# The Letters to the Seven Churches

Revelation 2:1-3:22

**WELLSPRING CHURCH** 

**Content Summary** 

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The letters to the seven churches of Asia (minor) are a distinct unit in the book of Revelation. That they are directly connected to the vision in chapter 1 by the fact that in the introduction to each letter the writer (Christ) identifies himself by means of a descriptive phrase taken from the vision and appropriate for the specific church.

#### Revelation 2:1 (ESV)

"To the angel of the church in **Ephesus** write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

### Revelation 2:8 (ESV)

8 "And to the angel of the church in **Smyrna** write: **The words of the first and the last,** who died and came to life.

#### Revelation 2:12 (ESV)

12 "And to the angel of the church in

Pergamum write: 'The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.

### Revelation 2:18 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> "And to the angel of the church in

Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

#### Revelation 3:1 (ESV)

"And to the angel of the church in **Sardis** write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

**Content Summary** 

### Revelation 3:7 (ESV)

7"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

**Content Summary** 

### Revelation 3:14 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> "And to the angel of the church in **Laodicea** write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.

The summary: impress upon the universal church the necessity of patient endurance during persecution.

## Letters to the Seven Churches (2:1–3:22) Outline

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- 1. Ephesus (2:1-7)
- 2. Smyrna (2:8-11)
- 3. Pergamum (2:12-17)
- 4. Thyatira (2:18-29)
- 5. Sardis (3:1-6)
- 6. Philadelphia (3:7-13)
- 7. Laodicea (3:14-22)

**Overview** 

**Overview** 

#### **Ephesus**

• the "angel" of the church

#### **Overview**

#### **Ephesus**

"the angel of the church"
 reminder of the spiritual aspect of the churches existence

#### Possible interpretations of "angel"

- simply "messenger"
- prevailing spirit
- guardian angel (Heb 1:14; Matt. 18:10; Ps. 34:7; Ps. 91:11)
- reminder of the spiritual aspect of the church's existence.

#### **Overview**

#### **Ephesus**

- the "angel" of the church
- Took a stand against false teaching
- Abandoned first love
- Fallen from where they were
- Consequence for not repenting: "remove their lampstand"
- They hate the works of the Nicolaitans
- "let him who has an ear to hear..."
- "...eat of the tree of life"

**Overview** 

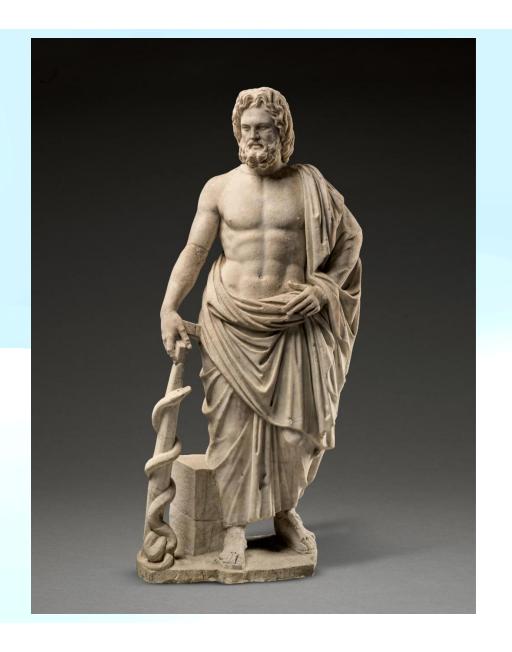
#### **Smyrna**

- Jesus knows their tribulation and poverty
- "synagogue of Satan"
- Satan is going to "thrown them in prison"
- "ten days of tribulation"
- "the second death"

**Overview** 

#### Pergamum

 Pergamum the center of worship for four of the most important pagan cults of the day.



## Asklepios

A hero and god of medicine in ancient Greek religion and mythology. He is the son of Apollo and Coronis, or Arsinoe, or of Apollo alone. Asclepius represents the healing aspect of the medical arts; his daughters, the "Asclepiades", are: Hygieia ("Health, Healthiness"), Iaso (from ἴασις "healing, recovering, recuperation", the goddess of recuperation from illness), Aceso (from ἄμεσις "healing", the goddess of the healing process), Aegle (the goddess of good health) and Panacea (the goddess of universal remedy).

#### **Overview**

#### Pergamum

- Pergamum the center of worship for four of the most important pagan cults of the day.
- "Satan's throne..."
- "the teaching of Balaam"
- "food sacrificed to idols..."
- "hidden mannah"
- "white stone, with a new name..."

**Overview** 

#### **Thyatira**

- longest letter
- trade guilds and economic pressures
- Jezebel
- the "deep things of Satan"
- "the morning star"

#### **Overview**

#### Sardis

- "the seven spirits"
- "seven stars"
- "dead"
- "wake up"
- "completed works"
- "received"
- "blot his name out of the book of life"

**Overview** 

#### Philadelphia

- "key of David"
- "open door which no one is able to shut"
- "pillar in the temple of my God"
- "I will write on him the name..."

#### **Overview**

#### Laodicea

- "neither cold nor hot..."
- "blind"
- "gold refined by fire"
- "nakedness"
- "white garments"
- "stand at the door and knock"
- "dine with me"