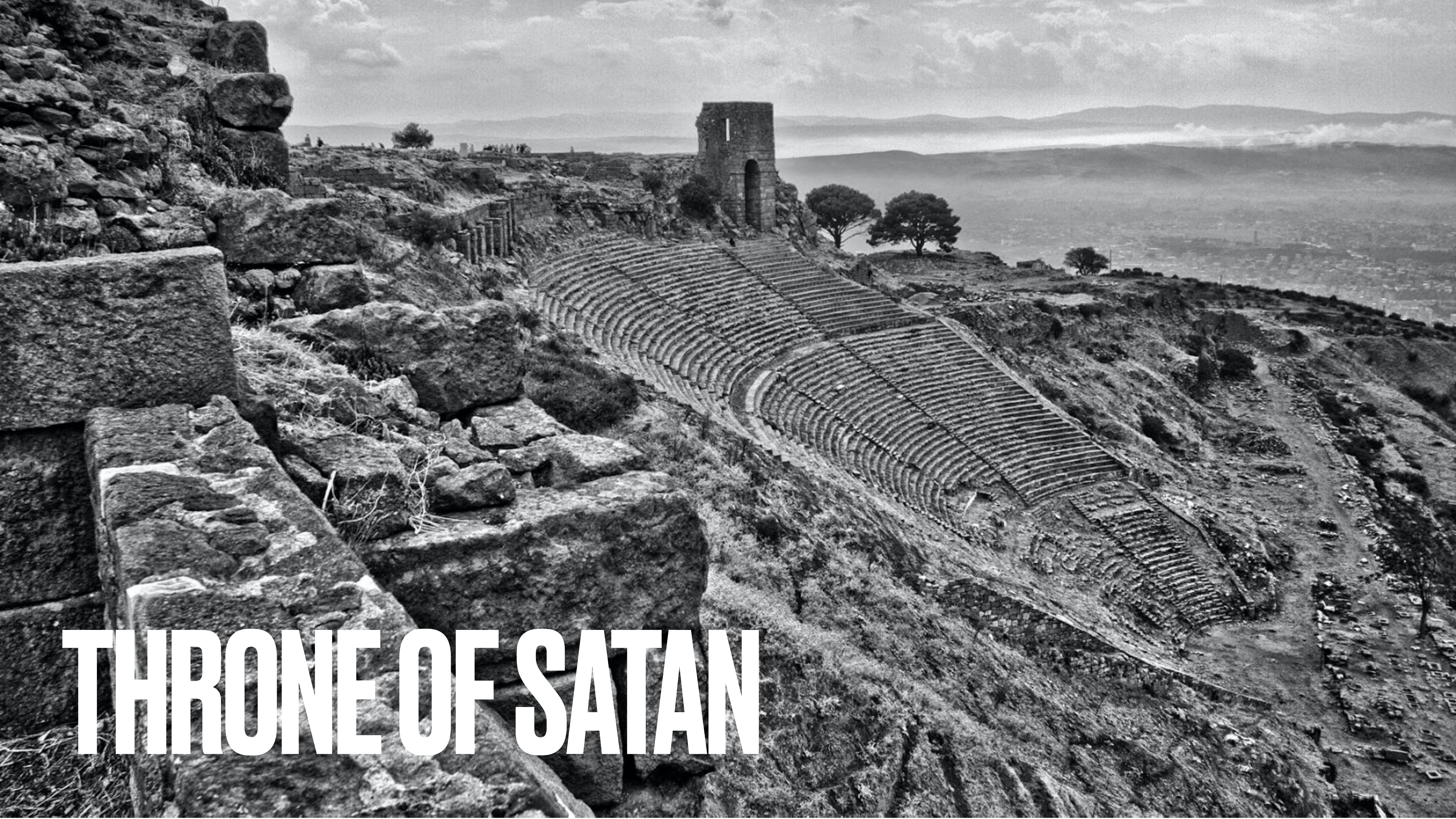
Christ: Has sharp 2 edged sword

The Good: Holding fast to Jesus in city of Satan's throne

The Bad: Some follow Balaam in idolatry and sexual immorality

Challenge: Repent (change your god) otherwise Christ comes to make war

Promise: Hidden manna, New name



THRONE OF SATAN

CH. 2:18-29 // THYATIRA

Christ: Son of God, eyes like flame, feet like bronze, searches mind and hearts

The Good: Love, faith, service, endurance, recent works greater

The Bad: Tolerance of Jezebel, false prophet of idolatry/sexual immorality

Challenge: Repent of adultery, hold fast

Promise: Authority over nations to rule them

CH. 3:1-6 // SARDIS

Christ: 7 Spirits of God and 7 stars

The Good: A remnant has not soiled clothes but walk with Jesus, worthy

The Bad: Reputation of being alive, but are dead. Works imperfect/incomplete

Challenge: Wake up, strengthen what remains, remember, obey, repent

Promise: Clothed in white robes. Christ will not blot out name from book of life

CH. 3:7-13 // PHILADELPHIA

Christ: Holy One, true one, has keys of David (God's Kingdom)

The Good: Kept Christ's word about endurance, and have not denied him

The Bad: None

Challenge: Synagogue of Satan will bow before them and learn Christ's love

Promise: Permanent pillar in temple of God, marked by God's name



PILLARS OF PHILADELPHIA

CH. 3:14-22 // LAODICEA

Christ: The Amen. The faithful and true witness. Beginning of creation

The Good: None

The Bad: Lukewarm. Not rich but wretched, poor, blind, naked pitiable

Challenge: Be cold or hot. Repent. Open the door to Christ

Promise: A place with Christ on his throne

SUMMARY ~ JOHN STOTT

Perhaps we should look at the seven messages as one message, calling the church to be the aggregate of all the explicit and implicit marks of a holy church found in these two chapters of Revelation... The marks of the Church are love (Ephesus), suffering (Smyrna), truth (Pergamum), holiness (Thyatira), authenticity (Sardis), mission (Philadelphia), and wholeheartedness (Laodicea).

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RESOURCES

Reading Revelation Responsibly by Michael J. Gorman | Jan 1, 2011

**Revelation: Four Views, A Parallel Commentary, Revised & Updated Edition
by Steve Gregg and Robert G. Clouse | Jul 2, 2013**