

Study Guide #207

Total Onslaught

by Professor Walter J. Veith



Seven Churches



DVD# 207



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AMAZING DISCOVERIES

2013 248 St
Langley, BC V4W 2B7
Canada

PO Box 3140
Blaine, WA 98231-3140
USA

1-866-572-9457

client-care@amazingdiscoveries.org
www.amazingdiscoveries.org

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Seven Letters, **SEVEN CHURCHES**

1) List the seven churches in Revelation 1:11 and, as you **progress through the lecture**, add what each name means:

(00:09:30)



(00:22:50)

(00:29:10)

(00:40:30)

(00:54:30)

(01:08:20)

(01:14:05)

*These churches were located in what is now Turkey. Although these were **literal** churches, their attributes also tell us about the **Church throughout history**. Each church represents the Christian Church during a time period in history.*



The Seven Churches.
Source: Bible History Online

Ephesus

2) What was commendable about the church of Ephesus, as the letter explains (Revelation 2:1-3)? (00:11:20)



*This Ephesian church represents the **early Christian Church** from 33 AD to 100 AD. It was a **pure church** with pure motives.*

3) For what did Jesus rebuke the church at Ephesus (2:4-5)? (00:13:05)



*This subtle danger of losing our **first love**—of serving God out of **form** rather than true devotion—is **still a problem** today.*

4) What is the promise for the overcomer in Ephesus (2:7)? (00:18:50)





Ruins at Ephesus © John Heald 2008

Smyrna



The port city of Izmir, formerly Smyrna.

Source: Kusadasi-Guy on Flickr

5) What are the most obvious characteristics of the church in Smyrna (2:8-10)? (00:24:05)



*Did you notice that Jesus had **no reproofs** for this church? It was also heavily persecuted. This church represents the Church in the period **100-313 AD**, which experienced severe persecution under Diocletian.*

6) What is the promise for the overcomer in Smyrna (2:11)? (00:25:35)



Pergamos

7) What was the church of Pergamos (or Pergamum) known for according to Revelation 2:12-17? (00:34:10)



8) How does the attitude of this church differ from that of the church of Ephesus (2:15)?



Paganism began to infiltrate the church during this period of 313 AD to 538 AD, and the results were catastrophic. We can still see effects of this compromise in Christian churches today.

9) What is the promise for the overcomer in Pergamos (2:17)?



Temple of Trajan in Pergamos
Source: faxbymax



Thyatira

10) What happened to the church at Thyatira (2:18-29)?
(00:46:20) 

11) What was commendable about their attitude (2:19)? 

12) What was their mistake? (2:20)? 

*Thyatira represents the Church in 538-1517 AD. This was a very sad period in history—one of **compromise** and the **institutionalizing** of Christianity. It became more important to get people into the church than to hold fast to the truths of the Gospel. Ultimately, this led to the **widespread apostasy** that we still see today.*

13) What is the promise for the overcomer in Thyatira (2:26-28)? 



The remains of ancient Thyatira
Source: David Padfield

Sardis

14) What warnings did Jesus give to the church in Sardis (3:1-6)?
(00:55:45)



God did not leave His Church in spiritual ruin. The church of Sardis represents the time of the Reformation—1517-1798 AD. God opened the eyes of many sincere people such as Martin Luther, who studied the Word of God and discovered contradictions between his religion and the truths of Scripture. The Reformation failed for a time, but the good news is that God’s reforming of His Church is still continuing and truth will finally triumph in the end.



Ancient Sardis’
synagogue courtyard

15) What is the hope we find in verse 4?



16) What is the promise for the overcomer in Sardis (3:5)?



Philadelphia



Modern-day view of Alahesir, successor to ancient Philadelphia
Source: welcometohosanna.com

17) How did the church in Philadelphia respond to the Gospel message Revelation 3:7-13)?



18) What is the promise for the overcomer in Philadelphia (3:12)? (01:12:45)



*The church at **Philadelphia**, which means brotherly love, also received **no rebuke** in their letter from Christ. This church represents a movement in history from **1798-1844 AD**—a time of great excitement and missionary thrust across Protestantism.*

Laodicea

19) What was Laodicea's attitude (3:15-16)?



20) What is unique about the Laodicean church compared with the other six churches (3:14-22)? (01:14:25)



*Laodicea received **no commendation** from Christ, only rebuke. This church represents the period of Christianity from **1844 AD to the present day**—our time. We see around us the secularism and materialism that is **ravaging** not only our society but our Church. We are **lukewarm**.*

21) What is the promise for the overcomer in Laodicea (3:21)?



A portion of the Laodicean aqueduct. Water was piped into the city from hot springs, but would arrive there lukewarm. Jesus referenced this phenomenon when He referred to the Laodicean church as lukewarm.

Source: bibleplaces.com

22) What do these conditions symbolize in Revelation 3:17?

Symbol	Definition 
Poor	
Blind	
Naked	

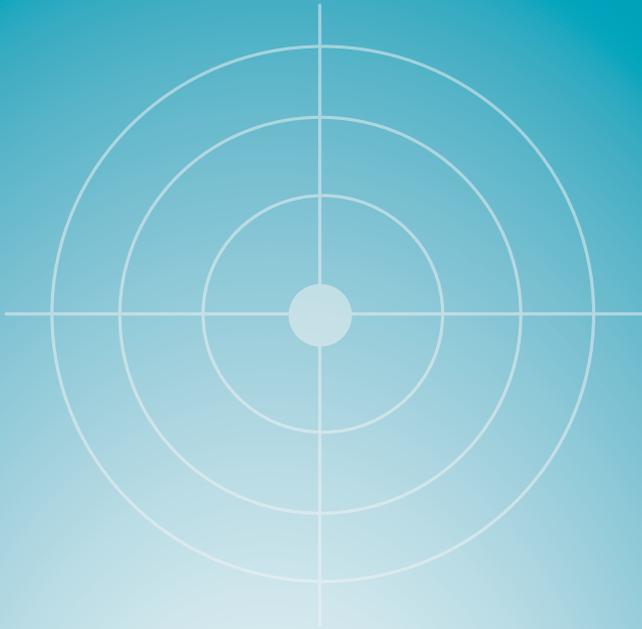


What do these symbols mean for our lives? What changes do you need to make today?

Notice that in the message to each church, there is always a promise to the overcomer, showing that God believes that despite any difficult or dangerous circumstances, we can have victory through cooperation with God.

My DECISION For Jesus

I see that God had His hand over the Church in every age. I also realize that God's Church has encountered tremendous trials and disappointments, as well as glimpses of the power of Christ. I choose today to follow Him wherever He might lead. I want to be an overcomer and receive the promised reward.



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