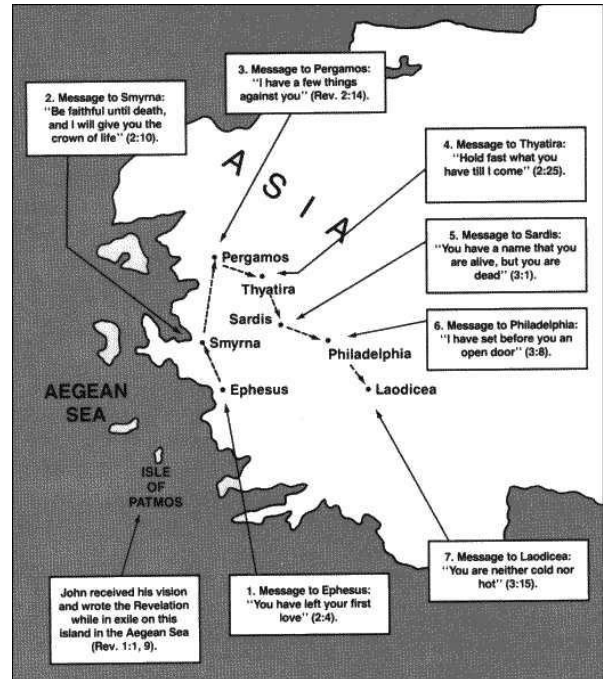


7 Assemblies – History and Prophecy

Messages to the 7 assemblies

- Controversy of date written, pre 70 AD (Emperor Nero) or 95 AD (Emperor Domitian)?
- Ancient postal route
 - Literal congregations - historical
 - Eras-Consecutive evolution of the churches
 - Conditions/attitudes of today's congregations - prophetic
 - Conditions/attitudes of today's individuals
- Rev 1:1-9 – written by John, inspired by YHWH and Yahushua
 - Vs 4 – 7 spirits, Rev 3:1, 4-5, 5-6
 - Vs 7 –with clouds – Dan 7:13
 - Vs 7 – pierced Him – Zech 12:10
- Rev 1:10 – 20 – 7 assemblies - candlesticks
 - Foundation for 7 assemblies
 - Vs 10 – YHWH's day – Isa 2:11-18, Joel 2:1-13, Amos 5:18-27
 - Vs 12 – candlesticks – Ex 25:34-39
 - Vs 15 – fine brass–Ez 1–all, Dan 10:6
 - Vs 20 – 7 stars=assembly angels, 7 candlesticks=7 assemblies
- Sevens (Done, completed, finished, spiritual perfection) – 59 occurrences in Revelation
 - Holy Day Pattern, Feast Day convocations, Jericho (Jos 6:1-16 - 7 priests, 7 trumpets, 7 days), Weekly Sabbath, Land Sabbatical, Jubilee Year, Millennial day of rest, Moses selects 70 elders for the Great Sanhedrin (Nu 11:16), 7 years abundance & famine, days of week, music notes/scale.
 - Gen 1 and 2 – “created” used 7 times
 - Gen 6:9 – Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations (“Noah”-7th occurrence in Genesis)
 - Lev 8:31-36 – 7 day consecration, Lev 16:14 – sprinkle 7 times
 - Isa 11:1-7 – 7 spirits, Ro 12:5-7 – 7 gifts
 - Dan 3:2-19 – 7 leaders, 7 sounds of music, furnace 7 times hotter
 - Jer 25:11-12, Dan 9:2 – Israel in captivity 70 years
 - Mt 13 – 7 parables
 - Mt 18:21-22 – forgive 70 times 7
 - Yahushua's 7 last statements:
 1. Mt 27:46, Mk 15:34 - Eli, Eli, why have you forsaken me?
 2. Lk 23:34 - Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.
 3. Lk 23:43 - Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.
 4. Lk 23:46 - Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.
 5. Jo 19:26-27 - Woman, behold your son: behold your mother.
 6. Jo 19:28 - I thirst.
 7. Jo 19:30 - It is finished. (G5055=complete)



- Ro 12:6 – 7 gifts of His grace
- Paul wrote epistles to 7 assemblies; Eph, Phil, Cor, Gal, Ro, Thes, Col
- “Book of Life” in NT 7 times: Phil 4:3, Rev 3:5, Rev 13:8, Rev 17:8, Rev 20:12 (*added by translators*), Rev 20:15, Rev 21:27, Rev 22:19
- Rev 1:4 - seven churches, seven Spirits which are before his throne
- Rev 1:12 - seven golden candlesticks
- Rev 1:16 - seven stars
- Rev 4:5 - seven lamps of fire burning before the throne
- Rev 5:1 - seven seals
- Rev 5:6 - seven horns and seven eyes
- Rev 8:2 - seven angels which stood before YHWH; given seven trumpets.
- Rev 10:3 - seven thunders uttered their voices.
- Rev 11:13 - in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand
- Rev 12:3 - having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns
- Rev 15:1 - seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of YHWH
- Rev 15:7 - seven golden vials full of the wrath of YHWH
- Rev 17:9 - seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth
- Rev 17:10 - seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet
- Rev 17:11 - the beast that was; even he is the eighth, and is of the seven

