

Part 7: “The things which are – the churches”  
Smyrna: the persecuted church

THE BOOK OF

# REVELATION

A study of the end of days





The messages to the seven churches can be understood in three ways:

Directly  
Doctrinally  
Dispensationally

| The Things Which Are - The Seven Churches  |  |   |   |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Ephesus</b><br><br>Rev 2.1-7 | <b>Smyrna</b><br><br>Rev 2.8-11 | <b>Pergamos</b><br><br>Rev 2.12-17 | <b>Thyatira</b><br><br>Rev 2.18-29 | <b>Sardis</b><br><br>Rev 3.1-6 | <b>Philadelphia</b><br><br>Rev 3.7-13 | <b>Laodicea</b><br><br>Rev 3.14-22 |
| <b>First Church Age</b><br>33 - 100 AD<br>Death of Christ<br>1st & 2nd Persecution                               | <b>Second Church Age</b><br>100-312 AD<br>The Caesars<br>2nd - 10th Persecutions                                 | <b>Alexandrian School Of Thought</b>  |   |  |  |   |
|  |  | <b>Third Church Age</b><br>312 - 590 AD<br>Constantine<br>The Political Church                                      | <b>Fourth Church Age</b><br>590 - 1517 AD<br>Middle Dark Ages<br>The Idolatrous Church<br>Catholic Church           | <b>Fifth Church Age</b><br>1517 - 1750 AD<br>Reformation<br>Protestantism  | <b>Sixth Church Age</b><br>1750 - 1925 AD<br>Missionary Movement   | <b>Seventh Church Age</b><br>1925 AD - End<br>Apostate Church   |

## The churches seen dispensationally:

~The church age at a glance~

ÉEphesus: 100 (church of the apostles)

ÉSmyrna: 100 – 300 (persecuted church)

ÉPergamos: 300 – 500 (church married to Rome)

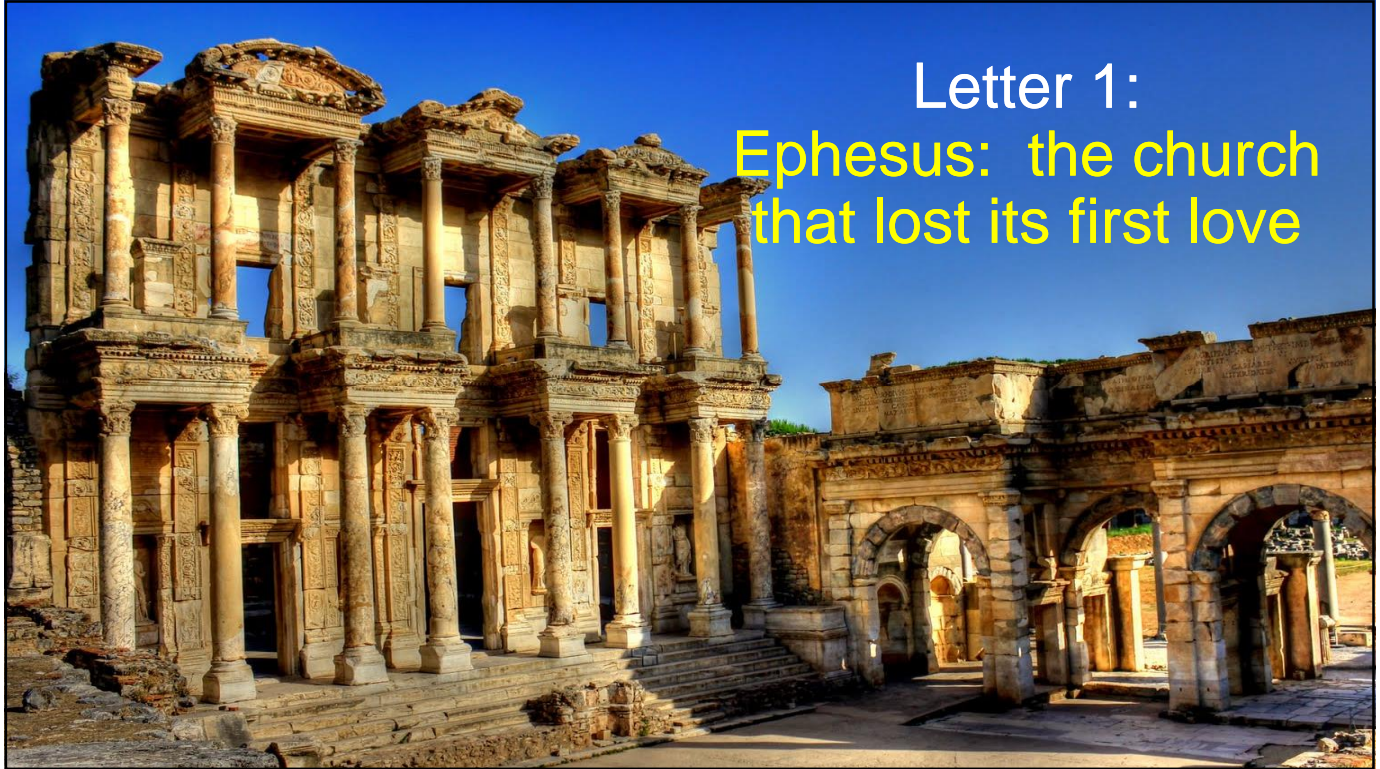
ÉThyatira: 500- 1500 (church of middle ages)

