



I have to
live
I'm gonna
I'm on the
See they
as they
and the

Revelation

Chapter 2-3: Letters to the Churches

Rev 2-3: Letters to the Churches

What to Look For:

1. Jesus' Salutation
2. Self-Designation
3. Commendation
4. The Complaint
5. Exhortation
6. Warning
7. Promise

Rev 2:1-7 Letter to **Ephesus**

A. Salutation: Rev 2:1a

v.1a To the angel of the church

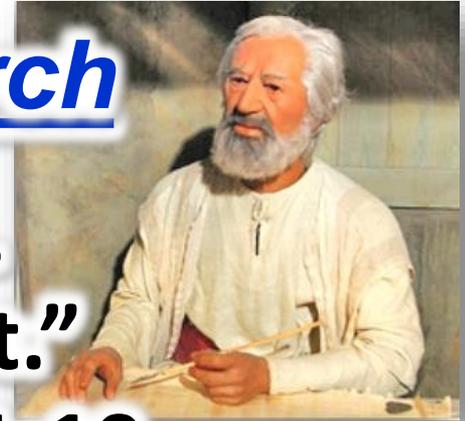
Here, likely—human messengers.

Angelos: “Envoy; one who is sent.”

John Baptist “My Angelos” Mt 11:10.

John’s **disciples** (Lk 7:19 & 24) “Angelos.”

Two **spies** (Jas 2:25) “Messengers” Angelos.



Since John was to write a *[little]* book (Rev 1:11),
How could he deliver it—if it were to an
angelic spirit beings?

