

THE SEVEN CHURCHES AND THE CLIMAX OF REVELATION

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Revelation *anticipates* and *flows toward* a climactic unveiling of Jesus, the Bridegroom King and Conquering Warrior.

Opening Vision of Jesus

1:14 “His head and hair were **white** like wool...**His eyes like a flame of fire**” (cf. 2:18)

1:15 “and **out of His mouth proceeds a sharp two-edged sword**”

Concluding Vision of Jesus

19:11-12 “behold, a **white** horse, and He who sat upon him...**His eyes were like a flame of fire**”

19:16 “**out of His mouth proceeds a sharp two-edged sword**”

Letters to Seven Churches

2:17 “I will give him (the overcomer)... a new **name written which no one knows except the one receiving it**”

2:18 “these things says the Son of God, the One having **eyes like a flame of fire**”

2:27 “(the one overcoming) **will shepherd them with a rod of iron**”

3:5 “the one overcoming will be *dressed in white garments*”

3:14 “These things says the **Faithful and True** Witness”

Concluding Vision of Jesus

19:12 “He has a **name written which no one knows except Himself**”

19:12 “His **eyes are like a flame of fire**”

19:15 “He **will shepherd them with a rod of iron**”

19:14 “and the armies of heaven were following Him, *dressed in white linen*”

19:11 “He...was called **Faithful and True**”

The Seven Churches and the Bride

Promise to the Overcomers

Eschatological Fulfillment

Ephesus	2:7 “I will give to him to eat of the tree of life ”	22:2 “in the midst of its (New Jerusalem’s) street – the tree of life ”
Smyrna	2:11 “he shall not be hurt by the second death ”	20:6 “on these the second death has no power”
Pergamos	2:17 “I will give to him a <i>stone</i> , and on the stone a new name written ”	21:14,19 “the city has twelve foundations, and <i>on them</i> the names of the twelve apostles...the foundation was of every precious <i>stone</i> ”
Thyatira	2:26-28 “I will <i>give authority over</i> the nations , and he will shepherd them with a rod of iron ...I will give the morning star ”	19:15, 22:16 “He... <i>strikes</i> the nations ...He Himself will shepherd them with a rod of iron ...I am the bright morning star ”
Sardis	3:5 “he will be <i>clothed</i> in white ... his name in the Book of Life ”	19:14; 20:12 “the armies in heaven ... <i>dressed in fine white linen</i> ...and another book was opened, the Book of Life ”
Philadelphia	3:8,12 “I have set before you an <i>open door</i> that no one can shut ...I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God ...and the name...of My city of the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from God shall be on him”	21:2, 22 ,25“the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God ...the <i>Lord God Almighty</i> is its temple , and the Lamb... and its <i>gates</i> shall not be shut ”
Laodicea	3:21 “I will give him to sit with Me on My throne , and...on <i>His throne</i> ”	22:3 “and the throne of God and the Lamb shall be in it (New Jerusalem)”

Strikingly, all the promises to the seven churches are fulfilled in the New Jerusalem!

The Seven Churches and the Whore

Ephesus	2:5 “Repent...but if not...I will <i>remove your lampstand</i> ”	18:23 “And the light of <i>a lamp shall not shine</i> in you (Babylon)”
Smyrna	2:10-11 “the devil is about <i>to throw some of you in prison</i> ... you will have tribulation <i>ten days</i> ...be faithful until <i>death</i> , and I will give you a <i>crown</i> ... <i>you shall not be hurt by the second death</i> ”	20:2-7 “He laid hold of the devil and <i>bound him</i> for a <i>thousand years</i> ...those who had been <i>beheaded</i> ...lived and <i>reigned</i> with Christ... <i>over such</i> the second death <i>has no power</i> ... <i>Satan</i> will be released from his prison ”

Pergamos	2:13-14 “Antipas, My faithful martyr , who was <i>killed</i> among you...you have there some holding the teaching of <i>Balaam</i> so that they would... <i>eat food sacrificed to idols</i> ”	17:6, 19:20 “the woman (Babylon) was <i>drunk with the blood...</i> of the martyrs... <i>the false prophet</i> who had performed signs of deceit... <i>to make them worship the beast</i> ”
Thyatira	2:20,22-23 “you permit that woman Jezebel...to deceive My servants into committing fornication and <i>to eat things sacrificed to idols</i> (abominations)...I am throwing into a bed those who <i>commit adultery with her...</i> <i>I will give to each one according to your works</i> ”	17:4, 18:6,9 “The woman (Babylon)... had a golden cup full of <i>abominations</i> and the filthiness of her fornication... <i>repay her according to her works...</i> those <i>committing fornication with her</i> ”
Sardis	3:3 “Repent...(or) you will not know in what hour <i>I will come upon you</i> ”	18:10 “Woe to you, the great city (Babylon)...for in one hour <i>has your judgment come</i> ”
Philadelphia	3:9 “I will make them come (false Jews of Satan ’s synagogue) and <i>know that I have loved you</i> ”	20:9 “They (Satan and those he deceives) went up...and surrounded the beloved city...and <i>fire came down from heaven and God and devoured them</i> ”
Laodicea	3:17-18 “you say, <i>‘I am rich... and have need of nothing’</i> ...you do not know that you are... naked ...Buy from Me refined gold ...and <i>white garments</i> ”	17:4,16, 18:7 “the woman (Babylon) was <i>arrayed in scarlet</i> and adorned with gold ...(yet) these will ...make her naked ...in her heart she says, <i>‘I sit as a queen...I will not see sorrow’</i> ”