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The seven churches of revelation chart

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The Book of Revelation contains the prophecies of the last days, before the New Heaven and the New Earth go on into eternity, with believers living for their God with no sin, no sorrow, and no pain. Much of this prophecy is shrouded in description that can be confusing, and many theologians debate the extent of what is symbolic and what is literal in the visions described by John the Apostle. One such section is at the very beginning, where John addresses the seven churches in Asia - an area in modern Turkey. The Lord Jesus commands John to write a message to each of these churches. These churches were seven real churches at the time, and some believe they represent seven church ages, while others argue they represent seven church types that have existed since the church began, and will exist until Christ returns. Where Does the Bible Mention These Seven Churches? The seven churches are the primary focus of the first three chapters of Revelation. They are represented by seven golden lampstands, and the seven angels - or messengers - of the churches, represented by seven stars in the right hand of Jesus. Only one of the churches is in another part of the Bible. The Church at Ephesus received a letter, the Book of Ephesians, from the Apostle Paul. The three approaches to understanding these churches all agree they were existing churches that received copies of the Revelation at that time. They differ on how these churches may or may not apply to church history, including the modern body of believers. There is one perspective that these messages only applied to those seven specific churches and the messages have no lasting significance. One of the criticisms of this theory is that it dismisses the prophetic nature of the messages, and reduces the significance of the prophecies coming from the glorified Christ. There is also the chronological perspective. According to this view, each church mentioned in these chapters represents a period in church history. Each of these periods can be traced and assigned to a specific phase of the growth and change of the body of Christ over time, from its inception, to its decline before Christ's return. These seven church periods are: 1. The Apostolic Church ≈ 30 - 300 A.D.2. The Martyr Church ≈ 100 - 313 A.D.3. The Compromising Church ≈ 314 - 590 A.D.4. The Roman Catholic Church ≈ 590 - 1517 A.D.5. The Reformation Church ≈ 1517-17006.

CHURCHES	STRENGTHS	FAILURES	INSTRUCTION	REASON TO BELIEVE
EPHESUS "LOVELESS" Rev. 2:1-7	They have abandoned their first love. They have forsaken their first love.	They have forsaken their first love. They have forsaken their first love.	Return and do the works you first did. Remember your first love.	You will eat from the tree of life.
SMYRNA "SUFFERING" Rev. 2:8-11	They are persecuted. They are persecuted.	None.	Hold fast to what you have, and no one will take your crown. Do not deny me.	When you overcome, you will be given the crown of life.
PERGAMOS "WORLDLY" Rev. 2:12-17	They have forsaken their first love. They have forsaken their first love.	They have forsaken their first love. They have forsaken their first love.	Repent. Do not eat of the things that are offered to idols.	Whoever overcomes will be given the crown of life.
THYATIRA "WORLDLY" Rev. 2:18-23	They have forsaken their first love. They have forsaken their first love.	They have forsaken their first love. They have forsaken their first love.	Repent. Do not eat of the things that are offered to idols.	Whoever overcomes will be given the crown of life.
SARDIS "LAME" Rev. 3:1-6	They are dead. They are dead.	They are dead. They are dead.	Wake up. Remember your first love.	Whoever overcomes will be given the crown of life.
PHILADELPHIA "POOR" Rev. 3:7-13	None.	None.	Hold fast to what you have, and no one will take your crown. Do not deny me.	When you overcome, you will be given the crown of life.
LAODICEA "WARM" Rev. 3:14-22	None.	None.	Buy the gold. Buy the white garment.	Whoever overcomes will be given the crown of life.

The Lord Jesus commands John to write a message to each of these churches. These churches were seven real churches at the time, and some believe they represent seven church ages, while others argue they represent seven church types that have existed since the church began, and will exist until Christ returns. Where Does the Bible Mention These Seven Churches? The seven churches are the primary focus of the first three chapters of Revelation. They are represented by seven golden lampstands, and the seven angels - or messengers - of the churches, represented by seven stars in the right hand of Jesus. Only one of the churches is in another part of the Bible. The Church at Ephesus received a letter, the Book of Ephesians, from the Apostle Paul. The three approaches to understanding these churches all agree they were existing churches that received copies of the Revelation at that time. They differ on how these churches may or may not apply to church history, including the modern body of believers. There is one perspective that these messages only applied to those seven specific churches and the messages have no lasting significance. One of the criticisms of this theory is that it dismisses the prophetic nature of the messages, and reduces the significance of the prophecies coming from the glorified Christ. There is also the chronological perspective. According to this view, each church mentioned in these chapters represents a period in church history. Each of these periods can be traced and assigned to a specific phase of the growth and change of the body of Christ over time, from its inception, to its decline before Christ's return. These seven church periods are: 1.

Church	Strengths	Failures	Instruction	Reason to Believe
Ephesus	They have abandoned their first love.	They have forsaken their first love.	Return and do the works you first did.	You will eat from the tree of life.
Smyrna	They are persecuted.	None.	Hold fast to what you have, and no one will take your crown.	When you overcome, you will be given the crown of life.
Pergamos	They have forsaken their first love.	They have forsaken their first love.	Repent.	Whoever overcomes will be given the crown of life.
Thyatira	They have forsaken their first love.	They have forsaken their first love.	Repent.	Whoever overcomes will be given the crown of life.
Sardis	They are dead.	They are dead.	Wake up.	Whoever overcomes will be given the crown of life.
Philadelphia	None.	None.	Hold fast to what you have, and no one will take your crown.	When you overcome, you will be given the crown of life.
Laodicea	None.	None.	Buy the gold.	Whoever overcomes will be given the crown of life.

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Seven Churches Chart - <http://www.revelationbibprophecy.org>

Name	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Period	31 A.D. to 100 A.D.	100 to 313 A.D.	313 to 590 A.D.	590 to 1798 A.D.	1798 to 1830 A.D.	1830 to 1984 A.D.	1984 to end of time
Meaning	Friend of Saviour	Sign of Saviour	Sign of Saviour	Sign of Saviour	Sign of Saviour	Sign of Saviour	Sign of Saviour
Description of Church	Has a sharp sword and walks among the churches.	Has a sharp sword and walks among the churches.	Has a sharp sword and walks among the churches.	Has a sharp sword and walks among the churches.	Has a sharp sword and walks among the churches.	Has a sharp sword and walks among the churches.	Has a sharp sword and walks among the churches.
Christ's Answer	Works, Love, and Endurance	Works, Love, and Endurance	Works, Love, and Endurance	Works, Love, and Endurance	Works, Love, and Endurance	Works, Love, and Endurance	Works, Love, and Endurance
Prize	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Rebuke	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Counsel	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Warning	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Promise to Overcome	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Summary	PURE	BLOODY	CORRUPT	DEATH	LACK OF FAITH	LOVE	LUKEWARM

Characteristics of the seven churches in revelation chart. Comparison chart of the seven churches in revelation.

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