

## Revelation 2 Part 1

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, looking once again at the Book of Revelation, we're going to do an overview of chapters two and three, set the background picture if you like. This is session four.

Revelation chapter two verse one, *'Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;'*

Now we know from the previous verse, that's verse twenty of chapter one, that the seven stars are the angels to the seven churches.

Chapters two and three of Revelation are seven letters, one each to each church in Asia, and there is an angel to each church. Now, before we get too excited, the word 'angel' in Greek simply means 'messenger'. A messenger. Yes, he can be someone with wings on but he could also be the next door neighbour. If you ask someone to go run down to so-and-so's house and tell them that such-and-such is happening for that moment while they took that message they would be an angel.

Now, the interesting thing to note here is that the letter to the church of Ephesus, and in fact to all the churches of chapters two and three of Revelation are addressed to the angel, the letter is addressed to the angel. Now, if that angel were from heaven he would have divine knowledge and understanding. It therefore seems that the angel to the church of Ephesus, Smyrna and so on, are actually people. Normal everyday people, but ones who carry a very special message from God for that church.

Now, as an overview, chapters two and three cover seven churches which originally were in Asia. They are Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. And each one, except Philadelphia, has good and bad points, and these are listed as we go through the letter to each church. Philadelphia has no bad points, it's just recommended as being a rather good church.

But there's something else that is well worth noting. If you look at church history, its good points its bad points from the time of about 50AD through to today you will find that each of those churches in turn reflects through their good and bad points the actual history. In other words, they are not just churches. Each church is representative of an age. A period of Christian history. Each with its good points and its bad points, all terminating in the final age which is this one, Laodicea. And Laodicea is the church age where God is so fed up with the church He spews them out of His mouth. In other words, the church is no longer the mouthpiece of God. And, in fact, we find at the end that Jesus is outside of the church knocking to get in. And it is only individuals that will respond. And it's only individuals that He will sup with and meet with.

This may, of course, be quite a shock, but as I say let's go into the whole section bit-by-bit, church age by church age so that you can see exactly where we're coming from, how things relate, see whether these things be true or not.

Bye.