

JOURNEY / REVELATION

TO THE CONQUERORS

Four letters to four real churches

REVELATION 2



**Whose opinion of how
you're doing actually
counts?**

ΑΙ ΕΠΤΑ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΙ ΤΗΣ ΑΣΙΑΣ



HOW EACH LETTER OPENS

Revelation 2:1, 8

The One Who holds the seven stars in His right hand, Who walks in the middle of the seven golden lampstands

REVELATION 2:1

The First and the Last, Who was dead and came to life again

REVELATION 2:8

He held seven stars in His right hand

REVELATION 1:16

I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the middle of the lampstands

REVELATION 1:12-13

I am the First and the Last

REVELATION 1:17

I was dead, and Behold! I am living forever and ever

REVELATION 1:18



HOW EACH LETTER OPENS

Revelation 2:12, 18

The One Who has the sharp
two-edged sword

REVELATION 2:12

The Son of God, Whose eyes are
like a flame of fire, and Whose
feet are like burnished bronze

REVELATION 2:18

a sharp two-edged sword was
going out of His mouth

REVELATION 1:16

His eyes like a flame of fire

REVELATION 1:14

His feet like burnished bronze
refined in a furnace

REVELATION 1:15



Every letter has the same parts

WHAT JESUS CALLS HIMSELF	2:1 the seven stars in His right hand; the seven golden lampstands	2:8 The First and the Last, Who was dead and came to life again	2:12 the sharp two-edged sword	2:18 eyes are like a flame of fire; feet are like burnished bronze
I KNOW	2:2 I know your works	2:9 I know your tribulation and your poverty	2:13 I know where you dwell	2:19 I know your works, and your love
WHAT HE HOLDS AGAINST THEM	2:4 you have left your first love	none	2:14 the teaching of Balaam	2:20 you tolerate the woman Jezebel
WHAT HE TELLS THEM	2:5 repent and do the works you did at first	2:10 Be faithful to the point of death	2:16 So repent	2:25 hold fast to what you have until I come
HE WHO HAS EARS	2:7	2:11	2:17	2:29
TO HIM WHO CONQUERS	2:7 To him who conquers I will give the right to eat from the tree of life	2:11 He who conquers will never be harmed by the second death	2:17 To him who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna	2:26 To him who conquers and who keeps My works to the end

EPHESUS DID ALMOST EVERYTHING RIGHT. WHAT WAS MISSING?



Revelation 2:1-3

1 To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One Who holds the seven stars in His right hand, Who walks in the middle of the seven golden lampstands, says these things: 2 I know your works, and your labor and your endurance, and that you can't bear bad men, and that you tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and you found them false. 3 I know that you have endurance, and that you are carrying on for the sake of My Name. You haven't grown weary.

Acts 20:29-31

29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; **30** and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. **31** Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

Revelation 2:4-6

4 But I have this against you: you have left your first love. 5 So remember where you have fallen from, and repent and do the works you did at first. If not, I am coming to you, and I will move your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent. 6 But you do have this: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Ephesus had left its first love

- 01 They worked hard, they endured, and they caught the false apostles.
 - 02 But they had left their first love.
 - 03 Remember, repent, and do the works you did at first.
-

**What's the deal with
moving their lampstand?**



Ezekiel 10:18-19

18 Then the glory of the LORD went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim.

19 And the cherubim lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth before my eyes as they went out, with the wheels beside them. And they stood at the entrance of the east gate of the house of the LORD, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them.

"I will move your lampstand out of its place"

- 01** The glory of the LORD went out from the Temple, over the cherubim. (Ezekiel 10:18–19)

- 02** God let Shiloh fall, and He warned Jerusalem it would go the same way. (Jeremiah 7:12–14)

- 03** After AD 70 the Temple's own lampstand was carried through Rome.

- 04** God moved Israel's lampstand. Jesus can move a church's: "unless you repent." (2:5)

Revelation 2:7

7 Let him who has ears hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who conquers I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

BEHIND 2:7: THE TREE OF LIFE

Genesis 3:24

24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

"I will give the right to eat from the tree of life"

the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day

GENESIS 3:8

the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life

GENESIS 3:24

walks in the middle of the seven golden lampstands

REVELATION 2:1

the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God

REVELATION 2:7



SMYRNA LOOKED LIKE THE WEAKEST CHURCH IN ASIA. WHAT DID JESUS SEE?



