

The 7 Churches – Part 1

7/13/24

- Today – Opportunity to give a Bible study
 - Today – Will begin a 7-part series – about the 7 churches in Revelation 2 & 3
 - Title – The 7 Churches – Part 1
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- Ephesus is mentioned in the Bible much more than the other churches

Ephesus	17 times
Smyrna	2 times – (both times in Revelation)
Pergamos	2 times – (both times in Revelation)
Thyatira	4 times – (3 times in Revelation)
Sardis	3 times – (all times in Revelation)
Philadelphia	2 times – (both times in Revelation)
Laodicea	6 times – (1 time in Revelation)
Laodiceans	2 times – (1 time in Revelation)

- References – about Ephesus

Acts 18:19	Paul came to Ephesus – and left Priscilla and Aquila there
21	Paul planned to keep the coming Feast in Jerusalem – he sailed from Ephesus
24	Apollos came to Ephesus – eloquent man & mighty in the Scriptures
25	Apollos had been instructed in the way of the Lord – he accurately taught the things of the Lord, even though he only knew baptism of John
26-28	Aquila and Priscilla – took him aside and explained to him the way of the Lord more accurately
Acts 19:1	Paul returned to Ephesus
2	“did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” – “we have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit”
3	“into what then were you baptized?” – “into John’s baptism”
4-5	baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus
6	tongues – like Acts 2 and Acts 10
11	miracles by the hands of Paul –
12	handkerchiefs or aprons
13-16	casting out evil spirits
17	people in Ephesus heard about the miracles
24-35	Ephesus – home of Diana’s temple
Acts 20:16	Paul decided to sail past Ephesus – so that he would not have to spend time in Asia – because he wanted to get back to Jerusalem for the Day of Pentecost
17	he met with the elders at Ephesus – at Miletus
18-36	tremendous words spoken to the elders at Miletus
1 Cor. 15:32	Paul fought with beasts in Ephesus

16:8	“I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost”
Eph. 1:1	Paul wrote to the saints at Ephesus
1 Tim. 1:3-4	Paul encouraged Timothy to remain in Ephesus – to teach good doctrine
2 Tim. 1:16-18	Onesiphorus helped Paul – in Rome and Ephesus
2 Tim. 4:12	Paul sent Tychicus to Ephesus
Rev. 1:11	listed as 1 of the 7 congregations in Asia
Rev. 2:1-7	message to the congregation at Ephesus

1. Characteristics – praise and correction

Rev. 2:1	these things says He who holds the the 7 stars (angels) in His right hand – who walks in the middle of the 7 golden candlesticks (churches)
2-3	praise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I know your works, your labor, your patience · you cannot bear those who are evil · you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not – you have found them to be liars · you have persevered and have patience · you have labored for My name’s sake, and have not become weary
4	correction – I have something against you – you have left your first love
5	instruction and warning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · remember from where you have fallen · repent and do the first works – or else I will remove your lamppost – unless you repent
6	praise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · you hate the deed of the Nicolaitans – which I also hate
	· “Nikolaites” (Strong’s #3531) – “follower of Nicolas”
	· “Nikolaos” (Strong’s #3532) – “victor over people”

From renner.org: “The name ‘Nicolaitans’ is derived from the Greek word ‘nikolaos’ – a compound of the words ‘nikos’ and ‘laos.’ The word ‘nikos’ is the Greek word that means to conquer or to subdue. The word ‘laos’ is the Greek word for the people. . . When these two words are compounded into one, they form the name ‘Nicholas’ – which literally means ‘one who conquers and subdues the people.’ It seems to suggest that the Nicolaitans were somehow conquering and subduing the people.”

2. Future reward – (future blessing)

Rev. 2:7	listen to the message – to him who overcomes = I will give to eat from the tree of life – which is in the middle of the Paradise of God
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