ÉSardis: 1500 – 1700 (reformation church)

ÉPhiladelphia: 1700 – 1900 (great awakening church)

ÉLaodicea: 1900 – present (lukewarm church)





%A church can be doctrinally straight as a gun barrel and just as empty.+







## Jesus remedy for Ephesus

" Remember

" Repent

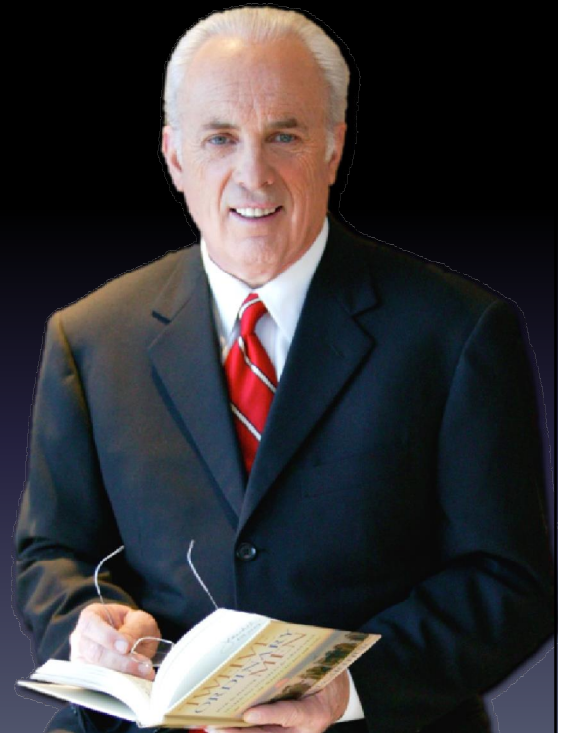
" Repeat



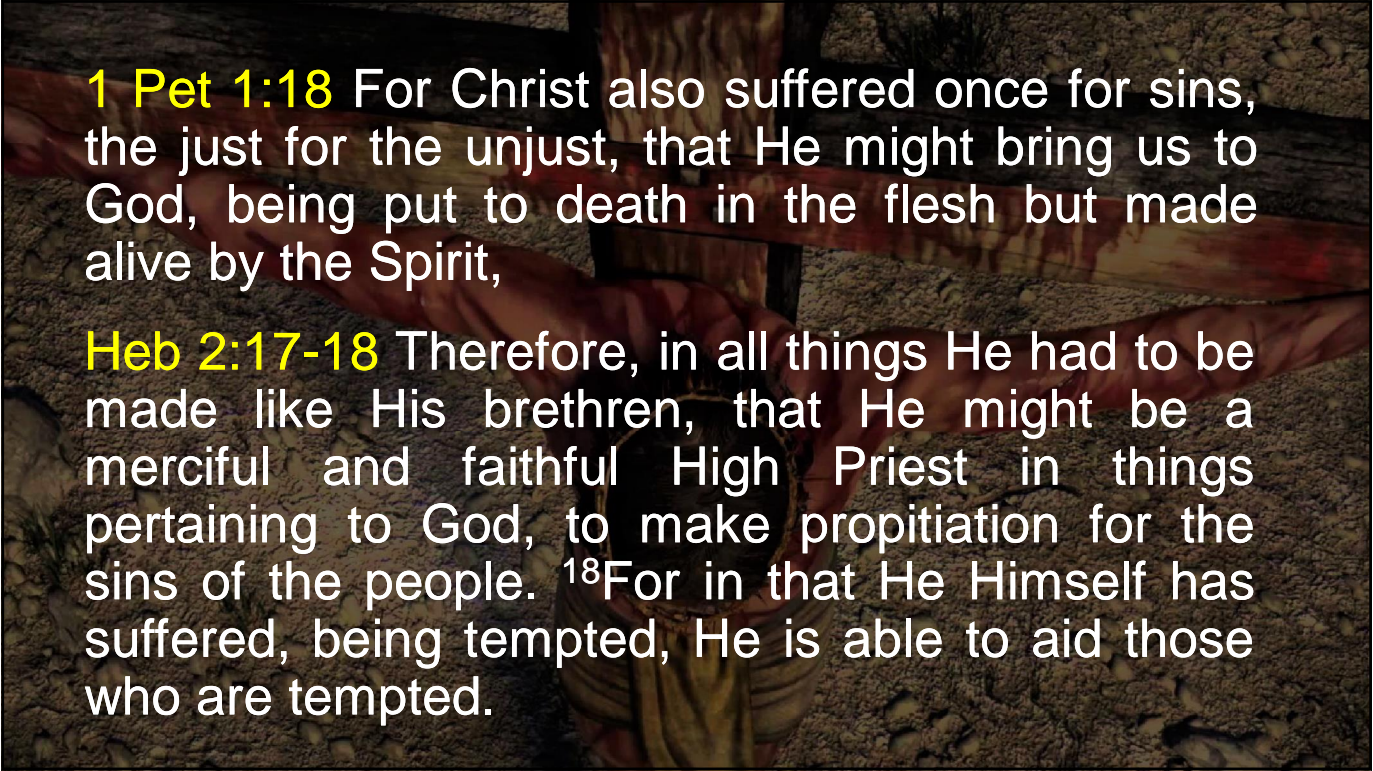
**Smyrna:** the persecuted church

**Rev 2:8-11** And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: 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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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.†

Throughout its history, the seemingly paradoxical truth has been that the more the church has been persecuted, the greater has been its purity and strength.† John MacArthur

