

“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Revelation 2:10

# The End Times

# God's Report Card to His Church

# God's Report Card to His Church

Revelation 2-3

# The Christian Epistles

# The Christian Epistles

Gospels and Acts – 5

# The Christian Epistles

Gospels and Acts – 5

Paul's Epistles – 13

# The Christian Epistles

Gospels and Acts – 5

Paul's Epistles – 13

General Epistles – 8

# The Christian Epistles

Gospels and Acts – 5

Paul's Epistles – 13

General Epistles – 8

Jesus' Epistles – 7

# The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

# The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

# The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

# The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

# The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

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Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

# The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

# The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

# Report Card Summary

# Report Card Summary

Good

Bad

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

# The Revelation

# The Revelation

## The Outline of the Revelation

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“Write the (1) things which you have seen, and the (2) things which are, and the (3) things which will take place after this.”

Revelation 1:19

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- (2) things which are (The Seven Churches, Rev. 2-3)
- (3) things which will take place after this (Rev. 4-22)

“The Things Which Are”

# “The Things Which Are”

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

# “The Things Which Are”

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

# “The Things Which Are”

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

Local

# “The Things Which Are”

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

Local

To all Churches

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The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

Local

To all Churches

Personal

# “The Things Which Are”

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

Local

To all Churches

Personal

Prophetic

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The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

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To all Churches

Personal

**Prophetic**

“The Things Which Are”

Prophetic

# “The Things Which Are”

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They tell us about the times in which we live, what Christ is pleased with and what He is not.

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## Prophetic

These seven letters to the seven churches lay out church history for us in advance.

They tell us about the times in which we live, what Christ is pleased with and what He is not.

If they were listed in any other order it would not fit.

# The Design of the Letters

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## 1. The Name of the Church

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2. The Title of Christ Used

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3. His Commendation (good news)

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7. The Closing (“He who has an ear...”)

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The order of the last two sometimes switched.

Ephesus

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Name means “desired one” or “darling”

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“To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,  
‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in  
His right hand, who walks in the midst of  
the seven golden lampstands:”

Revelation 2:1

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# Ephesus – Good News

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“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.”

Revelation 2:2-3

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# Ephesus – Bad News

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“Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”

Revelation 2:4

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Revelation 2:4

Focus on doctrine over devotion to Christ.

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“Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”

Revelation 2:4

Focus on doctrine over devotion to Christ.

They were too busy on the business of the Lord to have time for the Lord Himself.

# Ephesus – Exhortation

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“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else (what) I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place— unless you repent.”

Revelation 2:5

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Revelation 2:6

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The Nicolaitans gave rise to the split in the church between the clergy and laity and the exercise of the clergy's authority over them.

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Revelation 2:6

The Nicolaitans gave rise to the split in the church between the clergy and laity and the exercise of the clergy's authority over them.

More like a business and less like a family.

# Ephesus – Closing and Promise

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“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”

Revelation 2:7

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Note the order: the promise to the overcomer is after the closing statement.

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Hence, even the Church Fathers are not a reliable model for us today.

This time frame runs from the birth of the church until the turn of the first century, 30 AD to 100 AD.

# Ephesus – Report Card

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The Lord said both good and bad things about the church in Ephesus.

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The Lord said both **good** and bad things about the church in Ephesus.

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# Report Card Summary

# Report Card Summary

Good

Bad

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

# Report Card Summary

Good

Bad

Ephesus

X

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

# Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>
Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna		
Pergamos		
Thyatira		
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Philadelphia		
Laodicea		

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Gold = royalty

Frankincense = deity, priesthood

Myrrh = suffering, death

# Smyrna – Good News

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“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write,  
‘These things says the First and the Last, who was  
dead, and came to life:

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

Revelation 2:8-9

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“I know the blasphemy of those who **say they are Jews and are not**, but are a synagogue of Satan.”

Could this be a picture of the church that believes it replaces Israel and appropriates Israel's promises to themselves?

# Smyrna – Good News

From Martin Luther's book,  
*On the Jews and Their Lies:*

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From Martin Luther's book,  
*On the Jews and Their Lies:*

"First, to set fire to their synagogues or schools.  
This is to be done in honor of our Lord and of  
Christendom, so that God might see that  
we are Christians."

# Smyrna – Good News

From Martin Luther's book,  
*On the Jews and Their Lies:*

"Second, I advise that their houses also be  
razed and destroyed."

# Smyrna – Good News

From Martin Luther's book,  
*On the Jews and Their Lies:*

"Third, I advise that all their prayer books and Talmudic writings, in which such idolatry, lies, cursing, and blasphemy are taught, be taken from them."

# Smyrna – Good News

From Martin Luther's book,  
*On the Jews and Their Lies:*

"Fourth, I advise that their rabbis be forbidden to teach henceforth on pain of loss of life and limb."

# Smyrna – Good News

From Martin Luther's book,  
*On the Jews and Their Lies:*

"Fifth, I advise that safe-conduct on the highways be abolished completely for the Jews. For they have no business in the countryside."

# Smyrna – Good News

From Martin Luther's book,  
*On the Jews and Their Lies*:

"Sixth, I advise that usury be prohibited to them,  
and that all cash and treasure of silver and  
gold be taken from them."

# Smyrna – Good News

From Martin Luther's book,  
*On the Jews and Their Lies:*

"Seventh, I recommend putting a flail, an ax, a hoe, a spade, a distaff, or a spindle into the hands of young, strong Jews and Jewesses and letting them earn their bread in the sweat of their brow."

# Smyrna – Good News

From Martin Luther's book,  
*On the Jews and Their Lies:*

"But if we are afraid that they might harm us or our wives, children, servants, cattle, etc., then let us emulate the common sense of other nations such as France, Spain, Bohemia, etc., then eject them forever from the country."

# Smyrna – Bad News

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None

# Smyrna – Exhortation

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“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some (not all) of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation (how long) ten days. Be faithful (how long) until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Revelation 2:10

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“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some (not all) of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation (how long) ten days. Be faithful (how long) until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

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Is there any wiggle room?

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And the church in America remains silent.

# Smyrna – Closing and Promise

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Again, note the order: the promise to the overcomer is after the closing statement.

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# Smyrna – Tribulation Ten Days

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1. Nero (54-68 AD)

Paul was beheaded and Peter crucified

2. Domitian (95-96 AD)

John was exiled

3. Trajan (104-117 AD)

Ignatius was burned at the stake

4. Marcus Aurelius (161-180 AD)

Polycarp was martyred

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6. Maximinus (235-237 AD)

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Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna		
Pergamos		
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Sardis		
Philadelphia		
Laodicea		

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# Smyrna – Our Response

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If not, why not?

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Have you ever suffered for your faith in the Lord?

If so, what was that like?

If not, why not?

How do we, as the church in the West, reconcile our relative life of ease with the following verses?

# Smyrna – Our Response

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra— what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who (what) desire to live godly in Christ Jesus (promise) will suffer persecution.

2 Timothy 3:10-12

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“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household!”

Matthew 10:24-25

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Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?”

Luke 9:23-25

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“I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.”

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What about us today?

# Laodicea

“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. (why) Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’ — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.”

Revelation 3:15-17

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(1) humble themselves, and  
(2) pray and  
(3) seek My face, and  
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2 Chronicles 7:14

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