

**Revelation Chapter Two**  
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**Scripture References**

Acts 18:19

Proverbs 4:23-27

Matthew 5:11-12

James 1:12

Rev.20:11-15

Rev. 21:5, 7-8

1st Cor. 15:57

Romans 5:3-4

Acts 16:13-14

1st Kings 16:30-32

Colossians 2:8

1st Timothy 2:5

Quoted or Referenced two more:

Rev. 22:16

Numbers 22:12

## Outline Chapter 2

- Lampstands represent 7 Churches in Asia Minor: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea.
- Why these 7?
- 2:1-7 Ephesus
  - Lesson for us: Those Faithful beware of backsliding.
  - In verse 4 we read Jesus said they the Ephesians had lost their first Love.
  - In verse 6 we read Jesus was pleased that the Ephesians were offended as He was by the Nicolaitans.
- 2:8-11 Smyrna
  - Lesson for us: Facing persecution by Faith.
  - There were Jewish coverters who practiced a self-styled Judaism but were not actually Jewish. They turned in suspected Christians to the Roman authorities in a practice known as Penna.
  - To be a Christian in Smyrna & the Empire meant poverty, & persecution and even death in public on display by the most vile and shameful ways imaginable.
- 2:12-17 Pergamum
  - Lesson for us: Do not compromise GOD'S Word.
  - Pergamum was the Roman capitol of Asia. As such many of the Roman elite actually resided there when not in Rome itself.
  - Pergamum was full of every vice and sin Rome had to offer.
- 2: 18-28 Thyatira
  - Lesson for us: To reject false teachings & pagan practices.
  - To get ahead in Thyatira one had to be a member of a guild or union. Every guild and union worshipped a false pagan god.
  - It is Spiritual prostitution when a Church sells out on its beliefs only to be acceptable by the unacceptable in the name of compromise.

## **Apostle John**

The Biblically ~ Historically ~ Politically ~ & Legend

Born on: 6 AD in Galilee, city of Bethsaida

in Northern Israel that being beyond Mount Carmel in the mountainous area, which was divided into two sections at the Time of Christ with the lower section containing the Sea of Galilee or Tiberius by Roman name, and the Northern portion up to the border of Lebanon.

Died on: 100-101 AD in Ephesus (Turkey) Approximate age of 93-94, the only Apostle of Christ to have died of natural causes.

Brother of the Apostle James, with whom John was a fisherman.

John was the youngest Apostle & the only one at the foot of the cross.

Jesus Himself instructed the Apostle John to write down each the past, present, & future. Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter

Revelation 1:19KJV

Past:

At this time the command of Christ could only mean of what John had seen of Jesus ministry. John had not written the Gospel of John as of yet. He felt no need to add to what his contemporary's had already written. The Gospel of John was in fact the last book written in the Bible. John now as an experienced Pastor & Teacher combined with seeing Christ in His Glory found his purpose and direction of relating Jesus as GOD who became a man, while the other 3 synoptic Gospels which means common view detail Christ as a man who is GOD.

Only someone who had witnessed Christ in His Heavenly Glory could have the perspective to complete such a task.

Notes on the 3 synoptic common view Gospels which means good news:

Mark/Roman ~ Luke/Greek ~ Matthew/Jewish

Most miss that there were 3 great literary cultures in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, each of the Gospels were composed for an exact audience and combined together they give us today an astounding overview of the life of our Lord & Savior Jesus the Christ.

Gospel of Mark : composed and written by John Mark an assistant to the Apostle Paul whom he dismissed and later become an assistant to the Apostle Peter from who the events of this book are composed. Mark is a fine example of growing & 2nd chances. Mark was written for the Roman, much action & little talk. Mark transcribes very well into Latin, Note that the story of the

Roman centurion at the cross of Christ is a pivotal point.

Gospel of Luke: Luke was a doctor by trade and not Jewish. Luke was written for the Greek with the perspective of wisdom and scholarship. Dr. Luke had this in mind as a physician with great detail of an exhaustive research of each the life of Christ and in the Book of Acts, the early history of the Church, they were penned together as one book in two parts. They have since then been divided for easier reading. Countless witnesses of Christ & the Apostles/Disciples were alive at this time, each were fully supportive and acknowledging of the times and events recorded by Dr. Luke. No doubt many were interviewed by him led by the Holy Spirit.

Gospel of Matthew: Matthew was formerly known as Levi the hated traitorous Roman tax collector. Jewish tax collectors for Rome made their living by over charging the Israelites in collecting for taxes. The Jewish perspective above all insist upon lengthy genealogies. GOD through down the gauntlet and dared Jesus's genealogies to be disputed. Each for his step father Joseph and mother Mary.

Present:

Revelation chapters 1-3 are dictated letters from Christ Himself to 7 specific Churches found in Asia minor of the Roman Empire. Interestingly enough Jesus chose these 7 churches out of hundreds for they each represent 7 types of Churches and the 7 types of Christians and said letters are Chronologically arranged to correspond to the 7 ages of Church history.

Whom but Christ could do this?