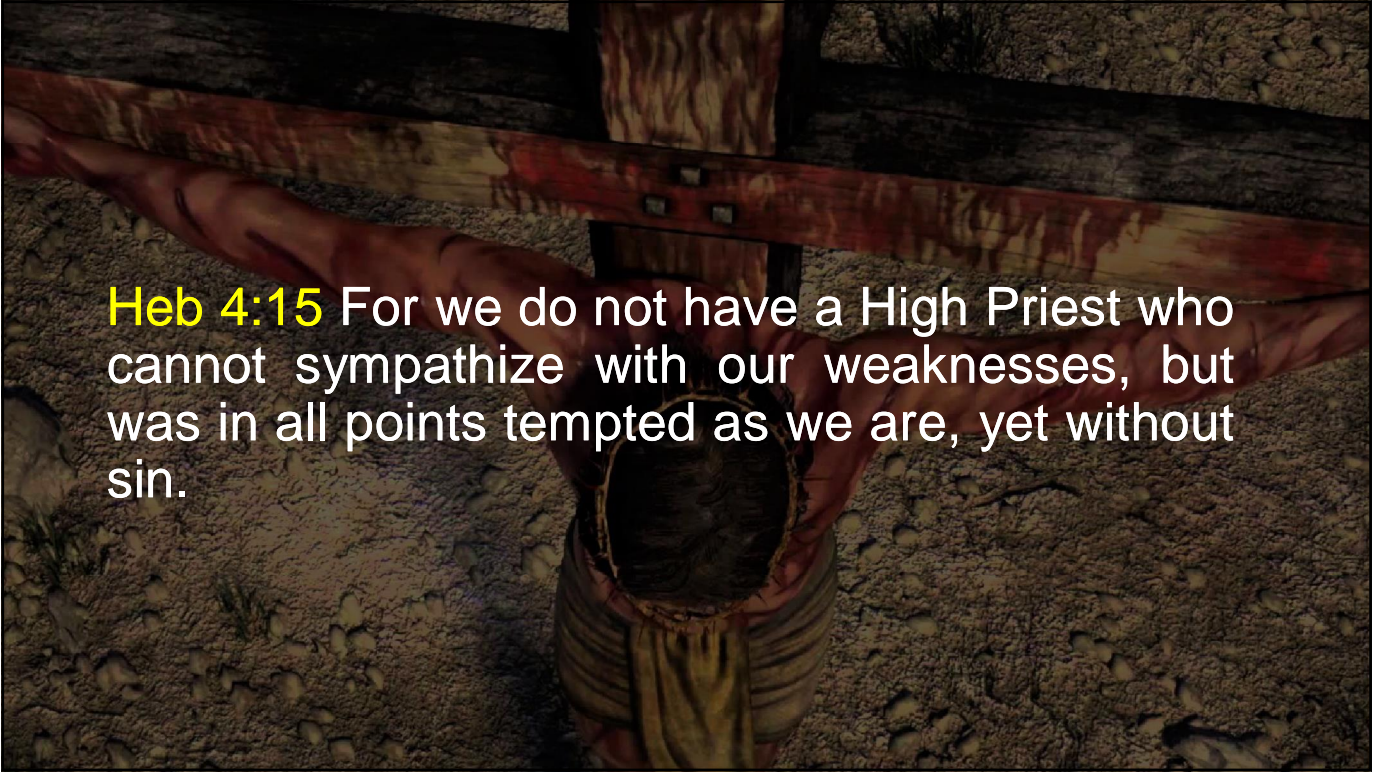






**1 Pet 1:18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

**Heb 2:17-18** Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.



**Heb 4:15** For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

## 1. Smyrna comes from the root word $\mu\alpha\gamma\eta\rho\eta$ +

**Matt 2:11** And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**Jn 19:39** And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.

## 2. Jesus spoke a message of life to the dying

**Rev 2:8** These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

**John 11:25-26** Jesus said to her,  $\mu\epsilon\alpha\mu$  the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. <sup>26</sup>And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?+

**Rev 1:18** I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.



### 3. Jesus knew their condition

**Rev 2:9** %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.

**Mt 6:8** For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

**Mt 12:25** But Jesus knew their thoughts,

**Acts 1:24** And they prayed and said, %You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all

### 4. He knew their tribulation

**Acts 14:22** %We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.+

**2 Tim 3:12** Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

**Js 1:2-4** My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, <sup>3</sup>knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. <sup>4</sup>But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

**1 Pet 5:10** But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

## 5. He knew their poverty

**2 Cor 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

**1 Tim 6:9,18** But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ò  
<sup>18</sup>Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, <sup>19</sup>storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

## 6. He knew about the false believers

**Rev 2:9** and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

**Mt 12:30** He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

**Jn 8:44** You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.



## 7. He encouraged them to not be afraid

**Rev 2:10** 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.

**Ps 56:11** In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

**Jn 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.+

**2 Tim 1:7** For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

**2 Cor 2:14** Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

**Rom 8:37** Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

**2 Cor 12:9-10** And He said to me, **My** grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.+Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

## 8. He promised a reward to the faithful

**Rev 2:10b-11** Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. <sup>11</sup>**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.+¶

**1 Cor 4:2** Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

**1 Tim 6:12** Fight the good fight of faith

**2 Tim 4:7** I have fought the good fight

**2 Tim 2:3** You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.



## “ Losing means winning:

**Mt 10:39** He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

## “ Born once, die twice; born twice, die once

**Jn 3:7** Do not marvel that I said to you, ~~Y~~ou must be born again.q

**1 Cor 3:14-15** If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup>If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

**2 Tim 4:8** Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.