

The Seven Churches of Revelation Outline

There are four levels of application for each letter:

Local – Each church written to had the current issues, and were real

Admonitory – Each letter was to be given to the other six churches as well as the one it was addressed to

Homiletic - Each letter carries a personal message to the individual in that church as well as to us

Prophetic – Each church gives an outline of the history of the church; past, present, and future

- If these churches were in any other order, it could not represent the 2,000 year church history
- With the seven design elements of each letter, it keeps with the heptadic structure you see throughout the book of Revelation
- The most troubling observation is each church seemed surprised at their report card.
Read **Matthew 25:31-46** to get a glimpse outside of the seven letters on this observation.

-The seven design elements are:

-*The name of the church and its meaning*

-*The title of Christ He gives Himself*

-*The commendation to that church*

-*The concerns of that church*

-*The promise to the overcomer*

-*“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches”*

An observation is that the phrase “**He that hath an ear...**” is before the promise to the overcomer in the first three letters and it is after the promise to the overcomer in the last four letters.

The letter to the Church at *Ephesus* – **Revelation 2:1-7**

The name of the church is Ephesus and means *Desired One or Darling*.

The title of Christ is “*He that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks*”. An observation is that lampstands were around Him and in His hand. The emphasis would be that He is among us AND in control.

The commendation is “*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: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name’s sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.*”

The concern is “*Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*”

The exhortation is *“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. But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”*

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches”

The promise to the overcomer is *“I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”*

The letter to the church at *Smyrna* – **Revelation 2:8-11**

The name of the church is Smyrna and comes from the root word “*mur*” meaning *death*. It is the basis for myrrh which is spice and is mainly used for embalming. An observation is the characteristic smell is given when the actual mixture is crushed which was very descriptive of the church at that point.

The title of Christ is *“the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive”*

The commendation is *“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.”*

The concerns? There are none. There are two churches with no concerns written to them: Smyrna and Philadelphia.

The exhortation is *“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.”*

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches”

The promise to the overcomer is *“He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.”*

The letter to the church at *Pergamos* – **Revelation 2:12-17**

The name of the church is Pergamos and comes from two root words. “*Per*” which means *mixed or objectionable* and “*gamos*” which means *marriage*. An observation is the old “if you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em” came into play here when the world married the church in the history of the church.

The title of Christ is *“... He which hath the sharp sword with two edges...”*

The commendation is *“I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan’s seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.”*

The concerns are *“But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.”*

The exhortation is *“Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.”*

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches”

The promise to the overcomer is *“To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.”*

The letter to the church at **Thyatira** – **Revelation 2:18-29**

The name of the church is Thyatira and was previously named Semeramus. A glaring observation is she was the consort of Nimrod and mother of Tamuz. These are the basis of the Catholic religion and were replaced with Jesus and Mary.

The title of Christ is *“the Son of God”*

The commendation is *“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.”*

The concerns are *“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 idols.”*

The exhortation is *“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. But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.”*

The promise to the overcomer is *“And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 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. And I will give him the morning star.”*

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

The letter to the church at **Sardis** – **Revelation 3:1-6**

The name of the church is Sardis and through much research there is only speculation as to what the name means. An observation is that the church, and city for that matter, were known to be pious about who they were. Perhaps the Lord gave them this because their name really means nothing without Him.

The title of Christ is *“He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars”*

Commendations? There are none. This is one of the two churches where nothing good is given by the Lord. The other is the church at Laodicea.

The concerns are *“I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.”*

The exhortation is *“Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.”*

The promise to the overcomer is *“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”*

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

The letter to the church at **Philadelphia** – **Revelation 3:7-13**

The name of the church is Philadelphia and is from two roots. The first is *phileo* which means *friendly or favorable to*. The second is *delphi* which basically means *town or city*.

The title of Christ is *“He that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth.”*

The commendation is *“I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.”*

Concerns? Remember that this is the second of the two churches which nothing negative was said about; the other was Smyrna.

The exhortation is *“Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.”*

The promise to the overcomer is *“Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.”*

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

The letter to the church at **Laodicea – Revelation 3:14-22**

The name of the church is Laodicea and the root word “lao” is *the people or the laity*. The jest of this name shows the people as rulers of the church instead of Jesus.

The title of Christ is *“The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God”*

Commendations? Remember that this is the second of the two churches of which nothing good is said about. The first was Sardis.

The concerns are *“I know thy works, that thou are neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked”*

The exhortation is *“I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent”*

The promise to the overcomer is *“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”*

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the church.”