



Then I turned and saw one like a Son of Man...

**What Jesus Says to His Church**  
**The Message of Revelation 1-3**  
Triangle Community Church  
January—February 2019

Part 1:	Jesus—Terrifying yet Tender	Revelation 1:1-20
Part 2:	Ephesus—The Loveless Church	Revelation 2:1-7
Part 3:	Smyrna—The Persecuted Church	Revelation 2:8-11
Part 4:	Pergamum—The Compromised Church	Revelation 2:12-17
Part 5:	Thyatira—The Corrupted Church	Revelation 2:18-28
Part 6:	Sardis—The Dead Church	Revelation 3:1-6
Part 7:	Philadelphia—The Faithful Church	Revelation 3:7-13
Part 8:	Laodicea—The Nauseating Church	Revelation 3:14-22

***Suggestions for Digging Deeper in Your Personal Quiet Time***

***Each day*** throughout this series:

- ☐ Slowly and prayerfully meditate on the ten-point description of the glorified Christ.
- ☐ Then, read or listen to Revelation 1-3 (it takes about 15 minutes).
- ☐ Jot down any “thirty-thousand foot observations”—what intrigues, enlightens (*or confuses!*) you? What do you learn about Jesus, about His church, and about yourself?
- ☐ Write down one concrete way you will obey God today. In the evening, journal your experience.

***Suggested Questions for Community Group Discussion***

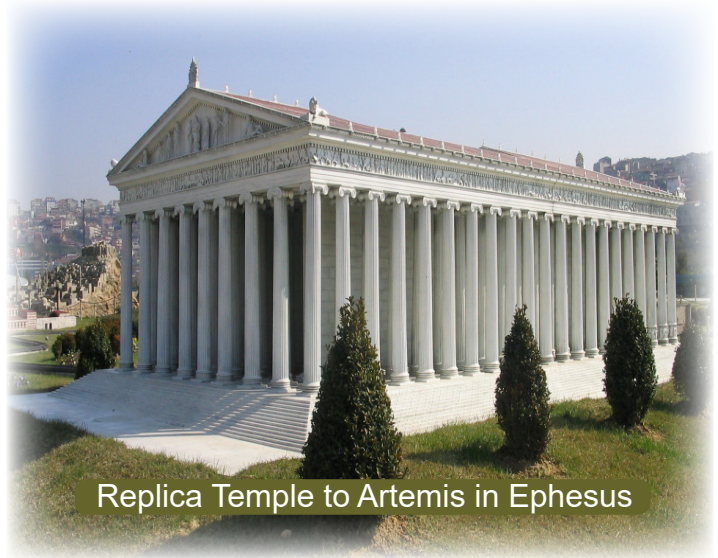
Together as a group:

- ☐ Begin by reading Revelation 1-3 aloud. Dividing it into manageable sections, rotate readers. Individually, jot down any “thirty-thousand foot” observations and/or questions as it’s read.
- ☐ As a group, discuss your observations and, using Scripture, try to answer your questions.
- ☐ From the specific passage preached on this past Sunday, together as a group...
  - Generate a list of all the things you see in the text that you love about Jesus.
  - Write down what Jesus praised, rebuked, encouraged, and promised that church.
- ☐ What “points of connection” (good *and* bad) do you see between this text and TCC?
- ☐ How can we, as individuals and as a Community Group, repent and grow in these areas?

