

## The Seven Churches of Revelation

**Note:** As we wrap up our series on the “Seven Churches of Revelation,” the Resource Ministry would like to invite you to reflect on all that we have learned, and even to go deeper in your study. We encourage you to get together with others to complete the following chart. For each church, you are provided with a brief historical description as well as a picture of the church location; you are then asked to use your Bible to fill in the following information: the description that Jesus gives of Himself to the church, the recommendation(s) that He gives, the rebuke or grievance that He states, and the promise(s) that He gives to “the one who overcomes.” The first church is *partially* completed for you as an example. Finally, there are questions for reflection and areas of prayer to help bridge the gap between the mental accumulation of information and heart application. May the Lord bless, encourage, and edify you as you work through this chart.



# The Church in Ephesus

Passage	Brief contextual or historical fact about church and location:	Description of Jesus given ("He who..."):	Commendation:	Grievance:	Promises to the one who overcomes:	Questions for reflection:	Prayer point:
<p><b>Revelation 2: 1-7</b></p>	<p>City of great significance in Asia Minor, known for its pagan worship of Artemis (also known as Diana, in Greek), which took place in a vast temple. The city's harbor and roadway system made it a highly accessible place. The temple played a large role in Ephesian life, economy and culture.</p> <p>The church of Ephesus was established by Paul during his second missionary journey.</p> <p>Sources:            -John McArthur Study Bible pp. 1993-1994            -Got Questions: What is the significance of Ephesus in the Bible? <a href="https://www.gotquestions.org/Ephesus-in-the-Bible.html">https://www.gotquestions.org/Ephesus-in-the-Bible.html</a>            -Pray.org: The Church In Ephesus <a href="https://www.pray.org/blog/the-church-in-ephesus/">https://www.pray.org/blog/the-church-in-ephesus/</a></p>	<p>-He who holds the seven stars in His right hand.</p>	<p>-Works            -Labor            -            -            -</p>	<p>-Left their first love</p>	<p>-Will give to eat from the tree of life</p>	<p>What typically motivates my work for Christ? (eg. love for God, love for people, fear of judgment, guilt, etc.?)</p> <p>Can I remember a time in my walk when my affections for Christ were greater than they are now? What seems to help my affections to grow? What seems to hinder my affections towards the Lord?</p>	<p>Select at least one of the following characteristics. Pray that the Lord would grow this trait in you:            -Filled with good works            -Steadfast in labor            -Patience            -Perseverance            -Love for what He loves; hatred for what He hates.</p> <p>If you have found that you've left your first love, bring this before the Lord in prayer. He calls us to remember, repent, and to do the first works.</p>

# The Church in Smyrna

Passage	Brief contextual or historical fact about church and location:	Description of Jesus given ("He who..."):	Commendation:	Grievance:	Promises to the one who overcomes:	Questions for reflection:	Prayer point:
Revelation 2: 8-11	<p>Was a large wealthy city just 35 miles north of Ephesus. It was an important city on the western coast of Asia Minor, famed for its schools of medicine and science. It was (and still is) a large seaport.</p> <p>Smyrna means "myrrh" which is perfume used in the anointing oil of the tabernacle and embalming of dead bodies. The church was facing opposition from pagan Gentiles and the synagogue of Salam, a local jewish house of worship. Polycarp became a bishop of the church and was martyred around AD 155 by both of the Jews and pagans in Smyrna.</p> <p>Sources:            -The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament by Walvoord &amp; Zuck. pp. 934-35            -Got Questions: What is Jesus' message to the church in Smyrna in Revelations?  <a href="https://www.gotquestions.org/church-in-Smyrna.html">https://www.gotquestions.org/church-in-Smyrna.html</a>.</p>					<p>What persecution or hardship am I currently going through? Am I remaining faithful and steadfast like the church of Smyrna?</p> <p>Is there anyone around me going through a hard time? How can I pray for them? How can I serve them?</p> <p>Is there anyone giving me a hard time or persecuting me? How can I pray for them? Am I praying regularly for their salvation? Am I being an example in how I treat/interact with them and those around me?</p>	<p>Pray that the Lord will give you faith, strength and encouragement to overcome the hardships and persecution you may be enduring right now and in the future.</p> <p>Pray the same prayer for one another.</p> <p>Pray for whoever is giving you a hard time that they will come to know the Lord. Pray for yourself a heart that reflects the Lord's love towards them.</p>

