

# The Book Of The Revelation of Jesus Christ

## Chapters Two and Three

### *The Trouble With Churches*

Focus Verse: **Revelation 1:11**

**“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.”**

#### I. Introduction To The Seven Churches

##### A. Keep in mind the following things:

Christ established and loved these churches (Matt 16:18; Eph 5:25). And like a farmer who wants his crops to produce, God desires that His churches would also be fruitful and prosperous for Him. The Lord will do whatever is necessary (prune, dig up, etc.) for growth to occur.

We will be studying all the seven churches in three ways: \_\_\_\_\_ (studying each church while looking back at it from our vantage point, and of what happened to it), \_\_\_\_\_ (what the practical lesson for us today is), and \_\_\_\_\_ (what God’s real focus is as He deals with each of these churches).

1. **Historically**, Revelation 1, 2, and 3 are written to real local churches in Asia Minor (western Turkey) around 95 A.D. Asia Minor makes up the area of what is now eastern Turkey. The conditions that existed in these churches are conditions that always existed since the Lord started the church. They serve as examples and warnings to churches everywhere that they should be exemplary in their conduct and doctrine lest God should remove their influence, power, and His own presence from them (and He will do this)!
2. **Spiritually**, (or **Practically**) these chapters apply to present day churches in two ways:
  - a. As seven \_\_\_\_\_ of churches that exist today throughout the world. Every place that calls itself a “church” will fit in one of these seven church types. This is the most practical aspect of this study because you will be able to test yourself and your church according to God’s standard of how He expects a church to be!
  - b. As the seven \_\_\_\_\_ of church history. This is the most fascinating aspect of these two chapters because it details church history before it comes to pass, allowing the Bible student to look back on the last 2000 years and see how God saw it!!!
3. **Doctrinally**, these chapters deal specifically with local churches that will exist during the Tribulation in the future. Now this is the roughest part of the study because it is not self-evident unless you are a *literalist* when it comes to Bible interpretation. Many, many verses will be beyond our grasp as far as New Testament doctrine teaches in Romans through Philemon. These verses that seem to contradict the plain teaching of New Testament doctrine really are directed at saints living in the Tribulation time period, and in the millennium, and not at you and me! This can seem confusing, but is very important to integrate in your overall perception of events and commands made by the Lord (as you will soon see). Remember; the Bible student is commanded to study, and RIGHTLY DIVIDE it (2 Tim 2:15).
  - a. **This does NOT mean that churches will go \_\_\_\_\_ the Tribulation**, but that people will get saved during the Tribulation and will form churches of their own. Born again Christians, saved in this age WILL NOT go through ANY PART of the Tribulation!!! This will be later demonstrated.
  - b. All Scripture is not directed at just one period of time (like today). All is inspired, but not all are doctrinally affecting you today!

NOTE: This is why people get off in to “spiritualizing” passages: *because they don’t know how to handle them.*

- c. Watch for some of these hard concepts as they show up in these two chapters:
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_! Think of this concept! What do you think it means? Wait and see.
  - 2) The *types* of rewards given. Not like any rewards we currently obtain.
  - 3) The “methods” that Jesus says He will use to bring churches back in-line with His will!

**B. Note the following pattern for each church letter:**

1. The **Salutation** - which informs us of who is talking, and by what authority
2. The **Complaint** (or **Commendation**) concerning the church being addressed
3. The **Counsel** - what the church is to do to get right
4. The **Warning** (or **Praise**) - what will happen if it DOES NOT get right
5. The **Promise** - what will happen if it DOES comply

**II. The Seven Letters (2:1 - 3:22)****A. Unto The Angel of The Church of Ephesus (2:1-7)**

NOTE: The name 'Ephesus' means '\_\_\_\_\_'

1. Let's first study this church Doctrinally, just looking at what is being said:
  - a. **Salutation:** Notice whose talking, and where He is. The Lord Jesus Christ is in the midst of His churches, and writes to the authority in those local churches. If you pay close attention to the way verse 1 is written, you can pick up the fact that the Lord addresses a problem in the church right off - a problem with the fact that the Lord is in the midst of His churches, and as will be seen, is the One who wants to run them, not the churches run themselves.
  - b. **Commendation:** Jesus says, "*I know you...*" - what a statement! You had better believe that He knows you! The Lord starts off each address to each church with the words, "I know thy works..." (2:2,9,13,19; 3:1,8,15). Here the Lord is pleased with the church because of some things that they do and believe!
    - 1) The Ephesian Christians had an intolerance for people professing to be something that they were NOT - *Apostles* (See Mk 16:15-18)! These Ephesians "tested out the spirits" and believed not everything that someone said (1 John 4:1).
    - 2) Ephesus was a hard working, purposed church, but also a church of believers that had put the *church* ahead of their relationship with Jesus Christ - their first love!