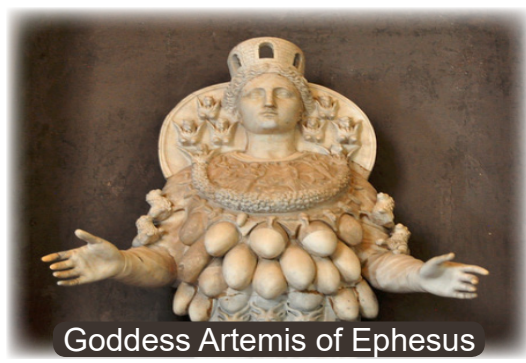




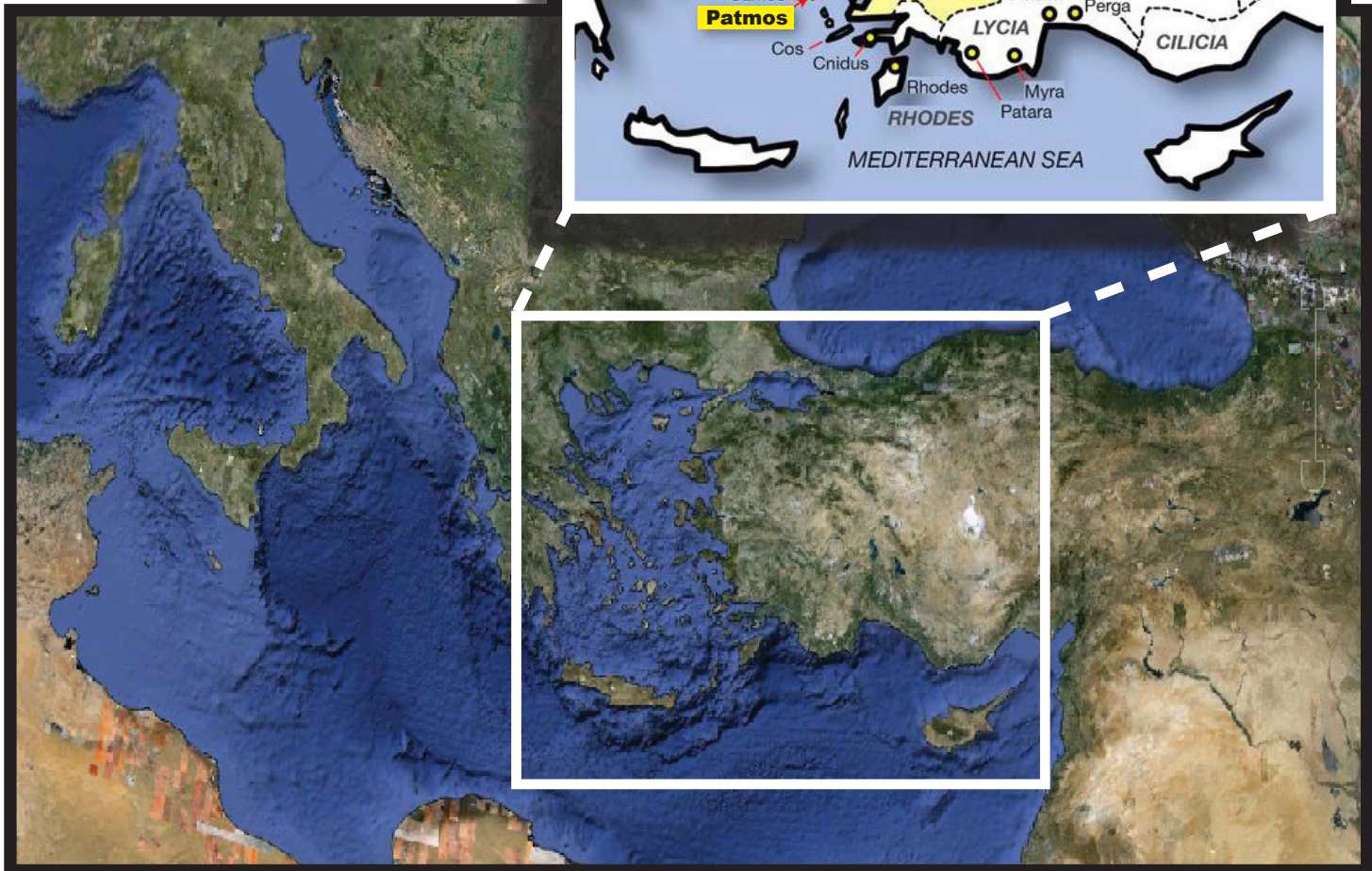
Ruins of Temple to Goddess Artemis



Replica Temple to Artemis in Ephesus



Goddess Artemis of Ephesus





**1** 1 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, 2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. 3 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.

**1** 4 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, 5 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— 6 and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. 8 **“I am the Alpha and the Omega,”** says the Lord God, **“who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”**

**1** 9 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. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, 11 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.”**

**1** 12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; 13 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. 14 His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. 15 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. 16 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.

**1** 17 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, 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. 19 Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. 20 As for 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 are the seven churches.**



**2**<sup>1</sup> “To the angel of the church in **Ephesus** write:



The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand,  
the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

**2** ‘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;  
**3** and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake,  
and have not grown weary.

**4** ‘But I have this against you,  
that you have left your first love.

**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.

**6** Yet this you do 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.

To him who overcomes,  
I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.’

**2** 8 “And to the angel of the church in **Smyrna** write:



The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:

9 ‘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.

10 ‘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.

11 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.’



**2** 12 “And to the angel of the church in **Pergamum** write:



The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:

- 13 ‘I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is;  
and you hold fast My name,  
and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one,  
who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.
- 14 ‘But I have a few things against you,  
because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam,  
who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel,  
to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality.
- 15 So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
- 16 Therefore repent;  
or else I am coming to you quickly,  
and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.
- 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.’

**2** 18 “And to the angel of the church in **Thyatira** write:



The Son of God,  
who has eyes like a flame of fire,  
and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:

19 ‘I know your deeds,  
and your love  
and faith  
and service  
and perseverance,  
and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

20 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.

21 I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality.

22 Behold, I will throw her on a bed,  
and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation,  
unless they repent of her deeds.

23 And I will kill her children with pestilence,  
and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts;  
and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

24 But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira,  
who do not hold this teaching,  
who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them  
—I place no other burden on you.

25 Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.

26 He who overcomes,  
and he who keeps My deeds until the end,  
TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;  
27 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;  
28 and I will give him the morning star.

29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’



**3** 1 “To the angel of the church in **Sardis** write:



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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

5 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.

6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

**3** 7 “And to the angel of the church in **Philadelphia** write:



He who is holy,  
who is true,  
who has the key of David,  
who opens and no one will shut,  
and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

8 ‘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.

