

Text	Theme
1:1-3:22 1:1-20 2:1-3:22 2:7 et.al.	Seven Letters to Churches: Promise of Last Things¹ Prologue and Greeting Seven Churches <u>Promise for the Church: Persevere for Paradise awaits!</u>
4:1-8:1 4:1 7:1-17 8:1	Seven Seals: Messages of Judgment *Heavenly door open <u>Promise for the Church: God and the Lamb care for the saints!</u> *Seventh seal opened
8:2-11:19 10:1-11:14 11:19	Seven Trumpets <u>Promise for the Church: Victory in union with Christ!</u> *Heavenly Temple opened
12:1-14:20 12:1-12 12:13-17 13:1-10 13:11-18 14:1-5 14:6-11 14:12-13 14:14-20	Seven Symbolic Histories ("...and I saw" or "I looked and behold") The Dragon's History The Woman's History The Beast The False Prophet The 144,000 The Angelic Proclaimers <u>Promise for the Church: Persevere, your reward is yet to come!</u> The Harvest of the Son of Man
15:1-16:21 15:5 16:15	Seven Bowls *Heavenly Tabernacle opened <u>Promise for the Church: Christ is coming!</u>
17:1-18:24 17:1-18 18:1-3 18:4-8 18:9-10 18:11-17 18:18-19 18:20 18:21-24	Seven Messages of Judgment on Babylon First Angelic Message Second Angelic Message Third Heavenly Message Kings of the Earth Merchants Seafarers <u>Promise for the Church: Rejoice for judgment is near!</u> Seventh Message of Destruction
19:1-22:21 19:1-10 19:11-16 19:17-18 19:19-21 20:1-3 20:4-10 20:11-15 21:1-7 21:8	Seven Last Things ("...and I saw") Sevenfold Joy in Heaven Christ rides out to rule nations: *Heaven opened A call to gather for harvest of destruction Victory in battle over Beast and False Prophet Satan bound for 1,000 years Saints to reign until defeat of Satan Final judgment of living and dead <u>Promise for the Church: God will dwell with man!</u> Exhaustive judgment

Church Text ²	Commendation	Condemnation	Solution	Consequence	Promise
Ephesus 2:1-7	Doctrinal vigilance; endurance	Loss of first love	Remember; repent and do works done at first	Removal of lampstand	Tree of Life in Paradise to eat
Smyrna 2:8-11	Spiritually rich; enduring persecution	—	Be thankful unto death	—	Crown of life; not hurt by second death
Pergamum 2:12-17	Holding fast Christ's name; not denying faith	False teaching	Repent	War against them with sword of mouth	Hidden Manna; white stone with a new name
Thyatira 2:18-29	Growing love; enduring in deeds of service	Lack of discernment; toleration of heresy	Hold fast and keep Christ's work till the end	Each given as their works deserve	Morning Star; authority over nations
Sardis 3:1-6	A few remain pure and loyal	Dead works	Keep the word and repent	Christ will come like a thief	Clothed in white; never blotted out; confessed
Philadelphia 3:7-13	Keeping God's word; patiently enduring; not denying name	—	Hold fast what you have	—	Pillar in Temple of God; inscribed with names
Laodicea 3:14-22	—	Spiritually blind, bankrupt, naked, lukewarm	Be zealous; repent; buy from Christ	Spit out of Christ's mouth	Dine with Christ; granted to sit on throne with Christ

Number / Symbol	Meaning ³	Number / Symbol	Meaning
Seven	Completeness or perfection	Earthquakes	Earth-shattering events
Six	Incompleteness or imperfection	1,000	Many
Seven Spirits	Ever-present Spirit of God	12	Completeness of God's people
Four	Geographic completeness	144,000	12 x 12 x 1,000 = completeness x many = all God's many people
Horn	Strength	Rainbow	Covenant faithfulness and mercy
Eyes	Sight or wisdom (insight)	Virginity	Faithfulness to God
Sea	Forces of chaos	Adultery	Unfaithfulness to God
Living Creatures	Power or imperial powers	Trumpets	Warnings of judgment, victory, or battle
White robes	Purity of wearer; righteousness		

¹ Adapted from Vern Poythress, "The Returning King" (New Jersey: P&R, 2000), 57-66.

² See "Christ's Edict-Letters to His Seven Churches" in *ESV Study Bible* (Illinois: Crossway, 2008), 2,465.

³ Taken from Tim Chester, "Revelation for You" (UK: Good Book Co., 2019), 27-28.