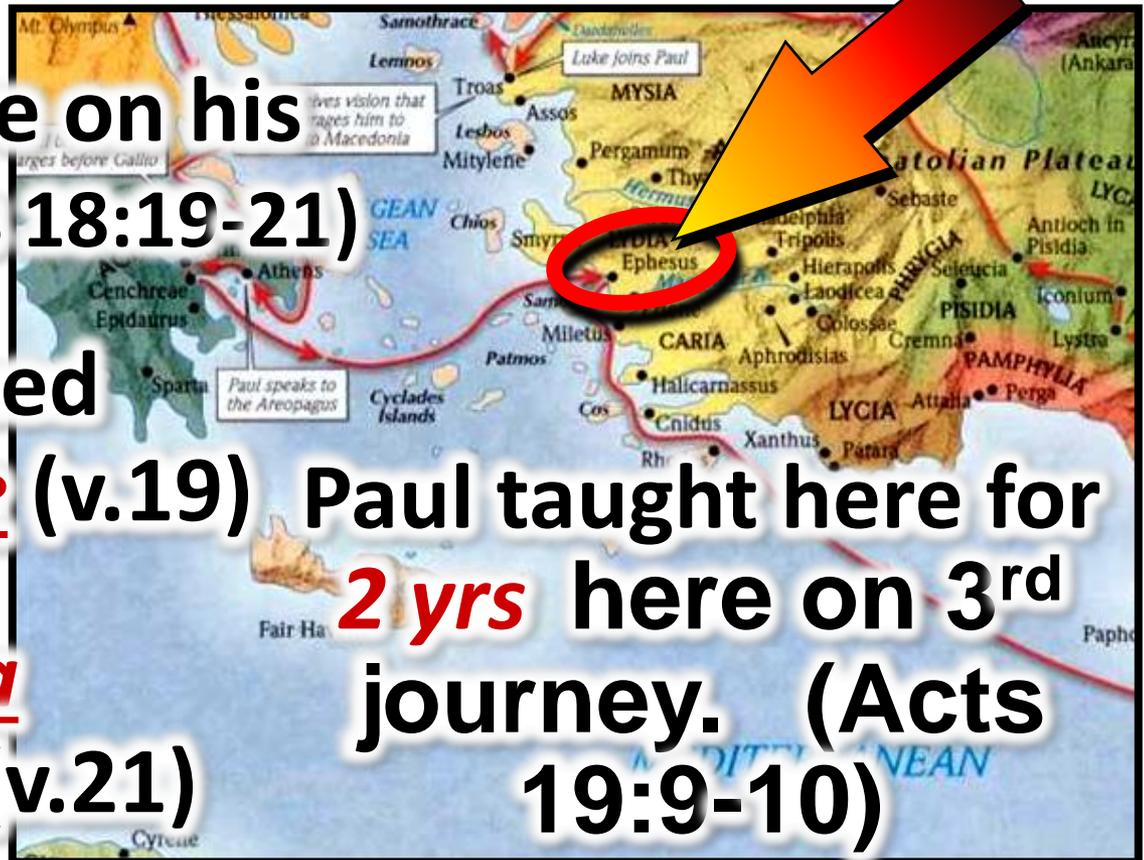
Rev 2:1-7 Letter to **Ephesus**

A. Salutation: Rev 2:1a

v.1a **The church at Ephesus—**

Paul stopped here on his
2nd journey. (Acts 18:19-21)

Here Paul reasoned
in the **synagogue** (v.19) Paul taught here for
2 yrs here on 3rd
Aquila & Priscilla
remained here. (v.21) journey. (Acts
19:9-10)