9 Behold, 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.

10 Because you have kept the word of My perseverance,  
I also will keep you from the hour of testing,  
that hour which is about to come upon the whole world,  
to test those who dwell on the earth.

11 I am coming quickly;  
hold fast what you have,  
so that no one will take your crown.

12 He who overcomes,  
I will make him 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.

13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’



**3** 14 “To the angel of the church in **Laodicea** write:



The Amen,  
the faithful and true Witness,  
the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

- 15 ‘I know your deeds,  
that you are neither cold nor hot;  
I wish that you were cold or hot.
- 16 So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold,  
I will spit you out of My mouth.
- 17 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,
- 18 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.
- 19 Those whom I love,  
I reprove and discipline;  
therefore be zealous and repent.
- 20 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.
- 21 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.
- 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ ”

## Jesus is “the Son of Man”—but what does that even mean?

- Read Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 for the Old Testament roots of this term. What is the Son of Man like, and what does he receive?

“Son of Man” was Jesus’ favorite description of himself. It reveals Jesus’...

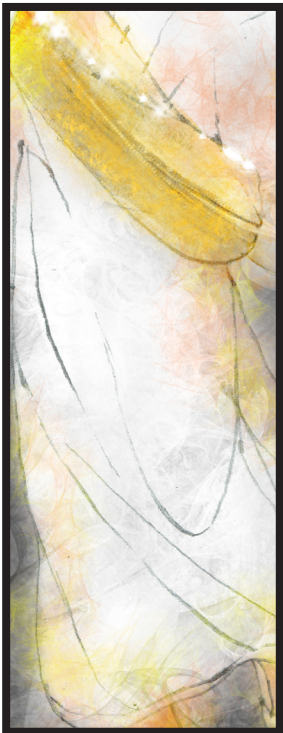
- uniqueness (John 3:13)
- messiahship (Matthew 12:8)
- dependent human nature (Matthew 8:20)
- authoritative and redemptive mission (Matthew 9:6; Luke 19:10)
- redemptive victory (John 3:14)
- universal lordship (Mark 14:62)
- authority to judge (Matthew 13:41-42; 19:28)



## Jesus’ robe and sash mark him out as our High Priest.

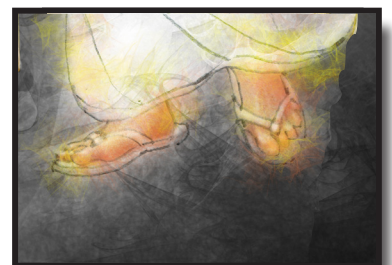
What can we learn about Jesus’ priestly function on our behalf?

- Hebrews 2:17-17
- Hebrews 4:14—5:6
- Hebrews 7:14-17
- Hebrews 8:1-2
- Hebrews 9:11-14
- Hebrews 10:10-15

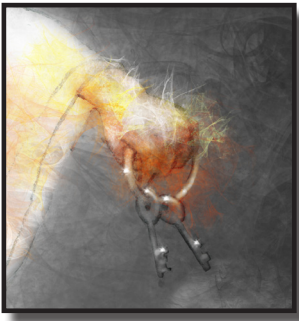


## Psalms 110 is a “messianic psalm”—it’s about Jesus.

- Where does he put those “burnished bronze, glowing feet” of his?
- Notice the connection to Melchizedek! What’s the significance?
- Does Psalm 110 describe what you thought priests do?





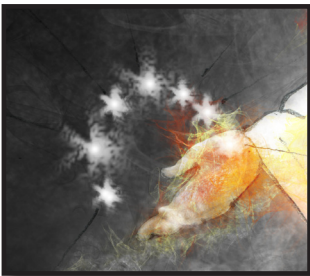


### Jesus holds the keys to death and Hades.

- What authority do **your** keys (house, car, etc.) give **you**?
- What does 2 Timothy 1:10 say Jesus has done to death? How is that true?
- What benefits does Hebrews 2:14-15 say we receive through Jesus' victory?
- Will Jesus let you in—or lock you out? How do you know?

### Churches are represented by lampstands—let's learn more about the church...

- Matthew 5:14-16
- Matthew 16:18-19
- 1 Peter 2:4-12
- 1 Timothy 3:14-16
- Ephesians 4:1-5
- Ephesians 4:11-16



### Who are those “angels” anyway? The answer probably will surprise you!

- The Greek word *aggelos* literally means “a messenger”. It occurs 177 times in the New Testament, and it **doesn't always** mean a **heavenly** messenger. See Luke 7:24, 27 & 9:52 for passages in which the “angel” is decidedly **human**!
- Clearly the messenger in Revelation 1:1 **is** the heavenly type—communicating a message from God to John. But the “messengers of the seven churches” (1:20)—are they heavenly or human? The “angel” of 1:1 brought a **verbal** message from heaven, which needed to be written down. John then handed the **written** message to representatives of each church (2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14).

### Last—but far from least!—there's that “sharp two-edged sword” in Jesus' mouth!

- Revelation 19:11-16
- Hebrews 4:12-13
- Isaiah 55:6-11
- Psalm 18:30-35
- Psalm 19:7-14
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-31



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4 'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

**Praise**  
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