

7 Letters to the 7 Churches

<u>Church</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Aprox Time</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Name Meaning</u>	<u>Lesson</u>
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Ephesus= the Apostolic Church, 70-82ad, era of transition, "Darling",

Lesson = devotion more than doctrine

From; Rev 2:1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus (Apostle John's home Church) write: 'The words of him (Jesus) who holds the seven stars (angels (messengers)) in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. (churches)

Good Report; Rev 2:2 "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.

Rev 2:3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.

Rev 2:6 Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, (elevation of the clergy) which I also hate.

Bad Report; Rev 2:4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

Remedy; Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. (Ephesus is just a pile of ruins today.)

Individual's admonition; Rev 2:7 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. [Everlasting Life] [Gen 3:22]

Smyrna = Persecuted Church, 82-442ad, era of persecution, "Embalming Spice" (death),

Lesson = endure persecution

From; Rev 2:8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life. (Resurrection)

Good Report; Rev 2:9 “I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) (Faith and Grace) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, (Replacement Theology)but are a synagogue of Satan.

Rev 2:10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days [Dan 1:12, or 10days of Awe] you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Bad Report; None

(Topic Notes – Crowns)

Remedy; None

Individual’s admonition; Rev 2:11 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.

Rev 20:14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

Rev 20:15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Pergamum =Married Church, 442-802ad, era of accommodation, "Mixed Marriage",

Lesson = stand fast against the world

From; Rev 2:12 “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: ‘The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.

Isa 49:2 And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me.

Eph 6:17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,]

Rev 19:15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

Gen 1:3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.)

(the“Word of God” is associated with the power of creation, and thereby also destruction)

Good Report; Rev 2:13 “I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. (The altar of Zeus, currently in the Berlin, Germany museum) Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, [refused to worship Cesar] where Satan dwells.

Bad Report; Rev 2:14 But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.

Num 25:1 While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab.

Num 25:2 These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.

Num 25:3 So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

Num 31:16 Behold, these, on Balaam's advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the LORD.

Num 25:9 Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand.]

Rev 2:15 So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

Remedy; Rev 2:16 Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.

Individual's admonition; Rev 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, (in the ark of the covenant) and I will give him a white stone, (token for admission to the Roman games) with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'

Thyatira = Corrupted Church, 802-1162ad, era of compromise, "Babylon Mysteries"

Lesson = abhor pagan practices

Rev 2:19 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.

Rev 2:20 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 idol [Topic Notes- Hosea]

[Jezebel was a pattern for corruption in the Church -1Ki 21:25 There was none who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the LORD like Ahab, whom Jezebel his wife incited.]

The warning in Rev 2:20, to the Church of Thyatira, of sexual immorality and eating food sacrificed to idols is an extension of the warnings to be on guard for the wolves amongst the sheep given by the Apostle Paul : [parables of Mat 13:] [Topic Notes – Comparing]

Act 20:28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his

own blood

Act 20:29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

and reiterated in the 7 Letters as:

Sexual immorality = worship of anything other than Christ [SELF, fame, fortune, sex, drugs, rock and roll, , science, gia, ancestors, random chance... etc.]

Eating food offered to idols = Ecumenicalism – [going along with whatever so as to not be labeled as a trouble maker, racist, etc.- preservation and/or promotion of status]

Nicolaitans = deification of the clergy over the parishioners [Bishops, Cardinals, Popes, and other layers of government within the Church]

“The deep things of Satan” = Secret ceremonies that take the initiate into a higher class of knowledge (eg. Gnosticism) that opens a network of access and gives them a higher rung on the ladder than the ordinary peon.

Synagogue of Satan = Deceivers [claiming to be an apostle, prophet, or anything else, to build themselves up in the eyes of man instead of God]

Neither cold nor hot = non-committal [afraid to stand for the Lord so that you won't offend anyone's feelings and/or lose your status in their eyes]

Act 20:30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. [sinning and convincing others to do the same]

Rev 2:21 And I gave her space [time] to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

Rev 2:22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into [The] great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

Mat 7:21 ‘Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Rev 2:23 And I will kill her [Jezebel's] 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. [The Bema seat Judgement for Raptured believers; [Topic Notes – Crowns]

[or; If they miss the Rapture, they will be confronted with the choice of taking the Mark of the Beast, and the judgement thereof]

Rev 2:24 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.

Rev 2:25 But that which ye have *already* hold fast till I come.

Rev 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Rev 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

Rev 2:28 And I will give him the morning star.

Rev 2:29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Sardis = Denominational Church (late reformation), 1162-1522ad, era of corruption,

"In Name Only", Lesson = watchfulness and diligence [Lots of Names little difference]

From; Rev 3:1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. "I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

Good Report; Rev 3:4 Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, [been corrupted] and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.

Bad Report; Rev 3:2 Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God

Remedy; Rev 3:3 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

Rev 16:15 ("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!"),

2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord [starts with the Rapture and ends with the Return] will come like a thief, and then [After the White Throne Judgement] the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.,

1Th 5:2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

1Th 5:3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security,"

[The 7 years of peace after the Psalms 83 war at the 1st Trumpet Judgement]

then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. [The fall of Satan, (3rd Trumpet) the Rise of the Anti-Christ, (5th Trumpet) the Mark of the Beast, (6th Trumpet) the Eze 38:&39: war, (7th Trumpet) the Return of Christ (7th Bowl)]

1Th 5:4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.

1Th 5:5 For you are all children of light, [Instruction] children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. [Ignorance]

Individual's admonition; Rev 3:5 The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, [Justified, Sanctified, Glorified]

Rev 6:11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

3:6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Philadelphia= Missionary Church, 1522-1822ad, era of Revival, "Brotherly Love",

Lesson = outreach and the Rapture

From; Rev 3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. [**"open door" is a reference to the rapture**]

Isa 22:22 And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

Good Report; **Rev 3:8** "I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

Rev 3:9 Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you.

Rev 3:10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from [**the Rapture**] the hour of trial [**the Tribulation**] that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

Bad Report; None

Remedy; None

Individual's admonition; Rev 3:11 I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. [**Get ready, Be ready**]

Rev 3:12 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

[**Peoples names were inscribed on the Temple pillars in memorandum of good deeds**]

Rev 3:13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Laodicea = The Apostate Church, 1882ad>, era of complacency, "People Rule",

Lesson = repent, turn back to God

From; Rev 3:14 “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. [Joh1:1 >]

Good Report; None

Bad Report; Rev 3:15 “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! (for the gospel of salvation and the fellowship of the believers)

Rev 3:16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

Mat 7:22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’

Mat 7:23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

Rev 3:17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. [Topic Notes – Hosea]

Remedy; Rev 3:18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, (Purification/Justification) so that you may be rich, (Faith and Grace) and white garments (Sanctification) so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, (Justification) and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. (Receiving the Holy Spirit)

Rev 3:19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. (Jesus is outside of the Church!!) If anyone (individual, He has given up on the “Church”) hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. [John 3:16 - ...”whomsoever” ...]

Individual’s admonition; Rev 3:21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Rev 3:22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”