

Seven Assemblies of Revelation

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Location



Modern day Location



3 fold view of the study

Literal

Prophetic

Practical

At a glance

1 EPHESUS (2:1-7)

Positives = toil & patient endurance for Jesus' sake, abhorrence of evil & false teaching

Negatives = abandoned first love

Command = remember, repent & return to previous good works

Disobedience = will have their lampstand removed

Obedience = will eat from the tree of life

2 SMYRNA (2:8-11)

Positives = enduring opposition & slander & being spiritually rich

Negatives = none

Command = be faithful to the point of death

Disobedience = none

Obedience = will be given crown of life & will not hurt by the second death

3 PERGAMUM (2:12-17)

Positives = holding fast to Jesus' name & not denying his faith

Negatives = some have accepted false teaching

Command = repent

Disobedience = will face war from the sword of Jesus' mouth

Obedience = will be given hidden manna & a white enscribed stone

4 THYATIRA (2:18-29)

Positives = love, faith, service & faithful endurance

Negatives = toleration of false teaching, idolatry & sexual immorality

Command = reject false teaching & hold fast to Jesus

Disobedience = tribulation & death

Obedience = will be given authority over the nations & given the morning star

5 SARDIS (3:1-6)

Positives = none

Negatives = spiritually dead & incomplete in works

Command = wake up, strengthen faith & repent

Disobedience = will be opposed by Jesus who will come like a thief

Obedience = will walk with Jesus, be clothed in white & will have names in the book of life & confessed by Jesus before the Father & angels

6 PHILADELPHIA (3:7-13)

Positives = kept Jesus' word, not denied his name & patiently endured

Negatives = none

Command = hold fast

Disobedience = none

Obedience = will be kept from the hour of trial & made a pillar in the temple of God & have name of God, New Jerusalem & Jesus written on them

7 LAODICEA (3:14-22)

Positives = none

Negatives = spiritually lukewarm, wretched, pitiable, poor, blind & naked

Command = buy spiritual gold & salve to become spiritually rich, clothed & seeing

Disobedience = be zealous, repent & hear Jesus' voice

Obedience = will eat with Jesus & sit with him on his throne

PATMOS (1:9)

An Aegean island south of Samos, where prisoners were exiled by the Roman authorities. John was sent here 'on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus' (1:9) & received his prophetic revelation during this stay.

Leading idea for each Assembly

- Ephesus – A cooling heart
- Smyrna – A crushed heart
- Pergamum - A compromising heart
- Thyatira – A Careless heart
- Sardis – A cold heart
- Philadelphia – A committed heart
- Laodicea – A complacent heart

Meaning of the names

Name of the Assembly	Meaning	Prophetic timelines
EPHESUS	Desirable	70-170 AD
SMYRNA	S-myrrh-NA - The sweet-bitterness of myrrh	170-312
PERGAMOS	Marriage. Mixture	312-606
THYATIRA	Continual Burning	606 – Rapture
SARDIS	A Remnant escaping	1517 – Rapture
PHILADELPHIA	Brotherly Love	1750 – Rapture
LAODICEA	The Rights of the People	1900 - Rapture

General terms

- Angel - **aggelo -aggelos - *ang'-el-os***, here it is called an *“Angel of the church”* Rev 2:1
- This is a transliterated word which has been translated as “messenger” 7 times
a) Matt 11:10 b) Mk 1:2 c) Lu 7:24 d) Lu 7:27 e) 9:52 f) 2 Cor 12:7 g) Jam 2:25
- *Angel – plural – Lampstand is also plural.*
- *Seven “STARS” – those responsible for Light, rule and guidance. Jude 1:13 of “wandering stars”*

Appreciation of the person of Christ

Seven Features of this Majestic One are described

- **Re 1:14** His head and *his* hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;
Re 1:15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.
Re 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.
- 1. **Re 1:14** Infinite wisdom
- 2. **Re 1:14** Penetrating Power
- 3. **Re 1:15** Metal glowing in the furnace – Purity
- 4. **Re 1:15** sheer power of sound – impossible to hear it and speak against it
- 5. **Re 1:16** And he had in his right hand seven stars: - Possesses and controls
- 6. **Re 1:16** This is a large tongue shaped sword of the hoplite – was effective against compromise and gathered armies
- 7. **Re 1:16** his countenance was as the sun shineth – he was the unapproachable one the blazing “SUN” not at dusk and dawn – reverence and worship

