

The Book of

REVELATION

The word 'REVELATION' is rendered in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are filled with a dark blue color and are overlaid with a dynamic, glowing effect of purple and yellow lightning bolts. The lightning bolts are most prominent in the 'E', 'L', and 'A' characters, creating a sense of intense energy and divine revelation.

Lesson 2

Chapter 2:1-11

Look for the answer to these questions:

1. What are the FIVE parts of the Lord's messages to the churches?
2. In Rev 2:3, what are three things the church at Ephesus was praised for?
3. In Rev. 2:4, what were they reprovved for?
4. In Rev. 2:5, what are the three things they needed to do to recover?
5. What did the Lord say would happen if they did not obey his counsel?
6. In Rev. 2:7, what does the Lord give "to him that overcometh"?
7. The church in Ephesus was threatened by false _____,
and the church in Smyrna was threatened by false _____.
8. Which one of these two churches was NOT reprovved by the LORD?
9. In Rev. 2:10, what does the Lord promise Christians who are faithful unto death?
10. In Rev. 2:11, who is not hurt by the second death?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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Part 1: ... the things which thou hast seen 1:1-20

Part 2: ... the things which are 2:1 to 3:22

Part 3: ... the things which shall be hereafter 4:1 to 22:21

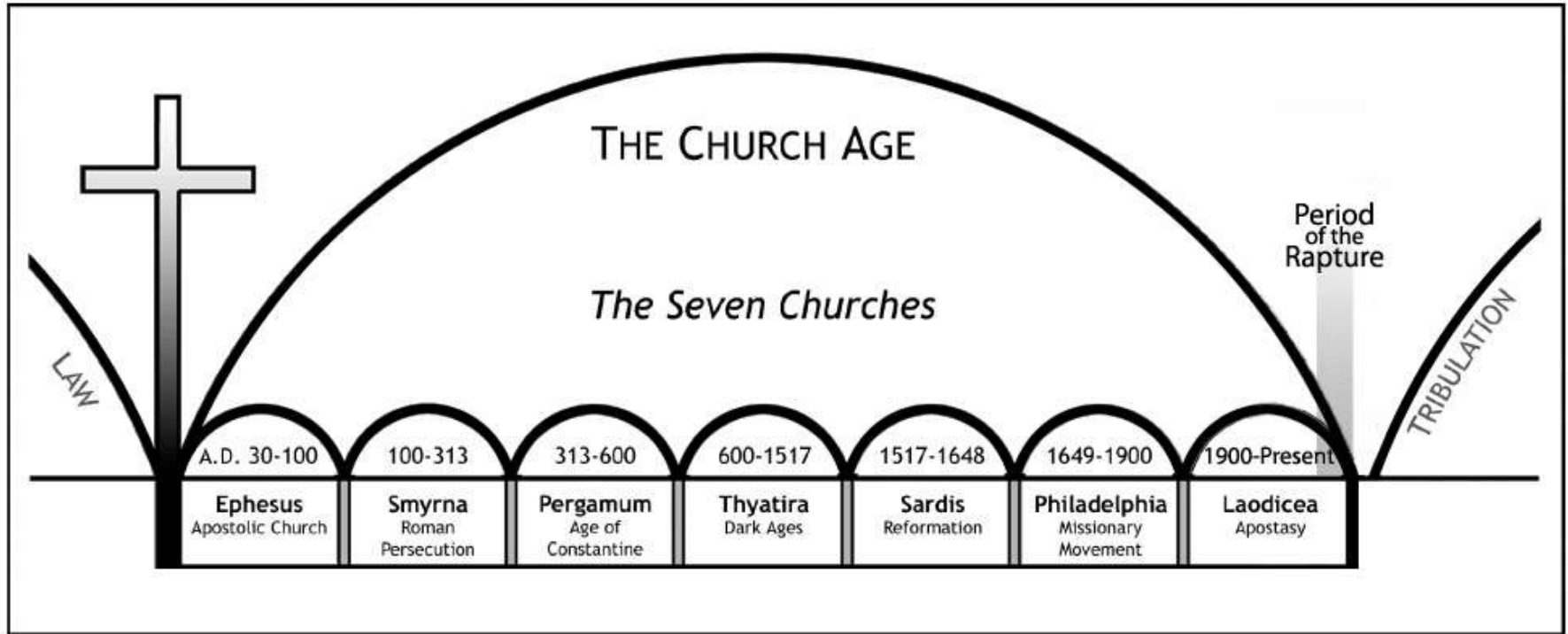
Part Two of the Book of Revelation contains the messages from the Lord to “the seven churches which are in Asia.”

THE SEVEN CHURCHES:

Revelation 1:11b

... unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna,
and unto Pergamos, and unto
Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto
Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.