NOTE: Note the principle of their "patience" during their labour. The principle involves Christians labouring for the future "patiently" and not for present gratification. Christians need to get back to labouring for the next generation, NOT FOR THE NEXT WEEKEND!

- c. **Complaint:** "*Thou hast left thy first love.*" Truly this is the hardest thing to maintain in any relationship isn't it! Here, Jesus states that the Christians as a whole in the Ephesian church had left their first love, and were loving something else. They had not "lost" that love, but rather "chose" another love over what they had at first, when they were first saved.

Examples:

- 1) For husbands - you leave the "fascination, infatuation & adoration" stage of your marriage
- 2) For wives - you stop having admiration and respect for your husband
- 3) For Christians - you leave off that love for Jesus that you first had when you got saved! See for contrast, Psalm 40:8!

This "leaving of your first love" occurs over and over in Israel (see Ezek 14:5), and is referred to as "going a whoring after 'other' gods" (Ex 34:15; Dt 31:16; Judg 2:16; 1 Chron 5:25).

Principle: The Lord is more interested in what we do "WITH HIM," than what we do supposedly "FOR HIM." To the public eye, this church was successful and vibrant, but to the Lord, it had failed!

- d. **Warning:** "\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, or I will \_\_\_\_\_"
  - 1) Remember the love that you had at first - the broken and contrite heart of a little child (Ps 34:18)
  - 2) Realize that you are wrong and repent - turn away from that attitude and surrender to Christ!
  - 3) Or Christ will remove His power & influence - now that's strong language!
- e. **Praise:** "You hate the deeds of the \_\_\_\_\_"

- 1) Here is another Greek word that is really two words put together:
    - a) *Nico* - to conquer
    - b) And *Laitan* - the common people, as in Laity.
    - c) “To conquer the Laity”
  - 2) Those with the design to conquer the common people by setting themselves up as a religious class above them!
  - 3) The Ephesian Christians were ‘brethren’ (Matt 23:8) and hated the ecclesiastical division (hierarchies) that cults were setting up even in that day.
- f. **Promise:** “Overcome this problem and you will get to eat of the TREE OF LIFE” (Gen 3:22; Rev 22:2,14). We will not deal with this issue until chapter 22 due to its complexity.
2. Spiritually: This is a “Martha” type of church (Luke 10:40-42) - One that is “Out of Balance.”
 

These were Christians who were hard working, and devoted to the truth, yet having to fight from becoming ritualistic, and empty on the inside!
  3. Historically:
 

This church represents clearly the first church period from 33 AD to 95 AD, which includes the Apostles. This church period emphasized Doctrine, and laboring for Christ.

### B. Unto The Angel of The Church In Smyrna (2:8-11)

NOTE: The name ‘Smyrna’ means ‘Myrrh’, or ‘\_\_\_\_\_’. Myrrh was a perfume used in anointing the dead for embalming, and had a bitter taste when tasted.

1. Doctrinally:
  - a. **Salutation:** The eternal One speaks (not the “created one” like the Jehovah’s Witnesses say), the One who was “once dead and yet alive!” This church had two problems:
    - 1) The deity of Christ (being the first and the last),
    - 2) And a problem with the resurrection.
    - 3) Jesus also points out the false teachers that had the audacity to say that they were Jews, when they were not (a problem with people saying that they are something that they are not permeates church history)!
  - b. **Commendation:** You may be in poverty, but you are NOT poor. You don’t serve Jesus for the money, or blessings (think about it!) like other Christians sometimes do.
  - c. **Counsel:** Fear not the future, as bleak as it is. See also Matt 10:28 - Fear not death for my sake! Be faithful unto the Lord, even unto your death (torture and murder). Paul wrote in 2 Tim 3:12, “*Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*”
  - d. **Promise:** “be faithful unto death” and you will get a “crown” (James 1:12), \_\_\_\_\_, but rather **rewards** for service (5 crowns to be exact). If you overcome, you will miss the “Second Death” (see 1 John 4:4) For the Christian, death is not the ultimate failure, but rather PROMOTION! Christians who survive trials of their faith, or become martyrs for their faith become great testimonies to the rest of the world.

