

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA

Message 1

Words: 6072

INTRO: In the next while we will, Lord willing, be looking at the seven churches of Asia as given in Revelation chapters 2-3. These will be expositional messages and follow the passage verse by verse.

This is the introduction to the introduction of the introduction to the seven churches of Asia. Because this introduction is so involved, I have outlined it in point form so that the parts are more easily recognizable, and even then, for many, if you want to understand the content, it will require going over it one or two more times.

Now to many, and that is an understatement, the book of Revelation is a mysterious book and I want to begin by showing how to take the mystery out of the book.

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION

A. The Method of Interpretation

So our first brief subject is the method of interpreting the book of Revelation. This book is not mysterious, for the most part, when you use the right system of Bible interpretation, which is simply the normal way we interpret written material, which is usually literal. For example, the first verse in the Bible says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." What does that mean? It means what it says. That is literal interpretation.

Now, there are times when we speak in figurative language, and then, of course, we do not interpret literally. For example, when we tell someone to go fly a kite, we do not interpret that literally. Now the book of Revelation must be interpreted literally, unless the words one is dealing with are used figuratively. When you spiritualize the whole book of Revelation, it becomes quite meaningless and that is what most do, if they dare touch it at all. That is why it is so mysterious to most.

However, when you interpret it literally, or better, normally, which leads naturally to a premillennial view of the return of Christ, then it readily yields its contents and the disagreements as to the meaning of the many passages shrinks way down to minor things.

B. The Place Of Revelation In The Bible

But before we move on, let me give the book in its overall position in the Bible. Here is a simplified outline of the whole Bible. In the OT we have three major sections. These would be worth memorizing. There is a historical section, a practical section and a prophetic section. The historical is from Genesis through Esther. The practical is from Job through the Song of Solomon. The prophetic is from Isaiah through Malachi.

In the NT we have the same pattern. Matthew through Acts is the historical section. Romans through Jude is the practical section, and Revelation is the prophetic. So the prophetic section in the OT is 12 books, but in the NT it is only one book. Why? Because most of the important information for that which is yet future is recorded in the OT already. However, the book of Revelation does something very wonderful to the OT picture of that which lies in our future even today. It completes the Bible picture of prophecy most beautifully.

We will look at the structure of the book of Revelation now and it will introduce us to the book. So turn to Revelation 1.

C. The Structure Of Revelation

We will only take chapters 2-3 in these messages. Let me show you the structure of this whole book, and then what chapters 2-3 have to do with. The book of Revelation is, in my estimation, a most chronological book. Look at chapter 1:19. It says, "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this." Now there is the outline of the book. Point number one, write the things which you have seen. So go to chapter one. We'll read it:

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants – things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

The things revealed in this book belonged to God first. He gave them to Jesus Christ who gave them to an angel, who gave them to John, who wrote them down, and thus we have then as the last book in the Bible. When Moses wrote Genesis 1:1, the first words of the Bible were written. When the Apostle John wrote Revelation 22:21, and put down his pen after writing these words, *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*, divine revelation fell silent forever. God's Words to man were complete. Verse 2:

2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

Verse 1-2 tell us clearly who the writer of this book is. It is John, the Apostle. John wrote 5 NT books: the Gospel of John, 1-3 John and Revelation.

3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

4 John, to the seven churches which 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,

5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

8 *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*

9 ¶ *I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

This book was written in a time of persecution, according to verse 9. It says, *I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.* It is most likely that it was written during the reign of Domitian who reigned from A.D. 81-96.

10 *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,*

11 *saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."*

We will introduce this chapter further later. Chapter one is an introduction to the whole book and it includes the things that John saw. Then John is told to write the things which are. That is present tense. And that is chapters 2-3 and speaks of the Church age. That is the time that had then just begun. The Church was only about 65 years old at that time. Today the Church is almost 2,000 years old. If my calculations are correct, the Gregorian calendar which we use is out by about 4 years. If that is correct, I view that Christ ministered just over 2 years and that would make the birth of the Church at about 28 AD. That means the Church is now 11 years short of being 2,000 years old. Over these 2,000 years, the Church has been God's greatest work on earth, though that fact goes mostly unnoticed.

Go to 3:1. Chapters 3-4 deal with the Church, and I believe, the entire Church age in a sense. This section begins with the Church of Ephesus.

1 *"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:*

2 *"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;*

3 *"and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.*

4 *"Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.*

This section on the Church is what we want to be looking at in the next while. Revelation 3:22 closes the Church age. So these two chapters are the things which are. Chapter 4 then begins the things to come, and from chapter 4 on, these are still all things to come. If you turn to chapter 4, you will notice something most significant. Look at verse 1:

1 *After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.*

John is caught up to heaven. Pretribulationists have of course noticed the similarity to the Church being caught up as soon as the Church age is over. One could conclude that we have a picture of the rapture here. In Revelation 4-5 John is introduced to heaven. I believe what he sees here is what heaven is like after the Church is raptured. The reason I believe this comes from 4:1-4. Look at these verses:

1 *After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."*

2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.

