

THE SEVEN LETTERS of the BOOK OF REVELATION

Prophecy in Scripture can have:

- a. double fulfillment e.g. Malachi 4:5 regarding Elijah as heralding the coming of Messiah. John the Baptist heralding the Messiah and proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom (Matthew 11:14).
- b. an historical view plus a future view. Jer 4:23 looks historically at creation of the earth in Gen 1:2: "I beheld the earth, and indeed *it was without form, and void; And the heavens, they had no light.*" Yet Jeremiah 4:24 and following describes the fate of Judah at the hand of the Babylonians.

Another example: **Isaiah 61:1-2a** "The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;*

To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,

Luke 4:18 – Jesus reading in the synagogue regarding His mission. Jesus read only to "the year of the Lord. He did not read about the day of vengeance of our God.

And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, The last phrase has yet to be fulfilled. The first portion was fulfilled by Jesus at His first coming and will probably be fulfilled when Jesus returns.

Rev 1:7-20

7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea." 12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the

feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair

were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hell and of Death. 19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. 20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches." NKJV

Rev 1:18-19

"I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hell and of Death. Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this." NKJV

We are told in 1Cor 10:11 that we are told "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples (types): and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world (aion or age) are come."

We will study the letters to the seven churches in Revelation looking first at the Old Testament for types or ensamples then to the New Covenant period where we will see that these churches have both a local application at the time Jesus wrote His Revelation through the Apostle John to the panorama of Church History that they prophetically represent.

There were four watches during the evening to which we should pay heed: Mark 13:35 "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—

- 1. evening 6pm – 9pm The Apostolic Church**
- 2. midnight 9pm – 12am The Dark Ages**
- 3. Cock-crowing 12am – 3am The Reformation**
- 4. The Morning watch 3am – 6am includes the Morning Star (around 4AM)**

In the Bride of Christ we are in the fourth watch awaiting Jesus' return. It is my goal to show you how close to Jesus' return that we are by looking at these 7 letters.

Rev 22:16 I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the

churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, **the Bright and Morning Star.**" NKJV

Just before sunrise Mal 4:2 "But to you who fear My name **The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; And you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves.** NKJV
Rev 1:10 "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet," If this is read as the Lord's Day, we think of Sunday. However Sunday or the first day of the week was not called the Lord's Day for another 200 years. If we read this that John was in the Spirit on "the Day of the Lord", the Old Testament uses this term only to refer to the awesome & terrible Day of God's judgment on this world at the end of this age. (examples in Old Testament: Isa 13:6, Isa 34:8, Jer 46:10, Joel 1:15, Joel 2:1, Amos 5:18, Obadiah 1:15, Zeph 1:7-8, Malachi 4:5)

Revelation 1:11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea." These seven cities are located within a perimeter of 100 miles. If a traveler started at Ephesus (7pm on a clock) and walked clockwise, he would complete the circle in exactly the order that these churches are located geographically.

Rev 2:1-7 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, `These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

3 "and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

4 "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place----unless you repent.

6 "But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, (H.O.) which I also hate.

7."He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

- **Jesus praises the Church of Ephesus for not tolerating false teachers.**
- **Jesus rebukes this church for leaving their "first love" and calls**

them to repentance. Oftentimes in “defending the Faith” as we are called upon to do in Jude 3 against cults, we can become callous & cold. This may have been what happened in Ephesus.

- **To those who overcome He will give them of the Tree of Life.**

1. **Ephesus** - 2181 Ephesos ef-es-os

probably of foreign origin; ; n pr loc AV-Ephesus 15; 15

Ephesus = "permitted" or "let go" [This indicates backsliding.](#)

a.) Ephesus was the largest city in Asia Minor. It was famed for its Temple of Artemis (Greek) or Diana (Roman), one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Although a great city, **Heraclitus, one of the first Greek philosophers (6th Century BC) said with tears in his eyes that “no one could live in Ephesus without weeping over the immorality which he must see on every side.”** Ephesus was a great maritime city of Asia Minor and called the “market place of Asia Minor”. Silversmiths made fortunes by selling silver icons of the goddess Diana to tourists. These same silversmiths were almost shut down when the Gospel came to Ephesus.

b.) Ephesus was the mature Church who heeded Paul’s warning to them in Acts 20:27-31 **“For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.”**

This Church had as overseers Paul, John the Apostle and Timothy.

Ephesus was a Christian center from which future leaders were taught by Paul (Acts 19) and were **sent forth** to their home cities to establish local churches.

