

SUMMARY OF THE MESSAGES TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA FROM JESUS

Church	Description of Christ	Faults	Strengths	Instruction to All?	Period of Christian History? ¹	Promise
Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7)		Danger of losing their first love which is Jesus Christ, discerns false apostles	Hard workers, patient endurance, cannot bear evil, perseveres, has not fainted	Beware of losing our first love which is Jesus Christ, be watchful of false doctrines	Represents church during Apostolic period until 100 C.E.	Eat of the fruit of the tree of life, if not, will remove candle of the church
Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11)	First and Last, was Dead and Now Alive	None	Endured through poverty and suffering, yet rich in spirit	Do not fear suffering	Represents church during persecution, 100-313 C.E.	Crown of Life after 10 days of tribulation, shall not be hurt by second death.
Pergamum or Pergamos (Revelation 2:12-17)	Sharp Sword with Two Edges	Tolerated cults, heresies, idolatry and immorality. Followers of Balaam & Balak, eat sacrifices offered to idols, Nicolaitans	Loyal to Christ, refused to deny Him, Martyrs (such as Antiphas)	Beware of the constant danger of doctrinal compromise	Represents church “compromised by carnality or false doctrine” from Constantine’s Edit of Tolerance (313 C.E.) through the rise of the papacy (500 C.E.)	Fight with sword of my mouth, eat of hidden manna, name on white stone.
Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)	Son of God, eyes like flame, bronze feet	Tolerated cults, idolatry and immortality	Deeds, love, faith, service, patient endurance, constant improvement, last more than first	There is danger in moral compromise	Represents the Papal church to the reformation, 500-1500 C.E.	If follow Jezebel, kill her children with death, search hearts, give according to works, none other burden, give power over nations with rod of iron, Morningstar
Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6)		Church is dead	Some have kept the faith, they will be saved	We are warned concerning danger of spiritual deadness	Represents the church during Reformation, 1500-1700 C.E.	
Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13)		None	Kept Christ’s word (commandments), have not denied His name	Brotherly love essential, keep enduring with patience until the Lord's return	Represents the resurgence of “missionary zeal” from 1700 C.E. to present	
Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22)		Neither hot nor cold, rely on riches and didn’t recognize spiritually wretched condition		Beware of the danger of becoming unaware of the people’s spiritual needs	Represents lukewarm, liberal churches of modern times	

¹ *Revelation: Four Views, A Parallel Commentary* edited by Steve Gregg (Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, 1997), pages 62-63.