Discourse for each Assembly

Destination

Presentation

Commendation

Condemnation

Exhortation

Assembly at Ephesus

Destination



The Temple of Artemis, also known as the Temple of Diana, was a Greek temple dedicated to the goddess Artemis and was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World



The site of the temple today , Only the foundation and one column remains of this temple which **once measured 425 feet long, 220 feet wide and 60 feet high.**

Destination

- In the ancient world, Ephesus was a center of travel and commerce. Situated on the Aegean Sea at the mouth of the Cayster River, the city was one of the **greatest seaports** of the ancient world.
- Three major roads led from the seaport: one road went east towards Babylon via Laodicea, another to the north via Smyrna and a third south to the Meander Valley.
- Population of the city was around 300,000
- This is the only assembly out of the 7 assemblies which was established by an apostle.
- Paul visited Ephesus - **Ac 18:19** And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.

Destination

Ac 19:26 Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

Ac 19:27 So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.

Ac 19:28 And when they heard *these sayings*, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great *is* Diana of the Ephesians.

Ac 19:29 And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having **caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre.**



Presentation

- **Re 2:1 ¶** 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;
 - περιπατεω **peripateo** *per-ee-pat-eh'-o* He is in the midst of the assembly - **to tread all around**, i.e. walk at large (especially as proof of ability); figuratively, **be occupied with, walk (about)**.
 - Right Hand
 - 1:16 – In – Security – eternal salvation
 - 1:20 – On – Support
 - 2:1 – holdeth – control
 - 3:1 – hath – possession

Commendation

Re 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:

Re 2:3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

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

1. **Re 2:2** Works – not so much individual works but collective or **corporate work**
2. **Re 2:2** labour – toiling till you get weary, till it costs us, till it **hurts** us
3. **Re 2:2** thy **patience (endurance)** – Stickability, persisting in it, not just a starter but completing it.
4. **Re 2:2** how thou canst not **bear them which are evil:** - bad influence like a lazy student or a coward soldier
5. **Re 2:2** thou hast tried them which say they are **apostles**, and are not, and hast found them liars: - 1 John 4:1 – false prophets, Gal – false evangelist, 2Pet 2:1 – false teachers, apostles where a foundational gift
6. **Re 2:3** And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast **laboured, and hast not fainted.** – when moral and doctrinal questions come the assembly bore the issue and laboured and did not faint (did not become sick).
7. **Re 2:6** – **Deeds of the Nicolaitans** - *Nico-*, combinatory form of *nīkē*, "victory" in Greek, and *laos* means people, or more specifically, the laity; hence, the word may be taken to mean "lay conquerors" or "conquerors of the lay people".

Condemnation

- **Re 2:4** Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy **first love** – **they left this willingly**
- **Jer 2:2** Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the **love of thine espousals**, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land *that was* not sown.

Exhortation

Re 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.

Remember - such a recollection of their past state, as contrasted with what they now are, would exert a powerful influence in producing true repentance

- ☐ Remember

- ☐ Repent - The word here used means to change one's mind and purposes, and, along with that, the conduct or demeanour.

- ☐ Repeat – “do the first works” –

 - ☐ Eph 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

 - ☐ Eph 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

- ☐ Remove – as a Judge

Re 2:7 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.

- ☐ pleasure gardens and parks - Lu 23:43, 2Co 12:4

Exhortation

References to the “Tree of life”.

Ge 2:9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the **tree of life** also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Ge 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the **tree of life**, and eat, and live for ever:

Ge 3:24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the **tree of life**.

Pr 3:18 She *is* a **tree of life** to them that lay hold upon her: and happy *is every one* that retaineth her.

Pr 11:30 The fruit of the righteous *is* a **tree of life**; and he that winneth souls *is* wise.

Pr 13:12 Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but *when* the desire cometh, *it is* a **tree of life**.

Pr 15:4 A wholesome tongue *is* a **tree of life**: but perverseness therein *is* a breach in the spirit.

Re 2:7 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.

Re 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.

Re 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.

THANK YOU