

**[Revelation]  
Lesson 2**

**Seven Churches**

**(Revelation 2-3)**



# The Seven Churches of Revelation



# Colour Help Guide

<b>Believers</b> =	<b>Green</b>
<b>God the Father</b> =	<b>Purple</b>
<b>God the Son</b> =	<b>Yellow</b>
<b>God the Holy Spirit</b> =	<b>Blue</b>
<b>The Bible</b> =	<b>Grey</b>
<b>Satan's Liars and Lies</b> =	<b>Red</b>

(Rev. 1:1) *The Revelation (open—show) of Jesus Christ...* (11) *What thou (John) seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.*

(Rev 1:19) *Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;*

\*All that John sees/hears is to be given to each of the seven churches, but there is also a specific message (2-3) for each church.

\*Chapters 2-3 are “*the things which are*” (Church Age) and is a description of the various churches now.

# 1. The Church of Ephesus



(Rev 2:1) *Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus [John] write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;*

\*Jesus> gives each >angel> a message for a specific church to give to >John> to write and send to that >church.

\*Jesus sends His messengers/angels (**stars**)

\*Jesus is with His churches (**candlesticks**)



(Rev 2:2) *I know thy works (doings), and thy labour (hard work), and thy patience (not quit), and how thou canst not bear (accept) them which are evil: and thou hast tried (tested) them which say they are apostles, and are **not**, and hast found them liars: (3) And hast borne (accept work), and hast patience, and for my name's sake (goal) hast laboured, and hast not fainted (quit).*

\*The church of Ephesus tested the words of the false apostles with the words of the true apostles. The Holy Spirit led the church of Ephesus to gather the 27 Books of the N.T. keeping all that was written by Christ's true apostles and rejecting all that was written by false apostles.

(Rev 2:4) Nevertheless (but) I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love [NO heart—NO excited feeling adoring Jesus]. (5) Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent (change thinking), and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place [no more light, no more witness, no more true church], except thou repent.

1. Remember the Joy and Peace you are missing.
2. Repent (change) your priorities (important list).
3. Do love the Lord with all your heart, mind, and strength



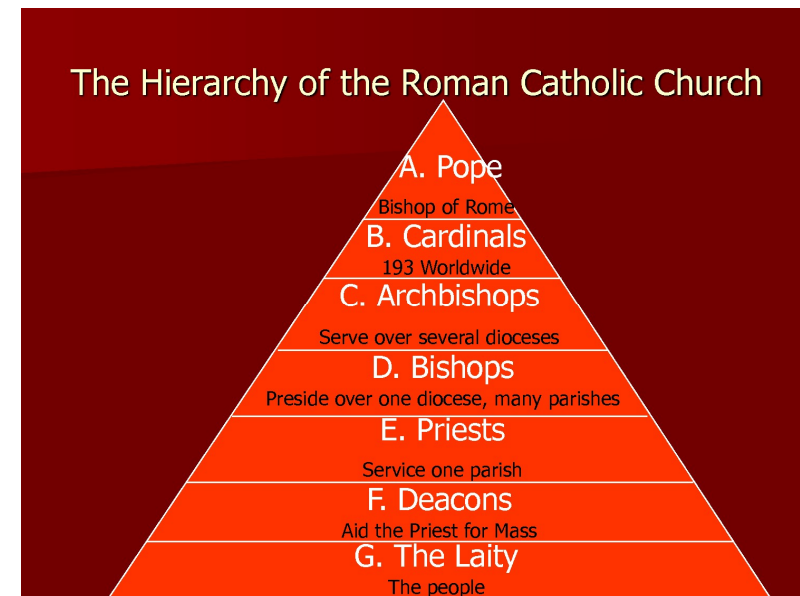
(Rev 2:6) *But this **thou** hast [good], that **thou** hatest the **deeds** (doings) of the **Nicolaitans**, **which** I also hate.*

“**Nicolaitans**” = Rule over people

[Greek]

