

LETTER TO THE CHURCHES – EPHESUS



First Love

⁴ But I have this against you,
that you have abandoned the
love you had at first.

Revelation 2:4

REVELATION SECTIONS

1. Prologue: 1:1–8
2. Risen Christ and Letters to Churches: 7 lampstands 1:9–3:22
3. The heavenly throne room and the worthy Lamb Revelation 4–5
4. Lamb opens the Scrolls: Christ governs history even amid conquest, war, famine, death, persecution, and judgment. 6:1–8:5
5. The seven trumpets: Trumpet judgments warn the world and call people to repentance. They echo the plagues of Exodus
6. Cosmic Conflict: The cosmic conflict: dragon, beasts, and faithful saints
Revelation 12–14 The church's conflict is ultimately against Satan and his deceptive, anti-Christ powers

THE BOOK OF REVELATION TIMELINE

THE TRIBULATION PERIOD

INTRODUCTION



LETTERS TO
THE SEVEN
CHURCHES

RAPTURE



THRONE ROOM
IN HEAVEN
& THE SCROLL
AND THE LAMB



THE SEVEN
SEALS



THE SEVEN
TRUMPETS

THE
COUNTERFEIT TRINITY

- The Dragon (Anti-God)
- The Beast (Anti-Christ)
- The False Prophet (Anti-Spirit)



THE SEVEN
BOWLS

END OF FALSE RELIGION

COLLAPSE OF THE
WORLD MARKET

SECOND COMING
OF CHRIST



1,000 YEAR
REIGN OF
JESUS CHRIST



THE GREAT
WHITE THRONE
JUDGMENT



NEW HEAVEN
AND
NEW EARTH

CH.1

REV.
2-3

THE CHURCH AGE

REV.
4-5

WORSHIP IN HEAVEN
AND THE OPENING
OF THE SCROLL

REV.
6-8

THE BEGINNING
OF JUDGMENT

REV.
8-11

HELL ON EARTH

REV.
12-14

THE EARTH'S
WORST DAYS

REV.
15-16

REV.
17-19

REV.
20

A PERIOD OF PEACE
AND RIGHTEOUSNESS
WILL LAST A
MILLENNIUM

REV.
20

SATAN AND ALL
SINNERS ETERNALLY
SEPARATED FROM
GOD

REV.
21-22



The highlighted area represents where we are in the book of Revelation.



Schools of thought

1. Literally written to the 7 historical churches that existed in the days of apostle John.
2. The 7 churches represent all churches both in those days and throughout this whole church age.
3. The 7 churches have prophetic outlook in successive eras.

AD30–100: Apostolic church - Ephesus
AD100–313: Persecuted church - Smyrna
AD313–590: State church - Pergamum
AD590-1517: Papal church - Thyatira
AD1517-1730: Reformed church - Sardis
AD1730-1900: Missionary church - Philadelphia
AD1900- Present: Apostate church - Laodicea

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

² "'I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. ³ I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. ⁶ Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.' Revelation 2:1-7

Quick glance

Remarks			
Positive	Negative	Favor	Exhortation
1. Deeds Intolerant to wicked people	Forsaken their first love Repent for restoration	Hated the practices of the Nicolaitans	Repent for restoration: The right to eat from the tree of life in the paradise of God
2. Hard work Weeded out false apostles			
3. Perseverance Endured hardship for the name of Christ			

Positive Remarks

1. Hard-working believers full of fortitude – they had strength of mind that enabled them to withstand danger, adversity with courage.
2. Gate-keepers of the truth and didn't compromise with evildoers – doctrinal purity
3. Patient endurance in bearing up under hardship
4. Hated the practices of the Nicolaitans

²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. Ats 20:28, 32

Negative Remark

1. Their work was not motivated by love – the person of Jesus Christ
2. Their passion driven by Christ for His work had faded
3. They had become familiar with the things of Christ

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Ephesians 4:15-16

Jesus Christ is the embodiment of love, the epitome of love, and the pinnacle of love. Taking our gaze off Him strips us of everything righteous, holy, and pure before God.

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:9-21

Call to Repent

1. Remember – why they were driven to Christ
2. Repent – change their mind about their current status
3. Do the things you did at first – call for revival
4. Else their light will be snapped out
5. Reward for those who repent – right to eat from the tree of life

⁶The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, Exodus 34:6

The church is the bearer of the light of Christ not her own light, whenever she loses her love for Christ, she's not worthy of existence.

In the church today, we have too many spectators and not enough participants, too many celebrities and not enough servants. —Warren W. Wiersbe

Conclusion

1. Believers are called to test every teaching against the absolute standard of Scripture (Acts 17:11, 1 John 4:1).
2. The warning to Ephesus encourages vigilance and underscore that love for Christ manifests in both moral purity and doctrinal fidelity.
3. The Nicolaitans serve as a sober illustration that heresy can creep into church communities and must be addressed firmly.
4. When the church loses focus on Christ, she becomes worthless

⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. Revelation 2:5

Let's Pray