PRINCIPLE: He who is born once, dies twice, yet he who is born twice, only dies once. See for example the book, *Foxes’ Book Of Martyrs*.

2. Spiritually: This is a \_\_\_\_\_ church. All true churches are persecuted. The important thing is our *attitude* in the midst of the trial!
  - a. This Church in type is *bitter* and needs encouragement because of trouble that constantly plagues them. It turns out to be the Lord who comes and encourages them!
  - b. This letter is a rebuke against those that claim the promises that are for the Jews as if *they* were Jews.
3. Historically:

- a. The Smyrna period last from 95 to 325 AD and experiences the brunt of the TEN official Roman persecutions against the Christian Church. This is the MARTYRS' Church.
  - 1) Under Nero (64 AD)
  - 2) Domitian (90-96 AD)
  - 3) Trajan (98-117 AD)
  - 4) Hadrian (117-138 AD)
  - 5) Marcus Aurelius (161-181 AD)
  - 6) Septimus Severus (202-211 AD)
  - 7) Maximus the Thracian (235-251 AD)
  - 8) Decius (249-251 AD)
  - 9) Valerian (257-260 AD)
  - 10) Diocletian / Galerius (303-311 AD) – extreme suffering
- b. This is the church that is soul-winning, yet getting persecuted, killed, tortured - doing what God intended it to be doing, and it was paying the price.
- c. Following this intense period of persecution, a “new era” was brought in by a man named \_\_\_\_\_ (*Flavius Valerius Aurelius Constantinus Augustus*, 272-327 AD).
- d. This church was filled with the writings of the early “Church Fathers”.

### C. Unto The Angel of The Church In Pergamos (2:12-17)

NOTE: The name ‘Pergamos’ means ‘fortified’

#### 1. Doctrinally:

- a. **Salutation:** Note the sharp Sword (2:12; Heb 4:12). Definitely not time for sweet fellowship! For some reason, the church at Pergamos had a problem with a Saviour that judged. A lot of people think of a loving and merciful Jesus up in heaven, and yet that is not an accurate and balanced view. The Lord truly is merciful and loving, but also is righteous in judgment!
- b. **Commendation:** Note where these Christians dwell (“*where Satan’s seat is...*”, and the price of their commitment - **martyrdom!** Antipas probably was a powerful leader that had helped the church there stay faithful to God, and yet, when he was murdered (martyred for the Lord), the church remained faithful.
- c. **Complaint:** the problem had to deal with WHAT A CHURCH BELIEVED! This church was teaching the doctrines of *Balaam* (Num 22-25), and of the *Nicolaitanes* (we have seen this before in 2:6):
  - 1) You allow a “*Balaam*” to teach in your church! Balaam was a false teacher (“*he taught*”).
    - a) He was a prophet, with the ability to ‘see’ things in the future – revelations – so people listened to him.
    - b) He had power to curse and to bless people
    - c) He taught God’s people \_\_\_\_\_ (worship)
    - d) He taught God’s people \_\_\_\_\_ (in their worship, not just the sin)
  - 2) Here come the *Nicolaitanes* again: the clergy over the laity (2:15). This was a false system!

NOTE: First, Christians in the Ephesus church put the Church before Jesus; Here, they put the “clergy” above the common people.

- d. **Counsel:** “\_\_\_\_\_, or I will fight against THEM”. Here the Lord shows up with His sword, ready to fight!

NOTE: Here we have the distinction between two church lines that have developed: one true, and the other definitely false (notice the ‘THEM’ in the verse), and in trouble with Christ!

- e. **Promise:** Overcome and you will get three things:
  - 1) *Hidden Manna* - Probably hidden in the wilderness during the last half of the Tribulation when the Jews will be hiding from the armies of the antichrist!
  - 2) *A white stone* - Possibly, it has to do with the high priest’s breastplate, which contained twelve stones. Each of these stones had the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel

engraved on it (Exodus 28:21). As he ministered in the temple, the high priest bore the names of God’s people into God’s presence. In the same way, the “white stone” with the believer’s name written on it could be a reference to our standing in God’s presence, since Jesus is our High Priest.

