

The Letters to the Seven Churches

Revelation 2:1–3:22

WELLSPRING CHURCH

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

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.

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

Content Summary

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.**”

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

Content Summary

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.**”

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

Content Summary

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.**

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

Content Summary

Revelation 2:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ “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.**

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

Content Summary

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.**”

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

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.**

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

Content Summary

Revelation 3:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ “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.**”

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

Content Summary

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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Outline

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)

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

Overview

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Overview

Ephesus

- the “angel” of the church

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

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.

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

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”

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

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”

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

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 ἰασις "healing, recovering, recuperation", the goddess of recuperation from illness), [Aceso](#) (from ἄκεις "healing", the goddess of the healing process), [Aegle](#) (the goddess of good health) and [Panacea](#) (the goddess of universal remedy).

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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 manna”
- “white stone, with a new name...”

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

Overview

Thyatira

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

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Overview

Sardis

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

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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...”

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Overview

Laodicea

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