1. Ephesus – (desirable, to let go) – The beginning of the journey - Apostolic era – 40-140 AD
 A major city of Asia Minor, a seaport, and the location of the great temple of Artemis/Astarte (Act 19:24, Act 19:27-28, Act 19:34-35). One of the seven wonders of the ancient world. In 480 BC the great temple of Diana, the Mother of the God’s (same as Artemis) was erected as a symbol to the world. Her temple was four times the size of the Parthenon in Athens and was counted among the seven wonders of the ancient world. The temple was destroyed in 263 AD. It is interesting to note, the modern-day equivalent of the “Mother of the God’s” (the worship of Mary as the “mother of God”) finds its origin in Ephesus. In 451 AD, the Roman Catholic Church, at the Council of Ephesus, bequeathed the title "Mother of God" to Mary (mother of Yahushua), and revived the ancient pagan cult with a modern dress. Today, Ephesus is a deserted ruin with substantial archeological restoration.

Paul visited Ephesus around 53 AD. The assembly had a long history and was the most prominent one in the area. Paul remained in Ephesus for several years and preached the gospel so effectively “that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of Messiah Yahushua” (Act19:10). Paul’s gospel message, however, was quite controversial to the locals (Act 19:11-41). As a result, the silversmiths staged a near riot because their business of making pagan shrines of Artemis was threatened.

- Rev 2:1-7 – Assembly of Ephesus – forsaken first love vs. 4

Salutation	Vs 1 - from He who holds 7 the stars
Assets	Vs 2 – good works & labor, tested the truth, resisting Nicolaitan heresy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gal 6:9, 2 Thes 3:13 - not weary Vs 2-3 – patience (continuance, cheerful, hopeful endurance) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev 13:5-10, Rev 14:9-12
Liabilities	Vs 4 – lost zeal of first love – 1 Jo 2:15, backsliding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truth but lacking spirit – Jo 4:24 Jer 2:1-5 – Israel lost their first love <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts 20:29-30 – after Paul leaves wolves enter
Rebuke	Vs 5 – Mt 12:30 - remember your roots, re-establish your first love
Exhortation	Vs 5-6 – remove candlestick, dissolution
Post Script	Vs 7 – he that has an ear, 7 times in Rev 2-3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mt 11:15, Mk 4:9, Lk 8:8, Lk 14:35
Reward	Vs 7 – eat of the tree of life – Pro 3:13-22, Rev 22:14

- Attributes – Rich in truth, declining in spirit - Jo 4:24
- Nicolaitans – A Gnostic sect (Hellenistic origin - means new secret knowledge), they promoted compromise with the imperial cult to avoid persecution. Early practitioners advocated that the law is no longer binding, so eat, drink, be merry, be free of the flesh. Because “Grace” prevailed, they led lives of unrestrained indulgences including immoral licentious behavior and idolatry. Later followers (250 AD) evolved to puritan ideals of celibacy and vegetarianism.
 1. The name of the Nicolaitans is derived from two words:
 Nike (Nakao) meaning conquest or victory and laos meaning people or laity.
 2. Nicolaitan=G3532=Victorious over the people
 3. Nike is linked to the Mystery system of the Phrygians. Nike had an altar and shrine near the entrance to the Acropolis. It was erected at the time of Perikles to commemorate the victory of the Greeks over the Persians. Nike is the Greek Goddess of Victory. She can run and fly at great speeds and is seated with Zeus as victors of the epic battle with the Titans.

4. This sect refers to the earliest form of a priestly order or clergy, which later divided an assembly into priests and laity.
5. Doctrine – separation of the humanity and divinity of Yahushua.
 - Gnostics first to use “Homousios” (identifying things generated by the same substance), precursor of the Trinity doctrine which led to the Council of Constantinople in 381 AD.
 - Also falsely taught “saved by grace doctrine” (no faith, no works).
6. Deacon Nicholas (Acts 6:5) is unjustifiably associated with the sect. His lenient teachings are likely responsible for some leaving his assembly in a quest for even more leniency. Those that left were Gnostic in belief; however they surreptitiously carried the Nicolaitan label as a cover for their beliefs (a case of identity theft).
7. Early Apostles warn assemblies against Gnostic doctrines:
 - 1Jo 2:3-4, 15-27 – John is preaching divinity of Yahushua, vs 22-23.
 - 1Jo 4:1-8 – Yahushua came in the flesh
 - Jas 1:22-23 – be doers
 - 2 Pet 2:1-3, 13-22 – false teachers, speak evil of the truth.
 - Paul’s epistle - Ephesians, Acts 20:17, 29-30, false teachings enter assembly
8. Beginning of clerical caste priest system – separation of clergy & laity
9. The early church fathers also spoke of the Nicolaitans (Dankenbring, Who are the Nicolaitans):
 - Tertullian reports the lust and luxury of the Nicolaitans, cites evidence from Revelation, and adds that there was another sort of Nicolaitans, a satanic sect, called the Gaian heresy (worship of Mother Earth).
 - Clement of Alexandria refers to followers of Nicolas, “lascivious goats”, who perverted His saying that it was necessary to abuse the flesh
 - Clement undertakes to show that Nicolas, the deacon mentioned in Acts 6:1-6, a faithful servant of God, was a true ascetic and that the later, immoral Nicolaitans were not his followers, though they claimed him as their teacher
10. Eph 4:11 – Yahushua’s organizational structure (selected from the assembly)
11. reference - www.catholica.com.au/gc2/occ2/055_occ2_041210.php
12. reference - www.ccg.org/english/s/p202.html
13. reference - www.triumphpro.com/nicolaitans.htm
- Parable - Mt 13:3-9 – sower and 4 soils
- Paul’s parallel epistle – Ephesians
 1. Eph 4:1-16 – unity of the assembly of Yahushua
 2. Eph 4:17-32, 5 & 6 – keep assembly pure and holy

2. Smyrna - (myrrh, the Crown City, sweet smelling) – Persecution era – 100-313 AD
 A large and wealthy seaport city 35 miles north of Ephesus, with a present population of about 200,000. It is known as the present-day port of Izmir, which is today Turkey's second largest city. The affluent lived in expensive homes on the mountainsides that rose above the bay which resulted in the name "Crown City". The shrine to the goddess Nemesis was located in Smyrna.

In 107 AD, Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch in Syria and a friend of John the apostle, was thrown to the lions and eaten alive in the amphitheatre at Rome. In 155 AD, 86 year old Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna and a close friend of Ignatius, was burned alive at the stake for his unwillingness to proclaim “Caesar is Lord”. This period of persecution reached its climax during the reign of Diocletian. In 303 AD, he launched a violent, empire-wide campaign for the complete annihilation of believers. The persecution continued even after Diocletian’s death in 305 AD. In 313 AD, Emperor Constantine ended the persecution by issuing the “Decree of Toleration”. The Diocletian persecution lasted ten years. The ten-day tribulation prophesied for this assembly (Rev 2:10)

coincides with this ten-year period when the day-year principle of Biblical prophecy is applied. Persecution sanitized the assembly by forcing believers to choose whether they were willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice by following Yahushua. The faithful testimony, in contrast with the extreme tribulation experienced by this assembly, was considered as myrrh and sweet perfume to YHWH.

Believers in the early second century were betrayed to provincial officials called delatores (informers) and were prosecuted as heretics. Soon after, Jews in Smyrna joined with the delatores to further persecute true believers, which was the fate of Polycarp, who was martyred in 155 AD. The Jewish synagogue community considered it as a betrayal to fellowship with a true believer. As a result, the faithful, who were not seen as Jewish, had no protection against civil requirements for participation in the emperor cult. Smyrna was also substantially influenced by the pagan Roman government.

- Rev 2:8-11 – Assembly of Smyrna – persecuted, faithful in tribulation vs. 10

Salutation	Vs 8 – from the first and last, who is alive (so will you be)
Assets	Vs 9 – works & tribulation, persecuted, spiritually rich/alive, followers of YHWH
Liabilities	<p>Vs 9 – synagogue of Satan present = Judaizing men in assembly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gnostic/Nicolaitan heresy matures, begins to overtake the assembly • Those who say they are believers but are far removed from the truth • Mt 25:33- Goats that think they’re sheep • Ro 2:29 – spiritual Jews • Likely meant for Jewish converts or gentile believers, not ethnic Jews • Rev 17:4-5 - posing as true believers • Apostate group that persecutes true believers • Blasphemy=G989=depreciation against YHWH, evil speaking, abusive
Rebuke	None given
Exhortation	<p>Vs 10 – fear not, 10 days of tribulation (10 days, events or years)</p> <p>Vs 10 – remain faithful unto death</p>
Post Script	Vs 10 – he that has an ear
Reward	Vs 10-11 – crown of life - Jas 1:12, no second death – Rev 20:6, Crown=badge of royalty or symbol of honor, life=lifetime

- Attributes – physically poor, spiritually rich, harshly persecuted
- Parable – Mt 13:24-30 – wheat and tares
- Paul’s parallel epistle – Philippians, joy through service and suffering
 - Rejoice used 10 times, most in any NT writings

3. Pergamos (gamos=married-to the high tower, exalted, fortified, elevated by marriage)

Pagan doctrine era – 300-600 AD

Also called Pergamum, lies about 20 miles inland from Smyrna. Like Ephesus and Smyrna it was a wealthy city, but it was degenerate with lascivious sexual vice and pagan worship. Residents were literate and sophisticated. Residents participating in pagan cults worshiped Asclepius (god of medicine and healing) Athena, Dionysus, and Zeus. Pergamos practiced the ancient system of sun worship from Babylon. It was a center for this tradition and the place where the famous giant altar of Zeus (120 by 112 feet) overlooked the city on its citadel. Local pagan leaders emulated the ancient Babylonian mysteries including pontiff-father titles and vestments. The last pontiff king of Pergamos was Attalus III, who bequeathed his title to Rome in 133 BC. The atmosphere of this city was unfavorable to faithful believers. The civic leaders were the first to invite the Romans into the affairs of Asia Minor. As a result, Pergamos was the center for imperial cult worship in the province.

In the Apostolic period, emperor worship was commemorated on Pergamum's coinage. Local rulers had been worshiped before the Roman period but Pergamum was one of the first cities of Asia to build a temple on the citadel for a Roman emperor. All citizens were expected to participate in local civic pagan religious traditions or they would be suspected of disloyalty against the state. True believers would not participate in imperial festivals or eat the meat sacrificed to pagan idols. As a result, some believers were suspected and often prosecuted for blasphemy against the Emperor. The death penalty was the usual sentence for a conviction.

Excavations have unearthed a vast building complex including two temples, a theater, and a medical library. Some of the most famous early physicians learned and practiced medicine here. The medical symbol adopted in Pergamos was a serpent wrapped around a pole which is very similar to the modern Caduceus representing medicine today. Pergamos boasted the world's second largest library (after Alexandria), with a collection of some 200,000 volumes. The city was also known for manufactured parchment paper called pergamena. Pergamos marks the beginning of the church/state union.

- Rev 2:12-17 – Assembly of Pergamos – compromising, needs to repent vs. 16

Salutation	Vs 12 – He that has a 2 edged sword=salvation & death/mercy & judgment
Assets	Vs 13 – works & where you live (Satan's seat of emperor worship cult – beginning of state sponsored religion), keeping my name and faith, Antipas was boiled alive in a brazen bull shaped tub refusing to renounce Yahushua (92AD)
Liabilities	Vs 14 – some seduced by Balaam, pagan worship and immorality creeping in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syncretism of beliefs, 2 Pet 2:1-22, Jud 1:11 Vs 15 – Nicolaitan doctrines growing inside assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licentious, tolerant, fraternizing with pagan practices
Rebuke	Vs 16 – repent (change)
Exhortation	Vs 16 – repent or the sword of my mouth will come, Rev 1:16 - sharp 2 edged sword, 2 Thes 2:8 - spirit of my mouth, Jer 23:29 – word is as fire and hammer
Post Script	Vs 17 – he that has an ear
Reward	Vs 17 – Jo 6:48-50 eat of hidden manna (Yahushua vs. meat offered to idols), white stone=acquittal in legal case, victory in athletic contest, expression of welcome to a guest new name=Isa 62:2-3, Isa 65:15

- Attributes - beginning of church/state union (Pergamos= married to the high tower)
- 2 Co 11:13-15 – beginning of the apostate church
- Nu 22-24, 25, Nu 31:16 – Balaam and Balac
- Reference - www.ccg.org/english/s/p204.html
- Jer 23:11-27 – false prophets/priests, vs 20 – in latter days, vs 36 – perverted word
- Rev 2:12 - double-edged sword (Rev 1:16, Rev 2:16, Rev 19:15, Rev 19:21), separates believers from the world and condemns the world for its sin, sword of salvation vs. the sword of death.
- Parable – Mt 13:31-32 – mustard seed
- Paul's parallel epistle – Corinthians (partnering with the world), disunity, immoral behavior
 1. 1 Co 1:10-12 – no divisions
 2. 1 Co 5, 6, 7, 8 - Corinth was in the world but the world was in Corinth

4. Thyatira (the castle of Thya, continual burning, perpetual sacrifice, daughter)

Roman Universal era – 600 AD - tribulation

40 miles southeast of Pergamum, was a much smaller city. Thyatira was located where the town of Akhisar (Turkey) lies today. The location was known for its industries including coppersmiths and the dying of purple and crimson cloth. Apollo, the sun god, was the chief deity of the city. Thyatira, which in Greek means daughter, was named in 290 BC by King Seleucus I Nicator whose daughter had been born nearby. Prior to that, the city had been named Pelopia and before Pelopia it was named Semiramis, after Babylon's Queen of Heaven.