Here we have 24 elders. I believe they represent the entire Church. Out of the Church age 24 elders are chosen to a special place in heaven. Now I will not take time to explain all this because this is simply an overview.

So, we have the Church age in 2-3. The raptured Church in 4-5 and now in 6-19 we have the time period that immediately follows the Church age, which is the 70th week of Daniel, or the tribulation time. This is the complicated section of the book. In my view, it is still all perfectly chronological, only it goes through the tribulation several times. We cannot take time for that now. So look at chapter 19, as it describes the close of the tribulation:

1 After these things (After the events of the tribulation) I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!"

2 "For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her."

3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"

4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

Here we have the 24 Church elders again, and they say, "Amen, Halleluia."

5 *Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"*

6 *And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"*

7 *"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."*

Now the marriage is complete, but the marriage supper is about to begin, so we read on:

8 *And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

9 *Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."*

10 *And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*

We are here at as the time of the tribulation is about to end. It should be mentioned here for our post-trib friends, that the Church is in heaven before the tribulation ends. And now she comes down with Christ to put an end to the tribulation. We read on:

11 *Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.*

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

So the Lord Jesus comes back down to earth now. This is the second coming the Scriptures speak of. And here is what happens on earth. Verse 17:

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,

18 "that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great."

19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

So, here is what happens. The false prophet and the antichrist are cast into hell and the rest of the people are killed by the Lord, and all the birds are filled with their flesh.

Then we have chapter 20. The devil is bound and the millennium begins. We begin in 20:1:

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Now the thousand years are over, and another time period begins. We go on in verse 7:

7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison

8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

This time period called a short season is now over, and we come to a very important event. We begin go on in verse 12:

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

After this judgment, the eternal state begins and we will only read a few verses of this. We begin in 21:1:

1 ¶ Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Here we have arrived at the eternal state. A number of most interesting things are revealed about the eternal state, but that is not our subject. So here is the picture in brief: Chapters 2-3, the church age; chapters 4-19, the tribulation; chapter 20, the millennium, then the short season and the final judgment. Chapters 21-22, the eternal state. You can't get more chronological than that. So this gives us a rather broad introduction to the book of Revelation.

So, we have seen how one is to interpret this book; what its place is in the Bible, and the structure of the book. Now we want to introduce chapters 2-3.

II. INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTERS 2-3

A. The Text

Now in chapter one, which introduces the whole book, there is also a section that introduces chapters 2-3. That is what we will be dealing with, so we go to 1:12-20:

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;

15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

18 "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

19 "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

20 "The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

Now this all is rather mysterious. John sees an one standing in the midst of seven golden lampstands. He has seven stars in His right hand, and a sharp two-edged sword goes out of His mouth. But the Lord takes the mystery out of this by explaining what it means. He tells us in verse 20 what all this pictures. It says:

20 *"The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.*

Those then are the things which John had seen as outlined in verse 19. The seven stars represent seven angels, and we'll look at that more closely when we get to it. Further the Lord says the seven lamp-stands represent seven churches. I have no doubt that one of the things intended by these seven churches is that they picture the entire Church age. This has been God's greatest work in the world in the last 2,000 years.

B. The Relationship Between Chapter 1 and Chapters 2 and 3

And let me just point out a few things from this One that stands among the seven churches as it relates to chapters 2-3.

1. The first church - Ephesus

The first church addressed is Ephesus. We begin in chapter 2:1:

1 *"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:*

12 *And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;*

13 *And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*

Now look at 1:16 which says:

16 *And he had in his right hand seven stars:*

It is those two things that the Lord points out to this church. We will look at the purpose in later messages.

2. The second church - Smyrna

We find Smyrna, the second Church addressed, in 2:8:

8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

This points back to chapter 1 verses 17-18 where John says this:

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

18 I am he that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen;

3. The third church - Pergamos

In 2:12 we have the third church, which is Pergamos. It says:

12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

This points back to 1:16 which says:

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword.

4. The fourth church - Thyatira

In 2:18 we have the church of Thyatira:

18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:

So look at 1:14-15:

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace...

5. The fifth church - Sardis

The fifth church is Sardis. We find it in 3:1: *"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars:*

We find the seven spirits mentioned in 1:4 which says:

4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne...

Revelation 1:16 mentions the seven stars like this:

Re 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars...

6. The sixth church - Philadelphia

The sixth church is the church of Philadelphia. We find it in 3:7:

7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens":

I don't find anything in chapter one that relates to this, and I do not know the answer to why that is so. Maybe I will find it or you will let me know.

