



World Christian Fellowship

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Seven Churches Introduction 02

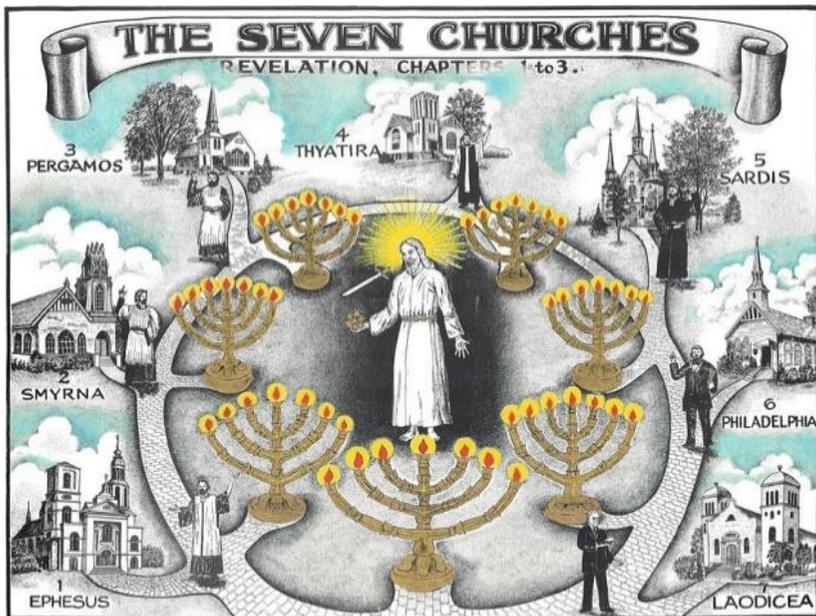
Christ spoke to His church. He spoke to seven churches, specific churches in specific cities in Asia Minor, which is modern Turkey.

They were actual churches with actual conditions that He addressed. The uniqueness of His letters to these churches is that they all include an assessment that leads either to a commendation or a threat.





Ephesus and Smyrna were the port towns and even today Smyrna is a very well-known port in Turkey known as Izmir.





The cities of the seven churches mentioned in Revelation are in modern-day Turkey.

Ephesus

Located in modern Turkey, Ephesus was one of the largest and wealthiest cities in the eastern Mediterranean area. It had a population of about 250,000 people. The temple of the Greek goddess Artemis was located there.

Smyrna

Located in modern Turkey, it is now known as **Izmir**. Smyrna was a city on the Aegean Sea coast of the Roman province of Asia (modern Turkey) north of Ephesus. It had magnificent buildings and was one of the most prosperous cities in Asia Minor. It was a Greek colony that was captured and destroyed by the Lydians in the 7th century BC. It was built up again in the 3rd century BC and later became an ally to Rome. The Gospel eventually spread there from Ephesus.

Pergamos

Also known as Pergamon or Pergamum. The city in western Asia Minor (modern Turkey), north of Smyrna, and about 15 miles inland from the Aegean Sea. For a while it was the capitol of the Roman province of Asia.

1200 feet high and there was a temple and Satan had his throne.

Thyatira

Located in modern Turkey, it is now known as **Akhisar**. Thyatira was a city in Asia Minor (modern Turkey) on the Lycus River. While in Philippi, Paul and his companions were invited to stay at the house of Lydia (after she and her household were baptized).

Sardis

Sardis was a town in the west of Asia Minor (Turkey), 50 miles east of Smyrna, and 30 miles southeast of Thyatira. It was formerly a capitol of Lydia and became part of the Roman Empire in 129 BC. Paganism flourished in Sardis. The Christian community was small and weak, and a lot of them returned to their original religions.

Philadelphia

Located in modern Turkey, it is now known as **Alasehir**. Philadelphia was a city 30 miles southeast of Sardis in Asia Minor. It was founded by **Attalus II Philadelphus** of Pergamos, to be an open door for Greek culture. It was destroyed by an earthquake in AD 17 and rebuilt by **Emperor Tiberius**.

Laodicea

Located in modern Turkey, it is now known as **Denizli**. Laodicea was a city 40 miles southeast of Philadelphia and 80 miles east of Ephesus in western Asia Minor (Turkey). It was a wealthy city with a renowned medical school. It exported fine woollen garments and was famous for its eye salves.

We give importance to the letters of Apostle Paul, Peter, James, John and Jude. But these letters were written by Jesus.

So, we ought to study these letters very carefully.

Revelation 1:19,

Revelation Chapters 1-3 The present situation of the churches.

Revelation chapters 4-5 in Heaven

This shows these things:

- God is in Control of things
- God is in Throne
- Jesus is in charge

Revelation 6-18 Troubled times ahead.