32AD – 110 AD (Ignatius of Antioch martyred) Pictures

the Church as it was in the beginning, in the period of the **Apostolic Age** when the Lord walked in the midst of His churches, His eyes upon everything there, to admonish, correct, and control. **In the beginning His name was the only center, and unto Him was the gathering of His saints.** The early Church walked in separation from the world. The church of Ephesus **(once established over a year was a center that trained and established churches in the cities of newly trained elders. This transpired over two additional years (Acts 20:31 3 years and Acts 19:9-10)**

Nevertheless, this mature and obedient Church backslid by taking their eyes

of Jesus as the center of their lives in the Church. To keep Him in the center of our hearts means to love Him first and most.

2. **Smyrna: Rev 2:8-11** "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, `These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

9 "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. (10%ers)

10 "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."

Smyrna was an Ionian city of Asia Minor, on the Aegean Sea, 40 miles north of Ephesus, Smyrna was regarded as the safest maritime harbor. It was famed for its street of gold running from the Temple of Zeus to the Temple of Cybele. Smyrna was a wealthy city. When wealthy Jews in Smyrna complained to local authorities, Christians began getting persecuted. At first it was economic deprivation. The man who turned into authorities his Christian neighbor, he received 10% of the value of the confiscated estate.

From economic deprivation the persecution proceeded to the death sentence for Christians. Note how our Lord Jesus walks in the midst of His churches.

At Smyrna, **Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna and student of John the Apostle**, was called upon to curse the name of Jesus or be put to death.

Polycarp responded "**Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who has saved me?**" Polycarp was burned at the stake by Romans. There were Jews assisting in his death by carrying the firewood on the Sabbath. This explains Jesus' comment about the "synagogue of Satan". This applies locally. This statement of Jesus does not apply to all Jews in every Synagogue everywhere.

Smyrna 111- 312AD The Martyr Church

Depicts the Church in the persecutions, the first 300 years. **Smyrna means "myrrh", which is frequently used in Scripture in connection with the embalming of the dead.** Myrrh had to be crushed to give out its fragrance, and so was the Church crushed under the iron heel of pagan Rome, giving out its fragrance to God in those years of martyrdom.

For it is written: Psalm 116:15 "**Precious in the sight of the LORD is the**

death of his saints.”

Regarding Smyrna’s 10 days, there were 10 persecutions under Roman Emperors:

Nero 67AD

Domitian 81AD boiled the Apostle John in hot oil. Since death did not follow, Domitian exiled him to Patmos.

Trajan 108AD

Marcus Aurelius 162 AD

Severus 192 AD

Maximus 235 AD

Decius 249 AD

Valerian 257 AD

Aurelian 274 AD

Diocletian 303 AD (The last 10 years; 303AD – 312AD, Christians executed under Diocletian, were particularly vicious.)

- Jesus praises this Church for being faithful in the face of persecution.
- Jesus has no rebuke for this Church
- Jesus promises them the Crown of Life

3. Pergamos Rev 2:12 – 17 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, `These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

13 "I know your works, and where you dwell, *where Satan's throne is*. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, *where Satan dwells*.

14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the *doctrine of Balaam*, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

"Thus you also have those who hold *the doctrine of the Nicolaitans*, which thing I hate.

Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the *hidden manna to eat*. And I will give him *a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it*."

Pergamos- 325AD - 590AD

Strong’s 4010 means “ height or elevation”, used in some instances for the word “marriage”:

Please note: Rev 2:15"Thus you also have those who hold *the doctrine of*

the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.” References to sexual immorality are contained and condemned by Jesus in verse 14 speaking against the Doctrine of Balaam). There is a position to be made that the doctrine of the Nicolaitans is not that same teaching regarding sexual immorality.

- a city of Mysia Minor and the center of the state religion in Asia Minor. Pergamos was the seat of the **dynasty of Attalus (prox 200 BC)**, famous also for its invention and manufacture of parchment. The river Selinus flowed through it. It was the birthplace of the physician, Galen, and had a great royal library. The city had an altar of Zeus, another of the 7 Wonders of the World.

- **Attalus was the one who had the title of the Babylonian mystery religion “Pontifex Maximus” meaning the great bridge (between man and God).**

- He was attended by a college of cardinals (Latin meaning “hinge”), and worshipped Janus, the Roman god of doors.

