

## Ready Answers Unit K: The Seven Churches—Handles

### Ephesus

7



K155.jpg

#### Revelation 2:1

The titles on the pictures for Ephesus are red. The first picture shows “Ephesus” in Greek. There are 7 letters in the name “Ephesus”. The message to Ephesus is in Revelation 2:1-7

**Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write;**

This is the first church. It starts out “Unto”. All the rest of the messages start out with “And”. The wording of the addresses are similar, but not all the same. The first church, and the last church use two “of”’s in the wording. “OF the church OF Ephesus”.

**These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand,**

Picture Jesus holding seven stars in his right hand. Hold out your right hand and cup it like you are holding seven stars.

**who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;**

Picture Jesus walking in the middle of the golden candlesticks. You may make some walking motions with your feet or hands, imitating walking.

8



K165.jpg

#### Revelation 2:2-3

**I know thy works,**

This phrase will be in all the messages to the churches, coming after the description of Jesus. Look briefly at the entire picture. The Celsus Library was a magnificent work of architecture in Ephesus

**and thy labour,**

Look at the arch door at the very right of the picture.

**and thy patience,**

Look at the statue in the right of the front of the library that is between the two columns.

**and how thou canst not bear them which are evil:**

Look at the little column that is in the front courtyard. It is covered over somewhat with the red “b” in “library”.

**and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:**

Look at the steps on the very left side of the picture. Imagine there is a jury sitting there that is “trying” the apostles.

**And hast borne,**

This sequence that follows is the exact opposite of the first sequence. We will look at the same places on the pictures in reverse. Look again at the little column in the courtyard that is partially covered by the red “b” in “library”.

**and hast patience,**

Look at the statue in the right of the front of the library that is between the two columns.

**and for my name’s sake hast laboured,**

Look at the the arch door at the very right of the picture.

**and hast not fainted.**

Think of someone almost collapsing under the arch door. Imagine that the next picture is found under that arch.

9



K175.jpg

Revelation 2:4-6

This is an advertisement for a house of prostitution. Some scholars have indicated that the Nicolaitanes would have gone to houses of prostitution, and thought it was not a sin.

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Look at the heart-shaped carving at the top left of the picture, and think of “heart= Love”.

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen,

Picture an ant on the sidewalk going from the heart and falling down into the hole that is by the right lobe of the heart.

and repent, and do the first works;

picture the ant coming back out of the hole. He has “repented”.

or else I will come unto thee quickly,

Look at the foot on the sidewalk. Think about Jesus running quickly to them.

and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Look at the mortar on the right side of the picture, between the stones in the pavement. Imagine that it is the candlestick that Jesus will remove from it’s place. The sidewalk would not be the same without the mortar. Neither would the rest of the churches, if one were removed.

But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.

Look at the picture of the woman’s head on the sidewalk, and remember that this is an advertisement for a house of prostitution.

10



K195.jpg

Revelation 2:7

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;

This is the first time this phrase is used. It will be in all seven messages. Think that the last picture you looked at was the woman in the sidewalk. She has an ear. That phrase comes next.

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life,

Look at the tree of life in the picture

which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

The background is yellow, to represent the glory coming from God’s throne.

Smyrna

11



K205.jpg

Revelation 2:8

The second church is Smyrna. All the titles will be in green.

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write;

All the following churches will start with “And”. This is the first church of the second type of address: “unto” the angel “of” the church “in” (city). It will be the same format for Smyrna, Thyatira, and Sardis.

These things saith the first and the last,

Look at the first arch, and then the last arch.

which was dead, and is alive;

Look at the first stone in the walkway. It is “dead”, or at least not “alive”.

12



K215.jpg

**Revelation 2:9**

**I know thy works,**

This will be common to all the churches, after the description of Jesus: Look at the lock on the door, and think “lock works”.

**and tribulation,**

think of someone locking the door and throwing away the key. They are in tribulation.

**and poverty, (but thou art rich)**

picture the people that are locked up with just food and water. they are in poverty, but really they are rich.

**and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.**

Look at the “Salom Synagogue” sign.

13



K225.jpg

**Revelation 2:10-11**

**Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer:**

Look at the two sets of columns with the crossbars still on them. They are suffering under the weight of the crossbars.

**behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried;**

Picture the devil throwing some of the people through the “door” that might be between those columns with the crossbars still on them. This is the “door” into the prison.

**and ye shall have tribulation ten days**

There are nine other columns that are in the picture. Add one that and you get 10. They will be in the prison 10 days.

**be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**

Picture the leftmost column in the picture with a crown on top. When they get out of prison, and perhaps have had to die, they will get a crown of life.

**He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;**

Under the crown (from the column), there is an ear. It’s time for that phrase in the message to the church.

