

Understanding Revelation: Chapters 1-3

A lot of members don't see the need to study the first three chapters of Revelation or they are too awestruck and interested in the later chapters so they omit the first three. But the first three chapters might be the most important chapters in Revelation with regard to the true Saints of God. The ten virgins, the parable of the nobleman and the olive trees etc etc, there is an abundance of scriptural warnings, promises etc dealing with the time period directly before the redemption of Zion and the building of New Jerusalem. The first three chapters of Revelation give us a lot of information pertinent to Saints during this crucial time period.

Revelation in black, New Testament Student Manual in purple, Micah's commentary in blue

Why study Revelation?

The book of Revelation encourages followers of Jesus Christ to remain faithful in the midst of persecution and trials... The book also reveals much important information about the events leading up to the Second Coming and the Millennium. Prayerful study of this book can bring you a deeper understanding of the resurrected and glorified Son of God and His dealings with God's children throughout the ages of earth's history, particularly in the last days.

Those who study Understanding Isaiah will pick up on the similarities and also the macro time period. Those who prayerfully study and understand Revelation will "have their faith of the Savior increased and the knowledge or will of the Lord, particularly regarding the last days, deepened."

When and where was Revelation written?

Revelation was written at a time when Christians were facing false teachings, apathy, and severe persecution (see Revelation 1:9; 2:4, 10, 14–15; 3:16; 6:9). Most likely this persecution came at the hands of Roman officials in the later years of the reign of Domitian (A.D. 81–96). Domitian revived the practice of emperor worship and exiled or executed those who did not worship gods approved by the state.

We have a time period of trials and tribulation where the Church was being infested by false teachings, apathy etc and the government of the land was deciding who, what and when you could worship. Once again, anybody who has studied *Understanding Isaiah* or my paper *A test, a Test, a TEST*, will understand the time period that we are in.

To whom was Revelation written and why?

John wrote a message of hope and encouragement to those in his day who still adhered to the teachings of Jesus Christ (see Revelation 1:4, 11). The first three chapters of the book of Revelation were specifically addressed to seven branches of the Church in Asia Minor (see Revelation 1:4, 11; 2–3).

They may have been among only a few branches that were still faithful and had not succumbed to apostasy and persecution.

The faithful members of the Church lived in times of intense persecution, with all the Apostles gone except John, who was now in exile, and with many factions and problems in the Church. As a result, the Saints were in great need of the encouraging message found in Revelation. John reassured them that God was in control, Jesus Christ's ultimate triumph over evil would be complete, and the hopes of all Christians would ultimately be realized.

So why are the first three books of Revelation important? If you are the type of member that feels like the last grape on the vine, wondering where all the other grapes are, if you are the type of member who still takes debt seriously, still takes homosexuality seriously, still takes communism/socialism seriously, still takes obeying the laws of the land seriously etc, the first three chapters of Revelation were written to you. It also provides once again the blueprint for the test, persecution and tribulation that will occur before "the hopes of all Christians would ultimately be realized" ie. the redemption and building of New Jerusalem.

The manual summarizes this thus,

What are some distinctive features of Revelation?

The structure of the book is suggested in Revelation 1:19. John wrote about the things he had seen—the vision of Jesus Christ (see Revelation 1), "the things which are" (conditions in the Church of his day; see Revelation 2–3), and "the things which shall be hereafter" (see Revelation 4–22). The book of Revelation, understood with the aid of latter-day revelation, presents an inspired overview of the history of the world, concentrating particularly on the time preceding the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the great millennial era of peace. The book contains promises to faithful Saints who overcome evil (see Revelation 2–3).

Revelation 1

1 The Revelation of John, a servant of God, which was given unto him of Jesus Christ, to show unto his servants **things which must shortly come to pass**, that he sent and signified by his angel unto his servant John,

2 Who bore record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

3 Blessed are they who **read**, and they who **hear** and **understand** the words of this prophecy, and **keep** those things which are written therein, for the time of the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Revelation 1:3. "Blessed Is He That"

The progression of actions described in Revelation 1:3—read, hear, and keep—shows that besides reading or hearing the book of Revelation (or any other book of scripture), we must also "keep those things which are written therein." By doing all of these things, we receive the promised blessings. The Joseph Smith Translation of verse 3 adds the word understand to this sequence, showing the importance of understanding the teachings of this book (see the Bible appendix).

