

**Behold: 7 Letters to 7 Churches!****BEHOLD: *The Revelation!***

January 14, 2026

The apostle John is commissioned to send God's Revelation to seven local churches in Asia. In addition, each church receives a message from the Son of Man with a concise evaluation of their condition, a warning, and a promise of eternal reward to the one who conquers! *There is a message here for my church, and me! Do we hear it?!*

**"Dear Church in Ephesus"      Rev 2:1-7**

**The Revelation** — of the Son of Man to Ephesus (Rev 1:12-18)

Who holds the 7 stars (1:20) in His right hand (care, authority)

Who walks among the 7 lampstands (proximity, awareness)

**The Evaluation** — "*I know*" commendation, condition, call for action

Approvals — Diligence, Perseverance, Discernment, Courage

— Loyalty to Christ, Longevity, Purity (2:6)

Rebuke — "*you have abandoned the love you had at first*"

(John 13:34-35; 15:12, 18, 1 Cor. 13:2-3, John 21:15-17)

Call for Action — Remember! Repent! Repeat the first things!

or: "*I will come to you and remove your lampstand*"

**The Promise** — to one hearing the Spirit & conquering the enemy

Jesus' gift: to eat of the Tree of Life in God's Paradise (heaven)

**Application** — evaluating myself in light of this letter (Rev 1:3; 22:7)

Q: *Is love for Jesus & love for His sheep evident in me?*

Q: *Do I help build an atmosphere of love for others in GBC?*

**"Dear Church in Smyrna"      Rev 2:8-11**

**The Revelation** — the eternal One, conquering death & the grave

**The Evaluation** — "*I know...*"

Approvals — afflictions, persecution, attacks of synag. of Satan

— poverty on earth, but wealth in heaven (Mt 6:19, 1 Pet 1:3-4)

Call for Action — "*Fear not!*" "*Be faithful unto death!*"

— in certain suffering, prison, testing, tribulation, martyrdom

**The Promise** — crown of life, no 2<sup>nd</sup> (eternal) death (Rev 20:6,14)

**Application** — Q: In suffering ... Am I Fear-full? or Faith-full?

Q: In malicious slander ... do I seek revenge? or give it to God?

Q: In tribulation ... do I endure, or do I escape in my own way?

**"Dear Church in Pergamum"      Rev 2:12-17**

**The Revelation** — "*sharp two-edged sword*" judge (Eph 5:17, Heb 4:12)

**The Evaluation** — "*I know...*" Satan's throne ... (Jn 14:30; 15:18)

(A culture of sin, evil, deceit, hatred for Christ & His servants)

Approvals — Stand for Christ & Faith, Courage even to death

Rebuke — tolerate false doctrine > stumble & fall (2 Pe 2:15-16)

Call for Action — Repent!

— or: "*I will ... war against them ... sword of My mouth*"

**The Promise** — to one hearing the Spirit & conquering the enemy

Jesus' gift: hidden manna, a new secret name on white stone

**"Dear Church in Thyatira"      Rev 2:18-29**

**The Revelation** — the Son of God, eyes of flame, feet /furnace

Divine authority, burning away impurity/dross (Heb 4:13)

**The Evaluation** — "*I know...*"

Approvals — Diligence, love, faith, service, enduring, growth

Rebuke — tolerate false teacher "*seducing My servants*" ...

Sexual immorality, "personal freedoms!" (of Satan!)

Jesus' patience but refusal to repent (2 Pet 2:1-3; 3:9)

Call for Action — Repent! (to those following in sin)

or: discipline of illness, tribulation, death... I see the heart

— Hold fast till I come! (to those not follow in sin)

**The Promise** — to the one conquering, faithful to the end

Jesus' gift: ruling nations w/ rod, as I from My Father

The morning star! (Jesus Himself, Rev 22:16)

**Application** — evaluating myself in the light of this letter (Jas 1:22-25)

Q: *Are we, am I, holding to the truth in love, having nothing to do with false teaching and the "deeds of darkness"? Eph 5:11*