**He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.**

The blessing promised for them matches the tribulation they will suffer: They may have to die once for Christ, but they will not be hurt of the second death.

**Pergamos**

14



K235.jpg

**Revelation 2:12**

The titles for all the pages in this church will be light blue.

**And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write;**

This address is different from the other two we have learned so far: Notice the “to” the angel of the church “in” Pergamos. This will be a similar structure for the church of Philadelphia.

**These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;**

Look at the blue underline of the name Pergamum in the stone. Imagine that it is a sharp sword with the blade on its side, so you can only see one edge. It really has two edges, but you can only see one edge.

15



K245.jpg

### Revelation 2:13

I know thy works,

The first phrase after the description of Jesus.

and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is:

Look at the picture of the snake in the tree. Remember this is where Satan was "dwelling" in the Garden of Eden.

and thou holdest fast my name,

Look at the man in the picture. He looks like he is "holding fast" to something in his hand.

and hast not denied my faith,

Look under the man's elbow. It could be a stack of books. A lot of people deny their faith when they get to school. The people of Pergamos did not deny their faith.

even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr,

Look at the small person at the bottom right corner of the picture. His head is "cut off" by the "m" in Pergamum. Think of him as being Antipas being a martyr.

who was slain among you,

Look starting at "Antipas" across the bottom of the stone casket to the left side of the picture. He was "among you" (the people on top of the casket).

where Satan dwelleth.

Look from the left corner of the bottom of the picture up to the snake in the tree again.

16



K255.jpg

### Revelation 2:14-16

We learned this verse in a previous unit, so we don't have full handles for this one. It shows food, which we associate with the "to eat things sacrificed unto idols" part of the verse.

or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

This punishment refers back to the description of Jesus in the first verse of this church. Jesus is pictured with the sharp sword with two edges.

17



K265.jpg

### Revelation 2:17

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;

It's time for this phrase in the message.

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna,

The wreath looks like it could be a circular piece of bread, or manna wafers

and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

The victor's names are in a white stone, and since they are in Greek, I don't know what they are, but they would know what they are.

## Thyatira

18



K275.jpg

### Revelation 2:18-19

The titles on all these pictures for Thyatira are in purple

And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write;  
This is the same format as the address to Smyrna.

These things saith the Son of God,

I imagine Jesus standing in the middle of this picture, with his eyes about where the flower bunches are on the tree in the foreground, and his feet right above the “ad” in “road” in the title. This will help for the next two phrases.

who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire,

Picture eyes like fire by the tree flower bunches

and his feet are like fine brass;

Picture Jesus’ feet shining like brass on the road, above the “ad” in “road” in the title.

I know thy works,

This phrase always comes after the description of Jesus.

and charity,

Look at the semi-circle arch pieces lying on the road. They look like “C”s for “charity”.

and service,

Look at the modern building in the background. Imagine it is a hotel, and it needs lots of maids, to clean the rooms. They have maid “service.”

and faith,

Look at the evergreen tree that is in front of the modern hotel. It has green leaves year- around. It’s leaves are “faithful”. (faith)

and thy patience,

This one is a little far out: but we imagine a statue, which goes with “patience” from Ephesus, behind the short, bushy tree in the middle of the picture.

and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

We look at the very top of that same bushy tree, and remember that the sequence starts out with “works”, and ends with “works”. And the bushy top of the tree is bigger than the trunk of the tree.

19



K285.jpg

### Revelation 2:20

Note: We feel really badly about assigning “Jezebel” to this statue of this young woman. She probably was a very nice lady, and we hate impugning her reputation like this!

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee,

This statue is “standing”. This helps us remember it is “notwithstanding” at the beginning.

because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess,  
statue of “Jezebel.”

to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

no particular handle from the picture for this one.



K295.jpg

### Revelation 2: 21–23

And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

There are two pieces of stone remains in the front left side of the picture, and there is a little space inbetween them, that is in the shadow. The “Thyatira” ends up in a little bit of this shadow space. This is the “space to repent”

Behold, I will cast her into a bed,

Above the first “a” in the “Thyatira” title, there is a round pillar lying down on it’s side, and then to the left, there is a little stone wall and grassy space. This reminds us of a little bed, with the pillar as the pillow.

and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

Imagine Jesus throwing her lovers into this bed with her, and having great tribulation.

And I will kill her children with death;

On the right side of the pillar that is used for the bed, there are two small stone fragments that are standing up, and one is fallen down on its side. They remind us of some older gravestones in older cemeteries, viewed from their sides. These are the tombstones of her children that would be killed.

and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts:

Look at the larger column pieces that are stacked on top of each other that is in the front, right side of the picture. Imagine they are column pieces from the rest of the churches.

and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Look at the semi-circular piece of stone to the left of the column pieces, when you are saying this phrase.



