

**LESSON 45**  
**“He That Overcometh Shall Inherit All Things”**  
**Revelation 1-3; 12**

**OVERVIEW:** The Book of Revelation is foremost a testimony of Jesus Christ. The letters were to be read aloud to the Saints in their meetings. He will come and prevail over all wickedness. John sees symbols that represent the Church. Letters written to the seven branches in Asia. Saints overcome Satan through the atonement.

The chief purpose of the Book of Revelation seems to be to prepare us for the last days and the Second Coming. Joseph Smith taught that **“the book of Revelation is one of the plainest books God ever caused to be written.”** TPJS, p. 290. Nephi wrote, **“the things which [John] shall write are just and true; and...at the time the book proceeded out of the mouth of the Jew, the things which were written were plain and pure and most precious and easy to the understanding of all men.”** 1 Nephi 14:23. Elder Bruce R. McConkie asked: **“Are we expected to understand the book of Revelation?”** and then responded, **“Certainly. Why else did the Lord reveal it? The common notion that it deals with beasts and plagues and mysterious symbolisms that cannot be understood is just not true. It is so far overstated that it gives an entirely erroneous feeling about this portion of revealed truth. If we apply ourselves with full purpose of heart, we can catch the vision of what the ancient Revelator recorded.”** Understanding the Book of Revelation, p. 87. The entire vision from beginning to end takes 317 verses, and yet John spends only eleven verses or about 3.5 percent on the first five thousand years of history, which is about 71 percent of the earth’s total seven thousand years of recorded history. The millennium itself is treated in only seven verses (Rev 20:1-7). **By far the largest portion of the book describes the events that immediately precede the second coming of the Savior.** Lund, Seeing the Book of Revelation, p. 51-52. Even though the book is written to seven branches of the Church in John’s day, it was written to the Saints of the last dispensation to give the Saints an understanding of the events of the last days. **The title of the book means “to reveal that which is hidden,” or “the uncovering of the unknown.”** Adam, Enoch, Nephi, Joseph Smith and others saw the same vision that John sees, but it was reserved for John to write the vision. 1 Nephi 14: 19 And I looked and beheld a man, and he was dressed in a white robe. 20 And the angel said unto me: Behold <sup>a</sup>one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. (John the Beloved) 21 Behold, he shall <sup>a</sup>see and <sup>b</sup>write the <sup>c</sup>remainder of these things; yea, and also many things which have been. 22 And he shall also write concerning the end of the world. 23 Wherefore, the things which he shall write are just and true; and behold they are written in the <sup>a</sup>book which thou beheld proceeding out of the mouth of the Jew; and at the time they proceeded out of the mouth of the Jew, or, at the time the book proceeded out of the mouth of the Jew, the things which were written were plain and pure, and most <sup>b</sup>precious (We have over eight thousand manuscripts of the New Testament, no two of them alike. And the oldest one is from the third century...But all of our documents are copies of copies of copies. Nearly all of them come from the eighth and ninth centuries. Teachings of the Book of Mormon, 1:205) and easy to the understanding of all men. (Joseph Smith said: The Book of Revelation is one of the plainest books God ever caused to be written. TPJS, p. 290) 24 And behold, the things which this <sup>a</sup>apostle of the Lamb shall write are many things which thou hast seen; and behold, the remainder shalt thou see. (Nephi saw the remainder of the vision John saw, but was forbidden to write it.) 25 But the things which thou shalt see hereafter thou shalt not write; for the Lord God hath ordained the apostle of the Lamb of God that he should <sup>a</sup>write them. 26 And also others who have been (Like the brother of Jared, Adam, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joseph Smith and others.), to them hath he shown all things, and they have <sup>a</sup>written them; and they are <sup>b</sup>sealed up to come forth in their purity, (Now the only way you can preserve a document in its purity is to bury it because as soon as you start copying, you start making mistakes. It always happens. You never have a pure document as long as it’s in the hands of men. Teachings of the Book of Mormon, 1:206) according to the truth which is in the

Lamb, in the own due time of the Lord, unto the house of Israel. 27 And I, Nephi, heard and bear record, that the name of the apostle of the Lamb was <sup>a</sup>John, according to the word of the angel. 28 And behold, I, Nephi, am forbidden that I should write the remainder of the things which I saw and heard; wherefore the things which I have written sufficeth me; and I have written but a small part of the things which I saw. This book is apocalyptic, not just prophetic. It deals mostly with how God disrupts the history of the world. We will move from a teletial to a terrestrial sphere in an instant. We should be the best people to understand the Book of Revelation. D&C 29, 77, 88.

