

## The Seven Churches Of Asia

The book of Revelation was written on the island of Patmos (Rev 1:9). This rocky and desolate isle is located in the Aegean Sea, twenty-four miles west of the coast of Asia Minor and about seventy miles southwest of Ephesus. The seven churches mentioned by John were all founded in the immediate neighborhood of this city. Ephesus was the leading church of the group where Paul labored with great success. These other churches may have been the outgrowth of missionary work, although we have no record of his visitation of some of the places. Tradition fixes Ephesus as the center of John's later ministry, and he probably had the oversight of the seven churches.

### **Ephesus**

The orthodox church, Rev 2:1-7

#### **Virtues Commended**

Good works, patience, sound doctrine, church discipline, stead-fastness, hatred of evil, Rev 2:2-3, 6

#### **Sins And Weaknesses Rebuked**

Loss of love and backsliding, Rev 2:4-5

#### **Promises To Overcomers**

Heavenly food, Rev 2:7

#### **Type Of Historical Eras**

Late apostolic age

#### **Type Of Churches**

Active churches, overemphasizing orthodoxy, but lacking in spiritual fervor.

### **Smyrna**

The poor, rich church, Rev 2:8-11

#### **Virtues Commended**

Spiritual endurance, heavenly treasures, Rev 2:9-10

#### **Sins And Weaknesses Rebuked**

No reproof

#### **Promises To Overcomers**

A crown of life, Rev 2:10

#### **Type Of Historical Eras**

The early centuries of persecution

#### **Type Of Churches**

Missionary and other churches enduring persecution

### **Pergamum**

The church with bad surroundings, Rev 2:12-17

#### **Virtues Commended**

Steadfastness amid evil environment, Rev 2:13

#### **Sins And Weaknesses Rebuked**

Tolerance of corrupt doctrines and heretics, Rev 2:14-15

#### **Promises To Overcomers**

Hidden spiritual blessings, divine food, a new name, Rev 2:17

#### **Type Of Historical Eras**

The age of Constantine, temporal prosperity

#### **Type Of Churches**

The churches supported by the government

### **Thyatira**

The church of the evil prophetess, Rev 2:18-29

#### **Virtues Commended**

Charity, spiritual service, faith, and patience, Rev 2:19

**Sins And Weaknesses Rebuked**

Lax discipline and tolerance of a corrupt prophetess, Rev 2:20-23

**Promises To Overcomers**

Spiritual dominion and illumination, Rev 2:26-28

**Type Of Historical Eras**

The age of papal apostasy

**Type Of Churches**

The development of numerous modern cults

**Sardis**

The dying church, Rev 3:1-6

**Virtues Commended**

None for the majority of the members, a few commended for purity, Rev 3:4

**Sins And Weaknesses Rebuked**

Extreme formalism, spiritual death imminent, inactivity, Rev 3:1

**Promises To Overcomers**

A robe of righteousness, heavenly record and recognition, Rev 3:5

**Type Of Historical Eras**

The Middle Ages

**Type Of Churches**

Churches which manifest a growing formalism accompanied by spiritual decline

**Philadelphia**

The weak but loyal church, Rev 3:7-13

**Virtues Commended**

Keeping of "the Word," testimony, Rev 3:8

**Sins And Weaknesses Rebuked**

None recorded

**Promises To Overcomers**

To become spiritual pillars bearing a divine inscription, Rev 3:12

**Type Of Historical Eras**

The period of the Reformation, Luther's times

**Type Of Churches**

All earnest spiritual churches

**Laodicea**

The rich, poor church, Rev 3:14-22

**Virtues Commended**

None recorded

**Sins And Weaknesses Rebuked**

Lukewarmness, spiritual conceit, no conscious need, spiritual poverty, spiritual blindness, spiritual wretchedness, Rev 3:15-17

**Promises To Overcomers**

Divine fellowship, spiritual enthronement, Rev 3:21

**Type Of Historical Eras**

The last days

**Type Of Churches**

Popular, self-satisfied, worldly churches