

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 2

Chapters 2 and 3 record the Lord's message to Seven Churches then in existence when He appeared to John in 96AD. Some see these as prophetic of the entire church age. While I have considered that point of view, I see no clear statement in this Book that this is so. I'm not saying that it is not so; I just have no illumination along that line. I agree with Dr. Hilton Sutton's view, however, that they hold wondrous truth for the church today.

Dr. Hilton Sutton, Revelation Revealed, Pages 69, 70

"All seven letters to the churches are vitally important to us, because they are the inspired Word of God. Each contains a message for us—either instruction or warnings for us to heed, lest we fall into the same snares as six of the churches."

Rev. 2:1 ¶ *"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ¶ The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:*

Rev. 2:2 ¶ *'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;*

Rev. 2:3 *and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.*

Rev. 2:4 *'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.*

Rev. 2:5 *'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place — unless you repent.*

Rev. 2:6 *'Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

Rev. 2:7 *'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'* (NASB 1995)

- The assemblies (churches) are New Testament Churches in existence at the time. Therefore these churches were in the "things which are" category. (Rev. 1:19.)
- Jesus says that He walks among the lampstands, the assemblies. Inspecting them.

Biblical precedent: Zech. 1:7-11. See David Baron's Commentary on Zechariah.

Also, on BVOV I give an account of Jeanne Wilkerson's seeing Jesus on His white horse at a Kenneth E. Hagin Prayer Seminar in Tulsa in the early 1980s.

- Jesus begins with what is good and right about them.
Then follows with His Counsel as to what they need to correct.
- Jesus used the word "repent" to New Testament churches that needed to do so.

Dr. Hilton Sutton, Revelation Revealed, Pages 45, 46

"First, Jesus commends each church for its characteristics which please Him. He points out faith, patience, works, love, service, hatred for evil...

Second, He calls attention to the things which displease Him, such as loss of first love, wrong confession, false doctrines, false teachers, spiritual death, fear, and loss of power.

Third, without putting any church under condemnation, Jesus calls for repentance. A call to repentance is a work of love, because it looks beyond faults to what can be.

Fourth, Jesus warns of the price to be paid for persistent disobedience. His love again prevails in His warning...Pointing out the consequences of disobedience can be a loving act."

- To every assembly: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches...." The Holy Spirit is revealed as always speaking, always giving light...

Dr. Hilton Sutton, Revelation Revealed, Pages 48 and 49

"After the Church Age began, the Holy Spirit was the predominant influence on the Church. On the Jewish Feast of Pentecost [Shavuot, Weeks], the Holy Spirit fulfilled a divine assignment. He manifested for the express purpose of energizing the true Church, the Body of Christ. His oversight and strengthening of the Church will continue until He provides a mature and glorious Church and plays His role in its resurrection and catching up.

"Since the Holy Spirit is the overseer of the Church, our sensitivity to Him is vital. We must allow Him to open God's Word to us, showing us how to become spiritually mature and how to please God more. He will show us how to keep our faith strong and unpolluted."

Billye Brim: When Jesus walked the earth, He was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. He offered them an earthly, visible, kingdom. When their leaders rejected it, Jesus turned to speaking to the disciples of an age hidden in all the Old Testament. We call it "The Church Age." In its mysteries is the new creation man. A brand new species that had never before existed. The New Testament Letters reveal the wonders of this mystery so succinctly put in Colossians 1:26, "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Jesus began to speak of New Creation realities from John 13:31 – John 17. The epitome of His revelation was to be the indwelling of The Holy Spirit in every born again child of God. I often meditate, especially when I need guidance, what the Lord told us about the Holy Spirit. Notice how He speaks, teaches, brings light...

John 14:17 *even* the Spirit of truth: whom the world cannot receive; for it beholdeth him not, neither knoweth him: ye know him; for he abideth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, *even* the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall bear witness of me:

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he shall guide you into all the truth: for he shall not speak from himself; but what things soever he shall hear, *these* shall he speak: and he shall declare unto you the things that are to come.

John 16:14 He shall glorify me: for he shall take of mine, and shall declare *it* unto you.

John 16:15 All things whatsoever the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he taketh of mine, and shall declare *it* unto you. (ASV)

In my meditation for guidance, I often consider the following from a minister Jeanne Wilkerson often quoted:

Alexander Maclaren With Christ in the Upper Room, page 13

Commenting on John 14-16

"...every believing soul has this Divine Spirit for his Teacher, and...may, if we will, learn of Him and be led by Him into profounder knowledge of that great Lord...the belief in the actual Presence with the church of a Spirit that teaches all faithful members thereof, is far too much lost out of sight of the common Christianity of this day (1890). We ought to be the standing witnesses in the world of the reality of a Supernatural Influence...."

- In every assembly, He addressed the overcomers: "To him that overcometh..."

And He promised a reward for overcoming.

In every assembly there were overcomers—just as there are overcomers today.

Consider the seven statements made to overcomers:

Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 21.

There is not one hint in the Word of God that the believer is ever to be overcome. We are always told to overcome... And we are told how to overcome with the weapons of our warfare which are not carnal.

The use of the word "overcome" reveals that there are things we need to overcome. There is satanic strategy against the plans and purposes of God.

But, seated in our Overcoming Lord at the right hand of the Father we are to overcome, to rule and reign in this life. (Ro. 5:17; Ephesians 1:17-2:6, 4:27, 6:10-18; Col. 1:12; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8,9; Rev. 12:10-12.)

Ephesus: Revelation 2:1-7

- A wonderful revelation of how important it is not to leave our First Love.
Not to put the work of the Lord above the Lord of the work.
- Here we meet again in verse 7, the Tree of Life from the Book of Beginnings

Smyrna: Verses 8-11

- Jesus encourages them to be overcomers even in their circumstances.

Pergamum

Rev. 2:12 ¶ *And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These things saith he that hath the sharp two-edged sword:*

Rev. 2:13 *I know where thou dwellest, even where Satan's throne is; and thou holdest fast my name, and didst not deny my faith, even in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwelleth. (ASV)*

While I have not seen, though others may have, prophetic symbolism of the church age in the seven churches, I can say with conviction that The Holy Spirit has given me what I would call a revelation, on Satan's seat, or throne, from what He said to the church in Pergamum.

See the Appendix entitled "The Seat of Satan."

Thyatira

Rev. 2:25 Nevertheless that which ye have, hold fast till I come.

Light on this came to me through the teaching of Kenneth E. Hagin.

He asked, "Why would you have to hold fast to something?"

He gave the answer, "Because someone is trying to take it away from you."

Then he went on to teach on *How To Keep Your Healing*, emphasizing that even though one receives Divine Healing, it can be lost. For the enemy is trying to steal it. This can be said for all the good things of God. Hold fast to the good things of God. Don't let the devil talk you out of them.