

**20220206 HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE
CHURCHES – The time is near Part 5**

(Revelation 1:18-20; 2:29)

For study: Revelation 2

¹⁸ I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. ¹⁹ Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

²⁹ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

1 Corinthians 10:6, 11

⁶ Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

¹¹ Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

The character, authority, and integrity of the One who speaks

Revelation 1:18

¹⁸ I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

Hebrews 4:16

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Three divisions of Revelation

Revelation 1:19

¹⁹ Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Bridge between chapter 1 and chapter 2

Revelation 1:20

²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

These seven letters to each church have a threefold interpretation and application:

1. Contemporary

2. Composite

3. Chronological

1. EPHESUS—THE LOVELESS CHURCH (REVELATION 2:1-7)

Revelation 2:4

⁴ Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

Revelation 2:5a

⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works...

(1) Remember

(2) Repent

(3) Repeat

Revelation 2:5b

⁵ ...Or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

2. SMYRNA—THE SUFFERING CHURCH (REVELATION 2:8-11)

Revelation 2:10

¹⁰ Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation

ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

(1) First commendation: Do not fear

(2) Second commendation: Be Faithful

3. PERGAMOS—THE COMPROMISING CHURCH (REVELATION 2:12-17)

Revelation 2:14-15

¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

¹⁵ Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

Three applications

(1) Maintain a Distinct Identity

(2) Speak the Truth in Love

(3) Guard true doctrine