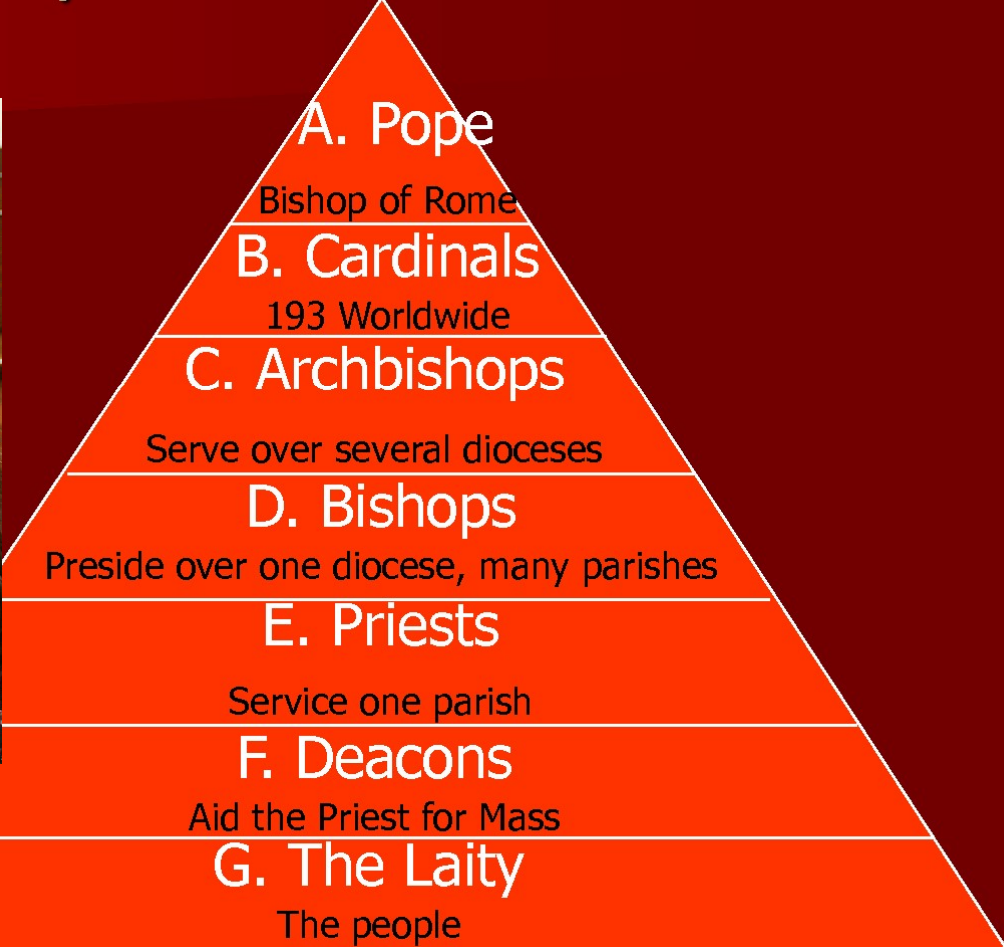
“**Nico**” = Conquer—rule

“**Laity**” = The people



# “Nicolaitans”

## The Hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church



**“Nicolaitans”** do opposite of Bible teaching for church leaders  
(1 Peter 5:1) *The elders (pastors) which are among you (church) | (Peter) exhort, who (Peter) am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker (share) of the glory that shall be revealed: (2) Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight (care) thereof, not by constraint (force), but willingly (free); not for filthy lucre (money), but of a ready mind (happy want); (3) **Neither** as being lords (kings) over God's heritage (Own), but being ensamples (guide) to the flock.*

(Rev 2:7) *He* that hath an ear, let *him* hear *what* the *Spirit* saith unto the *churches*; To *him* that overcometh (*wins—by faith*) will *I* give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise (*beautiful place [Heaven]*) of *God*.

“*overcometh*” = our faith in Jesus gives us the victory and life eternal—Heaven [1 John 5:4-5].



Good:

Holy

Bad:

Not  
Loving

## 2. The Church in Smyrna



(Rev 2:8) *And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;*

\*Jesus is in control of all.

\*Jesus knows the pains of death and has power over death.



(Rev 2:9) **I** know **thy** works, and tribulation (trouble),  
and poverty (poor), (but **thou** art rich) and **I** know the  
blasphemy (bad talk) of **them** which say **they** are **Jews**,  
and are **not**, but are the synagogue (group) of **Satan**.

\*Some **liars** said that **their** **group** (Jews) truly belonged to God.

**God** said,

“**No**, the **church** is **mine**, these **liars** belong to **Satan’s** group.”



(Rev 2:10) *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried (tested); and ye shall have tribulation ten days (short time): be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

\* Satan uses this world to attack Christians.

\* God comforts by saying that these persecutions will not continue a long time, and that there is a reward to Christians that are faithful, even those who die for Jesus' sake.

(Rev 2:11) **He** that hath an ear, let **him** hear **what** the **Spirit** saith unto the **churches**; **He** that overcometh (**wins—by faith**) shall not be **hurt of the second death** (**eternal death in Lake of Fire**).

\***Christians** have some hurt now for a short time in the **world**.

\*The **world** that rejects **Jesus** will have **eternal hurt**.



**Good:**

**Spiritually  
And  
Eternally  
Rich**

### 3. The Church in Pergamos



(Rev 2:12) *And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;*

\*Jesus' Word destroys and condemns Satan's liars and lies.



(Rev 2:13) *I know thy works, and where thou dwellest (stay), even where Satan's seat (place of power) is: and thou holdest fast (keep strong) my name, and hast not denied (say, "not know") my faith, even in those days wherein (happen) Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain (killed) among you, where Satan dwelleth.*

\*Satan's power is very strong in places. Faithful Christians witnessing in these places sometimes are killed. Antipas was a famous Christian witness (martyr), who was killed in a place where Satan had great power.

(Rev 2:14) But **I** have a few things against **thee**, because **thou** hast there **them** that hold (**keep**) the doctrine (**teaching**) of **Balaam**, **who** taught **Balac** to cast a stumblingblock (**tempt to fall**) before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit (**do**) fornication (**sexual sin**).

\***Balaam** was a false prophet that taught to **mix** the worship of God with the worship of idols; to **mix** God's way and Satan's way.

...**NOT** Holy

(Rev 2:15) So hast **thou** also **them** that hold the **doctrine** (teaching) of the **Nicolaitans**, **which thing I** hate.  
(16) Repent; or else **I** will come unto **thee** quickly, and will fight against **them** with the **sword of my** mouth.

\***Nicolaitans** taught that some men in the **church** should rule over all other men.

**God** hates **this teaching**, but the **Pergamos church** failed to hate **it**.

\*It is shameful for a **church** to fail to reject **false teaching**. It is a shame for a **church** when **Jesus** must use others to rebuke an erring church with the **Bible** (*the sword of my mouth*).



(Rev 2:17) **He** that hath an ear, let **him** hear **what** the **Spirit** saith unto the **churches**; To **him** that overcometh (**wins by faith**) will **I** give to eat of the **hidden manna** (**bread**), and will give **him** a **white stone**, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving (**only knows**) **he** that receiveth it (**stone**).

“hidden manna” and “white stone” = close fellowship with Jesus



**Good:**

**Faithful  
Witness**

**Bad:**

**Allow  
False Teaching**

## 4. The Church in Thyatira



(Rev 2:18) *And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;*

\*Jesus is the wise judge. He sees through the hypocrisy of “good works” and “love”.



(Rev 2:19) *I know thy works, and charity (love), and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first (meek).*

\*The church was meek, busy, showing love to many people.  
This is all very good.

(Rev 2:20) Notwithstanding (but) I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest (allow) that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce (tempt) my servants to commit (do) fornication (spiritual adultery), and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

(1 Kings 16:31-33; 19:1-2; 21:7-16)

\* Jezebel was a wicked queen of Israel. She encouraged King Ahab and all Israel to do the sin of idolatry.

\*\* Same any person encouraging the church to follow Satan's lies.

(Rev 2:21) And I gave her space (time) to repent of her fornication (spiritual adultery); and she repented not. (22) Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. (23) And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins (mind) and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

(1 Kings 18-19; 2 Kings 9-10)

\*All that go Jezebel's way and do idolatry, God will "kill" same as Elijah and Jehu killed all Jezebel's false prophets and family.

