

REVELATION'S SEVEN CHURCHES

A STUDY ON WHETHER THEY ARE ACCORDING TO THE REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

~ Revelation 3:22

1. The Seven Churches of Revelation

- a. The revelation of the mystery is the gospel of grace and His Body - Rom 16:25, Eph 3:6
- b. The Revelation is of Jesus Christ (as LORD, His return, judgment, reign) – Rev 1:1, 5
- c. Who are the seven churches of Revelation? Rev 1:9, 20, 22:16
 - i. Should we attempt the study? Blessing Rev 22:7 or curse Rev 22:16-19
 - ii. Paul's churches (Ephesus?), prophecy of 'church history', future churches?
 - iii. Scofield: "the church does not appear after Rev 3:22", Rev 4:1 = rapture
 - iv. Real question: are these churches according to the revelation of the mystery?

2. Churches in Asia

- a. These are all churches in Asia Minor - Rev 1:4, 11 (see, Paul!)
- b. There were Jewish men from Asia at Pentecost – Acts 2:8-9
- c. There were remnant believers from Asia – Acts 6:9, 1 Pet 1:1
- d. Paul forbidden to go til ~20 yrs after he was saved - Gal 1:18,2:1, Acts 16:6, 19:10
- e. Only 3 of 7 are mentioned elsewhere in scripture: Ephesus, Laodicea, Thyatira
- f. They had disciples before Paul – Acts 16:14, 18:18, 24, 19:1
- g. Jews from Asia were who persecuted Paul

3. Synagogues and Churches

- a. Dispensational truth: Israel and the church (Body of Christ) are not the same.
 - i. There was a church in the wilderness (OT Israel) – Acts 7:38
 - ii. There was a church in Jerusalem (NT Israel) – Acts 8:1, 11:19-22, 15:4
 - iii. There is the church, which is His Body – Col 1:24, Eph 1:23, 4:12
- b. The Jewish 'church' before Paul met in the temple and together in houses – Acts 2:46
- c. After scattering they met in Jewish synagogues – Acts 9:2, 9:20, 22:19, 26:11, 18:26
- d. These churches are Jews in association with synagogues – Rev 2:9, 2:26, 3:9
- e. John was a minister/apostle of the circumcision – Gal 2:9, Rom 15:8

4. The Angel of the Church

- a. *"to the angel of the church..."* – either 'guardian angels' or a position in the 'church'
- b. Angel ~def. Literally, a messenger. Can speak of Christ, angelic beings, or men.
- c. Jewish synagogues til this day have an official position of 'messenger' (Shaliach Tzibur)
- d. Our apostle says to beware of angels with another gospel – Gal 1:8, Rev 14:6, 22:16
- e. By the revelation of the mystery we judge and declare to angels – 1 Cor 6:3, Eph 3:10

5. Form Letters

- a. Introduction: "to the angel..." + identifying Christ with an aspect of the vision of Rev 1
- b. Judgment of works: "I know thy works..." + good or bad + repent or else (3:5)
- c. Promise to overcome: "ear to hear what the Spirit saith" + promise of Jerusalem (3:12)
- d. These are kings and priests following the LORD into the kingdom (1:6): remnant Israel.
- e. Reading their letters we conclude: the mystery church is not the subject of Revelation
- f. These churches in Asia are not stewards of the mysteries given to Paul – 1 Cor 4:1-2

7 Letters to the Churches in Revelation

Church	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Passage	2:1-7 (7 verses)	2:8-11 (4 verses)	2:12-17 (6 verses)	2:18-29 (12 verses)	3:1-6 (6 verses)	3:7-13 (7 verses)	3:14-22 (9 verses)
Lord	He holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh he ..."	He is first and the last, which was dead, and is alive.	He has the sharp sword with two edges.	Who has eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass.	He has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars.	He that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that opens and no man shuts...	The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God.
Works	labor, patience, you cannot bear them	tribulation and poverty. The blasphemy of false Jews in the synagogue of Satan	where thou dwellest, where Satan's seat is, thou hold my name, and not denied the faith	charity, service, faith, patience, and thy works, the last more than the first.	thou has a name that thou livest and art dead.	You have an open door, no man can shut, you have my word.	thou art neither cold nor hot... I will spue thee out of my mouth. You are not rich, you are wretched.
"I know thy works which are evil" tried and..."	false apostles, found them liars.						
Let Him Hear	thou hast left thy first love'	Fear none... the devil shall cast you into prison to try you with tribulation 10 days. Be faithful.	The doctrine of Balaam, ... a stumblingblock before Israel, idolatry and fornication. Repent, else I will come with a sword	Thou suffer Jezebel, called a prophetess, to seduce my servants... Repent, else I will cast them into great tribulation, kill her children, give according to your works.	Be watchful, I have not found thy works perfect. Repent, else I will come as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.	I will make false Jews worship at your feet... will keep you from the hour of temptation ... Hold fast that no man take thy crown.	Buy gold of me tried in the fire, white raiment, anoint thine eyes... I rebuke, chasten, those that I love. Repent.
"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith..."	remove thy candlestick'						
Reward (kingdom)	I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.	I will give thee a crown of life, and shall not be hurt of the second death.	I will give to eat of the hidden manna, a new white stone, a new name which no man knows.	Keep my works to the end, I will give power over the nations, ruling them with a rod of iron, and the morning star.	He shall be clothed in white raiment, walk with me, will not blot out his name, and will confess him.	I will make a pillar in the temple of God, ... write on him the name and city of God, new Jerusalem, on him my new name	If you hear my voice, I will come in to him, and will sup with him. I will grant to sit with me in my throne.
"He that overcomes, I will give..."							