

“THE BOOK OF REVELATION UNSEALED”

Chapter 3

The 7 churches in Revelation



(Taken from Rose Publishing: Book of Bible Charts, Maps & Time Lines ISBN:1-59636-022-4)

Revelation is estimated to have been written in 95AD or 96 AD on the Greek Island prison of Patmos, by John the apostle in his late years during the reign of Emperor Domitian (81-96AD).

Rev 1:9-10

I John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day. (NKJV)

The Patmos Roman imprisonment of John is said to have occurred in 95 AD. A historic estimation during the reign of Roman Emperor Domitian (81 AD- 96 AD) this is the majority position of belief today. You also have several mainstream Biblical Scholars hold dates of Revelation being written much earlier at Patmos, prior to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD under Emperor Nero or Vespasian. John was either imprisoned there or he visited there preaching when the visions came. The true dates of John's visions are actually unknown yet happened several years after Christ on the Island of Patmos under Roman persecution and rule.



John was the brother of James (*sons of thunder*). John was one of Jesus original disciples he was the only disciple to die of old age through natural causes at 94-99 years old, the rest of the

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original 12 disciples died of martyrdom. Legend has it Romans ordered by Emperor Domitian tried to kill John by lowering him into a pot of boiling oil, yet the oil did not affect him. A few known writers wrote about this account yet there is no way of verifying this actually happened.

This event that I will now recount is not found in the Bible, but a church writer named Tertullian makes mention of it in the 36th chapter of a book that he authored called "The Prescription of the Heretics". John Foxe in the 1583 edition of his 'Book of Martyrs' also mentions it, in the early church martyrs section. And early church father Jerome made reference to Tertullian saying it....

Emperor Domitian decided to have a vat of oil heated up to boiling (actually, you heat oil up until it begins to 'smoke'. If you get it much hotter, the vapors can ignite, and the surface of the oil catches fire) and then Domitian had John plunged into this hot vat of oil in front of the Colliseum or Latin Gate crowd....

But, when introduced into the boiling vat of oil John did not react as expected to the torturous heat. He was preaching as he was introduced to the oil and some sources say that as the crowd watched to see him begin screaming and struggling he instead went on preaching about Jesus. And as the seconds became more seconds and I suppose minutes it became clear that John was not in agony....or pain....or discomfort. He just preached. And though there is not much surviving written detail about this event (that I have so far found) it is none the less claimed that, of those who were among the crowd of spectators in the Colliseum or the Latin Gate that day, many converted to Christianity because of what they saw.

See: <https://deedsofgod.com/index.php/120-95-ad-the-apostle-john-is-forced-to-bathe-in-boiling-oil-in-rome-mainmenu-405>

John was originally a fisherman at the Sea of Galilee when Jesus called him (Mk 1:19-20). He was the disciple Jesus loved dearly whom Jesus leaned upon (Jn 13:23-25). He was also the apostle that Jesus said “**If I want him to remain until I come what is that to You ?**” (Jn 21:20-23) the other disciples thought Jesus meant John would not die till He had seen the return of the son of man. John did see Jesus return in his visions of “**Revelation**” he wrote about it before he died. John was the only disciple at the cross when Jesus was crucified whom Jesus said to John about Mary “**This is your mother**” to look after her (Jn 19:27).

John was the first disciple to recognize Jesus at His resurrection Peter and John ran to the tomb after Mary Magdalene gave them the resurrection report, Peter entered the tomb first (Jn 20:4). John preached the gospel he endured beatings he was thrown into prison (Acts 4:3, Acts 5:40). The book of Revelation written about in these chapters has close ties to the Book of Daniel in various end times prophetic events. These events involve the end of days Rev 13:1-10 the first antichrist Beast. Revelations chapter one is where John states “**this is what shortly must take place**” (*end times began with Christ's death and resurrection*) as a testimony of all what he heard Rev 1:1-3, unlike the book of Daniel Revelations was never a sealed book.

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Rev 1:1 -20 “Prologue”

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John (*angelic visitation came to John on Patmos releasing end times visions to John to write down just as Daniel had also received his revelations over 600 years earlier beginning in Dan 2 from 605 BC*), **who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.**

Greeting to the Seven Churches

John, to the seven churches which are in Asia (*Asia Minor in modern day Turkey*): **Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits** (*Rev 1:4, Rev 3:1, Rev 4:5, Rev 5:6, Is 11:2*) **who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.**

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

Amen. Behold, He is coming with clouds (*clouds represent His angelic armies and His saints all His host Jude 1:14, Zech 14:5, Joshua 5:13-15, Mark 13:27, Math 25:31*), **and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.**

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Vision of the Son of Man

I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos (*Imprisoned there by Emperor Domitian*) **for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 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 (*Modern Turkey*): **to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos** (*Pergamum*), **to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."** (*Revelation letters that began the completion of the New Testament*).

Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lamp stands (*Representing 7 churches*), **and in the midst of the seven lamp stands One like the Son of Man** (*This is Jesus as in Dan 7:9-10, it describes the son of man*), **clothed with a garment down to the feet** (*Priestly garment was a length to the feet*) **and girded about the**

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chest with a golden band *(Here the chest speaks of a King unlike the waist representing a servant of God as in the angel of Dan 10:5-6 with the Gold band around the waist).*



His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow *(authority and purity)*, and **His eyes like a flame of fire** *(piercing all seeing)*; **His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace** *(active judgement all consuming fire)*, and **His voice as the sound of many waters**; **He had in His right hand** *(place of authority and purity)* **seven stars** *(seven angels overseeing the seven churches, angels here may also represent the pastor/leader of each church)*, **out of His mouth went a sharp two edged sword** *(penetration cuts deep Heb 4:12 the word of God the sword of judgement and execution as seen in revelations)*, and **His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength** *(Glory, authority and power)*. **And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead** *(faint no strength)*. **But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me,**

"Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lamp stands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lamp stands which you saw are the seven churches. (NKJV)

The seven churches of Asia Minor (*Roughly 33AD – 100AD*) were real churches historically. At the time Jesus was addressing them through John's letters. These churches developed differing problems in a short period of time (*70 years one generation from Christ*) corrupt ideals had come to them. The seven churches represented specific issues at that time that have prevailed down the generations even into our modern day. Jesus message to the 7 churches was timeless dealing with generational conditions of Christians through church history, down through the ages. Jesus speaks in the language of types and symbols about Himself to each church this was so they could affiliate with His message to them through their historical cultural backgrounds. In some end times circles they have broken these churches up into dispensations of the church down the ages saying in our modern times we are now the Laodicea church.

(This writer tends to disagree with this dispensation theory, all of these church conditions exist today. You can understand though in our current generation why they would label it Laodicea. The 10 Virgins parable in Math 25 seems more appropriate they were all asleep until awakened

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by Christ where the unwise needed to buy oil. To buy oil from Him means to repent and be saved to be filled with Christ, His word of truth to be sanctified consecrated to Him to “Wake up” from slumber from sin, to become naked before Him exposed. As Christians we all face the spiritual conditions of the 7 churches continually, you have the great falling away 2 Thes 2:3 of end times as the “sins of the fathers are passed to the children” Ex 20:5, Num 14:18, Jer 32:18, Deut 23:2, Duet 24:16, Ez 18:17-20, where curses and conditions are only broken through Christ. We cannot do this in our own strength, only at the foot of the cross through repentance and the power of the Holy Spirit can this be accomplished in Him. To ignore the cross and walk blindly as a Christian is madness God calls us to overcome spiritual conditions, yes we are justified and sanctified at the cross of salvation.

Yet God still takes our old nature the soul, heart and flesh He crucifies it, we are to walk out our salvation with fear and trembling to die to self. He continues in the process of sanctification and consecration with us in our walk as we journey and yield to Him. It's the purpose of the cross denying the flesh and dying to self unto full death, so we gain the rewards. Laodicea is a condition of being “Luke warm” this compares to being like an unwise virgin that's “asleep” (due to sin/disobedience Is 29:10), unaware of one's spiritual condition. In Joel 3:9-10,12 in the last days God states “Wake up the mighty men” “let the nations be awakened” from there slumber and sleep (revival of repentance and salvation the great harvest Rev 14:14-16 to come to the nations).

The churches in Asia Minor were evolving, becoming institutionalised they were becoming traditional dying spiritually from procedures, traditions, doctrines and religion. The 7 churches Jesus addressed had 7 types of conditions that every Christian will face in his journey whom Christ calls us to overcome (*a battle over men's souls Satan's infiltration*). These 7 churches had both warnings of curse to those who ignore the warnings, and blessings then rewards for those who overcome. Jesus wrote 7 letters to the 7 churches and they needed to listen, the first church He addressed was Ephesus.



1. To the Church in Ephesus (The loveless church)

Rev 2:1-7 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lamp stands: "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who

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are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp stand from its place unless you repent. But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." ' (NKJV)

In ancient history the church of Ephesus was a port city right on the coast in Asia Minor, a city of around 500 thousand people at the time, the city was gifted to the Romans by King Attalos of Pergamum (*seat of Satan Rev 2:13 and church of Pergamos*) in his will in 129 BC. In Ephesus was the infamous temple of Artemis (*Diana of the Romans*) of the Ephesians as found in the book of Acts, a false Greek moon goddess the daughter of Zeus.

Artemis was a horrible statue of a multi breasted woman representing virgins, young girls, child birth and wild animals. Ephesus was a very wealthy city a huge area where temples and false gods were many and greatly worshiped. Ephesus also had one of the 3rd largest libraries in the region along the lines of the ancient Alexandria library, another large library was also found in Pergamum.

See: <https://www.history.com/topics/ancient-greece/ephesus>



There are still ancient archaeological remains in Ephesus, the actual ancient Ephesus church remains are located near the amphitheatre in Ephesus. This was where Paul preached in Acts 19:1-41 where two of his disciples Gaius and Aristarcus were dragged into the amphitheatre of Ephesus as all the people were yelling “**Great is Artemis of the Ephesians**” in an uproar of confusion. This yelling came about the false goddess Artemis where worshippers of Artemis were losing business through people coming to Jesus.

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Ruins of ancient Temple of Artemis in Ephesus Turkey

Ephesus was filled with desire and zeal for evangelism at the time of the apostles yet people here had lost their first love. They were doctrinally sound but over time it all became a religious duty just works not love for Christ. Christians here were surrounded by religious cults and false gods under Roman occupation and persecution up until 313 AD until Constantine legalised Christianity.



Ruins of Church of Ephesus



Ruins of Amphitheatre of Ephesus



Ancient Ephesus church ruins

Jesus began His letters to John highlighting spiritual conditions of churches and Christians. These spiritual conditions we all face today it's a generational issue. Jesus introduced Himself using symbolic language compatible for each church's situation and condition, He addressed the Church at Ephesus first. As seen in the scriptures on the previous page Jesus encouraged the

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church of Ephesus by stating: **"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lamp stands:** In other words Jesus held all power even over the stars with His seven fold spirit, it was Him alone who held all authority (*Math 28:18*). Jesus alone walked amongst His churches (*lamp stands*) knowing the hearts and their condition. The churches needed to listen to His encouragements wisdom and rebuke to bring repentance, healing and fresh life and back to His house/church.

Then Jesus went on to say: **"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.** The church of Ephesus had persevered they had patients they had not become weary (*strong in His word*) nor would they bear those who are evil. They had tested out the apostles even proving some to be false and liars. Jesus let them know he saw the things they were doing that were righteous (*right thing to do*) doing well in those things in their works and labour, keeping the flock safe from false teachings and apostles. Yet Jesus warned them about losing their first love fallen in their relationship with Him.

They had left their first love with Jesus in their hearts they had become religious (*traditions, religious practices, programmes*) with seemingly no Holy Ghost operating in their midst no intimacy. Yet they knew Jesus was there and could return to Him if they chose to repent as Jesus stated: **Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works** they needed to repent to come back to their first love with Him and do the first works (*Holy Ghost works, first love Holy Spirit filled miracles/salvation/prayer and worship etc*). If they did not do this He would remove their candlestick (*Their calling/eternal life/salvation/light/truth/Holy Spirit*).

To forsake His love is to forsake true affection to one another to leave your relationship with Him, we are to be intimately and relationally connected to Him and one another. Not to struggle in loving your neighbour and God (*Math 12:30-31*) without His loving presence. It's obvious the whole area of Ephesus had a religious principality (*Eph 6:12*) in worshipping the false goddess Artemis and other false gods. This would have had a spiritual effect on undiscerning Christians in the unseen realms (*Gal 5:9*) contaminating them influencing them to lose their first love connection to Jesus to become religious themselves (*Eph 6:12*).

The loss of love God was referring to here was Agape love His sacrificial love to give and serve without needing back a giving love Gods love (*Mark 12:30-31, Lk 10:27*). The church from Pentecost looked like Jesus filled with His Spirit and sacrificial love, now Jesus was telling them they had fallen from that great height of love, they had become superficial and religious. He was calling them to repent to turn back to where they had been, or He would remove their candlestick (*His light, His Spirit, salvation, eternal life and Glory*). A very strong warning to go from being a sheep to possibly becoming a goat a Pharisee in judgement (*Math 25:31-46*). Jesus then said

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another thing what He liked about the Ephesus church: **But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate** (to find repulsive).

The Nicolaitans at the time were spiritual descendant believers of Nicolas of Antioch (*Acts 6:5 early Christians*). Nicolas of Antioch was not a Jew he was a Gentile who had converted from paganism (*activities of the occult*) to Judaism then to Christianity according to historical writings. Due to his background Nicolas had taught and passed on doctrines of compromise suggesting that no separation between Christianity and the practice of occult paganism was required (*worship of statues and religious occult rituals*). Nicolas had formed a new cult oppressing and deceiving Christians leading them into sin and bondage spiritually he brought into Christianity paganism rituals traditions and idolatry.

