

The Book of Revelation Commentary by Pastor Rob Robinson
THE BOOK OF REVELATION
CHAPTER 2
Jesus Message To His Church

As we begin Chapter 2 of the Book of Revelation, we enter a subject that is probably The Most Important to Jesus:

- ☞ **You!**
- ☞ **There is nothing** more important in the earth to Jesus, than you.
- ☞ **It is the reason** that Jesus, left Heaven, gave up His Glory and His Rights as God, and humbled Himself to become a servant to you.
- ☞ **Even as being the Creator** of everything that exists, Jesus loved You more than anything else that is one the earth.
- ☞ **That is why He came**, to show how great His love is, by giving His life for you.

So, how important is what Jesus has to say to you in chapters 2 and 3 of the Book of Revelation?

- ☞ **In these 2 chapters**, Jesus will show us what He considers the most important things that we are doing with our lives.
- ☞ **He will show us** what kinds of things are not important to Him, and what things He considers worthy or our times and attention.
- ☞ **So, if you are looking** for meaning and purpose in your life, If you want to know what Jesus considers important in life, what Jesus is going to say this morning, will be very important to you.

There were as many as 100 churches in this area at the time that This was written

- ☞ Why only 7 Churches?
 - ☞ **7 is the Number** of Completeness.
 - ☞ **These 7 churches** were on a circular postal route.
- A. **They Were Churches that had the Characteristics**, Good and Bad, that will make up the entire church from the Time Jesus was Resurrected till He returns for the church at the Rapture.
- B. **These 7 churches were also literal Churches** that existed at this time.
- C. **There were 7 period of church History** from the time the Church was began in the Book of Acts chapter 2, Until the End of the 7 year Great Tribulation period.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. 30 Ad To 100 Ad | 5. 1517 ad to 1648 ad |
| 2. 100 ad to 313 ad. | 6. 1649 ad to 1900 ad |
| 3. 313 ad to 600 ad | 7. 1900 ad to the |
| 4. 600 ad to 1517 ad | Present |

In Chapters 2 and 3, Jesus is going to make 6 statements about each of the 7 churches

1. To Whom it is written.
2. Jesus description of Himself to this Church.

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3. Things they are doing well.
4. Words of Correction
5. Words of Encouragement.
6. Jesus Promise to this Church.

These Good and Bad Qualities fit the Church throughout all history, including today.

Revelation 2:1-3:1 The Message to the Church in Ephesus

To Whom it is Written

1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,

- ☞ **Ephesus:** The Church Immediately After The Lord was Crucified and Risen, The Church At Ephesus, Was "**The Apostolic Church**" 30 Ad To 300 Ad
- ☞ **The name "Ephesus"** means **To Let Go or Relax**".
- ☞ **The "Angel"** is the "*Angelos*", a Messenger, possibly the pastor of the Church.

Jesus Description of Himself

1 This is the message from the one who holds the **seven stars** in his right hand, the one who walks among **the seven gold lampstands**:

- ☞ **The Seven Stars:** The 7 Angels of the 7 Churches.

Revelation 1:20

The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and **the seven golden lampstands**: The **seven stars** are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

- ☞ **The Seven Golden Lampstands:** Are the 7 Churches.
- ☞ **Jesus says** He holds the 7 Pastors or Messenger in His Hand.
- ☞ **Jesus walks** among the Churches.

Matthew 18:20

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Things they are Doing Well

Revelation 2:2-3

2 "**I know your works**, 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**.

- ☞ **Jesus sees** and knows and understands what and why we do for Him.
- ☞ **This is a very busy** active Church.
- ☞ **They are judging evil**, taking a stand against it.
- ☞ **They hang in there**, persevere.
- ☞ **They are laboring** for Jesus name sake.
- ☞ **They do not become weary** of the work they do for Jesus.

Words of Correction

Revelation 2:4-5

4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

5 **Remember** therefore from where you have fallen; **repent** and **do the first works**, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

- ⊕ **Even though they are a very busy church**, they have forgotten what is most important, “*Their First Love*”, who is Jesus.
- ⊕ **Being a Busy church** is great, but sitting at Jesus feet is better.

