

The Climate of the Church



REVELATION 2-3

Climate - ?



- Weather is what is happening outside, right now

JOHN'S WEATHER FORECASTING STONE

CONDITION	FORECAST
Stone is Wet	Rain
Stone is Dry	Not Raining
Shadow on Ground	Sunny
White on Top	Snowing
Can't See Stone	Foggy
Swinging Stone	Windy
Stone Jumping Up & Down	Earthquake
Stone Gone	Tornado

Climate - ?



- Weather is what is happening outside, right now
- Climate is a trend of prevailing (weather) patterns in a certain region over a long period of time
- What saith the Scriptures?

The Climate of the Church



- E
- S
- P
- T
- S
- P
- L

The Seven Churches of Revelation 2-3

- EPHESUS (2:1-7)
- SMYRNA (2:8-11)
- PERGAMOS (2:12-17)
- THYATIRA (2:18-29)
- SARDIS (3:1-6)
- PHILADELPHIA (3:7-13)
- LAODICEA (3:14-22)



Three Views of the Seven Churches



- Contemporary purpose – John wrote seven literal letters to seven specific churches that existed at that time in Asia
- Composite purpose – These letters are however applicable to all churches that exist throughout the Church Age
- Chronological purpose – Characteristics of these churches serve as a prophetic preview of eras within the Church Age (from Pentecost to the Rapture)

Outline of Church History



- Ephesus – The **Apostolic** Church (30-100)
- Smyrna – The **Martyr** Church (100-300)
- Pergamos – The **Compromising** Church (300-600)
- Thyatira – The **Roman Catholic** Church (600-1500)
- Sardis – The **Reformation** Church (1500-1700)
- Philadelphia – The **Revival** Church (1700-1900)
- Laodicea – The **Worldly** Church (1900-Rapture)

Names of the Seven Churches



- Ephesus – “*desirable*”
- Smyrna – “*myrrh*”
- Pergamos – “*marriage*”
- Thyatira – “*continual sacrifice*”
- Sardis – “*remnant*”
- Philadelphia – “*brotherly love*”
- Laodicea – “*people’s rights*”

The Letters to the Seven Churches



- A view of **CHRIST**
(this book is the Revelation of Jesus Christ!)
- A **Commendation**
(something good to be said about them (except L.))
- A **Condemnation**
(something bad to be said (except Sm. & Ph.))
- A **Challenge**
(some way in which they ought to grow)
- A **Promise**
(something from the Lord in store for each of them)

Common to ALL Seven Churches



- Unto the angel of the church of () write...
- I know thy works...
- He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches

CHRIST to the Seven Churches



- E – “He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand, Who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks”
- Sm – “the first and the last, which was dead and is alive”
- P – “He which hath the sharp sword with two edges”
- T – “the Son of God, Who hath His eyes like unto a flame of fire, and His feet are like fine brass”
- S – “He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars”
- Ph – “He that is Holy and True, He that hath the key of David, he that openeth and no man shutteth, and shutteth and no man openeth”
- L – “the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God”

EPHESUS



- **Commendation:**
 - He knows their works, labor, patience, their discernment, endurance, etc.
 - They hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans
- **Condemnation:**
 - They have left their first love
- **Challenge:**
 - Repent! Return to your first works, cultivate your first love
- **Promise:**
 - Overcomers will be able to eat of the tree of life in the midst of the paradise of God

SMYRNA



- **Commendation:**
 - He knows their works, their tribulation, poverty and suffering for the sake of Christ
 - That they withstood blasphemy (the synagogue of Satan)
- **Condemnation: (none)**
- **Challenge:**
 - Fear none of these things! (you will have tribulation 10 days)
 - Be faithful unto death! (I will give you a crown of life)
- **Promise:**
 - Overcomers shall not be hurt of the second death

PERGAMOS



- **Commendation:**
 - He knows their works, where they dwell (where Satan's seat is), their steadfastness and that they did not deny the faith
 - Antipas, My faithful martyr
- **Condemnation:**
 - Some hold to the doctrine of Balaam
 - Some hold to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans
- **Challenge:**
 - Repent! (or I will come fight you with the sword of My mouth)
- **Promise:**
 - Overcomers will receive hidden manna and a white stone (new name)

