

In the New Testament, the phrase "last days" is a technical term, specifically speaking of the church age. In its entirety, it does not include the seven years of tribulation (just prior to the millennial reign of Christ).

12.11.25

The Church of Philadelphia

Our evaluation lens for eternal inheritance

Revelation 2-3

Humanity cannot duplicate the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, ...

The fruit of the Spirit, which is the production of life, can only be achieved through our **volitional choice**, to submit to the divine formula:

1. to **let** the word of Christ dwell in you richly, and
2. to **walk** by means of the Holy Spirit.

1. In Revelation 2:1-17, why does the Lord Jesus Christ single out the **seven churches that He does not**?



What we have in these seven churches is a **model** for us, and we are to evaluate ourselves, and our church, through this lens, the lens Christ provided, for the all important purpose: **to receive the Eternal Inheritance**.

2. Jesus Christ provides an evaluation lens for the **churches**. So that you and I should also identify specific sin in our lives, and also be motivated to overcome practiced sin, because of the promise of specific **eternal inheritance** that Christ has provided for the Overcomers.

Revelation 1:14-16 (MSG)
To **John**, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom of Jesus Christ, says in the vision that he called James for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. He says to the spiritless the laodicean, and I have written to you a letter, as the message of saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia," to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

With this I turned to see the vision that spoke with me, and looking around I saw **seven golden lampstands**, **in the midst of the seven lampstands**. One like the face of man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His face and hair were white, as white as snow, and his eyes like a flame of fire. His feet were like fine china, and he stood on a sapphire. And the voice as the sound of many waters. He held in his right hand seven stars, and of the mouth came saying many things, and this countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

At that when I saw this, I fell at his feet as dead. But he laid his right hand on my saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last." He said to me, "Do not be afraid; I am **alive forevermore**," and those who have the keys of the kingdom of the dead.

Write on the things which you have seen, and **the things which are** and the things which will take place after this.

At the opening of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand, I wrote **seven golden lampstands**. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the **seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches**.

The 6th Church Philadelphia:

3. Commending the church of Philadelphia:

Revelation 2:17-18 (MSG)
I stand in the midst of the church of Philadelphia saying, "These things say: **He who is truly**

He who is true **best promises the true one**

Context places an emphasis on that which is **real** as opposed to that which is **not real**. That which is **real** is **eternal** as opposed to that which is **false**. For Jesus is the real, the genuine Messiah.

eternal not only emphasizes that Jesus is the **true Messiah** as opposed to the **false Messiah**, but because He is the true Messiah He is **always dependable**. His message is always true, you can always rely on Him.

He who has the key of David the who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens?"

He is the key of the house of David saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and I have the keys of Hades and of Death."

He is the one who holds the key controls access Jesus is the one who holds the key and therefore He is the one who controls access to the **Davidic Kingdom**.

It is **Jesus** who is going to fulfill the **Davidic covenant**.

Many in chapter 2:17

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