

# **Revelation**

Messages to the Seven Churches

# Revelation

## Messages to the Seven Churches



- *Rev 1:13 And among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man"*

# Revelation

## Messages to the Seven Churches



- *Rev 1:11 "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches"*

# Revelation

## Messages to the Seven Churches



- Ephesus
- Smyrna,
- Pergamum,
- Thyatira
- Sardis
- Philadelphia
- Laodicea

# Revelation

## Messages to the Seven Churches

*Rev 1:1 The revelation of **Jesus Christ**, which **God gave him** to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by **sending his angel** to his servant **John***

The message:

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The message:

- God gave to Jesus

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The message:

- God gave to Jesus
- Jesus sent angel

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The message:

- God gave to Jesus
- Jesus sent angel
- Angel told John



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## Messages to the Seven Churches

*Rev 2:1 "To the  
angel of the church..."*

The message:

- God gave to Jesus
- Jesus sent angel
- Angel told John
- John told the “angel of the church”

# Revelation

## Messages to the Seven Churches

God → Jesus → Angel → John

- John → “angel of the church”
- Angel = messenger
  - “angel of the church” = a human preacher

# Revelation

## Messages to the Seven Churches

Seven topics in the seven messages:

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- Remember who Jesus is
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- Be prepared for persecution

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## Messages to the Seven Churches

Seven topics in the seven messages:

- Remember who Jesus is
- Realize Jesus knows them well
- Hold on to the truth
- Give wholehearted devotion
- Be righteous
- Be prepared for persecution
- Rewards to those who overcome

# Revelation

1. Remember who Jesus is

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- *Rev 2:8 These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.*

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- *Rev 2:8 These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.*
- *Rev 2:12 These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.*

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## 1. Remember who Jesus is

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- *Rev 3:1 These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.*
- *Rev 3:7 These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.*

# Revelation

## 1. Remember who Jesus is

- *Rev 3:14 These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.*

# Revelation

## 1. Remember who Jesus is

Message for us:

Jesus is Lord!

# Revelation

2. Realize Jesus knows them well

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## 2. Realize Jesus knows them well

- *Rev 2:2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance.*

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## 2. Realize Jesus knows them well

- *Rev 2:2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance.*
- *Rev 2:9 I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich!*
- *Rev 2:13 I know where you live—where Satan has his throne.*

# Revelation

## 2. Realize Jesus knows them well

- *Rev 2:19 I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.*



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- *Rev 2:19 I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.*
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- *Rev 2:19 I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.*
- *Rev 3:1 I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.*
- *Rev 3:8 I know your deeds.*

# Revelation

## 2. Realize Jesus knows them well

- *Rev 3:15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot.*

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## 2. Realize Jesus knows them well

Message for us:

Jesus knows our deeds!

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## 3. Hold on to the truth

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- *Rev 2:9 I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not.*
- *Rev 2:14 You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam.*



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- *Rev 2:20 You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants...*

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- *Rev 2:15 Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.*
- *Rev 2:20 You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants...*
- *Rev 2:24 to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets*

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## 3. Hold on to the truth

- *Rev 3:9 those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars...*

# Revelation

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Message for us:

**Know and Obey the Scriptures!**

# Revelation

4. Give wholehearted devotion

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- *Rev 2:4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.*

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- *Rev 2:4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.*
- *Rev 2:13 Yet you remain true to my name.*



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- *Rev 2:4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.*
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- *Rev 2:19 You are now doing more than you did at first.*

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- *Rev 3:1 You have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.*

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- *Rev 3:1 You have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.*
- *Rev 3:2 I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.*

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- *Rev 3:2 I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.*
- *Rev 3:8 You have kept my word and have not denied my name.*

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## 4. Give wholehearted devotion

- *Rev 3:15 You are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!*

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Message for us:

Do we give God unrivaled devotion?

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## 5. Be righteous

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- *Rev 2:6 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*



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- *Rev 2:14 [the teaching of Balaam] to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.*

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- *Rev 2:6 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*
- *Rev 2:14 [teaching of Balaam] to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.*
- *Rev 2:20 [Jezebel] misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.*

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## 5. Be righteous

- *Rev 2:24 to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets*

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- *Rev 2:24 to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets*
- *Rev 3:4 Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes.*

# Revelation

## 5. Be righteous

Message for us:

**Get the sin out of our lives!**

# Revelation

6. Be prepared for persecution

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- *Rev 2:10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

# Revelation

## 6. Be prepared for persecution

- *Rev 2:13 You remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city —where Satan lives.*



# Revelation

## 6. Be prepared for persecution

- *Rev 3:10-11 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.*

# Revelation

## 6. Be prepared for persecution

Persecution was coming soon:

- Pliny, governor of Pontus / Bythnea
  - AD 111-113
- Letter to Trajan, emperor of Rome
- Requesting guidance on how to prosecute Christians

# Revelation

## 6. Be prepared for persecution

Pliny to Trajan:

- “Meanwhile, in the case of those who were denounced to me as Christians, I have observed the following procedure: I interrogated these as to whether they were Christians; those who confessed I interrogated a second and a third time, threatening them with punishment; those who persisted I ordered executed.”

# Revelation

## 6. Be prepared for persecution

Pliny to Trajan:

- “Those who denied that they were or had been Christians, when they invoked the gods in words dictated by me, offered prayer with incense and wine to your image, which I had ordered to be brought for this purpose together with statues of the gods, and moreover cursed Christ--none of which those who are really Christians, it is said, can be forced to do--these I thought should be discharged.”

# Revelation

## 6. Be prepared for persecution

Pliny to Trajan:

- “Accordingly, I judged it all the more necessary to find out what the truth was by torturing two female slaves who were called deaconesses. But I discovered nothing else but depraved, excessive superstition. ”

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## 6. Be prepared for persecution

Message for us:

**Don't be spiritual wimps!**

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## 7. Rewards to those who overcome

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- *Rev 2:7 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.*



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- *Rev 2:11 He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.*
- *Rev 2:17 To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.*

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## 7. Rewards to those who overcome

- *Rev 2:26-28 To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— "He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery"— just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star.*

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## 7. Rewards to those who overcome

- *Rev 3:5 He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.*

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## 7. Rewards to those who overcome

- *Rev 3:12 Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.*

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## 7. Rewards to those who overcome

- *Rev 3:21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.*

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## 7. Rewards to those who overcome

Message for us:

**If we overcome, we will be richly rewarded!**

# Revelation

## Message for Us from Seven Letters

- Jesus is Lord!
- Jesus knows our deeds!
- Know and obey the scriptures!
- Give God unrivaled devotion!
- Get the sin out of our lives!
- Don't be spiritual wimps!
- If we overcome, we will be richly rewarded!