The last Western Church Father was Isidore of Seville, who finished the Etymologies, in the year 636 A.D. In Book VIII titled "The Church and sects (De ecclesia et secta)" he wrote, "The Nicolaites (Nicolaita) are so called from Nicolaus, deacon of the church of Jerusalem, who, along with Stephen and the others, was ordained by Peter. He abandoned his wife because of her beauty, so that whoever wanted to might enjoy her; the practice turned into debauchery, with partners being exchanged in turn. Jesus condemns them in the Apocalypse, saying (2:6): "But this thou hast, that thou hates the deeds of the Nicolaites.

See: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolaism>

In other words occult paganism, occult prostitution practises, the worship of statues, witchcraft, demonic doctrines were intermingled defiling the true gospel (*a bit like Vatican today*), this was what Jesus hated. This contamination compromise was taking place in the Christian circles of the Nicolaitans in Ephesus and other places such as Pergamon. Ephesus was already a pagan occultist Artemis goddess worshipping city. In the third church Pergamos Jesus again addresses: **“there are some of you that hold onto the doctrines (church cult) of the Nicolaitans”** which He hated. Revealing Nicolaitans deceptive teachings were spreading like leaven in a lump (*Gal 5:9*).

See: <https://renner.org/article/who-were-the-nicolaitans-and-what-was-their-doctrine-and-deeds/>

Nicolaism (also **Nicholaism**, **Nicolaitism**, **Nicolationism**, or **Nicolaitanism**) was an early Christian sect mentioned twice in the Book of Revelation of the New Testament. The adherents were called Nicolaitans, Nicolaitanes, or Nicolaites. They were considered heretical by the mainstream Church. According to Revelation 2:6 and 15, they were known in the cities of Ephesus and Pergamum. In this chapter, the church at Ephesus is endorsed for "(hating) the works of the Nicolaites, which I also hate"; and the church in Pergamos is rebuked: "So thou hast also some (worshiping in their midst) who hold the teaching of the Nicolaites". Several of the early Church Fathers mentioned this group, including Irenaeus, Hippolytus, Epiphanius, and Theodoret, stating that **Nicolas the Deacon**, one of the Seven, was the author of the heresy and the sect.

See: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolaism>

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The Nicolaitans had lorded it over the people (*become goats instead of sheep Math 25:31-46*) conquering and subduing many through doctrinal error and deception. Jesus hated the restrictions and false teachings causing spiritual bondage as He is a God of freedom, truth, liberty mercy justice and love. Jesus wanted Christians to walk and worship Him in spirit and truth (*Jn 4:23-34*) in relationship with Himself filled with the Holy Spirit alive in Him. He wants us to love our neighbour and to love God with all our hearts (*Mark 12:30-31*). Math 7:21-23 warns those who leave their first love falling into religious teachings, rituals and doctrines with no repentance of heart **'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'**

Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (NKJV)

Even in our modern times there are many false teachers and false prophets speaking out false teachings with differing doctrines of demons and men, There are many denominations and church sects with various beliefs based in lies and immorality not truth. From the Martin Luther reformation forward the Vatican run Council of Trent employed Jesuit priests to come up with anti reformation teachings, false twisted teachings that have infiltrated main stream Christianity (*do the research it's all on the internet well known history and accessible the history of these things*). Some of those teachings (*the dispensationalist, futurism, preterism, Daniels 69 week gap 70th week theory etc*) were placed in the CI Schofield Bible at the turn of the 19th century now used as mainstream end times theology (*see chapter 42A of Revelation unsealed*) one must be careful what they are listening to. Christians who come to Christ need to stay close to God through relationship with Him in a lifestyle attitude of repentance through the cross. True believers spirit filled need to read their Bibles test doctrines for themselves, do the research and not believe every wind of doctrine. Seek truth and fellowship with Jesus and His Holy Spirit of truth.

1Ti 4:1-3 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. (NKJV)

Mat 15:8 'THESE PEOPLE DRAW NEAR TO ME WITH THEIR MOUTH, AND HONOR ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME. AND IN VAIN THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.' (NKJV)

2Pe 2:1-4 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their

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destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment. (NKJV)

Mat 24:11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. (NKJV)

The Bible itself is the infallible word of God, the (1611) KJV being the very first edition made available to the public translated from Latin, Greek and Hebrew into English was a work done by many Scholars under fear of death at the time by King James. In modern times there are many Bibles with many changes and interpretations in them one must be weary and seek God for truth and the right Bible. Anyone who alters any words in the Bible or its truth is under a curse in danger of losing their salvation blotted out from the book of life, now that's a scary warning.

Rev 22:19 And if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (NKJV)

Then Jesus states: **"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."** This is a statement to all the churches and Christians suffering from this condition of losing their first love to follow false doctrines it's not just the church of Ephesus. He who overcomes these things of losing your first love your passion for Him to other doctrines and conditions will eat from the tree of life (*keep your eternal life in Christ*).

2. To the Church in Smyrna (The oppressed persecuted church)

Rev 2:8-11 **"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life (Jesus): 'I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.' "** (NKJV)

The church of Smyrna was a city 35 miles from Ephesus a prosperous beautiful wealthy city in its day, in modern times it is now called Izmir in Turkey. Smyrna was a city that worshiped self proclaimed gods (*caesars*) they had temples that worshipped many false gods.

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Temple of Athena protectress Goddess of war Temple of Zeus King of the gods

At the time of Revelation being written Smyrna had a population of around 100'000 people including a large number of Jews. Smyrna was known for its massive theatre where Polycarp (*he lived between 69AD and 156AD*) along with John the apostles disciple (*John ordained Polycarp Bishop of Smyrna*) would be martyred as a public spectacle. Polycarp was bound and burned at the stake, when the fire failed to consume his body he was stabbed to death in 156 AD aged around 86 years old, many Christians were martyred in this city.



Smyrna theatre remains partly excavated in the city of Polycarp's martyrdom

See: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polycarp>

See: <https://www.ancientpages.com/2020/06/25/polycarp-of-smyrna-burned-at-the-stake-and-pierced-with-a-dagger/>

Smyrna was the shortest letter Jesus wrote to the seven churches located near Ismir Turkey, Smyrna was another port city of trade in the ancient world. The church of Smyrna was one church that Jesus never had much complaint against. He said they were “rich in Himself” walking in His ways doing His fruitful works (*loving their neighbour Mark 12:30-31, looking after the poor the widows is undefiled religion James 1:27,)* through tribulation/persecution truth and life (*Jn 14:6*): **"I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.**

Jesus said He knew their poverty their lowliness (*poor in spirit broken, dead to selves Math 10:39*) in society and of heart yet they were rich in Himself, in relationship and intimacy (*2 Cor 8:9, Eph 1:3*).

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2Co 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. (NKJV)

Mat 6:19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (NKJV)

Jesus also stated about those locally in the Synagogues in Smyrna who were Jews (*righteous in God according to the Law of Moses*) who were persecuting the true Christian church of Smyrna. Jesus called these ones false God followers Jews of **“a synagogue of Satan”**. Jesus then went on to say to the Smyrna Christians: **“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life”**. At the time in Smyrna it was one of very few cities that had given themselves over fully to Caesar worship, a centre of emperor worship. Augustus Caesar (27BC-14AD) was the first Emperor of Rome and the first to be called the divine they built shrines to him and worshiped him (*Mark 12:7*). Then Smyrna in 23AD had won the right to build the first temple in honour of Emperor Tiberius from the Roman senate.

Under Roman Emperor Domitian (81AD – 96AD) emperor worship became compulsory for every Roman citizen under threat of death if they did not do so. With Smyrna becoming the main centre of Caesar worship at the time. If you could unite a people under one religion one god (*false*) you would have a powerful empire gaining influence and control. When plagues hit Rome they blamed the Christians for causing this to happen due to their refusal to worship Caesar. Christians who would not yield to Caesar worship would have been considered insurrectionists. To Christians Jesus is Lord of Lords and King of Kings (*Rev 17:14*) not a Caesar or any other false god. Once a year each citizen had to burn incense on an altar, to the self proclaimed godhead of Caesar. After worshipping the current Caesar they were issued a certificate to prove their worship of Caesar. As you can imagine true Christians would never bow down to a self proclaimed god offering them incense which began under Emperor Domitian or any false god knowing Christ was god. So their refusal to do so would end up in persecution and jail time even the sentence of death for the faithful Christians, it was a brutal world.



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From the reign of Nero whom set Rome on fire then blamed the Christians in 64AD, Christianity came under massive persecution until 313 AD when Constantine legalised Christianity through the treaty of Milan in Constantinople. So, with that background you had many Emperors that persecuted Christians such as Augustus (27BC-14AD *The 1st Roman Caesar the statue on previous page, whom the roman's began Caesar worship with at the time of Jesus*), Tiberius (14AD- 37AD *time of Jesus*). Then you had Nero (37AD-68AD *blamed and killed Christians for burning Rome*), Vespasian (69AD-& AD *sacked Jerusalem 70 AD, persecuted Christians*), Titus (79AD-81AD *sacked Jerusalem 70 AD, persecuted Christians*), Domitian (81AD-96AD *persecuted Christians and commanded Caesar worship*). From the time of Roman Emperor Nero (14AD-37AD) historically 10 major Christian persecutions happened under 10 Caesars until Constantine in 313AD (*10 emperors later*).

See: <http://www.roadlesstraveled.org/Smyrna.html>

See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Roman_emperors

See: <https://historicist.info/articles/persecutions.htm>

See: <https://friendofthefamily.wordpress.com/2014/02/05/the-ten-days-of-smyrnas-persecution/>

Jesus was preparing His saints in Smyrna (*known as the persecuted church*) letting His faithful ones know that yes persecution was coming to them by Satan. This was due to the new Caesar worship laws instigated by the Romans in their city, that they would be tested. That some of them would be thrown into prison and go through tribulation 10 days (*a short time*) to be tested (*by Him*) even unto death (*to be killed/ martyred for Christ publically executed*) but be faithful and they will gain the crown of life (*eternal life to reign with Him*).

Then Jesus stated this: **"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."** This was Jesus now addressing all the churches and Christians generationally down through the ages. Jesus was saying part of the reward for going through the test of tribulation and persecution even unto death, was the second death will have no power over you (*Thes 4:16-18, Rev 20:4-6*). In other words the saints of tribulation down the generations who have been tested persecuted and martyred (*Rev 6:10*) these dead would be raised up in the completion of the 1st resurrection at His second coming return in the catching up 1 Thess 4:17, Jude 1:14.

The dead saints raised would reign with Him in the millennial reign 1000 years on earth (*Rev 5:9-10*). Nor would they be touched by the Great White Throne Judgement in the second death (*Rev 20:11-15*) it will have no power over them. They will sit as judges over the wicked at the end of the millennial reign of Christ of 1000 years, the reward of faithfulness through persecution and martyrdom.

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Ruins of church of Smyrna (Izmir) in Turkey



Panoramic view of ancient city of Smyrna and its ruins

3. To the Church in Pergamos (The compromising church)

Rev 2:12 -17 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two edged sword (Rev 19:15): "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it." (NKJV)

The Pergamos (*Pergamum/Pergamon*) church was located in Asia Minor 60kms north of Smyrna just 20kms from the sea. Pergamum is in Turkey Asia Minor where the throne of Satan is the location of the Pergamum alter also known as the Alter of Zeus. The first provisional temple built to Augustus Caesar for Caesar worship was built there in 29BC. The city's false god deities included Zeus, Athena, Dionysus and Asclepius. Pergamum was the city that invented parchment

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(skin of sheep or goat to write or paint on) then into production for scroll writing, they had a huge library there similar to the Alexandria library there was also a massive library in Ephesus.

See: <https://www.revelation-daniel.com/2020/06/church-at-pergamos.html>

This city introduced the production of parchment, which is what the name Pergamos (or Pergamum) means. This city had developed a massive library that rivaled the great library of Alexandria, Egypt. At first this library relied on the export of papyrus from Egypt, but when Ptolemy Epiphanes of Egypt heard about their growing library, a rival to the library in Egypt, he ended the parchment supply to Pergamos. To counter this move, Pergamos innovated parchment instead, a more durable writing material made from animal skins. This development mirrors the way that new technology replaces old technology today.

See: <https://www.proclaimanddefend.org/2020/11/10/the-compromising-church-at-pergamos/>

The ruins of the Pergamum Christian church still stand today a testament of Biblical history through scripture. Pergamum was a great religious centre of its day a place dedicated to many false god deities as it was in the Asia Minor region of the seven churches. Like Smyrna Pergamum prided itself in the worship of Roman Emperors. The influence of the forces of evil were everywhere with much false god worship making it hard to remain faithful or plant a Christian church there, it's never the flesh we are up against (*Eph 6:12*).

This is why Jesus stated: **"I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.** Jesus was encouraging His church knowing they needed encouragement probably due to the recent slaying of Antipas the martyr in their midst. Jesus encouraged them of their positive character in Himself, then He rebuked them and warned them what He disliked about them in their conduct as a church.



Ruins of the church of Pergamum (*Pergamon/Pergamos*) in Turkey Asia minor.