# The Church in Pergamos

Passage	Brief contextual or historical fact about church and location:	Description of Jesus given ("He who..."):	Commendation:	Grievance:	Promises to the one who overcomes:	Questions for reflection:	Prayer point:
Revelations 2: 12-17	<p>Also known as Pergamum. This wealthy city was about 20 miles inland from Smyrna. This city was famous for its university and its manufactured parchment called pergamena.</p> <p>Prominent in the city was worship to the false deities Athena, Asclepius, Dionysus and Zeus. The letter's mention of 'Satan's throne' may have been a reference to the great temple of Asclepius, a pagan god of healing represented in the form of a serpent. Incidentally, the medical guild of Asclepianna, accused Antipas of using his role as a physician to 'secretly propagate Christianity.' As a result he was placed in a copper bowl which was heated until red hot. the Christians in the area would compromise by eating food that had been sacrificed to idols and committing sexual immorality.</p> <p>Sources:            -The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament by Walvoord &amp; Zuck. pp. 935-36            -Got Questions: What is Jesus' message to the church in Pergamum in Revelations?  <a href="https://www.gotquestions.org/church-in-Pergamum.html">https://www.gotquestions.org/church-in-Pergamum.html</a>.</p>					<p>Am I allowing influences outside the word of God to have authority in my life? Do I go to anything or anyone before I go to the Lord?</p> <p>How is my walk with God? Is the Lord calling me to surrender something in my life over to Him?</p>	<p>Go before the Lord and confess your compromise to Him. Ask Him to take away the desires and influences that have a hold on your heart. Ask Him to replace them with desires to be obedient and pleasing to Him. Ask for a heart and will that is surrendered to His will and authority on ALL matters. Ask for individuals that have the same desire to come alongside you.</p> <p>Pray to the Lord for wisdom and discernment to resist compromise.</p>

# The Church in Thyatira

Passage	Brief contextual or historical fact about church and location:	Description of Jesus given ("He who..."):	Commendation:	Grievance:	Promises to the one who overcomes:	Questions for reflection:	Prayer point:
Revelations 2:18-29	<p>A small region 40 miles southwest of Pergamum known for its abundant crops and manufacturing of purple dye.</p> <p>Jezebel may have been a reference to the Old Testament figure, or the false prophetess' given name. She taught believers to take part in sexual immorality that accompanied pagan religion and to eat food sacrificed to idols.</p> <p>Sources:            -The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament by Walvoord &amp; Zuck. pp. 937-38.            -Got Questions: What is Jesus' message to the church in Thyatira in Revelations?  <a href="https://www.gotquestions.org/church-in-Thyatira.html">https://www.gotquestions.org/church-in-Thyatira.html</a>.</p>					<p>Are there any areas in my life where I am compromising? Is there any area I am resistant to giving entirely over to the Lord?</p> <p>Are there any areas that I am weak in? Is there any area in my life I am having difficulty in "holding fast" in?</p> <p>Is there anyone in the body that I can encourage? Do they need prayer? Do they need accountability or just an encouraging word?</p>	Pray for the strength and integrity of the church. Pray that the church will resist compromise and remain faithful to the word of God.

# The Church in Sardis

Passage	Brief contextual or historical fact about church and location:	Description of Jesus given ("He who..."):	Commendation:	Grievance:	Promises to the one who overcomes:	Questions for reflection:	Prayer point:
Revelation 3:1-6	<p>A predominant city in west-central Asia and the capital of the kingdom of Lydia. This wealthy city was known for its temple of the pagan god, Artemis, as well as its wool-making industry.</p> <p>Sources:            -GotQuestions.org: What is the significance of Sardis in the Bible?  <a href="https://www.gotquestions.org/Sardis-in-the-Bible.html">https://www.gotquestions.org/Sardis-in-the-Bible.html</a>            -John McArthur Study Bible, p. 1996</p>					<p>-Am I currently walking in hypocrisy in any way? Are there any ways that I am presenting vibrancy and godliness on the outside, while being "dead" on the inside?</p> <p>-How important is it to me what others think of me when they look at my exterior persona, versus what Christ sees when He looks inwardly at the condition of my heart?</p>	<p>-Offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the eternal security that He gives us in Christ Jesus. No one in His hand shall be plucked out, and no one written in His Book of Life will ever be blotted out.</p> <p>-Confess and repent of any known areas of hypocrisy in your life.</p>

