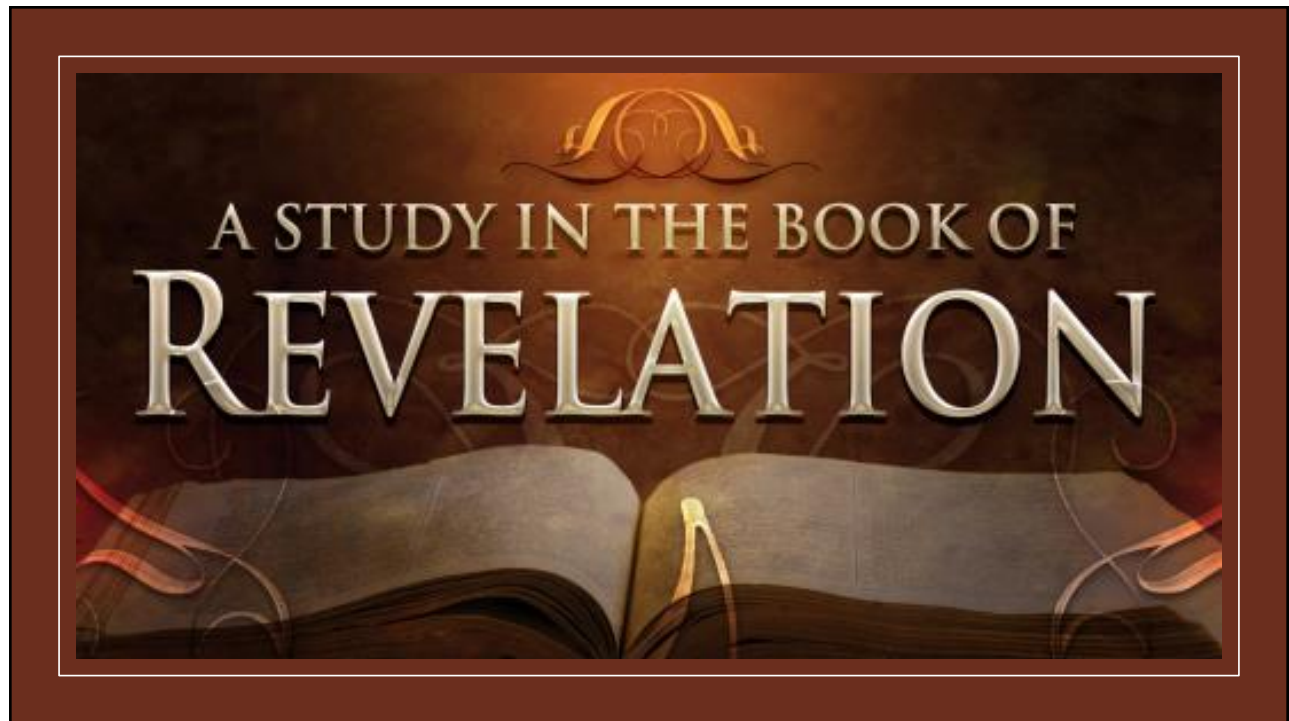
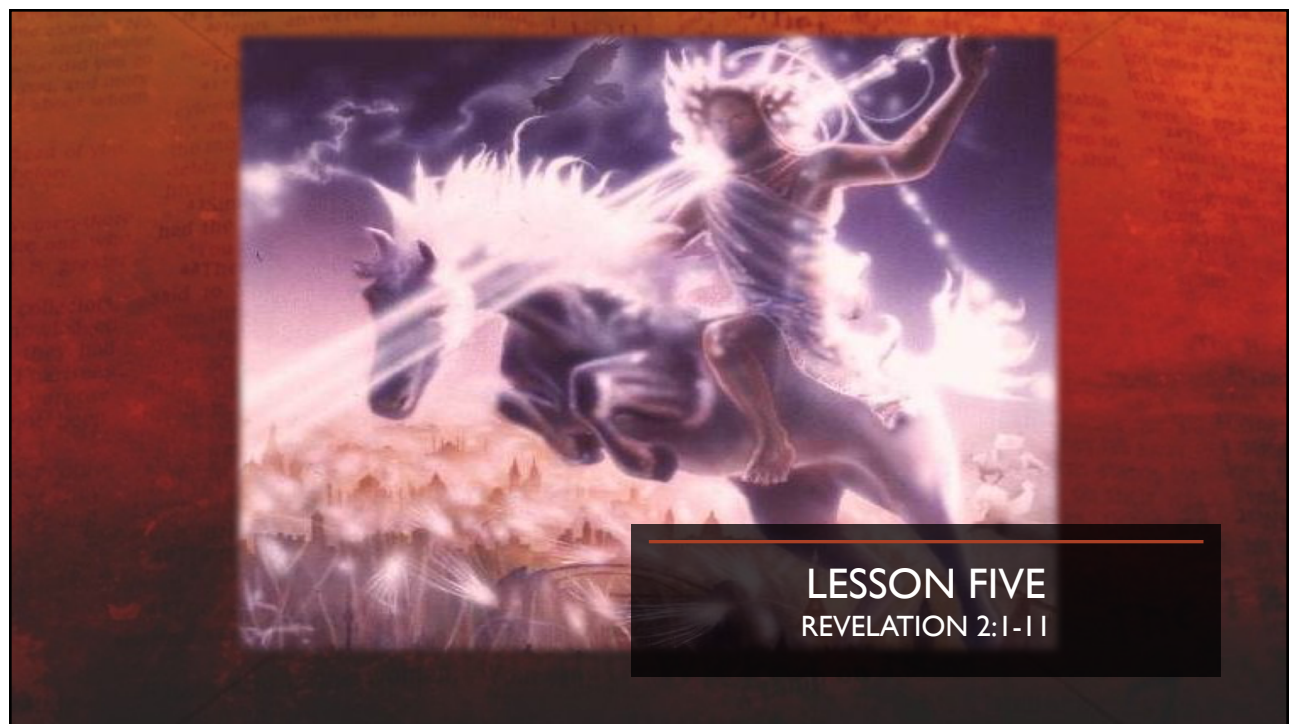




