

DIAGRAM OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES

A.D. 27	100	323	538	1798	1833	1844
73 years	223 years	215 years	1260 YEARS	35 years	11 years	To the End
EPHESUS	SMYRNA	PERGAMOS	THYATIRA	SARDIS	PHILA-DELPHIA	LAODICEA
First or Desirable	Myrrh, or Sweet-smelling Savor	Hight, or Elevation	Savor of labor or Sacrifice of contrition	Song of joy or that which remains	Brotherly Love	A just people, or judging the people
Pure	Bloody	Corrupt	Death	Lack of Zeal	Love	Lukewarm

The message to the seven churches are prophetic, and cover the entire Christian age. The diagram is designed to show the probable time covered by each. Beginning with A.D. 27, the time of the Saviour's baptism, and the opening of his earthly ministry, the first church, "[Ephesus](#)," meaning *first*, or *desirable*, began its history. This covered the lives of the early apostles, and gave way to the next state of the church about the beginning of the second century. This church was called "[Smyrna](#)," meaning *myrrh*, or *sweet-smelling savor*, because of the pagan persecutions that beset them. About the year 323 the church [[Pergamos](#)- "*hight*"] was *elevated* or lifted above its persecutions by the conversion of the Emperor Constantine to Christianity. In 538, another change took place when the Bishop of Rome was made head over the churches, and constituted the corrector of heretics. For 1260 years that power bore sway over God's people, condemning whom it would, and during this time [[Thyatira](#)- "*Savor of labor*", or "*Sacrifice of contrition*"] millions were put to death for their adherence to the Bible. Passing the time when the power of Rome over the church of God was broken, in 1798, the church then entered its time of rejoicing, and received a name signifying *song of joy* [[Sardis](#)]. After the sign of the falling stars appeared, which was to mark the time of the Lord's coming near (1833), the church [[Philadelphia](#)] passed into that expectant period; and while waiting for the Lord they distributed their goods to the needy, in a *brotherly way*, as did the apostles of old. Coming to 1844, when the great High Priest in heaven passed into the most holy place for the cleansing of the sanctuary, the investigative judgment opened, [[Laodicea](#)- "*a just people*", or "*judging the people*"] and this state of the church is to continue till the Lord comes to gather his faithful of all ages.

Above chart taken from 1888 Bible Readings for the Home Circle. Compiled by M. Harris

In studying [Revelation, chapters 2 and 3](#), in which we have a delineation of **the seven periods of the gospel church**, we learn that the [Sardis church](#), having heard the doctrine of the coming of the Lord, was in danger of neglecting to heed it, and that by thus rejecting that truth, she fell from the high position of favor ("a name that thou *livest*") which she had previously occupied. We read, "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come upon thee." [[4] Rev. 3:3. For a full exposition of the seven churches, See "Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation."] The [Sardis](#) church seems to have been brought out by the Reformation, after the dark period of the work of "Jezebel" -- the apostate church. The church of [Sardis](#) was told that she had been a *live* church; but when she heard and rejected the doctrine of the Lord's coming, she placed herself where she was liable to be overtaken by that event as by a "thief in the night." So, it is stated by the apostle Paul, in 1 Thess. 5:1-5, will be the condition of those who cry, "Peace and safety," when the Lord's coming is near. Those who follow the light of truth are called the "children of the day," and the Lord will not come on them as a thief. p. 62, Para. 2, [RISEPROG]. In this prophetic description of the **seven churches**, we see the fall of the [Sardis church](#) is immediately followed by the [Philadelphia](#), or (as the word signifies) *brotherly love, church*. Such, indeed, were the 50,000 believers who, **by the second angel's message**, were brought out from all the varied churches, and **united in one bond of brotherly love** on the great cardinal truth of **the immediate advent of Christ**. p. 63, Para. 1, [RISEPROG].

HORSES AND SEALS (CHURCHES)

The trumpets denote a series of events which transpire contemporaneously with the events of the seals, but of an entirely different character. A trumpet is a symbol of war; hence the trumpets denote great political commotions to take place among the nations during the gospel age. The seals denote events of a religious character, and contain the history of the church from the opening of the Christian era to the coming of Christ. {1897 UrS, DAR 431.2}

White Horse- 1st Seal & Ephesus - cir 27 to 100 AD

Triumphs of the gospel (in purity) in the first century of this dispensation

Red Horse- 2nd Seal & Smyrna- cir 100 to 323 AD

Original purity began to be corrupted. Errors began to rise. Worldliness. Ecclesiastical power sought the alliance of the secular. Constantine/ Council of Nicaea.

Black Horse- 3rd Seal & Pergamos- cir 323-538 AD

A period of great darkness and moral corruption in the church—between the reign of Constantine and the establishment of the Papacy. Papal teachings brought in.

Pale Horse- 4th Seal cir 538-1517 AD / **Thyatira** 538-1798

Mortality so great during this period by the Papacy; time when the Papacy bore its unrebuked, unrestrained and persecuting rule, commencing about 538 A.D. and extending to the time when the Reformers commenced their work of exposing the corruption of the papal system.

Souls Slain for Word of God- 5th Seal- cir 1517- 1735/ **Sardis** 1798-1833

Commenced when Reformation began to undermine the antichristian Papal fabric and restrain the persecuting power of the Romish Church

**THE ABOVE IS REPRESENTED IN SYMBOLIC/ FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE;
HEREAFTER FOLLOWING, IS PRESENTED IN LITERAL LANGUAGE**

Great Earthquake/ Sun Black/ Stars Fell- 6th Seal 1735-2nd coming/ **Philadelphia** 1833-1844

Prophetic portions of God's Word were to be unsealed; many; many run to and fro; knowledge of God's Word greatly increased (1798 forward). Sealing process of God's people begins (Rev 7) PRIOR to commencement of the 7th seal.

2nd and 3rd Coming of Christ- 7th Seal 2nd coming to end of sin/ **Laodicea** 1844-2nd coming

From the proclamation of the Three Angel's Messages in 1844 and continuing to our day, to the second coming of Christ to the 1000 year reign in heaven to the 3rd coming after the 1000 years and the wicked are finally destroyed is when this 7th Seal reaches its complete fulfillment.