Trade guilds played an important role in the business community. Every artisan belonged to a guild, and every guild enjoyed a wide influence. Powerful among them were the guild of coppersmiths and the guild of the dyers. A member of this guild seems to have been Lydia of Thyatira, who in Acts 16:14 and 40 sold her dyes in Philippi. The color obtained by the use of this dye is now called Turkish red. Members of the guilds met regularly and participated in various forms of pagan religious practice. Pagan feasts, along with the traditional immoral practices were frequently celebrated. By their non-participation, the faithful were seen as outsiders, making it difficult to find employment and they therefore became socially and economically isolated. It was taught by some of the early churches that no believer should belong to the guilds, and thus a great opposition to the faithful was promoted. In the guilds, "The Truth" was syncretized with the old pagan form of sun worship and dressed up with a new face. Traditions, rituals, pagan objects, and ceremony replaced the truth of the gospel. Pagan deities masquerading under gospel titles replaced the true Messiah, and the ancient Babylonian mysteries were reintroduced and syncretised with the truth. Even the pagan vestments with their prominent purple and crimson colors were introduced as the vestments of the priesthood. The symbol of Dagon the fish god became the symbol of the false priesthood presiding as shepherds over the flock.

The referenced Jezebel was likely an outspoken local church member leading the church astray with occult practices. Ahab, king of Israel, had married Jezebel, a Phoenician Baal worshiper, although YHWH had expressly forbidden intermarriage with heathens. This marriage led to Baal worship being introduced into Israel. In the name of YHWH, pagan temples, symbols, mysteries and festivals were perverted and syncretised with the true message of Yahushua.

- Rev 2:18-28 – Assembly of Thyatira – false prophet and corrupt doctrine vs. 20

Salutation	Vs 18 – Who’s eyes are like a flame of fire and feet like fine brass (alloy of gold, copper, silver) – related to local industry – Rev 1:14, Dan 10:6
Assets	Vs 19 – charity, service, faith, patience (cheerful endurance), works - the last more than first Vs 19 – faith & patience of assembly – Rev 13:10, Rev 14:12
Liabilities	Compromising, tolerance of sin, complacent Vs 20 – permit Jezebel (H348 means chaste), a prophetess (means inspired woman) to teach and seduce my servants to commit fornication (means practice idolatry) and eat things sacrificed to idols (see vs 14), <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1Kg 16:31 & 21:25, Rev 17:3 - dressed in scarlet/purple (same as local cloth makers), and to eat things sacrificed to idols Vs 24 – some know depths of Satan = Jezebel’s apostasy = mystery cults
Rebuke	Vs 21 – space to repent but didn’t, rebuke for Jezebel and her followers
Exhortation	Vs 22 – repent or go into great tribulation Vs 23 – all churches will know Vs 24 – keep what you have, hold fast
Reward	Vs 23 & 26 - rewarded according to your works Vs 26 – power over the nations Vs 28 - receive Morning Star (Yahushua), morning star - Rev 22:16 & 2 Pet 1:19
Post Script	Vs 29 – he that has an ear

- Attributes - beginning of organized priesthood, laity, doctrinal syncretism and apostasy
- 1 Kg 16:30-31, 21:25 - Jezebel, protégée of Semiramis - Queen of Heaven
- 1 Kg 18 - 19 - 2 Kings 9:22-37, history of Jezebel
- Ez 34:1-5 - Victory over the people (Nicolaitan attitude)
- Jer 5:31 - false prophets and the people love to have it so
- Mt 7:20 - know them by their fruits
- 1 Kings 18:19, Neh 6:14, Eze 13:17-19 - Baal worship
- Reward and Post Script reversed from Thyatira through Laodicea
- Rev 2:24 - the remnant (small group), that reject Jezebel's doctrines, no other burden
- Parable - Mt 13:33 - leaven
- Paul's epistle - Galatians (Gal 5:9-leaven, Judaizers and pagan practices)
 - Gal 1:6-7 - perverted & substituted gospel

5. Sardis (renewal, sardine stone-red, red ones) - Martin Luther era - 1500 AD - tribulation
 A commercial city located 30 miles southeast of Thyatira, on an important trade route. Today called Sart, it was the capital of the province of Lydia. Significant industries included jewelry, dye and textiles, which made the city wealthy. Sardis had a large influential and affluent Jewish community that had a long respected history in local civic life. Sardis hosted many pagan cults and locals worshiped Artemis, Cybele, Demeter and Kore (Persephone). Despite the city's pagan influence, the faithful followers of Yahushua experienced no persecution, however there was little spiritual enthusiasm.

Sardis was the location where the genesis of the modern monetary system was developed. There was gold and silver nearby where the city developed. The Sardis stone was also found there and became part of locally manufactured jewelry. World class textiles were made with a locally invented dying process supplied by a plentiful supply of wool from the fertile Hermus Valley. Sardis was a strategic trading city however the city was synonymous with decadence. Sardinians were despised and labeled as lovers of pleasure and luxury. The wealthy city of Sardis was the oldest city in Asia Minor and for centuries was the richest city in the world. Its King Croesus (560 BC) became the proverb for wealth.

