

Ephesus: "Not Tasting" = The Apostolic Age
(1st Century)

Smyrna: "Anointed for Burial" = The Church during the Roman Empire
(2nd-3rd Centuries)

Pergamum: "Divorced" = Post-Constantine paganistic influences in the Church
(4th Century thru early Middle Ages)

These seven churches represent at least four different things:

Thyatira: "Continuing Sacrifice" = The rise of the Catholic Age
(11th -16th Centuries)

Sardis: "Incomplete" = The Reformation
(16th -18th Centuries)

Philadelphia: "Brotherly Love" = The Great Awakening
(18th Century onward)

Laodicea: "People's Opinions" = The Last Age
(1950 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.
Poemiscism: Prophecy is merely literature designed to encourage.
Futurism: Prophecy still has a future fulfillment.

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