OUTLINE OF REVELATION

Cf. Revelation 1:19

I. The things which you have seen
   (1)
   A. Prologue 1:1-3
   B. Greeting and Praise 1:4-8
   C. Vision of Christ the Judge 1:9-20

II. The things which are
    (2-3)
    Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia Minor
    A. To Ephesus 2:1-7
    B. To Smyrna 2:8-11
    C. To Pergamom 2:12-17
    D. To Thyatira 2:18-29
    E. To Sardis 3:1-6
    F. To Philadelphia 3:7-13
    G. To Laodicea 3:14-22

III. The things which will take place after this
     (4-22)
Revelation 2 and 3--
“Prophetically the history of the church through the centuries.”

Ephesus 1st Century/Apostolic Age
  New Testament Church

Smyrna 2nd - 3rd Century
  Church of the persecution
  Church in suffering

Pergamos 4th - 6th Century
  Popular and politically powerful

Thyatira 7th - 16th Century
  Dark Ages

Sardis 15th - 17th Century
  Church of the Reformation

Philadelphia 18th - 20th Century
  Church of missionary activity and evangelical power

Laodicea 20th Century
Christ the Judge

Chapter 1 --Character of the Judge

Chapters 2-3 --Judge in the midst of the churches

Chapters 4-19 --Judge in the midst of Israel and the nations

Chapter 20 --Two resurrections and Judgment at the Great White Throne
Letters to 7 Churches

SARDIS  3:1-6
Dead/Dying
All-sufficient Christ
Chief Shepherd

PHILADELPHIA  3:7-13
Faithful, though weak
Omnipotent Christ,
the Judge
Utterly Sovereign One

LAODICEA  3:14-22
Lukewarm
Living Word of God
Head of the church
Head of the New Creation
THE SEVEN CHURCHES / Revelation 2:1–3:22

The seven churches were located on a major Roman road. A letter carrier would leave the island of Patmos (where John was exiled), arriving first at Ephesus. He would travel north to Smyrna and Pergamum, turn southeast to Thyatira, and continue on to Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea—in the exact order in which the letters were dictated.