K305.jpg

### Revelation 2: 24–25

There are three big blocks of the church that are located on the right side of the picture. We will assign a phrase to each one of them.

But unto you I say,

Look at the first big block on the right side, closest to you.

and unto the rest in Thyatira,

Look at the middle block on the right side.

as many as have not this doctrine,

Look at the last block on the right side.

and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak;

Look at the pinkish modern building at the very back “depth” of this picture.

I will put upon you none other burden.

There is no roof on this church. The blocks are not “bearing a burden.” Look at the blue sky in the picture.

But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

Look on the block on the left side of the picture, that roughly lines up with the first block on the right side of the picture. There is a small hole in one of the bottom stones. It is a “hand hold.”



K315.jpg

### Revelation 2:26–29

pick a piece of pottery to associate with each phrase

## Sardis



K325.jpg

### Revelation 3:1

And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write;

The address is similar in form to the addresses for Smyrna and Thyatira.

These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars;

There are seven columns in this picture in Sardis. Picture Jesus standing in front of the columns, and they are the seven Spirits of God. Picture Him holding the seven stars in his hands, from the address to Ephesus.

I know thy works,

This phrase always comes after the description of Jesus in the address.

that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

There are two trees behind the columns. One is dead, and the other looks green and alive.



K335.jpg

### Revelation 3:2

Be watchful,

Look at the stub of the column that is in front of the arched doorway to the gymnasium. You have to really look to find it, and if they don't preserve it, it will be gone.

and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die:

This is a picture of a gymnasium, where people go to work out and get stronger.

for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Look at the light coming through the arched doorway and imagine it is God's Presence. The little stub of the columns on the front side of the arched doorway are "not perfect," and they are "before God."



K345.jpg

### Revelation 3:3

Remember therefore how thou hast received

Look at the base of this sundial. It has hand-looking claws on it. Think of hands that “received” and heard,

Look at the orbs above the hands: imagine they are ears that “heard.”

and hold fast,

Look at the orb right in the center between the two hands.

and repent.

Look at the upside-down “U” that is over the center orb. “Repenting” means “turning around” or “make a U-turn” from what you are doing wrong.

If therefore thou shalt not watch,

Look at the top half of the sundial. It was their “watch” to tell time in those days.

I will come on thee as a thief,

Look at the semi-circle at the top, middle of the sundial. Imagine there used to be a set of clock hands attached where the semi-circle is, but they have been stolen by a thief.

and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Look at the lines in the sundial. They They represent the hours of the day. Since the clock hands have been stolen, you don’t know what hour it is.



K355.jpg

### Revelation 3:4–6

Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments;

Look at the patch of square stones to the left and center of the picture, and think of them as the few in Sardis that have not defiled their garments.

and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

Picture a parade of saints, clothed in white robes, with Jesus, walking across the sidewalk part of the front of the picture, that is in front of the two main columns.

He that overcometh,

Picture the main cup in the center of the picture “the victor’s cup”, given to those that overcome,

the same shall be clothed in white raiment;

Picture the cup being draped in a white sheet.

and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life,

Picture the book of life sitting in the top of the big cup that is draped with the white sheet.

but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Imagine Jesus unscrolling the book of life, and reading the names before God the Father, and before his angels.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

It’s time for this phrase to be in the message. This time it is at the end of the message.

## Philadelphia

27



K365.jpg

### Revelation 3:7-8

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write;  
Same format as Pergamos

These things saith he that is holy, he that is true,

Look at the olive tree in the front right side of the picture, and imagine it is the burning bush that Moses saw. God is holy and true

he that hath the key of David,

Imagine David lost his key under the bush.

he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Picture a garage door in the middle of the sky that God is opening and shutting. Nobody else can open or shut this door!

I know thy works:

This phrase always comes after the description of Jesus.

behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it:for thou hast a little strength

Imagine the garage door open, and the weak people of Philadelphia in front of it

and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

The mountain range has an outline of a “w” in it near the “Philadelphia” text. Think of “w” for “word.”



K375.jpg

### Revelation 3:9–10

Behold,

There are two “behold”s in this verse. We look at the broken chip in the bottom row of the architrave, and associate the “b” sound of “broken” with the “b” sound of “behold.”

I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not,  
in the middle of the “box”-looking pieces on this fragment, there is some scroll work that reminds us of the tops of the letter “s”. They are not fully formed “s”’s, but there is one on top of the other. We associate “Synagogue of Satan” with this portion of the picture, as a sound clue for the two “s”’s.

which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie;

Look at one of the small stone pieces at the bottom of the picture. They are “lying” on the ground.

behold,

Look again at the chipped piece at the bottom of the architrave fragment.

