



A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF  
**REVELATION**



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## 1:12-16 SYMBOLISM IN REVELATION

- <sup>12</sup> *seven golden lampstands = churches; light-bearers*
- <sup>13</sup> *one like a son of man* = Jesus; sometimes angels
- *clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash = royalty; priesthood*
- <sup>14</sup> *His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow = purity; wisdom of the ages*
- *His eyes were like a flame of fire = righteous judgment*
- <sup>15</sup> *His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace = steady, solid foundation*
- *His voice was like the sound of many waters = majesty; authority; sovereignty*

## 1:12-16 SYBOLISM IN REVELATION

- *<sup>16</sup> In His right hand He held seven stars = messengers*
- *out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword = the Word of God*
- *His face was like the sun shining in its strength = strength; brilliance; glory; truth*

## 1:17-20

*<sup>17</sup> When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup> and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. <sup>19</sup> Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. <sup>20</sup> As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.*

## 1:17-20

- *<sup>17</sup> I fell at His feet like a dead man.... “Do not be afraid...
  - common Biblical admonition (366 times?)
  - John = “the disciple whom Jesus loved”*
- *<sup>18</sup> the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore*
  - *Living One became dead... behold... the dead one alive*
- *and I have the keys of death and of Hades.*
  - *Keys = symbol of power and authority and control*

## 1:17-20

- <sup>20</sup> *As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.*
  - *Angels* = ἄγγελοι (used 176 times in NT)
    - **Definition:** a messenger, delegate, angel
    - **Usage:** a messenger, generally a (supernatural) messenger from God, an angel, conveying news or behests from God to men.
  - *Lampstands* = Hebrew word would be *menorah*
    - *Churches* are to be “**light bearers**”

# Letters to the Seven Churches

## Revelation 2-3

**1:4**

***the seven churches that are in Asia:***



## Structure of the Letters

- Introduction/Description of Jesus
- Praise/Commendation
- Condemnation/Rebuke
- Charge/Challenge
- Promise/Consequences

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
	2:1-7	2:8-11	2:12-17	2:18-29	3:1-6	3:7-13	3:14-22
JESUS among the Lampstands	holds 7 stars & walks among 7 lampstands	the first and last, who died and came to life again	holds the sharp double-edged sword	eyes of blazing fire & feet of burnished bronze	holds 7 spirits of God and 7 stars	holy and true; holds key of David	the Amen, faithful witness, ruler of God's creation
I know your deeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>hard work &amp; perseverance,</li> <li>intolerance of evil &amp; falsehood</li> <li>hate Nicolaitan practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>afflictions &amp; poverty</li> <li>slander of synagogue of Satan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>where you live (Satan's throne)</li> <li>faithfulness (even to death – e.g. Antipas)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>deeds, love &amp; service</li> <li>perseverance</li> <li>doing more than at first</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>have kept word and not denied – Satan's synagogue will acknowledge</li> <li>endured patiently</li> </ul>	
But I have this against you...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>you have forsaken first love</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers like Balaam – idolatry &amp; sexual immorality</li> <li>Teachers of Nicolaitans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tolerate 'prophetess' Jezebel – sexual immorality &amp; idols</li> <li>she's had time to repent, so...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reputation of life but actually dead</li> <li>deeds not complete in my sight</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lukewarm</li> <li>not rich but pitiful, blind, naked</li> <li>I rebuke those I love:</li> </ul>
Repent... let him who has an ear hear what the Spirit says to the churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>do what you did at first</li> <li>or lampstand removed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>don't fear suffering (prison, persecution 10 days, death)</li> <li>be faithful (&amp; receive crown)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>repent</li> <li>or I will fight with sword of mouth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cast her on bed of suffering (adulterers also &amp; children die)</li> <li>God searches hearts and repays</li> <li>Hold on to gospel not jezebel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wake up</li> <li>Strengthen what's dying</li> <li>Remember &amp; Obey what heard</li> <li>Or I will come (like a thief in night)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold on to your crown (I'm coming soon)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repent</li> <li>Buy gold, clothes &amp; salve (to overcome poverty, nakedness and blindness)</li> <li>Open door (to eat with Christ)</li> </ul>
For all who overcome...	right to eat from tree of life in paradise	not hurt by the second death	I will give hidden manna, white stone with new hidden name	I will give authority over nations (Ps2:9) & the morning star	a few who have not soiled – dressed in white and in book of life	a pillar in temple – never leave; name of God, city & new name	right to sit with me on my throne (just as he did with Father)
7 Virtues for ALL churches	Love Jesus	Endure Persecution	Teach Soundly	Don't tolerate evil	Spiritually Alive	Wait Patiently	Be Humbly Dependent

