



END TIMES: WHAT'S GOING ON? "Jesus and the Seven Churches" Revelation 2:1-3:22

No. 4604

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In John's vision, Jesus dictates letters to the churches that are relevant in all ages.

I. Greetings.

To seven representative churches in Asia Minor. 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14

II. Descriptive Titles of Jesus the Writer of the Letters. 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14

III. Insights into the Churches' Life.

A. I know what you're doing and what you refuse to do. 2:2-3

B. I know the challenging circumstances under which you are living. 2:9

C. I know how you stood firm under intense provocation. 2:13-14

D. I know the progress you have been making. 2:19

E. I know you have a reputation that is not deserved. 3:1

F. I know your opportunities and what you have done with them. 3:8f

G. I know you have an exalted opinion of yourselves. It's wrong! 3:15f

IV. Criticisms of the Churches' Shortcomings (except Smyrna, Philadelphia).

A. Loss of "first love" and a call to repentance. 2:4-5

B. Toleration of false teaching leading to immoral behavior. 2:14f

C. Inconsistency of profession and performance. 2:20f

D. Ignorance of or apathy with regard to troubling trends. 3:2f

E. Smug self-satisfaction and happy acceptance of mediocrity. 3:15f

V. Warnings and Instructions.

A. Remember: repent or be removed. 2:5-6

B. Persecution and perils are inevitable, but don't fear. 2:10

C. Repent or experience the sharpness of divine condemnation. 2:16

D. Repent or "the punishment will fit the crime." 2:22f

E. Wake up! Do what you have been told or you will be surprised. 3:3

F. Deal with what is obviously wrong or be rejected. 3:18f

VI. Exhortations to Listen, Heed, and Act. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22

VII. Promises and Assurances.

A. Overcomers will be given the right to "eat from the tree of life." 2:7

B. Overcomers will not be "hurt by the second death." 2:11

C. Overcomers will be given "hidden manna" and a "white stone." 2:17

D. Overcomers will "rule" the nations and see "the morning star." 2:26f

E. Overcomers will be acknowledged before the Father. 3:5f

F. Overcomers will be pillars in the temple of God. 3:12f

G. Overcomers will be given the right to sit with Christ on his throne. 3:21