

THE BOOK OF REVELATION



9. The Overcomer

(A Review of the Seven Churches)

We have completed our studies on the seven letters given by Jesus to the Churches. In fact the entire book of Revelation was written for these churches. See chapter 1:4, 11. We are not sure why John only addressed these churches as there were many other churches by this time. They may have been the leading churches in Asia, or they may have been John's particular responsibility.

Look at the map on the next page to see how these churches were on a circular route in the province of Asia, which is now present day Turkey. The number 7 is significant. There are 7 churches mentioned. The number 7 represents completeness, perfection and the essence of a thing, and the number is used 52 times in the book of Revelation.



Consider the refrain that is repeated at the end of each message to a church: "*He who has an ear, let Him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*" Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22.

Who do you think Jesus is addressing? Why do you think He said the same thing at the end of every message?

These repeated refrains certainly show the importance of what Jesus is saying in his message. It was important to the believers in John's day, but it is also important to believers in every generation.



As we have gone through these 7 letters you will have noticed a basic pattern in each one:-

1. The address
2. Title / s of Jesus
3. Commendation / Praise
4. Criticism
5. Counsel and / or commands
6. Warning
7. Promise to those who overcome

To help us review what we have learnt, fill in the details on the worksheet provided. The first one is done for you.



These 7 churches portray 7 different conditions that are seen in individual believers or in a church. We may have the traits or characteristics of several of these different churches in our lives. Which of the 7 do you think you are most like? (Good and bad!)



Jesus gave these letters to highlight areas we need to overcome in our lives. One of the qualities that's essential to become an over-comer is that of patient endurance. (This means to continue on and not give up.) What does Jesus say about this quality in these letters? Revelation 2:2, 10, 13, 19, 25; 3:4-5, 10.

(Patient endurance is a quality Jesus values in us. We are to patiently endure even till the point of death or until Jesus comes. We will be greatly rewarded when we do.)

We all face different struggles in our Christian life. Jesus never promised it would be easy, but He did promise to help us, and sent His Spirit to be with us. John 14:26-27, 16:33 Jesus has overcome the world and will strengthen us to overcome and endure to the end. Call on Him often to help you! He will.



Summary of the Seven Churches

Address	Title for Jesus	Commendation	Criticism	Commands	Warning	Promise
To the angel of the church in: EPHESUS	Holds 7 stars Walks among 7 lampstands	Hard work perseverance cannot tolerate wicked men	Forsaken first love	Remember, Repent Do things you did at first	I will remove your lampstand	Eat from tree of life