

Dear Church...

EXPLORING THE LETTERS TO THE
SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



Why Revelation now? Why the 7 churches?



When the world seems like it is getting crazy, we all naturally begin to wonder where it's headed and what is going on...
...and for Christians we wonder what the Scriptures might have to say that will help us get some perspective.

In the books of Ezekiel, Daniel, Matthew and ***Revelation***
(and various others)
the culmination of human history is intentionally addressed in order to help believers understand what is going on and how to navigate the events of our day.

Dear Church...

Revelation chapters 2 & 3



Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea



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Thyatira

Smyrna

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PATMOS

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3. Pergamum..... *The Compromising Church*
4. Thyatira..... *The Corrupt Church*
5. Sardis..... *The Dead Church*
6. Philadelphia.... *The Faithful Church*
7. Laodicea..... *The Lukewarm Church*



Revelation 1

¹⁶ In His right hand He held seven stars,
from His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword,
and His face was like the sun shining in full strength.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at His feet as though dead.

But He laid His right hand on me, saying,

*“Fear not, I am the first and the last,
and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive
forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”*

¹⁸



Revelation 2:18-29

Thyatira

The Corrupt Church



**The culture in Thyatira was antagonistic toward Christians
from both the secular and religious worlds...**

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- ¹¹ So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis,
¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days.
¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.
¹⁴ One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.
¹⁵ And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

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- **Jews were the only group given an exemption from emperor worship due to their unalterable monotheistic worldview and tremendous value to the business world.**

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who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan,
to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden.

25 Only hold fast what you have until I come.

26 The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end,
to him I will give authority over the nations,

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28 And I will give him the morning star.

29 **He who has an ear,
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**“...let him hear
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Greek: ous

Definition: the ear

Figuratively:
the faculty of perception.



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Definition: to hear, to listen, to comprehend by hearing.

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18 “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

‘The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire,
and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

19 ““I know your works, your love and faith and service
and patient endurance, and that your latter works
exceed the first.

20 But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel,
who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing
my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food
Sacrificed to idols.

21 I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her
sexual immorality.

22 Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her
I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works,
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Revelation 22:16

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and descendant of David, the bright and morning star.

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Honestly admit and repent that the Western Church has, in significant ways, given itself to the idols of our culture:

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- allegiance to either...

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 - personal peace and affluence

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When you ***violate*** the will of God, you ***demean*** the love of God...
...when you ***demean*** the love of God, you ***disparage*** the beauty of God...
...when you ***disparage*** the beauty of God, you ***defame*** the glory of God.

Dear Church... So... therefore... what now?



2

Dear Church... So....therefore....what now?



Weather the Storm...

2

Dear Church... So....therefore....what now?



Weather the Storm...

Hold tight to Christ and His Word...

2

Dear Church... So....therefore....what now?



2

Weather the Storm...

Hold tight to Christ and His Word...

Love People...