



THE END

A STUDY OF REVELATION

Rev. 2:1-7

Rev. 2:1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Scriptural Introduction

Rev. 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Part One – THE PAST: REVEALING GOD – “...the things which thou hast seen...” Ch. 1

Introduction: 1:1-3

A. The Significance of the Book, 1:1a-b

B. The Signature of the Book, 1:1c-2

C. The Singularity of the Book, 1:3

I. THE COURSE OF THE AGE, 1:4-6

A. The Blessing, 1:4-5a

B. The Benediction, 1:5b-6

II. THE CONSUMMATION OF THE AGE, 1:7-8

A. The Eventual Triumph of Jesus, 1:7

B. The Everlasting Triumph of Jesus, 1:8

III. THE CHARACTER OF THE AGE, 1:9-20

A. It Is an Age of Individual Witness, 1:9

B. It Is an Age of Instinctive Worship, 1:10-18

1. The Spiritual Enlightenment as to the Recipients,
1:10-12

a. The Commissioning, 1:10-11a

b. The Churches, 1:11b





<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/283304632786978609>

2. The Spiritual Epiphany as to the Redeemer, 1:12-18

a. The Redeemer's Relationship with the Churches, 1:12-13

b. The Redeemer's Reflection from the Candlesticks, 1:14-18

C. It Is an Age of Intelligent Waiting, 1:19-20

Part Two – THE PRESENT: REVEALING GRACE – “...the things which are...” Ch. 2-3

Introduction: The Full Churches, Ch. 2-3

A. The Churches Viewed Practically

- The “seven churches” were contemporary congregations that may represent seven specific periods of church history. Note the meaning of their names:

Ephesus = “fully purposed” = *The Formal Church*

Smyrna = “myrrh” = *The Fearful Church*

Pergamos = “much marriage” = *The Faltering Church*

Thyatira = “odor of affliction” = *The False Church*

Sardis = “red ones” = *The Fruitless Church*

Philadelphia = “brotherly love” = *The Feeble Church*

Laodicea = “civil rights” or “the rights/justice of the people” =
The Fashionable Church

B. The Churches Viewed Perennially

Problems and weaknesses of churches throughout the ages can identify with these seven churches.

Ephesus = *fundamentalism* – busy and outwardly sound, but not very loving.

Smyrna = *ritualism* – from the “synagogue of Satan” to Judaism – very ritualistic.

Pergamos = *clericalism* – setting up a separate caste system to officiate in matters religious.

Thyatira = *sacerdotalism* – Jezebel and “Baal worship,” etc. – priesthood has such power.

Sardis = *liberalism* – reputation for dynamic church, but is actually dead (2 Tim. 3:5)

Philadelphia = *revivalism* – greatest movement of God in history.

Laodicea = *materialism* – worldly emphasis on material affluence.

C. The Churches Viewed Prophetically

Ephesus = *the post-apostolic church* – “thou hast fallen”

Smyrna = *the persecuted church* – “tribulation ten days”

Pergamos = *the patronized church* – “the doctrine of Balaam”

Thyatira = *the papal church* – “that woman Jezebel”

Sardis = *the protestant church* – “a name that thou livest, and art dead”

Philadelphia = *the practical church* – “an open door”

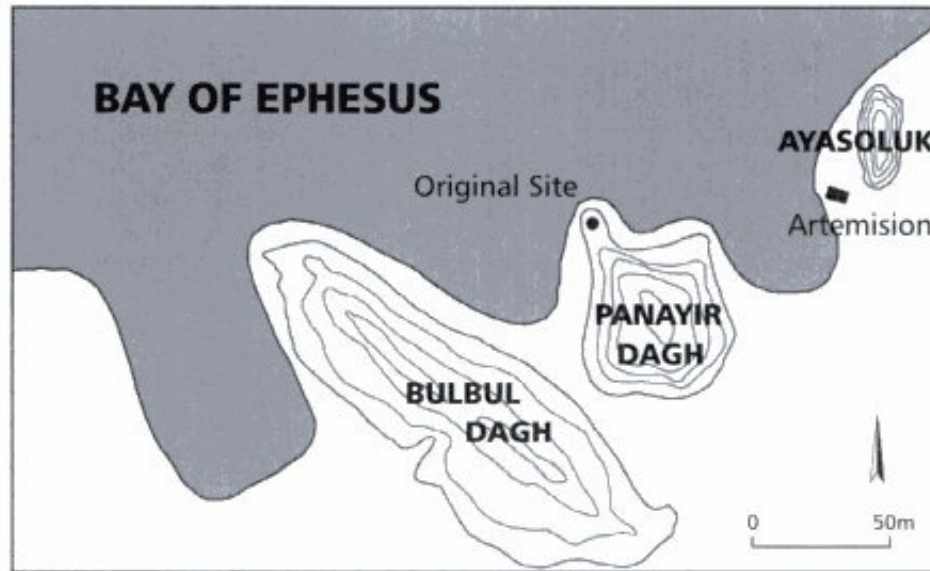
Laodicea = *the present-day church* – “lukewarm” = loss of distinctives

