

The Seven Churches Of Asia

Revelation, Chapters 1 Through 3

¹The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

²Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

³Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

⁴John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

⁵And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

⁶And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

⁷Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

⁸I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

⁹I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

¹¹Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

¹²And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

¹³And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

¹⁴His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

¹⁵And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

¹⁶And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

¹⁷And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

¹⁸I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

¹⁹Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

²⁰The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches. (Revelation 1:1-20).

Early church	Christ speaking as:	acknowledgement	rebuke	goal for those who overcome themselves
In Ephesus	He, "who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands"	hard work, perseverance, cannot tolerate evil men; "disgust Nicolaites as he disgusts****", and discerned false apostles; patience and bearing up for his name's sake; and has not grown weary.	"...you abandoned the love you had at first." ... "repent and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent."	"To him who overcomes I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."
In Smyrna	"he who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life"	"I know your afflictions and your poverty - yet you are rich - and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan."	"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. "	"Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who conquers shall not be hurt by the second death."
In Pergamum	he "who has the sharp two-edged sword".	"you remain true to my name and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my	Some who hold the teaching of Balaam: Balak - cult with eating food sacrificed to idols	"To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white

		faithful witness, who was put to death among you, where Satan dwells."	and practices of sexual immorality; some Nicolaitans. "Repent then. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth."	stone, with a new name written on the stone which no one knows except him who receives it."
In Thyatira	"the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze"	"I know your deeds, your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your latter works exceed the first".	They tolerate the false prophetess Jezebel practicing temple prostitution and eating food sacrificed to idols. Threat: to suffer intensely, unless they repent, and strike her children dead. "I will give to each of you as your works deserve". To the rest who do not hold her teaching: "I do not lay upon you any other burden; only hold fast what you have, until I come."	"To him who overcomes and does my works to the end, I will give authority over the nations, and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received power from my Father; I will also give him the morning star."
In Sardis	He, "who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars"	"I know your works". "You have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white, for they are worthy."	"you have the reputation of being alive, and you are dead. Awake, and strengthen what is about to die, for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God." Remember what you received and heard; keep that, and repent. If you will not awake, I will come like a thief".	"He who overcomes, like them, shall be dressed in white, and I will not remove his name out of the book of life; I will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels."
In Philadelphia	"the holy one, the	"I know your works. I know that	"I will make those of the synagogue of	Him who overcomes, I will make a pillar in

	<p>true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one shall shut, who shuts and no one opens"</p>	<p>you have a little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. Because you have kept my word of enduring patiently, I will keep you from the hour of trial which is going to come on the whole world, to try those who live on the earth."</p>	<p>Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie - I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and learn that I have loved you." "Hold fast what you have, so that no one may take your crown.</p>	<p>the temple of my God; never shall he leave it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.</p>
<p>In Laodicea</p>	<p>"the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation"</p>	<p>("I know your deeds"; but there is no clear positive acknowledgement.)</p>	<p>"because you are lukewarm****, neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth". "... You don't know, that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire...", "and white clothes...", "and salve to anoint your eyes...". "Those whom I love, I rebuke and chasten; so be zealous and repent."</p>	<p>"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. Him who overcomes, I will grant to sit with me on my throne, as I myself overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne."</p>

* other translation: "in rapid succession";

** other translation: "communities";

** other translations: "and the kingdom of the death"/ "and the hell";

*** more usual translation: "hate" (Christ hates nobody!); see also Paul's letter to the Ephesians;

**** "lukewarm" does not mean a clear differentiated third position, but the absence of a position.

Already that Christ is speaking to every church with another quality of himself, shows that every church gets another "curriculum".