Because of the geographic location of Sardis and the indigenous natural protections, Sardis' residents considered the city impenetrable. Their attitude of overconfidence in times of crisis has been a weakness throughout history and was the reason the city was conquered without resistance by both Cyrus and Antiochus.

- Rev 3:1-6 - Assembly of Sardis - fallen asleep, spiritually dead vs. 2

Salutation	Vs 1 - He that has 7 Spirits and 7 stars, Rev 1:20 = angels of assemblies Vs 1 - 7 Spirits - Rev 1:4, 4-5, 5-6
Assets	Vs 2 - strengthen what little you have, before it dies
Liabilities	Vs 1 - have a name=character/reputation, but you are dead, talk ≠ walk, • Ez 33:30-32, Mt 7:5, Mt 15:7-9, 2 Tim 3:1-5
Rebuke	Vs 2 - I have not found your works perfect (complete, full)
Exhortation	Vs 2 - be watchful & strengthen what you still have Vs 3 - remember how you received and heard, hold fast, repent, watch
Reward	Vs 4-5 - a few will walk with me in white, name included in the Book of Life Book of life - 7 times in NT, Phil 4:3, Rev 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:15, 21:27, 22:19
Post Script	Vs 6 - he that has an ear

- Attributes - spiritually dead, imperfect works, living at peace with an idolatrous population, faithful few

- Martin Luther/John Calvin Protestant reformation – Pope removed but that’s it.
- Rev 3:3 – surprise, come as a thief = Mt 24:43
- Math 23:27-28 – polished outside, hypocrite inside
- 1 Tim 4:1-2 – leave the faith, abusive Sheppard’s
- 2 Tim 3:1-8 – only a form of righteousness
- Parable – Mt 13:44 – hidden treasure
- Paul’s epistle – Romans (justification & salvation by faith)
 - Ro 1:16-17 – just shall live by faith (in Yahushua)

6. Philadelphia (brotherly love) – 1800 AD - Tribulation

Situated in Lydia, on the Cogamus river and is 28 miles southeast of Sardis, near Alasehir (red city) Turkey today. It was located in a fertile area recognized for agricultural products but was affected by earthquakes which destroyed the city several times, most recently around 37 AD. Ancient volcanic activity left the area with rich red top soil that is friendly to vineyards. In 189 BC, the city was built by King Attalus Philadelphus, who named it for his love and loyalty to his brother Eumenes. Philadelphia housed temples of Artemis, Helios, Zeus, Dionysus and Aphrodite. Philadelphia was located near the entrance to the mountains leading to Anatolia and was a dangerous place to live due to significant seismic activity experienced in the region. Because of the ongoing earthquake threat, many of the inhabitants chose to live in huts outside the city in the open country.

Philadelphia was not a wealthy, cultured or influential city. It was located on an easily defensible hill side and near a main Roman/Persian thoroughfare. The location functioned as an outpost to spread Greek and Roman culture, as well as the good news of the Messiah to the surrounding populations. As in many Asia Minor cities, many Jews lived there. The assembly in Philadelphia, like the assembly in Smyrna, had apparently been expelled from the Jewish community. Philadelphia believers seemed to stand alone as a faithful community. In the 14th century, the Seljuk Turks laid siege on the city and brutally killed every follower of Yahushua within its walls. Today, although several red brick pillars from an original church still stand, there isn’t much left of ancient Philadelphia.

- Rev 3:7-13 – Assembly of Philadelphia – endure patiently, small and faithful vs. 10

Salutation	<p>Vs 7 – He that is holy, true & has key of David, opens and no man can shut Isa 22:15-22 – key of David (to Jerusalem), taken from Shebna & given to Eliakim, access King’s wealth, Yahushua decides access, key=authority – admit royal presence, understanding, truth & spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mt 25:31-40 – brotherly love – help one another • Ps 22 – all – vs. 14-18=key of David, Lk 11:52-54 – key of knowledge • Rev 1:18 – keys of the grave • Dan 14:4, 9 – shut up until the end • Col 4:3 – open door of the word, cannot be shut – Rev 4:1- open door • Rev 4:1-2 – open door to Throne in heaven, Holy Place and Holy of Holies
Assets	<p>Vs 8 – Jo 4:24 - favored, holding to the truth - spiritually solid, an open door that no man can shut</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jo 10:7-9 – Yahushua is the door, a little strength, true to YHWH’s word • Jo 17:17 – word is truth, knows YHWH’s name • Mt 13:13-17 – ears to hear & eyes to see • Acts 2:21, Joel 2:32 – call on name of YHWH <p>Vs 9 – Winning over some Jewish converts, worship before your feet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mal 4:1-6 – I have loved you
Liabilities	None given
Rebuke	None given

