

Do we have problems like any of these churches? Which church, which problems? Why?

In each letter, Jesus gave a warning about judgment. Read Rev. 3:20 again. Is Jesus a strict and angry judge, or is He patient and wants people to come back to Him?

Jesus Gives Promises

1. Rev. 2:7, we will eat from the tree of life. Where is the tree of life? What does it mean to eat from that tree?
2. Rev. 2:11, the second death will not hurt them or us. What is the first death (Genesis 2:17, p. 2)? What is the second death (Rev. 20:14-15, p. 1561)?
3. Rev. 2:17, a white stone showed innocence. Manna is bread. Who is the manna/bread of life (John 6:31-35)?
4. Rev. 2:27-28, we will rule nations and Jesus will give us the morning star. Read Rev. 1:5-6. Who is the ruler of the nations? What did He make us?
5. Rev. 3:5, our names are in the Book of Life.
6. Rev. 3:12, we will have a new name.
7. Rev. 3:21, Jesus shares His victory with us.

To Think About...

Suppose you found a letter from Jesus to you personally. What praise, warnings, and promises do you think Jesus would tell you?

The Book of Revelation God's Picture of History and Heaven

Lesson 2, Chapter 2:1-3:22

To Begin...

Suppose you got a letter from an enemy. The letter praised you, but also criticized you and gave ideas how you can improve. What would you think? Suppose a good friend sent the exact same letter. Would you see that letter differently if a friend sent it?

Seven Letters to Seven Churches

The seven churches were seven cities where Christians lived. Jesus told John to write these letters to the seven churches (Rev. 1:11) Why seven? One meaning of the number "7" is completeness. So seven churches can mean all Christian churches together. So we want to read and see what Jesus said to them and us.

Look at the sheet that compares all seven letters. In each letter, Jesus

1. Names Himself
2. Praises the church
3. Warns the church about a problem
4. Tells them to repent
5. Gives them a promise.

Read Revelation 2:1. Each letter is written to an "angel of the church." What does that mean? (One hint: "angel" means "messenger.")

Jesus Names Himself

In Revelation 2:1, what does it mean that Jesus holds 7 stars and walks among 7 golden lampstands? (read Rev. 1:20 for help.)

Rev. 2:12 says Jesus has a sharp two-edged sword. Read Hebrews 4:12-13 (1508). What is the sword? How will Jesus use it?

What does it mean that Jesus' eyes are like fire and His feet like bronze (Rev. 2:18)?

Jesus Praises the Church

What do you think is the best thing these churches did? Why?

In Ephesus, there were false teachers. How did the church do the right thing? What did they do? (Rev. 2:2)

The church in Sardis had a few people who didn't get their clothes dirty. Jesus said they will be dressed in white. (Rev. 3:4) What does that mean?

Jesus Warns the Church and Tells Them to Repent

What is the worst thing these churches did?

Ephesus: Lost their first love (Rev. 2:4). Who was their first love? What does it mean that Jesus will remove their lampstand (Rev. 2:5)?

Smyrna: People were afraid of suffering. How long did Jesus tell them to be faithful (Rev. 2:10)?

Pergamum: Some people (not all) thought they could believe in Jesus and enjoy a sinful life, too. What did Jesus say (Rev. 2:14-16)? Why does Jesus talk about His sword? What does that mean?

Thyatira: The people let "Jezebel" teach in church (Rev. 2:20). Jezebel was a woman in the Old Testament (1 Kings 16:31-33) who worshiped idols and led people to many sins. How is this woman in Thyatira like Jezebel?

Sardis: What did Jesus say about their life (Rev. 3:1)? What will happen if they don't repent (vs. 2-3)?

Philadelphia: What was their biggest problem (Rev. 3:8). During testing, who will protect them (vs. 10)?

Laodicea: Read Rev. 3:17. How did they see themselves? How did God see them? They were not eager for God. What did God warn (vs. 16)?