

CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE STUDY
LESSON 584

Revelation
Lesson # 4

Who is Chapter 2 and 3 written to?

- **The 7 Churches**

- **Ephesus – The Church that lost its first love**

- **Smyrna – The church about to be tested**

- **Pergamum – The church that compromised**

- **Thyatira – The promiscuous church**

- **Sardis – The dead church**

- **Philadelphia – The church before an open door**

- **Laodicea – The lukewarm church**

- Revelation 1. 19 says: “Write, therefore what you have SEEN, what is NOW, & what will take place LATER”:

- What had John seen – Jesus & His ministry – visions c-1

- What is now – The positive and negatives of the 7 churches

c – 2-3

- What is to come – Jesus coming again – Rest of Revelation

3. *What is the meaning of Revelation 2. 7?*

- **“Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”**
- **“Whoever has ears, let them hear”**
- **Everyone**

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- **“Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”**
- **God reveals in His time**
- **OVERCOMES (victorious) - Who will overcome the world?**
- 1 John 5. 3-5
 - **“³ In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”**

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- **“Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”**
- **“Eat from the tree of life”**
- **What got Adam & Eve kicked out of the garden**
- Genesis 2. 9
 - **“The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”**
- Genesis 3. 22
 - **“And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”**

What does 1 Peter 4. 17 say? [do not just quote it]

- 1 Peter 4. 17

- **“For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?”**

What can you find out about Ephesus at the time of this letter?

- **Considered the greatest city in this Providence of Asia**
- **Greatest harbor in Asia**
- **Held title – “The 1st and the greatest metropolis of Asia**
- **All roads converges upon Ephesus**
- **Considered the gateway to Asia**
- **Wealthy**
- **It was a free city – designation from Emperor – loyalty**
- **Center of the worship of Artemis**

What can you find out about Ephesus at the time of this letter?

- **Center of the worship of Artemis**
- **Temple of Artemis was called 1 of the 7 wonders of the ancient world**
- **Artemis was the most sacred images in the ancient world**
- **Center of pagan superstition**
- **Paul stayed in Ephesus longer than any other**
- **Here were Aquila, Priscilla, Apollos**
- **Today = little left but ruins**
- **Prowess vanished**

6. *Revelation 2. 1 gives 2 descriptions of the resurrected Jesus*

- **“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.”**
- **“Him who holds the seven stars in his right hand”**
- **Jesus holds the churches in His hands – controls them**
- **He can and will provide for them**
- **Church → Universal**
- **NO denominationalism**

6. *Revelation 2. 1 gives 2 descriptions of the resurrected Jesus*

- **“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.”**
- **“walks among the seven golden lampstands”**
- **Lampstands are the churches**
- **He is not for “A” church – but all churches**
- **“When 2 or 3 are gathered in...”**
- **Both stars and lampstands give light AND Jesus is the Light of the World**

7. *What is said of the church at Ephesus in verses 2-3?*

- “2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.”
- “I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance”
- “I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people”
- “you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false”
- “You have persevered and have endured hardships”

8. *What is the charge against them 1 verse 4 & what does it mean?*

- **“Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.”**
- **Jesus is no longer # 1 priority**
- **Jeremiah 2. 2**
 - **“I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the wilderness, through a land not sown.”**
- **They spent so much time doing the king’s business, they forgot about the King**
- **They could have lost love for one another and The Lord**

9. *How can they overcome the charge (vs 5)*

- **“Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.”**
- **To get back to their “first love” → Jesus**

10. The return to The Lord involves 3 steps - explain what's required

- **a. Remember –**
- Remember that these are Christians
- Somewhat like the Prodigal Son
- **REMEMBER WHAT → JESUS**
- What it was like when you sought & served Him
- **b. Repent –**
- **c. Do –**

10. The return to The Lord involves 3 steps - explain what's required

- **b. Repent –**
- **When we realize how we've fallen**
 - We have several options
 - Give up
 - Get angry and blame others
 - Get back to where we were - REPENT
- **Admit ur wrong and change it**
- **Vs 5c – or else =**
- **Jesus is saying that if we don't make time for Him ("our first love") He is going to take away that church**
- **Jesus does not say, "If you don't repent, you're all going hell"**
- **This is not a salvation issue**
- **Our salvation is based on our trust in Jesus as payment for our sins, not our daily behavior in life**

10. The return to The Lord involves 3 steps - explain what's required

• **C. DO –**

• **Repentance should cause us to**

- **Trust and depend on the grace of God**
- **Drive us to action to bear good fruit**

• **James – Faith in action**

11. See if you can find out who the NICOLAITANS were.

- Associate with the belief in Balaam → eating things that were offered to idols and with fornication
- **The danger to the church at Ephesus is coming from within the church – not from outside**
- **They compromised with the world**
- **Nico – laitan = Victory – Laity (people)**
- **They sought to be victorious over the people by any means**
- **Self professed rulers**

What do the following add to our understanding of question 12?

- **“To him who overcomes”**
- **1 John 5. 4-5**
 - **“³ In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”**
- **Genesis 2. 9**
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 - **“And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.””**

What do the following add to our understanding of question 12?

- **“To him who overcomes”**
- **Proverbs 13. 12**
 - **“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.”**
- **Proverbs 15. 4**
 - **“The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.”**
- **Ecclesiasticus 19. 19 KJV**
 - **“The knowledge of the commandments of the Lord is the doctrine of life: and they that do things that please him shall receive the fruit of the tree of immortality.”**

14. *Was this letter to the church at Ephesus all negative?*