The Seroapis temple (*Serapeum*) was later transformed into the Red Basilica complex (or *Kizil Avlu* in Turkish) one km from the Acropolis. It has one main building and two round towers 1st century AD. The Christian church of pergamon was inside the main building (*Rev 2:12*) of the Red Basilica. Antipus as mentioned in the letter to the church of Pergamos was a known martyr

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recognised by Jesus who had died a terrible death upon the throne of Satan the alter of Zeus (*alter of Pergamon*). In Christian tradition John the Apstole ordained Antipus under the reign of Nero (54AD-68AD) as he had ordained Polycarp in Smryna. Antipus was martyred by being locked inside a bull at the Pergamon alter, burned alive for casting out demons worshiped by the local population of Pergamon, many christians were killed this way at the time a horrific death.



See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antipas_of_Pergamum

The Pergamum kingdom had its first beginnings in the 3rd century BC as part of the Hellenistic Seleucid Empire. The foolish bewitched Galatians in the Bible Paul addressed were from this area (*Gal 3:1*) who had taken on wrong occultist teachings like teachings of Balaam similar to the Nicolaitans addressed by Jesus. The Throne of Satan construction was first built in mid 200BC, the structure was 35.6 metres wide, with statues showing a battle between giants and the Greek Olympian gods having snakes morphing into people, the snake represents Satan himself.

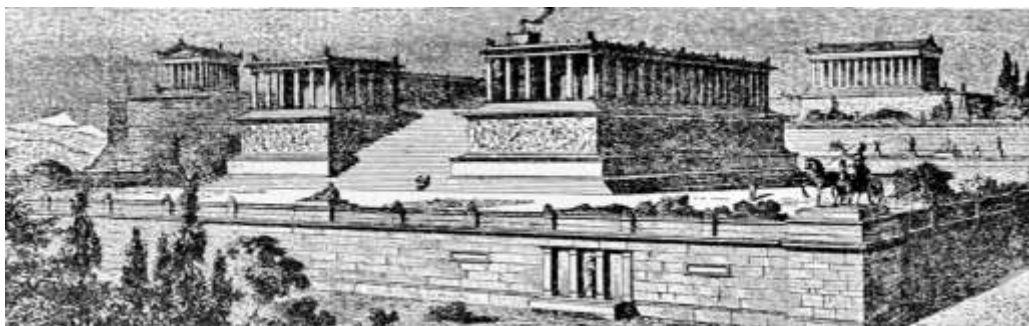


In 1878 German engineer Carl Humann started excavations on the Alter this lasted until 1886. The Alter of Pergamum was then uplifted and transferred to Germany Berlin where the first museum was constructed in 1901 to exhibit the find. As seen from excavations done in Israel and around the world many archaeological sites back up the Biblical historic records of scripture. Even today Turkey has let Germany know its desire for the return of this alter, Turkey is now wanting to re- contrsuct its own copy of the alter of Pergamum.

See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pergamon_Altar

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The Pergamon altar the throne of Satan



Original altar site set on a hill over Pergamon now moved to Berlin historic Pergamon Museum



After encouraging the Christians at Pergamum of their faith and works Jesus mentioned the death of Antipas near the throne of Satan: **But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block**

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before the children of Israel (Num 22-24), to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

In the Bible Peter the apostle (2 Peter 2:15) compares false teachers to Balaam as those corrupted by money **“who loved the wages of wickedness”**. Then again in Jude (Jude 1:11) associated Balaam with the selling of one’s soul for financial gain. In the story of Balaam the corrupt prophet he went on to advise the Moabites to entice the Israelites into idol worship and prostitution. Israel then fell into sin worshipping Baal Peor the false God whose service of worship was sexual acts of perversion and dancing before statues. Jesus was addressing the sin of those tolerating these in their midst who were corrupted caught up in sexual sin prostitution and idolatry. The Pergamum church had tolerated false doctrines it had been infiltrated by corruption.

In our modern times we as Christians in our blinded weaknesses can get caught up prostituting ourselves with many things in this world. Christians watch worldly movies representing these same gods such as Marvel Movies of Loki, Thor, Hela goddess of death, Zues, Hercules and many other false gods. Movies are watched like Vampire, Werewolf, Bitten, Game of Thrones, Atlantis, Gods of Egypt, Prometheus, Vikings, horror movies, super hero TV series and many more (*eye of Babylon*). Even AI has become very dangerous all door openers to the demonic realms we can get caught in cultural deceptions leading to demonic bondages from these things and other doorways such as alcohol, worshipping Hollywood stars, demonic music, gay marriages, abortions, sex outside of marriage and New Age practices. It states in scripture:

Psa 119:37 Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way. (NKJV). We need to discern **“if it’s not in the Bible it’s not God”**.



Popular werewolf TV Series of death and blood

This is all idolatry putting these things before Christ for God is Holy discernment is required. Jesus addressed those in the Pergamum churches who held onto doctrines of the Nicolaitans, where paganism and prostitution was mixed in with Christianity. Today there are Christian religions that practice strange customs such as the Orthodox Christians whom conduct certain rituals and worship pictures or the Roman Catholics who worship Mary, the dead and the Pope they are plagued with weird statue symbolism, traditions, doctrines and religious rituals. Jesus

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outrightly said to the Pergamum Christians ***“If you don’t repent of the error of your ways in righteousness and repentance, I will come and judge you with My sword of My mouth”*** a fearful warning indeed this is generational for us as well. Even Paul stated cast the adulterer out into Satan’s camp (1 Cor 5:1-13) to destroy their flesh (*sinful ways*) purge the church in the hope of saving that person through the fear of the loss of their salvation. A little bit of leaven can corrupt the whole lump (Gal 5:9). In our days this occurs in certain cultures mixing Christianity to fit their culture, such as the wearing of masks strange dancing, traditions, practices and statues.

Strange doctrines and rituals take place in cult type churches such as Jehovah witness, Mormonism, Catholics, Seventh day Adventists, Worldwide Church of God, Freemasonry etc, all professing Christ but caught up in false doctrines and deceptions. See below a short Bible history of the story of Balaam the corrupt prophet of God leading Israel into false religious practices below. This is the teachings the doctrinal practices Jesus was addressing with the Pergamum church where some in their midst practiced such things. Because of the desire for wealth Balaam led Israel into prostitution and idolatry of a false religion that fed the flesh killing the spirit.

Balaam was a wicked prophet in the Bible and is noteworthy because, although he was a wicked prophet, he was not a false prophet. That is, Balaam did hear from God, and God did give him some true prophecies to speak. However, Balaam’s heart was not right with God, and eventually he showed his true colors by betraying Israel and leading them astray.

In Numbers 22—24, we find the story about Balaam and the king of Moab, a man called Balak. King Balak wanted to weaken the children of Israel, who on their way to Canaan had moved in on his territory. Balak sent to Balaam, who lived in Mesopotamia along the Euphrates River (Numbers 22:5), and asked him to curse Israel in exchange for a reward. Balaam was apparently willing to do this but said he needed God’s permission (verse 8). Balaam, of course, had no power, in himself, to curse Israel, but, if God were willing to curse Israel, Balaam would be rewarded through Balak. God told Balaam,

“You must not put a curse on those people, because they are blessed” (verse 12). King Balak then sent “other officials, more numerous and more distinguished than the first” (verse 16), promising a handsome reward. This time God said, “Go with them, but do only what I tell you” (verse 20). The next morning, Balaam saddled his donkey and left for Moab (Numbers 22:21). God sent an angel to oppose Balaam on the way. The donkey Balaam was riding could see the angel, but Balaam could not, and when the donkey three times moved to avoid the angel, Balaam was angry and beat the animal.

“Then the Lord opened the donkey’s mouth” (verse 28), and it rebuked the prophet for the beatings. “Then the Lord opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn” (verse 31). The angel told Balaam that he certainly would have killed Balaam had not the donkey spared his life. Ironically, a dumb beast had more wisdom than God’s prophet. The angel then repeated to Balaam the instruction that he was only to speak what God told him to speak concerning the Hebrews (verses 33–35).....

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Balaam's three prophecies of blessing on Israel infuriated the king of Moab, who told the prophet to go back home with no reward: "Now leave at once and go home! I said I would reward you handsomely, but the Lord has kept you from being rewarded" (Numbers 24:11). Before he left, Balaam reminded the king that he had said from the very beginning he could only say what God told him to say. Then he gave the king four more prophecies, gratis. In the fourth prophecy, Balaam foretold of the Messiah: "A star will come out of Jacob; / a sceptre will rise out of Israel. / He will crush the foreheads of Moab, / the skulls of all the people of Sheth" (verse 17). Balaam's seven prophecies were seven blessings on God's people; it was God's enemies who were cursed.

However, later on Balaam figured out a way to get his reward from Balak. Balaam advised the Moabites on how to entice the people of Israel with prostitutes and idolatry. He could not curse Israel directly, so he came up with a plan for Israel to bring a curse upon themselves. Balak followed Balaam's advice, and Israel fell into sin, worshiping Baal of Peor and committing fornication with Midianite women. For this God plagued them, and 24,000 men died (Numbers 25:1–9; Deuteronomy 23:3–6).

See: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Balaam-in-the-Bible.html>

You have an example of Christian Jews coming down pushing Judaism in Antioch the cradle of Christianity on the border of Asia minor (*Turkey*). A similar situation to what Nicolai the deacon was doing pushing false doctrines (*Nicolaitans*) in Ephesus and Pergamon. Christian Jews came to Antioch with forked tongues persuading new born Christians there to take on some Laws of Moses and become circumcised, that if they didn't they were not truly saved. Undiscerning Gentile and Jewish Christians let these ones into their midst to deceive to bring many into bondage from what Jesus had just released them from. Jews knew under the Law of Moses that no Gentile would need to be circumcised as they were not Jewish. Yet here is an example of Jewish Christians pushing this upon Gentile Christians. Paul had to address this problem of false doctrines of men rituals and traditions grieving Gods presence **“He is Holy”**.

Acts 14:26-28: From there they (Paul and Barnabus) sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God, for the work which they had completed. Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. So they stayed there a long time with the disciples (NKJV)

Acts 15:1: And certain men came down from Judea (*Judahites*) and taught the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question. (NKJV)

With all of these false doctrines being pushed around in the churches of Asia Minor, Jesus said yet to him who overcomes (*occultist deception and idolatry*) will be rewarded. As Christians we

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all face these deceptions and temptations generationally to overcome. Jesus addresses all the churches everywhere about this and the reward for overcoming such temptations:: **"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."**

The hidden manna is fresh revelation line by line (*Is 28:9-10*) His ongoing living truth abiding in us that sets one free, that disciples and matures the saints (*Heb 6:1-3*) in Christ (*Jn 8:31-32*). Jesus stated He Himself was the bread (*manna*) of life, eat of me and you will never die (*Jn 6:31-35*). Interestingly in Pergamum in those days they had a lot of freedom given to them by Rome a fully democratic society they had a council senate that voted on issues regarding their city.

Roman members would meet to discuss matters of the city as the council they would be given a white stone and a black stone to vote with. Jesus would have understood this, the white stone was a vote of **“YES”** as acceptance/approval the black stone was a vote of **“NO”** a denial/disapproval. So Jesus was also stating here those who overcome these deceptions and sin I will give Him the white stone. Jesus was stating the white stone was His vote for them a **“YES”** approval to eternal life the fullness of salvation acknowledged before the Father (*Math 10:33*).

The white stone also represents Christ Himself in us as the word of God in us (*Jn 1:1-15*) we are His living stones (*1 Pet 2:3-5*) to be wise virgins (*Math 25:1-13*) whose lamps are filled with oil (*Zech 4:12*) with wicks trimmed (*Math 7:19*).

Joh 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (NKJV)

1Pe 2:3-5 If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (NKJV)



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4. To the Church in Thyatira (The Immoral corrupt church)

Rev 2:18-29 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.

But hold fast what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations 'HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON; THEY SHALL BE DASHED TO PIECES LIKE THE POTTER'S VESSELS' as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." (NKJV)

The church of Thyatira this is the longest letter Jesus wrote to the seven churches it is also the most insignificant area. Thyatira was in a valley region leading to Pergamum so to invade Pergamum you had to go through Thyatira, Thyatira was a disposable city on a main trade route Thyatira was designed to slow down invaders that would come against Pergamum it was an expendable city. Thyatira is in the region of Akhisar seated on the river Hermus 61kms (38 miles) from Pergamum and 51kms (32 miles) from Sardis. The city was founded by Seleueus Nicator one of Alexanders generals a garrison city built on the plains with a population at the time of around 12'000 people.

The cities citizens were mostly poor humble labourers the workers were organised into labour unions or guilds with other leading industries such as bras bronze and other metals. This was a city known for its bronze, metals and weaving products for trade. When Jesus introduced himself to the church there they would have been familiar with the language "eyes like fire" and "feet like brass" because of their many metal working foundries and flaming furnaces: **"These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass.** Thyatira in Greek means daughter it received this name in 290 BC. This cit hosted the major God Apollo (*the destroyer son of Zeus*), the city was famous for its dying its coloured dye abilities with fabrics etc, a centre for trade.

See: <https://www.diggingfortruth.org/digging-deeper/the-church-of-thyatira>

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Ruins of Thyatira church in (Akhisar) Asia Minor Turkey



Here again Jesus at first encourages the church because they need it: **"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: 'I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.** Letting them know He sees their faith their patients (*fruits of the spirit Gal 5:22-23*) their fruitful works of love and service to one another to Himself that their works (*charities looking after the widow and the poor ect*) are even more than all the rest.