In my judgment the Gospel of John ranks far ahead of those of Matthew Mark, or Luke; at least John's record of the life of our Lord is directed to the saints; it deals more fully with those things that interest people who have received the gift of the Holy Ghost, who have the hope of eternal life. But even ahead of his gospel account stands this wondrous work. The book of Revelation, or at least so it seems to those who are prepared to build on the foundations of the gospels and epistles and to go forward forever in perfecting their knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom. (Elder Bruce R. McConkie, Ensign, September 1975, p. 85)

**Joseph Smith History 1:74 - Our minds being now enlightened, we began to have the <sup>a</sup>scriptures laid open to our understandings, and the <sup>b</sup>true meaning and intention of their more <sup>c</sup>mysterious passages revealed unto us in a manner which we never could attain to previously, nor ever before had thought of. (Because we have the gift of the Holy Ghost, the scriptures can be laid open to our understanding, too.)**

**Joseph Smith said: I make this broad declaration, that where God ever gives a vision of an image, or beast, or figure of any kind, he always holds himself responsible to give a revelation or interpretation of the meaning thereof, otherwise we are not responsible or accountable for our belief in it. Don't be afraid of being damned for not knowing the meaning of a vision or figure where God has not given a revelation or interpretation on the subject. Words of Joseph Smith, p. 185-86.**

Chapters not covered by the lessons: 4, 7-11, 13-18.

## SCRIPTURES:

### THE REVELATION OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE CHAPTER 1

*Christ chooses some as kings and priests unto God—Christ shall come again—John sees the Risen Lord.*

1 <sup>a</sup>THE <sup>b</sup>Revelation of Jesus Christ (John, a servant of God), which God gave (was given) unto him (of Jesus Christ), to shew unto his <sup>c</sup>servants things which must <sup>d</sup>shortly come to pass; (The things which John saw had no allusion to the scenes of the days of Adam, Enoch, Abraham or Jesus, only so far as is plainly represented by John, and clearly set forth by him. John saw that only which was lying in futurity and which was shortly to come to pass. See Rev. 1:1-3 which is a key to the whole subject... Now, I make this declaration, that those things which John saw in heaven had no allusion to anything that had been on the earth previous to that time, because they were the representation of things which must shortly come to pass, and not of what has already transpired. TPJS, p. 289-90.) and (that) he sent and signified ~~it~~ by his <sup>e</sup>angel unto his servant John: **(John is attesting to the authenticity of this epistle. The angel gave John a sign or a token to show he was sent from God.)**

2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. **(John didn't just see with his eyes, but he saw as God sees. He sees as the Lord wants him to**

see.)

3 <sup>a</sup>Blessed <sup>is</sup> he that (are they who) <sup>b</sup>readeth, and they that (who) hear (and understand) the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the <sup>c</sup>time <sup>is</sup> at hand (of the coming of the Lord draweth nigh).

4 (Now this is the testimony of) JOHN to the (seven servants who are over the) <sup>a</sup>seven churches (Seven means complete. This is therefore unto the Church today.) which are in Asia: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from him which (who) <sup>b</sup>is, and which (who) was, and which (who) is to come; and from the seven <sup>c</sup>Spirits which are (who hath sent forth his angel from) before his throne (Christ's throne located in the temple in heaven; which is John's name for the celestial kingdom. Understanding the Book of Revelation, p. 14); (to testify unto those who are the seven servants over the seven churches.) (These were actual church leaders of the time. Seven is symbolic, denoting wholeness and completeness. The seven churches may, therefore, represent the entire Church of Jesus Christ. Understanding the Book of Revelation, p. 14)

5 And from Jesus Christ, *who is* (Therefore, I, John,) the faithful witness, *and* (bear record of the things which were delivered me of the angel, and from Jesus Christ) the <sup>a</sup>first begotten of the dead (Christ was the first to be resurrected.), and the Prince of the kings of the earth. (And) Unto him that (who) loved us, (be glory;) and (who) <sup>b</sup>washed us from our sins in his own <sup>c</sup>blood,

6 And hath made us <sup>a</sup>kings and <sup>b</sup>priests unto God (Those holding the fullness of the Melchizedek Priesthood are kings and priests of the Most High God, holding the keys of power and blessings. Joseph Smith, History of the Church, 5:555) and his Father; to him *be* <sup>c</sup>glory and <sup>d</sup>dominion (might, power) for ever and ever. Amen.

