

Back to the Future

Revelation 2:1-7

- **Revelation** means to “uncover” or “unveil”
 - **Author:** John the Beloved
 - **Date for writing:** 95-96 AD
 - **Place:** Island of Patmos

I. The City (2:1)

- A. Ephesus was founded in 310 BC

- B. Ephesus was the **wealthiest** city of all Asia Minor
 - 1. Paul came to city around 52 AD
 - 2. Population was around 500,000

I. The City (2:1)

- C. Ephesus was a very important port city, but because of the river, this city had to be relocated four times.



I. The City (2:1)

- D.** Ephesus exported their worship of **Diana** (*a reproductive goddess, Acts 19:35*) around the world. Her temple was called “*The Paradise of the gods*” and had a cypress tree known as “*the tree of life*” in the middle of the courtyard.



II. The Commendation (2:2-3,6)

- A. This church is working to the point of exhaustion.
- B. This church is standing against false teachers.
(see Acts 20:28-31)
- C. The church in Ephesus was standing faithful in spite of ongoing suffering.

III. The Condemnation (2:4)

A. *“You have left your first love.”*

B. To better understand this verse, see Matthew 24:11-14.

C. The church had not lost their love for one another, they were suffering and working together. They had not lost their love (in general) for Christ, because they were defending the Bible.

- **They had lost their zeal to witness for Jesus.**

IV. The Command (2:5)

- A. **Remember:** how you felt when you first met Jesus.

- B. **Repent:** turn around from how you are walking.
(If they chose to stay as is, they could expect another move)

- C. **Return:** Start witnessing for your first love as before.

V. The Comfort (2:7)

- A. **Overcomers** are the ones who believe that Jesus is God. (see 1 John 5:5)
- B. “Tree of Life” refers to eternal life, salvation, heaven.
- C. “Paradise of God” is not found in a human temple but in **heaven**.