

The Dangers of Revelation:

- Not About Political or Denominational Agendas
 - o Cause Divisions and Disfellowship
 - o Justification of Antagonism
- Avoid Helps that Name the Antagonists
- Do Not Ascribe Personal Preferences to this Book
 - o The Bible Must Change Us NOT Us Changing It
 - o Begin This Study with an Open Mind & a Submissive Heart

Biblical Allusions to Revelation as Cannon Scripture:

Is. 61:1-3; Dan. 9; Lk. 1:30-33; 2 Cor.12:1-6

- Apocalyptic Literature (End of the Age)
 - o OT: Joel, Amos, Zachariah, Daniel
 - o NT: Mt. 24, 25; Mk. 13; Luke 21; 1 Thes. 4, 5

Reasons for Confusion:

- Lack of Biblical Literacy (OT & NT)
 - o Events, Symbols, Characters are Explained in the Book or in the Rest of the Bible

Outline of Revelation (1:19):

- “What you have seen...” (Ch. 1)
- “the things which are...” (Ch. 2-3)
- “which shall be hereafter.” (Ch. 4-22)

Vocabulary (v.1-2):

ἐν τάχει – Takos = “in haste,” “speedily,” “soon”
“In quick succession”

σημαίνω – Semaino = Lit: “To make a mark”
“To give a sign”
“To signify, indicate”
“To render into signs”

ἄγγελου – Angelon = Lit: “Messenger,” “One who is sent,”
“Pastor” (Strong’s Def.)
“Created Being”

Kings and Priests (v.6):

- OT: Offices are Hereditary and Separate
 - o Order of Aaron / House of David
- Position in Christ (1 Pet. 2:9)
- Order of Melchizedek (Psalm 110:4; Heb. 7:17)

Every Eye Shall See Him (v. 7):

- Personal/Physical Appearance (Dan. 7:13; Mt. 24:30; 26:64)
- Pierced Him (Zech. 12:10)
- Those who were against him and have passed
- All Generations (Phil. 2:10-11)

The Seven Churches (Why These Seven?) (v. 11):

- Roman Province of Asia (Anatolia: Asia Minor)
- Other Prominent Churches in the Province
- Colossae, Galatia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, Heliopolis

Lampstands (v. 12):

Λυχνίασ – Lychanias = “Lamp Stand,” “Candelabra”

Root: “Light Bearer”

- Gold: Royalty (God’s Sovereignty)
- Light: Truth (Gospel)
- Ref. Menorah (Tended by the High Priest)
- Dispose of Faulty/Used Up Wicks
- Function of a Church (c.f. Mat. 28:18-20):
- Put on Display the Light (Truth) of God

Jesus as High Priest (v. 12):

- Intercedes for the People of God (Heb. 7:25)
- Offers Absolution/Cleansing (1 Jn. 1:9)
- Advocates for Us (1 Jn. 2:1)
- Inspection and Correction (Heb. 12:6-11)

Description of the Risen Christ (v. 14-16):

- Priestly Garments (Sash)
- Hair: white as wool/snow (Dan. 7:9, 13, 22)
- Eyes: flame
 - o All things revealed (Heb. 4:13)
 - o All works tried by fire (1 Cor. 3:13)
- Feet: Brass (Num. 21:6-9; Jn. 3:14-16)
- “Two-Edged Sword” (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12)
- “countenance as the sun...” (Mat. 16:28-17:2)
- Functioning in His Role as High Priest (Present)
 - o Righteous and Holy
 - o All is Reveled to Him/Nothing Hidden
 - o Empowered as Judge/Bringer of Judgement
 - o Judgement Through the Word of God
 - o Glorified By God before His Servants

Letters to the Seven Churches (v. 20):

- Open Letters to Local Churches
- Levels of Application Both Past and Present
 - o Local (Issues Facing Congregations)
 - o Congregational (Teaching and Correction)
 - o Personal (How Do We Fit in?)
 - o Prophetic (Gap in Daniel 9:26; Rev. 12:5-6)
- Areas of Meaning (Structure):
 - o The Name of the Church
 - o The Title Christ Chooses for Himself
 - o Commendation
 - o Concern
 - o Instruction
 - o Promise to the Overcomer
 - o Prophetic Instruction on Stage of Church Life*
(*Speculative)

