

Revelation Chapters 2-3
Sunday, March 01, 2020

SUMMARY

Review 7 churches.

Structure of the letters

- 1. Opening ("Presentation")**
- 2. Commendation**
- 3. Rebuke (chastisement)**
- 4. Call to repentance**
- 5. Promise**

Two of the 7 have no commendation- Smyrna and Laodicea

Two of the 7 have no rebuke- Sardis and Philadelphia

Each church has its own issues which the "Presentation" of Jesus Christ in the opening remarks puts into context.

Ephesus- 2:1-7

The Loveless Church

- 1. Opening ("Presentation"-)**

Rev 2:1 "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:

- 2. Commendation**

Rev 2:2 "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.

Rev 2:3 and you have persevered and have patience and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

- 3. Rebuke (chastisement)**

Rev 2:4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

4. Call to repentance

Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place— unless you repent.

5. Promise

Rev 2:7 “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.” ’

Smyrna- 2:8-11

The Persecuted Church

Rev 2:8 “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:

Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Rev 2:11 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.” ’

Pergamos- 2:12-17

The Compromising Church

Rev 2:12 “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

Rev 2:14 But I have a few things against you, because you have those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

Rev 2:15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

Rev 2:16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Thyatira- 2:18-29

The Corrupt Church

Rev 2:18 “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, ‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:

Judgment....

Rev 2:20 Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Rev 2:21 And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not

repent.

Rev 2:22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.

Rev 2:23 I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

Rev 2:26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—

Rev 2:27 'HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON; THEY SHALL BE DASHED TO PIECES LIKE THE POTTER'S VESSELS'— as I also have received from My Father.

Rev 2:28 and I will give him the morning star.

Sardis- 3:1-6

The Dead Church

*Rev 3:1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, "These things says He who has the **seven Spirits of God** and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.*

Rev 3:4 You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

Rev 3:5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Philadelphia- 3:7-13

The Faithful Church

*Rev 3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, "These things says He who is **holy**, He who is **true**, "HE WHO HAS THE KEY OF DAVID, HE WHO OPENS AND NO ONE SHUTS, AND SHUTS AND NO ONE OPENS": **Kingly authority!***

See Isaiah 9:7, 22:22

The encouragement to the faithful church is presented as a vision of the King and His authority!

***Mic 5:2** "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."*

Notice their promise:

Rev 3:10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from

*the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those **who dwell on the earth.***

Rev 3:11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

*Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him **My new name.***

Laodicea- 3:14-22

The Lukewarm Church

Rev 3:14 “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

The cure for the lukewarm church was a presentation Jesus as the

AMEN- So be it! Firm, Trustworthy, Sure!

The Faithful-

***Deu 7:9** “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.*

Deu 7:10 and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face.

2nd 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

Heb 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

Heb 3:2 who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.

Rev 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

The True Witness-

Joh 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

And the Creator-

***Joh 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

Joh 1:2 He was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Joh 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Joh 1:5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Who is standing *outside their organization*, wanting to come in.?

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Rev 3:21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Review applications:

A. Local contemporaneous

B. All churches- contemporaneous "churches"

C. Individual believers- "He who has an ear...."

Loveless, like Ephesus

Persecuted, like Smyrna

Compromising, like Pergamos

Corrupt, like Thyatira

Dead, like Sardis

Faithful, like Philadelphia

Lukewarm, like Laodicea