

# An Outline for Revelation Chapter 2&3



## Introduction:

**Golden Rule:** David L. Cooper “When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise.”

The Prophetic History of the Church in Revelation 2 and 3			
Passage	Name	Era	Prophetic History
2:1-7	<i>Ephesus</i>	Apostolic Church	ca. C.E. 33-100
2:8-11	<i>Smyrna</i>	Church under Roman Persecution	ca. C.E. 100-313
2:12-17	<i>Pergamum</i>	Church with Official Patronage	ca. C.E. 313-600
2:18-29	<i>Thyatira</i>	Church during the Dark Ages	ca. C.E. 600-1517
3:1-6	<i>Sardis</i>	Church of the Reformation	ca. C.E. 1517-1650
3:7-13	<i>Philadelphia</i>	Church of the Missionary Movement	ca. C.E. 1650-1880
3:14-22	<i>Laodicea</i>	Apostate Church	ca. C.E. 1880-

## The things which are: The letters to the seven churches

### I. The letter to the church in Ephesus 2:1-7

#### The Apostolic Church 30-100 C.E.

1. Meaning of the name:
2. Prophetic History:
3. Designation and description of Messiah 2:1
4. Commendation 2:2-3, 6
5. Rebuke 2:4
6. Exhortation 2:5
7. Promise 2:7

### II. The letter to the church in Smyrna 2:8-11

#### The Church during Roman Persecution 100-312 C.E.

1. Meaning of the name:
2. Prophetic History:
3. Designation and description of Messiah 2:8b
4. Commendation 2:9
5. Exhortation 2:10
6. Promise 2:11

## Verse 10 - Ten Days – Ten Emperors

Emperor	(Latin Name)	Reign
1. Domitian	<i>Signum Domitiani</i>	14 September 81 – 18 September 96
2. Trajan	<i>Traianus</i>	27 January 98 – 8 August 117
3. Hadrian	<i>Hadrianus</i>	10 August 117 – 10 July 138
4. Antonius Pius		11 July 138 – 7 March 161
5. Marcus Aurelius		8 March 161 – 17 March 180
6. Septimius Severus		14 April 193 – 4 February 211
7. Maximus	<i>Maximinus Thrax</i>	20 March 235 – May 238
8. Decius	<i>Traianus Decius</i>	September 249 – June 251
9. Valerian	<i>Valerianus the elder</i>	22 October 253 – spring 260
10. Diocletian	<i>Diocletianus</i>	1 April 286 – 1 May 305

### III. The letter to the church in Pergamum 2:12-17

#### The Church of Constantine 313-600 C.E.

1. Meaning of the name:
2. Prophetic History:
3. Designation and description of Messiah 2:12
4. Commendation 2:13
5. Rebuke 2:14-15
6. Exhortation 2:16
7. Promise 2:17

### IV. The letter to the church in Thyatira - 2:18-29

#### The Roman Catholic Church 600-1517 C.E.

1. Meaning of the name:
2. Prophetic History:
3. Designation and description of Messiah 2:18
4. Commendation 2:19
5. Rebuke 2:20-23
6. Exhortation 2:24-25
7. Promise 2:26-29

## Catholicism

Catholicism teaches that salvation begins with water baptism as the sacrament of regeneration and justification (catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph 1256).

Sacraments are necessary to maintain salvation (paragraph 1129).

The Catholic view of salvation continues on an altar with a sin offering of a “Eucharistic Christ” which obligates Catholics to attend so that there is forgiveness of their sins.

### V. The letter to the church in Sardis 3:1-6

#### The Church of the Reformation 1517-1700 C.E.

1. Meaning of the name:
2. Prophetic History:
3. Designation and description of Messiah 3:1

4. Commendation 3:1
5. Exhortation 3:2-3
6. Promise 3:5-6

### Some of the errors of the church from the dark ages till today...

1. Baptismal regeneration. That the person is saved by means of water baptism.
2. Justification by works. That ultimately a man is saved if his good works out-weigh his bad ones, and especially his time in Purgatory can be reduced by the number of good works that he will do in the Church.
3. Worship of images (Icon) is introduced.
4. Doctrine of celibacy where the priest was forbidden to marry.
5. Doctrine of confessionalism, meaning: one had to go to the priest to confess his sins in order to receive absolution.
6. Doctrine of Purgatory, an intermediate state between Heaven and Hell.
7. Transubstantiation, meaning that the bread and the wine, becomes the real body and real blood of Messiah.
8. Practice of indulgences, one can purchase indulgences and reduce your own or someone else's time in Purgatory.
9. Penance: inflicting suffering upon yourself, for example walking on your knees over rough stones, to reduce your time in Purgatory.
10. Mariolatry, Mary the mother of Yeshua was elevated to a sinless person declared to be the mother of God, and worshipped accordingly.
11. Adding of 'new' scriptures, the apocryphal writings to prove the new doctrines.
12. Papal infallibility; based on the doctrine of *ex cathedra*, meaning that "when the pope, in the exercise of his office as shepherd and teacher of all Christians, in virtue of his supreme apostolic authority, (that is as the Bishop of Rome) defines a doctrine concerning faith or morals it is to be held by the whole Church"<sup>1</sup>.

### The Five Solas (see supplement)

1. Sola Scriptura ("Scripture alone"): The Bible alone is our highest authority.
  - a. In contrast to Scripture and Tradition
2. Sola Fide ("faith alone"): We are saved through faith alone in Messiah Yeshua.
  - a. In contrast to Faith and Works
3. Sola Gratia ("grace alone"): We are saved by the grace of God alone.
  - a. In contrast to grace and merit (earned)
4. Solus Christus ("Christ alone"): Yeshua the Messiah alone is our Lord, Saviour, and King.
  - a. In contrast to Messiah, Mary & the intercession of the saints
5. Soli Deo Gloria ("to the glory of God alone"): We live for the glory of God alone.
  - a. In contrast to God, saints and church hierarchy.

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<sup>1</sup> "Declaration in defense of the catholic doctrine on the church against certain errors of the present day."  
 Accessed Jan 2018 taken from the official Vatican website  
[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_19730705\\_mysterium-ecclesiae\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_19730705_mysterium-ecclesiae_en.html)

## **VI. The letter to the church in Philadelphia 3:7-13**

### **The Church of the Missionary Movement 1700-1880**

1. Meaning of the name:
2. Prophetic History:
3. Designation and description of Messiah 3:7
4. Rebuke 3:8
5. Promise 3:9-11a, 13
6. Exhortation 3:11b, 13

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*Whatever contradicts the Word of God should be instantly resisted as diabolical.*  
*John Bunyan (1821). "The Holy War Made by King Shaddai....", p. 13*

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## **VII. Laodicea 3:14 22**

### **The Apostate Church 1880-Today**

1. Meaning of the name
2. Designation and description of Messiah 3:14
3. Rebuke 3:15-17
4. Exhortation 3:18-20
5. Promise 3:21-22

## **Age of Apostasy**

### **Destructive Denials**

1. The denial of the Trinity.
2. The denial of the Incarnation.
3. The denial of the Second Coming.

### **The Five Fundamentals of the Faith**

1. The inspiration of Scripture.
2. The Virgin Birth.
3. The substitutionary atonement of Messiah.
4. The literal resurrection of Messiah.
5. The miracles of Messiah.