

Chart from Immersion Bible Studies: Revelation

| Location | Praise | Censure | Challenge | Command |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Ephesus | Endure, resist evildoers, test false apostles, and suffer for Jesus | Lost original love | Nicolaitans | Change hearts and lives, do what they did at first |
| Smyrna | Hardship, poverty | | “Satan’s throne” slander by Jews, prison, martyrdom | Be not afraid, be faithful |
| Pergamum | Faithful | Follow Balaam’s teaching (idol food, sexual immorality) | Antipas martyred, Balaam, Nicolaitans | Change hearts and lives |
| Thyatira | Love, faithfulness, service, endurance | Accept Jezebel (sexual immortality, idol food) | Jezebel, her followers will be punished | Change hearts and lives, hold on to what they have |
| Sardis | A few are not stained | Dead | | Wake up, remember, hold on, and change hearts and lives |
| Philadelphia | Keep the word, do not deny Jesus | | Satan’s synagogue | Hold on |
| Laodicea | | Lukewarm, miserable, poor blind, naked | | Be earnest, change hearts and lives, open the door |

Influence of Imperial Cultic Worship in first century Asia Minor

(from Unveiling Empire: Reading Revelation Then and Now)

| City | Imperial Cult | Imperial Altar | Imperial Priest |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Ephesus | X | X | X |
| Smyrna | X | X | X |
| Pergamum | X | X | X |
| Thyatira | | X | X |
| Sardis | X | X | X |
| Philadelphia | X | | X |
| Laodicea | | X | |

- Asia is the only Roman Province with more than one Provincial cult. Several provinces had none.
- Imperial Cult involved temples, statues, festivals, coins, holidays etc. in honor of the emperor. All members of the cities were expected to participate in the Imperial Cult to demonstrate faith in the empire.
- Imperial Altars were constructed for the purpose of ritual sacrifices.
- Imperial Priests were people responsible for overseeing Imperial worship.

Interesting Pattern of the Seven Churches

(from Cornerstone Commentary: Revelation by M. Robert Mulholland Jr.)

Ephesus: Problem

Smyrna: Perfect

Pergamum: Problem

Thyatira: Perfect, Problem, and Perverse

Sardis: Perverse

Philadelphia: Perfect

Laodicea: Perverse