

**Understanding the Structure of Revelation - Part VI**  
**Preparation for the Last Great Conflict: Vindicating God's Character before the Universe**  
**The Unique Message of the Number '7' in Revelation**

**12. Number '7' and Divine Perfection**

**“And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made;  
and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.” Genesis 2:2**

- ◆ **The first use of the number '7' in the Bible relates to the creation week of 7 days in Genesis 1 and 2.**
- ◆ **The 7th day was to be “set apart” for Israel; the Sabbath was a holy day of rest. Exodus 20:8 -11**
- ◆ **At the beginning of the Bible, the number 7 is identified with something being “finished” or “complete”.**
  - ◆ **7 is often found in contexts involving completeness or divine perfection.**
  - ◆ **There are more than 500 instances of the number '7' in the Bible.  
The book of Revelation contains more than 50 instances.**

**The Great Controversy which started in the Most Holy Place in the Heavenly Sanctuary  
will be resolved by the work of Christ in the Most Holy Place through and by the 144000 on the earth.  
Isaiah 14:4-23 - Ezekiel 28:11-19 – Revelation 12**

**“The number '7' represents a perfect whole.” Letter 110, 1902**

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#### 13. The Plan of Redemption and the End of the Conflict

**“The plan of redemption had a yet broader and deeper purpose than the salvation of man. It was not for this alone that Christ came to the earth; it was not merely that the inhabitants of this little world might regard the law of God as it should be regarded; but it was to vindicate the character of God before the universe.**

To this result of His great sacrifice—its influence upon the intelligences of other worlds, as well as upon man—the Saviour looked forward when just before His crucifixion He said: “Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all unto Me.” John 12:31, 32.

The act of Christ in dying for the salvation of man would not only make heaven accessible to men, but before all the universe it would justify God and His Son in their dealing with the rebellion of Satan. It would establish the perpetuity of the law of God and would reveal the nature and the results of sin....

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13. The Plan of Redemption and the End of the Conflict

....From the first the great controversy had been upon the law of God. Satan had sought to prove that God was unjust, that His law was faulty, and that the good of the universe required it to be changed. In attacking the law he aimed to overthrow the authority of its Author. In the controversy it was to be shown whether the divine statutes were defective and subject to change, or perfect and immutable.

When Satan was thrust out of heaven, he determined to make the earth his kingdom. When he tempted and overcame Adam and Eve, he thought that he had gained possession of this world; "because," said he, "they have chosen me as their ruler." He claimed that it was impossible that forgiveness should be granted to the sinner, and therefore the fallen race were his rightful subjects, and the world was his.

But God gave His own dear Son—one equal with Himself—to bear the penalty of transgression, and thus He provided a way by which they might be restored to His favor, and brought back to their Eden home. Christ undertook to redeem man and to rescue the world from the grasp of Satan. The great controversy begun in heaven was to be decided in the very world, on the very same field, that Satan claimed as his." Patriarchs and Prophets, 68, 69

## 14. 7 Churches - 7 Promises to Overcomers

7 Churches

7 Seals  
7 Trumpets

7  
7 Thunders

7 Plagues

7 Blessings



## 14. 7 Churches - 7 Promises to Overcomers

**“The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God’s plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency.**

The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to “the principalities and powers in heavenly places,” the final and full display of the love of God. Ephesians 3:10.”  
Acts of the Apostles, 9



## 14. 7 Churches - 7 Promises to Overcomers – Churches 1 - 4

### 1. Ephesus – faces spiritual fall – Revelation 2:4, 7

“To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”

### 2. Smyrna – persecuted – Revelation 2:9, 10, 11

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

### 3. Pergamos – holds false doctrines – Revelation 2:13, 17

“To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.”

### 4. Thyatira – persecuted but compromise - Revelation 2:19, 20, 26-28

“And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star.”

### 1. Promise to Ephesus - Tree of Life

“Must we wait until we are translated before we eat of the leaves of the tree of life? He who receives into his heart the words of Christ knows what it means to eat the leaves of the tree of life. [John 6:33-63 quoted.]” 7 BC 957

### 2. Promise to Smyrna – No Second Death

“He [Christ] feared that sin was so offensive to God that Their separation was to be eternal. Christ felt the anguish which the sinner will feel when mercy shall no longer plead for the guilty race.” Desire of Ages, 753

### 3. Promise to Pergamos - Hidden Manna – White Stone – New Name

Hidden Manna: “Thy words have I hid in my heart that I might not sin....” Psalm 119:11

White Stone – New Name – Pure Character of Christ – His Law in the human mind

### 4. Promise to Thyatira – Power over the Nations – Morning Star

“And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.” Daniel 7:27

## 14. 7 Churches - 7 Promises to Overcomers – Churches 5 - 7

### 5. Sardis – some compromise, some are worthy

#### Revelation 3:2-5

“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”

### 6. Philadelphia – open door - Most Holy Place - 1844

#### Revelation 3:8, 12

“Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.”

### 7. Laodicea - laos - people - dicea – judgment

#### Revelation 3:21

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

### 5. Promise to Sardis – White Raiment – Name in the Book of Life – Name Confessed

“There is nothing in us from which we can clothe the soul so that its nakedness shall not appear. We are to receive the robe of righteousness woven in the loom of heaven, even the spotless robe of Christ’s righteousness.”

The Review and Herald, July 19, 1892

### 6. Promise to Philadelphia – Pillar in the Temple of God – Name of God

“As we were about to enter the holy temple, Jesus raised His lovely voice and said, “Only the 144,000 enter this place,” and we shouted, “Alleluia.” This temple was supported by seven pillars, all of transparent gold, set with pearls most glorious. The wonderful things I there saw I cannot describe....I saw there tables of stone in which the names of the 144,000 were engraved in letters of gold.”

Early Writings, 18

### 7. Promise to Laodicea – Sit on His Throne

“The true Witness presents encouragements to all who are seeking to walk in the path of humble obedience, through faith in His name. He declares, “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” 7 BC 966