



Each "letter" has a form:


- Command for John to write
- Statement of who Jesus is
- Affirmation, Exhortation and Challenge
- Promise for faithfulness
- Decisional challenge to faithfulness

Let them hear...
7 letters to 7 churches
Revelation 2 & 3

WHAT IS THE

Condition

OF YOUR

HE  RT

What is the affirmation of Jesus for this church in Ephesus?

Servanthood_____

“You have left your first love...”
What does that mean to you?

How do you lose your first love?
How do you keep it fresh, rekindled?

Love_____

When did you have
some spiritual
“height,” that even
today, you recall as a
precious time?

Gnosticism

- God produces gods that don't know God; where the earth—in fact, all the material Universe—is a big mistake
- Gnosticism envisaged the world as a series of emanations from the highest "One", that produced a series of emanations. The lowest emanation was an evil god (the demiurge) who created the material world as a prison for the divine sparks that dwell in human bodies.
- The true world is spirit, and the material realm is a snare from which we must escape.

- Reawakened by knowledge, the divine element in humanity can return to its proper home in the transcendent spiritual realm. Gnostics knew nothing of the redemption of the body
- Gnostics believe such things as the idea that all human souls had originally existed in the spiritual realm of light but, because of tragedy, became imprisoned in fleshly bodies on earth. All physical matter is fundamentally evil to them.
- Furthermore, the gnostic path does not require "community" for salvation...it is an individualistic quest.

Gnosticism

"Gnostic Jesus" came to impart knowledge. He was a completely spiritual being (an aeon). He was not truly present in the flesh because all flesh is evil. He only appeared to be physical.

His mission was twofold:

- 1) **To reveal the truth about our 'former state' - the state that people had forgotten - thus pointing the way back to god; and**
- 2) **To release the divine spark of light within us that has been imprisoned in matter (our human flesh).**

Gnosticism

Gnosticism tried to worm its way into Christianity, Judaism and other religions of its day. Eventually, it failed to gain a foothold and was essentially eradicated from Christianity.

One thing that's important to note is that Gnostics did NOT believe that Christ was human...

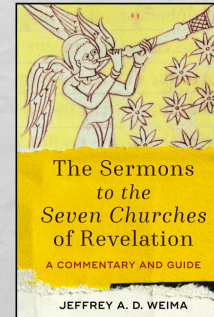
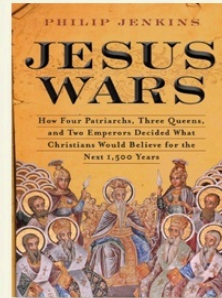
Gnosticism is about SECRET knowledge...

- Docetism - Jesus didn't have a body...pure spirit
- Montanism - Holy Spirit ("pentecostal" movement) that trumped Jesus
- Arianism - Subordinationists
- Adoptionism - Jesus was NOT the Son of God but adopted at baptism, resurrection or ascension
- Marcionism - God of NT and God of OT different Gods

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Jesus Wars: How Four Patriarchs, Three Queens, and Two Emperors Decided What Christians Would Believe for the Next 1,500 Years
John Philip Jenkins
(HarperOne, 2010)



Another GREAT book!