7 (For,) Behold, he <sup>a</sup>cometh with (in the) clouds; (with ten thousands (This is an ancient way of saying great numbers.) of his saints in the kingdom, clothed with the glory of his Father.) And every eye shall <sup>b</sup>see him, and they *also* which (who) <sup>c</sup>pierced him (Every eye shall see Christ, both those living, those dead and those resurrected. Those who participated in Jesus' crucifixion. The greatest fear of the wicked will be to see Christ coming in his glory. He will tell the wicked to stay in their graves, and that he will return for them later. They will have fear of his judgment for 1000 years.): and all <sup>c</sup>kindreds of the earth shall <sup>d</sup>wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

8 (For he saith,) I am <sup>a</sup>Alpha and Omega, the <sup>b</sup>beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which (who) is, and which (who) was, and which (who) is to come, the <sup>c</sup>Almighty. (God wrote the symphony for the plan of the earth, and Christ is the conductor to execute the plan.)

9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and <sup>a</sup>patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, (a penal colony) for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the <sup>a</sup>Lord's <sup>b</sup>day (Probably the Sabbath.), and heard behind me a great <sup>c</sup>voice, as of a trumpet,

11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the <sup>a</sup>first and the last: and, What thou seest, <sup>b</sup>write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto <sup>c</sup>Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto <sup>d</sup>Laodicea.

12 And I turned to see (from whence) the voice (came) that spake with (to) me. And being turned, I saw seven golden <sup>a</sup>candlesticks; (Candlesticks carry light, they don't create it. Their function is to make it available, not to bring it into being. So by using seven candlesticks to portray the seven churches to whom John is now to give counsel, the Lord is showing that his congregations on earth are to carry his light to the world. DNTC, 3:442)

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the <sup>a</sup>Son of man, (It's been about 60+ years since John saw Christ resurrected.) <sup>b</sup>clothed with a garment (Robes of the holy priesthood.) down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. (This symbolism suggests that Christ visits his church and spends time with the righteous. Christ taught: Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Understanding the Book of Revelation, p. 21-

22.)

14 His head and *his* hairs *were* white like wool, as white as snow; and his <sup>a</sup>eyes<sup>\*</sup> *were* as a flame of <sup>b</sup>fire; (Similar imagery of the Savior in the vision that Joseph Smith had in the Kirtland Temple. D&C 110)

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his <sup>a</sup>voice<sup>\*</sup> as the sound of many waters.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged <sup>a</sup>sword<sup>\*</sup>: and his <sup>b</sup>countenance<sup>\*</sup> *was* as the <sup>c</sup>sun<sup>\*</sup> shineth in his strength.

17 And when I <sup>a</sup>saw<sup>\*</sup> him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand (Like the comforting hand of a loving parent upon a troubled child.) upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

18 *I am* he that <sup>a</sup>liveth, and was <sup>b</sup>dead; and, behold, I am alive for <sup>c</sup>evermore, Amen; and have the <sup>d</sup>keys of <sup>e</sup>hell (Hades, the place of departed spirits.) and of death. (To hold keys is to have authority, power, and the right of presidency. He has complete power over all who inhabit the spirit world, including the hosts of evil beings. Understanding the Book of Revelation, p. 25)

19 <sup>a</sup>Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

20 (This is) The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven <sup>a</sup>stars<sup>\*</sup> are the <sup>b</sup>angels<sup>\*</sup> (servants) of the seven churches: and the seven <sup>c</sup>candlesticks<sup>\*</sup> which thou sawest are the seven churches.

(Chapters 2 and 3 are the letters to the seven churches. They each follow the same basic pattern: The introduction to the church, a description of Jesus Christ, a statement by Christ that he knows their works, either a complement or not, Jesus' admonition to repent, a call to hear what he is about to tell them, and then for each church individual promise and blessing. Understanding the Book of Revelation, p. 322-23. These epistles also assume that the members understand the temple covenants and ordinances. It is no wonder people don't understand this book, if they don't understand the temple ordinances. We have the tools to understand this book.

