

## The 7 Churches – Part 2

7/20/24

- Today – Opportunity to give a Bible study
  - Today – Continuing with a 7-part series – about the 7 churches in Revelation 2 & 3
  - Title – The 7 Churches – Part 2
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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)
- Historical reminder

Holman Bible Dictionary (page 1287) – “A major city on the West coast of Asia Minor, the modern city of Izmir, Turkey. It had good harbor facilities, was at the end of a major road, and surrounded by rich farmland . . . Smyrna gave its loyalty to the Romans at the an early stage (about 195 B.C) and never wavered. The city was headquarters for the imperial cult of emperor worship in that area of the empire. Christians were persecuted by Jews and Romans. Polycarp was a famous Christian martyr who was burned at the stake in Smyrna about A.D. 156.”

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1. Characteristics – praise – (no correction)

Rev. 2:8  
9 these things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life  
praise

- I know your works
- I know your tribulation
- I know your poverty (but you are rich)
- I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not – but are a synagogue of Satan

- Consider – the Son of God’s conflict with the synagogue

Luke 4:16-27 the Son of God taught in the synagogue  
28-30 the people were filled with wrath – threw Him out of the city – they  
intended to throw Him over a cliff – but He escaped  
Luke 13:14 the ruler of the synagogue answered Him with indignation, because He

John 9:22	healed on the Sabbath day the parents of the blind man feared the Jews – because the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue
John 12:37	although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him
42-43	nevertheless, even among the rulers, many believed in Him – but because of the Pharisees, they did not confess Him – lest they should be put out of the synagogue – because they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God
John 16:2	they will put you out of the synagogue – yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service
2 Cor. 11:13-15	claiming to be – apostles of Christ
· Back to Revelation 2	
Rev. 2:10	advice, a warning and more advice advice – do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer warning – indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested – and you will have tribulation 10 days advice – be faithful until death

Clarke's Commentary – "As the days in this book are what is commonly called **prophetic days**, each answering to a year, the ten years [sic] of tribulation may denote ten years of persecution; and this was precisely the duration of the persecution under Diocletian, during which all the Asiatic Churches were grievously afflicted."

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2. Future reward – (future blessing)

Rev. 2:10	be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life
11	listen to the message – to him who overcomes = you will not be hurt by the second death