



Revelation With Daniel

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Chapter 1 illustrates a picture of **Christ** followed by **7 churches**. Chapter 4-5 illustrate a picture of **Christ** followed by **7 seals**. Chapter 8 illustrates a picture of **Christ** followed by **7 trumpets**.

Chapters 1-11 are laid out basically by the following:

1-3 Christ 7 churches

4-8:1 Christ 7 seals Interlude between 6th and 7th seals (chapter 7)

8:2-11 Christ 7 Trumpets Interlude between 6th and 7th trumpets (chapters 10-11)

1st Ephesus - a real experience with Christ - 2:2-3

2nd Smyrna - suffered severe persecution - 2:10

3rd Pergamum - experienced the inroads of false doctrine - 2:14-15

4th Thyatira - allowed a false teacher to influence the majority - 2:20

5th Sardis - had the start of a reformation but working through a lack of faithfulness - 3:2

6th Philadelphia - ministry opportunities opened and faithfulness experienced - 3:8

7th Laodicea - wealthy, proud, lax, deceived about their own condition - 3:16-17

Characteristics of Christ found in 1:12-18 are appropriately distributed amongst the churches.

Promises per church if faithful (1 for 1, 2 for 2, 3 for 3, 4 for 4, 5 for 5, 6 for 6, 3 for 7!?)

Ephesus

You will "eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God"

Smyrna

"I will give thee a crown of life" and you "shall not be hurt of the second death"

Pergamos

I will "give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it"

Thyatira

"To him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star."

Sardis

"They shall walk with me in white" and will be "clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels"

Philadelphia

"I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation" and will make him a "pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name"

Laodicea

"I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me," and will grant him "to sit with me in my throne, even as I... am set down with my Father in his throne."

Suggestion: find where all the blessing phrases above are used in the other books of the Bible.

Repetitions: "I know thy works." "To him that overcometh." "He that hath an ear, let him hear..."

1st church era (Ephesus) blessed with the first Apostles and fresh Christian converts (He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks, 2:1).

- **Peter**, in Matt 26:31-75 and Luke 22:31-32, gives a real life example of this church's experience. With God for a time, left, came back, was held by the Lord Himself.

2nd church era (Smyrna) endured persecution and bloodshed (First and the Last, which was dead, and is alive, 2:8)

- **Paul** gives a real life example of this time era (Acts 9:22-24, 14:19-20, 2 Cor. 11:23-33). He was the first and last apostle without walking with Christ, was persecuted fiercely, 'killed' with stones, and came back to life (in a figure).

3rd church era (Pergamos) experienced pagan people considering themselves Christian and joining the church, bringing their false gods, secular intentions, and other gospel messages (the sharp sword with two edges, 2:12).

- **Balaam**, supposed to be a Christian representative but rejected the words of God, was used by the king of a heathen/pagan people against God's church (Num 22).

4th church era (Thyatira) was challenged by the 'vicar' of God, secrecy, and another means of forgiveness (Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and His feet are like fine brass, 2:18).

- The story of **Elijah**, with Ahab and Jezebel as leaders, matches the dark/middle ages period. An apostate king, married to a persecuting woman, drove God's people into the wilderness for 3 1/2 years, or 1260 days, and a secret system of false accusations was set up (1 Kings 17-18, 21).

5th church era (Sardis) was toward the end of the dark ages, yet God still had His people (the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars, 3:1).

- **Jonah**, thought to be alive but spiritually dead. Ready to die. He was called to repent while calling to repentance. The people were saved (clothed in white) in Nineveh (Jonah 1-4).

6th church era (Philadelphia) experienced the reformation where truth started spreading world-wide (He that is holy, He that is true, He that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth, 3:7) (British, Foreign, and American Bible societies.)

- **Daniel** was used to spread the gospel to the world—in two world ruling nations (4:37, 6:25-27).

7th church era (Laodicea) includes us today when God is judging all lives against the testimony of the Scriptures—when God's creative authority is challenged (the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God, 3:14).

- **Bartimaeus** was blind, poor, miserable and wretched (thus crying for mercy), was 'rebuked' (in some translations), was zealous (crying out the more for the Son of David), he repented, and was naked (when throwing off his garment). He received counsel, the eye salve, the garment of righteousness, and the golden wealth of Christian faith (Mark 10:46-52).

The Ship Endurance

Nestled in the harbor,
The ship Endurance lay
Swaying, sinking, rotting,
Anchored in the bay.
Its bow was old and battered,
The masts were weak and worn,
The sails were torn and tattered,
Its stern looked sad, forlorn.

The cabin of the captain,
Was cold and rather bare,
Spider webs and spiders,
And mice were everywhere.
The rudder was now broken,
The helm no longer worked,
Whene'er a step was taken,
The ship deck creaked and jerked.

The Endurance was abandoned,
She was no more in use;
Her crewmen had destroyed her,
She had suffered from abuse.
The galley now was useless,
The hull was full of mold;
And half the shipmates quarters
Had fallen to the hold.

The Endurance only sat there,
And not a soul came by,
She simply waited patiently,
Gazing toward the sky.
One day a Master Builder,
Came and looked her o'er,
He looked at her with confidence
And said: "She'll leave this shore."

"One day she'll leave this cozy bay,
And sail the seven seas,
She will sail with confidence,
And go wheree'er she please.
I will soon rebuild her,
She'll be as good as new,
Then she will sail the golden sea
Upon the morning dew."

Soon He started working,
He built a brand new mast,
He scrubbed her, port and starboard,
A new anchor did He cast.

He fixed the rudder, changed the helm,
Mended bow and stern;
Refurbished the captain's cabin,
And caused the stove to burn.

He rebuilt the shipmates quarters,
And made a flawless deck,
He even cleaned the hull of mold,
Scrubbing every speck.
Soon the ship was finished,
New sails were unfurled;
The Endurance now was shining,
Set to sail the world.

I know you may be wond'ring,
If this story's true;
Whether yes or no my friend,
The answer's up to you!
For Jesus is the Captain,
And we, the ship, the church;
The Spirit is the builder,
And the ship is on its perch.

With the Word of God the Anchor,
And the Father as the Guide,
We need not fear the future,
The Church will safely ride.
Some of us are shipmates,
While others, staff or crew;
With the Father here to guide us,
We'll safely make it through.

Each of us is given
A task to do each day,
And if we will but do it,
We'll be on our way.
Do the job you're given,
Complete the task with pride;
Then one day you'll discover,
You've reached the other side.

Jesus is our Captain,
God the Father guides the way,
So do not sit there rotting,
Anchored in the bay.
Live your life for Jesus,
Endure the task at hand;
One day this ship will take us
To the Promised Land!

January, 1997, Jathan Pfeifle