- The two keys of Cybele, which unlocked the doors of Janus were also entrusted to this man. (NO RELATION to MATT 16:19)

- When Attalus died, this title was bequeathed to the reigning Roman Emperor, beginning with Julius Caesar. It was later declined by a Christian emperor, Gratian, because of the pagan significance of the title and adopted by the Bishop of Rome, Damasus I in 378 AD.

What had been called the deeds of the Nicolaitans in Ephesus in Rev 2:6 has now become the doctrine of the Nicolaitans in Rev 2:15 in Pergamos.

a. The Doctrine of Balaam - (Rev 2:14) Balaam’s teaching to corrupt God’s people who could not be cursed through sexual immorality and through marrying Moabite women so that their separateness unto the Lord would be compromised. (NUM 31:15, 16. NUM 22:5, NUM 23:8)

b. The Error of Balaam - (Jude 11) Using his rational mind Balaam erred in assuming that if God saw evil in Israel He must curse them from His righteousness. Balaam was blind to the Higher Law of the Cross through which God, in His mercy, justifies sinners as He breaks sin’s hold on believers.

c. The Way of Balaam (2Peter 2:15) The way of Balaam was that of a hireling prophet exercising his gift out of greed for money rather than as a service to God.

Portrays the period of Church history from Constantine to the beginning of the papacy at the end of the sixth century A.D. The word Pergamos with its two meanings, "marriage" and "elevation", speaks of the time when the Church was elevated to a place of power, and married to the world, when Church and state were united under Constantine and his successors. During this period countless pagan priests entered the new Christian state religion and brought with them all manner of pagan practices and giving these practices new names.

The meaning of the white stone with a new name written on it for each of us. A white stone was given by a court of law to an innocent person.

- **Commendation: Loyalty to Jesus and refusal to deny Him**
- **Rebuke for tolerating cults, heresies, idolatry and immorality**
- **Promise: Repent and receive hidden manna and a white stone with a new name**

4. Thyatira Rev 2:18 - 29 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, `These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:

19 "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.

20 "Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

21 "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

22 "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.

23 "I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

24 "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, *who have not known the depths of Satan*, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.

25 "But hold fast what you have till I come.

26 "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations----

27 `He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' ----as I also have received from My Father;

28 "and I will give him the morning star.

29 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Thyatira – of uncertain derivation; ; n pr loc AV-Thyatira 4; 4 Thyatira =" odour of affliction"

a) a colony of Macedonia Greeks, situated between Sardis and Pergamos on the river Lycus; its inhabitants gained their living by traffic and the art of dyeing in purple

b) Mentioned in Scripture -Acts 16:14 "Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul." Although reference is made to Thyatira, Paul never visited the cities mentioned in Revelation except the Church of Ephesus.

"These things says the Son of God". This is the first time, in these epistles, that the name of the speaker is referred to. In each other instance, there is merely some attribute of the Saviour mentioned.

We believe that the woman referred to in Rev 2:24 is Sambathe, a false prophetess who was a member of the Church of Thyatira.

Thyatira 590 AD – 1517 AD

Pictures the Church during the **Papal Period** from the end of the sixth century to the sixteenth century A.D. The significance of the name "odour of affliction" and reference to Jezebel lies in the the elevation of Church tradition (Magisterium) to the same authoritative level as that of the Word of God. A prophetess is supposed to speak for God. The most fundamental error of the Church of Rome---the sacrifice of the mass. Roman Catholic priests declare that in the mass they offer is a continuous sacrifice for the sins of the living and the dead, which is the very root of blasphemy, the denial of the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross, the one and all sufficient offering for the sins of a guilty world. Every time the priest stands at Rome's altar to offer the sacrifice of the mass, he denies the unchanging efficacy of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God that affirms Jesus' sacrifice:

Hebrews 10:10-12 "By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,"

"Vatican" means prophecy and was the sacred hill that was used in the Mystery Religion of Mithras before Christianity became the "state

religion". (The grave of Peter is supposedly under Vatican hill, the most sacred spot in ancient pagan Rome. However, Paul, a Roman citizen, is buried outside of the city as a common criminal. It is doubtful that Peter was buried under the Vatican)

In spite of countless mysteries in Roman Catholicism, there are only 11 mysteries in the Bible, and some of them have been revealed to us.