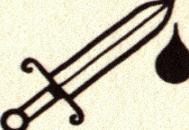
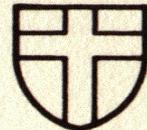
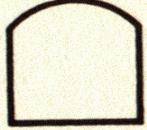
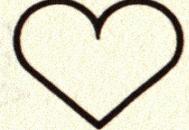
# Ways to interpret the Letters

Four possible audiences addressed in Revelation 2-3:

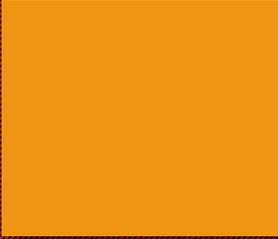
- The literal churches
- Saints “*who have an ear to hear*”
- Seven Church types
- Seven Church ages

# An example of the "Seven Church Ages" interpretation

## THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION

	 EPHESUS The Apostolic Church Rev. 2:1-7	 SMYRNA The Persecuted Church Rev. 2:8-11	 PERGAMUM The Indulged Church Rev. 2:12-17	 THYATIRA The Pagan Church Rev. 2:18-29	 SARDIS The Dead Church Rev. 3:1-6	 PHILADELPHIA The Church Christ Loved Rev. 3:7-13	 LAODICEA The Lukewarm Church Rev. 3:14-22 RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH
	A.D. 30-100	A.D. 100-312	A.D. 312-606	A.D. 606-Tribulation	A.D. 1520-Tribulation Protestant Reformation	A.D. 1750-Rapture	A.D. 1900-Tribulation
COMMENDATION I know your. . .	Good works, labor, patience. Hated Nicolaitians.	Works, tribulation, poverty.	Works. Held fast my name. Has not denied my faith.	Good works, love, service, faith, patience.	Works. A name that you live.	Works. Missions. Little strength. Kept my word. Not denied my name.	Not one word!
CONDEMNATION	You have left your first love.	Not one word!	You have false teachers of Balaam and the Nicolaitans.	You allow Jezebel to teach idolatry and compromise.	You are dead. Works not complete.	Not one word!	You are lukewarm, wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.
COUNSEL I counsel you. . .	Remember from where you are fallen and repent.	Fear not. Be faithful.	Repent.	Hold fast what you have until I come.	Watch. Strengthen the things that remain. Remember, hold fast and repent.	Hold fast what you have.	Buy gold tried by fire and white raiment. Anoint your eyes. Be zealous and repent.
CHALLENGE To him that overcomes. . .	Will give to eat of the tree of life	Will not be hurt by the second death.	Will give hidden manna and a white stone.	Will give millennial leadership and the Morning Star.	Will be clothed in white raiment. I will not blot his name out of the book of life.	Will make him a pillar and write upon him the name of God and My new name.	Will grant to sit with me on my throne.

# Ephesus - Revelation 2:1-7



## Ephesus - Revelation 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup> *“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:*

*The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:*

<sup>2</sup> *‘I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; <sup>3</sup> and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary. <sup>4</sup> But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. <sup>5</sup> Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place— unless you repent. <sup>6</sup> Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. <sup>7</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.’*

# Ephesus - Revelation 2:1-7

- Introduction/Description of Jesus

*<sup>1</sup>The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:*

- Praise/Commendation

1. *<sup>2</sup> I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance,*
2. *and that you cannot tolerate evil men,*
3. *and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;*
4. *<sup>3</sup> and you have perseverance (bear under) and have endured (take up) for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. (collapse under exhaustion)*

# Ephesus - Revelation 2:1-7

- Condemnation/Rebuke <sup>4</sup> *But I have this against you, that you have left (abandoned/forsaken) your first love.*
- Charge/Challenge
  1. <sup>5</sup> *Therefore remember (keep remembering) from where you have fallen,*
    - *Have you ever been closer to the Lord than you are today? If so, you need revival!*
  2. *and repent = μετανόησον **Definition:** to change one's mind or purpose*
  3. *and do the deeds you did at first*

# Ephesus - Revelation 2:1-7

- Consequences

*or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent. <sup>6</sup> Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

- Nicolaitans = freedom in Christ as a license for evil: also in Pergamum
- Ephesus in Acts 19 – magic books burned, Temple of Diana prostitution, emperor cult

- Promise <sup>7</sup> ***He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.***

*To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'*

- overcomes = νικῶν (root word "Nike" = "victory") 17 times in Revelation (8x in letters)
- Tree of life/Paradise of God = reverse the curse! The original creation...

## Ephesus - Revelation 2:1-7



*The amphitheater where the riot in Acts 19 broke out has also been the venue for rallies and concerts. Sting, Elton John, and Diana Ross are among those who have performed there. Photo by Karrie Sparrow.*

# Ephesus - Revelation 2:1-7

- Message:
  1. Remember
  2. Repent
  3. Re-do

End Here *May 27th*

Begin Here June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

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