I. EPHESUS: THE FALLEN CHURCH, 2:1-7

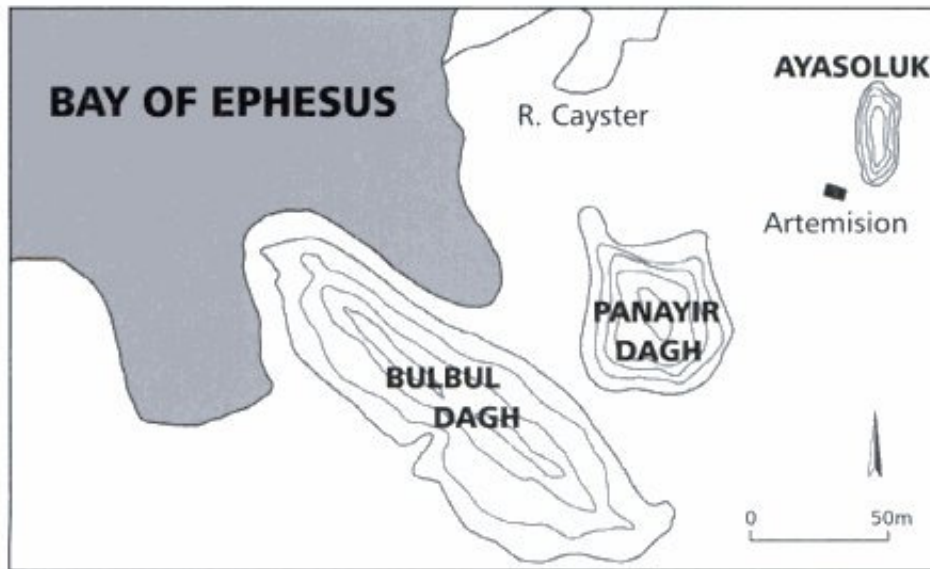


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The Moving Shoreline of Ephesus



At the time of the Ionian settlement



In the Roman period



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A. The Faithful Works of This Church, 2:1-3

1. It Was Standing Up to the Task, 2:1-2a

a. Christ is Omnipotent, 2:1

Rev. 2:1 “Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith **he that holdeth** the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

Original Word: κρατέω

Transliteration: krateó

Definition: I am strong, mighty, hence: I rule, am master, prevail; I obtain, take hold of; **I hold**, hold fast.

kratéō – to place under one's grasp (seize hold of, put under control).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2902.htm>

b. Christ is Omniscient, 2:2a “**I know** thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience...”

Original Word: οἶδα

Transliteration: eídō

Definition: **I know**, remember, appreciate.

eídō (oida) – properly, to see with *physical* eyes (cf. Ro 1:11), as it naturally bridges to the *metaphorical* sense: *perceiving* (“*mentally seeing*”). This is akin to the expressions: “*I see what You mean*”; “*I see what you are saying*.”

eídō (“*seeing that becomes knowing*”) then is a *gateway* to grasp spiritual truth (reality) from a physical plane. (*eídō*) then is physical seeing (sight) which should be the constant bridge to mental and spiritual seeing (*comprehension*).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1492.htm>

Original Word: ἔργον

Transliteration: ergon

Definition: **work**, task, employment; a deed, action; that which is wrought or made, a work.

érgon (from *ergō*, "to work, accomplish") – a *work* or *worker* who accomplishes something. *érgon* ("work") is a deed (action) that carries out (completes) an *inner desire* (intension, purpose).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2041.htm>

Original Word: κόπος

Transliteration: kopos

Definition: (a) trouble, (b) toil, **labor**, laborious toil, involving weariness and fatigue.

kópos (from *kóptō*, "to hit, strike") – properly, a strike (blow) that is so hard, it seriously weakens or debilitates; (figuratively) *deep fatigue*, *extreme weariness (wearisome toil)*. <https://biblehub.com/greek/2873.htm>

Original Word: ὑπομονή

Transliteration: hupomoné

Definition: endurance, steadfastness, patient waiting for, **patience**.

hupomoné (from *hypó*, "under" and *ménō*, "remain, endure") – properly, *remaining under*, endurance; steadfastness, especially as *God enables* the believer to "*remain (endure) under*" the challenges He allots in life. <https://biblehub.com/greek/5281.htm>

2. It Was Standing Up for the Truth, 2:2b “...and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars”

Original Word: βαστάζω

Transliteration: bastazó

Definition: (a) I carry, **bear**, (b) I carry (take) away.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/941.htm>

Original Word: πειράζω

Transliteration: peirazó

Definition: I try, tempt, test.

peirázō (from *peíra*, "test, trial") – "originally to *test*, to *try* which was its usual meaning in the ancient Greek" (*WP*, 1, 30). "The word means *either test or tempt*" (*WP*, 1, 348). *Context alone* determines which sense is intended, or if both apply *simultaneously*.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3985.htm>

3. It Was Standing Up in the Test, 2:3

Rev. 2:3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

Particularly commendable was the faithful "perseverance" of this church (v. 3).

Original Word: κοπιάω

Transliteration: κοπιάό

Definition: (a) I grow weary, (b) I toil, work with effort (of bodily and mental labor alike).

κοπιάō (from *κόπος*, "exhausting labor") – to labor until worn-out, depleted (exhausted). (*kopos*). <https://biblehub.com/greek/2872.htm>

B. The Fatal Weakness of This Church, 2:4-5a

1. The Vitality of Their Passion Was Gone, 2:4

Rev. 2:4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

2. The Validity of Their Profession Was Gone, 2:5a

“**Remember** therefore from whence thou art fallen...”

C. The Forceful Warning to This Church, 2:5b-7

1. Love Must Be Absolutely Paramount, 2:5b "...and **repent**, and **do the first works**; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

The corrective for a cold heart that the Lord prescribed was a three-step process:

- (1) "remember" how they used to feel about Him (first love)
- (2) "repent" (change their attitude)
- (3) *return* to the love that formerly motivated them ("do the deeds you did at first").

2. Love Must Be Absolutely Positive, 2:6

Rev. 2:6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

3. Love Must Be Absolutely Personal, 2:7

Rev. 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

1 Jn. 2:13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because **ye have overcome** the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

1 Jn. 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and **have overcome** them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Conclusion

1 Jn. 5:3 For **this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments**: and his commandments are not grievous.

4 For **whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world**: and this is **the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith**.

5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but **he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**