

Revelation 2 & 3 : The Seven Churches in Asia:

To the angel of the church: See 1:16, 20: the seven stars = the seven angels
 Angel = messenger.

Seven stars: connected with God's Word:
 1:16 : sharp two-edged sword
 3:1 : the seven spirits of God

Seven letters to the seven churches:

To Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos	To Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodiceans
1. To the angel of the church of ...	1. To the angel of the church of ...
2. These things says He / the ...	2. These things says He / the ...
3. I know	3. I know
4. Encouragement / warning	4. Encouragement / warning
5. He who has an ear ...	5. He / to him who overcomes ...
6. He / to him who overcomes ...	6. He who has an ear ...

Ephesus	Reject false doctrine Lost first love
Smyrna	Persevered in persecution -
Pergamos	Steadfast in persecution Tolerate false doctrine
Thyatira	Works of love, service, faith, patience Allow the teachings of Jezebel
Sardis	Have the name to be alive Dead
Philadelphia	Little strength, but an open door -
Laodicea	- Lukewarm

Letters to be read together: form a unity:

- Hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
- The beginnings ('These things says He ...') come all from chapter 1
- Seven: three + four (see the place of the phrase 'who has an ear ...')
- Same structure: meant as a unity
- All part of the book of Revelation, sent to all the seven churches (see 1:4)

These things says He :

Begins like the prophets in the OT: this says the LORD
 The message that follows comes from God: divine authority

I know ... :

Christ as judge. He praises as well as rebukes, and weighs everything as a righteous judge.

Encouragement / warning:

Stand firm / repent: just like the prophets

He who has an ear ... :

Prophetic language

He / To him who conquers:

Promise, fulfilled in ch. 20-22.

These things says He ... :

<p>John, to the seven churches which are in Asia:</p> <p>Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.</p> <p>To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.</p> <p>7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.</p> <p>8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."</p> <p>9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."</p> <p>12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars,</p> <p>out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 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.</p>	<p>3:1 Sardis</p> <p>3:14 Laodiceans</p> <p>3:14 Laodiceans</p> <p>2:1 Ephesus</p> <p>2:18 Thyatira</p> <p>2:1 Ephesus + 3:1 Sardis</p> <p>2:12 Pergamos</p> <p>2:8 Smyrna</p> <p>3:7 Philadelphia</p>
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	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos
To the angel of the church of write,			
These things says	These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:	These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:	These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:
I know	I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.	I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.	I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 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.
Encouragement / warning	Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.	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.	Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.
He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.			
He/To him who overcomes ...	To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.	He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.	To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.

Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	The Laodiceans
To the angel of the church of write,			
These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:	These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars:	These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens":	These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:
I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.	I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.	I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.	I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—
And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have till I come.	Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.	Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.	I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.
And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'— as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star.	He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.	He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.	To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.
He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.			