

Bible Study

The Seven Churches Part 1 - Ephesus

Revelation 1:1 The **Revelation of Jesus Christ**, which God gave unto Him, to **show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass**; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John:

Revelation 1:7 Behold, **He cometh with clouds**; and **every eye shall see Him**, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Revelation 1:3 **Blessed** is he that **readeth**, and they that **hear** the words of this **prophecy**, and **keep** those things which are written therein: for the ***time is at hand***.

Revelation 1:10 I was **in the Spirit on the Lord's day**, and **heard** behind me a **great voice**, as of a trumpet,

Revelation 1:11 Saying, **I am Alpha and Omega**, the First and the Last: and, **What thou seest, write** in a book, and **send it unto the seven churches** which are in Asia; unto **Ephesus**, and unto **Smyrna**, and unto **Pergamos**, and unto **Thyatira**, and unto **Sardis**, and unto **Philadelphia**, and unto **Laodicea**.

Revelation 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, **I saw seven golden candlesticks**;

Revelation 1:13 And **in the midst of the seven candlesticks** one like unto the **Son of man...**



Revelation 2:1
Greeting
and
Identification
31-100 A.D.

Unto the *angel of the church* of **Ephesus** write; These things saith **He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand**, who **walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks**;

Ephesus = desirable

Revelation 1:20

The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest **in My right hand**, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest **are the seven churches**.

Galatians 4:13

Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh **I preached the gospel** unto you at the first.

Galatians 4:14

And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.

Revelation 2:1 Unto the ***angel of the church*** of **Ephesus** write; These things saith **He that**
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Identification
31-100 A.D. the **seven stars** in His right hand, who **walketh in the midst** of
the **seven golden candlesticks**;

Ephesus = *desirable*

Revelation 1:20 The mystery of the **seven stars** which thou sawest in **My right hand**, and
the **seven golden candlesticks**. The **seven stars are the angels of the**
seven churches: and the **seven candlesticks** which thou sawest
are the seven churches.

Colossians 1:18 And **He is the head of the body, the church**: who is the beginning, the
firstborn from the dead; that **in all things He might have the**
preeminence.

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Matthew 5:14 **Ye are the light of the world**. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Matthew 5:15 Neither do **men light a candle**, and put it under a bushel, but **on a**
candlestick; and it **giveth light unto all that are in the house.**

Isaiah 56:7 ...***Mine house*** shall be called an ***house of prayer*** **for all people.**

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31-100 A.D. the **seven stars** in His right hand, who **walketh in the midst** of
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Acts 19:10 And this continued by the space of two years; so that **all they which**
dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

Ephesus was the largest city in Asia Minor during Paul's ministry - pop. 1/4 million

Church membership reached 50k people during the height of the gospel explosion

Preachers included Paul, Apollos, Timothy, and John

Mary the mother of Jesus is said to have lived there

It was located where the Cayster River meets in the Aegean Sea in modern Turkey

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Greeting and Identification
31-100 A.D.

Acts 19:34 But when they knew that he [Paul] was a Jew, all with one voice about the space of **two hours cried out, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.**

Diana was the many breasted pagan moon goddess of fertility - mother of the gods
Popularity of Christianity threatened the trade of silver images that flourished there
Council of Ephesus 431 A.D. gave the title Mother of God to Christ's mother Mary
The image of Mary replaced that of Diana and the tradition of statues continued
Temple of Artemis - 4x size of the Parthenon 117 columns 66' high 7' thick
The amphitheater in Ephesus was able to seat 25k is the location of Acts 19:34

Revelation 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how **thou canst not bear them which are evil**: and thou **hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not**, and hast found them liars:
Condition

Revelation 2:3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for My name's sake hast laboured, and hast **not fainted**.

Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that **keep the commandments** of God, and the **faith of Jesus**.

2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the **mystery of iniquity doth already work**...

Revelation 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how **thou canst not bear them which are evil**: and thou **hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not**, and hast found them liars:
Condition

Revelation 2:3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for My name's sake hast laboured, and hast **not fainted**.

Acts 20:29 For I know this, that **after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you**, not sparing the flock.

Acts 20:30 Also **of your own selves shall men arise**, speaking perverse things, to **draw away disciples after them.**

- Revelation 2:2
Condition I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how **thou canst not bear them which are evil**: and thou **hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not**, and hast found them liars:
- Revelation 2:3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for My name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.
- Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, **it was needful for me to write unto you**, and **exhort you** that ye should **earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints**.
- 2 Corinthians 4:1 Therefore seeing **we have this ministry**, as we have **received mercy**, we **faint not**
- Galatians 6:9 And ***let us not be weary in well doing***: for in due season **we shall reap**, if we **faint not**.
-
- Revelation 2:4
Problem Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because **thou hast left thy first love**.
- Mark 12:30 And thou shalt **love the Lord thy God with all thy heart**, and with **all thy soul**, and with **all thy mind**, and with **all thy strength**: this is the **first** commandment.
- 1 John 4:19 **We love Him**, because He **first** loved us.
- 1 John 4:20 If a man say, **I love God**, and ***hateth his brother, he is a liar***: for he that ***loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?***

Revelation 2:5
Counsel **Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will** come unto thee quickly, and will **remove thy candlestick** out of his place, except thou **repent**.

