

**THE DEVIL’S ANTI-CHURCH (chart courtesy of Dr. Charles Johnson)**

<u>AGE</u>	<u>IDENTIFICATION</u>	<u>COMTEMPORARY POSITION</u>	<u>CLAIM OF AUTHORITY</u>	<u>WEAKNESS OF TARGET</u>	<u>SPECIFIC ATTACK</u>
<b><u>Ephesus : Status of the anti-church in “The Era of Transition “ (September 70 to 80=12 years)</u></b>					
<b><u>Ephesus</u></b>	early attempts by unbelievers to infiltrate the true Church [unsuccessful]	excluded from the true Church	“say they are apostles;” “Nicolaitan” [the majority is the authority, they say, and not the Bible]	careless Ephesian attitude toward study of the Word of God	libertinism justified; attack on the truth of the Bible [where the Ephesians were vulnerable
<b><u>Smyrna : Status of the anti-church in “The Era of Persecution” (82 to 442=360 years)</u></b>					
<b><u>Smyrna</u></b>	paganism attempting [unsuccessfully] to coerce and destroy the true Church	separate from the true Church, but established as the state religion	they claim to be the true and legitimate religion [“(falsely) say they are “Jews”]	none – by enduring even to the point of martyrdom the believers of Smyrna demonstrate their faith beyond question	lack of worldly means (no money, no influence no power) – these “weaknesses” are such only in the eyes of the world; if God is for us, who can defeat us?

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<b><u>Pergamum : Status o the Anti-Church in “The Era of Accommodation” (442 to 802 = 360 years)</u></b>					
<b><u>Pergamum</u></b>	evil in the form of secularism and paganism beginning to influence the Church through temptation and accommodation in the manner of the conspiracy of Balaam & Balak	infiltrating into the true Church	the presence within the body of those who stoutly hold to these “teachings of the Nicolaitans”	growing powerful in the secular realm, the church visible becomes vulnerable both to the fallacies of “inclusiveness” and the need for centralization, thus opening the way to infiltration by evil	upon the desire for secular security, leading to the false assumption that accommodation with evil to garner secular power can be indulged with impunity
<b><u>Thyatira : Status of the Anti-Church in “The Era of Compromise” (802. To 1162 = 360 years)</u></b>					
<b><u>Thyatira</u></b>	evil now entrenched in the body gains control of the leadership of the church visible [“Jezebel,” the whore, representing their “children”]	the secular, pagan element begins to assume dominant position within the of the church visible [“Jezebel” supported by her “adulterers” and their “children”]	these elements falsely claim superior authority based superior knowledge “teachings” the the “deep things” which in reality are lies (i.e., “of Satan)	“Jezebel” and her followers prey upon those within the church visible who are vulnerable to the false appeal of secret dogma, elaborate ritual, and false authority	spreading of influence through these cult-like activities to those still holding to true faith and practice [“to eat food sacrificed to idols and indulge in sexual

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<u>Thyatira</u> (Continued)					immorality” = spiritual unfaithfulness]
<b><u>Sardis: Status of the Anti-Church in “The Era of Corruption” 1162 to 1522 = 360 years)</u></b>					
<u>Sardis</u>	no group mentioned = the body is now, as a whole, moribund, with only a spark of life left in some of its individual members	the cancer of evil has now thoroughly infiltrated and dominated the originally healthy body	the evil and the false have usurped the offices and authority of the visible organization of the “Church”	for true believers to continue within the dead body will mean the eventual extinction of the true faith	directed toward the last vestiges of true faith and practice
<b><u>Philadelphia: Status of the Anti-Church in “The Era of Revival” 1522 to 1882 = 360 years)</u></b>					
<u>Philadelphia</u>	the entirely corrupt and completely ungodly “synagogue of Satan” in opposition to true believers have separated themselves from this dead body which once represented the Church	having usurped the original organizational body of the earthly Church, the false “synagogue” now finds itself opposing from the outside the true Church reformed	the opponents claim to be the true and legitimate religion [“say they are Jews”] the “one true Church,” but are in reality “Satan’s synagogue” [an evil organization]	none – the true believers have put the truth of the word of God first and God has honored these “works” granting them a bountiful harvest [of evangelism knowledge, spiritual growth], an “open door”	despite active persecution, the false put off balance; even some of its own recognize that God is with the Philadelphians and repent, “worshiping” at their feet

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<b><u>Laodicea: Status of the Anti-Church in “The Era of Degeneration” 1882 to 2026 = 144 years)</u></b>					
<b><u>Laodicea</u></b>	no group mentioned = the false has now infiltrated the reformed Church organization and is indistinguishably intermixed	the “sleeping sickness” of evil has managed to thoroughly permeate the true “Church” to the point of having fatally compromised it	established within the “Church,” unbelievers have spread the apathy of relativism: everything is “good,” so nothing can be wrong (and nothing right)	not a cancer as in Pergamum / Thyatira / Sardis (which would be identifiable), but a degenerative illness that has attacked the body from within subtly and incrementally to avoid sharp reaction, and has brought about spiritual paralysis in the “host”	instead of posing a clear challenge, the anti-church of our own day has gradually introduced relativism, loose standards, apathy about the Word of God, etc., rendering the Church of our era largely insipid (lukewarm), and ineffective