I will make them to come and worship before thy feet,

Look at the rock on the ground at the bottom left of the picture.

and to know that I have loved thee.

There is the beginning of an up-side-down heart in the top row border in the architrave that is the first fully-formed border design from the left side of the fragment. with a little imagination, you can see the heart, as the tip extends off the top of the architrave piece. The heart can remind you about love.

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience,

The “word” is a similar handle to the mountain range “w” in the previous picture. See the “w” in the very top of the broken architrave piece (with a little filling in with your imagination.

I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world,

There is a very well-preserved little flower in the bottom left corner of the architrave piece. Imagine that it was “kept” from the troubles the rest of the building this piece came from had to endure.

to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Look at the group of rocks at the top left of the picture.



K385.jpg

### Revelation 3: 11–13

Behold, I come quickly; hold that fast which thou hast,

Look at the top of the church spire, and imagine that someone is “holding” on to it to keep from falling off the building.

that no man take thy crown.

He gets a crown for hanging on for so long!

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God,

Imagine the guy now does a backflip in the air from the steeple, to the top of the pillar column from the church.

and he shall go no more out:

There is a little hole in the column about halfway up, that looks like it could be a little door in the column. Imagine the guy is now standing in the doorway looking out.

and I will write upon him the name of my God,

Imagine God writing His name on the guy’s left side of his shirt.

and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem,

Imagine God writing “New Jerusalem” on the guy’s right side of his shirt.

which cometh down out of heaven from my God:

imagine the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven from God.

and I will write upon him my new name.

Imagine God writing the new name on the guy’s forehead.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

This is the last phrase of this message.

## Laodicea

30



K395.jpg

### Revelation 3: 14

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write;

This is a similar format as the first church. “of the church Of” It is a little different, because it lists them as “Laodiceans”, instead of just referencing the name of the city.

These things saith the Amen,

Imagine the side, corner, and other side of this stone piece making up a big “M”, and think of the “m” sound in “Amen”.

the faithful

There are three “end” cross pieces that are still in relatively good shape. We associate the single one on the more left side of the stone with this first phrase.

and true witness,

Look at the end cross piece on the other side of the stone, which is fairly close to the middle of the picture when you say, “true”, and the last end cross piece on that side of the stone when you say, “witness”

the beginning of the creation of God;

There is more sunlight showing on the left side of the stone, and you can associate the “light” with the “beginning of the creation of God.”

31



K405.jpg

### Revelation 3:15–16

I know thy works,

This phrase always comes after the description of Jesus.

that thou art neither cold nor hot:

This is a picture of the bathhouse and an aqueduct piece. We associate “cold” and “hot” water in our bathroom, coming out of our faucet. There will be three times you will say the words “cold”, “hot”. However, pay close attention to the connecting words between them. The first and third times use “neither, nor” in the phrases. The second time just uses “or” in the phrase.

I would thou wert cold or hot.

“would” and “wert” start with “w”, and can be used to help with that phrase. Remember this is the “or” as the connecting word in the “cold”, “hot” phrase.

So then because thou art lukewarm,

don’t forget this phrase in the middle of the other “cold”, “hot” phrases.

and neither cold nor hot,

the “neither,” “nor” construction is used again.

I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Imagine God spitting out the lukewarm water.(or the Laodiceans, if you prefer!

32



K415.jpg

### Revelation 3:17

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;

Imagine they think this picture is like it was when it was newly constructed, in perfect repair. (It really isn’t, though: they are deluded.

and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

pick one of the pieces of rubble on the street to associate with each of these adjectives.

33



K425.jpg

### Revelation 3:18

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich;

The gold coins were chosen to help with this first phrase. There are two coins in the picture. You have two more phrases to say after this one. Be careful, because the remedies are not said in the same order as the problems listed in the previous verse.

and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear;

Use one of the gold coins to buy the clothes.

and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Use the other gold coin to buy the eyesalve.

alternately, you can see that one coin has a figure on it, who is in need of clothing, and his eyes are also not very distinct. He needs clothing and eyesalve.

34



K435.jpg

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### Revelation 3:19–20

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten:

We do not have a handle for this phrase.

be zealous therefore, and repent.

There are a few blocks from the arch that are on the ground around it. Imagine yourself getting “zealous”, and putting them back into their places.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock:

Imagine Jesus standing at the doorway of the arch and imagine a door in the doorway, and Him knocking on it.

if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Imagine yourself opening the door, Jesus coming inside, and you both sitting down and eating supper together.

35



K445.jpg

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### Revelation 3:21–22

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne,

Imagine yourself dressed royally, sitting with Jesus on His throne.

as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Expand your view of the throne room, to now focus on God the Father sitting on his throne, by Jesus on his throne, by you sitting on your throne.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

This is the last phrase of the messages! Congratulations! You made it!