Some scholars believe that each of the seven churches represent a certain time in church history. This may be true, but that will not be the focus of this lesson.

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



EPHESUS



SMYRNA

In this lesson, we will study the Lord's message to the first two churches.

A BACKSLIDING
CHURCH

A STEADFAST
CHURCH



Salutation



Commendation



Rebuke



Admonition



Exhortation

The seven messages follow this pattern :

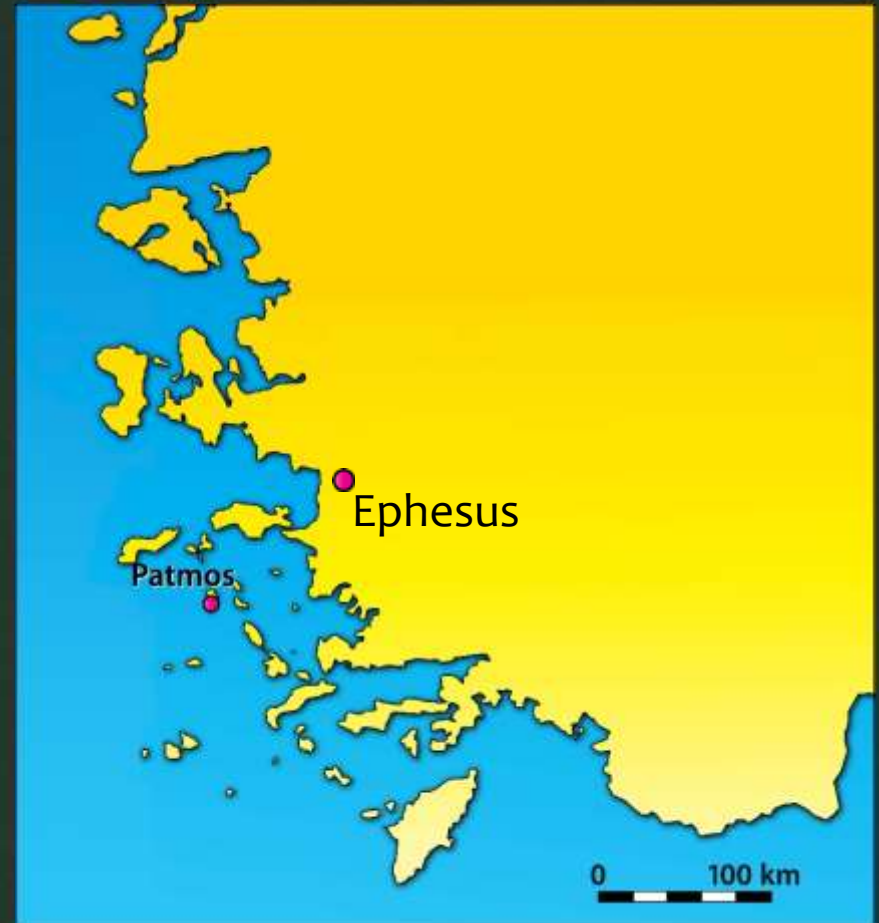
- 1) A SALUTATION or greeting
- 2) A COMMENDATION or word of praise
- 3) A REBUKE or word of disapproval
- 4) An ADMONITION or word of counsel
- 5) An EXHORTATION or word of encouragement

To the church of Ephesus

Salutation

Revelation 2:1

- ¹ Unto the angel of the church of **Ephesus** write;
These things saith he that holdeth
the seven stars in his right hand,
who walketh in the midst of the
seven golden candlesticks;



Salutation

Revelation 2:1

¹ Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith **he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;**



Each salutation has something from John's vision of Christ in Chapter One.

To the church of Ephesus

Salutation

Revelation 2:1

¹ Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith **he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;**



And in the midst of the seven candlesticks
one like unto the Son of man ...
And he had in his right hand seven stars ...
(Rev. 1:13 and 16)

To the church of Ephesus

Salutation

Revelation 2:1

¹ Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write;
These things saith **he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;**

Do you remember the meaning of the seven stars and seven candlesticks?

Revelation 1:20b

The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches:
and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.



To the church of Ephesus

Salutation

Revelation 2:1

¹ Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write;
These things saith **he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;**

The emphasis here is on the one who HOLDS the stars and candlesticks.

Do you remember the meaning of the seven stars and seven candlesticks?

Revelation 1:20b

The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches:
and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.



Commendation

Revelation 2:2a

² I know thy works,

After the Salutation comes the Commendation, or word of praise. This part always begins with the phrase, “I know thy works.”

Nothing is hidden from Jesus, the living Word of God. He knows our innermost thoughts and works.



Commendation

Revelation 2:2a

9 I know thy works,

Hebrews 4:12-13

- ¹² For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- ¹³ Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.