Yet Jesus then rebukes them with warnings letting them know He sees and searches the hearts (*1 Sam 16:7*)): **Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts.**

Jesus is now addressing the lack of spiritual discernment and character in the midst of the church, where they have been hoodwinked seduced and manipulated by a false prophetess into committing immorality. A woman in their midst obviously tied into the leadership of the church that has been allowed to teach false doctrines. She has been teaching people to commit sexual immorality to eat things sacrificed to idols. She is active in sexual immorality as Jesus has given

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her time to repent (*Holy Spirit conviction*) but she doesn't. This is very similar to the church of Ephesus and Pergamum where sin was tolerated through false teachings of the Nicolaitans (*sexual perversion, witchcraft occult practices*) and the doctrines of Balaam.

This time it is a woman seducing Gods saints probably very attractive and charismatic in nature overseen by church leadership with authority over the church. She is moving under a false prophetic Jezebel occult presence that seems like Gods anointing but is not, false visions, false prophecy and false teachings of God's word. Jesus was merciful towards this Jezebelic woman giving her time to repent but she refused (*didn't want to be exposed*). We are to test all spirits by the word of God through Christ (*1 Jn 4:1-6*) not to believe false doctrines of men or demons no matter how good or seductive they are.



Remember Jesus said He also saw the love, faith and service of this church it was genuine yet demonic deception was operating in their midst. Jesus warns that those who have been seduced by this woman's immorality by her demonic twisted teachings causing them to commit spiritual adultery (*agreeing in her false teachings*) and adultery in the natural through sexual sin (*maybe with her or other woman*). Jesus then pronounced a curse of sickness will come upon them and tribulation unless they repent of their deeds of sin.

(Many today as Christians suffer illness and sicknesses (sickbed) this writer has gone through much tribulation in health, having had years of terrible dreams and demonic Jezebel attacks until deliverance and inner healing took place even after salvation. God led this writer through repentance and inner healing from hurt and pain caused by past sin, even sin not remembered because of trauma that was done to me as a child, causing much turmoil in the emotional realms (sanctification). Praise God He is our healer and deliverer for those who chose the life style of repentance that brings freedom from the immoralities of Jezebel, a sweet smelling aroma indeed).

Jesus addresses this woman by calling her Jezebel: **because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality.**

This speaks of her spiritual nature to seduce and deceive in the midst of the church a demonic assignment of Satan to destroy the church a very strong warning from God. Then God pronounces His spiritual judgement upon her immoralities her sins and those that join in her adulteries: **Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death,** This is actually a generational curse (*sins of the fathers are passed down generationally Ex 20:5*) because of this unrepented sin that God pronounces upon her, this is a warning to all churches that follow this Jezebel seduction down the generations.

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Calling all Christians and churches, to beware of this type of Jezebelic seduction away from the truth. Jezebel in the Old Testament was whom God raised up the Prophet Elijah (*1 Kings, chapters 16, 17, 18, 19*) to challenge and kill her false prophets on Mount Carmel whom worshipped Baal Peor the God of sexual perversion worship (*orgies, sexual immorality, witchcraft, adultery, prostitution*). Jezebel was a false prophetess a woman of seduction, lies, false god worship, sexual immorality, manipulation, anger, stealing and destruction a woman of wickedness one who killed the true prophets of God, Jezebel was also known as the demonic principality the Queen of Heaven of spiritual Babylon that God warns His people to remove their foot from lest they come under her judgements (*Rev 18:1-24*).

Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. (NKJV)

The God states after the warning about this woman (*any person in a church*) and her immoralities her false doctrines her sexual sins: **I will kill her children with death**, God will kill her children (*Satan's seed no salvation*). Those that do these things that are joined to her that teach false doctrines and sexual immorality they will die (*judged*), as the wages of sin is death (*Rom 6:23*). They will not inherit eternal life they will lose their salvation they began with they will become a goat (*Math 25:31-46*) at the final judgement day (*Rev 20:11-15*). Other churches in Thyatira and other areas had not yet taken on the doctrine (*Jezebel*) of this woman or been seduced yet (*known the depths of Satan*), it was a serious matter before God He saw what the enemy was doing in His house. This was how the corrupt prophet Balaam in the Old Testament had cursed Israel through inviting the Moabite woman (*Jezebel*) to seduce Israel into prostitution and idolatry worship into the sexual sins of paganism.

Jesus then stated: **and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have till I come.** Many in Thyatira were not following this Jezebel woman either hence the warning.

The **depths of Satan** is occultism witchcraft, darkness, rebellion, demonic doorways, satanic bondage, lies, rituals, sin, pride, destruction, death, confusion, falseness, perversion all hidden deceptions. In our modern day as Christians we need to be discerning as well Satan has used the same tactics for generations operating through Jezebel seduction, lies and manipulation. We have false teachings, false church doctrines, occult churches and demonic religious practices. We have free access to the internet, online pornography, demonic movies and music.

Prostitution has become legal, killing babies (*infanticide, Molech /Moloch /Baal offerings Lev 20:1-3, Ex 20:25-26, Jer 19:5*) abortion is legal, worldwide child prostitution and paedophile groups exist the list goes on, as in the days of Noah (*Math 24:37-39*). As examples of idolatry and witchcraft infiltrating churches below is Pope Francis kissing a relic filled with blood from the dead St Janurius on March 27th 2018. Catholics worship statues (*idolatry*) and unclean corpses of

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dead saints under the disguise of religion, with up to 116 different reports of skulls and corpses. Jesus is the Lord of life not death nowhere did He ever say to worship corpses, Mary or idols.



Pope kissing blood of a dead saint and the worship of 150 year old dead corpse of St John



See: <https://www.catholicsun.org/2015/03/23/blood-of-naples-patron-liquefies-during-popes-visit-to-cathedral/>

See: <https://www.nowtheendbegins.com/idol-loving-catholics-in-new-work-city-line-up-to-worship-the-150-year-old-preserved-heart-of-dead-french-priest-saint-john-vianney/>

See: <https://wearehebrew.com/moloch-child-sacrifice/>

See: <https://comingoutofegypt.wordpress.com/2016/05/28/list-of-us-christian-cults-false-religious-churches/>

See: <https://ivarfjeld.com/2015/12/02/pope-benedict-kneeled-and-prayed-to-skull/>

See: <https://ivarfjeld.com/2016/04/12/the-whore-of-babylon-display-her-skulls/>

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Worship of statues (*goddess*) by Popes and Catholics (*Orthodox Christians as well*) is ancient paganism, the same type of rituals the Nicolaitans and doctrines of Balaam Jesus warned the church against. Many Catholic priests have been caught in paedophilia (*sexual perversion*) entire grave yards of children have been exposed at Catholic orphanages murdered by nuns and priests.

See: <https://www.nowtheendbegins.com/pope-francis-declares-in-mass-tuesday-worshipping-mary-not-optional-she-provides-all-blessings-catholic-church/>

See: <https://thefreethoughtproject.com/orphanage-mass-grave-children/>

See: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/796-irish-orphans-buried-in-mass-grave-near-catholic-orphanage-historian-1.2663895>

This Jezebel spirit operating through the woman (*can be a man or woman in any church*) is the spirit of wickedness (*Zech 5:7-8*) she is later seen in prophecy as a principality riding the beast across nations in Rev 17. Jezebel seduces leaders, prophets, Christians, entire nations, fornicating with Kings, killing the saints and drinking their blood a generational principality of evil sexual immorality of destruction and death.

See: <https://www.nowtheendbegins.com/pope-francis-declares-in-mass-tuesday-worshipping-mary-not-optional-she-provides-all-blessings-catholic-church/>



The rewards to those in Thyatira and all Christians everywhere down the generations who overcome Jezebel and her immoralities spiritually and naturally, that are prevalent everywhere is

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as follows: **And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations 'HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON; THEY SHALL BE DASHED TO PIECES LIKE THE POTTER'S VESSELS' as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."**

This is a powerful statement Jesus is saying he/she who overcomes Jezebel and her immoralities prevalent in society (*Babylon*) He will reward by giving authority over the nations. To have authority over nations is the restoration of true apostolic anointing a example of this is the two witnesses found in Rev 11, having power to withhold rain over nations to curse the water turning it to blood like Moses did to bring plagues upon nations.

This is talking about sonship, maturity as a saint spiritual discernment, true repentance, true Holiness and inner healing deliverance. The fullness of restoration from generational sin from curses and the ongoing influences of jezebel the woman of wickedness who sits over the nations as the Queen of Babylon (*demonic heavens*) committing fornication with Kings and nations (*Zech 5:8, Rev 17, Rev 18*).



See: <https://bookofesther-amaic.blogspot.com/2012/11/scroll-of-esther-shaped-as-reversible.html>

5. To the Church in Sardis (The dead church)

Rev 3:1-6 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent.

Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life;

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but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."' (NKJV)

Sardis was founded in the 12th century BC, one of the oldest cities in Asia Minor, located 35 miles southeast of Thyatira. It was an ancient city built on a plateau 1'500 feet above the plains known as the impregnable fortress, it had the largest Jewish synagogue in the region at the base of the mountain and a Roman palace.

The church of Sardis was built in one of the wealthiest Roman cities in the region a thriving trading city. Sardis means “Those escaping” or “That which remains” Sardis had a fortress Acropolis built into the blade shaped Mount Tomolus (*6'700 feet high*). This Sardis fortress had a narrow rocky path leading up the mountain to the fortress gates, the fortress was a place of worship it had granaries (*provision in times of siege*) for the false gods.



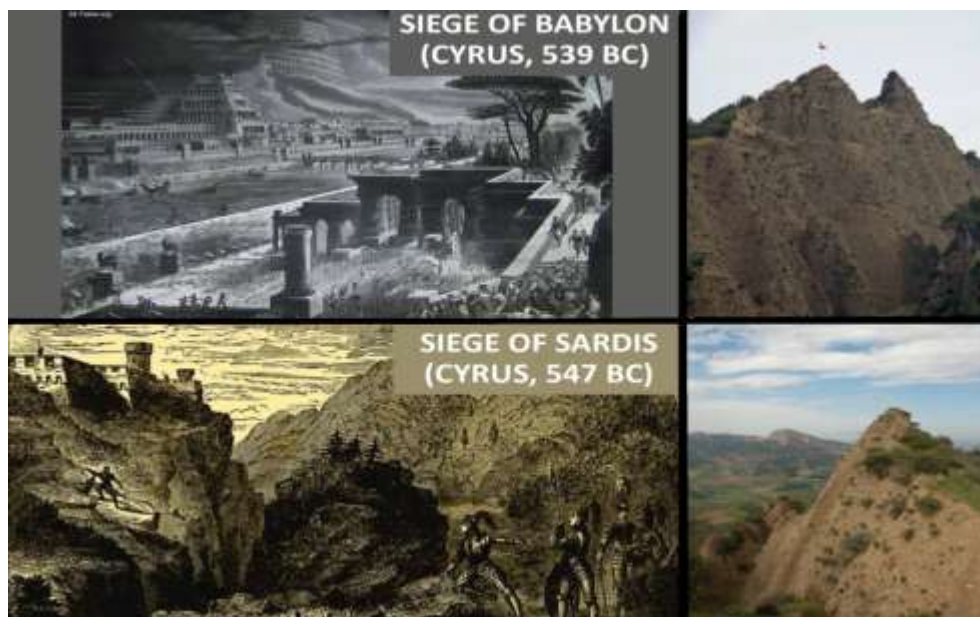
Church of Sardis (Byzantine era) ruins



Sardis had a rich history going back to the days of Medo Persia when King Cyrus the Great captured the Sardis Acropolis fortress in 549BC then the fortress was again captured 330 years later in 879BC by Antiochus the Great. Sardis was the capital of the Kingdom of Lydia at the time of Cyrus. The Kingdom of Lydia is reported to have created the first coinage of the ancient world, one of the richest kingdoms of the ancient world. Cyrus the great captured Sardis from the kingdom of Lydia in 547BC or 549BC according to historians. Cyrus is found in the book of Daniel and Isaiah (*Is 45*) in Biblical account.

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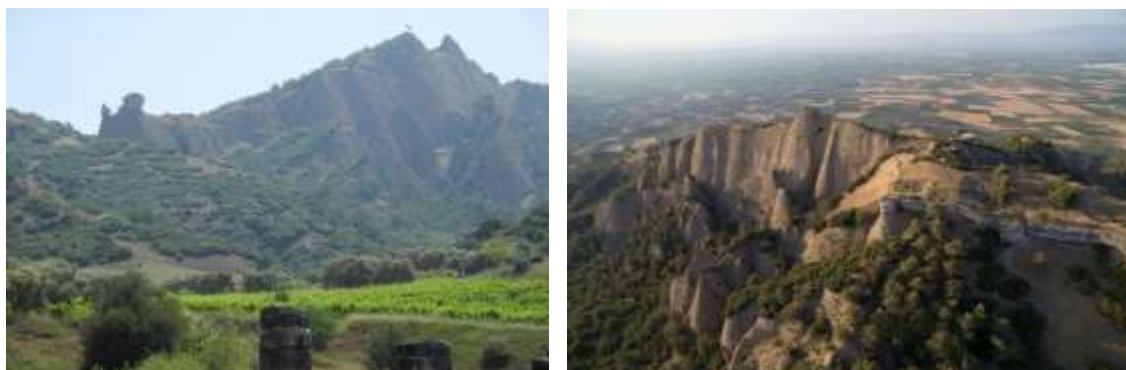
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In the history of Sardis a massive temple being built with pillars ten feet wide and 70 feet high. The temple being built was to Artemis the multi breasted goddess as Ephesus and other cities in the area had, yet this temple was never finished for some reason they ran out of money.