1



2

THE OUTLINE

“Therefore, write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.

~ Revelation 1:19



The Organizing Principle of the Book Itself...

3

“A basic reading of these letters reveals that they are simply seven local churches that all existed at the same time and in the same general area. Each has its own unique characteristics, strengths, and weaknesses. At best, we can suggest only that they represent seven different types of churches.” – Ed Hinson

4

INTRODUCTION

- These actual, historical churches in Asia Minor represent the types of churches that exist throughout the church age.
- The 7 lampstands are the 7 churches (1:20).
- Jesus stands in the midst of the churches (1:13).
- What Jesus says to these churches is relevant in all times.
- Churches exist to reflect the light of Christ to the world.
- Judgment begins with the household of God.



Tell Me the Story of Jesus...

5

7-FOLD PATTERN OF THE MESSAGES TO THE CHURCHES

The Structure—with a couple of exceptions

- To the angel of the church in...write
- Jesus (depicted in glory in terms from 1:13-18) says...
- I know...
- But I have this against you...
- Therefore, ...
- Pay attention...
- Promise to the overcomer...

Tell Me the Story of Jesus...

6

7-FOLD PATTERN OF THE MESSAGES TO THE CHURCHES

The Structure—with a couple of exceptions

Event	Passage Wording
Commission	"To the angel of the church in...write..."
Character (of Christ)	"The one who...says this..."
Commendation	"I know your deeds..."
Condemnation	"But I have this against you..."
Correction	"Repent, turn, change..."
Call	"He who has an ear, let him hear..."
Challenge	"To him who overcomes..."

Tell Me the Story of Jesus...