(Rev 2:24) But unto **you** I say, and unto the **rest** in Thyatira, as **many** as have not this **doctrine**, and **which** have not known the depths (**deep filth**) of **Satan**, as **they speak**; I will put upon **you** none other burden. (25) But that which **ye** have already (**finished**) hold fast (**keep strong**) till I come.

(1 Kings 19:14-18)

\*Even if **we** are **few** as **Elijah** thought, and **Jezebel's group** is **many**, **we** must continue faithful.



(Rev 2:26) And **he** that overcometh (wins by faith), and keepeth **my** works unto the end [end of life on earth], to **him** will I give power over the nations: [1,000 year rule of Jesus on earth—Jesus had made us kings and priests unto God]

(27) And **he** shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of **my** **Father**. (28) And I will give **him** the morning star (Jesus). (29) **He** that hath an ear, let him hear what the **Spirit** saith unto the **churches**.

\***Jesus** gives **Himself** and all that **He** has to **His** **people**. **We** will rule with **Jesus**.



**Good:**

**Meek, Busy  
Service**

**Bad:**

**Not  
Holy**

## 5. The Church in Sardis



(Rev 3:1a) *And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars [angels];*

\*Jesus gives the Holy Spirit, Who makes life with the Word of God.

\*Jesus sends His messengers ("seven stars" [angels]) bringing His Word, Which makes alive.



(Rev 3:1b) *I know **thy** works, that **thou** hast a name that **thou livest**, and **art dead**.*

\*The **church** had a great history—“*a name that thou livest*”! **They** had the Word of God and before **they** used It.

\***They** had received much, but now **they** were in danger of losing all because **they** were lazy—spiritually asleep—“*dead*”.



(Rev 3:2) Be watchful (awake), and strengthen (make strong) the things which remain (spiritual life), that are ready (soon) **to die**: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. (3) Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard [God's Word], and hold fast (keep strong), and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

\*The Word of God must be used for spiritual life to remain strong.

\*A sleeping church is useless for Jesus and will be surprised by its end.

(Rev 3:4) *Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled (made dirty) their garments (clothes); and they shall walk with me in white [clothes]: for they are worthy (good).*

\*No one in this world—dirty with sin—should think they can please God or serve Him.

\*Only those with “white garments” —washed in the Blood of the Lamb (Jesus)—are acceptable to Jesus. They can now and forever be in His service and fellowship.

\*Also, the Word of God when used is as water to help us keep our lives clean.

(Rev 3:5) **He** that overcometh (**wins by faith**), the **same** shall be clothed in white raiment; and **I** will not blot (**remove**) out **his** name out of the book of life, but **I** will confess **his name** before **my Father**, and before **his** angels. (6) **He** that hath an ear, let **him** hear what the **Spirit** saith unto the **churches**.

\*Only with an invitation from **Jesus** and the white raiment provided by **Jesus** can **we** enter Heaven. **Jesus** will declare ("**confess**") to all, **we** belong to **Him**.

\*All are invited to come to Heaven, all have their names written as guests in the "**book of life**", however if you refuse **Jesus**' invitation and refuse **His** white raiment, your name will be removed ("**blotted**") from the "**book of life**".





**Bad:**

**Spiritually  
Asleep / Dead**

## 6. The Church in Philadelphia



(Rev 3:7a) *And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true,*

\***Jesus** as God is perfectly **holy** (above / separate).

>No one and nothing is like **Jesus** / God.

\***Jesus** as God is perfectly **true** (original).

>**Jesus** is the only true God. All truth is from **Jesus**.



(Rev 3:7b) ...**he** that hath the key of David [Isa. 22:22], **he** that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

\***Jesus**, having the “key of David”, has the power/right to rule the Kingdom of Israel—God’s kingdom on earth.

\*As **God’s** chosen **king**, **Jesus** even now has all authority (**power**) and has given the Great Commission (**command**) (Mat. 28:18-20)—The command to preach the Gospel to all nations of the world.



