

Revelation

in your favor: You hate the
the Nicolaitans, which

⁷He who has an ear,
what the Spirit says to
To him who overcomes,
right to eat from the tree
is in the paradise of God

To the Church in Smyrna

⁸“To the angel of the church
write:

These are the words of
the First and the Last,
came to life again. ⁹I know
tutions and your poverty-
rich! I know the slander
say they are Jews and are
a synagogue of Satan.
afraid of what you are ab
I tell you, the devil will pu
in prison to test you, and
fer persecution for ten da
ful, even to the point of
will give you the crown

¹¹He who has an ear,
what the Spirit says to
He who overcomes will r
all by the second death

Prologue

¹The revelation of Jesus Christ, which
must soon take place. He made it known by
sending his angel to his servant John, ²who
testifies everything he saw—that is, the
word of God and the testimony of Jesus
Christ. ³Blessed is the one who reads the
words of this prophecy, and blessed are
those who hear and take to heart what is
written in it, because the time is near.

Greetings and Doxology

⁴John,

To the seven churches in the province of
Asia:

was speaking to me. And when I turned I
saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and among
the lampstands was someone “like a son of
man,” ^bdressed in a robe reaching down to
his feet and with a golden sash around his
chest. ¹⁴His head and hair were white like
wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were
like blazing fire. ¹⁵His feet were like bronze
glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like
the sound of rushing water. ¹⁶In his right
hand he held seven stars, and out of his
mouth came a sharp double-edged sword.
His face was like the sun, shining in all its
brilliance.

¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as
though dead. Then he laid his right hand
on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the
First and the Last. Blessings on those who
keep the words of the prophecy of this book. If
any one adds to these things, God will add to
his plagues the plagues that are written in
this book. If any one takes away from the
words of the prophecy of this book, the
God who created heaven and earth will
take away his share from the city and
the churches that worship him. I am the
Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and
the End, the First and the Last.

CHURCH AT EPHEBUS

- General Structure
 - Greeting (To the angel of)
 - Description of Jesus (relevant to each church)
 - Insights of Church life (Positive/Negative)
 - Warning/Instruction
 - Exhortation (An ear to hear)
 - Promise/Assurance

CHURCH AT EPHEBUS

- Background of Ephesus
 - Premier port of entry into Asia Minor
 - Center of the Pauline mission
 - Residence of John
 - Home of the Temple of Artemis (7 Wonders of the Ancient World)

CHURCH AT EPHEBUS

- To the “angel”
 - The prevailing spirit of the church
 - A guardian angel over a particular church or the churches overall
 - The leader of the church (pastor, bishop, elder, etc)

CHURCH AT EPHEBUS

- Description of Jesus
 - Holding the stars
 - Christ is intimately concerned with them and cares for them
 - Walking among the lampstands
 - Christ is present in the very midst of the churches

CHURCH AT EPHEBUS

- Insights of Church Life (Positive)
 - Doctrinal purity
 - Endurance in hardships
 - Opposition to the Nicolaitans

CHURCH AT EPHEBUS

- Who were the Nicolaitans?
 - Ephesus served as “temple warden” to Artemis and the imperial cult
 - Economic pressure to be accommodating
 - Nicolaitans softened their position on cultic practice

CHURCH AT EPHESUS

- Insights of Church Life (Negative)
 - Consumed with doctrinal purity
 - They lost love
 - Specifically, for the lost
 - Failed to be a light to the world
(purpose of a lampstand)

CHURCH AT EPHESUS

- Instruction
 - Remember what they already know
 - Repent of the error
 - Go do it

CHURCH AT EPHEBUS

- Warning
 - Removal of the lampstand
 - Designed by God
 - Exodus 25:31-40
 - Christ is the light of the lampstand
 - If the church does not reflect Christ, then there is no need for the lampstand.

CHURCH AT EPHEBUS

- Exhortation
 - Listen and Act
 - Isaiah 6:9-10
 - Spirit
 - The Holy Spirit represented as the “engine”
 - “Churches” clearly states this is for all churches, not simply Ephesus.

CHURCH AT EPHEBUS

- Promise
 - Tree of Life
 - Gen 3:22-24
 - Rev 22
 - To the One
 - Collectively and individually
 - Paradise of God
 - Literally, means “park” or “garden”

CHURCH AT EPHEBUS

- Ignatius' Letter to the Ephesians
 - Written roughly 10 years after Revelation

CHURCH AT EPHESUS

- I have become acquainted with your name, much-beloved in God, which you have acquired by the habit of righteousness, according to the faith and love in Jesus Christ our Savior.