Ephesus (2:1-7):

Name: "Darling One"
Title: I Have Authority Over All the Churches &
I Am with You
Commendation: You Have Confronted Evil, Endured
Hardship, & Persevered
Concern: Left Your First Love
(No time for the King)
Note: "Nicolaitans"
Potential Early Heresy
Untranslated Word (Rule Over the People)
Instruction: Repent (Balance Works with Devotion)
Promise: Fruit from the Tree of Life
Prophetic: The Church of the Apostles

Smyrna (2:8-11):

Name: "Myrrh"
Title: I Am the Resurrection
Commendation: You May Be Afflicted & Destitute,
But You Are Blessed & Wealthy
Note: Those Who Slander Against You Are Not
Believers But Are from the Enemy
Concern: -None-
Instruction: Do Not Fear, Your Affliction Will End
(10 Days)
Promise: The Crown of Life
Prophetic: Post-Apostolic Church

Pergamum (2:12-17):

Name: "Tower"
Title: I Am the Word of God (Ref. Heb. 4:12)
Commendation: You Live in the Seat of the Enemy's
Power & Have Not Denied Me
Concern: Many of You Lust After Worldly
Pleasures & Worldly Authority
Instruction: Repent or the Word will Confront You
(Church Discipline)
Promise: Hidden Manna & A White Stone with a
New Name (Place of Reserved Glory)
Prophetic: Roman Imperial Church

Thyatira (2:18-29):

Name: "Daughter"
Title: I Am the One Who Brings Judgement
Commendation: I Know Your Virtue & Increasing Great
Works
Concern: Many of You Have Been Seduced By
Immorality & Idolatry (Jezebel)
Instruction: She Will Be Judged & So Will Her
Followers Unless They Repent
Promise: Rule Over the Nations & the Morning Star
Prophetic: Medieval Church(Gregory I-Reformation)

Sardis (3:1-6):

Name: A Now Worthless Gem ("Red Ones")
Title: With the 7-Fold Ministry of the Holy
Spirit &The Angels of the 7 Churches
Commendation: -None-
Concern: Appearance of Success (Dead)
Instruction: The Remnant: Proclaim the Gospel &
Bring the Lost to Repentance
(Including Those WITHIN the Church)
Promise: White Clothes, Eternal Life, Proclamation
of Faithfulness Before God
Prophetic: Reformation Era

Philadelphia (3:7-13):

Name: "Brotherly Love"
Title: Holder of All Divine & Temporal Authority
Commendation: Great Potential is Yours Because of Your Faithfulness Amid Persecution
Note: I Will Put to Shame Those Who Falsely Claim Religious Authority & Slander You
Concern: -None-
Instruction: Fear Not & Endure to the End
Promise: Exemption from the Tribulation, Made a Pillar in the Heavenly Temple, Claimed Eternally by God, A New Name
Prophetic: Age of Missionary Expansion

Laodicea (3:14-22):

Name: "Rule of the People"
Title: I Am the Truth, the Messenger of God, the Firstborn of Creation
Commendation: -None-
Concern: You Are Useless, Weaken the Body, Spiritually Destitute, Willfully Ignorant
Instruction: Turn to the Things of God (LET ME IN)
Promise: The Right to Sit on the Throne of Christ
Prophetic: Post-Modern Church

Concerns in Detail:

- Financially Rich but Spiritually Destitute
 - o Believes in Self-Sufficiency (Pride)
- No Devotional Life (Value the Temporal Only)
 - o Spiritually Blind (Willful Ignorance of Condition)
 - Biblical Illiteracy
 - Doctrinal Shallowness
 - Surface Level Fellowship
 - Lack of Christian Discipleship
 - No Prayer Life
 - o Naked Before God (Shame)
 - No Covering (Atonement)
 - No Christ-Like Attributes
 - o Wretched (Toiling Uselessly)
 - Fulfill the Needs of Pride Not Ministry
 - No Works of Love (Tainted by Sin Nature)
 - No Fruit (No Salvation of Others)