For more information on why specifically understanding the book of Revelation and the actual order of events is so important, I'd suggest watching a video by Blake from Defending Zion called "The Veil of Unbelief and the Book of Revelation".

4 Now this is the testimony of John to the seven servants who are over the seven churches in Asia. Grace unto you, and peace from him who is, and who was, and who is to come; who hath sent forth his angel from before his throne, to testify unto those who are the seven servants over the seven churches.

5 Therefore, I, John, the faithful witness, bear record of the things which were delivered me of the angel, and from Jesus Christ the first begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

6 And unto him who loved us, be glory; who washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us **kings and priests** unto God, his Father. To him be glory and dominion, forever and ever. Amen.

We know that those who endure the tribulation will be those whom the Lord will use to "make up his jewels" in that day. We know that the Lord will be "King of kings and Lord of lords". If we faithfully endure we will be made kings and priests. A lot of "anti" floats around about LDS believing they (if proved faithful) will be made in reality kings and priests, and we must confess that we do believe not only in the words of John here spoken, but in his testimony that these specific words came from angels, as well as the Savior himself. If ye deny this, ye deny the entirety and scope of the entire work which is "the Book of Revelation".

7 For behold, he cometh in the clouds with ten thousands of his saints in the kingdom, clothed with the glory of his Father. And every eye shall see him; and they who pierced him, and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

8 For he saith, I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, the Lord, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

Revelation 1:8. "The Almighty"

The title "Almighty" is the English translation of the Greek word Pantokrator, which suggests one who rules and regulates all things. One theme of the book of Revelation is that even though God's people in all ages face persecution and trouble, God does indeed govern all things and will one day put an end to all evil.

"When every eye shall see the Lord come" that is referring to the Great and Dreadful day, which is "the end of the world" or "the destruction of the wicked". Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet. It would be like saying (for English speakers) "I am the A and the Z" once again, tying back to the great and dreadful day. "I was with the Father before we created man and I will be there when wickedness is swept from the face of the Earth." A theme you should hopefully already be picking up strongly is that of "tribulation and persecution and

trouble”. I believe understanding these three chapters of Revelation are timely at this period for Saints.

9 I John, who also am your brother, **and companion in tribulation**, and in the kingdom and **patience** of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, **for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ**.

Once again, “tribulation”, and the call for “patience”- we also have the first identifier of why we will have tribulation/persecution/etc. and that is “for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ”. For us this clearly is yet another reference to Celestial Law, and further on the mark of the beast ie. not denying the Savior.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, 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 Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

Revelation 1:12, 20. What Is the Symbolism of the Seven Candlesticks?

The imagery of the “seven golden candlesticks” (Revelation 1:12, 20) recalls the seven-branched menorah found in the Jerusalem temple. These candlesticks represented the seven churches. They were established to give light to the world, just as the Savior had commanded His disciples to do (see Matthew 5:15–16).

Elder Bruce R. McConkie noted: “Candlesticks carry light; they do not 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. Christ is the Light of the world. (John 8:12.) ‘Hold up your light that it may shine unto the world. Behold I am the light which ye shall hold up—that which ye have seen me do.’ (3 Ne. 18:24; Matt. 5:14–16.)” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 3:442).

Once again we have a reminder to us, this group of people, of the dangers of priestcraft. We are to be candlesticks, not candles, we are to carry the Lord’s light and will forward not our own, we are not to set ourselves up as a light. Those that overlook priestcraft do so at great peril to their salvation.

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Revelation 1:13. The Savior Is in Our Midst

In John's vision, he saw Jesus Christ "in the midst of the seven candlesticks," showing symbolically that He was with or among the seven ancient churches (Revelation 1:13). During His mortal ministry, Jesus promised, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). The assurance that Jesus Christ is with His Saints and watches over them is also found in modern scripture, such as in Doctrine and Covenants 38:7: "Verily, verily, I say unto you that mine eyes are upon you. I am in your midst and ye cannot see me."

Remember the fourth watch. The Lord is watching. Also remember Joseph Smith to return. He will also be watching. (watch or read my paper "A test, a Test, a TEST!")

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

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

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things **which are**, and the things **which shall be hereafter**;

The keys of death and hell are the keys over the resurrection, keys which Brigham Young said Joseph Smith will hold/does hold and will bring back with him once he is resurrected, keys that the Savior won and obtained through the shedding of His blood. We also have yet another reference to let you know that this book, the book of Revelation, deals with the present and the future from John, not the past. Once again, watch/read the *Understanding Revelation: Intro* if this is a new concept to you.