## CHAPTER 2

*He that overcomes shall gain eternal life, avoid the second death, inherit the celestial kingdom, and rule many kingdoms.* (Christ is the author of Chapters 2 and 3. He is dictating the letters to John. If you start at Ephesus and travel in a clockwise rotation, each of these cities will be reached in order. You would travel in a circle to visit them all. All of these cities were along an ancient postal road. The root word of "seven" means "oath.")

1 UNTO the <sup>a</sup>angel<sup>\*</sup> (servant) of the church of Ephesus (After the fall of Jerusalem in 70AD, Ephesus became the center of the Christian church for many years, until the center gradually shifted to Rome. Institute Manual, p. 452.) <sup>b</sup>write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

2 I <sup>a</sup>know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are <sup>b</sup>apostles<sup>\*</sup>, and are not, and hast found them liars: (These may be the grievous wolves predicted by Paul, that would creep into the Church.)

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first <sup>a</sup>love<sup>\*</sup>.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy <sup>a</sup>candlestick<sup>\*</sup> out of his place, except thou <sup>b</sup>repent.

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the <sup>a</sup>Nicolaitans, which I also hate. (Members of the church who were trying to maintain their church standing while continuing to live after the manner of

the world. DNTC, 3:446)

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the <sup>a</sup>Spirit saith unto the churches (all the churches); **To him that <sup>b</sup>overcometh will I give to eat of the <sup>c</sup>tree of life, which is in the midst of the <sup>d</sup>paradise of God.**

8 And unto the <sup>a</sup>angel (servant) of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the <sup>a</sup>blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.

10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt <sup>a</sup>suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be <sup>b</sup>tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days (The saints will be tested for a short period of time in contrast to the length of eternity. Understanding the Book of Revelation, p. 33): be thou faithful unto <sup>c</sup>death, and I will <sup>d</sup>give thee a <sup>e</sup>crown of life.

11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; **He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second <sup>a</sup>death.**

12 And to the <sup>a</sup>angel (servant) of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he (Jesus Christ) which hath the sharp <sup>a</sup>sword with two edges;

13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan's seat *is*: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful <sup>a</sup>martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of <sup>a</sup>Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit <sup>b</sup>fornication. (Or idolatry.)

15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; **To him that <sup>a</sup>overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden <sup>b</sup>manna (Jesus, the true bread from heaven. This may also refer to eternal truths from and about Christ what are revealed only in the temple, "mysteries" given only to those who seek diligently for them. Matt. 13:11-12; 1 Tim 3:16; 1 Ne. 2:16; Alma 12:9; D&C 76:5-7.), and will give him a <sup>c</sup>white <sup>d</sup>stone (Urim and Thummim for each individual who enters the Celestial Kingdom), and in the stone a new <sup>e</sup>name written, which no man knowe(s)th saving he that receiveth it. (D&C 130:8-11 – The new name is the key word.)**

18 And unto the <sup>a</sup>angel (servant) of the church in <sup>b</sup>Thyatira write (Paul's convert Lydia was from this city.); These things saith the Son of God, who hath his <sup>c</sup>eyes like unto a flame of fire, (Same as D&C 110:3) and his feet *are* like fine brass;

19 I know thy works, and charity, and <sup>a</sup>service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last *to be* more than the first.

20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

22 Behold, I will cast her <sup>a</sup>into a bed (hell), and them that commit <sup>b</sup>adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which <sup>a</sup>searcheth the <sup>b</sup>reins (Hebrew-desires and thoughts) and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. (God knows our thoughts and intents and is able to judge us accordingly.)

24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

25 But that which ye have *already* <sup>a</sup>hold fast till I come. (endure to the end)

26 <sup>a</sup>And he that (to him who) <sup>b</sup>overcometh, and keepeth my works (commandments) unto the end, to him will I give <sup>c</sup>power over the nations (many kingdoms): (We will rule many kingdoms. D&C 76:15)

27 And he shall rule them with a <sup>a</sup>rod of iron (the word of God; and they shall be in his hands); as the <sup>b</sup>vessels (of clay in the hands) of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: (; and he shall govern them by faith, with equity and justice,) even as I received of my Father.

28 And I will give him the morning <sup>a</sup>star. (The Second Comforter.)

29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

### CHAPTER 3

*He that overcomes shall retain his name in the book of life, reach godhood, and be with Jesus as he is with the Father.*

1 <sup>a</sup>AND unto the <sup>b</sup>angel (servant) of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that (who) hath the seven <sup>c</sup>Spirits of God, and the seven <sup>d</sup>stars; I <sup>e</sup>know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art (not) <sup>f</sup>dead.