The temporal authority of the Roman Catholic Church claimed by its pope is derived from two documents allegedly written by Constantine to the pope giving the Church of Rome lands and authority over kings:

- a. The *"Donation of Constantine"* and the
- b. *"Decretal of Isadore"* were later proved to be forgeries from the 8th century. Source: *Roman Catholic Encyclopedia*

REV 2:23 "And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searches the minds and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Conditions of reality in the middle ages – no indoor plumbing, no refrigeration, average life expectancy, no modern dentistry (in a person's 30's their teeth fell out. Disposal of sewage etc.) This prophetic statement of Jesus was literally fulfilled. In 1349 AD to 1351 AD 25% of the population of Europe was destroyed by the "Black Plague" also called the Bubonic Plague (caused by the fleas on rats). – Jews were spared because of their Levitical laws regarding hygiene. Since Jews did not succumb to this horrible disease, persecution of Jews broke out from a populace in ignorance and panic.

The rule of the Roman Church continued unabated until 1517 with the Protestant Reformation. (Background of the Italic Church or Church of Vaudois) However there were persecuted saints such as the Waldensians, followers of Jan Hus and individuals in the Roman Church who trusted and loved Jesus and Him alone. *(example: St. Therese of Liseaux)*

- **Commendation: deeds, love, faith, service, patience**
- **Rebuke for tolerating false prophetess, idolatry & immorality**
- **Promise: the saved remnant will have authority over the Nations**

with Jesus (Psalm 2) and the morning star who is Jesus Rev 22:16.

To the unrepentant- great tribulation

Sardis

Rev 3:1-6 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, `These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

2 "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.

3 "Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

4 "You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

5 "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

6 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

5. Sardis 4554 Sardeis sar¹-dice Sardis =" red ones") a luxurious city in Asia Minor, the capital of Lydia from which King Croesus, known historically for his wealth, reigned until 546 BC. This was 33 miles southeast of Thyatira. In 17AD an earthquake destroyed much of the city. However Tiberius, Roman Emperor, rebuilt Sardis and cancelled the city's taxes for 5 years. Cybele was the principal goddess of Sardis. The Christian Church in Sardis did have a name or a reputation for being good people. It appeared to be alive with busy tasks, but was truly dead in the eyes of God. The Church of Sardis failed to watch (for the imminent return of Jesus, however Jesus visits them through this letter.

1517- 1750AD

Shows the Reformation period from the sixteenth century A.D. Sardis means a "remnant" or "those who have escaped". The story is plain, and brings before us, prophetically, the great state churches of the Reformation, who escaped from Rome, only to fall eventually into cold, lifeless formalism. After the dynamic leadership of men like Luther, Calvin, Knox, Zwingli, there arose followers of these men who further divided the Church. The Reformation returned the church to the basis of salvation

Eph 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Protestant groups began persecuting one another. Examples of this are the followers of Jacob Arminius who opposed the teachings of TULIP and the teachings of John Calvin. Anabaptists were persecuted by Catholic and Protestant authorities alike for seeking to baptize only believers and refusing baptism to infants.

Theological arguments, Calvinism's teaching of the unlimited election and predestination created conditions such that this Church did not evangelize the unsaved. Jesus commands to us:

- 1. Matt 28:19-20 teach the Gospel to all nations**
- 2. Mark 16:15 preach the Gospel to all nations**
- 3. Acts 1:8 be witnesses for Jesus to all nations**

These commands went unheeded through most of this Church period with the exception of a small missionary effort after 1610 AD.

- **Commendation: some have kept the faith**
- **Rebuke for being a dead church**
- **Promise: Repent, strengthen what little remains and their names will not be blotted out of the Book of Life.**

Philadelphia Rev 3:7-13 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, `These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens":

"I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

"Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie----indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

"Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

"Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

"He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

6. **Philadelphia** - 5359 Philadelpheia fil-ad-el'-fee-ah
from Philadelphos (the same as 5361); TDNT-1:144, *; n pr loc
AV-Philadelphia 2; 2 Philadelphia =" brotherly love"

a) a city of Lydia in Asia Minor, situated near the eastern base of Mount Tmolus, founded and named by the Attalus II Philadelphus. After 133 BC, it together with his entire kingdom came under the jurisdiction of the Romans.

Isaiah 22:22 "And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open." These very words are now applied to the Lord Jesus in Rev 3:7.

