



# 7 CHURCHES

REVELATION 1-3



# EPHESUS

REVELATION 1-2:7



# REVELATION 1:1-3

<sup>1</sup> The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, <sup>2</sup> who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup> Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.



# REVELATION 1:4-6

<sup>4</sup> John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.



# REVELATION 1:7-8

7 “Look, he is coming with the clouds,”  
and “every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him”;  
and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”  
So shall it be! Amen.

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and  
who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”



# REVELATION 1:9-11

<sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup> On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, <sup>11</sup> which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."



# REVELATION 1:12-16

<sup>12</sup> I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup> The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. <sup>15</sup> His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. <sup>16</sup> In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.



# REVELATION 1:17-18

<sup>17</sup> When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup> I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.



# REVELATION 1:19

“Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.



# REVELATION 1:20

The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.



# REVELATION 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup> “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. <sup>2</sup> I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. <sup>3</sup> You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

<sup>4</sup> Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. <sup>6</sup> But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

<sup>7</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.



# REVELATION 2:1

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.



# REVELATION 2:2a

I know your deeds...



# HEBREWS 4:13

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.



# 5 CHARACTERISTICS JESUS LOVES ABOUT THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

## 1. Hard work

**REVELATION 2:2a**

I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance.



# 5 CHARACTERISTICS JESUS LOVES ABOUT THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

1. Hard work
2. They weren't offended

## **REVELATION 2:3**

You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.



# 5 CHARACTERISTICS JESUS LOVES ABOUT THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

1. Hard work
2. They weren't offended
3. Holiness

## **REVELATION 2:2a&b**

I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people...



# 5 CHARACTERISTICS JESUS LOVES ABOUT THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

1. Hard work
2. They weren't offended
3. Holiness
4. Discernment

## REVELATION 2:2

I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.



# 1 TIMOTHY 4:1-2

<sup>1</sup> The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

<sup>2</sup> Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

# 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-3

<sup>1</sup> In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.



# 5 CHARACTERISTICS JESUS LOVES ABOUT THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

1. Hard work
2. They weren't offended
3. Holiness
4. Discernment
5. They hated sin

## **REVELATION 2:6**

But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.



# WHAT JESUS DID NOT LIKE ABOUT THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

## REVELATION 2:4

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.



# ACTS 19:20

In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.



# REVELATION 2:5c

...If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.



# REVELATION 2:7a

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.



# REVELATION 2:7b

...To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.



# HOW DO WE RESPOND IF WE HAVE FORSAKEN OUR FIRST LOVE?

## 1. Remember

**REVELATION 2:5a**

Consider how far you have fallen!



# HOW DO WE RESPOND IF WE HAVE FORSAKEN OUR FIRST LOVE?

1. Remember
2. Repent

## **REVELATION 2:5b**

Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.



# HOW DO WE RESPOND IF WE HAVE FORSAKEN OUR FIRST LOVE?

1. Remember
2. Repent
3. Return

## **REVELATION 2:5b**

Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.



# MATTHEW 22:37-39

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