20 The mystery of the seven servants of the seven churches which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the servants of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

The manual lists "possible interpretations" for these symbols... I'm not sure why? Do they not have a testimony of Joseph Smith and thus JST? What each of the symbols represents is made crystal clear here.

Revelation 2

1 Unto the servant of the church of **Ephesus** write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

Ephesus was largest city in Asia Minor famous for its temple

It's safe to guess that if this city was to have its counterpart today, and if such letters were written today, the first letter would be sent to Salt Lake City Utah, the largest city in Utah famous for its temple.

2 I 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 apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

Revelation 2:2. "Them Which Say They Are Apostles, and Are Not"

To read more about false apostles who were teaching in Ephesus, see Acts 20:17–18, 28–30. Paul described these false apostles and others like them as “grievous wolves” (Acts 20:29) and as men who would arise from among the Saints and speak “perverse things, to draw away disciples after them” (Acts 20:30; see also 2 Corinthians 11:13–14, 26; 1 John 4:1–3).

This is so relevant that it actually hurts my heart writing it. There are those right now, mostly in Utah, claiming to have seen Christ and the Father in their living rooms, to have been made in reality members of the 144,000 and have been “partially translated”. They are grievous wolves speaking perverse things with the attempt to draw disciples after them (ie. priestcraft). They have been “tried” by the word of God and have been found to be liars. Take care Saints, take care... This is part of “the test” and many are already failing.

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 love.

Remember that the Lord is talking to the candlesticks, which are not individual members, they are “the church”, meaning the Lord very likely is not talking to the same members in these two statements, he is in fact talking to two different groups. One group has borne with patience, laboured, and has not fainted for the Lord's sake while the other “has left thy first love”. This is a “righteous remnant” vs “tares” breakdown, this is the Lord answering a lot of members' question, and that question? “How do I know I am wheat? How do I know I am not a tare? How do I, if I am a tare, become wheat?” Pay attention saints!

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 candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

We should be familiar with this. The parable of the Nobleman and his Olive Trees, the Lord promising that it will begin “at My house, first among those among you who profess to know Me...” etc. etc. If you are a tare, repent and do the works of the first, ie. the wheat.

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest **the deeds of the Nicolaitans**, which I also hate.

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that **overcometh** will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:6, 15. “The Doctrine of the Nicolaitans”

The Nicolaitans were “an Antinomian sect in Asia Minor that claimed license for sensual sin” (Bible Dictionary, “Nicolaitans”). Antinomians were permissive Christians who claimed that the grace of God freed them from having to obey commandments. The Lord commended some Saints for rejecting the deeds of the Nicolaitans, while chastising other Saints for holding to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans (see Revelation 2:6, 15). Elder Bruce R. McConkie explained that the Nicolaitans referred to in the book of Revelation were “members of the Church who were trying to maintain their church standing while continuing to live after the manner of the world” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 3:446).

Wolves in sheep’s clothing. Those that profess to know me but do not etc. etc. Members who wish to maintain their church standings but live “progressive” or “liberal” or “after the manner of the world”. Such feared man more than God, such went hand in hand with Babylon, such did not overcome, such will not eat of the tree of life.

8 And unto the servant of the church in **Smyrna** write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

Early center of emperor worship. Major shipping port and trade center.

Emperor worship is idolatry. Early on in the USA, a city that was known for its idolatry? Los Angeles CA, + Hollywood seems to fit the bill.

9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the 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 suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a 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 death.

We have here a clear warning that there will be those faithful cast into prison and also put to death for their faith. Last conference the amount of times Liberty Jail was mentioned should send up red flags. Those that endure faithfully will inherit Celestial glory while those that deny the faith and save their lives will not. Period. There is no general call out from specific locations as every location will have a path for exaltation, that doesn’t mean however that certain paths are not “less painful” vs others. Some of us might go to jail, some of us might die, and unless we have the testimony we will fall. There is also a mention of the relative poverty difference, he

went as far as to call the Saints there “poor physically, but rich spiritually”. Once again, a great pencil in for this location.