Luke 10:38-42

38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.

39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word.

40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.”

41 And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.

42 But **one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.**”

The remedy for getting back your fire and your desire for Jesus again is given in verse 5:

- ⊕ **Remember** where you used to be, how you used to feel about Jesus.
- ⊕ **Repent**, change your mind, go back and...
- ⊕ **Do** the first works.

Start doing what you were doing when you were first so excited about Jesus: Go to Bible Study at church, Pray every day, fellowship with other believers.

Words of Encouragement

Revelation 2:6

6 But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

- ⊕ **Nicolaitans= Nico:** Priesthood, **Laity:** The Common People.
- ⊕ **The Doctrine** of placing a man between you and God.
- ⊕ **Jesus hates this** because He died to end it.

Ephesians 2:14

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

Matthew 27:51

Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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Matthew 23:9

Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven

Jesus Promise to this Church

Revelation 2:7

7 “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.”

- ☞ *He who has an ear*: “Do you have ears, listen to me”
- ☞ **This is the Holy Spirit** speaking to the Churches, meaning all the churches.
- ☞ **Same Tree of Life** that was in The Garden of Eden.

Genesis 2:9

And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. **The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden**, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 3:24

So He drove out the man; and **He placed cherubim** at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, **to guard the way to the tree of life**

Revelation 22:2

In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was **the tree of life**, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22:14

Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

Revelation 2:8-11 The Message to the Church in Smyrna

To Whom it is Written

8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write,

- ☞ **Smyrna**: “**The Church that was Martyred**”, the church at Smyrna, **100 ad to 313 ad**. There were **10 periods of persecution** for this church from **Nero** in 64 ad to **Diocletian** in 305 ad.

Jesus description of Himself

“These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

- ☞ **This church is about to suffer** 10 periods of persecution and death, so Jesus tells them that He is the First and the Last, He was also dead, but he came back to life.

Things they are Doing Well

9 “I know your works, tribulation, and 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.

- ☞ **Jesus knows** what they are going through.
- ☞ **They think they are poor**, but Jesus sees them as Rich.

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- ☞ **Every one of the 7 churches sees them self** in a different way than Jesus sees them.
- ☞ **“Those who say they are Jews”** There were those in Jerusalem that claimed to be Believers but were really pretenders.

Matthew 13:24-30

24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like **a man** who sowed **good seed in his field**;

25 but while men slept, **his enemy** came and **sowed tares** among **the wheat** and went his way.

26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, “Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?”

28 He said to them, “**An enemy has done this.**’ The servants said to him, ‘**Do you want us then to go and gather them up?**’

29 But he said, “No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.

30 **Let both grow together until the harvest**, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”

Revelation 14:18-19

18 And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.”

19 So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God

No Words of Correction Because they are suffering such terrible trials)

Words of Encouragement

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.**

“10 days”: 10 Periods of intense persecution under 10 Nero’s

1. **Nero** (54–68): Paul beheaded; Peter crucified upside down
2. **Domitian** (95–96): John exiled.
3. **Trajan** (104–117): Ignatius burned at the stake.
4. **Marcus Aurelius** (161–180): Polycarp martyred.
5. **Septimus Severus** (200–211): He killed Irenaeus.
6. **Maximinus** (235–237): He killed Ursula and Hippolytus.
7. **Decius** (249–251);
8. **Valerian** (257–260);
9. **Aurelian**, (270–275);
10. **Diocletian** (303–313); The Worst of all!

☞ **Ten** total: 250 years!

☞ **In Fox’s *Book of Martyrs*: Five million** believers died for Christ during this period.

Jesus Promise to this Church

11 "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.**" "

This is the message from the one who is the First and the Last, who died and is alive:

- ☞ To Whom it is written.
- ☞ Jesus description of Himself to this Church.
- ☞ Things they are doing well.
- ☞ Words of Correction
- ☞ Words of Encouragement.
- ☞ Jesus Promise to this Church.

