



# Churches

# 7

# Historic Events

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**Revelation**

As we look at the Seven Churches of Revelation, God once again has preserved His Word in order, paralleling truth and history. These actual churches that existed in John's time, told a story of the future history of the church, "religion" and Christianity to come.

Ephesus is the first church spoken of, which gives us "the general state" of the "church" at the time of John's writing, historically at the end of the apostolic age. We see a church that has been in faithful existence for more than 40 years, is now drifting away, having "left" their first love.

We then see the church at Smyrna, which tells of a pleasing church and pictures that time of the great persecutions, as it was itself being persecuted. This was a church that apparently stood for the truth, and suffered persecution for it.

There then came a time in history where the church began to get comfortable and "settle down" in the world, that is the portrait of Pergamos. A church that begins to divide, being very religious but denying the power thereof.

Subsequently, as a church compromises it is divided. Such is Thyatira, depicted as a worldly and corrupt church. As these things creep into a church and thus divide it, the church often becomes more "religious". Idolatry, hierarchy and pagan ceremonies are established and practiced. Thus before long, the church is nothing more than a building, filled with the dead, as was the church at Sardis. Sardis, the remnant, is a snapshot of the Protestant Reformation.

This brings about a time when God, as he has done in the past, raises up a man to stand fast. Although those born out of the reformation did not distance themselves enough, attempting to “reform” that which was broken, it did make a way for the truth.

From the truth, such churches as the one in Philadelphia are birthed. These true professing churches are the ones where the clear and pure testimony to the Word of God is taught, preached and obeyed.

However, the truth is that the “church” will not remain in that condition for long. In fact, many may agree that we are no longer in that age as depicted in Philadelphia, but indeed we have entered that age as it is demonstrated in the church of Laodicea. A church where the enticement of this world and its pleasures have sucked the truth and the desire for it out and even out of the Christian, thus placing us in the final stage of apostasy.

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