Revelation 2:13. “Thou Holdest Fast My Name”

Christians who were sentenced by Roman officials to prison or death could sometimes save themselves by cursing Christ and worshipping the emperor instead. John recorded the Lord’s praise for the Saints in Pergamos for “holding fast” His name, even under threat of death (Revelation 2:13; see also Revelation 2:25; 3:3, 11). A recurring phrase in Revelation 2–3 is the admonition to “hold fast” to the truth (see Revelation 2:13, 25; 3:3, 11). President M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles explained that to “hold fast” to the truth, found in the word of God, means to “hearken to it, follow the principles taught therein, and cling to those principles as though our very lives depended on it—which, if we are speaking of spiritual life, is literally true” (“Be Strong in the Lord,” Ensign, July 2004, 10).

12 And to the servant of the church in **Pergamos** write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

Provincial center for emperor worship. Three temples dedicated to emperor worship. Library housed over 200,000 scrolls.

What is the new center for idolatry worship? San Francisco + Silicon Valley. It doesn’t take much creativity to come up with “three major idolatry companies” in the area.

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 martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

Revelation 2:12–13. What Was “Satan’s Seat”?

John recorded that “Satan’s seat” was in Pergamos and commended the Saints in Pergamos for not denying the faith even though much wickedness surrounded them (see Revelation 2:12–13). Elder Bruce R. McConkie defined “Satan’s seat”:

“Pergamos was the center of the state religion of Rome, a religion in which the emperor was worshipped, and to which Christians must adhere or suffer death. It was a religion imposed upon them by the sword. Here Christ announces that he—out of whose mouth goeth ‘a sharp twoedged sword’ (Rev. 1:16)—has eternal power, power beyond the life and death dominion of Rome, power which will pierce and slay the wicked as with a sword. See Heb. 4:12–13. ...

“‘Under Augustus a temple was built at Pergamum [Pergamos], probably 29 B.C., and dedicated to Rome and Augustus, and Pergamum became the center of the imperial worship and “Satan’s throne” [seat].’ [J. R. Dummelow, ed., *The One Volume Bible Commentary* (1936), 1075.]” (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 3:449–50).

A couple things of importance to note here. There will be two different “seats of power” as things wrap up, one seat of Satan’s power for Ephraim and The Assyrian and the other seat for Judah and the Middle East. (Once again, watch Blake from Defending Zion’s video on the “Mirror Principle of the 7th Seal”). I have already identified what I believe to be the most likely candidate for the “seat of Satan’s power” in American/Ephraim, and that is Silicon Valley, but this information provided by the Angel and subsequently John might be more literal than people realize. Later on we will read how Satan will “give his seat of power” to the beast, and it is here identified that the seat of Satan in the Middle East is “Pergamos”, which is in modern day Turkey. This is why a lot of individuals assume the “false prophet” will start in Turkey. Watch or read my paper *Satan; The Great Counterfeiter*. The Assyrian will be headquartered (I believe) in Silicon Valley while the beast kingdoms will start with Turkey. I believe we are already seeing the fruit of this today in 2020.

14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

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.

Revelation 2:14. “The Doctrine of Balaam”

Balaam was an Old Testament prophet, whose actions are recorded in Numbers 22–24; 31:16. He appeared at first to be true to the Lord and His people, repeatedly refusing Balak’s request to curse Israel. Nevertheless, Balaam eventually succumbed to Balak’s offer of riches and taught Balak how to cause the army of Israel to weaken themselves through sexual sin and idolatry (see Numbers 25:1–5; 31:13–16). The plan included having Moabite women seduce the men of Israel and persuade them to offer sacrifices to heathen gods, thus destroying them spiritually.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie defined the doctrine of Balaam as being willing “to divine [prophecy] for hire; to give counsel contrary to the divine will; to pervert the right way of the Lord—all with a view to gaining wealth and the honors of men. In effect, to preach for money, or to gain personal power and influence. In the very nature of things such a course is a perversion of the right way of the Lord. See 2 Pet. 2:10–22” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 3:450).

We’ve already read about the doctrine of Nicolaitans above, they are members in name only, they want to be treated like virtuous saints while pushing progressive and evil ideology- these are Satan’s progressive element in the church. This city however is also weakening the people of God with idolatry, priestcraft, materialism, coveting, and sexual sin. Facebook, Google, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, etc. are the means of transmitting porn, vainglory, priestcraft (which is just vainglory in the church), etc. etc. (See or watch my paper *The Spirit of the Earth*) throughout the land. The saints that partake of those fruits will be weakened. This further

cements in my mind the clearness of this location being the birth of the Assyrian, which I was looking for after the “desolating sickness” to start making its move. It has.

