

Revelation



Suggested responses to questions about Revelation 2:1—3:22

Note: Be sure to respond to all the questions yourself before reading the suggested responses in order to make the most of this study.

1. Revelation 2:2 lists strengths of the church in Ephesus as works, toil and patient endurance, and an unwillingness to “bear evil men.” That passage further commends the church for testing those who “call themselves apostles but are not.” But Revelation 2:4 explains that the members of the church in Ephesus have “abandoned the love” they had at first. In 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, St. Paul writes that love is necessary in order for any gifts, faith, or works to have true meaning.
2. In Revelation 2:9, Jesus refers to those who say they’re Jews but aren’t, and who are slandering the church in Smyrna, “a synagogue of Satan.” In Revelation 2:10, he warns members of the church that the devil is about to throw some of them in prison, that they “may be tested,” and that “for ten days” they will “have tribulation.”
3. In Ephesians 6:17, St. Paul calls the word of God the “sword of the Spirit.” The Letter to the Hebrews 4:12 teaches that “the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” In Revelation 2:16, Jesus warns those who hold false teachings that he’ll “war against them with the sword” in his mouth.
4. 1 Kings 18:13 and 1 Kings 21:1-14 recount that Jezebel was an evil queen who perverted the kingdom established by David. She was an idolater and a murderer. Jesus speaks harshly against the church in Thyatira because of the grave nature of their sins. In Revelation 2:20, Jesus accuses the members of that church of practicing immorality and of eating food sacrificed to idols.
5. In Revelation 2:22-23, Jesus warns those in the church of Thyatira that unless they repent of committing adultery “with the “woman Jezebel,” he “will throw them into great tribulation” and give to each as their works deserve. To those who “hold fast to what they have” until he comes, who conquer, and who keep Jesus’ works until the end, Jesus promises “power over the nations, to rule them with a rod of iron.”
6. When Jesus accuses the church in Sardis of being dead but of having “the name of being alive” he means that they’re dead within, dead spiritually. Paragraph 79 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that all Christians (including those at the church in Sardis) have received “the Father’s self communication made through his Word in the Holy Spirit.”

Revelation Lesson 2 Suggested Responses

7. The church in Philadelphia differs from the ones previously mentioned because its members have kept Jesus' word with patient endurance. Jesus doesn't have anything negative to say about them. In Revelation 3:9, he promises that he will make those "of the synagogue of Satan" come and bow down before their feet.
8. Revelation 3:17 presents a picture of the members of the church in Laodicea as being complacent due to their material wealth. The same thing happened to the Israelites when life became easy for them. In Deuteronomy 31:20, God warns Moses that when the Israelites "have eaten and are full and grown fat, they will turn to other gods and serve them and despise me and break my covenant." In Hosea 13:6, the prophet writes of God's prediction coming to pass: "When they had fed to the full, they were filled, and their heart was lifted up; therefore they forgot me." Material wealth also plagues the Church today and causes her members to become "lukewarm," believing that they're self-reliant and have no need for God.
9. The Letter to the Hebrews 12:2-3 teaches that to "overcome" or to "conquer" as Jesus commands the churches to do in the book of Revelation means to persevere in times of hardship and persecution just as Jesus did. In Revelation 2:7, Jesus promises that "to him who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God." In Revelation 2:11, he promises: "He who conquers shall not be hurt by the second death." In Revelation 2:17, he promises: "To him who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone which no one knows except him who receives it." In Revelation 2:26-27, Jesus promises "power over the nations," even as he himself has received power from the Father, and to give to him who conquers "the morning star." In Revelation 3:5, Jesus promises: "He who conquers shall be clad thus in white garments, and I will not blot his name out of the book of life; I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels." In Revelation 3:12, Jesus promises: "He who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God; never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name." And, finally, in Revelation 3:21-22, Jesus promises: "He who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."
10. In Revelation 2:1, Jesus is described as the one "who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands." In Revelation 2:8, Jesus is called "the first and the last, who died and came to life." Revelation 2:12 refers to Jesus as he "who has the sharp two-edged sword." Revelation 2:18 describes Jesus as "the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze." Revelation 3:1 refers to Jesus as he "who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars." In Revelation 3:7, Jesus is called "the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one shall shut, who shuts and no one opens." Finally, Revelation 3:14 calls Jesus "the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation."

Responses to the Questions for Reflection will vary.