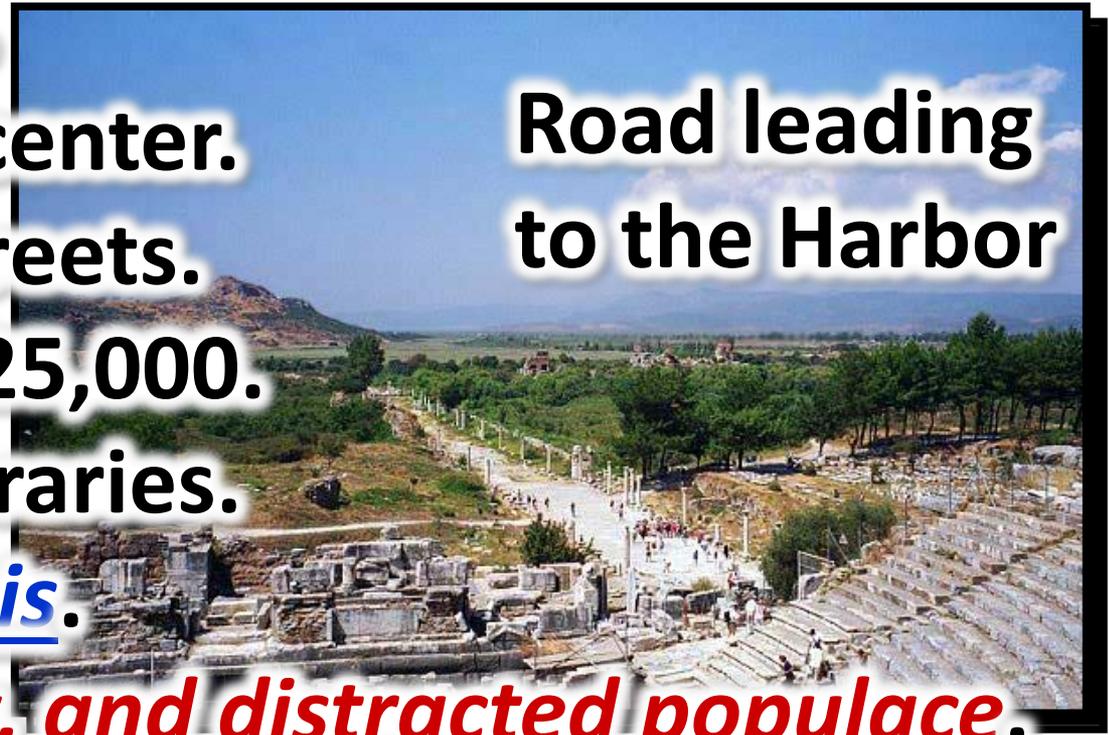


Rev 2:1-7 Letter to **Ephesus**

A. Salutation: Rev 2:1a

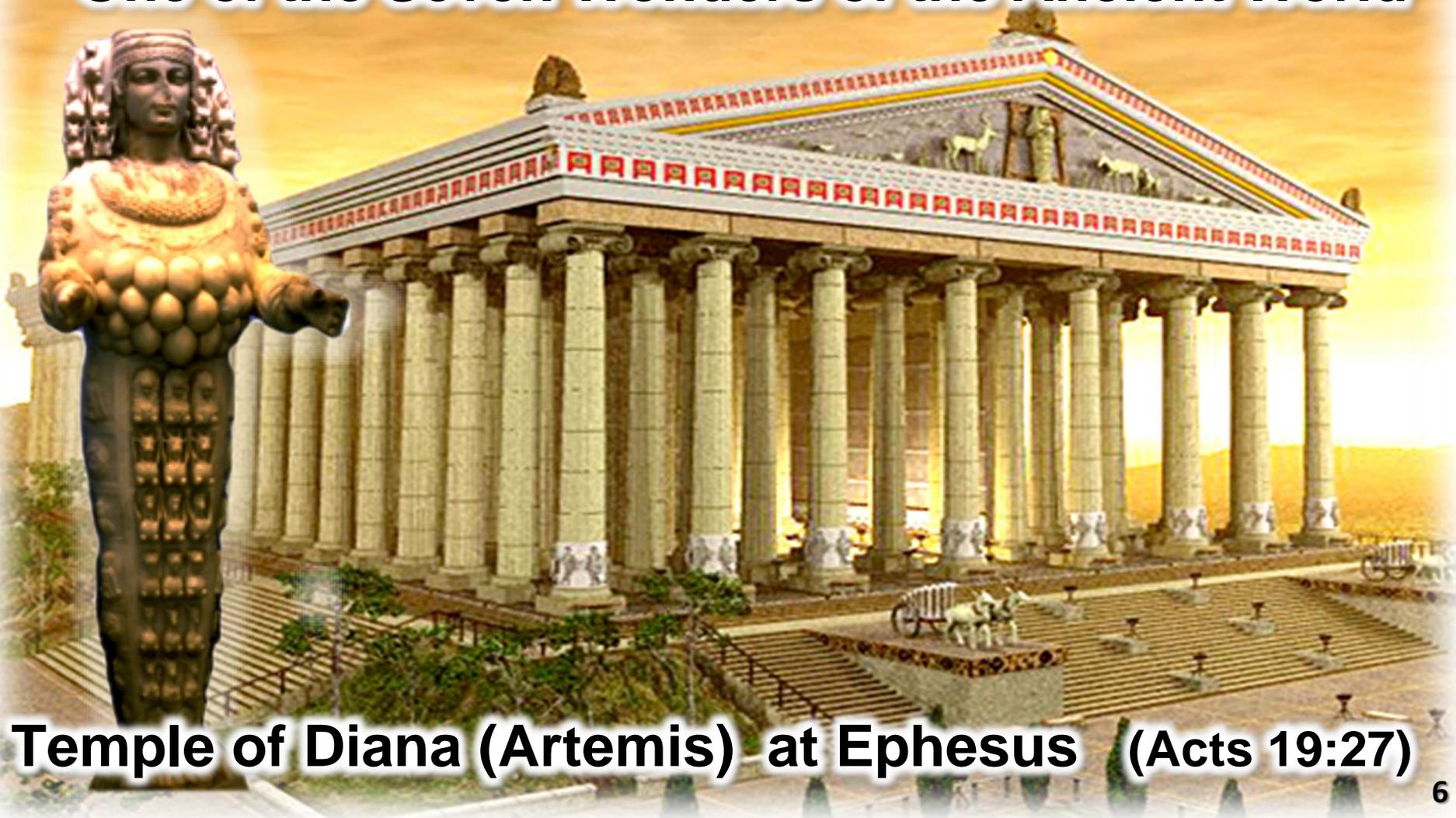
v.1a **Ephesus— the capitol of Asia**

- Wealthy, pagan.
- Export, caravan center.
- Marble paved streets.
- Theater seating 25,000.
- Baths & Huge libraries.
- Temple to Artemis.
- ***Affluent, worldly, and distracted populace.***
- Sounds like Seattle, NY or Los Angeles.



