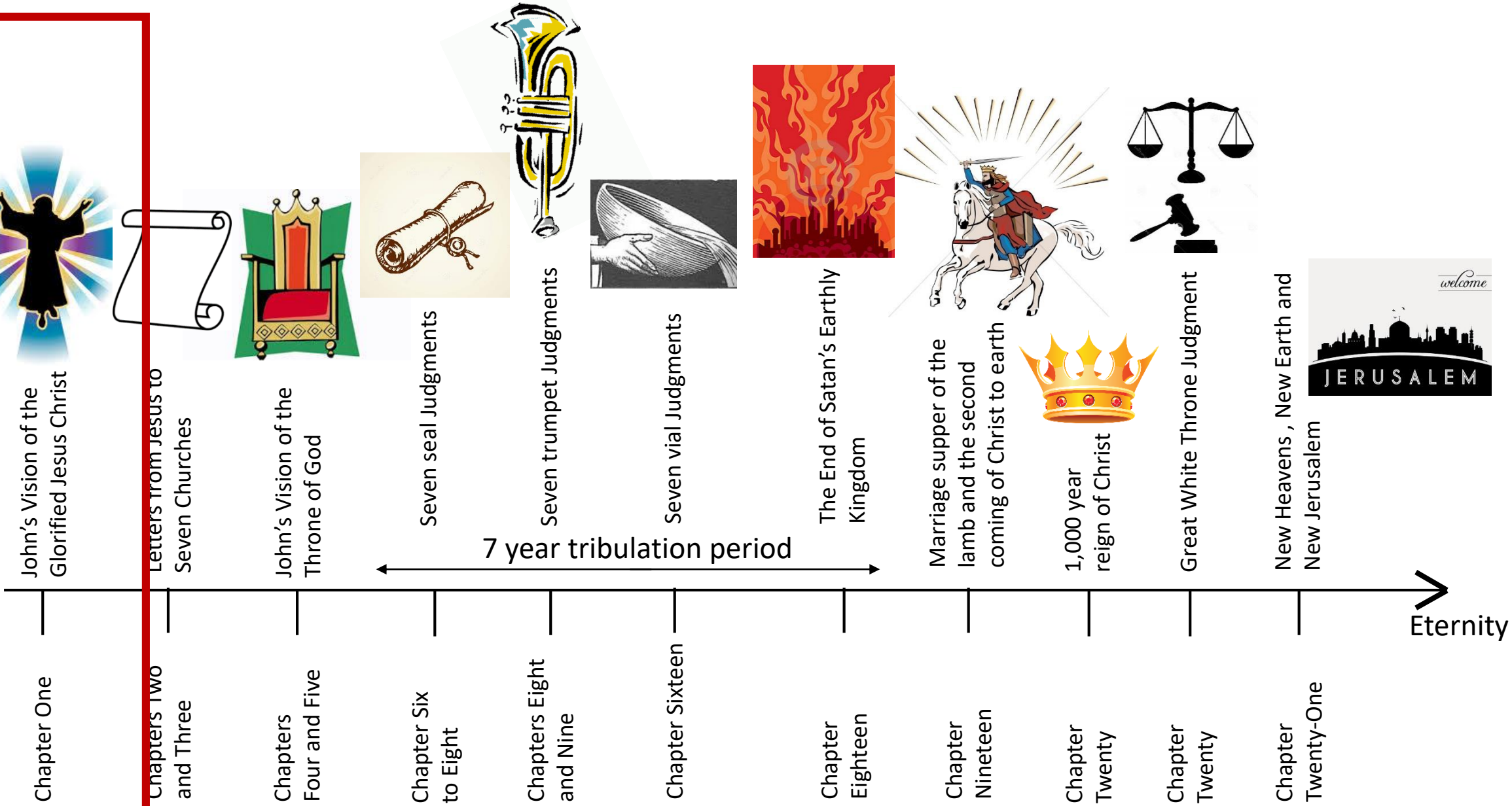


REVELATION

God's Message to the Seven Churches



Chronological Timeline of Revelation



Why is this section here?

Heb 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Why is this section here?

- Written to seven historical, geographical local churches
- To encourage faithful service to Him
 - Distinguishes between “what is” and “what will be”

Rev 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter

Who is this section written to?

- Actual historical churches with real problems
- Any church today who can identify with these historical churches and their problems

“Those who cannot
remember the past are
condemned to repeat it”

~~ Author unknown

Ephesus

The loveless church

The Apostle Paul's commendation

Eph 1:15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints

Ephesus

The loveless church

The Lord's commendation

- ✓ Hard work ✓ Perseverance
- ✓ Intolerance of sin ✓ Exposing false teachers
- ✓ Hating the deeds of the Nicolaitans

Ephesus
The loveless church

The Lord's
rebuke

“thou has left thy first love”

Their service had become rote and mechanical
Loss of love and devotion to the Lord

Ephesus
The loveless church

The Lord's
exhortation

Repent

Remember

Return

God is less concerned about our outward show
than He is about our devotion to Him

Ephesus
The loveless church

The Lord's promise

He who overcomes will:

- Eat from the tree of life
- Be in the paradise of God

Smyrna
The persecuted church

The Lord's commendation

- ✓ Endured persecution
- ✓ Endured poverty

Smyrna
The persecuted church

The Lord's
rebuke

None!

Mat 25:23 Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Smyrna

The persecuted church

Smyrna's sufferings, though extremely difficult, had helped keep them pure in faith and life.

1Pe 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ

Smyrna
The persecuted church

The Lord's exhortation

→ Do not fear

*2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear;
but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

→ Be faithful unto death

*Luk 1:26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and
mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea,
and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.*

Smyrna
The persecuted church

The Lord's
promise

- Crown of life
- Will not take part in the second death