

The Seven Churches of Asia Minor

REVELATION 3:7-13



THE SECONDARY OUTLINE

PART ONE: THE UNFAITHFUL WIFE (1:1 – 11:19)

I. THE PREAMBLE: JOHN'S VISION OF THE SON OF MAN 1:1-20

II. HISTORICAL PROLOGUE: LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES 2:1-3:22

III. STIPULATIONS: THE SEVEN SEALS 4:1-7:17

IV. SANCTIONS: THE SEVEN TRUMPETS 8:1-11:19

PART TWO: THE BRIDE, THE LAMB'S WIFE (12:1 – 22:21)

IV. SANCTIONS: THE SEVEN TRUMPETS (CONTINUED) 12:1-14:20

V. SUCCESSION ARRANGEMENTS: SEVEN BOWLS OF WRATH 15:1-22:21

The Covenantal Treaty Structure

SECTION	NAME	PURPOSE
1.	PREAMBLE	To identify and establish the authority of the Suzerain
2.	HISTORICAL PROLOGUE	To review the historical relationship between the Suzerain and the Vassal
3.	ETHICAL STIPULATIONS	To explain the conduct expected of the Vassal and the benefits which accompany obedience to the covenant
4.	SANCTIONS	To define violations of the covenant and the consequences of disobedience to the covenant
5.	SUCCESSION ARRANGEMENTS	To warn of the grave consequences of succeeding the covenant

#	SECTION	DESCRIPTION
1	Preamble	Christ's Lordship over the Churches
2	Historical Prologue	Christ's Knowledge of the History of Each Church
3	Ethical Stipulations	Christ's Call to Obedience (includes the Covenant Grant)
4	Sanctions	Christ's Call to Repentance for Disobedience
5	Succession Arrangements	Christ's Warning of Punishment for Disobedience

The Individual Letters To Each Church Reflect And Reinforce The Covenantal Treaty Structure

Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3 —

- 1 Ephesus
- 2 Smyrna
- 3 Pergamos
- 4 Thyatira
- 5 Sardis
- 6 Philadelphia
- 7 Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision



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COVENANT STRUCTURE	EPHESUS	SMYRNA	PERGAMUM	THYATIRA
Preamble	He who holds... He who walks...	The First and the Last, who was dead, and...	He who has the sharp two-edged sword	Son of God, eyes like flames, feet of brass
Historical Prologue	Labor, patience, cannot bear evil, tested false apostles, perseverance, patience, labored ¹	Tribulation and poverty (but you are rich)	You hold fast to My name and did not deny My faith	Love, service, faith and patience, you last works are more than the first
Ethical Stipulations	Repent, do first works	Be faithful until death	Repent or else I will...	Hold what you have
Sanctions	You have left your first love	None supplied	You have those there who hold the doctrine	You allow that woman Jezebel...
Succession Arrangements	Quickly remove your lampstand	Unnecessary	I will fight against them with the sword	I will kill her children with death
Covenant Grant	Eat from tree of life	Will not be hurt by second death	Hidden manna, white stone, a new name	I will give power over the nations

The City of Sardis

- A lower and upper city (Acropolis)
- Large Temple to Artemis
- Bath houses and Gymnasium
- Well fortified Acropolis
- Was breeched twice because the guards were not keeping watch



Revelation 3:1-6 – The Letter to Sardis

STRUCTURE	THE CHURCH AT SARDIS
Preamble	He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars
Historic Prologue	You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead
Ethical Stipulations	Be watchful and strengthen the things that remain
Sanctions	I have not found your works perfect before God
Succession Arrangements	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
Covenant Grant	White garments, Book of Life, confess his name

The City of Philadelphia

- Built by King Eumenes II for his brother Attalus II
- “City of Brotherly Love”
- It was a district of and eclipsed by Pergamum
- Very few ruins remain from Roman times



Revelation 3:7-13 – The Letter to Philadelphia

STRUCTURE	THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA
Preamble	He who is true, has key of David, who opens...
Historic Prologue	You have kept my word, have not denied My name
Ethical Stipulations	You have kept my command to persevere
Sanctions	None supplied
Succession Arrangements	Unnecessary
Covenant Grant	make him a pillar in the temple, write name of My God

The City of Laodicea

- A minor city for much of its history
- Rebuilt by Antiochus II and named for his wife, Laodice
- Situated on a new trade route, it quickly became very wealthy
- Water was very poor, lukewarm and mineral
- Sister city of Colossae and Hierapolis (Col. 4:13,16)



Revelation 3:14-22 – The Letter to Laodicea

STRUCTURE	THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA
Preamble	Amen, faithful and true Witness, beginning of creation
Historic Prologue	You are neither cold nor hot
Ethical Stipulations	<i>None supplied!</i>
Sanctions	You say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, need nothing'
Succession Arrangements	I will vomit you out of my mouth
Covenant Grant	I will grant to sit with Me on My throne

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COVENANT STRUCTURE	SARDIS 3:1-6	PHILADELPHIA 3:7-13	LAODICEA 3:14-22
Preamble	He who has seven Spirits of God... stars	He who is holy, true who holds the key of David	Amen, Faithful, and True Witness, Beginning of..
Historical Prologue	You have a name you are alive, but you are dead	You have a little strength, have kept My word, have not denied My name	You are neither cold nor hot
Ethical Stipulations	Be watchful and strengthen the things that remain	You have kept My command to persevere	None supplied
Sanctions	I have not found your works perfect before God	None supplied	You say 'I am rich, have become wealthy, need...
Succession Arrangements	I will come upon you as a thief	Unnecessary	I will vomit you out of My mouth
Covenant Grant	White garment, book of life, I will confess you	Will be a pillar in the Temple, write on him...	Grant to sit with me on My throne

A Recapitulation of Covenantal History

CHURCHES	HISTORICAL PERIOD	REFERENCES
EPHESUS	Paradise in Eden	Creator, walks among lampstands, tree of life
SMYRNA	Age of the Patriarchs	He who was dead and came to life, poor but rich, slandered, crown of life
PERGAMUM	Wilderness Wanderings	Where Satan's throne, Balaam and Balak, Hidden Manna
THYATIRA	Davidic Monarchy	Son of God, Jezebel, kill her children, authority over nations
SARDIS	Decline of Israel and Judah	Reputation as alive but dead, wake up, strengthen what remains, few people in Sardis, white garments, new name
PHILADELPHIA	Restoration of the Exiles	Little power, slandered by false Jews, hour of testing, pillar in the temple
LAODICEA	The "Last Days"	Lukewarmness, boasting of wealth and self-sufficiency, about to be vomited up, sit on throne

The Structure of Revelation Foreshadowed

THE CHURCHES	DESCRIPTION	REVELATION
EPHESUS	Judgment on False Apostles	Seven Churches (ch. 2-3)
SMYRNA	Judgement on False Israel	Seven Seals (ch. 4-7)
PERGAMUM	Judgement on Evil King, False Prophet	Seven Trumpets (ch. 8-14)
THYATIRA	Judgment on Royal Harlot	Seven Bowls of Wrath (ch. 15-22)
SARDIS		
PHILADELPHIA		
LAODICEA		

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REVELATION 3:1-6

