

Structure of the Seven Letters

Rev 2:7-9

| | Ephesus, 2:1-7 | Smyrna, 2:8-11 | Pergamos, 2:12-17 | Thyatira, 2:18-29 | Sardis, 3:1-6 | Philadelphia, 3:7-13 | Laodicea, 3:14-22 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Command to write | 1a | 8a | 12a | 18a | 1a | 7a | 14a |
| Title from ch. 1 | 1b | 8b | 12b | 18b | 1b | 7b | 14b |
| Message | 2-6 | 9-10 | 13-16 | 19-25 | 1c-4 | 8-11 | 15-20 |
| I know thy works | 2a | 9a | 13a | 19a | 1c | 8a | 15a |
| Praise | 2-3 | 9-10 | 13 | 19 | | 8-11 | |
| Exhortation | | 10 | | | | 11b | |
| Criticism | 4-5 | | 14-16 | 20-23 | 2-3 | | 15-20 |
| Exhortation | 5 | | 16 | | 3 | | 18-19 |
| Praise | 6 | | | 24 | 4 | | |
| Exhortation | | | | 25 | | | |
| Promise to Overcomers | | | | 26-28 | 5 | 12 | 21 |
| Let him hear | 7a | 11a | 17a | 29 | 6 | 13 | 22 |
| Promise to Overcomers | 7b | 11b | 17b | | | | |

7 Hearing and Overcoming

He that hath an ear ...

Matt. 13:9 **Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.**

Ezek 12:1 The word of the LORD also came unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; **they have ears to hear, and hear not:** for they are a rebellious house. (cf. Jer 5:21).

John 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

Promises to overcomers

Rev. 2:7 To **him that overcometh** will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Rev. 2:11 **He that overcometh** shall not be hurt of the second death.

Rev. 2:17 To **him that overcometh** will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, ...

Rev. 2:26 And **he that overcometh**, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Rev. 3:5 **He that overcometh**, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, ...

Rev. 3:12 **Him that overcometh** will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, ...

Rev. 3:21 To **him that overcometh** will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Rev. 21:7 **He that overcometh** shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Who Wins? **Good**, or **Evil**?

Elsewhere in John:

John 16:33 In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have **overcome** the world.

1Jn 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God **overcometh** the world: and this is the **victory** that **overcometh** the world, even our faith.

In heaven (ch. 4-5):

Rev. 5:5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath **prevailed** to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

In the conflict (ch. 6-20):

Rev. 6:2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth **conquering**, and to **conquer**.

Rev. 11:7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall **overcome** them, and kill them.

Rev. 12:11 And they **overcame** him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Rev. 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to **overcome** them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Rev. 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall **overcome** them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: ...

7 The Tree of Life ... Paradise

Gen 2:9 the **tree of life** also in the midst of the **garden** [LXX **paradise**].

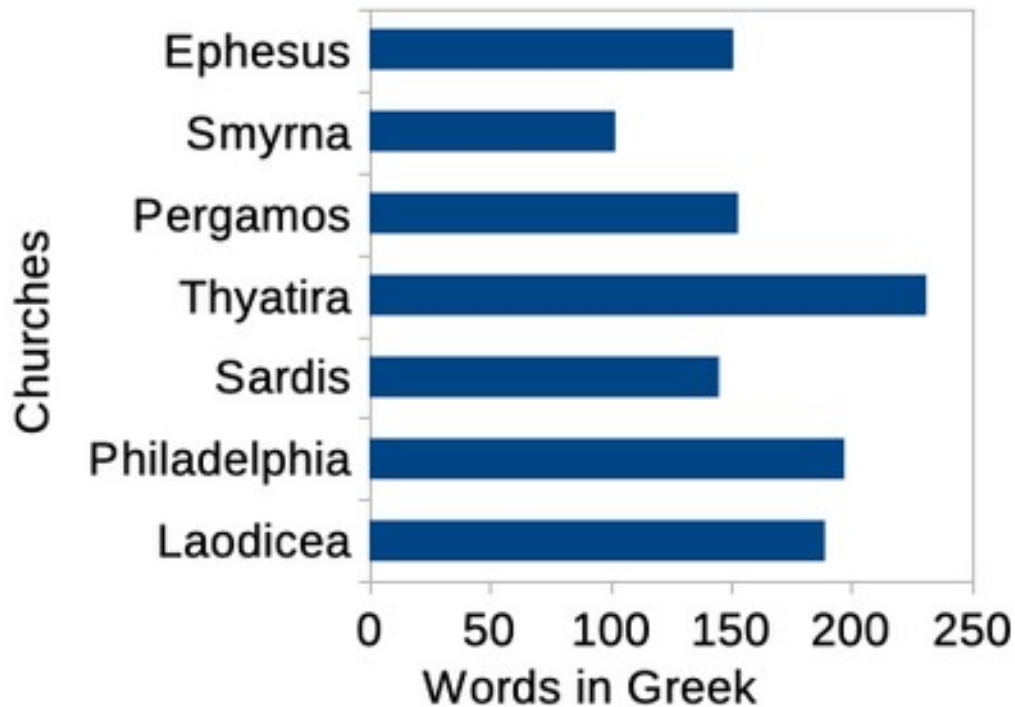
Gen 3:22 ... now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the **tree of life**, and eat, and live for ever: 23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the **garden** [**paradise**] of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

Rev 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there **the tree of life**, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.



Top: British Museum, 2003.0402.4, ca 200 BC
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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=20894068>

Background on Smyrna



https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Innocents_Abroad/Chapter_XXXIX

Matt. 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and **myrrh**.

John 19:39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of **myrrh** and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.



https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/C_1896-0601-69

Ramsay p. 259

Revelation 2:9

9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.



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Bilman Peter

Helpful References on 2:9-10

Poverty (but thou art rich)

James 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

blasphemy

Acts 26:11 And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme;

Act 13:45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

Acts 18:5 And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. 6 And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

them which say they are Jews, and are not,

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.