Revelation 2:6 But this thou hast, that **thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.**

Acts 6:5 ...and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and **Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch**

Nicolaitans were influenced by Gnosticism which had infiltrated thru new members

Nicolaitans taught antinomianism - Christians were not subject to the law anymore

The liberty of the gospel that Paul preached was turned into a license to sin

Nicolaitans did not believe in the need to overcome sin in their lives

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Jude 1:4 For there are **certain men crept in unawares**, who were **before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness**, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we **continue in sin, that grace may abound?**

Romans 6:2 God forbid. **How shall we**, that are dead to sin, live **any longer** therein?

Revelation 2:5 **Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will** come unto thee quickly, and will **remove thy candlestick** out of his place, except thou **repent**.
Counsel

Revelation 2:6 But this thou hast, that **thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate**.

2 Timothy 3:1 This know also, that **in the last days** perilous times shall come.

2 Timothy 3:2 For **men shall be** lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

2 Timothy 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

Revelation 2:5 **Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will** come unto thee quickly, and will **remove thy candlestick** out of his place, except thou **repent**.
Counsel

Revelation 2:6 But this thou hast, that **thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate**.

2 Timothy 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

2 Timothy 3:5 **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:** from such turn away.

Revelation 2:5 **Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will** come unto thee quickly, and will **remove thy candlestick** out of his place, except thou **repent**.
Counsel

Revelation 2:6 But this thou hast, that **thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate**.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 **...God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification** of the Spirit and belief of the truth

Acts 15:29 That ye **abstain from meats offered to idols**, and from **blood**, and from **things strangled**, and from **fornication**: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

Revelation 2:7 **Closing and Promise** He that ***hath an ear, let him hear*** what the **Spirit saith** unto the churches; To **him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life**, which is in the **midst of the paradise** of God.

Revelation 1:1 The **Revelation of Jesus Christ**, which God gave unto Him, to **show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass...**

Revelation 1:2 Who bare record of the **word of God**, and of the **testimony of Jesus Christ**, and of all things that he saw.

Revelation 1:10 I was **in the Spirit on the Lord's day**, and **heard** behind me a **great voice**, as of a trumpet,

Revelation 1:11 Saying, **I am Alpha and Omega**, the First and the Last...

Revelation 2:7 **Closing and Promise** He that ***hath an ear, let him hear*** what the **Spirit saith** unto the churches; To **him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life**, which is in the **midst of the paradise** of God.

Revelation 1:1 **...things which must shortly come to pass...**

Revelation 1:2 Who bare record of the **word of God**, and of the **testimony of Jesus Christ**, and of all things that he saw.

Revelation 1:10 I was **in the Spirit on the Lord's day...**

Revelation 1:11 Saying, **I am Alpha and Omega**, the First and the Last...

Revelation 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the **testimony of Jesus**: worship God: for the **testimony of Jesus** is the **spirit of prophecy**.

Revelation 2:7 He that ***hath an ear, let him hear*** what the ***Spirit saith*** unto the churches;
Closing
and
Promise To ***him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life***, which is in
the ***midst of the paradise*** of God.

Isaiah 50:4 The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should
know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: He wakeneth
morning by morning, ***He wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.***

Isaiah 50:5 The Lord ***GOD hath opened mine ear***, and I was ***not rebellious, neither***
turned away back.

Romans 10:17 So then ***faith cometh by hearing***, and ***hearing by the word of God.***

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which is in the ***midst of the paradise*** of God.

Romans 10:17 So then ***faith cometh by hearing***, and ***hearing by the word of God.***

Romans 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but ***overcome evil with good.***

1 John 5:4 For ***whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world***: and this is the
victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

1 John 5:5 Who is he that ***overcometh the world***, but he that ***believeth that Jesus is***
the Son of God?

Revelation 2:7 He that ***hath an ear, let him hear*** what the **Spirit saith** unto the churches;
Closing To **him that overcometh** will I give to eat of the **tree of life**,
and which is in the **midst of the paradise** of God.
Promise

Revelation 22:2 In the **midst of the street** of it, and on **either side of the river**, was there
the **tree of life**, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit
every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the
nations.

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are **they that do his commandments**, that they may **have right**
to the tree of life, and **may enter in through the gates into the city**.