The past history of Sardis as a city was well known as being a very wealthy comfortable city of self sufficiency. With its fortress built high into the blade shaped Mount Tomolus (6'700 feet) of Sardis, protection for the citizens to retreat to in case of attack. Parts of the excavation of the white fortress walls can be seen in the picture to the lower right.



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Mount Tomolus above city of Sardis where the fortress was built



View of Mount Tomolus (*6'700 feet high*) from the Sardis plains

The church of Sardis was opposite to Smyrna it was once alive in Christ but now had become “dead” as Smyrna was “dead and is alive”. The church of Sardis and its lamp of light in Christ was flickering out. According to history wealth and protection were a cause for arrogance and pride in the locals of Sardis including the church. To be wealthy and self sufficient with no army able to attack you while in the high mountain fortress caused attitudes of apathy of no concern (*or so they thought*). The vast wealth of comfort and the past capture of this Sardis fortress in 549 BC by Cyrus, helps to define the letter Jesus wrote to the church of Sardis. In times past Sardis if under attack would go up to the mountain fortress they were so confident and arrogant that no army could reach them there, they would only posted one watchman guard at the fortress gates to watch the enemy.

The King of Lydia Croesus (595BC – 546BC) was a very real historical figure his encounter with the Delphic Pythian Prophetess was recorded by Greek historians Herodotus and Pausanias that over time has become part history and myth. In actual history King Croecus of Lydia (*Sardis*) had met the Persian King Cyrus on the battle fields in the battle of Pteria and lost in 549BC. Croesus retreated back to Sardis that day sending his army's home on leave thinking Cyrus wouldn't attack until the following year but Cyrus followed Croesus back to Sardis to attack. This caused the Sardis population to seek refuge in the Mountain fortress from the Persians. This mythical historical account can be found in “King Croesus oracle of Delphi”.

See: <https://www.storynory.com/7-king-croesus-and-the-oracle-of-delphi/>

See: <https://www.spirittruthandmeaning.com/oracle-of-delphi-croesus>

The historic story of the Persians coming to Sardis to attack in 549BC under Cyrus is an interesting account as the whole township hid themselves in the mountain fortress. Many years later in John's time in late 100 BC this still seemed to be the Sardis attitude, they had forgotten the lessons of their past history.

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The Cyrus and the defeat of Sardis.

Cyrus wanted to move quickly with his invasion in the region against Lydia and Sardis he didn't want to spend months even years in a siege with Sardis with its mountain fortress. So he offered a rich reward for anyone who could help him defeat the impenetrable fortress. One of the Persian soldiers wanted that reward so night after night he positioned himself hidden away secretly he watched the Sardis fortress watchman guard at the gates, to find any weakness in the fortress. One night as the Persian soldier watched the fortress guard was leaning over the gate walls looking down the mountain when the helmet fell off his head, falling down the walls to an area below.

In an attempt in the moonlight while being observed by the Persian soldier the guard left his post, he entered a secret path hidden behind a bush, there was a crack in the rocks that led over the fortress walls and down the mountain side like a goat track (*Sardis was renowned for Earthquakes that would have cracked the rock*). The watchman guard was able to look around to retrieve his helmet yet he had not realised he was being closely watched, he had now given up the secret path to the onlooking Persian soldier. So the soldier went and spoke to Cyrus saying “We have them”. That night the Persians climbed the track taking the fortress they found the people were all asleep as if dead, too comfortable believing they were impenetrable in the fortress.

(The previous page “Cyrus defeat of Sardis” was taken from the 2015 video series “Decoding The Future” Part 02 “Church of Sardis” by Host Jay McCarl: www.DecodingTheFuture.com)

The ancient city of Sardis was built on a plateau of crumbling rock rising 1,500 feet above the plain. The plateau was a part of Mount Tomolus, whose height was 6,700 feet. The walls of the elevation on which the city was built were almost perpendicular, and the city was inaccessible except by one narrow passage which was steep and easily fortified and guarded. At the base of the cliff flows the little Pactolus River, once famous for its golden sands.

Sardis was considered an impregnable fortress. From Sardis, Cyrus marched against Artaxerxes, and at that place Xerxes gathered his mighty army before the expedition into Greece which ended in ignominious defeat at Marathon. In AD 1402, Tamerlane destroyed the city, and it was never rebuilt. A miserable little village nearby still goes by the name of Sart. The natural defences of Sardis made the guards and citizen proud and overconfident.

The walls were carelessly guarded, with sometimes fatal results. Because of the failure of the guards to watch, Cyrus captured the city by stratagem in 549 BC. Solon had warned Croesus not to be too confident of safety from attack, but even after the army of Cyrus appeared on the plain below, he saw no reason for concern. But the unexpected happened. One dark night a Persian soldier resolved "to approach the citadel" and attempt to climb the precipice "at a place where no guards were ever set." There the rock was so "precipitous and impracticable" that it would seem impossible to scale it.

Herodotus says that the soldier "climbed the rock himself and other Persians followed in his track, until a large number had mounted to the top. Thus Sardis was taken, and given up entirely

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to pillage." But the lesson was soon forgotten, for 330 years later the city was again captured through stratagem by Antiochus the Great. Solon had warned the overconfident Croesus that "no human being is self-sufficient in every respect something is always lacking. In every matter it becomes us to mark well the end, for oftentimes the divinity gives men a gleam of happiness, and then submerges them in ruin."

See: <https://www.diggingfortruth.org/digging-deeper/church-of-sardis>

From the account above we can see why Jesus said : **"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars:** In the days of Johns letters the people in the region of Asia minor knew how to build temples they knew how to worship false gods in mass. They knew how to look after the temples how to do their rituals to the gods. A statue of the false god they worshipped would be there in the temple but as you know was never really there. The region of Asia Minor in Ephesus, Pergamum, Sardis, Laodicea, Smyrna, Thyatira and Philadelphia was well known for the many gods the locals worshiped. Sardis had its Fortress Acropolis built into Mount Tomolus. Nearly all Acropolis Fortresses in the day were also places of false god worship and food offerings to the gods.

So when the gospel of Christ first came to the Asia Minor region the people heard a new message. The new message was God didn't dwell in a temples made by hands, that He lived in people human temples in us (*the church*). This would have blown pagan god worshipping minds a new concept. That God lives in all people by His spirit who profess Christ as their saviour, there was no need for big elaborate temples or religious rituals. It would have been very hard for the people to relate to this teaching after generations of cultural false god worship. No wonder the Holy Spirit was needed to demonstrate the Lords power through miracles then to infill the saved to make it very real for them. Yet the Church of Sardis had started out this way then become dead caught up in religion like the religious temples around them with no life. This is where the scripture in 1 Pet 2:5 speaks volumes:

1Pe 2:5 You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (NKJV)

Jesus said to the Sardis church I am: **He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars** In other words Jesus held the power over the stars and the seven fold Holy Spirit sent into all the earth (*Rev 5:6*). He held the power over the churches over human Holy Spirit temples over the candlestick the light of the church (*Rev 2:1*). That He was much greater than any Acropolis fortress, religious ritual, manmade temple or wealth and false comfort. Jesus was telling them they had become an empty temple so enamoured with their own wealth and their own religious position their self security probably thinking **"we have it good we are safe we are Sardis we have our own fortress"**.

So their church had begun to languish they had their own theology their own ways saying **"we are doing everything right as a church"**, yet Jesus was saying **"your dead your works are bad wake up out of your complacency"**. Just as Cyrus the Persian had invaded Sardis and its fortress

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in past history, so now the Church was being invaded by Satan the roaring lion and sin, repentance was needed. As 1 Peter 5:8 states we are to be sober and vigilant (*to keep watch*). The Sardis church at the time had the Old and New Testament scriptures up until Revelations when these new letters from John from Patmos arrived.

1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (NKJV)

"I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. The Sardis Christians seemed to be alive having a church building doing churchy things having the scriptures, but on the inside they were dead no presence of God in them. They were caught up in wealth, religious practices and programmes of worship, the form of being a Christian (*2 Tim 3:5*).

2Ti 3:5 Having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! (NKJV)

They had become complacent too comfortable in themselves falling into sin and error, their candle was being snuffed out, as Jesus is the spirit of life (*Jn 6:63*). To call yourself a Christian yet you are “dead” as Jesus stated having a lack of repentance, backslidden caught in sin with no Holy Spirit life, this is to deny the work of the cross making a false claim that your alive in Him, you are under deception in spiritual danger.

Then Jesus said: **Be watchful**, be not arrogant as in your past history with a single watchman on the fortress wall, pray together as watchmen (*Ez 33*) worship together, fast together, repent together as a church **and strengthen the things which remain** The scriptures His word, the saints, prayer, worship **that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.** Church services and imperfect works done out of order to God’s will, done in a wrong attitude and motivation causing sin and bondage a bearing of bad fruit (*Lk 6:43-45*) a stench to His nostrils.

Jesus then stated: **Remember** the past your first love remember His word, remember the past history of Sardis the fortress was taken by the enemy when they thought they were safe, this is where you are now positioned spiritually **therefore how you have received and heard** Gods true word and were once filled with His life the Holy Spirit; **hold fast and repent** of unfruitful works and attitudes of arrogance of self righteousness that is like filthy rags before God (*Is 64:6*) let restoration come.

The Church of Sardis knew who Jesus was they had been saved in Him they had the ability to return to life in Him that’s why He said repent!!! **Therefore if you will not watch** keep awake discern the enemy don’t fall into religious apathy don’t get to comfortable about yourselves your wealth or false prestige (*Math 25:13, Ez 33 watchman*) **I will come upon you as a thief**, a warning against the Sardis Church or any church in this condition is He comes with destruction and judgement against the wicked against sin **and you will not know what hour I will come upon you** (*Rev 16:15, 1 Thes 5:3, Luke 12:42-47*).

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Rev 16:15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." (NKJV)

1Th 5:3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labour pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. (NKJV)

Even in the parable of the ten wise virgins (*Christians Math 25*) all were asleep at first, but then jesus the groom came knocking on the door (*Rev 3:20*). Five were ready wicks trimmed (*repentance*) and lamps filled with oil (*Christ*) and five were not they missed out.

Mat 24:42 -44 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (NKJV)

Luk 12:42-47 And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has.

But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. (NKJV)

Jesus recognised the few Sardis saints that had life in them that were following Him, He knows the heart: **You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments** this defiled garments (*Is 64:6*) speaks of wrong attitudes self righteousness/sin/arrogance and the form of religion with no Holy Spirit. Iniquity of the inner thoughts and attitudes of their hearts had become defiled unclean before God.

Isa 64:6 But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousness's are like filthy rags (*filthy rags here referred to unclean menstrual clothes*). We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities (*inner heart intents Heb 4:12*), like the wind, Have taken us away. (NKJV)

and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy Jesus was acknowledging some saints in Sardis who were truly His, yet the mainstream Sardis church had fallen away dead. The wording defiled garments, is a key to understanding the state of their deadness. There was lack of repentance and discernment of what was clean and unclean in their midst because of sin. It suggests here the riches they had and comforts blinded them they were possibly drinking being drunkards and participating in worldly activities (*sin*) behind closed doors away from church, a foot in each camp hardened hearts. They were drunk with the things of the world around them.

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The Sardis church would have had issues of not being able to distinguish what was of God and what was not without his presence guiding them. They had fallen away trying to walk in their own strength they had become dead in Him no life and maybe never even knew it was so **“for the wages of sin is death”** (Rom 6:23). The scripture below gives us a good indication of why discernment of their condition lacked before God and why Jesus had to rebuke and warn them.

Lev 10:9-10 "Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations, that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean. (NKJV)

God also puts a spirit of deep sleep upon His prophets and seers because of sin, you are awake physically but spiritually asleep in a dead like state unable to discern God (Is 29:9-10).

Isa 29:9 Pause and wonder! Blind yourselves and be blind! They are drunk, but not with wine; (worldly ways/religion/sin) They stagger, but not with intoxicating drink. For the LORD has poured out on you The spirit of deep sleep, And has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, namely, the seers. (NKJV)

Because of a state of death through sin through religious ways arrogance and comfort in their situation. They were not watching themselves spiritually they had left their first love as Ephesus had done and even worse their works were bad fruit. Then Jesus stated to all the Christians and churches about the reward for overcoming this condition of being dead having no life, a form of godliness but denying the power of Him and His presence. **He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments,** The reward of the saints who overcome by the blood of the lamb and their testimony was as stated: **and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.**

Jesus was warning the Sardis church about their attitudes to life and their walk before Him as dangerous for their eternal salvation. In scripture there is a warning of this type of Christian bearing imperfect bad works bad fruit (*Bad tree*). A walk that was dead with no life or relationship with Christ through His Spirit.

Math 7:18-23 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' (NKJV)

In Math 7:18-13 the ones Jesus was addressing here were like the Church or Sardis they started out in salvation knowing Jesus and His Spirit, they even prophesied in His name cast out demons in His name healed the sick and done many wonders in His name. Yet Jesus said to these ones: **I**

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never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'. They had no true relationship with Him only the form of religion they had fallen into. They had no Holy Spirit intimacy with Him they were no longer yielded to Him nor walking in a lifestyle of bearing the fruits (*good fruit*) worthy of repentance (*Math 3:7-8*). They had become like the religious Pharisees and Sadducees whom John the Baptist warned:

Mat 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance. (NKJV)

So this was a very real warning from Jesus He knew the church of Sardis had fallen dead no life in Him or having relational intimacy with His Holy Spirit (*as many churches in our modern day have also become through rituals and false teachings such as Catholics, Mormons, Anglicans, Seven Day Adventists, Jehovah witnesses even Pentecostals*). To the extent of even denial of Him a lack of repentance denying themselves a true relationship with Him, becoming strangers to Him therefore denying Him even before men. If the Church of Sardis did not repent and renew their relationship with Him in a heartfelt way coming back to His word the truth as Jesus said (*Which they could*), then the opposite would also likely happen **“He who denies me before men I also will deny Him before my Father”** (*Math 10:32-33*) a very scary place to be spiritually.

