

Ephesus: "Not Tasting" = The Apostolic Age

(1st Century)

Smyrna: "Anointed for Burial" = The Church during the Roman Empire

(2nd-3rd Centuries)

These seven churches represent at least four different things:

(4th Century thru early Middle Ages)

Pergamum: "Divorced" = Post-Constantine paganistic influences in the Church

(11th -16th Centuries)

Thyatira: "Continuing Sacrifice" = The rise of the Catholic Age

(16th -18th Centuries)

Sardis: "Incomplete" = The Reformation

(18th Century onward)

Philadelphia: "Brotherly Love" = The Great Awakening

(1950 onward?)

Laodicea: "People's Opinions" = The Last Age

(18th Century onward)

(1) They are seven literal churches which existed at the time of John's writing Revelation.

(2) They are seven generally overlapping ages of church history.

(3) They are seven types of churches which can exist during ANY age.

(4) They are seven types of churches which will exist in the last church age.

Pretorism: All prophecy is written after to look predictive.

Historicism: All is fulfilled with no more fulfillments to come.

Poemicism: Prophecy is merely literature designed to encourage.

Futurism: Prophecy still has a future fulfillment.