3) *A new name* written on the stone – an honour bestowed on knights, nobles, and kings.

2. Spiritually: This is the Worldly church!

In type, this church is “fortified” by the world, and settles down comfortably with the world (like in a marriage with the world). These began to think that the “Kingdom” had come (heaven on earth)!

- a. They quit winning souls
- b. They begin to build big elaborate buildings
- c. They begin to “dissertate” and sermonize instead of preach!
- d. They preach only “love”, and neglect church planting
- e. They become “the only one true church” (Catholic)

3. Historically:

- a. The Pergamos period lasts from 325 to 500 AD and marks the creation of the Roman Catholic Church. The marriage of “Church” and “State” occurs at the counsel of Nicea in 325 AD under Constantine.
- b. The church at Smyrna had so affected the world at that time that Constantine had to get along with it in order to keep his empire from splitting, which prepared the way for the church of Pergamos.

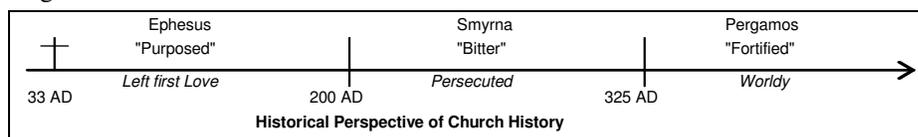


Figure 2 Historical Perspective of Church History (Ephesus Thru Pergamos)

D. Unto The Angel of The Church In Thyatira (2:18-29)

NOTE: The name ‘Thyatira’ means ‘\_\_\_\_\_’,

1. Doctrinally:

- a. **Salutation:** The Son of God, with eyes of flame, and feet as brass – all pointing to the fact that Judgment was coming! The church at Thyatira had a problem with the Lord’s ability to see and know all things (Luke 8:17).
- b. **Commendation:** You have “good works” (Eph 2:10). You are working harder now than when you first started! This is a very commendable list of traits:
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_ Works
  - 2) Charity
  - 3) Service
  - 4) Faith
  - 5) Patience
  - 6) \_\_\_\_\_ Works (which were greater than at the beginning, which would tell you that they had grown in their efforts to live for God)
- c. **Complaint:** But, you allow a \_\_\_\_\_ to teach her doctrine! (I Kings 16 - II Kings 9) - Teaching the word of God is very important to the Lord, and He doesn’t just want ANYBODY doing it (2 Cor 2:17; Rom 1:18).
  - 1) She is a \_\_\_\_\_ (really a WHORE - 17:1-f), a teacher, a seducer!
  - 2) Notice the idolatry and fornication showing up again (she was leading her followers into the “depths of Satan” (2:24).
  - 3) God now is going to intervene and judge her. God had given opportunity for repentance, but now is going to “USE” her to draw out of His church all those that are tares to judgment.

- d. **Counsel:** Hold fast till the Second Coming! Not until the Rapture, but second advent - so, doctrinally we are dealing with a \_\_\_\_\_ passage.

NOTE: The phrase “unto the end” (2:26). See Matt 24:13,14!

- e. **Promise:** If you overcome Jezebel, you will get power over nations (authority in the millennium, Luke 19:17), and the “morning star” (Cf 22:16)
2. Spiritually and Historically: This is the Lax church!
- a. In type, this Church represents two groups: 1) those Churches that stand out as bright lights in a dark world under persecution, and 2) “churches” that don’t care WHAT is taught, nor WHO is teaching. They just don’t care - but you had better believe that the Lord does!!!.
  - b. The Thyatira period lasts from 500 to 1000 AD which leads into the heart of the “\_\_\_\_\_” ages, and represents the bright lights that existed during that time of oppression. St. Patrick of Ireland, the Paulicians, and the Huguenots of France are some examples.

**E. Unto The Angel of The Church In Sardis (3:1-6)**

NOTE: The name ‘Sardis’ means ‘\_\_\_\_\_’, as in “Earthly”, or “Natural Men” (Definitely not SPIRITUAL men)

- 1. Doctrinally:
  - a. **Salutation:** The Seven Spirits come up now, and the seven stars (3:1). This church has a problem with the Holy Spirit, and with other pastors (the seven stars in His hand).
  - b. **Complaint:** You have a NAME (to the world), but are really \_\_\_\_\_ (toward God)!
  - c. **Counsel:** Strengthen what’s left - “Be watchful”, means be mindful of the things that are just barely alive, and ready to die! Notice how *remember* and *repentance* keep showing up?

