

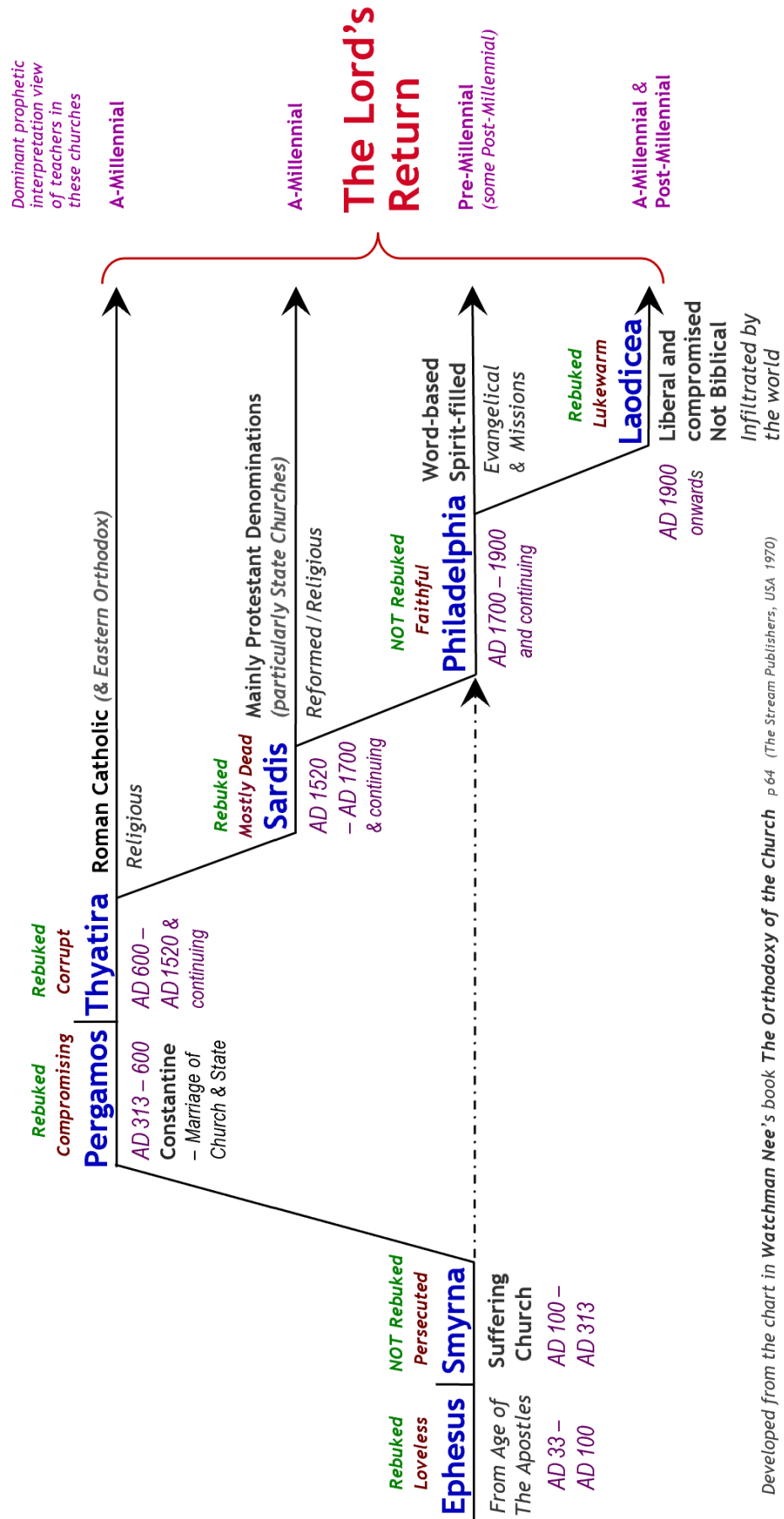
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The Seven Churches of Revelation 2 & 3

An Overview of Church History

The Seven Churches of Revelation 2 & 3

Their interpretation over 2,000 years



Developed from the chart in Watchman Nee's book *The Orthodoxy of the Church* p 64 (The Stream Publishers, USA 1970) with additional material, including from Brian Gemmill's *Overview of Revelation studies* 2014

66 Why The Church Won't Go Through The Tribulation

1 Literal Interpretation

If all prophetic passages are taken literally we see that the Church is **NOT** mentioned when this 'Tribulation', the '**Time of Jacob's Trouble**', is described; only Israel and the world are referred to and described.

2 The Mystery of the Church

The Church was a mystery and was not directly referred to or talked about in the Old Testament, particularly with reference to the Tribulation.

3 The Characteristics of the Period

In his Bible Studies BBS 84-86 Roger Price detailed the **characteristics** of the different periods of history (*called 'Dispensations'*) since creation.

He very clearly showed that the characteristics described in the Bible about this short period of seven years all relate to the **previous** Israel Dispensation and especially their pattern of feasts and worship at the newly-constructed temple, and therefore that this period does **not** have the characteristics of the Church Dispensation at all.

4 Wrath

God has **not** appointed us (*the Body and the Bride of Christ*) to His wrath.

1 Thessalonians 5:9

⁹ For God did **NOT** appoint us to **wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

5 The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit **returns to heaven** for the Antichrist to be revealed and to come to power. If the Holy Spirit leaves the earth, **we are all going too!**

2 Thessalonians 2:6-8

⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until **He is taken out of the way**. ⁸ And **THEN** the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

6 The Church is not mentioned from Revelation 6 to 18

The Church is not mentioned at all from **Revelation 6** through to **18**, which describe the Tribulation in great detail. In **Revelation 4:1** there is a door opened in heaven and by **Revelation 5** heaven is filled—and we've filled it! We come back with Jesus in **Revelation 19** at His Second Advent.