

THE CHURCH THROUGH THE AGES

In this lesson, we will look at each of the seven churches from a prophetic perspective.

OUTLINE: REVELATION 2 & 3

Chapters 2 & 3 of the Book of Revelation provide us with a capsule history of the church through the ages. As we carefully examine each church, we will see the entire scope of church history from Pentecost to the Rapture.

- I. The Three Divisions of the Book - Revelation 1:19
- II. The Four Revelations of the Book
- III. The Three Perspectives of the Churches
 - A. Personal application
 - B. Perennial application
 - C. Prophetic application
- IV. The Seven Stages of Church Growth - Revelation 2-3
 - A. Ephesus - "You have fallen" (2:5)
 - B. Smyrna - "Tribulation ten days" (2:10)
 - C. Pergamos - "The doctrine of Balaam" (2:14)
 - D. Thyatira - "That woman Jezebel" (2:20)
 - E. Sardis - "A name, but dead" (3:1)
 - F. Philadelphia - "An open door" (3:8)
 - G. Laodicea - "You are lukewarm" (3:16)
 - 1. (19-21) Familiar ending - What happens when lukewarmness occurs?

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Hitler's Cross

OVERVIEW: REVELATION 2 & 3

Revelation is one of the few books of the Bible that is self-interpreting. It has a tremendous, divinely inspired outline that is carried out in the text. "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this" (Rev. 1:19).

This outline divides the Book of Revelation into three parts, two of which we have already covered. The "things which you have seen" are the things that John saw and recorded in the first chapter. He saw the great vision of the glorified Jesus Christ standing in the midst of the candlesticks observing the churches with His penetrating eyes.

