

*The Seven Applications of
The Seven Churches of Revelation*

By David A. Sargent

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There are seven applications to the seven churches in Revelation, I'm sure you have studied them all. The Scriptures have multiple applications in various passages, some have more than others. Here is a unique place that has many applications and though they are all different, they can be substantiated in the TYPE of application given and by these understand more perfectly the words of God and their application to our lives.

1. Historic Application: These seven (local) Churches existed historically and these were written for their edification. This application is the most practical application and the most literal application. But it does little for present day readers except for the fact that they were historically written by John to these seven churches. In this application notice that all the churches got all the letters and in certain passages each church is told to "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches..." Revelation 2:7. Notice the plural: CHURCHES. So all the seven churches got all the letters to all these churches in history, and the application was that they all hear what the Spirit said to all the churches not just the one that pertained to them.

2. Historical Personal Application: These seven letters to the ANGLES of the seven churches were written personally to the INDIVIDUALS at that time in particular to the PASTORS during the Church age. This more personal application goes deeper than the 1st application as each church IS addressed to specific churches, and even though all the churches were to hear what the Spirit said to all the CHURCHES, they are also addressed to these seven in particular. This application is similar to the first application in that it is historic for the time these were written. We know that the Bible was written for all time, and not just for that time and therefore we maintain multiple applications.

3. Historical General Application: These seven letters were given to all the churches as one letter and said after EACH Church: "...He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches..." THIS would be the General Assembly of all the Churches at that time and NOT just the local church. AND not just the seven local churches listed here. This would include the Church at Jerusalem, the Church at Corinth, the Church at Rome, the Church at Antioch, etc. Again this is an Historic application having to do with the time period that the text was written.

4. Prophetic Doctrinal Application: Non-Pauline: the church during the tribulation, also a called out assembly, yet NOT BORN AGAIN nor part of the Body of Christ: they can LOOSE THEIR SALVATION IF THEY TAKE THE MARK, and DO NOT ENDURE UNTO THE END OF THEIR LIVES or the END OF THE TRIBULATION. This application has to do with prophecy and is therefore NOT an historic application. The non-Pauline issues relate to tribulation saints and NOT to the "church" proper, but to the church of tribulation saints: Revelation 2:10, "Fear none of those

things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death..." The debatable thing here is "tribulation ten days" and the "be thou faithful unto death" the Church is not going through the tribulation, so these ten days would constitute a tribulation passage; and being faithful unto death is LIKE the passage endure to the end both tribulation passages. However, These are not exclusively tribulation because tribulation has occurred many times in the past and the Church has gone through many tribulations, but NOT Jacob's Trouble, or the GREAT Tribulation. Also the being faithful unto death, is not to get saved; but to get a crown of life and is also therefore not only for a tribulation saint but also for the church proper. These are shared passages. Now notice: Revelation 2:22, "Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds." The church proper is NOT going through the great tribulation; this is not a shared passages. This is exclusively a tribulation passages for tribulation saints. (lost people in the local church proper that end up tribulation saints). Revelation 3:3-5, "...If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. 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." Not at all Pauline doctrinally and therefore is for the tribulation saint as well.

5. Prophetic Personal Application: These seven letters to the ANGLES of the future churches were written personally to the INDIVIDUALS through out the time line of the church age and in particular to the PASTORS of ALL LOCAL CHURCHES during the Church age. (There is also personal application to the tribulation saint as well.) This is a spiritual application where some passages are doctrinally for the tribulation saint, there is spiritual application to the church proper. This personal application would follow that each individual in the body of Christ is in their own body a temple of the Lord, thus what is your life like in respect to the seven churches. Which church typifies YOUR life IN CHRIST?

6. Prophetic General Application: These seven letters were given to all the churches as one letter and said after EACH Church: "...He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches..." THIS would be the General Assembly of all the Churches throughout the church age and NOT just the local church; but INCLUSIVE of all local churches. This spiritual application would apply to say MY local church now: what type of church is MY church in light of the seven churches? This to a degree is the same as # 5 above, but not on a personal level as such. Given that there are seven churches that John rights to: Paul also writes to seven churches, and here we find the most intrusting and intriguing application of them all:

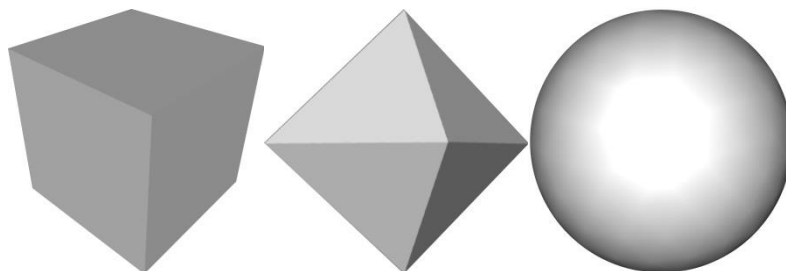
7. Prophetic / Spiritual Church Age MAP Application: These seven churches represent a time line of the church age ending with a lukewarm apostasy and then in the next chapter (4) a rapture of John who is a type of the church.

Each church in succession would be a given time element of the overall church age. This works out to a 7 X 7 matrix because if you noticed that the churches are shown as having a candlestick and Jesus was standing in the midst of them, each Jewish candlestick has 7 extensions; and it is not just a coincidence that Paul wrote to 7 churches as well.

