

Structure of Messages to the *Ekklesiai* in Revelation 2-3

| <i>City</i> | <i>Title for Jesus</i> | <i>What Jesus “knows”</i> | <i>Opponent</i> | <i>Threat against opponents</i> | <i>Reward for those conquering</i> |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| Ephesus: The greatest city of the Roman province Asia; the seat of the proconsul and competed with Pergamum for the recognition of its primacy. | He who holds the seven stars in his right hand and who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands | Deeds, labors, faithful resistance, refusal to bear evildoers, testing of false apostles | False apostles; Nicolaitans | Remove the lampstand | To eat from the tree of life in paradise |
| Smyrna: a prosperous port city, rivaling Ephesus, and maintained a special loyalty to Rome. Temple to Roma built in 195 BCE, and to Tiberius in 26 CE. | First and Last, who was dead and lives | Suffering, poverty | False Jews of “synagogue of Satan” <i>(see Philadelphia)</i> | | Never harmed by second death; crown of life |
| Pergamum: capital of Asia, the center of imperial worship for the whole region; standing over the city was a great acropolis and an altar to Zeus; also, a temple to Augustus and to Rome, built in 29 BCE | He who has the sharp, two-edged sword | Satan lives where you live, that you did not deny “my name” or your faith, that a martyr was killed in the community | Followers of Balaam and Nicolaitans | Come quickly and make war with them | Given hidden manna and a white stone with a new, secret name |
| Thyatira: city of traders and artisans without Roman significance (but cf. Acts 16.14, the city from which Lydia came to Philippi) | He who has eyes like a fiery flame and feet like fine copper | Works: love, faith, service, faithful resistance and recent works are more than first ones | False prophet, “Jezebel”; “deep things of Satan” | Throw her into bed and those adulterers with her into suffering and her children with deadly plagues | Authority over the nations; the morning star |
| Sardis: regional capital of Lydia in Asia Minor. Founded by Seleucids. Lydian wealth was legendary. Sardis was center of Lydian imperial cult in Roman times | He who has seven spirits of God and seven stars | Works, a false reputation for being alive | Falling asleep | Come like a thief and wake you | Arrayed in white garments and names not blotted out from the book of life |
| Philadelphia: like Sardis, a city of Lydia, founded by Attalus II, king of Pergamum in the 2nd c. BCE. A communication link between Sardis/Pergamum to the west and Laodicea and Hierapolis to the east. | The Holy One, the True One, he who has the key of David | Works, you kept my word; did not deny “my name” | False Jews of “synagogue of Satan” <i>(see Smyrna)</i> | Make them bow at your feet | Crown protected: made into a pillar in the temple of my God, write upon them the name of God, of the New Jerusalem, and the “new name” of Christ |
| Laodicea: richest city in Phrygia, known for its banks, its linen and cotton industry and its medical school and pharmacies. | the Amen, the Faithful and True, the Beginning of God’s creation | works are lukewarm; false claim to be rich and successful | Lack of commitment | Vomit them out! | Grant to sit on Jesus’ throne. |

Chart by Wes Howard-Brook