

Christ in the midst of the Seven Golden Lampstands (Rev. 1-3)

blessed: the first of seven beatitudes (1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14)

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God (1:8; see also 21:6). Jesus says the same at 22:13.

Rev. 1:13 Daniel 7:13; Exodus 28:4-5 (see also Leviticus 8:7-9)

Rev. 1:14 Daniel 7:9; 10:6

Rev. 1:15 Daniel 10:6; Ezekiel 1:24, 27; 43:2

Rev. 1:16 Isaiah 11:4; 49:2 (see also Hebrews 4:12)

Rev. 1:18 Hosea 13:14; Job 38:17 (see also Matthew 16:18) Death cannot injure the believer.

In the Old Testament, there was one lampstand with seven lamps; in Revelation there are seven lampstands.

Matthew 5:14-16

- 1) The address ("To the angel of the church in . . . write")
- 2) Christ's self-designation
- 3) Christ's commendation
- 4) Christ's condemnation
- 5) Christ's warning and threat
- 6) Christ's exhortation ("Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches")
- 7) Christ's promise

[In the first three letters the exhortation is followed by the promise. In the last four this order is reversed]

Church	Description from chapter 1	Christ's self-designation	Echoes to the end of Revelation
Ephesus (2:1-7)	1:12, 16, 20	"These are the words of him who holds the 7 stars in his right hand and walks among the 7 golden lampstands" (2:1).	
Smyrna (2:8-11)	1:17-18	"These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again" (2:8).	22:13
Pergamum (2:12-17)	1:16	"These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword" (2:12).	19:15, 21
Thyatira (2:18-29)	1:14-15	"These are the words of the Son of God,	19:12

[Acts 16:14]		whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze" (2:18).	
Sardis (3:1-6)	1:4, 16	"These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars" (3:1).	
Philadelphia (3:7-13)	1:18	"These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open" (3:7).	20:1-3
Laodicea (3:14-22)	1:5	"These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation" (3:14)	

Church	Promise	Fulfillment
Ephesus	"I will give the right to eat from the tree of life" (2:7).	22:2, 14
Smyrna	"The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death" (2:11).	20:14; 21:7-8
Pergamum	"I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it" (2:17).	22:4
Thyatira	"I will give authority over the nations. . . I will also give that one the morning star" (2:26, 28)	22:5 22:16
Sardis	"I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life" (3:5).	21:27
Philadelphia	"I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from God; and I will also write on them my new name" (3:12).	21:2, 10 22:4
Laodicea	"I will give the right to sit with me on my throne" (3:21).	22:5

On the scale from 1 to 10, with 1 equal to “worldly” and 10 equal to “let your light shine,” where would you rank each of the seven churches? LCC?

Local Color: 2:16, 18; 3:3, 5, 12, 15-18

Old Testament Color: 2:7 (Genesis 2:9); 2:14 (Numbers 25:1-2; 31:8); 2:20 (2 Kings 9:22); 3:7 (Isaiah 22:22; 1 Chronicles 9:27)

Repent: The Greek verb routinely translated “repent” occurs 34 times in the NT, 12 of those in Revelation (2:5 [twice], 16, 21 [twice], 22; 3:3, 19; 9:20, 21; 16:9, 11)

Ephesus (“I will give the right to eat”)

Smyrna (+)

Pergamum (“Antipas, my faithful witness, was put to death in your city”)

Thyatira

Sardis (“you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead”)

Philadelphia (+)

Laodicea (“I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me”)