7. The seventh church - Laodicea

The seventh and last church addressed is Laodicea. We find it in 3:14:

14 *"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:*

This points us back to 1:5 which says, And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead,

Now there is an interesting connection between 3:14 and 1:5. It is a blow to JW teaching. They take Colossians 1:15 as teaching that Jesus Christ was the first creation of God. It says of Jesus that, and I quote: *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.* But Colossians 1:18 answers what the 'firstborn' refers to. It says: *And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead...* Jesus was the firstborn of all creation from the dead. Revelation 3:14 says that He is, and I quote: *the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God...* So it says he is the beginning of the creation of God. In 1:5 this is explained like this: *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead...* He is the firstborn from the dead, not the first one created. And if Jesus Christ was not created, all of JW doctrine falls. The crux of Christianity is Christ and who He is.

Well, there we see some relationship between what was said I chapter 1 and the addressing of the churches in chapters 2-3.

C. The Approach To Chapters 2-3

Now, here is how I plan to go through these seven churches. First, we will look at the historical purpose of each church. Here we will look at the text verse by verse. The Lord outlines each church in the same way. We'll go through one church to see that.

1. The historical purpose

In the historical purpose, God had a direct message for each of those seven churches in their time. It

was relevant for them right at that time. And in the historical purpose the Lord treats each church in the following order:

He Lord gives first the counselee. That is the one who is counseled. Look at it in chapter 2 verse 1.

a. Counselee

There is first the counselee. That is the one who is counseled. So verse 1 begins like this: *To the angel of the church of Ephesus write...*

b. Counselor

Then we are given the counselor. The counselor is the Lord Himself. We have this in 1b, which says, *These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand...*

c. Commendation

Then, usually we have a commendation given to the church. These are the positive things the Lord has to say. We find this in verses 2-3. The Lord says,

2 *"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;*

3 *"and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.*

3. Criticism

Next we have any criticism if the Lord has found some. Look at verse 4: *Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.*

4. Counsel

Then we have the counsel. We find this regarding the Ephesian church in verses 5-7a:

5 *"Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place – unless you repent.*

6 *"But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

7 *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

5. Comfort

Following the counsel we have the comfort and to this church we find it in 7b.

7b *To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.*

2. The typical purpose

So that is the historical purpose. Then there is the typical purpose of these messages to the seven churches. By this is meant that these seven messages are messages meant to be applied by all churches of all ages.

The Lord is vitally interested in what is going on in every church. Furthermore, He knows exactly what our strengths and weaknesses are. We will learn that second and third generation Christians face great dangers. If we do not live right, the Lord will ultimately remove our candlestick. If we overcome, we have some wonderful promises.

3. The prophetic purpose 8*

Third, I believe, as do many other premillennialists, that there is a sense in which these seven churches are prophetic. But when you look at the information in these two chapters, they look like they simply

give historical information. But there are several species of prophecy and there is one I think we could call historical prophecy.

What is historical prophecy? Turn to Matthew 12. For example, study the book of Jonah, and you will be hard put to find any prophecy in the book. Yet the historical information is prophetic. Look at what Jesus said in Matthew 12:38-40:

38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."

39 But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah."

40 "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

Jonah's historical experience became prophetic of Christ's being buried for three days and three nights.

There are other examples, but in that way I believe these seven churches reveal what the Church age will be like throughout its course of history. We will look at this in each church.

4. The personal purpose

Last, there is the purpose one might call the individual, or the spiritual, or the personal purpose. That means each one of these seven churches is meant to speak to each individual Christian. The Christian's personal life with the Lord is in view. Here is the question: Where am I spiritually? Where are you spiritually? The Lord is concerned about each of our spiritual lives. And so I think Rob Lindstead is right in concluding that each church has a spiritual purpose for every individual believer. A church may be a dead church but it may have a few

believers that are zealous for God. This individual purpose is shown in what is said to the individual believer in each church when it says, "To him who has an ear to hear, let him hear..." I trust that in these messages the Lord will speak to each one of us individually.

CONCL: And so, in conclusion, we looked at the method of interpretation. Even though there are more passages that involve figurative language, the literal, normal approach is the way to interpret this book. Although there are other prophetic parts in the NT, this book forms the prophetic section of the NT. That is the introduction of the Book of Revelation to the Bible.

Now, chapter one of Revelation is the introduction to the book of Revelation, and chapter 1:12-20 is the introduction to chapters 2-3. And certain aspects of chapter 1 are introductions to each church with the exception of one.

And as we look at each church, we will look at the significance of the passage in its historical meaning. Then we will briefly the type of church it pictures. Third, we'll look at the time period it may speak of in church history and last, the message it has for each Christian personally. This will take quite a lot of time to cover. Pray that you will get the message as it relates to all of this.