For the World:

- War,
- Bloodshed,
- Famine,
- Diseases,
- Death, and
- Natural disasters

Revelation 19-22 Final Judgement

- Return of Jesus Christ
- Millennium reign

- Day of Judgement
- White Throne Judgement
- Second Death,
- New Heaven and Earth, and
- New Jerusalem

Jesus and Church:

Revelation 1:20,

Seven lampstands are 7 churches.

Revelation 1:13,

Jesus was walking inside His church.

This letter was written to all the churches.

Revelation 2:7,

Revelation 11,

Revelation 2:17,

Revelation 2:29,

Revelation 3:6,

Revelation 3:13,

Revelation 3:22,

Roman Emperor and their history:

37 A.D. Birth of Nero.

50 A.D. Adoption of Nero by Emperor Claudius.

64 A.D. Rome burns during the reign of Nero.

65 A.D. The Baths of Nero are built in Rome.

66 A.D. Vespasian sent to Judea by Nero.

68 A.D. Death of Emperor Nero.

There were another four emperors reigned after Nero.

81 A.D. Domitian become Emperor

96 A.D. Domitian dies.

Caesar is Lord- this is what everyone in the Roman emperor was forced to declare.

Julius Caesar who died 14 A.D forced everyone to confess.

Augustus forced them to bow down to this statue.

Domitian was the worst of all made them to take a pinch of salt and throw it in the altar and show allegiance. If you fail to do so than you will be punished.

John, the Apostle is in the Isle of Patmos because of this reason.

Revelation 1:9,

Jesus prophesied about the destruction and the troubles they are going to face in the year A.D.30.

John had lived to see Jerusalem destroyed. It had been destroyed at least 30 years,

Jerusalem was in ruins. Hundreds of thousands of Jews were slaughtered. This was a far cry from the hope among the

disciples that the Lord would bring the kingdom. Instead of establishing the kingdom which they all hoped for in Jerusalem, Jerusalem was completely destroyed.

Romans marched through the land of Israel and they literally eliminated the populations of 985 towns and villages. The massacre is a kind of satanically driven genocide, while at the same time, being a judgment from God.

- Hope for the establishment of Israel as the reigning nation,
- Hope for the establishment of the kingdom, and
- Hope for the establishment of the Messiah's glory long gone,

John has outlived his fellow apostles.

John wrote the Gospel of John

Then he was in Ephesus where he wrote the 3 Epistles.

After 10 years he was forced to write this letter by Jesus.

John is told to write.

Revelation 1:11,

There are 12 visions in Revelation.

After every vision, there is a command: "Write it down,"

But there is one exception.

Revelation 10:4,

“Don’t write.” The rest of the visions.

“Write them down seven times.”

No copy machine on Patmos.

John wrote the book of Revelation down seven times.

When you read the Gospel and his Epistle, we could see he is a better writer than the book of Revelation. He was seeing the vision and writing them down, so he didn’t have time make the copy fair.

Why?

Revelation 22:18-19,

Characteristics of 7 churches:

Ephesus: Loveless Church

Smyrna: Suffering Church

Pergamos: Compromising Church

Thyatira: Adulterous Church

Sardis: Dead Church

Philadelphia: Faithful Church

Laodicea: Lukewarm Church

Conclusion:

Revelation 1:20,

The seven golden lampstands represent the seven churches.

What is a lampstand?

Lamps in the ancient world were made out of clay or metal. You poured oil into them. Had a floating wick. If you wanted to elevate the light in the house, you put the lamp on a stand. Just like our lamps, you don't put light on the ground, you need to elevate light.

He sees portable lampstands holding oil lamps so commonly used. These seven golden lampstands are the seven churches. This is to remind us that the church is the light in the world.

Matthew 5:16, "You are the light of the world,"

The church carries that light. God's people are assembled in local churches as lights in the world, lights in the world.

Each church is a light in its own place, in its own location, in its own city.

They are golden.

What does that mean?

Costly, precious, lovely, magnificent, beautiful, valuable.

They are, in fact, the most valuable reality in any place, any city, any town, any district, any neighbourhood.

Why are there seven?

There were seven churches that had been planted in Asia Minor. But seven is a number often used to refer to completeness, completeness.

Zachariah and the book of Exodus, both Moses and Zachariah had seven lamps on their lampstands depicting completeness based on the creation in seven days.

Symbolic of the whole people of God, the complete people of God, the whole church.

So, John turns and sees what represents the church, and he sees in the middle of the lampstands one like a son of Man, like a human, but not like a human. He doesn't say he saw a son of Man; he saw one like a son of Man.

This is the Son of Man, but He is not like the Christ that John saw before the ascension. He is not like that. He is now in full glory.

John sees the glorified Christ, the Lord of the church moving in His church.

This is tremendously encouraging.

This is very comforting.

Lord had said at His final moment before He ascended, He said, "Lo, I am with you always."

Jesus had said to them on that night in the upper room, "*I will not leave you as orphans.*"

- ✓ He will not forsake His people, and
- ✓ He will not forsake His church.