

Lesson: OUTLINE OF PASSAGES ON 7 CHURCHES

This lesson will outline the individual study of each of the 7 churches of the Book of Revelation.

This lesson will study seven points on the, outline of passages of each of the SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION.

1. We are told, at least twice in Book of Revelation that a special angel of Jesus was assigned to dictate the writing of the Book of Revelation to John.

“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must shortly take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angels to His bond-servant John.” (1:1)

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright and morning star.” (Rev.22: 16)

2. Below is a map of location of the 7 churches of Asia Minor listed in Rev.1: 11 –“Write in a book what you see and send to the seven churches.” They are listed in the order of the route traveled, starting with Ephesus and traveling north in a circle.

3. Each passage, of the seven churches will be studied by the following five-point outline.

- **Salutation to church** - write (grapho/ a.a.impv./ 1:11,19)
- **Celebrity of Jesus Christ** – identified in chapter one.
- **Appraisal of church** – “I know (oida) your...”
- **Victory of phase II** - “He who has an ear let him hear (akouo/ a.a.impv) what the Spirit says to the churches.”
- **Reward of phase III** – “He who overcomes (ho nikao)”

Note of interest: The *victory phase* is placed before *rewards* in the first three churches and after *rewards* in the last four.

4. Only two of the seven churches were spiritually mature:

- Smyrna (2:9-10)
- Philadelphia (3:8-11).

There isn't any negative stated towards these two churches like the other five. The phrase, “I have this against you,” is not mentioned with these two churches (2:4, 14, 20: 3:2, 16).

5. The other five churches were engaged in different forms of reversionism.

- **Ephesus** – mental attitude reversionism (2:4-5).
- **Pergamum** – apostate reversionism (2; 14-16).
- **Thyatira** – phallic reversionism (2:20-24).
- **Sardis** – corrupted flesh reversionism (3:3-4).
- **Laodicea** – monetary reversionism (3:15-18).

6. A state of reversionism in a local church can result in its discipline and even removal.

- **Ephesus:** “I am coming to you, and will remove your lampstand out of its place unless you *repent*.” (2:5b)
- **Pergamum:** “*Repent* therefore; or else I am coming to you quickly.” (2:16)
- **Thyatira:** “Cast into great tribulation, unless they *repent* of her deeds.” (2:22)
- **Sardis:** “If therefore you will not *wake up*, I will come like a thief, and will not know at what hour I will come upon you.” (3:3)
- **Laodicea:** “I will spit you out of My mouth.” (3:16) “Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and *repent*.” (3:19)

7. Definition of revisionism: “Reversionism is the retrogression from a stage of spiritual enlightenment, expressed by negative volition through disobedience towards God’s revealed will.”

- It called backsliding in Prov.14: 14 and falling from grace in Gal.5: 4.
- It is referred to becoming dull (nothros/ slow, sluggish) of hearing or numb to the truth of God’s word because of scar tissue of the soul (Heb.5: 11; Eph.4: 17-20).
- It is possible for a church to become reversionistic (5 of the 7 churches of Revelation; 2 Cor.12: 20-21).