THYATIRA



- **Commendation:**
 - He knows their works, their charity, service, faith, patience, and works
- **Condemnation:**
 - Jezebel, prophetess who seduced many to fornication and idolatry
 - All who follow her will end in death
- **Challenge:**
 - Repent! Hold fast till I come
- **Promise:**
 - Overcomers will receive authority in the Kingdom over nations
 - And shall receive the “morning star” (Rv. 22:16)

SARDIS



- **Commendation:**
 - He knows their works, that they have a name that they live, but are dead
- **Condemnation:**
 - You are dead! Your works are not perfect before the Lord.
- **Challenge:**
 - Be watchful and strengthen what remains
 - Remember what you have received, hold fast, and repent
- **Promise:**
 - Overcomers will be clothed in white and be secure

PHILADELPHIA



- **Commendation:**
 - I know thy works, before thee is set an open door
 - Thou hast a little strength, and have kept My word and not denied My name
 - Thou hast kept the word of My patience
- **Condemnation: (none)**
- **Challenge:**
 - Hold fast that which thou hast!
- **Promise:**
 - I have set before thee an open door
 - I will subdue your enemies
 - I will keep you from the hour of temptation
 - Overcomers will be made a pillar in the temple of God and receive a new name

LAODICEA



- Commendation: (none)
- Condemnation:
 - I know thy works, that you are neither cold nor hot, but lukewarm
 - They are rich and increased in goods and have need of nothing
 - They are truly wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked
- Challenge:
 - Buy of Me gold, tried in fire (in order to be spiritually rich)
 - (Buy) white raiment, that they may be clothed
 - Anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that they may see (discern)
 - As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten
 - Be zealous therefore, and repent!
- Promise:
 - Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me. (3:20)
 - Overcomers will be granted to sit with Me in My throne

Lessons from the Seven Churches



- **Ephesus, the desirable Apostolic church**
 - Are we zealous to reach the world for Christ?
 - Are we discerning (Nicolaitans) – truth/error?
 - Are we too busy for Christ to cultivate a proper relationship with Him?
 - Have we left our first love?
 - Orthodoxy for Christ cannot replace communion with Christ.
 - Do we look forward to fellowship with Christ in the Paradise of God?

Lessons from the Seven Churches



- **Smyrna, the crushed/persecuted Martyr church**
 - Do we fear? – He challenges to Fear not!
 - Are we faithful? – He challenges to be Faithful!
 - Suffering for the Lord is a reality, the promise of comfort and a future in heaven is our joy

Lessons from the Seven Churches



- Pergamos, the married Compromising church
 - Are we living in a way that stands out from the world?
 - Are we willing to suffer as a martyr for Christ?
 - Are we compromising?
 - Are we susceptible to the error of Balaam?
 - Are we allowing false doctrine (Nicolaitanism)?
 - Are we willing to repent?

Lessons from the Seven Churches



- Thyatira, the continual sacrifice Catholic church
 - Do we see Christ as One who is our Judge?
 - What is our modern day Jezebel?
 - Are we able to stand out as a light for Christ amidst a sea of shadowy churches ?

Lessons from the Seven Churches



- **Sardis, the remnant Reformation church**
 - Are we guilty of claiming to be alive, and truly we are dead?
 - Are our works perfect before the Lord?
 - Are we living in defiled garments, or are we walking in white raiment

Lessons from the Seven Churches



- **Philadelphia, the brotherly love Revival church**
 - Do we have a true missionary zeal?
 - Do we exercise true love towards our brothers in Christ (and to unbelievers)?

Lessons from the Seven Churches



- Laodicea, the peoples' rights Worldly church
 - Do we have any positive record before the Lord?
 - Are we hot?
 - Are we cold?
 - Are we lukewarm?
 - Are we comfortable in our current status (wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked)
 - Do we need what Christ has (pure gold, white raiment, eye salve)
 - Have we experienced rebuke or chastening?
 - Ought we repent?
 - I Christ within or without?
 - How is our fellowship with the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God?