7

7-FOLD PATTERN OF THE MESSAGES TO THE CHURCHES

With a couple of exceptions

Church	Christ	Commendation	Condemnation
Ephesus (2:1)	Walks among the lampstand (2:1)	Toil & perseverance (2:2-3)	Left 1 st love (2:4, 7)
Smyrna (2:8a)	1 st and the last (2:8b)	Tribulation & poverty (2:9-10a)	
Pergamum (2:12a)	Sharp 2-edged sword (2:12b)	Did not deny My faith (2:13)	False doctrine (2:14-15)
Thyatira (2:18a)	Eyes like a flame of fire (2:18b)	Love & ministry (2:19)	False doctrine (2:20-23)
Sardis (3:1a)	7 Spirits of God (3:1b)		Spiritually dead (3:1c)
Philadelphia (3:7a)	Opens & no one will shut (3:7b)	Open door (3:8-10)	
Laodicea (3:14a)	Faithful & true witness (3:14b)		Lukewarm (3:15-17)

Tell Me the Story of Jesus...

8

7-FOLD PATTERN OF THE MESSAGES TO THE CHURCHES

With a couple of exceptions

Church	Call "He who has an ear..."	Challenge
Ephesus (2:1)	2:7a	2:7b—Eat of the tree of life
Smyrna (2:8a)	2:11a	2:11b—Not hurt by 2 nd death
Pergamum (2:12a)	2:17a	2:17b--Hidden manna; white stone; new name
Church	Challenge	Call "He who has an ear..."
Thyatira (2:18a)	2:26-28—Rule w/ Christ; morning star	2:29
Sardis (3:1a)	3:4-5—Clothed in white	3:6
Philadelphia (3:7a)	3:12—Pillar in temple of God	3:13
Laodicea (3:14a)	3:21—Rule w/ Christ	3:22

Tell Me the Story of Jesus...

9

WHAT DO THE 7 CHURCHES REPRESENT?

- They are literal churches.
- They are 7 different types of churches found throughout the church age.
- What type of church are we?
- What type of believer am I?
- All 7 had lampstands, including Laodicea.
- Prevailing characteristics of all churches of all time.

10

THE CHURCHES—STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, PROMISES

- Ephesus
 - Commended for their labor, patience, fidelity, and endurance.
 - Condemned for having left their first love.
- Smyrna
 - No hint of compromise.
 - Suffered tremendous persecution.
 - Leaders willing to lay down their lives for Christ and the gospel.
 - Fearless and faithful.

11



IN CONCLUSION

12

THE 7 CHURCHES, FBC HODGENVILLE, AND ME

- Where is FBC, Hodgenville? – Ephesus or Smyrna?
- Where are you? – Ephesus or Smyrna?
- Some things for which Ephesus is commended.
- Nothing about Smyrna is condemned—no correction needed.

13

7 SIGNS WE ARE LIVING NEAR THE END OF THE LAST DAYS (*On the edge of Daniel's 70th Week*)

- Aliya—Israel's Return to the Land & Jewish Immigration to the Israel (Ex. 36:8-12, 24; 37:12; Jer. 16:15)
- Alignment of Nations (Ps. 83; Ez. 38-39; Dan 2; 7; 9; 11, Rev. 13)
- Anticipation for Peace (Dan. 9:27; Is. 28:14, 18; 1 Thess. 5:3)
- Arrangements for the 3rd Temple (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 11:1-2)
- Argument over Jerusalem (Zech. 12:2-3; Ez. 35:10)
- Apostasy in the Church (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Thess. 2:3; 2 Tim. 3:1-9; 1 John 2:19)
- All-Inclusive Globalism & a Global Economy/Currency (Dan. 2; 7:1-28; 8:1-27; Rev. 13)

14

BE A BEREAN

“Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.”

~ Acts 17:11



15



LESSON SIX

REVELATION 2-3

Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis

16



17