Exhortation	Vs 10 – kept the word of my patience = patience continuance, cheerful, hopeful endurance – Rev 13:5-10, Rev 14:9-12 Vs 11 – hold fast what you have, don't let anyone take it, Heb 3:6, 4:14, 10:23
Reward	Vs 10 – kept from hour (season/time) of temptation (test/adversity) Vs 10 - Rev 12:13-14, Mt 24:44-46 – protection, but stay prepared <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev 12:14 - great eagle – Ex 19:4, Deut 32:11-12 Vs 12 – A pillar in the temple, 1 Kg 7:21 Boaz and Jachin Vs 12 – go no more out – leaving city because of earthquakes – see introduction Vs 12 – write on him YHWH's name & the name of new Jerusalem Vs 12 – a new personal name – Rev 2:17
Post Script	Vs 13 – He that has an ear

- Attributes – favored, holding to the truth, spiritually solid – Jo 4:24
- Anthony Groves (Plymouth England), John Darby (Ireland) initiate non-Nicolaitan meeting structure, Holy Spirit is teacher
- Parable – Mt 13:45-46 – pearl of great price
- Paul's epistle – Thessalonians, Thes 4:16-17 – return of Yahushua, resurrection of first fruits, faithfulness to Yahushua, maintaining preparedness for His return

7. Laodicea (people judged) – The end of the road - 1900 AD - Tribulation

Laodicea was located 37 miles southeast of Philadelphia and was a famous health resort. The city was popular for its hot baths and the Collyrium eye salve that was produced there. The hot water for the baths was ingeniously piped to the resort in an insulated clay lined aqueduct. Since the aqueduct was some 5 miles long, the mineral rich water was frequently cloudy and lukewarm by the time it arrived at its resort destination.

Laodicea boasted imposing fortifications that conveyed the false appearance of strength and promoted a feeling of security. However, its valley location and exposed water supply made the city quite vulnerable. The oldest known name of the city is Diospolis (800 BC) which means "City of Zeus". The city was renamed to Laodice, who was the wife of Antiochus II (King of Syria) in 246 BC.

Under Roman rule, Laodicea prospered and became an affluent commercial city that was known for its trade in black wool. Enormous trading caravans from the east, sometimes numbering into the hundreds of men, would pass through Laodicea during their journey to the larger cities in the west. Because of this perpetual commerce, many Laodicean's became wealthy. The city was heavily influenced by Greek Hellenistic culture, and was known for its science, medical schools, literature, clothing and textiles, and eye salve industries. The city was recognized for an extensive banking system that used gold as the medium of exchange. Laodicea also minted its own coins.

Numerous buildings were dedicated to the arts, philosophy, and music. The ruins that have been excavated, including remnants of excessively decorated architecture and pretentious monuments, clearly boast the wealthy lifestyle enjoyed by the residents. As with most prominent Greco-Roman cities, Laodicea had a large amphitheatre that seated thousands, along with a number of temples and public buildings. Zeus was worshipped throughout this region, as well as Apollo, and both had temples that were dedicated to their names.

Despite their financial affluence, the region and residents of Laodicea were victims of insurmountable geological seismic activity. During the history of Laodicea, there were numerous earthquakes that leveled the city only to be rebuilt prior to the next disaster. After a large

earthquake during the reign of Nero, the residents of Laodicea were wealthy enough to rebuild the city without Roman assistance. This degree of affluence and self-reliance led them to trust in their own assets and abilities and disregard YHWH as their provider. The end result was the city became abandoned due to the repeated natural disasters.