# The Church in Philadelphia

Passage	Brief contextual or historical fact about church and location:	Description of Jesus given ("He who..."):	Commendation:	Grievance:	Promises to the one who overcomes:	Questions for reflection:	Prayer point:
Revelation 3:7-13	<p>"The City of Brotherly Love": Philadelphia is believed to have received its name as a reflection of its founder- a king from Pergamos who had a great love for and devotion to his brother. The city, a known producer of quality wine and home to pagan temples, was one of the ten cities that made up what was known as "the Decapolis."</p> <p>Sources:            -Biblestudy.org: Philadelphia Seven Churches of Revelation  <a href="https://www.biblestudy.org/biblepic/churches-of-revelation-philadelphia.html">https://www.biblestudy.org/biblepic/churches-of-revelation-philadelphia.html</a>            -GotQuestions.org: What is the significance of Decapolis in the Bible?  <a href="https://www.gotquestions.org/Decapolis-in-the-Bible.html">https://www.gotquestions.org/Decapolis-in-the-Bible.html</a>            -John McArthur Study Bible, p. 1996</p>					<p>-Think of a Christian whose faithfulness to the Lord has been an encouragement to you. Write a brief note to them this week letting this individual know how their example has blessed you, and exhorting them to stay the course.</p> <p>-In what ways might the Lord be seeking to grow me in endurance in this present season? What trials or circumstances am I currently facing that may have the purpose of developing godly perseverance in me?</p>	<p>-The Lord, who promises never to leave us nor forsake us, also promises to carry on to completion the good work He began in us. Offer a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness to His children.</p> <p>- Pray that the Lord would pour out His sufficient grace in any area of your life where you feel you have "little strength" or over any circumstance in which you are struggling to persevere.</p>

# The Church in Laodicea

Passage	Brief contextual or historical fact about church and location:	Description of Jesus given ("He who..."):	Commendation:	Grievance:	Promises to the one who overcomes:	Questions for reflection:	Prayer point:
<p><b>Revelation 3:14-22</b></p>	<p>A wealthy and prominent city in ancient Asia Minor, Laodicea is located in the Lycus River Valley. The pagan god, Zeus, was likely worshiped; but there was also believed to be a large population of Christians there as well. A few of the city's accolades include black wool sheep, an underground aqueduct system, and a prominent medical school, where eye salve was produced.</p> <p>The church in Laodicea is believed to have been established by Epaphras, who is also credited with starting the nearby Colossian church.</p> <p>Sources:            -That the World May Know: Laodicea  <a href="https://www.thatttheworldmayknow.com/laodicea">https://www.thatttheworldmayknow.com/laodicea</a>            -Biblestudy.org: Laodicea Seven Churches of Revelation  <a href="https://www.biblestudy.org/biblepic/churches-of-revelation-laodicea.html">https://www.biblestudy.org/biblepic/churches-of-revelation-laodicea.html</a>            -John McArthur Study Bible: Pp. 1830, 1834, 1997</p>					<p>-How do I typically respond to those around me who are walking in blatant sin? How does that compare to the truthful yet gracious response of Jesus to the sin of the lukewarm church?</p> <p>-If the Lord were to take my spiritual temperature today, would He find me to be cold, lukewarm or hot? Why?</p> <p>-Which does my life show evidence that I value more: material riches or spiritual riches in Christ? Where am I usually found placing my confidence- in my own wealth and ability or in Jesus?</p>	<p>- If you have found that your heart is lukewarm or cold towards Jesus, bring this before Him in repentance. If you have never trusted Jesus as your Lord and as your Savior, believe today that He died for your sin and is able to clothe you in His white garments of righteousness. Surrender to Him today as the Lord and Ruler of your life.</p> <p>- Take time to pray for someone in your life who is cold or lukewarm towards the Lord Jesus, yet desperately needs to enter a true relationship with Him.</p>