The Pauline church age doctrinally would be the seven extensions on each candlestick so that this would make a 7 X 7 matrix of 49 units. The units would be 40 in view of 40 being the number of probation one after 39 which is trials and testing. And Paul started his ministry in 40 AD, if you run the number 40 in the Biblical text you will see many probationary times of 40 throughout. The church started with the death of the testator and yet was not justification until the resurrection of Christ. Nevertheless this would be the year to start with. Also given that there is no “0” year. BC 1 is on one side of the year and AD 1 is on the other side, meaning that Christ was born on 1 AD, thus his 1st birthday was on 2 AD, ergo his 33 birthday would be 34AD and because he was 33.5 when he died, he was IN THE YEAR 35 AD. So 35 AD would be the beginning of the Church age, with an overlapping of 40 years. Given the beginning in 35 AD + 40 + (40X 7 X 7) = 2035 gives you the date of the rapture IF out dates are correct.

According to Psalms 90:10, “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.” This “fly away” could be a reference to Israel flying into the wilderness to flee from the Dragon. Which would be a good case then the last generation would have to be calculated from that point going backwards. IF the rapture happens in 2035, then the “fly away” would take place some years after. In Luke 21:32, “Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.” Seems to relate a last generation that experiences the beginning of the Tribulation and endures to the end of the Tribulation of a total of seven years. Determining what it means by this generation, has to do with it passing away, so it is the duration of a generation, and not a succession of generations or the time of one generation till another takes over. Thus Psalms 90:10 shows this very thing, and notice the “...for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.” Compare to: “...shall not pass away...” In the Psalms we have two counts for this generation: 70 or if by reason of strength 80. So this flight could so mean the flight taken at death.

The Three Shapes of Creation



The Cube, The Octahedron & The Sphere

The Seven Churches Represented in a Matrix: The 40s

Church: 49 = 7 X 7 = 49 X 40 + 40 = 2000 + 34.5 = 2035

John's Churches	40	Paul's Churches							34.5 40	Jesus Year of DBR	
		Years Overlapping between OT and NT								Dates	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7		Start	End
Ephesus	1	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	280	74.5	354.5
Smyrna	2	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	280	354.5	634.5
Pergamos	3	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	280	634.5	914.5
Thyatira	4	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	280	914.5	1194.5
Sardis	5	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	280	1194.5	1474.5
Philadelphia	6	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	280	1474.5	1754.5
Laodicean	7	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	280	1754.5	2034.5
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
Paul's Churches		Romans	Corinthians	Galatians	Ephesians	Philippians	Colossians	Thessalonians	2035		

A Double 'S' Shaped Galaxy



Seven – Seven Pronged Candle Sticks



The Seven Churches Represented in a Matrix: Startings

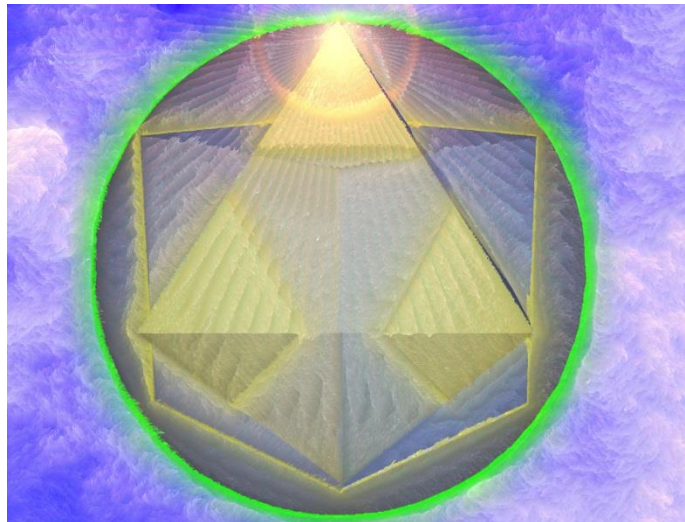
The Old to New Testament Overlap: 40 AD

DBR: 35

Total Overlap & Start Date DBR: 75

John's Churches	Paul's Churches at Each Start AD							75	Dates		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		Start	End	
Ephesus	1	75	115	155	195	235	275	315	280	75	355
Smyrna	2	355	395	435	475	515	555	595	280	355	635
Pergamos	3	635	675	715	755	795	835	875	280	635	915
Thyatira	4	915	955	995	1035	1075	1115	1155	280	915	1195
Sardis	5	1195	1235	1275	1315	1355	1395	1435	280	1195	1475
Philadelphia	6	1475	1515	1555	1595	1635	1675	1715	280	1475	1755
Laodicean	7	1755	1795	1835	1875	1915	1955	1995	280	1755	2035

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	2035
Paul's Churches	Romans	Corinthians	Galatians	Ephesians	Philippians	Colossians	Thesalonians	5



New Jerusalem Artistic Rendering

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The Seven Churches Represented in a Matrix: Endings

John's Churches		Paul's Churches at Each End AD							75	Dates	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7		Start	End
Ephesus	1	115	155	195	235	275	315	355	280	75	355
Smyrna	2	395	435	475	515	555	595	635	280	355	635
Pergamos	3	675	715	755	795	835	875	915	280	635	915
Thyatira	4	955	995	1035	1075	1115	1155	1195	280	915	1195
Sardis	5	1235	1275	1315	1355	1395	1435	1475	280	1195	1475
Philadelphia	6	1515	1555	1595	1635	1675	1715	1755	280	1475	1755
Laodicean	7	1795	1835	1875	1915	1955	1995	2035	280	1755	2035
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	2035		
Paul's Churches		Romans	Corinthians	Galatians	Ephesians	Philippians	Colossians	Thessalonians			

Revelation 21:2, “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”



The End