

There Are THREE Interpretations for the Seven Churches that are accepted by most theologians. All three appear to be correct:

View 1. Jesus speaks to seven literal churches in Asia Minor during John's time.

View 2. Throughout the Christian Era every church is like one of these churches. Churches like all seven churches have always existed somewhere on Earth.

View 3. They define the spiritual condition of the Church at a specific time. Church history bears out the "Linear Historic" view, which is detailed below:

The "Linear Historic" view is also the view that appears to most closely fit the prophetic intent of Revelation:

32-95AD **Ephesus***"Lost your first love"* Rev 2:4, Mar 12:29-30 . Heresy enters church: Marcionites, Gnostics, Nicolaitans, etc.

95-321AD **Smyrna***"Persecuted 10 days"* Rev 2:10 Ten major persecutions under ten Roman Emperors:

(1) Domitian (2) Trajan (3) Hadrian (4) Antonius Pius (5) Marcus Arelus

(6) Septimus Severus (7) Maximin (8) Decius (9) Valerian (10)Diocletian

321-450AD **PERGAMUM***"Where Satan's throne is"* Rev 2:13 Constantine makes Christianity state religion. Church hierarchy begins. Constantine names himself "Pontifus Maximus," in other words, the first Pope.

450-950AD **THYATIRA***"That Woman Jezebel"* Rev 2:20 Beginning of Mary worship. Idols brought into the churches. Bishops rise to power.

950-1450AD **SARDIS***"But you are dead"* Rev 3:1 Dead Catholic formalism. Bible taken from the people. Persecution of the brethren intensifies

1450-1948AD **PHILADELPHIA** ...*"You have kept My Word"* Rev 3:8 The Reformation, the Protestant church begins, the Puritan movement, foreign missions founded.

1948AD- to the end: **LAODICEA***"You are neither hot nor cold"* Rev 3:15 Lukewarm church of today. Great church organizations and works, but spiritually cool.