



The End wk2: Letters & Covenants

Introduction: John shares letters to seven churches that are dictated to him by Jesus. Those letters address issues that each church was facing individually, but also collectively. They are written in the form of a covenant and they illustrate some of the opposition from within and outside the church; and what they will receive if they overcome. We need to let these letters motivate us as well.

Discussion Questions

1. What are your thoughts about the illustrated videos? Is it helpful to see and have that overview before you get deeper into the texts?
2. The audience of these seven letters is churches. How does that shape the way you look at them, especially the calls to repent that they contain?
3. Read **Revelation 2:1-7** What is the church in Ephesus doing well? Why are they called to repent? How can you be faithful and still lose your love for Christ? What is the promise to those who remain faithful?
4. Read **Revelation 2:8-11** What does Jesus say he knows about them? If they are faithful, why does Jesus not keep the persecution from coming to them? What is the second death that's mentioned? (reference Revelation 21:8)
5. Read **Revelation 2:12-17** This letter (and the one for Smyrna) doesn't mention deeds, but says he knows what about them? What does that matter? The reference to sexual immorality is a common reference in the Old Testament for people chasing other gods, rejecting Jehova; it can also mean sexual immorality. Either way, why is this such an offense to God?
6. Read **Revelation 2:18-29** What are they to hold on to? What does holding on look like?
7. Why does Jesus mention that he "knows their deeds" so many times (more in chapter 3 as well)? Why do deeds matter? How do we keep deeds in their proper place?

Shaping Your Mind – *"To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."* Revelation 2:7b

Moving Forward – May you be part of those who overcome!