To the church of Ephesus

Commendation

Revelation 2:2a

² I know thy works,

What we read here is like a *preview* of the Judgment Seat of Christ. It cannot be the *final* judgment because

- 1) Christians will be judged individually and not collectively, and
- 2) here, each church is given the opportunity to improve.



Commendation

Revelation 2:2-3

- ² I know thy works,
and thy labour, and thy patience,
and how thou canst not bear them
which are evil:
and thou hast tried them which say
they are apostles, and are not, and
hast found them liars:
- ³ And hast borne, and hast patience,
and for my name's sake hast
laboured, and hast not fainted.

The Lord praised the church for being patient and steadfast, and for separating the wolves from the sheep.



Commendation

Revelation 2:2-3

- ² I know thy works,
and thy labour, and thy patience,
and how thou canst not bear them
which are evil:
and thou hast tried them which say
they are apostles, and are not, and
hast found them liars:
- ³ **And hast borne, and hast patience,
and for my name's sake hast
laboured, and hast not fainted.**

- ³ You have persevered and have
endured hardships for my name,
and have not grown weary.

[Rev. 2:3 NIV]

To the church of Ephesus

Rebuke

Revelation 2:4

4 *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee,*
because thou hast left thy first
love.

But something was not right, and so
the Lord needed to rebuke the church.

Rebuke

Revelation 2:4

4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee,
because thou hast left thy first love.

Their love for God had grown cold. This happens when the work of the ministry seems to be only that – work. They had forgotten WHY we serve God.

1 John 3:16

¹⁶ Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

Admonition

Revelation 2:5

⁵ Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Now, with an ADMONITION or word of counsel, Christ shows the way back to that love – along with a warning of what will happen if they continue in their error.



Admonition

Revelation 2:5

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.



NELSON KJV STUDY BIBLE

The remedy for their lost love has three parts:

1. **remember** your former devotion to Christ;
2. **repent** of the present lack of love and devotion; and
3. **do** the things that were characteristic of your devotion in its earlier years.”

Admonition

Revelation 2:5

⁵ Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

If they did not repent, they would lose their church. (Remember that the candlesticks are churches.) The building might remain, and even some of the people, but the Lord's blessing would not be there.



To the church of Ephesus

Admonition

Revelation 2:6

⁶ But this thou hast,
that thou hatest the deeds of
the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

The Lord praised the church for hating
the works of evil doers.



Admonition

Revelation 2:6

⁶ But this thou hast,
that thou hatest the deeds of
the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Many bible scholars believe that the Nicolaitans were a sect of libertines.



Admonition

Revelation 2:6

⁶ But this thou hast,
that thou hatest the deeds of
the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Many bible scholars believe that the Nicolaitans were a sect of libertines.

A libertine is someone who “lives without restraint of the animal passion; one who indulges his lust without restraint; one who leads a dissolute, licentious life.”

Webster's 1828 Dictionary



Admonition

Revelation 2:6

⁶ But this thou hast,
that thou hatest the deeds of
the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

The liberty we have in Christ does not permit Christians to live in lasciviousness (lustfulness).

Jude 1:4

For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Admonition

Revelation 2:6

⁶ But this thou hast,
that thou hatest the deeds of
the Nicolaitans, **which I also hate.**

Some people are surprised that the
God of LOVE can also HATE.

Proverbs 6:16-19

- ¹⁶ These six *things* doth the LORD hate:
yea, seven *are* an abomination unto
him:
- ¹⁷ A proud look, a lying tongue, and
hands that shed innocent blood,
- ¹⁸ An heart that deviseth wicked
imaginings, feet that be swift in
running to mischief,
- ¹⁹ A false witness *that* speaketh lies,
and he that soweth discord among
brethren.

Admonition

Revelation 2:6

⁶ But this thou hast,
that thou hatest the deeds of
the Nicolaitans, **which I also hate.**

If you love the Word of God, you will
hate false doctrines.

Psalms 119:104

¹⁰⁴ Through thy precepts I get
understanding:
therefore I hate every false way.



To the church of Ephesus

Exhortation

Revelation 2:7a

⁷ He that hath an ear,
let him hear what the Spirit saith
unto the churches;

Each of the churches received an
exhortation – a word of
encouragement – that begins with
these same words:



To the church of Ephesus

Exhortation

Revelation 2:7a

⁷ He that hath an ear,
let him hear what the Spirit saith
unto the churches;



MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY

“What is said to one church
concerns all the churches,
in every place and age.”

To the church of Ephesus

Exhortation

Revelation 2:7b

⁷ To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.



Exhortation

Revelation 2:7b

- 7 **To him that overcometh** will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

The children of God overcome evil through their faith in Christ.