The Second Death

Revelation 20:5-6

5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Revelation 20:11-15

11 Then I saw **a great white throne** and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

☞ **Born Once, Die Twice**

☞ **Born Twice, Die Once**

The Message to the Church in Pergamum

To Whom it is Written

12 "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Pergamum.

Pergamos: called "**The Compromising Church**", from **314 ad to 590 ad** they began the doctrine of the nicolaitans, causing the people to go through a priest to get to god, comes from 2 greek words: "**nico**", **the priest** and "**laity**", **the people**.

Jesus Description of Himself to this Church

This is the message from the one who has a sharp two-edged sword:

☞ **2 Edged Sword**, the Word of God.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Things they are doing well

Revelation 2:13

13 “I know your works, 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.

☞ **Satans Throne**, the Temple of Dianna, largest Pagan Temple in the World.

☞ **They Hold** Jesus name.

☞ **Didn’t deny Jesus** in the midst of Persecution. As in the Stony Ground.

Matthew 13:18-23

18 “Therefore hear the parable of the sower:

19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

20 But he who received **the seed on stony places**, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Words of Correction

Revelation 2:14-15

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.

Numbers 22:1-6

1 Then the children of Israel moved, and camped in the plains of Moab on the side of the Jordan across from Jericho.

2 Now Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.

3 And Moab was exceedingly afraid of the people because they were many, and Moab was sick with dread because of the children of Israel.

4 So Moab said to the elders of Midian, “Now this company will lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field.” And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time.

5 Then **he sent messengers to Balaam** the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying: “Look, a people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are settling next to me!

6 Therefore **please come at once, curse this people for me**, for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed

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Numbers 22:12

And God said to Balaam, “You shall not go with them; **you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.**”

- ☞ **They had adopted** the doctrine of the **Nicolaitans**.
- ☞ **It was during this time** that the church adopted Idols.
- ☞ **Under Constantine**, the church became a state religion. They allowed the pagans to bring their idols into the church.

Words of Encouragement

Revelation 2:17

17 “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. receives it.”’

Jesus Promise to this Church

And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who

- ☞ **White Stone**: Acceptance.
- ☞ **Black Stone**: Rejection, “Black Balled”

The Message to the Church in Thyatira

To Whom it is Written

18 "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Thyatira.

Thyatira: the name means "**The continual sacrifice**". From **590 ad to 1517 ad**. Believed to be **The Roman Catholic Church**. They had good works, love and sincere service, but introduced idol worship.

Jesus Description of Himself to this Church

18 ...This is the message from the Son of God, whose eyes are bright like flames of fire, whose feet are like polished bronze:

Things they are Doing Well

Revelation 2:19

19 “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.

- ☞ **Very Busy** Church.
- ☞ **Lots of Love** and Service
- ☞ **Their works at the End** are more than the beginning.
- ☞ **Truly, the Catholic church** is a very busy church full of lots of good works

Words of Correction

Revelation 2:20

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.

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22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent 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 works.

☞ **Jezebel**, King Ahab of Israel's Wife, introduced Idol worship to Israel.

☞ **Jesus Will give** this church time to repent.

☞ **If she does not**, she will go into the Great Tribulation.

Jesus Promise to this Church

Revelation 2:24-29

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 he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—

27 “He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels”—as I also have received from My Father;

28 and I will give him the morning star.

29 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”’

☞ **Those who do not hold this doctrine** of worship of Idols, Jesus does not condemn the rest in this church.

☞ **There are sincere people** who Love Jesus, that are in churches that teach wrong and false doctrine.

☞ **If they do not hold themselves to this false doctrine**, Jesus does not condemn them.

☞ **I believe** that there are people who are saved that belong to some of these churches that are not Biblically and Doctrinally correct.

So, to those who would be a part of what we believe is the Catholic Church, and do not worship Mary, and pray to her and the idols and saints, but worship and serve only Jesus Christ and Look to Him ONLY for their salvation, Jesus says: **“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**