

ENERGETIC EPHESIANS

Revelation 2:1-7

David Rountree

1. *Historicists* and some *Futurists* say the seven churches in Revelation represent seven successive periods of church history.
2. John's churches were all in the Roman Empire that was not friendly toward Christians until the reign of Constantine in the fourth century. Emperor Nero (reigned 54-68 AD) was the most famous persecutor of Christians blaming them for the Great Fire of Rome in 64 AD and subjected them to being burned alive.
3. Notice that the location of all seven churches below are in Rome's war path to destroy Jerusalem in 70 AD.



4. Seven Churches in Asia (1:4). What the Spirit says in Revelation he is saying to "churches" (2:7, 11,17,29; 3:6,13,22). The national Old Testament Jewish church does not survive for eternal blessing but is incorporated into the New Testament, new covenant international church.
5. According to Josephus there was a large colony of Jews at Ephesus (*Jos., Ant.* 14.225ff.; 14.262ff). Paul founded this church and left Aquila and Priscilla there to carry on the work (Acts 18:18-21; 19:8-10; 20:31). The city is known for its magic cults and worship of Artemis, Latin for Diana (Acts 19:13-27). Just off the coast of Ephesus is the island of Patmos where John was exiled. Ephesus is addressed first in the seven churches of Revelation as the most important and landing-place for a messenger from Patmos. There were approximately 250,000 people there. Ephesus is at the head of a circular road joining the seven churches.

PERSEVERANCE IS COMMENDED (v. 2, 3, 6)

1. Good deeds are not overlooked (v.1)
2. Patient endurance commended (v.2,3)
3. Proud hating evil and having good doctrine (v.6)
4. We may have to learn to “hate” evil just like God “hates” sin (Rev.2:6; Ps.5:5; 97:10; 129:163; Prov.8:13; Amos 5:15; Zech.8:17; Mal.2:16).
5. Nicolaitans were indifferent to things like adultery and idolatrous worship practices (Rev.2:14-15).

PRIORITIES ARE NOT TO BE CONFUSED (v. 1, 4)

1. What God has against the Ephesians: They left their first love (v.4).
2. Please pray for a passionate love for God in our church.
3. The word for "abandoned" your first love in verse 4 is the same word for "send away" as an act of divorce in 1Cor.7:11-13.
4. In Proverbs 6:32-35 God makes it clear that adultery is foolish and enrages the offended party.
5. What does all this say to those who have never loved Christ at all?

PROBLEMS CAN BE CONQUERED (v. 5, 7)

Remember:

Repent:

Return:

Results: