

71 - The Seven Churches of Revelation

The Seven Churches (Candlesticks - Lampstands)


Church	Description of Jesus	Commendation	Rebuke	Counsel	Promise to Overcomers	Penalty for Apostasy
Ephesus (2:1-7)	Holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks.	Persistent labor for Christ, hatred of evil and the Nicolaitanes, tried false apostles.	Left their first love (Jesus Christ)	Remember where you fell from, repent and do your first works.	Will give to eat of the tree of life which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.	I will come quickly and remove their candlestick out of his place.
Smyrna (2:8-11)	The first and last, Which was dead and is alive.	Works and tribulation and poverty (but they are rich). Endured blasphemy from false Jews.	None	Don't fear anything. The devil will cast some into prison for 10 days.	Be faithful until death and you will be given a crown of life and shall not be hurt of the second death.	None
Pergamos (2:12-17)	He which has the sharp sword with two edges.	Held fast My name and have not denied My faith even when Antipas, My faithful martyr, was slayed where Satan dwells.	Some that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the Israelites... Idol worship and fornication. Also some hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitines.	Repent	Will give to eat of the hidden manna and will give a white stone with a new name that no man will know except he that receives it.	I Will come quickly and fight against them with the sword of My mouth.
Thyatira (2:18-29)	The Son of God who has eyes like a flame of fire and feet like fine brass.	Works, charity, service, faith, patience, and works. The last is more than the first.	Allow that woman Jezebel (prophetess) to teach and seduce Christians to commit fornication and eat things sacrificed to idols.	Hold fast to the things that you have already.	Will put no further burden. Will give power over the nations to rule them with an iron rod. Will also give them the morning star.	I Will cast those that associate with Jezebel into great tribulation and will kill them (her children).
Sardis (3:1-6)	He that has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars.	There are a few who have not defiled their garments.	You have works and a name that supports you as being alive but you are in fact dead.	Remember that you have received and heard the truth so hold fast and repent.	Shall be clothed in white and will not have their name removed from the book of life.	If you don't watch, I will come on you like a thief and you will not know what hour I will come.
Philadelphia (3:7-13)	He that is Holy and True and has the key of David. What He opens no man shuts and shuts and no man can open.	Have works and Jesus has set an open door that no man can shut. You have little strength but have kept My word and have not denied My name.	None	Hold fast to what you have so that no man will take your crown.	Will keep you from the hour of temptation which shall come upon the whole world. Will make you a pillar in the Temple of God (the new Jerusalem).	Those of the synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews but are not will worship you and know that I have loved you.
Laodicea (3:14-22)	The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of creation of God.	None	Your works are not hot or cold but lukewarm. You say you are rich but are poor and wretched.	Buy from Me gold that has been tried in the fire so you may be clothed in white. Be zealous and repent.	I grant to sit with Me in My throne as I sit with My Father in His throne.	I rebuke and chasten those who I love.

Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3 —

- 1 Ephesus
- 2 Smyrna
- 3 Pergamos
- 4 Thyatira
- 5 Sardis
- 6 Philadelphia
- 7 Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision



There are two theories that compare the seven churches listed in Revelation to a particular era in time as well as seven parables Jesus told. Both of these theories have valid aspects but I believe that the seven churches were both literal churches during the time of John as well as examples of how particular churches have been described throughout history since the day of pentecost.

Church Comparison Theories			
Church	Associated Period	Timespan	Kingdom Parable
Ephesus	Apostolic Era	33-64 A.D.	The Sower and the Soils Matthew (13:1-23)
Smyrna	Period of Persecution	64-313 A.D.	The Tares Among the Wheat Matthew (13:24-30;36-43)
Pergamum	Era of Official Patronage	313-606 A.D.	The Mustard Seed Matthew (13:31-32)
Thyatira	Middle (Dark) Ages	606-1520 A.D.	The Leaven (Yeast) Matthew (13:33)
Sardis	Protestant Reformation	1520-1750 A.D.	The Hidden Treasure Matthew (13:44)
Philadelphia	Missionary Era	1750-1900 A.D.	The Pearl of Great Price Matthew (13:45-46)
Laodicea	Modern Period	1900-Present	The Dragnet of Fish Matthew (13:47-50)