“Remember”	“Repent”
2:5 Ephesus	2:5 Ephesus
3:3 Sardis	2:16 Pergamos
	2:21 Thyatira/Jezebel
	3:3 Sardis
	3:19 Laodicea

**Table 3 - Remember and Repent Churches.**

- d. **Warning:** Jesus will come “on thee” as a thief (not “for thee” as in the rapture, see Matt 24:43), and will judge the church.
  - e. **Commendation:** You have some good people there, even in Sardis of all places! For example, in the Congregationalists: Billy Sunday; in the Methodists: Charles Wesley; in the Anglicans: Hudson Taylor; and even in the Baptists there are those that are faithful to God!
  - f. **Promise:** Overcome your weaknesses, and you will get to wear white, and not have your name blotted out of the book of life. Does this mean: *loosing your salvation*?
2. Spiritually and Historically: This is a \_\_\_\_\_! The group was NOT saved at all!
- This church represents all the churches that have buildings, and people, and programs, and money, and literature, and gold altars, and vestments, and everything that makes it look, smell, walk, and sound like a church, but as far as God is concerned, it is DEAD!
- a. The Sardis period lasts from 1000 to 1500 AD and consists of the last half of the dark ages, where the entire world basically spiritually “falls apart!”
    - 1) The eight “Crusades” of the Catholic Church - the most notorious was the “children’s crusade” of 1212 AD, which was led by Pope Nicholas, and ended with most of the children drowning, or being sold into slavery, or slaughtered!
    - 2) Monastic orders popping up everywhere - especially in France and Ireland.
    - 3) Two popes calling each other the Antichrist (in 1378)
    - 4) Three popes “reigning” at one time (from 1406-1415) - Avignon, Rome, etc.
    - 5) The selling of Indulgences, “Peter’s Pence”, and Simony (the purchasing of offices and positions in the Roman Catholic church)

- b. It is at the end of this period historically, that Martin Luther gets fed up with Rome and splits Germany, and that **John Huss** (1369), **William Tyndale** (1494), **Savonarola** (1452) have a heyday at turning millions to Christ as they get burned at the stake and tortured for preaching the true Gospel of the Grace of God!!!

#### F. Unto The Angel Of The Church In Philadelphia (3:7-13)

NOTE: The name 'Philadelphia' means 'Brotherly Love' - This is one special church!!!

##### 1. Doctrinally:

- a. **Salutation:** From the One who holds the Keys. The church at Philadelphia evidently cannot see that even though a door may be shut to them, the Lord has the keys to every door, and can open and shut any door He needs to. What an encouraging principle! Your prayer life can unlock any door that you may encounter!
- b. **Complaint:** \_\_\_\_\_ (as with Smyrna)! Can you imagine the Lord not finding ANYTHING wrong in a church full of Christians - here He did!
- c. **Counsel:** Go through the "open door" (opportunity). Up until this moment, it has been locked.
- d. **Warning:** Against all churches who don't follow your lead! This was not a warning against this church!
- e. **Commendation:** You have *kept my word* (the Bible). What a commendation! Cf 2 Chron 34:21; Ps 199:67; 119:158; John 17:6
- f. **Promise:** Overcome those that will take away your "crown" of reward, and you will become unbeatable (Jer 1:18). You also will get three names:
  - 1) The name of Jesus' God
  - 2) The name of the New Jerusalem
  - 3) Jesus' new name (Cf Rev 19:12)

##### 2. Spiritually and Historically: This is the CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR!

- a. The Philadelphia period matches history from 1500 to 1900 AD and is the last wide-spread revival period on this earth.
- b. It represents a period of time where the word of God is restored and "kept", where an "open door" of opportunity to reach the world with the Gospel is given, and NOT missed, and where things start getting so good that people begin to think that the millennium was about to begin! Hudson Taylor (China), Adoniram Judson (Burma), William Carey (India), David Brainerd all were part of this time period!
- c. This is the period in church history that starts with Christopher Columbus discovering America, the Reformation gets in full swing with most of the world breaking AWAY from the Roman Catholic church, the renaissance (Brahms, Bach, Beethoven, Handel) is climaxing, and Revivals with Jonathan Edwards, Wesley, Whitfield, DL Moody, Spurgeon, Meuller, Fannie Crosby, Billy Sunday are springing-up everywhere!

