

Chapters 2-3

THE LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN REVELATION					
	Christ	Commendation	Rebuke	Exhortation	Promise
Ephesus (2:1-7)	Holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.	Deeds, hard work, perseverance. Does not tolerate wicked men. Endures hardships. Hates the practices of the Nicolaitans.	Has forsaken their first love	Remember; repent; do the things you did at first.	Will eat from the tree of life.
Smyrna (2:8-11)	The First and the Last, who dies and came to life again.	Suffers persecution and poverty.	xxxxx	Do not be afraid. Be faithful, even to the point of death.	Will receive a crown of life; will not be hurt by the second death.
Pergamum (2:11-17)	Has the sharp, double-edged sword.	Remains true to Christ; does not renounce their faith.	People there hold to the teachings of Baalam and of the Nicolaitans.	Repent.	Will receive hidden manna and a white stone with a new name on it.
Thyatira (2:18-29)	The Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished brass.	Deeds, love, faith, service, perseverance, doing more than at first.	Tolerates Jezebel with her immoral and idolatry.	Repent; hold on to what you have.	Will have authority over the nations; the morning star.
Sardis (3:1-6)	Holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.	deeds; reputation of being alive.	Dead.	Wake up! Strength what remains. Remember what you received, obey it, repent.	Will be dressed in white; will be acknowledged before My Father and His angels.
Philadelphia (3:7-13)	Holy and true, holds the key of David.	Deeds, keeps Christ's word and does not deny His name; endures patiently.	xxxxx	Hold on to what you have. I will keep you from the hour of trial coming on the whole world.	Will be pillars in the temple; the name of God of the New Jerusalem, and of Christ's new name will be written on them.
Laodicea (3:14-22)	The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Ruler of God's creation.	xxxxx	Lukewarm, neither hot nor cold. Wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.	Buy from Christ refined gold, white cloths, and eye salve. Be earnest and repent.	Will eat with Christ, will rule with Christ.

¹ Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/102316222758905606/>

From the Rev. Dr. Rod Whitacre:

Problems found in the seven churches:

1. Persecution from the Roman Empire
2. Conflicts between Jews and Christians
3. False Prophets / False Christian Teachers
4. Complacency/Ignorance

Letters follow an ancient covenant treaty form (*cf.* Book of Deuteronomy):

1. Introduction of the Great King
2. Historical Prologue
3. Stipulations
4. Requirement of Deposit
5. Requirement of Reading
6. Witnesses
7. Curses and Blessings (elements of New Heavens and New Earth)

Notes

Ephesus:

Smyrna:

Pergamum:

Thyatira:

Sardis:

Philadelphia:

Laodicea: