Bible Story Rev: Letters

Johnny Ramsey · Revelation 2:1–3:22 · Series: **Bible Story**

INTRODUCTION

- This book is not the revelation of John. It's the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- The book of Revelation is written in signs and symbols, and a sign does not represent itself.
- To whom was it written? The seven congregations of Asia. For what purpose? To correct their problems and to give them hope in the midst of the duress, persecution, tribulation, opposition they faced.

1 Ephesus Had Left Their First Love

Revelation 2:1–7

- The problems and good points that they possessed are very typical of our problems today.
- The major problem with the church at Ephesus was that they had left their first love.
- They had found some that claimed to be apostles and had proved them false.
- The Lord told them to remember from whence they had fallen, repent of their evil deeds, and repeat the good works they once did, motivated by love.

2 Smyrna Rich, Pergamos and the Nicolaitan Doctrine

Revelation 2:8–11; Revelation 2:12–17; 1 Corinthians 10:12

- He told them that they were in deep poverty and intense persecution, but he would bless them, and in God's sight they were rich.
- It isn't any crime to be poor, but it is to be spiritually poor, because there's no excuse for that.
- From 29 BC forward, Pergamus had been the center or the seat of emperor worship.
- The Nicolaitans were the first people to teach the doctrine of once saved, always saved.

3 Thyatira Tolerated Sin

Revelation 2:18–29; 1 Corinthians 5

- The problem with the church at Thyatira is a very common one today. In fact, if the Lord were still writing letters to congregations, most of us would get one like this.
- Because you tolerate sin, because you will not discipline those guilty of iniquity, then you're going to come to naught.
- We must use discipline or the cause of Christ will go down the drain.
- Withdrawal from that ungodly fellow is still the clarion call of 1 Corinthians 5.

4 Sardis Dead or Alive, Philadelphia Faithful

Revelation 3:1–5; 1 Timothy 5:6

- You can always remember Sardis by remembering the statement, dead or alive. They had a name that they were alive, but God said you're dead.

- I will blot your name out of the book of life. And he couldn't blot it out if it wasn't there.
- The Lord said, You've been faithful to do the best you can, and I'm going to open a door that no man can shut.
- The Lord only expects us to do the best we can with what we've got, but he demands that we do that.

5 Laodicea Was Self-Sufficient

- And so the church there was self-sufficient, like the city was.
- They said they were rich and powerful, but the Lord said, No. You're wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.
- As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten, be zealous therefore and repent.
- Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man will open the door, I will come into him and sup with him, and he with me.

6 He Knows Us Inside Out

2 Peter 3:9; Genesis 16:13; Proverbs 15:3

- The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance, 2 Peter 3 9.
- Jesus Christ has eyes like a flame of fire. And when he says, I know thy works, believe me, he knows us inside out.
- He is one who walked with the Hebrew children in the fiery furnace of affliction, and he walks with us in our trials.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **The Book of Revelation gives us hope. And if we'll be faithful to the Lord, obey his will, one day we can walk with him in robes of white.**

MY NOTES