(Rev 3:8) *I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.*

\*Jesus opens the doors of the nations that the Gospel may be spread, and His Kingdom increased, and Jesus has made possible for all people to have entry into His eternal Kingdom.

\*We don't need much strength we just need to be faithful to the Word of God and faithfully proclaim that Jesus is Lord / King. This is the Mission of the churches.

(Rev 3:9) Behold, I will make **them** of the **synagogue of Satan**, **which** say **they** are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make **them** to come and worship (**humble / show respect**) before **thy** feet, and to know that I have loved **thee**.

\*The **Jews** were against the early **churches**, but truly **Satan** was using the **Jews** against the early **churches**.

\*“and are not” = **Jesus** said that **Jews**, **which** refused **Him**, were no more **His** **chosen** people.

\*At **Christ's** Second Coming, all these **false Jews** would be forced to confess that the **churches** are God's **chosen** people.

\*(Isaiah 60:14) After the Second Coming, the nations of the world will confess that **Israel** is God's chosen nation. But those **Jews** (**Israelites**) that have rejected **Jesus** will **themselves** confess that the **Church** is the “**Israel of God**” and NOT **they** (Galatians 6:16).

(Rev 3:10) Because **thou** hast kept the **word** of **my** patience, **I** also will keep **thee** from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try (**trouble**) **them** that dwell upon the earth. (11) Behold, **I** come quickly: hold that fast (**stay faithful**) which **thou** hast, that no man take **thy** crown (**reward**).

- \* **Jesus** will preserve **His** **Church** from the Great Tribulation and from all judgment.
- \* ALL the **world** will endure the wrath of **Jesus** as **He** troubles the **rebels**, **who** remain in the earth, after the Rapture.
- \* Now the **churches** are encouraged to remain faithful that **they** can be rewarded.

(Rev 3:12) **Him** that overcometh (wins by faith in Jesus) will I make a **pillar** in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon **him** the **name of my God**, and the name of the **city of my God**, which is **new Jerusalem**, which cometh down out of heaven from **my God**: and I will write upon **him my new name**. (13) **He** that hath an ear, let **him** hear what the **Spirit** saith unto the **churches**.

\***Believers** from every nation of the world will forever belong to God—known as God's own.





**Good:**

**Faithful**

# 7. The Church in Laodicea



(Rev 3:14) *And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;*

\*“Amen” A Hebrew word translated in the O.T. as “Truth”. Jesus is the Truth.

\*Jesus told the truth about the church.

\*“beginning” [Greek = archē] = cause (start) and ruler of all God’s Creation.



(Rev 3:15) I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. (16) So then because thou art lukewarm (medium temperature), and neither cold nor hot, I will spue (spit) thee out of my mouth.

\* Jesus said the church had a bad taste.

\* Jesus rejected the church because He could NOT enjoy it.

(Rev 3:17) *Because **thou** sayest, **I** am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that **thou** art wretched (bad), and miserable (sad), and poor, and blind, and naked (shameful):*

\*This **church** was a proud **church** believing lies about **its** greatness.  
>**They** trusted in themselves, were comfortable, and felt independent.

\***Jesus** told **them** the truth: **they** were spiritually poor and shameful.

(Rev 3:18) I counsel (teach) thee to buy of me gold tried (become pure) in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint (put on) thine eyes with eyesalve (eye medicine), that thou mayest see. (19) As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten (strictly teach): be zealous (busy) therefore, and repent.

\*All true spiritual riches come from Jesus and are given freely (Isaiah 55:1). All we need is provided by Jesus by His death on the Cross.

\*Our responsibility is to quickly trust and obey Jesus.

(Rev 3:20) Behold, I stand at the door [your heart], and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup (eat) with him, and he with me. (21) To him that overcometh (win by faith in Jesus) will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame (win by faith in the Father's will), and am set down with my Father in his throne. (22) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

\*Only when we are humble and understand our need for Jesus' help, will we open our heart's door and be able to fellowship and rule with Jesus.

\*Jesus humbly submitted to the Father; we must copy Jesus' example.



**Bad:**

**Proud**