1 John 5:4-5

- 4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even our faith.*
- 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

To the church of Ephesus

Exhortation

Revelation 2:7b

- 7 To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

This great promise is even more wonderful when you remember that in Genesis 3, Adam and Eve were sent out of Eden and away from the tree of life.





Genesis 3:22-24

- ²² And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:
- ²³ Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.
- ²⁴ So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

To the church of Ephesus

Exhortation

Revelation 2:7b

7 To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, **which is in the midst of the paradise of God.**

Later, in Chapter 22, we will read of a new tree of life in New Jerusalem.

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



EPHESUS

(Rev. 2:1-7)

Once on fire for Christ, but now becoming indifferent.

This is what we learned about the church at Ephesus.

A BACKSLIDING CHURCH

CRITICISM:
“Thou hast left thy first love...”

COUNSEL:
“Remember..., repent, and do.”

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



EPHESUS **UP NEXT**

SMYRNA

(Rev. 2:1-7)

Once on fire for Christ, but now becoming indifferent.

A BACKSLIDING CHURCH

A STEADFAST CHURCH

CRITICISM:
"Thou hast left thy first love..."

COUNSEL:
"Remember..., repent, and do."

To the church in Smyrna

Salutation

Revelation 2:8

⁸ And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write;

These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;



To the church in Smyrna

Salutation

Revelation 2:8

⁸ And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write;

These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;



...I am the first and the last:
I am he that liveth, and was dead...
(Rev. 1:16b and 17a)



To the church in Smyrna

Commendation

Revelation 2:9

9 *I know thy works*, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.



To the church in Smyrna

Commendation

Revelation 2:9

⁹ I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, **(but thou art rich)** and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.

They were poor in material goods, but they were rich in the Lord.

James 2:5

⁵ Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?



To the church in Smyrna

Commendation

Revelation 2:9

9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.*

This church was also attacked by deceivers. False Jews tried to masquerade as God's chosen people in order to infiltrate the church, but their blasphemous behavior exposed them.



To the church in Smyrna

NO Rebuke!



Of the seven churches, only two received **no rebuke** from the Lord. The church at Smyrna is the first.

To the church in Smyrna

Admonition

Revelation 2:10

¹⁰ Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

The Lord's admonished this church to be courageous in the face of persecution.



Admonition

Revelation 2:10

¹⁰ Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some of you* into prison, that ye may be tried; *and ye shall have tribulation ten days:* be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Our suffering for our faith will not be universal (“some of you”, not all of you), and it will not be endless (it will last “ten days”).



Admonition

Revelation 2:10

¹⁰ Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days:
**be thou faithful unto death,
and I will give thee a crown of life.**

Our suffering for our faith will not be universal (“some of you”, not all of you), and it will not be endless (it will last “ten days”).

But it will be rewarded.



Admonition

Revelation 2:10

¹⁰ Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, **that ye may be tried**; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, **and I will give thee a crown of life.**

This is much like what we read in James 1:12:

Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

To the church in Smyrna

Exhortation

Revelation 2:11

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**.

In all seven messages, the Lord's
exhortation is to "he that overcometh."



Exhortation

Revelation 2:11

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**.

The *second death* follows the
resurrection and judgment of the *unjust*.
This is when the wicked are destroyed.

Psalm 104:35

³⁵ Let the sinners be consumed out of
the earth, and let the wicked be no
more. Bless thou the LORD, O my
soul. Praise ye the LORD.



THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



EPHESUS

SMYRNA

(Rev. 2:1-7)

Once on fire for Christ, but now becoming indifferent.

(Rev. 2:8-11)

Persecuted, poor, but ever faithful and resolute!

A BACKSLIDING CHURCH

A STEADFAST CHURCH

CRITICISM:
“Thou hast left thy first love...”

NO CRITICISM!

COUNSEL:
“Remember..., repent, and do.”

COUNSEL:
“Be faithful unto death.”

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

Part 2: The Things Which Are 2:1 to 3:22

2:1-7 To the church at Ephesus

2:8-11 To the church at Smyrna

2:12-17 To the church at Pergamos

UP NEXT

We will continue our study of the Lord's messages to
"the seven churches which are in Asia" in the next lesson.

Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. What are the FIVE parts of the Lord's messages to the churches?
2. In Rev 2:3, what are three things the church at Ephesus was praised for?
3. In Rev. 2:4, what were they reprovved for?
4. In Rev. 2:5, what are the three things they needed to do to recover?
5. What did the Lord say would happen if they did not obey his counsel?
6. In Rev. 2:7, what does the Lord give "to him that overcometh"?
7. The church in Ephesus was threatened by false _____,
and the church in Smyrna was threatened by false _____.
8. Which one of these two churches was NOT reprovved by the LORD?
9. In Rev. 2:10, what does the Lord promise Christians who are faithful unto death?
10. In Rev. 2:11, who is not hurt by the second death?

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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