

# Revelation

## Lesson 03: Revelation 2:1-9

(A Chapter-by-Chapter Overview of God's Picture Book)

### Review

General Rules of Thumb

CONTEXT before CONTENT. If you understand what was going on, you can better understand what is being said.

A prophet's job was to "tell it like it is" and to "tell it like it is going to be."

What We Observed in Chapter 1

The Vision: We see a vision of the glorified Christ holding seven stars in his hands and standing in the middle of seven lampstands.

The number seven points to the things of God.

Brightness points to the glory of God.

The seven stars represent the seven angels (messengers).

The seven lampstands represent the "seven churches in Asia."

The Takeaway: *God has not abandoned us.*

### Chapter 2 – Letters to Seven Churches (part 1)

General Observations

John's one letter becomes seven letters to seven churches.

The imagery that was introduced in chapter 1 is repeated throughout these seven letters.

Letter to the Church in Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7)

A common theme in these letters is, "Christ knows your situation."

About the City: Great city in Asia Minor, a Roman capital, a center of the worship of Diana, and a wealthy commercial center.

About the Church: The church was visited by Paul. Paul was very close to the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:29). Timothy ministered there and received letters from Paul. John also ministered in Ephesus.

The Ephesians stood strong against false teachings.

The Ephesians had lost their "first love." (Ephesians 4:15; Ephesians 4:29-32)

### Letter to the Church in Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11)

About the City: Smyrna was a large city with a population of 200,000. It was a center for culture and emperor worship.

About the Church: Exhorted to remember that suffering is \_\_\_\_\_.

### Letter to the Church in Pergamum (Revelation 2:12-17)

About the City: Pergamum became the capital of the Roman province of Asia in 133 BC. It was best known for its great library. It was also a center of the Caesar-worship cult.

About the Church: Many, but not all, had stayed faithful to the Christ in an environment that was hostile to the Gospel.

### Letter to the Church in Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)

About the City: Thyatira is the smallest of the seven cities listed. The city was known for its wool-eyeing occupations. Lydia was from this city (Acts 16:14).

About the Church: In some ways this church was generally heading the right direction; however, some had tolerated false teachings. God admonished these people to repent from their willful ignorance.

1 Corinthians 2:10; Psalm 2:8-9

## Conclusion

God hates sin, though He loves sinners. He warns his people to be wary of faulty

\_\_\_\_\_, faulty \_\_\_\_\_, and faulty \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>Letters to the Seven Churches</b>				
<b>Church</b>	<b>Commendation</b>	<b>Rebuke</b>	<b>Solution</b>	<b>Consequence of</b>
Ephesus (2:1-7)	doctrinal vigilance and endurance	loss of first love	remember, repent, and do the works done at first	removal of their lampstand
Smyrna (2:8-11)	spiritually rich, enduring persecution		be faithful unto death	
Pergamum (2:12-17)	holding fast Christ's name, not denying their faith	false teaching	repent	war against them with the sword of Christ's mouth
Thyatira (2:18-29)	growing love, evidenced in deeds of service	lack of discernment; toleration of heresy	hold fast and keep Christ's works fill the end	each given as their works deserve
Sardis (3:1-6)	a few remain pure and loyal	dead works	keep the Word and repent	Christ will come like a thief
Philadelphia (3:7-13)	patiently enduring, keeping God's word and not denying his name		hold fast what you have	
Laodicea (3:14-22)		spiritually blind, bankrupt, naked, lukewarm	buy gold, white garments, and salve from Christ; be zealous and	will be spit out of Christ's mouth