

Last week we studied the Apocalypse of St. John Chapter 2, up to verse 17 which concentrated on the first three of our Lord's prophetic messages to the Seven Churches of Asia Minor. Here are a couple of brief overviews of what we covered on The Apocalypse of St. John, Chapter Two:

Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko on the Seven Churches:

"It begins with the seven letters to the seven Churches to see what the Spirit says to the Churches and each it says, 'to him who has ears, let him hear.' Now what about these seven churches? What's the point here? Because you have seven letters to seven churches, I think you could make the case, that what you have here is what God wants to speak to the Church in every age and generation. You have the fullness of the message of God to the Church. Now it's put in the context of the first century. Because an apocalypse is speaking of the historical events of its time which then have meaning beyond its time. Because every time is the same time & every time is giving us indications to all time. So we can read what it says to the seven churches and apply it to ourselves."

ICBS Intro:

St. John addresses seven churches in Asia Minor that lie within a 50 mile radius of one another. The Apostle John settled in this area and ministered to these very churches in the later years of his life. The sequence of letters to the churches moves geographically clockwise from Ephesus to Laodicea and may reflect an ancient postal route in their day. Each letter begins with an image from chap 1 and ends with an allusion to the final chapters (19-22). The zeal of each of these churches was declining, with Ephesus in the best condition and Laodicea in the worst.