2 <sup>a</sup>Be watchful, (therefore,) and strengthen the things which (those who) remain, that (who) are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, (They heard and accepted the gospel.) and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not <sup>a</sup>watch, I will come on thee as a <sup>b</sup>thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. (Christ comes not as a thief to the “children of light” but to the world. D&C 106:4-5)

4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not <sup>a</sup>defiled their garments; and they shall <sup>b</sup>walk with me in <sup>c</sup>white: for they are <sup>d</sup>worthy.

5 He that <sup>a</sup>overcometh, the same shall be clothed in <sup>b</sup>white <sup>c</sup>raiment (clothing); and I will not <sup>d</sup>blot out his name out of the <sup>e</sup>book of life, but I will <sup>f</sup>confess (acknowledge, praise) his name before my Father, and before his angels.

6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

7 And to the <sup>a</sup>angel (servant) of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy (Christ is speaking), he that is true, he that hath the <sup>a</sup>key of David, (The rightful King of Israel.) he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; (sealing power)

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door (we have the opportunity to enter God’s kingdom), and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and <sup>a</sup>worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will <sup>a</sup>keep thee from the hour of <sup>b</sup>temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

11 Behold, I come <sup>a</sup>quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. (Joseph Smith said: If the Saints are not to reign, for what purpose are they crowned? History of the Church, 2:20)

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the <sup>a</sup>name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, <sup>b</sup>which (this) is <sup>b</sup>New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. (Those who have upon them God’s name are gods. D&C 132:20)

13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

14 And unto the <sup>a</sup>angel (servant) of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the <sup>a</sup>faithful and true witness, the <sup>b</sup>beginning of the <sup>c</sup>creation of God;

15 I know thy <sup>a</sup>works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art <sup>a</sup>lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will <sup>b</sup>spue (vomit) thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am <sup>a</sup>rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: (spiritually naked, exposed to law.)

18 I <sup>a</sup>counsel thee to buy of me <sup>b</sup>gold<sup>c</sup> tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. (Spiritual eyesalve, to see spiritually.)

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and <sup>a</sup>chasten<sup>c</sup> (instruct, admonish) (He chastens us in order to turn us to him): be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and <sup>a</sup>open<sup>c</sup> the door, I will <sup>b</sup>come<sup>c</sup> in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. (We must open the door and invite Christ into our lives. This refers to the Second Comforter, Christ.)

21 **To him that <sup>a</sup>overcometh<sup>c</sup> will I grant to <sup>b</sup>sit<sup>c</sup> with me in my <sup>c</sup>throne<sup>c</sup>, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. (We will be joint heirs with Christ.)**

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

## CHAPTER 12

*John sees the imminent apostasy of the Church—He also sees the war in heaven in the beginning when Satan was cast out—He sees the continuation of that war on earth. (This is a flashback to John's day. The chapter may be divided into three parts: Verses 1-5 appear to depict the establishment of the Church in the meridian of time and the beginning of the apostasy. 6-11 show us the war in heaven showing that the outcome in heaven gives us confidence that the Saints will prevail. 12-17 return to the theme of the persecution of the meridian Church and the apostasy that followed. Understanding the Book of Revelation, p. 148. The JST changes almost every verse in this chapter.*

These scriptures from Revelation 2 & 3, with the cross references noted, may give the best description of Godhood and of your eternal destiny available anywhere in the standard works. . If you OVERCOME, you are promised:

1. The fruit of the tree of life
2. Freedom from the second death
3. The right to partake of the hidden manna
4. A white stone
5. A new name
6. Power over nations
7. The morning star
8. The opportunity to be clothed in white raiment
9. Your name written in the Lamb's book of life
10. That Jesus himself will confess your name before the Father
11. That you will be a pillar in the temple of God
12. That you will have the name of God written on you
13. That you will have the name of the City of God written on you
14. That you will have the new name of Christ
15. That you will sit with Christ in the throne of Christ.

Overcome what? Chapter 12:14 answers the question: Satan. Ted Gibbons, LDS Living, Lesson 45.)

