

Seven Churches of Revelation

Note: Paul also wrote to seven churches in his epistles: Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Phillipi, Colossi, and Thessalonica.

Please note that the first three seals of Revelation 6 mirror the first three church periods in Revelation 2, and the fourth seal and fourth church periods also began at the same time and then break apart from one another.

Ephesus (Desirable), Revelation 2:1-7 (AD31-100) + Revelation 6:1&2 1st seal (White Horse) meaning purity.

Apostolic church to the death of John the last of the 12 Apostles estimated around AD100.

1st reference to the Nicolaitans, in Acts 6:5 is a Nicholas the proselyte, we don't know if there's a connection.

Smyrna (myrrh), Revelation 2:8-11 (AD100-313) + Revelation 6:3&4 2nd seal (Red Horse) bloodshed.

Myrrh is an incense that was used to dress dead bodies.

Polycarp of Smyrna was martyred in AD155.

Revelation 2:10 states tribulation for 10 days, the Diocletian decree of AD303 which rescinded Christians legal rights, followed by 10 years later Emperor Constantine's Edict of Milan AD313 to tolerate Christianity. Many theologians feel that AD323 is the chronological marker with Constantine converting to Christianity, but back in AD321 Constantine decreed the first Sunday law bringing in great darkness to Christianity which we will learn about with Pergamos.

Pergamos (Height or Elevation), Revelation 2:12-17 (AD313-538) + Revelation 6:5&6 3rd seal (Black Horse) if white is purity, black is spiritual darkness.

Revelation 2:13 Satan's seat, Satan was busy establishing his counterfeit church in this period of time, if you can't beat them, join them and corrupt them. February AD313 Edict of Milan, AD 321 decreed the Venerable day of the Sun, and AD323 Constantine's so called conversion to Christianity continuing to merge Christianity with Paganism, followed by the first council of Nicaea AD325. So, we see the Pagen Church of Rome emerging here. And many theologians feel that Antipas was not a literal person but represents those who are against (anti) the Popes (Papas).

Besides dealing with the new Sunday law and paganism entering the church, they were also dealing with the doctrines of Balaam and fornication (Revelation 2:14), doctrines of the Nicolaitans which Jesus hates (Revelation 2:15). Talk about a dark period hence the Black Horse of the 3rd seal.

Thyatira, (Sacrifice) Revelation 2:18-29 (AD538-1798) + Revelation 6:7&8 4th seal (Pale Horse AD538-1517)

This church period begins with the 4th seal of the pale horse denoting death. 30-50 million people were martyred.

Also, during this church period came the 5th seal Revelation 6:9-11 in 1517 when the protestant reformation interrupted the dark ages of the 1260 years, with 281 years remaining during the dark ages. The symbolic voice of the martyrs under the alter cried out and were told, "that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should

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be fulfilled". Now these precious souls will rest until Jesus comes again and followers of Jesus will continue to be martyred throughout history but in this church period of Thyatira the persecution was most severe. While those souls were resting in 1655 two thousand more Waldensian/Vaudois Christians were massacred in this one event alone (Search: Massacre Vaudois 1655), during the 5th seal (1517-1755) which occurred within the 1260 years of the dark ages of the Thyatira church period where a total of 30 to 50 million people were massacred.

Also note within this same church period came the Lisbon earthquake marking the beginning of the 6th seal in the year 1755.

Sardis, (has no meaning in Greek) Revelation 3:1-6 (AD1798-1831) 1798 also marks the time of the end see Daniel 12:7-9.

This is a very interesting time in church history, the things that were once sealed in the Book of Daniel are now unsealed as the time of the end begins. The Spirit of God can now give discernment on these things, but the church is in bad shape and that which remains is ready to die, but there are a few who are worthy. Please note that the Apostle John was told in Revelation 22:10, **"Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand"**, and with the unsealing of the book of Daniel a prophetic church is about to unfold.

Philadelphia, (brotherly love) Revelation 3:7-13 (AD1831-1844)

In AD1831 William Miller began preaching the second advent of Jesus Christ with the soon to come fulfillment of the 2300 days recorded in Daniel 8:14. Mr. Miller thought that the earthly sanctuary was to be cleansed with fire denoting Jesus' second advent. William Miller first thought that this fulfillment would occur in 1843 by subtracting 457BC from the 2300 years (2300-457=1843, see Spirit of Prophecy Volume 4, appendix, page 495), not considering the numerical increase in the Gregorian calendar in the BC/AD transition where 1BC to AD1 is one literal year but 1+1=2. There was no zero year when restarting to count on the AD side and also the Roman numeral system had no way to express 0. Though 1843 was the first of three disappointments it was still a prophetic year with the fulfillment of the 1335 days (Daniel 12:12) with a group of people who are waiting and blessed. Ellen G. White wrote about this 1st disappointment in Spirit of Prophecy, Volume 4, Chapter 16, ¶ 1. **"When the year 1843 was entirely passed away unmarked by the Advent of Jesus, those who had looked in faith for his appearing were for a time left in doubt and perplexity"**.