Remember in Math 25 five of the wise virgins who had fallen asleep (*dead*) were denied access to Him and the wedding feast, because they were not ready yet they had known Him. God does not give warnings lightly Jesus has the ability whether we like it or not, to blot out our names from His book of life as stated above, that's a healthy fear of God (*can one lose their salvation that's up for debate*). We are to work out our own salvation continually with fear and trembling (*Phil 2:12*) not to become complacent (*repentance when required*) and unworthy therefore **“Watch”** as Jesus said to the Sardis church. **"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."**

6. To the Church in Philadelphia (The faithful church)

Rev 3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "HE WHO HAS THE KEY OF DAVID, HE WHO OPENS AND NO ONE SHUTS, AND SHUTS AND NO ONE OPENS": "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who

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overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. 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 out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' (NKJV)

The Church of Philadelphia (*the name means brotherly love*) was the youngest of the seven churches of Asia Minor founded as a missionary outpost for Greece (*Hellenism*). In this city were also many Jews with a large Synagogue presence. Philadelphia as a city had been established in 189BC by Greek King Eumenes 11 of Pergamon. He reigned from 197BC- 159BC (*surnamed Soter meaning savior*) he joined forces with the Romans, instead of fighting he married Stratonice a Queen of Pergamon of Greek and Persian ancestry from Cappadocia a Roman ally. When the last King Attalus died in 129 BC son of Eumenes 11, he gave the city to the Romans as a gift.

The city of Philadelphia was located in Asia Minor (*Turkey*) considered one of the ten cities of the plains, it was situated where the borders of the ancient cities of Mysia, Lydia and Phrygia meet. Philadelphia is 44kms (*27 miles*) from Sardis and 77kms (*48 miles*) from Laodicea. The city was nearly destroyed in 17AD by Earthquake and needed rebuilding with the help of Emperor Tiberius of Rome who lifted off taxes from the city to rebuild.

Philadelphia is in the Kuzucay valley near the base of Mount Bozdad in modern Turkey's province of Manisa, Philadelphia's modern name in Turkey is "Alasehir". In recent history Philadelphia was the last Byzantine Christian era stronghold in inner Asia Minor its citizens only fled in WW1, from the Ottomans. The only ancient remains in Philadelphia left is a church from the Byzantine era, from around 400AD.

See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eumenes_II

See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stratonice_of_Pergamon

Philadelphia city was built intentionally to extend and promote the Greek language the Greek way of life the Greek civilisation into the regions beyond a Greek culture missionary sending city. The Philadelphia area was also called by locals Decapolis one side of the city was fertile and known for growing good quality wines by the Romans. Philadelphia was also another prosperous city it oversaw one of the greatest main highways leading from Europe to the East, the gateway from one continent to the next. Philadelphia was known for its regular evacuations from earthquakes it was known for its beautiful great buildings. Philadelphia had so many false gods and temples of worship to Olympian gods scattered everywhere, it was called the little Athens. The only ruins remaining in Philadelphia of a church is from the Byzantine era (395AD – 1453AD) on the next few pages.

See: <https://christianovercomers.com/blog/2013/02/27/church-of-philadelphia-historical-background-rev-37/>

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See:

<https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f4146dd7d654/content/pages/documents/1288255586.pdf>



Pillars of the ruins of the Church of Philadelphia in Asia Minor Turkey these are the only archeological remains left from the Byzantine era, 400 years after Johns letters.



In the letter written to the church of Philadelphia Jesus was staeing: **"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, "These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "HE WHO HAS THE KEY OF DAVID, HE WHO OPENS AND NO ONE SHUTS, AND SHUTS AND NO ONE OPENS": "I know your works.** Jesus was describing Himself here along the lines of the Philadelphia churches condition as a of being faithful Holy and true to Himself. He was saying He held the **“Key of David”** who **“Opens and no one shuts and shuts and no one opens”** stating He is in full control and power over this church.

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Isa 22:22 The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open. (NKJV)

The key here stands for ownership and position, only family members normally get a key to the home “Fathers House”. In Philadelphia you also had a large Jewish presence with Synagogues many of these Jews gave the new missionary church of Christ there a great deal of grief through judging them and criticisms even persecution they would ostracize any Jew who became a Christian from their midst. An example of this in Jesus time was with the man born blind, Jesus put mud into his eyes and said “go wash in the pool of Siloam”. The blind beggar now healed by Jesus was then challenged by the Pharisees, taken before them and questioned. Then the blind man after confessing Jesus healed him was called a sinner, that Jesus was also a sinner. They then ostracised and cast out the healed man from the Synagogue, to never to return (*Jn 1:41*).

John 9:22 His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. (NKJV)



Ruins of Ancient Jewish Synagogue in Israel similar to those built in Asia Minor

Jesus later found the blind man asking if he believed in the Son of God, the blind man said “Lord I Believe”. Just as in Philadelphia many Jews there did not except Christianity and the greater the Christian church grew some of the Jews got very jealous (*Rom 11:7-14*). Many Jews saw Christianity as merely a new cult the Jews denied Jesus as their Messiah. The more concerned the Jews got about the Christians the more they caused them grief ostracizing them.

Certain Jewish men earlier on in the gospel accounts had followed Paul the apostle around at places he had preached, trying to get the new Christians to convert to Judaism, saying that Jesus wanted that. Then those that converted to Judaism had to then start keeping all the ceremonial Jewish laws, yet gentiles by the same law were never required to keep the Jewish laws. It was no different in Philadelphia with these Jews causing such issues there as well, a great deal of problems were caused after awhile these Judaism converters became much more hostile to the Christians. As Christian churches were planted in the ancient world they were made up mainly made up of Gentiles non Jewish people. These gentiles that converted to Christianity didn’t know a lot about the Jews or their customs and Judaic laws.

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The Gentiles now saved in Christ knew Jesus was the Messiah savoir that they were now saved and forgiven of their sins and now have eternal life, a pretty good deal bran new believers. These new believers didn't know much at all and had to grow in understanding of God's word the local Synagogues knew this weakness and excommunicated them, rejected them saying along the lines of basically **“You are going to hell, your deceived”**. As Christianity's roots were actually Jewish early Christianity was a sect an off shoot of the Jews.

So to the early Christians this was a harsh treatment as the Jewish community knew a lot about Gods word and His ways (*Torah Old Testament*). The Jewish Synagogues in Philadelphia had slammed the door shut in the face of the new Christians shut them out of heaven, this brought a lot of fear, scaring the new Christians of the Philadelphia church. This is why Jesus stated in the beginning of His letter to them in relation to their times: **"HE WHO HAS THE KEY OF DAVID, HE WHO OPENS AND NO ONE SHUTS, AND SHUTS AND NO ONE OPENS"**. The new Christians were not that mature in God yet so they had little strength to stand against such treatment and exploitation from the Jews, with little understanding except their initial salvation and eternal life in Christ it was a very new church plant. Jesus saying the “Key of David” meant something in the Old Testament there was a man called Shebna (*Is 15-19*) in the city of David that was over Gods house as steward a father in Israel.

Shebna had been given a Key that key was the key of David the Key to the royal treasury they key of royalty and authority. At the time God was calling for repentance in His house Shebna refused to kill oxen and sheep for their sins, he chose instead to eat drink and die, his heart was filled with inequity (*inner evil thoughts*). God disagreed with this attitude as Shebna knew the Assyrians were coming down to destroy Israel. Instead of repentance and following God He chose to dig out a royal tomb for himself and die, so Shebna was driven out of his office before God stripping Shebna of his position (*just like the Jews at Jesus death and resurrection the temple curtain was torn in two finished with*). Then God brought forth a new servant (*Is 22:20-21*) in place of Shebna (*New covenant Christianity replacing Old Covenant Judaism*). God stated about the new servant Eliakim in *Is 22:21-23*:

Isa 22:21-23 “I will clothe him (Eliakim) with your robe (Shebna) And strengthen him with your belt; I will commit your responsibility into his hand. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem And to the house of Judah. The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open. I will fasten him as a peg in a secure place, And he will become a glorious throne to his father's house”. (NKJV)

So God exiled Shebna and gave the Key of David to a righteous man and gave him great honour the key to great wealth and authority. This is exactly what God did as a prophetic picture with the Jews and the Old Covenant laws now abolished and fulfilled by Christ, because it had become a corrupted system the Jews could not honour Gods house any more. So God brought forth the New Covenant (*New Testament*) *Jer 31:31*, to replace and fulfil the old, to give salvation to all who called upon His name (*Rom 10:13*) Jews and non Jews alike. There was now a new servant before God a righteous one filled with Christ.

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This is why Jesus states I hold the Key of David it is mine to give to you Church of Philadelphia you of little strength. You think the door has been slammed in your face (Shebna /Jews) you're out of the Kingdom. No one can take this key from my hand not even the Jews what I shut nobody can open (*salvation is not of the Jews its now of Christ*) and what I open nobody can shut (*the New Covenant of salvation through Christ*). Jesus was teaching them a powerful truth where Satan was trying to destroy their faith through fear and this attack by the Jews against them as new Christians.

(This above understanding of the history the church of Philadelphia was taken from the 2015 video series “Decoding The Future” lesson 08 “Church of Philadelphia” by Host Jay McCarl: www.DecodingTheFuture.com)

This key of David is the key that opens the door to His true Kingdom to true spiritual authority to be citizens of the New Jerusalem (*Heb 12:22, Rev 21:2*). The true Key of David symbolises a man after Gods own heart (*1 Sam 13:14, Acts 13:22*) a man of quick repentance he desired to find a place for God's presence to dwell in his midst (*Ps 132:4-5*). These were all worthy attributes of the Philadelphia church. When Jesus opens the door (*His presence*) over a church and people they can progress forward in Kingdom business salvations, miracles signs and wonders. This would happen as long as they remain in His will yielded, repentant in submission to Him alone. You could almost say this is the intimate relational revival Holy Spirit living Ecclesia church in Him (*alive, repentant, awake ones, called out from the world, chosen ones*).

Even in the last days the only Tabernacle God restores of worship is David's (*Amos 9:11, Acts 15:16*), they worshiped openly without a tent covering the Ark with musicians 24/7 surrounding the Ark or His presence in worship, what an awesome picture. This is the one church that receives no condemnation (*Rom 8:1*) from Christ He is pleased with them and says: **I know your works**. If we remember in Sardis He also said I know your works and they are imperfect (*bad fruit*) condemning them with rebuke unless they repented, Philadelphia was just the opposite. Those at Philadelphia are faithful to God despite being ostracized and any persecution they are suffering they are not to walk in fear, they are on the winning side in the long term.

Jesus has set before them an open door of His presence and intimate fellowship of signs wonders and miracles. **See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name**. They have become weak through salvation in Christ and poor in their flesh (*yet rich in Him*) of little strength as they are new Christians learning about God. They are now being sanctified continually yielded to Him in the correct posture before Him in their hearts.

Unlike Sardis and other churches He rebukes, the church of Philadelphia has not denied Him in their intimate Spirit filled relationship with them (*worship, prayer, repentance, wisdom, love, scriptural truth, holiness in their journey with Him*). **Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie** Those Jews of Judaism who were not authentic who have judged, accused, lied about, criticised and persecuted you, as true Judaism had now become Christianity as Jesus the Messiah after thousands of years had finally come.

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indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you Some Jews will be saved and repent before the church of Philadelphia, others will be judged one day by the Philadelphia saints sitting on thrones. The Jews could not excommunicate the new Christians from God at all as God had saved them and loved them, is what Jesus was now saying to them.

Then Jesus states: **Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.** This is the end of the age a reference pointing to the future end of days. Jesus is now referring to here, a time in world history that the rest of Revelation speaks of the tribulation coming upon the whole world. Jesus is saying you're a good church Philadelphia you are not going to hell basically saying; **"I have shut the door against those who would try and keep you out of My Kingdom, so Philadelphia Christians I am not going to let you go through that time coming upon the Earth".**

This tribulation time ends with His second coming return when He destroys the wicked. When the dead are raised up with Him in the first resurrection then those who are alive are caught up to Him as well. The destruction will be raised with Christ tribulation will not touch them, they will go into the millennial reign with Christ for 1000 years because they are faithful and true to Him (1 Thess 4:16). **Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more.** In the ancient world in old ruins of a temple even old Synagogue ruins they would honour great people having their names carved into the pillar. If someone did a great deed or donated money etc their names would be carved into a pillar on the inside of a synagogue or temple. In modern times we do the same by putting up a plaque on a wall in a building honouring someone who had done something special.



So Jesus was saying: **I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more** you will be like a pillar (*fence*) that encloses His house, pillars surrounding God (*Strong's Hebrew 5982: Pillar is a place appointed, to stand, to dwell, to serve, to remain, held in place balanced by chords of love*). His court is the place of His presence, glory and love, a place of honour in the house/temple/tabernacle of the Father.

