

1. Ephesus	2. Smyrna	3. Pergamos	4. Thyatira	5. Sardis	6. Philadelphia	7. Laodicea
<p><b>REV 2:1</b> “To the angel of the church of <b>Ephesus</b> write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: 2 “I know your <b>works</b>, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 “and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. 4 “Nevertheless I have this against you, that <b>you have left your first love</b>. 5 “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; <b>repent</b> and do the first <b>works</b>, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you <b>repent</b>. 6 “But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 “<b>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.</b>” ’</p>	<p><b>REV 2:8</b> “And to the angel of the church in <b>Smyrna</b> write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: 9 “I know your <b>works</b>, tribulation, &amp; poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11 “<b>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.</b>” ’</p>	<p><b>REV 2:12</b> “And to the angel of the church in <b>Pergamos</b> (<b>height</b>) write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: 13 “I know your <b>works</b>, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 14 “But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. 15 “Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. 16 “<b>Repent</b>, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. 17 “<b>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.</b>” ’</p>	<p><b>REV 2:18</b> “And to the angel of the church in <b>Thyatira</b> write, ‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: 19 “I know your <b>works</b>, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your <b>works</b>, the last are more than the first. 20 “Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 “And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. 22 “Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they <b>repent</b> of their deeds. 23 “I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your <b>works</b>. 24 “Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. 25 “But hold fast what you have till I come. 26 “And <b>he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—</b> 27 ‘<b>He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels</b>’— as I also have received from My Father; 28 “and I will give him the morning star. 29 “<b>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.</b>” ’</p>	<p><b>REV 3:1</b> “And to the angel of the church in <b>Sardis</b> write, ‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your <b>works</b>, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. 2 “Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your <b>works</b> perfect before God. 3 “Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and <b>repent</b>. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. 4 “You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. 5 “<b>He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.</b> 6 “<b>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.</b>” ’</p>	<p><b>REV 3:7</b> “And to the angel of the church in <b>Philadelphia</b> write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”: 8 “I know your <b>works</b>. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 9 “Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. 10 “Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 “Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. 12 “<b>He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.</b> 13 “<b>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.</b>” ’</p>	<p><b>REV 3:14</b> “And to the angel of the church of the <b>Laodiceans</b> write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 “I know your <b>works</b>, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 “So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 “Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— 18 “I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and <b>repent</b>. 20 “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 “<b>To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.</b> 22 “<b>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.</b>” ’</p>

1. **1CO 12:12** For as **THE BODY is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.** 13 For **by one Spirit we were all baptized into ONE BODY—whether JEWS or GREEKS, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.** 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many. 27 Now **you are THE BODY OF CHRIST, & members individually.**
2. **EPH 1:15** Therefore **I also,** after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 **do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:** 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 **the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,** 20 **which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,** 21 **far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named,** not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And **He put ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET, and gave Him to be head over all things to THE CHURCH,** 23 **WHICH IS HIS BODY, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.**
3. **COL 1:15** **He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.** 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And **He is the HEAD OF THE BODY (soma), THE CHURCH (ekklesia), who is the beginning (arche), the firstborn (prototokos) from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.**
4. **ACT 11:25** Then **Barnabas** departed for Tarsus to seek **Saul.** 26 And when he had found him, **he brought him to Antioch.** So it was that **for A WHOLE YEAR they assembled with THE CHURCH (ekklesia) and taught a great many people.** And **the disciples were first called CHRISTIANS in Antioch.**
5. **EPH 4:11** And **He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,** 12 **for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of THE BODY OF CHRIST,** 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, **to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;** 15 but, speaking the truth in love, **may grow up in all things into Him who is THE HEAD—CHRIST.**

### **The letters follow a general sevenfold pattern:**

1. A **greeting.** To the angel of the church.
2. A **reference** to Christ's self designation from Rev 1:12-19, this has some application to the letter to the church.
3. A **commendation.** I know your deeds... (except in case of Laodicea and Pergamum).
4. A **rebuke** if applicable (except in case of Smyrna and Philadelphia).
5. A **charge to repent or a warning.**
6. A **call to hear.** The phrase *'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches'*.
7. A **promise.** The phrase *'To him who overcomes'* followed by a reference to a reward mentioned later in Revelation.

### **To all 7 Churches, Jesus promises those who OVERCOME:**

1. Jesus will give them to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.
2. They shall not be hurt by the second death.
3. Jesus will give them some of the hidden manna to eat. Jesus will give them a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.
4. Jesus will give them power over the nations, to rule with a rod of iron, just as Jesus also has received this from His Father.
5. They shall be clothed in white garments, and Jesus will not blot out their name from the Book of Life. Jesus will confess their name before His Father and before His angels.
6. Jesus will make them a pillar in the temple of His God, and they shall go out no more. Jesus will write on them the name of His God and the name of the city of His God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And Jesus will write on them His new name.
7. Jesus will grant them to sit with Him on His throne, just as He also overcame and sat down with His Father on His throne.

### **God's Promises for Overcoming:**

**JOH 16:33** “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have **overcome** the world.”

**1JO 4:4** You are of God, little children, and have **overcome** them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

**1JO 5:4** For whatever is born of God **overcomes** the world. And this is the victory that has **overcome** the world—our faith. 5 Who is he who **overcomes** the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

**REV 12:11** “And they **overcame** him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Dr. A. T. Pierson pointed out that these promises at the end of each letter follow an historical order. The **tree of life** refers back to Eden; the **second death** to the fall; the **hidden manna** to the manna in the desert; the **white stone** to the engraved stones on the high priest's shoulder and breastplate; the **rod of iron** to Moses holding the rod of God for the defeat of Amalek (Ex 17:8); the **white raiment** to the garments of the priests; the **pillar in the temple** to those in the temple of Solomon; and the **sitting on the throne** to Solomon's reign in glory and peace.

**To all Seven Churches, Jesus made THIS statement:** “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

**To all Seven Churches, Jesus first acknowledges their WORKS.** He generally commends them for these works and their efforts as the people of God, but then admonishes the church for one or more failings.

### **Failures in the Church summarized:**

1. **Substitution of activity for priorities.** REV 2:9, 13, 19; REV 3:8, 15
2. **Tolerance of impurity as being immaterial or unimportant.** Baalimism 2:14; Jezebelism 2:20; Depths of Satan 2:24
3. **The fallacy that material success is synonymous with God's blessing.** REV 3:17, 2:9
4. **The placement of religious systems remove the glory and grace of God.** Nicolaitinism = REV 2:6,5; Synagogue of Satan REV 2:9

### **The Four solutions offered:**

1. **Look to the Savior and Listen to the Spirit.**
2. **Repent and respond to what the Spirit is saying.**
3. **Treat adversity as a friend & as a refining force.**
4. **Accept Jesus' correction with humility and spontaneity.**