Great Disappointment #2 – Now the following is taken again from Spirit of Prophecy, Volume 4, in Appendix, note 4.

"The year 1843, during which Adventists at first expected the coming of Christ, was regarded as extending to the spring of 1844. The reason for this, briefly stated, is as follows: Anciently the year did not commence in mid-winter, as now, but at the new moon after the vernal equinox".

Please note that the new moon stated here is the first sighting of the waxing crescent moon seen after the conjunctural new moon. This second disappointment would come to a close in the evening at sunset on April 18th AD1844 looking into the western skies.

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Great Disappointment #3 – On August 15th AD1844, on the 3rd day of camp meeting located Exeter New Hampshire, while Elder Bates was preaching something happened. Here is a quote from the 1993 Adventist Pioneer Library Page 1, ¶13-5, **A middle-aged, modest appearing woman had interrupted Elder Bates. She continued, “it is too late! Too late to spend time as we have till now. Time is too short!” The crowd leaned forward, eager to catch her words. “Let the Lord’s servant speak who has meet in season for His household. Here is a man with a message from God. Behold the Bridegroom cometh, go out to meet Him” Amen! Responded the vast throng with emotion. Elder Bates invited the man to come forward and speak, then he sat down to listen.**

So, Samuel Snow preached that the 2300 days would be fulfilled in the Autumn of AD1844, what we call the fall season. He was inspired and made the connection between the cleansing of the Sanctuary recorded in Daniel 8:14 and the day of atonement, the yearly cleansing of the sanctuary which occurs on the 10th day of the 7th Hebrew month. This led to what was called the 7th month movement, and it was later determined that this would occur on October 22nd AD1844. And this 10/22/AD1844 date was published on August 22nd AD1844 sounding off the midnight cry for the return of Jesus Christ. Now this 10/22/AD1844 date is in contrast with the 09/23/AD1844 date of Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) in the Rabbinical calendar. The Rabbinical Jews had abandoned the instructions in the Torah concerning the offerings in the 1st Hebrew month which was determined by the first harvests of the season. If the first harvests were not ready or almost ready at the end of the 12th Hebrew month than a 13th month would be added. Please note that there are only 354 days in the Hebrew calendar and the addition of these 13th months when needed keep their calendar in sync with the solar years, and the seasons, which is determined by the harvests in Jerusalem including the barley sheafs used for the waive offerings. So, let’s see if the October 22nd AD1844 date is correct, in the month of April AD1844 the first sighting of the waxing crescent moon following after the conjunctural new moon occurred on the 18th at sunset with a 2% illumination signifying the beginning of a Hebrew month and this also would be the 1st Hebrew month of the year for the time of the season in Jerusalem. So, the first day of the Hebrew month would go into April 19th AD1844, just like the weekly Sabbath that occurred on Saturday September 9th AD2023 actually began on Friday September 8th at sunset. So, the day light hours of the 1st day of the 1st Hebrew month fell on April 19th AD1844. Remember we are looking for the 10th day of the 7th Hebrew month to locate when Yom Kippur also known as the day of atonement would have occurred. The Hebrew months are approximately 29½ days long going by the lunar cycles, that’s why the Hebrew calendar alternates between 29 and 30 days per month. Therefore, six Hebrew months would last for the duration of 177 days (3 x 29 + 3 x 30 = 177). So, first we will locate the end of the 6th Hebrew month by inclusively counting starting with the 1st day of the 1st Hebrew month which fell on April 19th AD1844 and count out the 177 days which comes to October 12th AD1844 as being the last day of the 6th Hebrew month. Next, October 13th AD1844 would be the 1st day of the 7th Hebrew month. Now take you’re 10 fingers starting with the number 13 representing the 1st day of the 7th Hebrew month and count out to find when the 10th day of the 7th Hebrew month occurred (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22). There it is October 22nd AD1844.

Laodicea, (Judgement of the people) 3:14-22 (10/22/1844 to Jesus’ second advent)

A people Judged, **“Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his Judgement is come”**.