

# Book of Revelation

Letters to the 7 Churches (Rev. 2.1-29)



# Letters to the Seven Churches

## Patterns

- **Identification of the Heavenly Christ (2.1; 8; 12; 18)**
  - **John uses one or more of the descriptions found in the description of Jesus in chapter 1.12-18**
  - **2.1 - who holds the seven stars in his right hand**
  - **2.8 - the first and the last, who was dead and came to life**
  - **2.12 - him who has the sharp two-edged sword**
  - **2.18 - the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze**





# Letters to the Seven Churches

## Patterns

- **Message is directed to the 'angel' of each church**
  - **Literally – messenger/envoy**
  - **Could be a leader in the church or angel (guardian angel) as well**
- **'I know' – Opening**
  - **Relationship/familiarity**
  - **Commendation to faithfulness**
    - **Ephesus (2.2)**
    - **Smyrna (2.9)**
    - **Pergamum (2.13)**
    - **Thyatira (2.19)**
    - **Philadelphia (3.8)**
  - **Condemnation for a lack of faithfulness**
    - **Sardis (3.1)**
    - **Laodicea (3.13-16)**

# Letters to the Seven Churches

## Patterns

### • Admonition to 'conquer'

- Admonition to hold firm and to hear the words of the spirit
- Those who conquer will be rewarded
  - 2.7
  - 2.11
  - 2.17
  - 2.26
  - 2.28
  - 3.5
  - 3.12
  - 3.21





# Excursus: Roman Coins

## Propaganda



# Letters to the Seven Churches

## Ephesus

- Major City
- Population: 250,000
- Trade (land & sea)
- Temple to Artemis (Diana)
- Church Founded by Paul



- Acts 20.31
- Acts 19.21-41
- Warning: Acts 20.29-30





# Letters to the Seven Churches

## Message to Ephesus

- False Teachers (2.2-3)
- Words of Concern: Abandoned Love (2.4)
  - Eph. 1.15; 3.16-19; 4.1-2; 4.15-16; 5.1-2; 5.21-28 (husbands and wives); 6.23-24.
  - Eph 1.15 – Love for Christ and Love for each other
- Call to repent: a call to remember the love that they had from the first (2.5)
- Consequence (2.5)
- Exhortation (2.7)