

The Seven Churches of Revelation

Historical, Prophetic, Contemporary, Psychological

By Barrington H. Brennen

The seven churches with a unique twist.

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Revelation 2 & 3

*Compiled and created by Barrington H. Brennen (1999)
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The Seven Historical Church

The seven churches were literal churches in Asia raised by the Apostles. They were in deep spiritual trouble and needed some revelation and encouragement.

CHURCH	MEANING OF NAME	EXPLANATION
Ephesus	“Desirable”	The church that was active in evangelism. Hard workers. Some left their first love for Jesus. It was a spiritually warm church.
Smyrna	“Munron” The name of a aromatic gum	This church was being persecuted. This was a faithful church with no faults. This was the spiritually hot church.
Pergamum	“Citadel”	This church was becoming cold. There were some faithful members who did not worship satanic gods. However, many began to indulge into idol worship and sexual immorality.
Thyatira	“Sweet savor”	This church was even colder spirituality. Paganism had come into the church. There was immorality and idolatry.
Sardis	“Something new”	This is the spiritually dead church. The member were totally indifferent to Christian teachings. There was only a few members who remained faithful.
Philadelphia	“Brotherly love”	“This was a warm, lovable church. However, this church was struggling to remain faithful.
Laodicea	“Lukewarm”	This was the spiritually lukewarm church. It was a church of considerable wealth and talent. Most of the members were proud of their accomplishments. These members lack sincerity.

The Seven Prophetic Church Periods

Seventh-day Adventists believe that prophetically these seven church represent seven consecutive periods of church history. Here they are:

CHURCH	PERIOD	EXPLANATION
Ephesus	AD 33 to AD 100	This is the Apostolic period. The church in the first century. The church that was active in evangelism
Smyrna	AD 100 to AD 313	This was the strong and alive church described for its deep spirituality, loyalty, and faithfulness. It was the time when the church was being persecuted for its faith in Jesus
Pergamum	AD 313 to AD 538	This was the time that the papacy won religious, and to some extent, political leadership of Western Europe. The papacy was a skillful blend of paganism with Christianity. It was when Constantine joined church and state and ended persecution.
Thyatira	AD 538 to AD 1517	This is the period of papal supremacy. This period is the dark ages in church history. The 1200 years in Bible prophecy.
Sardis	AD 1517 to AD 1798	This is the time of the protestant reformation. Martin Luther, Huss, Jerome, etc., blazed the trail of reform. It was a time when papal supremacy ended
Philadelphia	AD 1798 to AD 1844	This is the period of the great advent awakening. William Miller blazed the trail of the Adventist Movement
Laodicea	AD 1844 ONWARD	This is the church in the last days—our time. The time of the investigative judgement.

The Brennen Seven Revelation Ecclesiastical Traits ©

The Seven Revelation Ecclesiastical Traits were written by Barrington Brennen. It is his view that the characteristics of the seven churches can be used to describe that state and traits of church “personalities” today. Using his psychological training he developed these traits. You can decide which is your church.

CHURCH TRAIT	DESCRIPTION
Ephesian Church Trait	This is the church that loves evangelism. There are key members who are zealous, dependable, and creative in developing ministries for church growth. However, there are many who are cold and have lost their first love. Nurture is not its strength This is the evangelistic church.
Philadelphian Church Trait	This is the church known for its fellowship, warmth, family spirit. It enjoys nurturing its members. Its membership grows through in-reach ministries. However, some of its member can be easily side tracked in to erroneous doctrine because of lack of deep Bible study. This is the family life church
Pergamanian Church Trait	This church is known for its self-centeredness, sophistication, pride and legalism. It is from this church that most like off-shoot movements will spring. There are some members however, who are faithful and hold on to Biblical teachings. This is the traditional, conservative church
Thyatira Church Trait	This is the church that perseveres through difficult and unfortunate times. However, many of its members are immoral spiritually and socially. It is a spiritually cold and critical church and a very difficult church for pastors to lead. Many of its members boldly defy the teachings of the church and make public disgrace of the congregation. This is the compromising church.
Sardisan Church Trait	This is the frozen church. This is the church that the conference may disband as a regular Adventist Church. Many of its members are amoral. They have no knowledge of the evil they are doing and wish not to know. They are indifferent, stubborn, full of self-pride. However, there are a few righteous member who decides to remain among them because they believe it is their ultimate mission to the church. This is the spiritually dead church.
Laocician Church Trait	This is the church that is known for its compromising spirit and its superficiality. This church easily attracts and welcomes new members but soon after the new members realize their indifference and lack of warmth, they get discouragement and leave. This is the confused church.
SMYRNAN Church Trait	This is the model church. This is the church is known for its deep loyal, faithfulness, trustworthiness, and teachable spirit. This is the kind of church that a pastor would dream to lead. It is known for its deep spiritual relationship with Jesus and genuineness, rather than the few unfortunate problems that normally weaken other churches. It's an active church in nurture, outreach and community ministries. This is the church God will be returning for at the second coming.

The Brennen Seven Revelation Personality Traits ©

The Seven Revelation Personality Traits were written by Barrington Brennen. It is his view that the characteristics of the seven churches can be used to describe seven traits in people. Using his psychological training he developed these traits. You can decide which is your trait.

PERSONALITY TRAIT	DESCRIPTION
Ephesian Personality Trait	This individual is a zealous self starter. She the leader of the group. However, she can get discouraged and sometimes easily misled.
Philadelphian Personality Trait	This is the warm affectionate individual. This is the type of person around who you would feel comfortable. Unfortunately, he is not always loyal and genuine.
Pergamanian Personality Trait	This is the person who is not easily discouraged, but lacks compassion. Although this person is a strong leader and motivator of others, she tends to be the cruel, blunt and critical person, sometimes unforgiving and revengeful. Unfortunately this individual may be known by her self-centeredness and pride.
Thyatira Personality Trait	This is the adventurous person. He is most likely to become immoral and distant. He is emotionally unpredictable and lacks self-control. On the other had, this person never worries about the future or frets about he past. The words "almost anything goes" can best describe this person.
Sardisan Personality Trait	This is the cold, indifferent and perhaps, amoral person. She is a person easily persuaded to accept erroneous doctrines. This person takes advantage of people and is full of self. There are no issues of right and wrong. For this person "anything goes."
Laodician Personality Trait	This is the dishonest, superficial person. You might not know it at first glance. Although he makes friends easily, most likely after enjoying them he will soon ignore them. He is weak-willed and has little conviction. This person usually will do just enough to get by but makes great demands on others. This person can easily be a traitor.
SMYRNAN Personality Trait	This is the completely loyal, faithful, trustworthy, honest and teachable person. She will remain friendly even in the face of adversity. This is the person whom everyone will agree is a saint. She is humble and quickly repents of any wrong doing. She never seeks to do harm to anyone. This is the type of person that will be translated.