- Rev 3:14-22 – Assembly of Laodicea – laid back, apathetic faith vs. 16

Salutation	Vs 14 – these things say the amen (trustworthy one), faithful & true witness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mt 5:18 –amen=G281/H543=amane=verily or truly, Is 65:16 – find truth Vs 14 – the beginning of the creation of YHWH (not evolution)
Assets	None given – only assembly with none
Liabilities	Vs 15 – not hot or cold (see intro regarding hot water aqueducts) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritually lukewarm-2 Tim 4:3-4, 1 Jo 2:15-16, Jer 5:20-31, 1Tim 4:1-4 Gnostic doctrines, do it yourself Vs 17 – I am rich & have need of nothing, Lk 12:34, 1 Tim 6:10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heb 10:26-39 – no turning back, Jer 23 – all – lying preachers • Amos 8:11 – famine of the word • 2 Thes 2:1-7 – a falling away, give up the truth for self security • Mt 6:24 – one master • Mt 13:22 – choke out by cares of the world • Mail route started in Ephesus & ends in Laodicea
Rebuke	VS 15 – I know your works, I wish you were cold or hot – like the aqueduct
Exhortation	Vs 16 – I will spew (G1692=vomit) you out of my mouth Vs 17-19 – Wretched=subject to enduring trial, miserable=needing mercy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor=distressed & no substance, blind=high minded & not seeing clearly • Naked=stripped of covering & without Yahushua, buy=redeem • White=light (of truth), raiment=garments • Clothed=vested or invested, shame of nakedness=sinfulness is gone • Anoint=rub in & consecrate, that you may see=understand & perceive • Love=embrace with personal attachment, chaste=educate • Zealous=warm feelings & fervent mind, repent=think differently Vs 18 – buy gold tried in the fire=tribulation, Zech 13:8-9, 1Pet 1:5-8, Jas 5:1-5 Vs 18 – clothed in white raiment – vs. 17 naked, in spite of black wool business Vs 18 – become rich in spirit and truth – Jo 4:24, Mt 7:14 Vs 18 – anoint your eyes (see intro Collyrium eye salve) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Pet 1:1-9 - can't see, see vs. 17 blind, Isa 59:1-15 - lawlessness Vs 19 – YHWH chastens – Pro 3:11-22 Vs 19 – be zealous and repent – 1 Jo 1:9, Lk 13:3, 2 Pet 3:9 Vs 20 – I stand at the door waiting to be invited in – Lk 12:36-37, Jo 14:23
Reward	Vs 21 – sit with me in My throne – Mt 19:28-30 – I overcame world, Jo 16:33
Post Script	Vs 22 – he that has an ear

- Attributes - charismatic movement, we've arrived, we have it all, self sufficient, physically rich, spiritually poor, my wealth will save me, prosperity gospel
- The name Laodicean (G2994-Laodikea) is derived from 2 words:
 1. G2992=laos (laity)=people
 2. G2993 =dike =judgment or justice
 3. People justice or power to the people, IE, human rights not YHWH's rights
- 1 Tim 6:5-21 – written from Laodicea
- Col 2:1, 4:13-16 – Colossae and Laodicea instructed to share letters by Paul

During the Council of Laodicea in Phrygia in 363-364 AD, approximately 300 Bishops determined

the 7th day Sabbath was outlawed and changed to Sunday per Canon 29: "Christians must not judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather honouring the Lord's Day; and, if they can, resting then as Christians. But if any shall be found to be judaizers, let them be anathema from Christ."

The history of the first century by Eusebius, states on page 243, "The Sabbath was not dropped by the church at Laodicea until the year 363." On page 188, "The Jewish Christians also observed the Sabbath."

- Parable – Mt 13:47-50 - the net
- Paul's epistle – Colossians

7 assembly historical summaries courtesy:

- [www.amazingdiscoveries.org/S-deception-Revelation letter seven-churches](http://www.amazingdiscoveries.org/S-deception-Revelation%20letter%20seven-churches)
Author:Walter J. Veith, PhD
- Bible Believers' Commentary – e-sword
- The Bible Knowledge Commentary – e-sword
- www.answersintheendtime.com

Correlation of 7 Assemblies – 7 Parables - 7 Epistles		
Rev 2-3	Matt 13	Paul's Epistles
Ephesus – Apostolic Assembly • Sowing a variety of seeds	Sower and 4 Different Soil Conditions	Ephesians – good works but backsliding Eph 4:1-3–unity, good works
Smyrna – Persecuted Assembly • Weeds creeping in causing persecution	Wheat and Tares	Philippians – suffering Phil 1:12-18 – Paul's suffering Phil 3:7-21 – the power of Yahushua's resurrection
Pergamos – Married to the World Assembly • Organizational structure becomes important	Mustard Seed	Corinthians – worldly, abuses of liberty, conflicting values 1 Co 10-21 – make a choice 1Co 13 – love detailed
Thyatira – Priesthood and False Doctrine Assembly • Syncretism of truth and pagan worship practices	Woman and Leaven	Galatians – idolatrous and deceived Gal 3:1 – foolish Galatians Gal 5:1-4 – fallen from grace
Sardis – Dead Orthodoxy Assembly • Discovery of truth but no spirit & few works	Treasure in the Field	Romans – Jews & gentiles competing, justified by faith Ro 1:16-17 – live by faith
Philadelphia – Rebirth of Spirit and Truth Assembly • Love of YHWH and love of neighbor	Pearl of Great Price	Thessalonians – return of Yahushua & saint's resurrection 1Thes 4:16 – first fruits resurrection
Laodicea – KnowledgeofGoodandEvil.com Assembly • Deceived	The Dragnet	Colossians – near Laodicea Col 2:8 – deceit through philosophy Col 4:16 – read in Laodicea

Conclusion

- 7 epistles to individuals: Timothy, Titus, Philemon, James, Peter, John, Jude
- Mt 13:52 – the householder, OT and NT, the parables are all new, share the treasure
- Pro 8:1-36 – vs. 17 – I love them that love me
- 1 Pet 1:1-25 – the word endures forever