Revelation 2:8-9

8 To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The First and the Last, Who was dead and came to life again, says these things: 9 I know your tribulation and your poverty — but you are rich — and the slander from those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Romans 2:28-29

28 For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. **29** But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

"I know your poverty – but you are rich"

01 Smyrna was poor, and Jesus says they are rich.
(2:9)

02 The people slandering them said they were Jews. Jesus says they are not, and calls them "a synagogue of Satan." (2:9)

03 Jesus is Israel, and His people are Israel.
Whoever rejects Jesus is not.

Revelation 2:10-11

10 Don't fear what you are about to suffer. Behold! the devil is about to throw some of you into prison in order that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11 Let him who has ears hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who conquers will never be harmed by the second death.

BEHIND 2:10: TEN DAYS

Daniel 1:12, 14-15

12 Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. **14** So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. **15** At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food.

"Be faithful to the point of death"

was dead and came to life

REVELATION 2:8

Test your servants for ten days

DANIEL 1:12

At the end of ten days

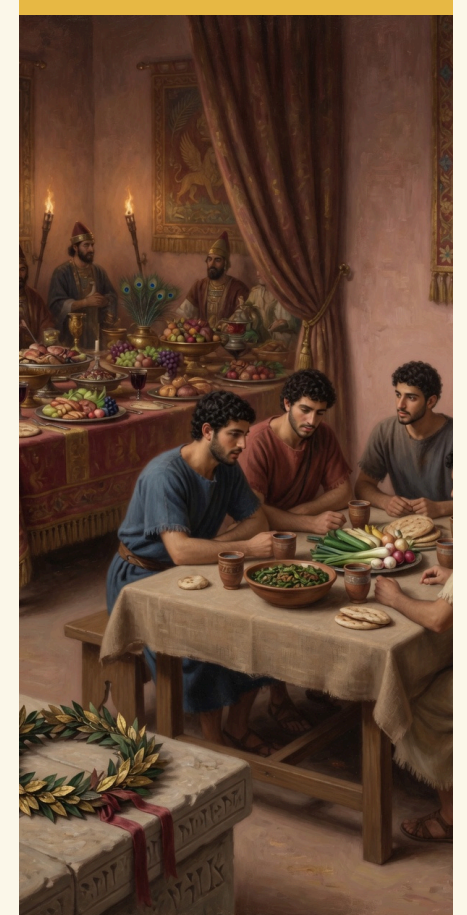
DANIEL 1:15

Be faithful to the point of death,
and I will give you the crown of
life

REVELATION 2:10

you will have tribulation for ten
days

REVELATION 2:10



WHAT WOULD YOU HOLD ONTO IF YOU LIVED WHERE SATAN'S THRONE IS?



Revelation 2:12-13

12 To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One Who has the sharp two-edged sword says these things: 13 I know where you dwell — where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My Name, and you didn't deny your faith in Me even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

Revelation 2:14-16

14 But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block in front of the sons of Israel — to eat food sacrificed to idols and to play the whore. **15** So you also have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans in the same way. **16** So repent. If not, I am coming to you soon, and I will make war with them by the sword of My mouth.

Revelation 2:17

17 Let him who has ears hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone, which no one knows except him who receives it.

Numbers 22:31; 31:8, 16

22:31 Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And he bowed down and fell on his face. **31:8** They killed the kings of Midian with the rest of their slain, Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, the five kings of Midian. And they also killed Balaam the son of Beor with the sword. **31:16** Behold, these, on Balaam's advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the LORD.

Pergamum held fast to His Name, and some there held the teaching of Balaam

FLASHBACK

the angel of the LORD standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand

NUMBERS 22:31

they also killed Balaam the son of Beor with the sword

NUMBERS 31:8

FLASHBACK

on Balaam's advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the LORD in the incident of Peor

NUMBERS 31:16

the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab

NUMBERS 25:1

the people ate and bowed down to their gods

NUMBERS 25:2

you hold fast to My Name

REVELATION 2:13

Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you

REVELATION 2:13

The One Who has the sharp two-edged sword

REVELATION 2:12

I will make war with them by the sword of My mouth

REVELATION 2:16

the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block in front of the sons of Israel — to eat food sacrificed to idols and to play the whore

REVELATION 2:14

some of the hidden manna

REVELATION 2:17



THYATIRA HAD THE LOVE EPHESUS LOST. WHAT WAS WRONG?