Rev 2:1-7 Letter to **Ephesus**

One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World



Temple of Diana (Artemis) at Ephesus (Acts 19:27)

Rev 2:1-7 Letter to **Ephesus**

Sequim

Bremerton

Tacoma

Bellingham

Mt Vernon

Seattle

Kent

Picture Christ walking among just 7 churches of Puget Sound.

What would **HE see?**

Rev 2:1-7 Letter to Ephesus

B. Jesus' Self-Designation

Rev 2:1 The One who **holds** the **7 stars** in His right hand, the One who **walks among the seven golden lampstands**

He knows what's going on, continuously **walks among** & **inspects** the churches. He **controls** the **message and the messenger** !



Chapter 2:1-7 Letter to Ephesus

C. Commendation v.2-3

v.2 I know your deeds & your toil & perseverance.
You cannot tolerate evil men. You put to the test
those who call themselves apostles & you found
them to be false (1 Thess 5:21; 1 John 4:1)

v.3 You have perseverance & have endured
And have not grown weary. (Gal 6:9)



They could have tested liars years ago, or
more recent fakes claiming to be **sent**
by faithful churches (Acts 14:14).
This **NOT** evidence for an early date.

Chapter 2:1-7 Letter to Ephesus

D. Complaint v.4

Rev 2:4a But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 

They had their Doctrines right, but not their LOVE

Left “A definite & sad departure.” (Robertson Word Pict)
“Love to the Savior.” (Barnes, Bible Exposition; Jewish NT)
Or perhaps “love for the saints.” (IVP, JFB Eph 1:15)

First At the beginning of your Christian life. UBS

Love—(agape) “Love based on sincere appreciation & high regard, with affection, loving concern.” Louw

Chapter 2:1-7 Letter to Ephesus

E. Exhortation v.5

Rev 2:5 **Remember** from where you have **FALLEN**, and **repent** & **do** the deeds you did at first.



Remember Call to mind (*continuous, imperative*)

Fallen From a higher to lower place (Thayer's)

Repent A change of one's mind (Lk 17:3-4 Brother)

Do deeds Qualities of love: "Not jealous, is not provoked, believes all, hopes all." (1 Cor 13)

Chapter 2:1-7 Letter to Ephesus

F. Warning v.5-6

Rev 2:5 Or.. I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place

Lampstand = the church itself (Rev 1:20)

History: The city had existed before **500 BC**.

- Temple of Diana “torched” **262 AD**, never rebuilt.
- An early Church council held here **341 AD**.
- City lost importance & decreased in population
- Its few inhabitants later murdered or deported.

Nicolaitans—Sect of moral laxity & idolatrous food, (Rev 2:14-15) accepting pagan festivals.



Chapter 2:1-7 Letter to **Ephesus**

G. Promise v.7

Rev 2:7 To him who overcomes, I will grant
to eat of the **tree of life** which is in the
Paradise of God.

Eternal life
promised
in paradise.
(Gen 3:2)

Will
YOU
be an
Overcomer?

Empty Ephesus !

