



The Book of  
*Revelation*

Revelation 2:1-7

A Letter From Jesus to the Church, Part I - Ephesus.

# Seven Churches in Asia.

- Theories of interpretation.
  - Seven actual churches in modern day Turkey.
  - Written to every church in (2:7, 11, 17, 29, etc.).
  - Represents the church age.
- Format of the letters (see chart):
  - Description of Jesus.
  - Praise for deeds.
  - Criticism.
  - Instruction.
  - Discipline for failure to comply.
  - Promise to those who overcome.

# The Church in Ephesus.

- The church in Ephesus was started by Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:26), and later served as a missionary base for Paul (Acts 20:28-31) and pastorate for Timothy (1 Timothy 1:3) and John (from history).
- The Church at Ephesus is the most prominent of the seven churches and is covered in Acts 18-20, the letter to the Ephesians, 1 & 2 Timothy, and Revelation 2.
- Ephesus was the home to the temple of Diana (Artemis of Rome) one of the seven wonders of the world, where sex was used as a form of cultic worship.

# Praise for Deeds.

- *“You cannot tolerate evil men...You put to the test those who call themselves apostles...”* (see Acts 20:29-31, 1 Tim. 1:3).
- *“You hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans.”* (also in 2:15).
  - What is known from scripture?
    - God hates their deeds (2:6).
    - They represent false teaching (2:15).
  - Theories:
    - Untranslated word - “victory over people.” (2:2).
    - Followers of Nicolas - Irenaeus (Acts 6:5).
    - Followers of Gnostics - Hippolytus.

# What Does God Hate?

- Proverbs 6:16-19 *“There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven that are an abomination to Him”*
- Fake worship (Isaiah. 1:14, 61:8, Amos 5:21).
- Worship of other gods (Dt. 16:22, Jer. 44:2-4).
- Malachi 2:16 - *“For I hate divorce,” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong..”*
- Esau (Romans 9:13).
- The deeds of the Nicolaitans (Revelation 2:6, 15).

# Criticism.

- *“You have left your first love.”*
- *“For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints...” Ephesians 1:15.*
  - It seems as if their love for others had grown cold as they were busy defending against heresy.

# Instruction, Discipline, and Promise.

- Instruction: **Remember, repent, and do.**
- Discipline: Removal of lampstand.
  - Although the church may have still physically existed, it would not be in the presence of Jesus.
- Promise to him who overcomes: Eat of the tree of life.
  - Genesis 2:9, 3:22-24 - by sin we lost access to the tree of life in the garden of Eden.
  - Revelation 22:2, 14-15, 18-19 - by overcoming we regain access to the tree of life in heaven.
- Him who overcomes: born of God by faith (1 John 5:4).