17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that **overcometh** will I 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.

Revelation 2:17. “Hidden Manna” and “a White Stone”

The Lord provided life-sustaining manna for the children of Israel to eat during their 40-year sojourn in the wilderness (see Exodus 16:15, 35). Just as the manna sustained physical life, Jesus Christ is the “bread of life” that sustains spiritual life (John 6:35, 48). The “hidden manna” mentioned in Revelation 2:17 refers to Jesus Christ. Jesus is “hidden” from the wicked. But, as He taught in John 6, those who symbolically partake of His flesh will receive everlasting life (see John 6:47–58).

Revelation 2:17 states this instruction to the churches: “To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name.” For revealed insight into the meaning of the white stone, see Doctrine and Covenants 130:8–11.

Don’t make the same mistake that the Jews made in the time of Jesus, Jesus was the manna promised here. If you are once again, hoping that even as you worship idolatry (ie. own cars, tvs, cell phones, Netflix, etc. etc. etc.) and neglect your temporal salvation that the Lord will rain “manna down from heaven” you will be sorely mistaken. The Savior is the promised reward and He is a far worthier prize to be won than some mere sustenance. The understanding of the stone found in Doctrine and Covenants 130: 8-11 reads:

8 The place where God resides is a great Urim and Thummim.

9 This earth, in its sanctified and immortal state, will be made like unto crystal and will be a Urim and Thummim to the inhabitants who dwell thereon, whereby all things pertaining to an inferior kingdom, or all kingdoms of a lower order, will be manifest to those who dwell on it; and this earth will be Christ’s.

10 Then the white stone mentioned in Revelation 2:17, will become a Urim and Thummim to each individual who receives one, whereby things pertaining to a higher order of kingdoms will be made known;

11 And a white stone is given to each of those who come into the celestial kingdom, whereon is a new name written, which no man knoweth save he that receiveth it. The new name is the key word.

18 And unto the servant of the church in **Thyatira** write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

Famous for wool dyeing. A military city. Principle deity was Tyrimnas sun god) who was often portrayed with military prowess.

I pencil this city (or groups of cities) in as Mountain Home Idaho area (Boise-Rexburg) known for its air base. This area is actually marked for landing from nuclear weapons due to the military nature of the area. The reasons for my selection continue as we keep reading.

19 I know thy works, and charity, and 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 into hell, and them that commit 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 searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

After reading about Julie Rowe and her effect specifically on this part of the world, and what she was teaching, and the church trying to get her to repent and stop, etc. I couldn't help but feel like this was a direct fulfillment to this prophesy playing out in real time once again.

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 hold fast till I come.

The Lord is not going to condemn everyone from that part of the world, just those who fell away with their "prophetess" (her "children") so long as they hold fast to what they already have till the Lord comes. Don't be fooled by false prophets. Currently it is President Nelson, and only President Nelson until Joseph Smith returns. There is not or will not be any "prophetess".

26 And to him who **overcometh**, and keepeth my commandments unto the end, will I give power over many kingdoms;

27 And he shall rule them with the word of God; and they shall be in his hands as the vessels of clay in the hands of a potter; 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 star.

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

Potters clay, ruling with the word of God, the Law, etc. etc. This is 2 Nephi 27, this is Joseph Smith returning, this is New Jerusalem, this is where the faithful will be made kings and

priestesses to rule under Christ who will stand as King of Kings. To be given the morning star is to be given the tabernacle of Christ to dwell with us and among us. The manual explains:

Revelation 2:28. “I Will Give Him the Morning Star”

“The morning star” is a symbol of Jesus Christ (Revelation 2:28; 22:16). The promise of “the morning star” is given to him “that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end” (Revelation 2:26). It may be the promise of the Second Comforter, of which the Prophet Joseph Smith taught, “When any man obtains this [Second] Comforter, he will have the personage of Jesus Christ to attend him, or appear unto him from time to time, and even He will manifest the Father unto him, and they will take up their abode with him, and the visions of the heavens will be opened unto him, and the Lord will teach him face to face” (in History of the Church, 3:381).

Revelation 3

1 And unto the servant of the church in **Sardis**, write; These things saith he who hath the seven stars, which are the seven servants of God; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Crossroads of five major highways. Reputation for great wealth and low moral standards.