You can find the pillars of His court His house in Exodus 27:9-19, the tabernacle design was a heavenly picture of God Himself. **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 out of heaven from My God.** This is

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citizenship of the heavenly **New Jerusalem** (Rev 21:2) its **marriage to Christ** (Rev 19:6-9) as a **city** (Rev 21:2) **adorned** (*Strong's Hebrew G2885: to trim, put in proper order, decoration*) **prepared** (*Strong's Hebrew G2090 & G2680: make ready, provide, create, internal fitness, prepare thoroughly*) as a **bride** (*Strong's Hebrew G3565; a sons wife*) **to be with Him forever; he shall go out no more**, set apart sanctified His alone.

Those who truly walk with Him are His true seed (Gal 3:29) His true children sons and daughters (Ps 82:6, Gal 3:26-29) forming the Bride of Christ (Rev 19:6-9, Rev 22:17). **And I will write on him My new name.** (*Strong's Hebrew; G3686 authority, character*) hence “oneness in love” (Jn 17:26) the sonship of Jesus Christ (Gal 4:30, Eph 1:5, Rom 8:15) **"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."** The Lord here is speaking to all churches and Christians down through the generations and ages. To Christians that have the attitudes the resolve of the church of Philadelphia, of faith that have not denied Him even in weakness in trials and tribulations **“Hear what His spirit is saying”**.



To the Church in Laodicea (The lukewarm church)

Rev 3:14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." (NKJV)

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Laodicea as a city means “Rule of the people” (*Denizili Turkey*) it was under Roman rulership a democracy, a city founded in the 3rd century BC. The Laodicea Church was about 100 miles from Ephesus one of the earliest churches established on a plateau by the mountains alongside the River Lycus near a valley (16kms wide) in Asia Minor at the time, a Roman province.

Laodicea depended upon water from hot springs through its aqueduct (*still exists in archaeology*) from the city of Hierapolis to the north 6 miles away, it was a city also filled with many Jews and synagogues. It was a city sitting right on the trade route crossroads so it traded in many goods for wealthy people such as gold, silver, medicines, food and clothing.

The Aqueduct would have been a huge undertaking to transport water even for a modern city 10kms (6miles). Laodicea was on a main trade route it had become a very prosperous city as well, in 61AD it had a devastating earthquake, but refused Roman assistance to re build it rebuilt itself as they were wealthy enough. Laodicea unlike other cities with its immense wealth was a city made of white marble not mud brick vinereered over with marble as other Greek built cities in the roman empire had been, these people were rich.



Laodicea was known for three things it was a wealthy financial centre on a main trading route the richest of the seven church cities. It produced beautiful dark black wool for making clothing etc highly desirable. It was the area of the temple dedicated to Asclepius the son of Apollo the Greek hero god of medicine, Laodicea had a medical school attached to the temple. Laodicea was well known for its eye salve medicine many from surrounding regions came to get treatments it was a Pharmaceutical type city in the ancient world many became wealthy through these goods. It was also known for the medicinal hot pools in the city of Hierapolis 10 kms north.

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Remains of Temple of Asclepius

Asclepius Statue

Impression of temple of Asclepius

Laodicea is mentioned four times in the New Testament (*Col 2:1, 4:13, 15, 16*). Paul instructs the Colossians from his chains in a Roman prison, to exchange his letter written to the Laodicean's (*Col 4:16*), indicating Laodicea may have also been evangelised by Paul (*Col 4:12-16*). Laodicea was the last church addressed in Revelations an important city to Christians like Smyrna, Philadelphia, Sardis, Pergamum, Thyatira and Ephesus. All of the seven churches were in Asia Minor part of the ten city region in close proximity to one another within only 1-3 days travel distance between cities. Laodicea also had a spiritual condition they had fallen into before the Lord that was now being dressed to bring forth repentance and new life.



Church ruins in Laodicea Asia minor modern day Turkey



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Jesus began addressing the Laodicea church with symbolic words for their time about Himself to do with their spiritual situation: **"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: God says He is the Amen (God of Truth the total of all things, the agreement) God is stating here that He is the ruler of all of creation (Heb 4:13, Math 28:18, Col 1:15-23) He is the only one who is faithful and true (Rev 19:11) a witness He sees all that goes on and knows the hearts of man (Jer 17:10, 1 Sam 16:7). God was saying I see all things (Omnipresent) and know all things I am faithful (Omnipotent) I am the way the truth and the life (Jn 14:6). So you better listen up to what I am about to tell you.**

"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Hierapolis (also had a church there) is a city to the north 10kms (6 miles away) from Laodicea is world renowned for its hot springs a geological crack 1.5 miles long in the earth. This geological feature causes the hot water to bubble out with to the surface with calcium carbonate turning the mountain side pure white, to look like snow. Hot water from this natural hot springs in ancient times was piped into Laodicea so they had hot water to access (how hot when it got to Laodicea is unknown).



Below is an ancient Sarcophagus emerged in the Travertine pool at Hierapolis. Hierapolis hot pool springs along the 1.5 mile geological crack in earth in Turkey near Laodicea.



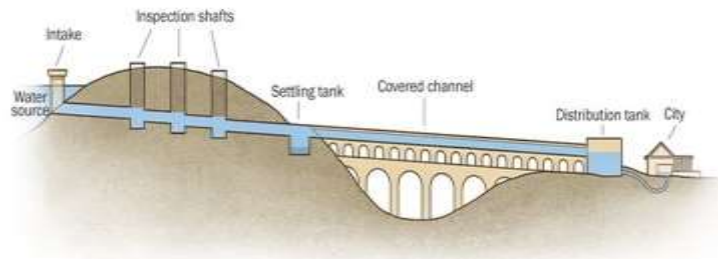
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To the south of Laodicea there was Taurus another city (12-14 kms from Laodicea) that piped in ice cold water (*snow water*) to Laodicea from the snowy Taurus Mountains (*covered all year round in snow*) surrounding Taurus. The Colossians Paul wrote to in his letters (*Epistle of Colossians*) were from the base of mount Taurus in the city there. So on one side of Laodicea was right in the middle you had hot water to the south then cold water to the north hence Jesus using this in His saying **So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot.** Water piped from these two regions north and south either side of Laodicea met in the middle when you mix hot when you mix hot and cold together you get lukewarm.



Mount Taurus to the south of Laodicea and dual aquaducts that transported hot or cold water.



Ancient Roman aqueduct design and duct still standing today



These aqueducts that came into the city were not open ducts they were a series of pipes bringing water in the pipes would keep water hot or cold all 6-7 miles from either city to the south and north Taurus or Hierapolis. They had their own spas in Laodicea just like today in modern spas

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businesses gyms etc, when you soak in a hot spa pool you can then get into a cold pool causing a shock to the body making you feel refreshed and alive. So the Laodiceans would not only bath in the hot water coming in and the cold feeling refreshed they would also drink it.

So when water ended up coming in that was lukewarm and they drank it they could taste the impurities of the water, they would think it was toxic and spit it out of their mouths or vomit it up. So this next statement **I will vomit you out of My mouth** was a very revealing statement to their times. Jesus Himself is the water of life (*Jn 4:14, Jn 7:38, Rev 7:17*);

Joh 7:38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (NKJV)

Rev 7:17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (NKJV)

(The previous page “Cyrus defeat of Sardis” some notes were taken from the 2015 video series “Decoding The Future” Part 09 “Church of Laodicea” by Host Jay McCarl: www.DecodingTheFuture.com)

So when Christians become lukewarm (*Hypocritical being both Christian and worldly a mixed person not set apart*) Jesus was saying as you vomit up unclean water you also I will vomit out my mouth like impure water, a stark warning indeed. He is the way the truth and the life (*Jn 14:6*). Then Jesus said: **Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.** Due to their great wealth in Lodecia again like the church of Sardis they are in bad shape they had become too comfortable. They had fallen into a lazy condition, fallen into apathy through religion a state of lukewarmness neither hot or cold for Christ they were sitting on the fence.

The Laodicean church thought they were doing well blessed they were rich and comfortable saying in their hearts **'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'** yet they had the religious form of Christianity but had become wretched and in a poor spiritual state. They had become naked and blind (*Ez 16:1-15*) this was a similar picture to God describing Israel His people in ancient times that He had visited and blessed but they became comfortable about themselves they compromised themselves because of those blessings and who they thought they were they had become apathetic towards God.

This was no different here to the Laodicean church they were the oldest of all the churches in the region, God had chosen them to be Christians. They began well saved and filled with Him ministered to by Paul the apostle yet as time went on they enjoyed their wealth and comforts had fallen into religious ways and had become apathetic towards God “Lukewarm”. They were naked before Him in all their ways exposed and now struggling in their own ways compromised, see prophetic picture below in scripture *Ez 16:1-14*.

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Eze 16:1 -14 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem: "Your birth and your nativity are from the land of Canaan; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. As for your nativity, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not rubbed with salt nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day you were born. "And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!'

Yes, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful. Your breasts were formed, your hair grew, but you were naked and bare. "When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord GOD. "Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil. I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk. I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck.

And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head. Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil. You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty. Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendour which I had bestowed on you," says the Lord GOD. "But you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot because of your fame, and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who would have it. (NKJV)

It seemed here Jesus was saying to the Laodicea church they had come to a place where they needed nothing including Him as their God, their Lord and savior. You would think here Jesus hates this church but He doesn't He loves them and was rebuking them of their spiritual condition of lukewarm neither hot nor cold non therapeutic to Christ, he is calling them to repent to return to Him in heart. So Jesus went on to say: **I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich** (*repentant, yielded to Him*); **and white garments** (*of righteousness*), **that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.**

As many as I love Jesus is saying He loves them regardless of their condition so He's not disowning the Laodicians here, hatred is not the opposite to love in this context as you have to care about someone to hate them, apathy is opposite to love here that Jesus is addressing, **I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.** Then Jesus says this: **Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door,** Listen to His spirit His heart.

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I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To eat with someone in this part of the world was a place of reconciliation, to sit down and eat with someone you had something against in ancient custom was intentional. You would take one piece of bread that is broken into two parts (*like communion with Christ*), when you ate one piece of the two pieces, each piece would go into the other person from the same bread. This made you family your one with them brothers under the skin, you have forgiven reconciled with that person.

Then Jesus said: To him who overcomes He was calling the Laodicea church to repent and overcome this spatial condition of being lukewarm. **I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."** Jesus once again is now addressing all churches down through the generations and ages in this letter that went into the full Bible. Jesus knew this would be a spiritual condition that many down through the ages would have to deal with and repent of. The thing about lukewarm water is it becomes stagnant filled with germs and bitterness you can't drink it, it's impure no good for anything its apathetic a stench in Gods nostrils.

Conclusion:

Many teach there are dispensations of the churches that in our modern day we are now in the dispensation of “Laodicea” the lukewarm church. Whether this is true or not is hard to know as this is another theology of men. The gospels don't actually tell us that the churches have different ages and times of dispensation fulfilment throughout the church age. Jesus is the Alpha and Omega He knows the beginning and the end He knows what He's saying and doing and means what He says and says what He means.

These seven churches were real at the time of Jesus letters to the seven churches through John who wrote the Book of Revelations. The seven letters were sent to seven actual churches in Asia Minor (*modern day Turkey*) with seven actual spiritual conditions (*Satanic bondages*) that each had to deal with. These spiritual conditions are outlined by Jesus who knows the hearts of men they are “**types and symbols**” spiritually, of different conditions the church will face throughout the generations.

Type (noun) - A number of things or persons sharing a particular characteristic, or set of characteristics, that causes them to be regarded as a group, more or less precisely defined or designated.

See: <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/types>

Symbol (noun) - Something visible that by association or convention represents something else that is invisible.

See: <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/symbol>

It is Jesus who holds His church in His hand He walks in the midst of the 7 candlesticks continually and knows His churches conditions. This is generational not just this period or that,

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He is the beginning and the end. In the end He will have His final church the Joel 2:2-3, Eph 5:27 church, a bride awake to Him, a Holy cleansed sanctuary Dan 8:14, on fire for Him Math 3:11, in love with Him walking in His fiery presence. There is a final end time’s revival awakening Joel 3:9-14, for the Rev 14:14-16 final harvest of souls.



Rev 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lamp stands. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lamp stands which you saw are the seven churches. (NKJV)

Rev 2:1 These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lamp stands: (NKJV)

Eph 5:27 That He (*Jesus*) might present her (*His bride*) to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish (*no Satanic spiritual conditions*). (NKJV)

Joe 2:2-3 A people **come**, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any **such** after them, Even for many successive generations. A fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns; The land is like the Garden of Eden before them. (NKJV)

In today’s modern times 2000 years later, all of these spiritual conditions (*Satanic deceptions and bandages against the saints*) and situations in some form are occurring in various modern mainstream church denominations and off shoot sects, in nations all around the world. It truly takes discernment study of the word and a solid relationship with Christ through His Holy spirit to filter out the rubbish. The Nicolatians of Sardis and Pergamum along with teachings of Baalam/Baal mixed occult paganism, statues of worship, idolatry and rituals of worship into Christianity. Forms of this can be found under the guise of religion in the Vatican Churches today, filled to the brim with mystical statues and worship rituals.

You have 1.2 billion Roman Catholics in a church system of strange doctrines and rituals (*Purgatory/priest confessionary*) kissing, bowing and worshipping statues of Jesus. Catholics bow before statues of Mary calling her the queen of heaven, they worship dead people, yet He is the God of life not death. This is idolatry even of God He hates it, this all throughout the Bible “make no images/idols of wood/ stone nor bow before them” (*Lev 26:1*). God is alive not dead

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statues are dead they take the focus away from heart relationship into religion and rituals. Catholics worship the Pope (*a universal papal supremacy doctrine*) several popes are documented to have said themselves they are “Christ on Earth” the vicar “in place of the divine”.

