



“The Message to Ephesus”

Revelation 2.1-7

March 16, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

Prayer:

1 “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks ^[fn]among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

2 ‘I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be* false; 3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary. 4 But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent. 6 Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.’

The structure of the letter to Ephesus.

The Structure of the Letter to Ephesus	“The Structure of the Messages”
1. The Address	1. Address - “to the angel of the church in...”
	2. Command to John - “write”
	3. Description of the glorious Christ — His chapter 1 titles
	4. Introduction of prophetic speech - “says this”
2. The Condition of the Church	5. Condition of the church - “I know”
	6. Exhortation or warning [imperatives referencing future dangers or judgments] - “therefore”
Positive commendations Negative warnings	
3. The Concluding Promise for obedience	7. Command to listen “the one who has an ear to hear what the Spirit says to the churches”
	8. Promise to the overcomer: “To the one who overcomes I will give”
	Dr. Buist Fanning DTS Exegetical Commentary of NT, Revelation/ Aune Form & Function

1. The address to the Church at Ephesus.

1 "To the angel of the church in **Ephesus** write:

The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

1) To the _____ of the church.

"to the angel of the church in Ephesus"

ἄγγελος, ang'-el-os; 48xs in Rev 176xs in NT - 6xs messenger [1x spies to Rahab 1x messenger from Satan; 4xs John the Baptist

Holy Angels are....

(1) Supernatural celestial invisible _____:

- ☪ 20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. [Mat 1:20 NASB95]
- ☪ 8 In the same region there were [some] shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; 11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 "This [will be] a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." 15 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds [began] saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." [Luk 2:8-15 NASB95]
- ☪ 22 He gave [me] instruction and talked with me and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding. 23 "At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell [you,] for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision. [Dan 9:22-23 NASB95]

(2) They win the spiritual _____ for celestial fruit on terrestrial soil:

- ☪ 2 In those days, I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. 3 I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all until the entire three weeks were completed. ... 12 Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding [this] and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. 13 "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. 14 "Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet [future.]" [Dan 10:2-3, 12-14 NASB95]

(3) They are _____ and _____ of your souls:

- ☪ 10 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven. [Mat 18:10 NASB95]
- ☪ 1 Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to mistreat them. 2 And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword. ... 7 And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands. 8 And the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." ... 11 When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." [Act 12:1-2, 7-8, 11 NASB95]

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(4) They are sometimes unleashed by the _____ prayers of the saints:

- ☪ *5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God. ... 11 When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." 12 And when he realized [this,] he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. 13 When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer. 14 When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate. 15 They said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she kept insisting that it was so. They kept saying, "It is his angel." 16 But Peter continued knocking; and when they had opened [the door,] they saw him and were amazed. [Act 12:5, 11-16 NASB95]*

2) John is Christ's amanuensis and told to _____ the message.

✳ Christ's authority over the church is given to Him by the Father.

- ☪ *1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated [it] by His angel to His bond-servant John, [Rev 1:1 NASB95]*
- ☪ *18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All **authority has been given to Me** in heaven and on earth. [Mat 28:18 NASB9]*

3) The glorified Christ “holds _____” the angels of the seven churches

4) The _____ title: “the One who walks among the 7 golden lampstands”

- ☪ *22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. [Eph 1:22-23]*
- ☪ *20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." [Mat 28:20 NASB95]*
- ✳ *Our Lord Jesus Christ is the perfect Sovereign Omnipresent Son of Man who has been given authority to judge men and angels. He is coming!*
- ☪ *25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of **the Son of God**, and those who hear will live. 26 "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; 27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because **He is [the] Son of Man**. 28 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good [deeds] to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil [deeds] to a resurrection of judgment. [Jhn 5:25-29 NASB95]*

5) Prophetic quote introduction: “ _____ ”

6) The titles of the glorified Christ in chapter one are repeated in the addresses to the seven churches.

2. The _____ of the church: “I know...”

2 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them [to be] false; 3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. [Rev 2:2-3 NASB95]

1) The _____ aspects of the church in Ephesus”

Jesus knows...

(1) ...your Christian _____ under _____.

2 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance,

(2) ...you have tested the _____ apostles.

“and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them [to be] false”

25 "But while his **men were sleeping**, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. [Mat 13:25 NASB95]

1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as **there will also be false teachers among you**, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. [2Pe 2:1 NASB95]

8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and **all liars**, their part [will be] in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." [Rev 21:8]

(3) ...you have shown _____ to Christ's reputation through spiritual warfare.

3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. [Rev 2:3 NASB95]

perseverance 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all **steadfastness** and patience; joyously [Col 1:11 NASB95]

have endured - 5 For each one will **bear** his own load. [Gal 6:5 NASB95]

"have not grown weary" - 29 For this purpose also I **labor**, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me. [Col 1:29 NASB95]

2) The _____ aspects of the church exhortation.

4 'But I have [this] against you, that **you have left your first love**. 5 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place--unless you repent. [Rev 2:4-5 NASB95]

3) The _____ - _____ positive aspect of the church.

6 'Yet this you do have, that **you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans**, which I also hate. [Rev 2:6 NASB95]

3. A concluding _____ for: 'He who has an ear, let him hear”

7 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.' [Rev 2:7]