

7 Churches in Rev 2-3

Church	My Characterization	Notable about the city
Ephesus (Rev 2:1-7)	Church that lost its first love (i.e., their love for Jesus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • temple of Artemis, Greek goddess of the hunt • great library of Celsus • large amphitheater • capital of western Asia Minor • second in importance and size only to Rome • originally a seaport until the estuary and river silted up • Paul, Timoty, Apollos, and John each pastored the church • Mary, Jesus' mother, may have lived there while John pastored • location of the church council of Ephesus in AD 193 and the 3rd Ecumenical church Council in AD 431 • destroyed by Goths, AD 263; rebuilt; partially destroyed by earthquake, 614; completely abandoned, 15th century; now ruins • nearest modern city: Selcuk
Smyrna (Rev 2:8-11)	Tribulation-tested church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ancient city in ruins within modern city of Izmir • "New" Smyrna developed by Alexander the Great, 4th century BC • a principal city of Asia Minor • there are Orthodox Christian churches in modern day Izmir
Pergamu m (Rev 2:12-17)	Permissive church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a principal city of Asia Minor, briefly its capital • had amphitheater, therapeutic spa, pagan temple, and ambitious building program • pagan Great Altar of Pergamon now in Pergamom museum, Berlin • great library was second only to Alexandria • city damaged by earthquake in 262, then sacked by Goths, then in 717 by Muslims, now in ruins • St. Antipas of Pergamum (Rev 2.13), ordained as bishop by John during reign of Domitian, was martyred in AD 92 • ruins in or near modern city of Bergama, Turkey
Thyatira (Rev 2:18-28)	Tolerant church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • modern city is Akhisar (ancient city is in ruins) • was famous for its fabric dying facilities and trade guilds • center of trade in (rare) purple cloth • Paul and Silas may hav visited on 2nd or 3rd missionary journey • home of Lydia, mentioned in Acts 16 • Orthodox Christian community until 1922, when deported (current Orthodox "Archidoceseof Thyateira and Great Britain" is in exile in London)

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Church	Speaker (Jesus)	Praise, and what He knows about the church	Reproof	Exhortation	Promise
Ephesus (Rev 2:1-7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The One Who holds the 7 stars in His right hand The One who walks among the 7 golden lampstands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> deeds hard work perseverance hate Nicolaitans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> you have forsaken your first love 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> remember from where you have fallen repent act; do what you did at first Hear Him Overcome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I will remove your lampstand unless you repent I will grant to eat of the tree of life in the Paradise of God
Smyrna (Rev 2:8-11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first and last Who was dead and has come to life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tribulation poverty but you are rich slandered (blasphemed by the synagogue of Satan) 	(none)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> do not fear be faithful endure overcome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I will give you a crown of life You will not be overcome by 2nd death
Pergamu m (Rev 2:12-17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The One Who has the sharp two-edged sword 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> you hold fast My name you did not deny My faith 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> some hold to the teaching of Balaam [the prophet for profit] you create a stumbling block you eat things sacrificed to idols you commit acts of immorality some follow the Nicolaitans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> repent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I will war against the Nicolaitans and false teachers with the sword of My mouth I will give you the hidden manna and a white stone with a new name which no one knows
Thyatira (Rev 2:18-28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Son of God Who has eyes like a flame of fire His feet are like burnished bronze 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> love, service, and perseverance recent deeds greater than at first 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> you tolerate false prophetess "Jezebel" you commit acts of immorality you eat things sacrificed to idols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not hold to false teaching Hold fast until I come I place no further burden on you 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I will kill the "children" (followers?) of the false prophetesses I will give to each according to their deeds I place no further burden on you I will give you authority over nations I will give you the morning star (i.e., Jesus)

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Sardis (Rev 3:1-6)	Dead (spiritually), asleep church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ancient city in ruins near modern village of Sart, Turkey • capital of former kingdom of Lydia; later, seat of a Roman proconsul • noted for trade, crossroads, and military might • noted for gold and silver mining and rich king Croesus • modern currency invented in Sardis • destroyed by earthquake in AD 17; rebuilt and reconstructed on its own without Roman funding • destroyed by Turk-Mongol Timur (Tamorlane) in 1402
Philadelphia (Rev 3:7-13)	Enduring church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • name literally is Greek for "city of brotherly love" • is the modern city of Alasehir, Turkey • So supported and dedicated to imperial cult of Roman emperors (Tiberias, Caligula, Vespasian) that it was relieved of paying Roman taxes • badly damaged by earthquake in AD 17 • largely destroyed by fire in war in 1922; evidently partially rebuilt • had orthodox Christian church as recently as 1970
Laodicea (Rev 3:14-22)	Lukewarm church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • near modern Pamukkale and Denizli, Turkey • wealthy; flourished on a major trade route, noted for trade in black wool • noted for its medical school, ophthalmology, eye salve from medicinal powder produced near there • had status of free city w/i Roman empire • completely destroyed by earthquake in AD 60; like Sardis, rebuilt and reconstructed on its own without Roman funding • had nearly-unpalatable lukewarm water; piped in water via sophisticated pipelines from hot springs in Hieropolis and cold water from Colossae • church Council in Laodicea AD 363-364 drafted the canon of the NT • city destroyed in 1230 by Turks and Mongols

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Sardis (Rev 3:1-6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He who has the 7 Spirits of God • and 7 stars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you have a reputation for being alive • a few have not dirtied themselves and are worthy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you have a reputation for being alive but you are dead • your deeds are not completed in God's sight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wake up • strengthen what remains which was about to die • remember what you have received and keep it • repent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you do not repent, I will come like a thief • those who have not dirtied themselves are worthy and will walk with Me in white • he who overcomes will be clothed in white and I will not erase his name from the book of life
Philadelphia (Rev 3:7-13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He who is holy, • true, • has the key of David, • opens and no one can shut, • shuts and no one opens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you have a little power • you have kept My word • have not denied My name • have persevered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some are of the synagogue of Satan and claim to be Jews but are not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hold fast to what you have 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I put before you an open door which no one can shut • I love you • I will make the synagogue of Satan bow before you • I will keep you from testing • he who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of God • I will give him the name of My God and the New Jerusalem of God and My new name
Laodicea (Rev 3:14-22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amen • faithful and true witness • beginning of the creation of God 	(none)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lukewarm, neither hot nor cold • arrogant (think they're rich but are poor, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • buy true gold to become (spiritually) rich and white garments to clothe your shame and eye salve to see • wake up • be earnest, zealous, passionate • repent • return to Him, open the door to Him • overcome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if you stay lukewarm I will spit you out of My mouth • love, rebuke, discipline • sit on throne with Him if they overcome • those who I love I reprove and discipline • if you open your door to me I will come in and "dine" with you