

The Seven Churches of Asia (An Introduction)

Prayer. - Foundation, understanding, wisdom for journey

Hymn - 452 (368) Love divine, all loves excelling

Item -

Reading - Rev 1.1-6.11

Talk

- New Series

- We now turn for our instruction to the book of Revelation.

• Is it a complex puzzle? ^{Many seasoned Christians find it hard to understand}

No - • Written to ordinary Christians to understand.

• All symbols seen before in OT (esp in Gen)

• Plain & obvious ^{sense} reading preferable.

• The number 7 is everywhere significant to structure.

- The Book has a beautiful structure

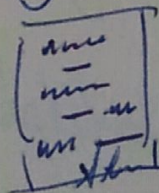
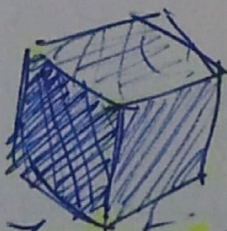
- Indeed Revelation is a masterpiece a divine artwork.

- To understand structure

Must see something 1st.

Keys to which

1. v. 11



There are 7 sections which run concurrent not successive.

- Church age.

Chart V

- We'll deal with the 1ST only.

- John on Patmos
- It is the Revelation of Jesus Christ

Christians for encouragement.

- Who to? Written to Seven Churches in Asia (v4)
- Who from? Father, Spirit, Son - All the Godhead (v4 & 5)

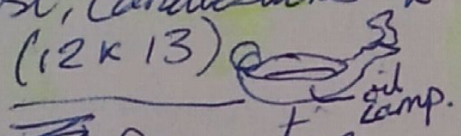
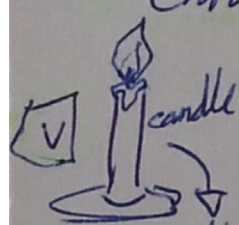
- (vii) Their names
A memory aid.

"Eye Say People Today Should Praise the Lord"

Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea.

- Their Position (v)

- Christ, Candlesticks & Resurrection



Resurrection - one day I'll show you.
Plant

(12 & 13) (5 & 18) better picture

- Matt 5. 14-16. "Ye are the light of the world..."
- Luke 11. 33-36. "No man that hath lighted a candle ... take heed... that the light... be not darkness."



- In Sardis & Laodicea (Non Christian) (World seems to have triumphed Light seems to have all but gone out)

In Ephesus (Backsliding) (The light still shining but the flame is diminishing)

In Pergamum & Thyatira (Troy harden) (The world's temptation strong Light shining but not as bright as should be)

In Smyrna & Philadelphia (Shining) (True Christian Character A light bearer Brightly shining & loyal to Christ)

- Philadelphia - Nothing bad said of.
- Laodicea - Nothing good said of. (is there oil (faith) in your lamp) Which are you? We'll find out.