While it is true that any of the 7 types of Churches and 7 types of individual Christians can be found at any time, each of Jesus's letters to each of the Churches in it's time best represents the overriding characteristics of each Church in it's day.

These letters from Jesus are addressed to the head Angels who oversee each age and are to be used as a guide by and for their Pastors & laity,... today we are in the last Church Age.

Future:

Revelation chapter 4 begins with the Rapture of the Church and it continues on to give out all of the information of the last week of prophecy for Israel known as Daniels final 70<sup>th</sup> week.

This time period is 7 years and is called a Sabbatical week.  
This time period is specifically known as the “Time of Jacobs Trouble” and it is also known as the Trib & Great Tribulation.  
This time period is the most detailed found in Bible prophecy.  
It begins sometime soon after the Rapture of the Church when the antichrist makes a 7 year peace accord with Israel & the world.  
Scripture does not say exactly how long after the Rapture this happens but it cannot be too long after for Satan & the antichrist will lie about and slander the Christians who are in Heaven.

The Apostle John was imprisoned on the prison island of Patmos by the Roman Emperor Domitian. Emperor from 81-96AD.

The longest running Emperor in years due to the great partisan politics of that time.

Domitian was the younger brother of Titus and son of Vespasian he was installed by force upon the Senate by the Praetorian Guard an elite unit of the Roman Legion assigned to protect the Emperor, he was by Legion standards a royal throwback to restore order by force. Much persecution of anyone especially Christians hallmarked Domitian's reign for he feared the value that Christians placed upon human life. Wars and conquest abounded at this time.

After many attempts Domitian was assassinated by court officials and his name was removed from Roman history, it is the secular historians Tacitus, Pliny the younger & Suetonius, whom record & condemn Domitian as a cruel ruthless but very efficient cold tyrant. Interestingly enough these 3 historians and the Jewish historian Josephus along with the recorded history of Israel known as the Babylonian Talmud (Post Babylon) the Jerusalem Talmud is (Pre Babylon) all 5 are the main albeit hostile witnesses who verify and identify Jesus of Nazareth, with Josephus going as far as calling Jesus the Messiah or Christ. Even though he was Orthodox and came under much fiery criticism and ire for said recordings.

The Apostle John was exiled to Patmos after Peter & Paul had each been executed along with thousands of other Christians only for Domitian to find Christianity under his harsh rule gaining ever more popularity.

Make no mistake,...

History records that Domitian attempted to have John executed in the Roman coliseum boiled alive in oil, with the fire and oil

raging John stood at peace totally unfazed.

According to Tertullian the author from Carthage.(Africa)

He records that thousands proceeded to the Apostle John in boiling oil as close as they would dare and had him convert them to Christ.

Domitian in turn banished the Apostle John to as a remote a place as possible. The prison island of Patmos.

This all in turn fueled the speculation around the Apostle John:

Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”)

21 When Peter saw

him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?” 22 Jesus answered, “ If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.”

23 Because of this, the rumor spread among the

Believers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?” John 21:20

History has lost whether John was released after Domitian’s death out of respect for John or disdain for Domitian,... either way History does record when and where John went after his release.

To the Church in Ephesus originally founded by Paul, now under the care of Polycarp. Polycarp himself younger in life was the Apostle John’s understudy.

So the Apostle John went to live his remaining years with his former student under the wild speculation that he would not die, that being at least until Christ returned. The Apostle John did not die until he had seen the yet to be future return of Jesus Christ and record it in Revelation along with everything else he knew about Jesus as he was instructed to do by Christ on the isle of Patmos.

This took about 2 years for him to achieve, history records John arrived in Ephesus in 98 AD and died in late 100 or early 101 AD.

Interestingly enough PolyCarp , John’s former student now host and in charge of the Church in Ephesus, had an understudy of his own at this time and his name was Polynaus , was this a son or relative of Polycarp? By the name it seems likely.

In Greek the name Poly means fruitful or rich in fruit.

It also means that this man had to witness first hand the martyrdom of Polycarp, stabbed to death after burning at the stake failed.

As an older man himself now in 180 AD, Polynaus records that he had

briefly known the Apostle John for the few remaining years Polycarp had cared for him and that he had seen for himself the authority that Christ had bestowed upon the original Apostles for miracles. That even as an older frail man in his 90's he had witnessed the Apostle John raise a man from the dead. Legend holds that Polycarp & Polynaous along with many Church leaders endorsed the Gospel of John as copies of the Gospel of John & the Book of Revelation emerged from Ephesus, as in for many centuries after a list of names from church officials were added to this scripture passage below. The names were removed once they were forgotten.

*This is the disciple (John) who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. John 21:24 NIV*



## The 7 Churches of Revelation

- † Are Chronological in order and prophetic in content.
- † Are from the time of the Apostles to the Apostate Age.
- † Are chosen from hundreds of Churches at that time.
- † Are characteristic of the time period they each represent.
- † Are present in each Age yet dominate in its own Age.
- † Are representative of the 7 types of Churches & Christians.
- † Are Proof of Prophecy for only Christ could have known.