Mix this church with Ephesus and you have got God's pattern for a church today!!!

#### G. Unto The Angel Of The Church In Laodiceans (3:14-22)

NOTE: 'Laodicea' means '\_\_\_\_\_'. If this is not "up-to-date" I don't know what is!

##### 1. Doctrinally:

- a. **Salutation:** The beginning of the creation of God speaks (See Col 1:15-18 because as here, we are dealing with the SUBJECT, not the OBJECT of the action, because Jesus is the FIRST of whatever God does, as in, God spake, and then Jesus did the actual work, not that Jesus was the first thing to be created by God - He is *the Creating Power* of God!). The Laodicean church had three problems: 1) with Creationism and Evolutionism in their church, 2) whether God was a faithful and true witness, and 3) whether God was the final authority (*the Amen*) in their actions or not!
- b. **Complaint:** \_\_\_\_\_! Neither cold nor hot, luke-warm, thinking that they were rich (materialistic - big empires, lots of money, yet no God) and had "need of nothing" (including Christ)!!! What a bad testimony! The church at Smyrna thought they were poor, but were rich in God's eyes. Here, this church was just the opposite!

- c. **Warning:** I am going to throw you UP and OUT! This church was disgusting to Christ, and made Him sick!
  - d. **Counsel:** Repent, *see yourself as you really are*, see Jesus as he is (your need supplier), and ask Him to come back into the church and be a part of it again! You have literally kicked Him out (3:20)!
  - e. **Commendation:** \_\_\_\_\_! Now isn't that something. There was nothing worth commending them about!
  - f. **Promise:** Overcome your pride and you will reign with Jesus in the Millennium. Those who go back to the door and let Christ back in as their Lord will have sweet fellowship once again with Him (they will have real revival)!
2. Spiritually and Historically: This is a CHAMELEON CHURCH!
- a. This is a church that calls itself a church yet, looks like the world, smells like the world, tastes like the world, and it makes God SICK!
  - b. The Laodicean period lasts from 1900 to today and marks the most wishy-washy period of time in history with a church that professes the "fundamentals", but would never "offend" anyone!
  - c. This is the church of the "*people's rights*" but with no rights for Jesus Christ!!! (1 Cor 6:19,20) Note *animal rights* of all things are the big issue today!
  - d. This is a constantly \_\_\_\_\_ church, changing to keep up with the world, and attracting the world, never getting FANATICAL about ANYTHING except sports!
  - e. This church has kicked its Saviour out, and locked the door behind Him (3:20)!

Did you notice some of the things that kept getting repeated?

- **He that hath an ear...**
- **These things saith he...** (not some preacher, but "thus saith the Lord!")
- **I know thy works** (2:2; 2:9; 2:13; 2:19; 3:1; 3:8; 3:15)
- **Remember, and Repent** (2:5,16,21; 3:3,19)

After each of the seven churches were addressed by the Lord, He concluded with the statement, "*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*" Only those who pay attention to the exhortations will benefit from what was said by the Lord. There is no osmosis is God's kingdom (meaning that you won't be blessed just because you go to church, or are around those who want to live for God). And on top of that, don't be hearers only, but doers of the word (James 1:22)

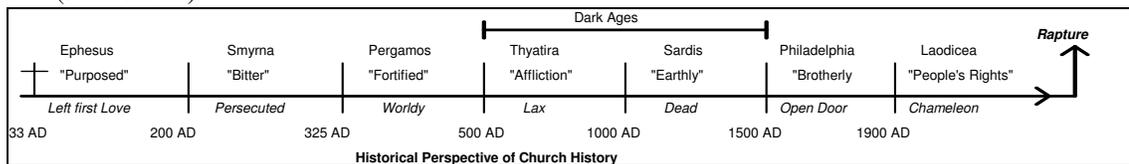


Figure 3 - Historical Perspective of Church History

**III. Conclusion - What we have Seen So Far:**

- A peek at seven local churches in existence at 95 A.D.
- A panorama of 2,000 years of church history
- A catalogue of the seven conditions that churches are in today
- A look at the seven local churches that will be in existence during the Tribulation!