Chapter 2:8-11 Letter to **Smyrna**

A. Salutation: Church Character v.8a

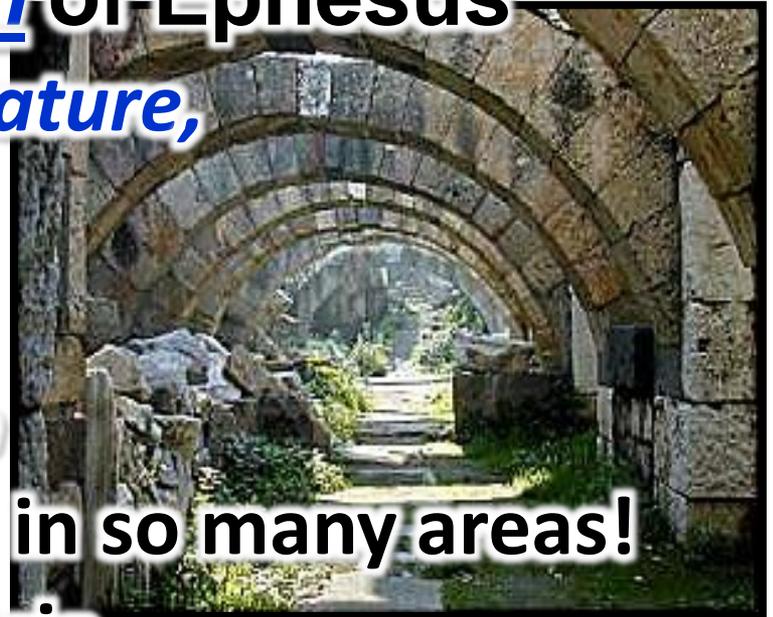
Smyrna: 40 mi north of Ephesus

*First in beauty, in size, in literature,
and loyalty to Rome !*

Her faithfulness and loyalty
became **proverbial** *Hendricksen*

Considered themselves **First** in so many areas!

Among **most prosperous** in Asia.



Lower Market

Polycarp (AD 69-156), the disciple of John served here as an elder in later years and here was martyred for his faith when he would not deny Christ.

Chapter 2:8-11 Letter to **Smyrna**

B. Jesus' Self-Designation

Rev 2:8 The **first and the last**, who was dead, and has come to life.

Smyrna You are **NOT** the beginning the end. It's history is one of ***successive battles, fires, earthquakes & rebuilding***, but it always escaped entire destruction. Smyrna was the last of the Christian cities to hold out against the Moslems. (ISBE)



Jesus knows what it is really to die—
and **return** to life !

Chapter 2:8-11 Letter to **Smyna**

C. Commendation v.9

Rev 2:9 I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews & are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Poverty— (ptoocheia) beggary, destitute.

Rich— (plousios) Wealthy. Rich in faith (Jas 2:25);
Riches in heaven (Mat 6:20)

How much is Eternity worth? How much is all things working together for good worth?

Chapter 2:8-11 Letter to Smyrna

D. Exhortation v. 10a

Rev 2:10 **Do not fear what you are about to suffer**

Do not fear— (Phobeo) “terrified.”

You’ve faced poverty, tribulation & the Jews.

But brace yourself— **MORE** is on the way.

Compare persecution (Acts 17:5-8) **Jews** in **Thess!**

Suffer—that is “anything you suffer” **UBS**

Mentally prepare yourself to **survive & overcome**

ill-health, adversity, terrorists, or whatever.

Not death or anything will cause you to give up.

Chapter 2:8-11 Letter to *Smyna*

E. Warning v. 10b

Rev 2:10 The devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days.

Devil These Jews were Satan's synagogue v9

Tested Test one's faith or virtue. *Thayer's*

Ten days A short period of time (Gen 24:55)
(Dan 1:12,14)

Jesus didn't say that he'd eliminate tribulations—
But he promised that it *wouldn't last long*.

Chapter 2:8-11 Letter to **Smyna**

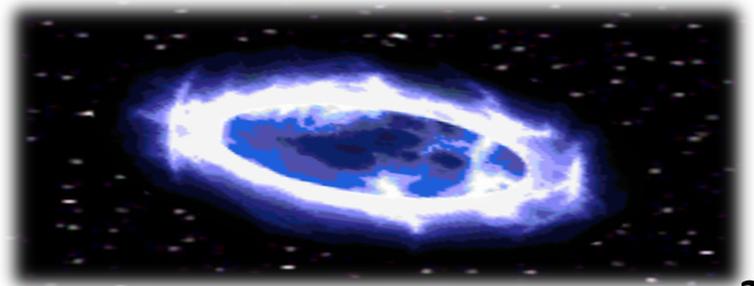
F. Promise. 10c – 11d

Rev 2:10c Be faithful until death, and
I will give you the crown of life.

Be faithful: Be trustworthy in your duties !
*They were already noted for their loyalty
to Rome.*

Until death “Faithful even if you face *death*”
Crown of life (*Stephanos*)

This Victory crown is
Everlasting Life !



Chapter 2:8-11 Letter to *Smyrna*

F. Promise. 10c – 11d

Rev 2:11b He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.

Rev 20:14 This is the *2nd death*, the *lake of fire*.

v.15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the *book of life*, he was thrown into the *Lake of Fire*.



Suffering Smyrna