

**“The Church Age” – week #4
Revelation 2 & 3**

Key vocabulary

1. “Angel” or “Star” of the church = messenger/leader reading the letter to the church
2. Nicolaitans = aggressive spiritual leaders who promote immoral living
3. Synagogue of Satan = district of false, professing Jews who persecute believers
4. Crown of Life = 1 of 5 crowns at the Judgment Seat of Christ – James 1:12
5. Second Death = the lake of fire – Revelation 20:14-15
6. Balaam = false prophet who tried to curse the Israelites – Numbers 22-25
7. Balak = evil king of Moab who hired Balaam to curse the Israelites – Numbers 22-25
8. Hidden Manna = Jesus is the Bread (Manna) of Life – John 6:48
9. White Stone = black stones = guilty, white stones = not guilty/used for invitations
10. Jezebel = immoral woman who leads God’s people into idolatry – I Kings 16-19, II Kings 9
11. Her children = followers of this immoral woman
12. Authority over the nations = we who reign with Jesus during the 1,000 years – Matthew 19:28
13. Morningstar = Jesus Christ – Revelation 22:16
14. White garments = white is the color of righteousness – Revelation 4:4
15. Key of David = Jesus will rule from the line of David/this ‘key’ opens doors – Isaiah 22:15-25
16. Hour of trial = the 7 year tribulation period
17. “Sit with me on my throne” = invitation to reign with Jesus – Matthew 19:28

Revelation 2 & 3

***The 7 Churches of Revelation are both *literal* and *prophetic*!!!

***They were 7 real churches during the first century AD (~33-100) but also churches that cover periods of church history

***The Church Age began at Pentecost and will end at the Rapture!!!

***Church historians and theologians unanimously agree that these are prophetic churches!

The 7 Churches of Revelation

1. **Ephesus ‘The Apostolic Church’** – literal (AD 33-100), prophetic (AD 33-100)
+ hard-working in the ministry, patient endurance and resisting false teaching
_ lost their love for the Lord (especially AD 70-100)
2. **Smyrna ‘The Persecuted Church’** = literal (AD 33-100), prophetic (AD 100-312)
+ persecuted for standing up for the truth against non-believing Jews and Romans
3. **Pergamum ‘The Roman Church’** = literal (AD 33-100), prophetic (AD 312-590)
+ did not deny the faith
_ worship of Caesar possibly forced from the leadership of the ‘Nicolaitans’ coming from the Greek words ‘nikos’ to subdue, rule over– and ‘laos’ the laity

4. Thyatira 'The Middle Ages Church' = literal (AD 33-100), prophetic (AD 590-1517)
+love and faithful service
_ participating in false doctrine 'Jezebel' related teaching
5. Sardis 'The Reformation Church' = literal (AD 33-100), prophetic (AD 1517-1750)
_dead to the works and Spirit of God, no spiritual movement to win the lost
6. Philadelphia 'The Missionary Church' = literal (AD 33-100), prophetic (AD 1750-1900/Rapture)
+ small, persecuted congregation but had a passion to win the lost
7. Laodicea 'The Lukewarm Church' = literal (AD 33-100), prophetic (AD 1900-Rapture)
_wealthy church monetarily but not spiritually
_uncaring = "Lukewarm" – Revelation 3:16
_unable = "Wretched" – Revelation 3:17
_unaware = "Blind" – Revelation 3:17
_unrighteous = "Naked" – Revelation 3:17
THIS IS TODAY'S CHURCH!

Multiple choice

1. Millennium (1,000 year reign)
2. Second Coming
3. Rapture
4. Tribulation
5. Judgment Seat of Christ
6. New Heavens & New Earth
7. Great White Throne Judgment

A = "Tree of Life" – Rev. 2:7

B = "Crown of Life" – Rev. 2:10

C = "Second Death" – Rev. 2:11

D = "Authority over the nations" – Rev. 2:26

E = "Hour of trial" – Rev. 3:10

F = "I AM coming soon!" – Rev. 3:11

G = "He's coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him ..." – Rev. 1:7

***Revelation 2 & 3 are present tense!

***Next week we will look at the Rapture of the Church!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!