Philadelphia (Rev 3:7-13)...1750 to Present

(minority) Covers prophetically, the Great Awakenings of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries A.D. Philadelphia means "brotherly love", which implies that those contemplated here love as do brethren; and, as Sardis sends forth state churches of the Reformation, so Philadelphia sends forth those those churches who emphasize the authority of the Word of God, the great commission to teach & baptize (Matt 28:20), preach in the whole world (Mark 16:20) and be witnesses for Jesus (Acts 1:8). The preeminence of the Gospel of Grace preached in the power of the preciousness name of Jesus Christ.

a. The "Open Door" refers to our salvation:

John 10:2 But he who enters in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

John 10:7 Then Jesus said to them again, Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters in by Me, he shall be saved and shall go in and out and find pasture.

b. Also refers to preaching the Gospel:

1 Corinthians 16:9 For a great and effective door opened to me, and many are opposing.

2 Corinthians 2:12 And, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord,

Colossians 4:3 praying together about us also, that God may open to us a door of the Word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I also have been bound,

c. Regarding those in REV 3:9 ..."who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars."

Freemasonry consolidated it's two branches in 1717 AD bringing together the Knights Templar and the Scottish Rite. During some of the Masonic rituals is a portrayal of King Solomon and his priests enacting some fiction regarding the construction of the Temple by Hiram (1 Kings 5:18 And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders cut out and prepared the timber and the stones to build the house.") **These are the only Gentiles who say they are Jews (during their rituals) and are not.**

- **Commendation: Kept My Word and have not denied My Name**
- **Rebuke none for this missionary church**
- **Promise: Jesus will provide them an open door, keep them from the "hour of trial" coming on the whole world and make those who overcome to be a pillar in the Temple of God.**

Laodicea

Rev 3:14-22

14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, `These things

says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

16 "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit (1692 *emeo em-eh'-o* = vomit) you out of My mouth.

17 "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' ----and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked----

18 "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

19 "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. (an invitation we give to unbelievers. Note that Jesus is not in the midst of this church. He is speaking to individuals, not to the entire Church.)

21 "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

7. **Laodicea** 2993 Laodikeia lah-od-ik'-i-ah from a compound of 2992 and 1349; ; n pr loc AV-Laodicea 6; 6

Laodicea =" justice or rights of the people"

a city of Phrygia, situated on the river Lycus, not far from Colosse. It was destroyed by an earthquake in 66 A.D. and rebuilt by Marcus Aurelius. This was the banking and woolen manufacturing center of the ancient world. Laodicea was a very wealthy city. It was renowned for it's eye salve sold for medicinal purposes to help people see.

Laodicea (Rev 3:14-22) 20th Century and Present

Depicts the Church during the present time to the Lord's coming.

Laodicea means "the rights of the people". What term most accurately portrays our present age? This is the era of democratization, both in the world and in the Church. The masses are realizing their power as never before; the terrific slogan, "Vox populi, vox Dei" (The voice of the people is the voice of God) is ringing throughout the world, and the spirit of this democratic age has invaded a large portion of the professing Church.

Our Lord Jesus is pictured here standing outside of the door of this Church.

Jesus ended His presence in this Church as it became more apostate. Jesus left and no one in the Church realized nor cared that He left. The authority of God and His Word is rapidly being denied, hence the striking similarity between this letter to Laodicea and the professing mainline Protestant Churches so prevalent today. God says, **"because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit (Greek emeo meaning "vomit") you out of my mouth" (Rev 3:16)**. There is a great lack of burning zeal and literal belief for Word of God in the many professing Christian Churches today. This is the apostate Christian Church that preaches a social gospel and living righteously by the Sermon on the Mount while denying the deity, virgin birth, the vicarious saving Blood Atonement and physical resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: Jesus is talking to believers in this Church as one would talk to the unsaved for He says "REV 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with me"

- **Commendation: none**
- **Rebuke: lukewarm and nauseous to Jesus. Reliance on worldly wealth. Jesus has left their midst and is calling to individuals in the Church from outside the Church door.**
- **Promise: Those who repent will dine with Jesus. Those who overcome will sit with Jesus on His throne.**

Note: From a cold Church, e.g. 18th Century Anglican, came the revival fires of Methodism in John Wesley & George Whitfield. From the cold formalism of the United Methodist Church of the late 19th century, the Holy Spirit brings forth the Salvation Army on fire for Jesus.

Example of cold – Anglican Bishop of Durham 1986 denial of the Word of God, deity of Jesus, virgin birth and Resurrection of Jesus and our need for a vicarious Blood Atonement. Contrast with **Holy Trinity Brompton**, London 1990's from cold to revival fire hot!

Hence, our Lord Jesus wants a church that is hot-on fire for Him. If not, He Can take a cold church and the Holy Spirit will light revival fire. From lukewarm, you get nothing but external self-righteousness.

Rev 22:12-17, and verse 20

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever

loves and practices a lie.

"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

NKJV