



Where Is The Love... *Ephesus* The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Two Distinctions of Revelation

1. It's the only book in the Bible with a special **BLESSING**.
 - a. **Revelation 1:3 (ESV)** *Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.*
2. It's the only book in the Bible with a divinely inspired **OUTLINE**.
 - a. **Revelation 1:19 (ESV)** *Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.*

The Letters To The 7 Churches Have At Least Four Levels Of Meaning And Application

1. **LOCAL**
 - a. *"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write..."*
2. **UNIVERSAL**
 - a. *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the CHURCHES."*
3. **PERSONAL**
 - a. *"He who has an ear..."*
4. **PROPHETIC**
 - a. One idea supported by many scholars is that the particular details of each of these letters, and in particular the order in which they are placed, lay out a history of the church.

Ephesus The City

1. Very ancient city, founded in 1400 BC
 - a. 540 BC – it was captured by the Persians
 - b. 334 BC – it fell to Alexander the Great and the Greeks
 - c. 129 BC – Rome captured the city and held it until Rome crumbled, roughly 350 AD
2. It had a great harbor, so it became a pawn of these world powers. It was a strategic naval base.
3. Early on, it became a center of mother goddess worship that later became identified with the goddess Diana or Artemis, depending upon which language you spoke.
4. It was a very wealthy and beautiful city because it was the primary connection point and communication point between Rome and the eastern world. It was a very important city, right on the trade routes. It became the Roman capital city of the province of Asia.

5. The name 'Ephesus' means "Darling" and/or "Maiden of Choice".
6. This was a significant city in the ancient world.

Ephesus The Church

1. Ephesus was also an important church.
 - a. Paul planted the church there and his ministry in Ephesus is summarized in Acts 19 & 20.
 - b. New Testament books of Ephesians, I & II Timothy set there; I Corinthians was written there
 - c. Very important scene occurs in Acts 20:17-38
2. **Revelation 2:107 (ESV)** *"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write..."*
3. Jesus Compliments the Church
 - a. Jesus is the One holding the stars in His hand and walking among the golden lampstands.
 - b. 7 Great Attributes:
 - i. I know your **WORKS, TOIL, PATIENT ENDURANCE**
 - ii. I know how you've **TESTED FALSE DISCIPLES**; you are doctrinally pure!
 - iii. I know how you **ENDURED ATTACK, ARE PATIENT, WORKED HARD**
4. Jesus Criticizes the Church
 - a. You've abandoned the **LOVE YOU HAD FIRST**.
5. Jesus Commands the Church
 - a. **REMEMBER, REPENT, REPEAT**
 - i. Remember therefore from where you have fallen...
 - ii. Repent
 - iii. Do the works you did at first

Personal Application...

**Have you left your first love, your best love...
Remember, Repent, Repeat
He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says
to the churches!**