1 <sup>a</sup> **AND** there appeared a great wonder (sign) in heaven (in the likeness of things on the earth); and <sup>b</sup> **woman** clothed with the sun (The woman represents the true Church of God, which is not just an organization but many righteous individuals joined together by covenant. In being clothed with the sun, the woman represents the destiny of those who join themselves to her and follow the Lord with pure hearts: they will be privileged to enter the celestial kingdom, whose glory is that of the sun (D&C 76:70) In being clothed with the sun, the true Church becomes like unto God himself, who is clothed with light as with a garment. Understanding the Book of Revelation, p. 151), and the moon under her feet, (The moon represents a lesser glory than that of the sun. Terrestrial. Also, the woman has power or dominance over lesser kingdoms of glory. Understanding the Book of Revelation, p. 151) and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: (The head of the Church is the 12 Apostles, under Christ.)

2 And she (the woman) being with <sup>a</sup> **child** cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

5 **And she brought forth a man child,** (After Christ comes, all the peoples of the earth will be subject to him, but there will be multitudes of people on the face of the earth who will not be members of the Church; yet all will have to be obedient to the laws of the kingdom of God, for it will have dominion upon the whole face of the earth. These people will be subject to the political government, even though they are not members of the ecclesiastical kingdom which is the Church. This government which embraces all the peoples of the earth, both in and out of the Church, is also sometimes spoken of as the kingdom of God, because the people are subject to the kingdom of God which Christ will set up. Joseph Fielding Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, 1:229.) who was to rule all nations with a <sup>a</sup> **rod** of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and ~~to~~ his throne. **(In order to have a kingdom you have to have: King, property, laws, bishops, workers, land, political organization, military, economics, education, social, cultural, spiritual.)**

3 And there appeared another wonder (sign) in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads (If I defeat one of Satan's heads, he'll come after me from a different direction.) and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

4 And his tail drew the <sup>a</sup> **third** part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ~~ready to be~~ delivered, for (ready) to devour her child as soon as (after) it was born.

6 And the <sup>a</sup> **woman** fled into the wilderness, where she hath (had) a place prepared of God, that they should feed her (take care of – The Lord will not let the Church die, but will keep it in his care until it is time to restore the gospel to the earth.) there a thousand two hundred and threescore days (years). (If we say that the Church returned in 1830, then counting backwards 1,260 years gets us to 570 AD. The world was in apostasy centuries before that. The point being made is that the apostasy would last a very long time.)

7 And there was <sup>a</sup> **war** in heaven: <sup>b</sup> **Michael** and his <sup>c</sup> **angels** fought against the dragon; and the <sup>d</sup> **dragon** (and his angels) fought ~~and his angels~~ (against Michael),

8 **And (the dragon) prevailed not (against Michael, neither the child, nor the woman which was the church of God, who had been delivered of her pains, and brought forth the kingdom of our God and his Christ.);** (The kingdom is ruled by both God the Father and Jesus Christ.) ~~neither was their place found any more in heaven.~~

9 And (Neither was there place found in heaven for) the great dragon (who) was <sup>a</sup> **cast** out, that old serpent, called the <sup>b</sup> **Devil**, (The word devil is not used in the Old Testament. In Greek it means false accuser or slanderer.) and (also called) Satan (The word Satan means adversary.), which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 **And I heard a loud <sup>a</sup> voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and <sup>b</sup> strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the <sup>c</sup> power of his Christ: for the <sup>d</sup> accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.** (Satan could accuse us to God because we have sinned and fallen short of perfection. But Christ comes and brings salvation and mercy through His



atonement sacrifice.)

11 And (For) they have overcome (have overcome) him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their <sup>b</sup>testimony; and (for) they loved not their (own) lives (but kept the testimony even) unto the <sup>c</sup>death.

12 Therefore rejoice, ye (O) heavens, and ye that dwell in them. (And after these things I heard another voice saying,) Woe to the inhabitants of the earth (yea) and (they who dwell upon the islands) of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, (Satan dwells on earth.) having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. (The woe seems to have begun when Satan first entered the Garden of Eden and tempted Eve; it will not end until Satan has been bound with chains and cast into the bottomless pit. 20:1-3. Understanding the Book of Revelation, p. 159)

13 And (For) when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he <sup>a</sup>persecuted<sup>d</sup> the woman which brought forth the man *child*. (Satan's first order of business is always to persecute the Church and the Saints.)

14 And (Therefore) to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly (flee) into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. (God will make certain that all is in readiness when the time comes for the restoration of the gospel.)