Revelation 2:18-20

18 To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, Whose eyes are like a flame of fire, and Whose feet are like burnished bronze, says these things: 19 I know your works, and your love and faith and service and your endurance, and that you are doing more works now than you did at first. 20 But I have this against you: you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and deceives My servants to play the whore and to eat food sacrificed to idols.

Revelation 2:22-23

22 Behold! I am throwing her onto a bed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works. **23** I will strike her children dead. All the churches will know that I am the One Who searches minds and hearts, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

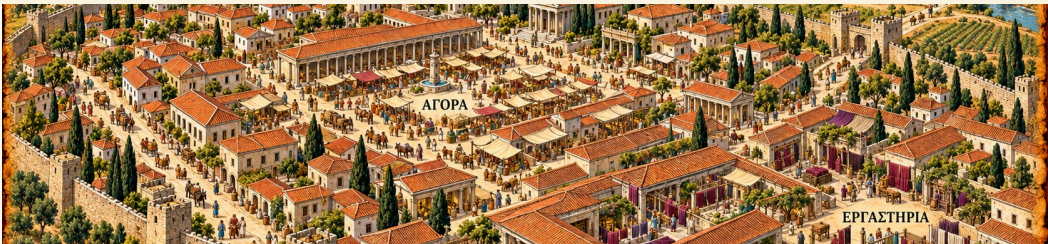
Revelation 2:24-25

24 But to the rest of you in Thyatira who don't hold this teaching and haven't known the deep things of Satan, as they call them, I say: I'm not putting any other burden on you. **25** Only hold fast to what you have until I come.

They tolerated the woman Jezebel

you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess

REVELATION 2:20



you have left your first love

REVELATION 2:4

your love

REVELATION 2:19

do the works you did at first

REVELATION 2:5

more works now than you did at first

REVELATION 2:19

I am the One Who searches minds and hearts

REVELATION 2:23

left

REVELATION 2:4

tolerate

REVELATION 2:20

— ἀφίημι —

Revelation 2:26-28

26 To him who conquers and who keeps My works to the end I will give authority over the nations, **27** and he will shepherd them with an iron rod, as the clay pots are shattered — **28** as I also have received authority from My Father. And I will give him the morning star.

Psalm 2:7-9

7 I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your heritage, and the ends of the earth Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

"As I also have received authority from My Father"

You are My Son; today I have begotten You

PSALM 2:7

I will make the nations Your heritage, and the ends of the earth Your possession

PSALM 2:8

I will give authority over the nations, and he will shepherd them with an iron rod

REVELATION 2:26-27

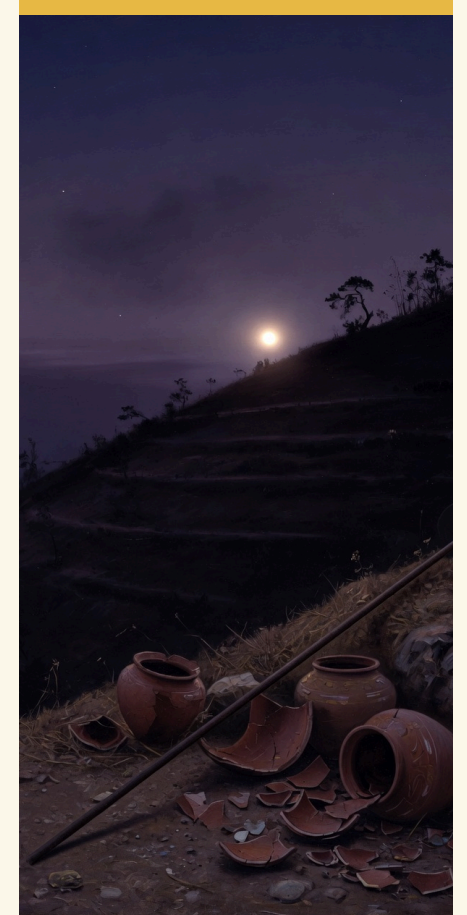
I will give him the morning star

REVELATION 2:28

AHEAD: 22:16

I, Jesus, sent My angel to bear witness to you of these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star.

REVELATION 22:16



JESUS IS THE ONE WHO SAYS HOW EACH CHURCH IS DOING

To Ephesus:
remember, repent,
and do the works you
did at first. To
Smyrna: don't fear,
and be faithful to the
point of death.

To Pergamum:
repent. To Thyatira:
hold fast to what you
have until I come.

To the one who
conquers: the tree of
life, the crown of life,
the hidden manna,
the morning star.