Wild, isn't it?! Truly we have a supernatural Book in our hands don't we? We had better take heed to what it says, believe it, and obey!

	<b>Ephesus</b>	<b>Smyrna</b>	<b>Pergamos</b>	<b>Thyatira</b>	<b>Sardis</b>	<b>Philadelphia</b>	<b>Laodicea</b>
	33-95 AD	95-325 AD	325-500 AD	500-1000 AD	1000-1500 AD	1500-1900 AD	1900-Present
<b>Description of Christ</b>	He holds 7 stars, walks among 7 golden candlesticks	He is the first and last, Was dead and now alive	He has sharp two edge sword	He is the Son of God, eyes like flame of fire, feet like brass	He has 7 Spirits of God, 7 stars	He is holy, True, has key of David, opens and shuts	He is the Amen, faithful and true witness, beginning of creation
<b>What Christ Notices</b>	Your labour and patience	Your Tribulation, poverty	That you are where Satan's seat of power is	Your works, charity, service, faith, patience, and works	Your hypocrisy	NOTHING	Your false claims about themselves, exposes true condition
<b>Praise</b>	You cannot bear evil, you test preachers and leaders, hate Nicolaitans	You really are rich	You hold fast Christ's name, and have not denied Christ's faith	The recent works to be better than the first works	A few of you have not defiled their garments and are worthy	You have kept my word, not denied my name	NONE. Nothing good was found!
<b>Rebuke</b>	You have left your first love	NONE	Some of you hold the doctrines of Balaam and Nicolaitans	You have allowed Jezebel to seduce servants, and you repented not	Your works are not perfect, seem alive but are dead	NONE	You are Lukewarm (apathetic), wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked
<b>Counsel</b>	Remember where you have fallen from, repent, do the first works	Don't fear, be faithful unto death	Repent	Repent, hold fast till I come	Be watchful, strengthen what remains, repent, and remember	Hold fast	Buy of Christ gold, and white raiment, anoint eyes, repent
<b>Warning</b>	I will come quickly and remove your candlestick	NONE	I will fight against you	Death, Tribulation, rewarded according to works	I will come as a thief	NONE	I will spue you out of my mouth
<b>Promises to Overcomers</b>	Eat from the tree of life	Crown of life, and you won't be hurt by the second death	Hidden manna, and a white stone with a new name for you	The power to rule nations, the morning star	Walk with me in white raiment, confess your name, not blot out your name	Kept from the hour of temptation, made a pillar in the temple of God, wear the name of God and of the city of God	Sup with me, and sit with me on the throne

**Table 4 – Summary of the Seven Churches.**

## Section 1 Review Questions

1. The word "Revelation" means: \_\_\_\_\_
2. The theme of the Book is "the \_\_\_\_\_ of all things"
3. The Book is basically divided into how many parts? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where is the Apostle John when he is told to write this Book? \_\_\_\_\_
5. The seven candlesticks are said to represent \_\_\_\_\_
6. The seven stars are said to represent \_\_\_\_\_
7. When studying Revelation, the student must keep in mind the three ways to understand a passage. The first discussed was *Historically*. Name the other two: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. When the term "Spiritually, this means..." is used, we mean what? \_\_\_\_\_
9. The word "Ephesus" means: \_\_\_\_\_
10. What was wrong with the church at Ephesus? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What does "*Nicolaitanes*" mean: \_\_\_\_\_
12. The word "Smyrna" means: \_\_\_\_\_
13. What was wrong with the church at Smyrna? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. The word "Pergamos" means: \_\_\_\_\_
15. What was wrong with the church at Pergamos? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. What was the "*doctrine of Balaam*" referred to in the Letter to Pergamos? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. In type, Pergamos represents a church that is \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_
18. The word "Thyatira" means: \_\_\_\_\_
19. What was wrong with the church at Thyatira? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
20. What is a "Jezebel" represent in the church? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
21. The word "Sardis" means: \_\_\_\_\_
22. What was wrong with the church at Sardis? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
23. The word "Philadelphia" means: \_\_\_\_\_
24. What was wrong with the church at Philadelphia? \_\_\_\_\_
25. The word "Laodicea" means: \_\_\_\_\_
26. What was wrong with the church at Laodicea? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_