

The Book of Revelation

#3 - Jesus' Messages to the Seven Churches

Memory Verse - Hand Out Scriptures to read

Revelation 3:21 *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*

The word "Tree" = 11 times

The word "Sea" is found 26 times in Revelation

The word "Earth" is found 68 times

Revelation 1:4–5 (NKJV) *John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,*

Revelation 1:11 (NKJV) *saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."* **MAP**

Genesis 7:2 (NKJV) *You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female;*

***Genesis 7:10** (NKJV) *And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth.*

Isaiah 4:1 (NKJV) *And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, "We will eat our own food and wear our own apparel; Only let us be called by your name, To take away our reproach."*

Chapters 2, 3 Seven Ages and Stages of a church

These were not the only churches in Asia so the number means something. **Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis Philadelphia, Laodicea.**

1. Ephesus = "Desirable" the Loveless church (2:1-7)
2. Smyrna = Myrrh the persecuted church (2:8-11)
3. Pergamos = Height; Elevation the tolerant church (2:12-17)
4. Thyatira = High Tower; the compromising church (2:18-29).
5. Sardis = Prince Of Joy, the Nominal church (3:1-6).
6. Philadelphia = Brotherly Love, the missionary church (3:7-13)
7. Laodicea = Judged people, the arrogant church (3:14-22)

A Little Review – Ephesus A.D. 30 to 100

Revelation 2:5 (NKJV) *Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.*

Remember, Repent Repeat.

Romans 16:26 (NKJV) *but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—*

Colossians 1:5–6 (NKJV) *because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as it has also in all the world,...*

Colossians 1:23 (NKJV) *... the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven...*

Christ's Messages to Smyrna and Pergamum A.D. 100 to 538

Christians were viciously persecuted by the Roman Empire. The "ten days" mentioned in Revelation 2:10 point to the ten years of the Diocletian persecution from A.D. 303 until A.D. 313.

While most of them in Pergamum remained faithful, some, the "Nicolaitans," advocated compromise with paganism in order to avoid persecution.

All Seven Churches have a promise.

2 had no warning, Smyrna & Philadelphia

All are encouraged to Overcome

Christ's Message to Thyatira A.D. 538 to 1565

Revelation 2:18–29 (NKJV) *"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: ¹⁹ "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. ²⁰ Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce my servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. ²¹ And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. ²² Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. ²³ I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. ²⁴ "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known*

the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. ²⁵ *But hold fast what you have till I come.* ²⁶ *And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—* ²⁷ *‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’— as I also have received from My Father;* ²⁸ *and I will give him the morning star.* ²⁹ *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’*

Christ’s Message to Sardis A.D. 1565 to 1740

The ancient city had been built on top of a steep hill and was nearly impregnable. Because the citizens felt so secure, the city walls were guarded carelessly.

The church degenerated into lifeless formalism and complacency.

Matthew 24:42–44 *Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*

Isaiah 61:10 (NKJV) *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,...*

Christ’s Message to Philadelphia 1740 to 1844

Revelation 3:7 (NKJV) *“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”:*

Isaiah 22:22 (NKJV) *The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open.*

Matthew 16:19 (NKJV) *And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

Revelation 3:8–9 *“I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. ⁹ Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.*

Isaiah 60:14 (NKJV) *Also the sons of those who afflicted you Shall come bowing to you, And all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the*

soles of your feet; And they shall call you The City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

John & Charles Wesley, George Whitefield

Christians in Laodicea A.D. 1844 to present

Laodicea, a wealthy city situated on a major trade road. It was famous for its woolen manufacturing industry, its banks (which held a vast quantity of gold); and a medical school which produced eye salve. The prosperity of Laodicea filled its citizens with self-sufficiency. Around A.D. 60, when an earthquake destroyed the city, the citizens declined an offer of assistance from Rome, claiming to have all they needed to do the job. Since the city lacked water, it was supplied through an aqueduct that came from the hot springs at Hierapolis. The source was six miles distant from Laodicea, so the water became lukewarm by the time it got there. It was tepid, unclean, and undrinkable, the kind of water that makes you sick, that you might spit or vomit out of your mouth, as Jesus is said to do, metaphorically speaking, with the entire Laodicean church.

They claimed to be rich and in need of nothing; yet, they were poor, naked, and blind to their spiritual condition.

2 Timothy 3:1–5 (NKJV) *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*

Isaiah 65:12 (NKJV) *Therefore I will number you for the sword, And you shall all bow down to the slaughter; Because, when I called, you did not answer; When I spoke, you did not hear, But did evil before My eyes, And chose that in which I do not delight.”*