

## BOOK OF REVELATION – Part 2

The 7 Congregations

7/10/24

- Today – Opportunity to give a Bible study
  - Title – “Book of Revelation – Part 2”
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- Rev. 1:4 to the 7 churches which are in Asia – (7 spirits)
- 11 what you see, write in a book and send it to the 7 churches in Asia
- 12 7 golden lamp stands (“candlesticks” in King James)
- 13 in the midst of the 7 lamp stands = Son of Man
- 16 in His right hand = 7 stars
- 20 mystery of the 7 stars = the angels of the 7 churches  
mystery of the lamp stands = the 7 churches
- The 7 churches were located in Asia Minor, during the era of the Roman Empire (on a major Roman road as part of a mail route).
  - “Although the actual churches ceased to thrive in the centuries of Muslim control after the Romans, the archaeological remains of all seven locations currently exist in present-day Turkey.”
    - 3 common purposes of the 7 churches
      - 1<sup>st</sup> purpose – literal needs of 7 congregations
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> purpose – reveal 7 different types of congregations throughout history
      - 3<sup>rd</sup> purpose – to foreshadow 7 different periods of church history
    - Let’s mention the theory of “church eras”
- Rev. 2:25 but hold fast what you have until I come
- Rev. 3:3 remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent
  - therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come
- Rev. 3:11 behold, I am coming quickly – hold fast what you have that no one may take your crown
- Rev. 3:20 behold, I stand at the door and knock – If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me
- Beware of people who seek to seek to control you
    - The leaders puff themselves up
    - The leaders nudge you to puff yourself up

Phil. 2:3 not selfish ambition or conceit – esteem others better  
 Rev. 3:17 “because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have no need of nothing’ – and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked”

- Let’s notice – the contrast between rebuke and praise
 

Ephesus	both praise & rebuke
Smyrna	only praise & encouragement
Pergamos	both praise & rebuke
Thyatira	both praise & rebuke
Sardis	only rebuke
Philadelphia	only praise & encouragement
Laodicea	only rebuke

- Let’s mention some common descriptions
 

Ephesus	church of lost love
Smyrna	church in suffering
Pergamos	church in compromise
Thyatira	church tolerating apostasy
Sardis	church that was dead
Philadelphia	church that was faithful
Laodicea	church that was lukewarm

- The reward of each congregation

Rev. 2:7 will eat from the tree of life  
 Rev. 2:11 shall not be hurt by the second death  
 Rev. 2:17 to eat the hidden manna – a white stone – a new name  
 Rev. 2:26-28 power over nations – rule with a rod of iron – morning star  
 Rev. 3:5 clothed in white garments – name not blotted out of the book of life – your name confessed before the Father and before His angels  
 Rev. 3:12 pillar in the temple of God (and he shall go out no more) – the name of My God and the name of the city of My God (New Jerusalem) – “My new name”  
 Rev. 3:21 “I will grant to sit with Me on My throne” – (“as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne”)

- He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches
  - Revelation 2:7
  - Revelation 2:11
  - Revelation 2:17
  - Revelation 2:29
  - Revelation 3:6
  - Revelation 3:13
  - Revelation 3:22