



ROARING LAMB  
A STUDY OF

# revelation

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“How long could you do ministry before you realized the Holy Spirit was no longer in it?”

**(Dave Busby)**

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How long could we live for  
Jesus before we realize we  
no longer love Jesus?

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Love isn't calculated by church attendance or activity; nor is love calculated simply by belief.

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The demons didn't *love* Jesus  
and the Pharisees didn't *love*  
Jesus; yet the **quality** of their  
belief and deeds are hard for  
any of us to match.



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**A C H U R C H  
O F L O S T L O V E**

**revelation 2:1-7**



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That Jesus' revelation is for seven churches suggests that his revelation is also full or complete, which is what the number 7 represents.



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**A C H U R C H  
O F L O S T L O V E**

**revelation 2:1-7**



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**1. Love is not Blind  
(Revelation 2:1-3, 6)**



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# 1. Love is not Blind

To the One who is guiding you, sustaining you (*stars*), and always with you (*lampstands*).

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# 1. Love is not Blind

- Their **deeds** are that they “cannot tolerate evil men” (verse 2)
- Their **toil** is that they “put to test those who call themselves apostles” (verse 2)
- Their **perseverance** is that they “have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary” (verse 3)

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# 1. Love is not Blind

This church was full of godly heritage.



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# 1. Love is not Blind

Jesus is recognizing and seeing in them a faithfulness to what they believed.

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# 1. Love is not Blind

From an outside perspective this church looked healthy.



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# 1. Love is not Blind

Obedience out of duty had replaced  
obedience out of love for Christ.

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# 1. Love is not Blind

They became more resolved to **defend** what they had than to **extend** what they had.





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**A C H U R C H  
O F L O S T L O V E**

**revelation 2:1-7**



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1. Love is not Blind
- 2. Love is Vacant  
(Revelation 2:4-5)**

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“But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”

**(Revelation 2:4)**

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## 2. Love is Vacant

- The Ephesians did not *lose* their first love, they *left* their first love.
- In the Greek, the word *left* holds this idea of a “definite and sad departure; to forsake or abandon.”

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Greek philosopher, **Heraclitus**, a pagan himself, wrote of Ephesus,

“The darkness of vileness. The morals were lower than animals and the inhabitants of Ephesus were fit only to be drowned.”

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“For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.”

**(Ephesians 1:15-16)**

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“They had lost the first flush of enthusiasm and excitement in their Christian life and had settled into a cold orthodoxy with more surface strength than depth.”

**(Grant Osborne)**

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## **2. Love is Vacant**

Our first love is the prioritization of the great commission.







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**A C H U R C H  
O F L O S T L O V E**

**revelation 2:1-7**

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1. Love is not Blind
2. Love is Vacant
- 3. Love Never Fails  
(Revelation 2:5, 7)**

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### **3. Love Never Fails**

Jesus is gracious, as our High Priest, and he points us to the recovery of our love because his love never fails.

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### **3. Love Never Fails**

Jesus' first sermon application:

**Remember!**

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## **3. Love Never Fails**

The second sermon application Jesus gives us is:

**Repent!**

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## **3. Love Never Fails**

To repent is to change your mind and go in a new direction.



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### **3. Love Never Fails**

The third sermon application Jesus  
gives us is:

**Return!**

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## **3. Love Never Fails**

Return to what you once did to resume the spark and fire of love.







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**A C H U R C H  
O F L O S T L O V E**

**revelation 2:1-7**