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Structural Analysis of Revelation Chapters 1-3 via Outline

- I. INTRODUCTION: 1:1-3
 - A. The Revelation of Jesus Christ
 - 1. God gave Him to show His servants
 - 2. Things which must shortly take place
 - B. Sent by His angel to His servant John
 - 1. Who bore witness to:
 - i. The word of God
 - ii. The testimony of Jesus Christ
 - C. Blessed is he who 1:3
 - 1. Reads/hears the words of this prophecy
 - 2. Keeps those things written in it

This first section tells us the letter is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, sent by His angel to John. John bore witness. It also says those who hear and read it will be blessed, as well as those who put into action what it says to do will be blessed.

- II. THE SEVEN CHURCHES 1:4
 - A. John (author) to the Seven Churches in Asia
 - 1. Grace and Peace to you
 - 2. From:
 - i. Him
 - Who is
 - Who was
 - Who is to come
 - ii. The seven Spirits before His throne 1:7
 - iii. Jesus Christ
 - Faithful witness
 - Firstborn from the dead
 - Ruler of the kings of the earth
 - 3. To Him be glory and dominion forever Amen. 1:5b-6
 - i. Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood
 - ii. Who has made us kings and priests to His God and Father
 - B. Christ presented and the Churches Identified 1:7-20
 - 1. Behold He comes with the clouds
 - i. The Alpha and Omega
 - ii. The Beginning and the End
 - 2. I, John, while in the Spirit, while on Patmos hear a loud voice say
 - i. I am the Alpha and Omega
 - ii. Beginning and the End
 - 3. John commanded to write what he sees and to send it to the seven churches 1:11
 - i. Named as: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea
 - 4. John saw One like the Son of Man in the midst of 7 golden lampstands 1:12
 - i. Garment to his feet with a golden band about His chest
 - ii. Head and hair white as wool and snow
 - iii. His eyes like a flame of fire
 - iv. Feet like fine brass
 - v. His voice like rushing waters
 - vi. Right hand had seven stars

- vii. Out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword
- viii. Countenance like the sun shining in its strength
- 5. John fell down like dead, but He laid His right hand on him and said
 - i. I am the First and the Last
 - ii. I am He who lives and was dead and behold I am alive forevermore.
 - iii. I have the keys of Hades and of Death
- 6. John commanded again to write what he has seen, the things which are, and the things which will take place.
- 7. 7 stars explained as the angels of the seven churches
- 8. 7 lampstands are explained as the seven churches

A lot is explained about the appearance of Christ here as well as a clear explanation of what the stars and the lampstands represent. This is one of the few items clearly explained upfront.

- III. INDIVIDUAL MESSAGES TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES 2:1-3:19
 - A. The Church at Ephesus 2:1-7

Description of Christ: He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, and walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands

 - 1. Pros:
 - i. I know your works
 - ii. You cannot bear those who are evil
 - iii. You test those who falsely say they are apostles
 - iv. You have persevered and have patience and labored for My name's sake
 - 2. Cons:
 - i. You have left your first love
 - ii. Repent and do your first works or I will remove your lampstand
 - 3. General
 - i. This you have, you had the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate
 - ii. The Spirit says to the churches, he who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, in the midst of the Paradise of God.
 - B. The Church at Smyrna 2:8-11

Description of Christ: First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life

 - 1. Pros:
 - i. I know your works, tribulation, and poverty
 - ii. I know those who blaspheme and say they are Jews but are of the synagogue of Satan
 - iii. Do not fear what you are about to suffer
 - i. Some will go to prison and have tribulation 10 days
 - ii. Be faithful until death and receive a crown of life
 - 2. Cons: none
 - 3. General: He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death
 - C. The Church at Pergamum 2:12-17

Description of Christ: He who has the sharp two-edged sword

 - 1. Pros:
 - i. I know your works and where you dwell
 - ii. Dwell: Where Satan's throne is (as in, you're faithful even though the devil is around)
 - iii. You hold fast to My name and did not deny My faith even in persecution

2. Cons:

- i. You have those there who hold the doctrine of Balaam
A stumbling block, eating impure and having sexual immorality
- ii. Those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate
- iii. Repent or I will come against with the sword of My mouth.

3. General: He who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat and a white stone with a new name written on it which no one knows except him who receives it.

D. The Church at Thyatira

2:18-29

Description of Christ: The Son of God, who has eyes like the flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass

1. Pros:

- i. I know your works, love, service, faith, and patience, with increasing works

2. Cons:

- ii. You allow that woman Jezebel to teach and seduce My servants
To sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols
I gave her time to repent and she did not.
- iii. Those who commit adultery with her I will cast into a sickbed and great tribulation unless their repent.

3. General:

- i. For those who have not partaken in this (false) doctrine, I will add no burden, but hold fast until I return
- ii. He who overcomes and keeps My works until the end, I will give power over the nations
- iii. As I have received from the Father, I will give him the morning star

E. The Church at Sardis

3:1-6

Description of Christ: He who has seen the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars

1. Pros:

- i. You have a few names who have not defiled and they will walk with Me in white

2. Cons:

- i. I know your works that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.
- ii. I have not found your works perfect before God

3. General:

- i. Be watchful and strengthen the things which remain
- ii. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life. I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels

F. The Church at Philadelphia

3:7-13

Description of Christ: He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens

1. Pros:

- i. I know your works
- ii. I have set before you and open door and no one can shut it.
- iii. You have a little strength, have kept My word and have not denied My name
- iv. Because you have kept My command to preserve, I will keep you from the hour of trial coming to the whole world.

2. Cons: none

3. General:

- i. Behold I am coming quickly, hold fast what you have.
- ii. He who overcomes I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, I will write on him the name of My God, the New Jerusalem and I will write on Him My new name.

G. The Church at Laodicea

3:14-19

Description of Christ: The Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God

1. Pros: none

2. Cons:

- i. I know your works, neither cold or hot
- i. Lukewarm, I vomit you out of My moth
- ii.. You have blindly put your faith in your wealth

3. General:

- i. I counsel you to trade in your wealth and seek Me that your shame and nakedness be covered and that you may see.

Each message is catered to the individual church. Many have pros and cons which are addressed, some had only positive, and some only negative. Laodicea for example had no pros, having placed their faith in wealth instead of God. Philadelphia is an example of one that only has positive. Sardis, while negative has a few who have remained faithful which have been recorded as a pro.

IV. CHRIST'S GENERAL CALL AND CONCLUSION OF MESSAGE TO THE 7 CHURCHES 3:20-22

A. Behold, I stand at the door and knock

B. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door

- 1. I will come in to him and dine with him
- 2. And He with Me

C. He who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne as I sat with My Father in His

D. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Christ presents Himself, knocking at the door, those who hear and open the door will be in a right relationship with Him.