My pencil in for this city is that of Las Vegas Nevada. You will notice that all of these cities were in fact early places that the saints travelled to and made their home per President Brigham Young direction.

2 Be watchful therefore, and strengthen those who remain, who are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

4 Thou hast **a few names** even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

5 He that **overcometh**, the same shall 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.

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

There are “few” who live in cities known for their “great wealth and low moral standards” and belong to the church who’s garments are white. Once again, those who overcome vs those who do not. Once again, there is a path for everyone to be saved, but that doesn’t mean whatever city you decide to live in comes complete with the exact same tribulations. If you don’t think you can fight the tribulation in the area you are, move.

7 And to the angel of the church in **Philadelphia** write; These things saith 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;

Called the “gateway to the east”. A city known for its wine production, center for worship Bacchaus, the god of wine. Relatively unimportant city in its day.

The key of David is a reference to Isaiah 22, keys which were used to open and lock doors in the temple, with obvious similitude to actual priesthood keys. The chapter subheading for Isaiah 22 is “Jerusalem shall be attacked and scourged”. I would mark this city down as “flyover country” or “the Heartland of America”. It is full of many cities that the world deems to be of little or no value, and is known for its agriculture and “worship” of agriculture. To those in New York, the heartland is flyover country, ie. it is simply the gateway to the east. This is small town America.

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, 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 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 keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

This group of Saints, although they have very little power or strength in the Church collectively or politically or culturally, they have kept the faith and remained true and God promises them that they will not have to pass through the same tribulations. I believe this to be a direct blessing in direct connection to that of these Saints giving up Babylon. You give up a lot of Babylon “perks” when you live out of the city in the country. Internet, movies, restaurants, shopping, etc. the list is extensive. And the Lord here is rewarding them for making that choice and living that lifestyle in that they will not have to pass through the same tribulations that the rest of the Church does. If you are worried about your faith, endurance, patience etc in tribulation but you have no fear or reservation about “leaving Babylon” you might want to consider moving to a farmstead in South Dakota. This is a fulfillment to D&C 38- the Lord will not give one righteous son robes and another righteous son rags any more than He will give a righteous son robes and an unrighteous son robes.

There is a good chance, based off of verse 9, that when the leadership of the church is changed these people well outside of Salt Lake City in the farmland will become the new leaders and the Saints in Utah will “worship at their feet”. To further cement that last point, the footnote for verse 9 takes you to Isaiah 49 and 60. Read or watch my papers *Understanding Isaiah Chapter 49*, *Joseph Smith to Return*, and *The Parable of the Nobleman and the Olive Trees*.

Verse 10 footnote takes you to topical guide Temptation; Test, Try, Prove.

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

This verse is interesting because the Lord tells these people to “hold fast to that which thou hast”, past tense, that somebody doesn’t come and take your crown. These individuals, many, have their calling and election made sure, the promise from the Lord that they will be His when He makes up His jewels. His jewels in His crown are the kings of which He is king over. The tribulation for most Saints is the path for their salvation. These individuals have already arrived, they simply need to hold out faithful.

In case there is any doubt that my interpretation is erroneous, Jesus Christ, the son of God, clarifies beyond any reasonable doubt in the next verse when he says:

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 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.

This is absolutely referring to the New Jerusalem in Jackson County Missouri. These people are members of the Church of the Firstborn, which is not the same thing as being a member of the 144,000, see my paper *144,000, Church of the Firstborn, Translation* (when it comes out).

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

14 And unto the angel of the church of the **Laodiceans** write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

Wealthy, commercial and banking center. Medical school produced an eye salve.

This is the upper-middle class suburban neighborhoods. They are full of people in the medical profession, banking etc. These are members who have experienced a sense of accomplishment, haven’t left the Church but don’t take it all too seriously. Apathy is a plague in this community. It’s important to note that this group might not think that they are “that bad” or that there’s not that much difference between the suburban lifestyle member and the countryside member, but the Lord provided no counsel or chastisement for the previous group, while providing no praise or commendation for this group. So to the Lord there is a big contrast between these two groups and He makes this clear in the following verses.

