

The Seven Churches

Lesson Fifty-Four

1. What title is given the last book of the Bible?

“The _____ of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 1:1.

2. For whom is all revelation given?

“The secret things belong unto the Lord our God; but those things which are _____ belong unto us and to our children forever.” Deuteronomy 29:29.

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3. For what purpose was the Revelation given?

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to _____ unto _____ things which must shortly _____; and sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John.” Revelation 1:1.



4. What great event, revealed therein, is to “shortly come to pass”?

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every _____, and they also which pierced him: and all _____ shall wail because of him.” Revelation 1:7; Matthew 24:30.

5. What encouragement is given to induce all to study the book of Revelation?

“_____ is _____, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein; for the time is at hand.” Revelation 1:3.

6. To whom was the book dedicated?

“John to the _____ which are in Asia.” Revelation 1:4.

7. What were the names of these seven churches?

“What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia: unto _____; and unto _____, and unto _____, and unto _____, and unto _____, and unto _____ and unto _____.” Revelation 1:11.

Note: The seven churches, and the messages addressed to them, apply to seven distinct periods of the Christian church, reaching from the beginning of Christ's public ministry to his second advent. For the following reasons the application of these messages cannot be made to the seven literal churches which bore the above names:

- (a.) The entire book of Revelation was dedicated to the seven churches.
- (b.) The book was no more applicable to them than to other Christian churches in Asia Minor, some of which were located right among the seven named.
- (c.) Only a small portion of the book of Revelation could have an application of seven churches named, or to any class of Christians in John's day, as most of the events predicted therein were many hundreds of years in the future when these churches existed.

(d.) The position of the Son of man in the midst of the seven churches, denotes his care and tender regard for his followers.

(e.) His promise of such guidance and protection was not to any one class of his followers, but to all of them, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:20.

The seven churches of Asia are prophetic of the churches of Christ, in the several periods of time, until he appears again.

8. By what title is the first state of the church distinguished?

"Unto the angel of the _____ write." Revelation 2:1.

Note: Ephesus = desirable or first: and fitly describes the character and condition of the church in its first state, when its members received the doctrine of Christ in all its purity, and also when they enjoyed the benefits and blessings of the gifts of the holy spirit.

9. After commending this church for their good works, what charge did the Lord bring against them? and with what admonition did he accompany it?

"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast _____. Remember therefore from whence thou are fallen, and _____, and do the first works." Revelation 2:4, 5.

10. By what name was the second state of the church designated?

"And unto the angel of the _____ write." Revelation 2:8.

Note: Smyrna = sweet-smelling savor, and applies to the period of the time in which history shows the several millions of the saints of God suffered martyrdom under pagan Rome. The most severe of "the ten bloody persecutions" took place under Diocletian, between the years 302 and 312 A. D., a period of ten prophetic days, which are so many literal years.

11. How is that period of tribulation referred to?

"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer; behold, the _____ shall cast some of you _____, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have _____: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Revelation 2:10.

12. Under what name does the Saviour address the third state of the church?

"And to the angel of the _____ write." Revelation 2:12.

Note: Pergamos = height, or elevation, and fitly represents that period of the Christian church, beginning with the pretended conversion of Constantine, the heathen emperor, in 323 A. D. From that point of time, the same power which had put the Christians to death, was turned in their favor. Rewards and inducements in the way of promotion to office in the government and otherwise, were held out to influence the people to become Christians, thus bringing a flood of worldliness and corruption into the church. Many of the heathen rites and ceremonies previously introduced into the Christian religion, including the heathen festival, Sunday (sun's day), were then established by law, resulting in the first day of the week's taking the place of the Sabbath of the Bible.

13. In what words was this church commended for its faithfulness?

"I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou _____ fast _____, and hast not _____, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth." Revelation 2:13.

Note: Antipas comes from two Latin words, anti, opposed to and papas, father, or pope, and denotes a class of people who were opposed to papal supremacy.

14. What significant title was given to the fourth state of the church?"

"And unto the angel of the _____ write." Revelation. 2:18.

Note: Thyatira = song of labor, or sacrifice of contrition, and points out the condition of God's people during the long, dark, bloody period of 1260 years, beginning with the establishment of the papacy in 538 A. D., and closing with the downfall of that power in 1798. During that time, more than fifty millions of the saints of God were put to death in the most cruel manner that wicked men and demons could invent. (See Fox's Book of Martyrs) Our Saviour referred to this time in his wonderful prophecy recorded in Matthew 24, in these words: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." The tribulation of the 1260 years was cut short by the rise and progress of the Reformation from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries.

15. What promise did God leave for these persecutors one, with reference to their persecutors?

"But that which ye have already, _____. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give _____: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even _____ Father." Revelation 2:25-27.

16. By what name is the fifth state of the church addressed?

"And unto the angel of the _____ write." Revelation 3:1.

Note: Sardis = song of joy, or that which remains. a cause for joy at that time was the fact that the tribulation of the people of God was at an end. It was only the result of the Reformation that there were any of God's people remaining. The Sardis church continued from the close of the papal power, 1798 A. D. until the fulfillment of the signs given by Christ in Matthew 24:9-34, which were completed in the falling stars of 1833.

17. What endearing title is given to the sixth state of the church?

"And to the angel of the _____ write." Revelation 3:7.

Note: Philadelphia = brotherly love, and applies to that state of the church under the preaching of the first angel's message.

18. What part of the message to this church shows that a portion, at least, of those living during that time will be alive to witness the Lord's coming?

"Behold, I come quickly: _____, that no man take thy crown." Revelation 3:11.

19. In what solemn words does the Lord address those who live in the seventh and last state of the church?

"And unto the angel of the church of the _____ write: These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the _____. I know thy works, that thou art neither _____: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art _____, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, _____, and _____, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou _____, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked; I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and _____,

with eye-salve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, _____: be zealous, therefore, and repent.” Revelation 3:14-19.

Note: Laodicea = judging of the people. This church exists in the time of the Judgment.

20. When this message is delivered, how near is the Lord's coming?

“Behold, I stand at the door, _____: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will _____, and will sup with him, and he with me.” Revelation 3:20.

21. Will the Lord find a “just people” when he returns to earth?

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the Mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having _____ in their _____.” “And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are _____ before the throne of God.” Revelation 14:1, 5.