

Revelation Chapter 2

The letter to the Church at Ephesus.

John's nature as a disciple

Mark 3:17 James and John the sons of Zebedee, but Jesus nicknamed them “Sons of Thunder”,

Luke 9:51-56 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. **And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?** But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.

Revelation

The book of Revelation was written by the Apostle John while he was prisoner on the island of Patmos.

In chapter one John saw a the Lord Jesus Christ in His Glory.

Jesus dictated Seven letters to seven churches each with 7 parts. The letters relate to that particular church. They can be applied throughout all churches through history. They may prophetically demonstrate the history of the Church in advance.
Levels of meaning

1. Literal churches in the city named. The comments relate to what is known in history. The name of the city relates to its picture of Jesus and message.
2. 7 types of churches throughout church history... some degree of each within individual churches. Pastors and boards can use to evaluate their ministries.
3. Personal application... there are lessons for each of us.
4. Prophetically a history of the church throughout the ages. If the churches were listed in any other order this would not be prophetically accurate.

Each letter 7 parts

1. Picture of Jesus from John's vision in chapter 1
2. Good report
3. Jesus addresses the problem
4. Instructions to correct problem
5. Warning
6. Ears to hear
7. Promise

The Church at Ephesus (Ephesus means, "my beloved ")

1. Picture of Jesus

This is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, the one who walks among the seven gold lampstands:

Revelation 1:12-13 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 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.

Son of man... Daniel 7

2. Good report

Revelation 2:2-3 “I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don’t tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. You have patiently suffered for me without quitting.

At the time this letter was given Timothy was as pastor, the Apostle John was the Bishop

1 Timothy 1:3

3As I leave for Macedonia, I’m asking that you remain in Ephesus and continue the discipleship of the believers; stay

there in Ephesus and instruct them not to teach or follow the error of deceptive doctrines, nor pay any attention to cultural myths, traditions, or the endless study of genealogies.

1 Timothy 4:1. 1The Holy Spirit has explicitly revealed: “At the end of this age, many will depart from the true faith one after another, devoting themselves to spirits of deception and following demon-inspired revelations and theories. 2Hypocritical liars will deceive many, for no matter what evil they do, their consciences won’t bother them at all!

2 Timothy 2:16.

16And avoid empty chatter and worthless words, for they simply add to the irreverence of those who converse in that manner. 17For the words of Hymenaeus and Philetus are like gangrene, they have already spread their poison to many. 18They are lost to the truth and teach gross error when they teach that the resurrection of the dead has already passed. They are guilty of subverting the faith of some believers.

2 Timothy 3:1

1But you need to be aware that in the final days the culture of society will sink so low into degradation that it will be extremely difficult for the people of God. 2People will be self-centered lovers of themselves and obsessed with money. They will boast of great things as they strut around in their arrogant pride and mock all that is right. They will ignore their own families. They will be ungrateful and ungodly.

Paul Acts

Acts 20:20-32 I never shrank back from telling you what you needed to hear, either publicly or in your homes. I have had one message for Jews and Greeks alike—the necessity of repenting from sin and turning to God, and of having faith in our Lord Jesus. “And now I am bound by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem. I don’t know what awaits me, except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead. But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God. “And now I know that none of you to whom I have preached the Kingdom will ever see me again. I declare today that I have been faithful. If anyone suffers eternal death, it’s not my fault, for I didn’t shrink from declaring all that God wants you to know. “So guard yourselves and God’s people. Feed and shepherd God’s flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders. **I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following. Watch out!** Remember the three years I was with you—my constant watch and care over you night and day, and Amy many tears for you. “And now I entrust you to God and the message of his grace that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those he has set apart for himself.

John moved to Ephesus and became its bishop. He and Mary the mother of Jesus lived there.

Jesus demonstrated intimate knowledge of what is going on in church related to his being the one who walks between the lamp stands.

3. Jesus addresses the problem

Revelation 2:4-6 “But I have this complaint against you. You don’t love me or each other as you did at first! Look how far you have fallen!

4. instructions to correct problem

Turn back to me and do the works you did at first.

5. warning

If you don’t repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches. But this is in your favor: You hate the evil deeds of the Nicolaitans, just as I do.

Jesus sandwiches the complaint between compliments.

First 3 letters have ears to hear in the body of the letter. Last 4 have it appended to the end.

6. Ears to hear. Revelation 2:7 **“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.**

7. Reward

To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life in the paradise of God.

Read John's epistles to the Church in light of this correction and warning!

The primary focus of the Son of thunder is changed to love. Read his gospel and his letters in this light.

His last sermons are recorded by his disciple Ignatius, " little children just love one another!"

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

1 John 2:9-11 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother

abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

1 John 2:9-11 1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

John 3:1, 11, 14, 18-19, 23. For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

1 John 4:7-11, 16 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

John 17:20-23, 26 “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”