15 And the serpent cast (eth) out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. (The flood may be a torrent of lies against the Church; the flow of evil to overwhelm the Church; ceaseless persecution and tribulation. Satan made great efforts to destroy the Church, and that the true power and authority of the Church survived in God's care. Understanding the Book of Revelation, p. 160)

16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast (eth) out of his mouth.

17 And (Therefore) the <sup>a</sup>dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make <sup>b</sup>war<sup>d</sup> with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

### Additional Reading:

#### BIBLE DICTIONARY REVELATION OF JOHN

Also known as the *Apocalypse*, a Greek word meaning revealed or uncovered. The message of Revelation is the same as that of all scripture: there will be an eventual triumph on this earth of God over the devil; a permanent victory of good over evil, of the saints over their persecutors, of the kingdom of God over the kingdoms of men and of Satan. This is the subject on which Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Paul, Peter, and all the prophets have written. They spoke of a day of victory that would come, and that the end would be better (i.e., more glorious) than the beginning. The victory would be achieved through Jesus Christ.

Such is the theme of the Revelation. The details about the beasts, the wars, the angels, the men, etc., contribute to the development of this theme. By a little study, the theme can be perceived even if the details are not completely identified. It may be in this sense that the Prophet Joseph Smith said that Revelation was "one of the plainest books God ever caused to be written" (HC 5: 342). However, the more fully the details are understood, the greater will be the appreciation of the theme. If we fail to catch a glimpse of the theme, we fail in our comprehension, no matter how many details we are able to understand.

*Some Guidelines to Understanding:*

1. *The Revelation seems to be divided into two parts.* The first, chs. 1 to 3, deals with things at the time the Revelation was given, and is addressed to branches of the Church in seven cities of Asia. Note [Rev. 1: 3](#): “the time is at hand.” These three chapters show clearly that the Church in that day was rapidly going into apostasy.

The second part, chs. 4 - 22, deals with things yet future for John, i.e., things that had not yet come to pass. It begins with John’s time and continues to the end of the world. Note [Rev. 4: 1](#): “I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.” Accordingly, it offers a sort of panoramic view of events through the ages - of apostasy, restoration, judgment and millennium.

2. *Apostasy and restoration.* Apostasy and restoration are relatively gradual events. Compare the setting and the rising of the sun. It does not become dark or light all at once (see [D&C 45: 29](#)).
3. *A guided tour.* An interesting circumstance in the Revelation is that an angel comes to John and explains things to him - a sort of guided tour. This is consistent with the visions given to Nephi, Ezekiel, Daniel, and Enoch, who had similar guided tours. It appears to be a typical visionary experience.

#### *Some Points of Doctrine:*

1. A description of the resurrected and glorified Savior ([Rev. 1: 13-15](#)).
2. The importance of overcoming the world ([Rev. 3: 21](#); [Rev. 21: 7](#)).
3. The faithful are to be kings and priests unto God and will reign on the earth ([Rev. 1: 6](#); [Rev. 5: 10](#); [Rev. 20: 6](#); [Rev. 21: 7](#)).
4. Animals are resurrected from the dead, and there are animals in heaven, redeemed by the blood of Christ ([Rev. 5: 11-14](#); [D&C 77: 3](#), HC 5: 343).
5. Two prophets will lie dead in the streets of Jerusalem in the last days and then be raised ([Rev. 11: 1-11](#)).
6. The woman driven into the wilderness, and the man child (ch. 12). The woman is the Church; the man child is the political kingdom of God growing out of the church.
7. The angel with the everlasting gospel. This being is generally identified in the Church as the resurrected angel Moroni ([JS-H 1: 33](#)), but may be representative of all the angels involved in the restoration.
8. All people shall be judged by their works out of the books that are written both on earth and in heaven ([Rev. 20: 11-13](#); see [D&C 128: 6-7](#)).
9. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy ([Rev. 19: 10](#)).
10. The New Jerusalem, the city foursquare ([Rev. 3: 12](#); [Rev. 21: 1 - 22: 7](#); cf. [Ether 13: 2-10](#); [Moses 7: 62-63](#)).

The Revelation was received on the Lord’s day by John on the isle of Patmos ([Rev. 1: 9-10](#)), off the coast of Asia, not far from Ephesus. The exact date is not known. The Book of Mormon confirms that the recipient was John, one of the Twelve ([1 Ne. 14: 18-27](#); cf. [D&C 20: 35](#); [D&C 77: 1-15](#)).