



YET TO COME: Lesson 12 (Apr 20/21, 2021)

Letters to the Churches, The Throne of God in Heaven

Read Revelation 2–3

1. What kind of letter do you suppose Jesus would send to the church in America these days? What would be commended, what would be condemned, and to what hope would we be called?

2. Jesus fully commends only two of the seven churches, those in Smyrna and Philadelphia. What do these two churches have in common that pleases the Lord? Does it save them from persecution?

3. Jesus “knows the works” of these churches and judges them accordingly. How do you reconcile this with salvation by faith alone?

4. Based on the totality of Jesus’s letters to these churches, how would you judge the overall health of the early church? What is the danger of “romanticizing” early Christianity?

5. Jesus repeats the statement “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” in his message for each church. Why is this so important that it needs to be repeated seven times? Re-read Acts 7:51–57 to see what Stephen had to say about this.

6. Based on the contents of the letters to the seven churches, what would be your reaction if Jesus were to address a letter to you describing your spiritual health?

7. Revelation is often considered to be a book of prophecy, concerned with end times. As you read and ponder the seven letters to the churches how do they impact your view of Revelation?



Read Rev 4:1–11 (and 5:1–14 to be blessed by the rest of the story)

8. What is your initial reaction as you read about what it is like to be in the presence of the throne of God?

Note: In verse 4:5 the seven burning torches are described as being “the seven spirits of God.” John is referring to the Holy Spirit, using the number of completion/fullness, seven, to symbolize the Holy Spirit’s own perfection.

9. How does the use of symbolic language add deeper meaning to our understanding of God? See Revelation 1:4, 3:1, 5:6, and Zechariah 4:10 for other examples connecting ‘seven’ to the Holy Spirit and Christ.

10. Considering the entirety of Revelation 4, what is the “chief end” for these heavenly creatures and elders standing before and around the throne of God?

11. The word “throne” is used 14 times in these eleven verses. What attribute of the Lord God Almighty is being emphasized?

12. Most Christians know that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Prov 9:10). How does this chapter help you to understand what this means?

13. How do the images used by John portraying the indescribable nature of the throne room of God compare with contemporary images of heaven?

14. In what areas of your life do you need a revelation of the glory, honor, and power of God?

15. The twenty-four elders worship the one who is seated on the throne. Why do they say that “our Lord and God” is worthy of worship? How does this connect John’s vision to the first sentence in the Bible?