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am 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:

Revelation 3:15–16. “I Would Thou Wert Cold or Hot”

Hot springs at Hierapolis, a short distance north of Laodicea, sent steaming waters into the streams that flowed southward. Those waters were still lukewarm when they reached Laodicea (see Revelation 3:15–16). Jesus Christ, who is “the faithful and true witness” (Revelation 3:14), described Church members in Laodicea as lukewarm. Lukewarm Saints can be described as “not

valiant in the testimony of Jesus” (D&C 76:79). President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) taught that since the Church is either true or it is false, one cannot logically adopt a “lukewarm” position toward it:

“The book of Revelation declares: ‘I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

“So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth’ (Revelation 3:15–16). . . .

“Each of us has to face the matter—either the Church is true, or it is a fraud. There is no middle ground. It is the Church and kingdom of God, or it is nothing” (“Loyalty,” Ensign or Liahona, May 2003, 60).

These people believe because they have obtained a sense of worldly success that they need of nothing or have adopted a position regarding the Church and its counsel of apathy. But the reality is that they know and have accomplished very little; they are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. Like the story of the Emperor’s new clothes, these members, when tribulations start, will be the first exposed and the first to fall away as when the sun comes out those with no or little root are quickly scorched, die, and wither away. I believe that is the purpose for the desolating sickness, the vexation that is to wake up drunkard Ephraim because without that wake up call, there is a good chance that this entire group would have been lost.

After the Lord has woken you up, what counsel does he give you?

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold 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.

What is the Lord suggesting you do in this verse with all of your perceived “success, money, goods” etc? The footnote provided gives you the answer.

Matthew 13:44-46

44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

D&C 6:6-7

6 Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion;

7 Seek not for riches but for wisdom, and behold, the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto you, and then shall you be made rich. Behold, he that hath eternal life is rich.

This should bring this into focus. The entire first three chapters of the Book of Revelation were written for the Saints to show them the tribulation that they would pass through, what was required at their hand, and the end goal; that of the redemption and building of New Jerusalem and obtaining an inheritance within her walls.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20. “I Stand at the Door, and Knock”



The imagery in Revelation 3:20 suggests that we are the ones who must open the door to the Savior. President Thomas S. Monson (1927–2018) encouraged members of the Church to open the door and allow the Savior into their lives:

“With all the strength of my soul I testify that our Heavenly Father loves each one of us. He hears the prayers of humble hearts; He hears our cries for help. ... His Son, our Savior and Redeemer, speaks to each of us today: ‘Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him’ [Revelation 3:20].

“Will we listen for that knock? Will we hear that voice? Will we open that door to the Lord, that we may receive the help He is so ready to provide? I pray that we will” (“Mrs. Patton—the Story Continues,” Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2007, 24).

It is crucial to understand, I repeat, it is crucial, Saints of God to understand what I am about to say. The Lord loveth whom he chasteneth. The reason why Christ stands on the outside of the door and is not let in to the grand majority of members’ hearts and lives is because the call from

the other side of the door, the voice that you should hear and recognize, is a voice of chastisement. Flowery, buttery, rainbows and butterflies and all manner of sophistries are the realms of men, the realm of the Lord is “yea and nay”. There is a reason why almost every predominate atheist has daddy issues, it’s the voice that repels them. The Lord, like any good father, wants you to improve, He wants you to get better, He wants you to break through your walls. Anybody who has accomplished anything worth anything knows that those things were not obtained, that growth did not occur, because of rainbows and butterflies and the sophistries of men, nay, they came from grit and character. Anybody who has looked at the data regarding children raised by single mothers will come away with a clear as day understanding on which of the two voices in parenting predominately generates that grit, character, etc. It is no different with our Father in Heaven.

Remember that the Holy Ghost purges and expands (read my paper *The Light of Christ, the Holy Ghost, the Second Comforter*) and when properly utilized it is eternally rewarding but is not and will not ever be a painless process.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

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

Sitting with the Lord on His throne means receiving the blessings of exaltation, more specifically in New Jerusalem.

Revelation 3:21. “To Sit with Me in My Throne”

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: “Through [the Atonement of Jesus Christ], all who believe and obey the glorious gospel of God, all who are true and faithful and overcome the world, all who suffer for Christ and his word, all who are chastened and scourged in the Cause of him whose we are—all shall become as their Maker and sit with him on his throne and reign with him forever in everlasting glory” (“The Purifying Power of Gethsemane,” *Ensign*, May 1985, 9).

My prayer is that the Saints recognize the tribulation ahead and the promised blessings that can be theirs and will be theirs if they “overcome”.