ASK AN ADVENTIST FRIEND

7 CHURCHES OF Revelation

CHAPTERS 2 & 3

	EPHESUS	SMYRNA	PERGAMUM/ PERGAMOS	THYATIRA	SARDIS	PHILADELPHIA	LAODICEA
	Revelation 2:1-7	Revelation 2:8-11	Revelation 2:12-17	Revelation 2:18-29	Revelation 3:1-6	Revelation 3:7-13	Revelation 3:14-22
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
HISTORICAL FULFILLMENT	EARLY CHRISTIAN AGE	POST-APOSTOLIC CHURCH	COMPROMISED CHURCH (CONSTANTINE LEGALIZED CHRISTIANITY)	MIDDLE AGES/ START OF REFORMATION	PROTESTANT REFORMATION	2ND GREAT AWAKENING	END TIMES
	FIRST CENTURY-AD 100	AD 100-313	AD 313-538	ENDED EARLY-MID 1600S	ENDED MID-LATE 1700S	LATE 1700S-MID 1800S	MID 1800S-PRESENT

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1 THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS

REVELATION 2:1-7

- Means “desirable” or “lovely”
- The people had become focused on all the beneficial things they were doing and had forgotten their first love for Jesus
- Were instructed to remember their love and zeal for God and others and to repent

2 THE CHURCH AT SMYRNA

REVELATION 2:8-11

- Means “sweet fragrance” or “myrrh”
- They were a commendable church
- Smyrna is one of two churches Jesus did not correct
- Jesus commended them for staying strong during persecution and encouraged them that if they remain faithful, they will have the crown of life



3 THE CHURCH AT PERGAMUM/PERGAMOS

REVELATION 2:12-17

- Means “high” or “elevation”
- Had remained faithful to God even though one of their members was martyred in the city
- Compromised by incorporating beliefs of pagan religions around them
- Jesus instructs them to “repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth” (Rev. 2:16 NKJV)

4 THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA

REVELATION 2:18-29

- Means “perfume of labor”
- Had many good qualities like love, faith, patience, and wonderful deeds
- Were also compared to Jezebel, symbolizing a corrupt church that had abandoned Jesus’ teachings
- Jesus encouraged those who had remained faithful to “hold fast what you have till I come” (Rev. 2:24–25, NKJV)

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5

THE CHURCH AT SARDIS

REVELATION 3:1-6

- Means “those escaping” or “that which remains”
- In name they're alive, but inside they're dead
- Jesus advises them to regain their close connection with God with three instructions: be watchful, hold fast to Jesus, and repent

6

THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA

REVELATION 3:7-13

- Means “brotherly love”
- Faithful, despite many distractions around them
- Jesus promises that because of their faithfulness, “I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world” (Rev. 3:10, NKJV)
- He encourages them to hold fast to Him, and those who do would have the name of God written on them

7

THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA

REVELATION 3:14-22

- Means “judging of the people”
- Lukewarm
- The words of Jesus to the Laodicean church say, “I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see” (Rev. 3:18, NKJV). These items were symbolic:
  - The gold refined in the fire is Jesus’ pure truth, faith, and love (1 Peter 1:7)
  - The white garments are the righteousness of God (Rev. 19:8)
  - The anointing of the eyes with eye salve is the giving of spiritual discernment by the Holy Spirit (1 John 2:27)

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