The pope has a throne between two cherubim angels there is only one God that sits in that position and it’s not a man. There have been many cases of child sexual abuse by Catholic priests along with child murder in mass graves being found killed by nuns and priests. The Vatican is one of the wealthiest institutions in the world similar to Sardis and Laodicea who were very rich materially as well. Something is very much amiss in the Vatican Catholic system of worship and rituals even doctrines, yet many in the Catholic Church do genuinely love God.



Catholic worship of the pope, statues and the dead (*Let the dead worship/bury the dead Lk 9:60*)



You have millions of orthodox Christians in Russia and the continent of Asia worshipping and kissing pictures and crosses like they are going out of fashion (*idolatry*) religious rituals of worship. Orthodox Christians practice veneration of icons, reverence is directed toward the person they represent and not the relics themselves. The Orthodox Christians broke away from the Catholic Church in 1054 AD referred to as the great Schism; this was over doctrinal disagreement they returned to their roots in Christ.

Yet like the Catholics (*red, purple, white, gold*) they have prominent priest positions dressed in religious regalia (*white, black, gold*). Jesus wants a one on one personal relationship within us by His spirit. Kissing and worshipping dead things made by men’s hands will not give you a relationship with him; this is idolatry in the form of religion. This is part of what Jesus was addressing in the seven churches to repent of these things.

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You have Jezebelic doctrines of Balaam or Baal (*sexual perversion and immorality*), doctrines of demons and men operating in so called evangelical Christian circles embracing gay life styles in their midst (*LGBT doctrines*). Remember as said in the Bible “a little bit of bad leaven will leaven the whole lump” (*Gal 5:9*) stay away from immoral behaviours and false teachers. Jesus gave warnings to the seven churches because He knew the danger these things posed even to the point of the loss of salvation. Some so called Christians with doctrines of demons and men have fallen into great error and deception creating religious cults (*sects*), they have used woman to have sex with men like prostitutes, to get the men to become converts.

In the 1970s and early 1980s, some religious cults practised sacred prostitution as an instrument to recruit new converts. Among them was the cult Children of God, also known as The Family, who called this practice "Flirty Fishing". They later abolished the practice due to the growing AIDS epidemic.

See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacred_prostitution

*Sect **sĕkt** : A group of people forming a distinct unit within a larger group by virtue of certain refinements or distinctions of belief or practice. A religious body, especially one that has separated from a larger denomination. A faction united by common interests or beliefs.*

See: <https://duckduckgo.com/?q=DEFINE+SECT&atb=v233-1&ia=definition>

These are examples of how undiscerning people get hoodwinked by demonic doctrines of demons of false teachers, and stray from true salvation in Christ. These type of Christian sects are organised by Satanic influences they paint a terrible picture to the unsaved world of true Christianity, an assignment to undermine Christ and His true saved Holy Spirit filled followers. Some Christian leaders have defiled Gods word and compromised because of deception, demons, persecution and political correctness.

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They normally start out in mainstream Biblical doctrine then break away fallen into error deceived and unrepentant, to do their own thing to become a sect. Many reports have come forth of Christian leaders that have committed adultery with church members in some cases multiple times. The Christian sect of Mormonism have recently practiced polygamy (*more than one wife is sexual adultery immorality*) up until the mid to late 19th century, now outlawed it is a bit rarer than it used to be, yet still exists in their doctrines.



One Mormon man and his six wives then 50 wives of the 70 -80 estimated of the infamous Mormon Warren Jeffs now jailed for 20 years for child sexual abuse.

See: <https://www.polygamy.com/articles/8808768/mormons-and-polygamy>

You have certain denominational Christian churches (*sects*) in nations like Finland embracing homosexual marriages in their midst as members. You also have this in the USA with entire homosexual churches in the USA even homosexual pastas and bishops. All of these things point us to the end of days with the great falling away that comes first the apostasy (*2 Thess 2:3*) then the son of perdition is revealed (*Rev 13:1-10*). All because of transgression, sin religion and the hardness of men's hearts turning from God and His truth His word (*Math 15:19, Math 19:8*).

Anyone who speaks out about the gay life style according to God's word, are now persecuted and even imprisoned its considered hate speech not truth. A top Christian politician lawmaker in Finland recently in 2020 quoted scriptures from Rom 1:24-27 posted on social media. To encourage the Finland Lutheran church to stop promoting homosexuality to stand against this kind of contradiction to God's word.

Losing her God given freedom to speak, she now faces hate speech charges, fines and jail time under the new UN legislation pushed forward in 2019. This is a new antichrist international hate speech legislative law to control people, so you cannot speak out or demonstrate against them and what they are doing (*UN, New World Order, Agenda 2030*). You could say this is a “mark of the beast law” where people are stripped of their freedoms, controlled, policed, marked, ostracised, charged and jailed as a criminal. Nigeria an Islamic country recently tried bringing in the death penalty based upon this UN legislation, but thankfully it was rejected.

See: <https://christiansfortruth.com/christian-lawmaker-in-finland-facing-fines-and-jail-for-quoting-the-bible/>

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See:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Christian_denominational_positions_on_homosexuality

See: <https://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/nigeria-reintroduces-death-penalty-bill-for-hate-speech-that-incites-murder-37122733>

See:

<https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/UN%20Strategy%20and%20Plan%20of%20Action%20on%20Hate%20Speech%2018%20June%20SYNOPSIS.pdf>

These are just some of the things going on in Gods church with people calling themselves Christians caught up in all sorts of compromise just as the seven churches of revelations were. One who professes to be a Christian yet leads an LBGT lifestyle is not saved they are in sexual immorality, repentance and change is required by God. God loves all people and wants all to be saved to come to Him, He does not love the sins of the people.

Jesus made the way for all at the cross to be saved he created one man one woman, to be as one in marriage. God is Holy His word is Holy, one day all are called up before Him in judgement Rev 20, God will not be mocked. Yet in the midst of all this you still have Holy churches as well like the ancient Smyrna and Philadelphia churches that still operate God always keeps a remnant for Himself. So find a good church, that teaches true doctrine and moves in His presence plant grow and learn there.



Some Christian denominations do not consider homosexuality or transgender identity to be sins. These include entire religious denominations, as well as individual churches and congregations. Some are composed mainly of non-LGBT members and also have specific programs to welcome LGBT people, while others are composed mainly of LGBT members. The first gay and transgender-specific denomination, as opposed to individual congregations, was the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches in 1968. Some congregations are merely non discriminatory and LGBT affirming while others are specifically oriented toward gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons. Some local congregations, especially those designated as "Welcoming churches" in the Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, Methodist, Episcopal, and Brethren/Mennonite denominations, may consist of a majority of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender members.

See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Christian_denominations_affirming_LGBT

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Infanticide has become legal the sacrifice of children (*the false god Molech under Baal the killing of children*) opening it up to everyone including Christians if they chose to have an abortion there are no questions asked. In 2019 there were 42 million babies sacrificed worldwide for the sake of political laws, estimates even go up to 100 million killed. This is twice the number of humans per year than that of WW1, that took four years 1914-1918 (*1st Trumpet of Revelations*) to kill 20 million people. We are in the days of these seven spiritual conditions in Gods church worldwide.



With approval of the Vatican the Pagan God Molech greets visitors at the Colosseum in Rome set up there in Sept 2019. Children would be burnt alive inside its belly as part of worship. This is the demonic Canaanite false god over infanticide, baby murder we now call abortion (*Lev 18:21*). A report from 2014 revealed 15'000 aborted babies were used as fuel incinerated in a furnace boiler to heat 27 British hospitals. Babies are burnt alive by abortion solutions ripped apart by abortion tongs body parts are sold, leaving woman in a state of trauma and shock with death in the womb.

See: <https://www.lifenews.com/2019/12/31/abortion-was-the-leading-cause-of-death-worldwide-in-2019-killing-42-million-people/>

See: <https://theremnants.info/with-approval-from-vatican-canaanite-idol-moloch-put-on-display-in-rome/>

See: <https://www.lifenews.com/2014/03/24/shocking-report-shows-15000-aborted-babies-used-to-heat-british-hospitals/>

Prostitution has become legal in many countries (*53 of them*) Lev 19:29, warns us against this a very clear tactic of Satan to fill a land a nation with wickedness and transgression/sin. Truly the nations are being filled to overflowing with wickedness, transgressors have reached their fullness. See picture of countries where prostitution has become legal around the world on next page.

Lev 19:29 'Do not prostitute your daughter, to cause her to be a harlot, lest the land fall into harlotry, and the land become full of wickedness. (NKJV)

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Countries Where Prostitution Is Legal 2021



See: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-where-prostitution-is-legal>

In the last days God refers to it as in the days of Noah (*Math 24:37*) when evil was in the hearts of men continually. This corruption of calling good evil and evil good has been infiltrating the worldwide church a true war over souls. We are now in the days of the fullness of transgression (*Dan 8:23*) around the world, when the antichrist arises (*Revelation Unsealed chapters 0, 30, 32, 35*). Currently as of 2021 there are 1000 arches of Baal (*demonic doorways*), being created and set up in the nations through the Institute of Digital technology. If you understand the demonic realms these statues and idols being set up have attachments to them from the pits of hell demon forces use them as doorways to attack and oppress people. Occultist practices of witches and warlocks operate with their enchantments and curses over these objects of demon worship.



The original Arch of Baal condemned as ancient evil, now seen in Washington D.C, New York City, Times Square London, Italy and in Dubai in the Middle East.

See: See: <https://www.eyeopeningtruth.com/temple-of-baal-continued-part-13-baal-arch-in-florence/>

More example of evil in our faces, you have had a satanic statue of Satan /Baphomet set up in the USA in Detroit as well as being displayed in Arkansas and Oklahoma, attendees to the unveiling had to sell their souls to Satan to get a ticket 700 attended in Detroit alone. You also have the

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tyranny of socialism being pushed upon the nations the antichrist Dragons New World Order rising up.



See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statue_of_Baphomet

President Obama in 2008 built a platform for his presidential candidacy acceptance speech, the same design as the Pergamum Alter of Zeus/Satan. You have had Hitler in the late 1930's use the same alter design at Nuremberg for speeches prior to WW2 beginnings. Jesus refers to this as Satan's seat in the Bible where His faithful servant Antipas was cooked alive inside a brass bull on the Alters steps. Satan uses types and symbols of evil everywhere as demonic doorways to deceive and oppress to destroy freedoms of the people, for a thief comes to steal destroy and kill (*Jn 10:10*).



Pergamum Alter of Zeus and Obamas alter of acceptance.



Many countries in Europe have statues to the Greek Gods, government buildings and public buildings have been built in the style of the ancient Greek Gods. The USA Capitol Hill and Whitehouse buildings are styled this way architecturally built by Freemasons referred to as the

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“temple of the people”. These idolatrous structures are everywhere we are truly in the days of the “fullness of the transgressors” the time of the antichrist.



You have Pentecostal and charismatic Christian leaders chasing money and riches sitting back in comfortable dwellings with multimillion dollar properties and private jets fleecing the sheep. You have religion rampant everywhere with robotic repetitive lukewarm services like the Laodicea church, you have smoke machines and big screen tech trying to manufacture Gods presence in churches. Many Christian leaders are merchandising Christian products DVD's , CD's, seminars, conferences, programmes step A,B,C and D for happiness. Just like in the Temple in Jesus day when He went in and kicked them out calling them a den of thieves (*Jn 2:15*).

You even have seven (*probably more*) known Christian leaders claiming they are Jesus Himself in the Philipians in Russia and other nations some with huge followings. This has happened down the generations as well at various times as Jesus warned about (*Math 24:26*).

See: <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/seven-men-around-the-world-who-each-claim-to-be-jesus-christ/2W27IHL7PIQLTO5SFAPPAMN5HM/>

Mat 24:24 For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. (NKJV)

Interestingly in the book of Daniel there is a passage of scripture, God is dealing in the end of days with Christians in the 6th Trumpet season through the antichrist of Rev 13:1-10. As seen with the many immoral things taking place with Christians (*idolatry, luke warmness, religious rituals, false teachings*) and so called Christian sects. God allows some Christians caught in bondage but generally follow Him to be refined, purifying and refining some in the first 42 month “Tribulation of the saints” purifying them Rev 13:5-7.

In other words there are spiritual bondages and wrong conditions they must overcome and be faithful to Him alone, just as Jesus states to each of the seven churches (*see war against saint's chapter 35*). This particular 42 month war against the saints has already taken place under the beast of Rev 13:1-10 (*Rev 13:5-7*) from mid 2013-2017 in the Middle East nations of Iraq and Syria. This seems to be where 2.3 million Christians (*mainly Orthodox*) were either killed by Isis or dispersed as refugees, just as scripture states.

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Dan 11:31 And forces shall be mustered by him (*1st beast of Rev 13:1-10*), and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation. Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering. Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue. And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time. (NKJV)

Then in Dan 8 at the beginning of this war against the saints there is a period of time when the saints are first trampled to when God comes in 6.5 years later (*Dec 2019 was the 6.5 year last month Covid 19 hit shutting down entire nations, economies and the world wide churches. See chapter 42A Daniel 8 fulfilled*). God then begins to cleanse His sanctuary His church His saints hearts on the earth from there wayward ways from their spiritual conditions as found in the seven churches.

He prepares to release His spirit afresh to heal the stroke of their wound (*Is 30:25-26*) that came after the towers fell (*9/11 led into 5th then 6th Trumpets see chapters 19, 21 and 26*) from the 42 month tribulation of the saints the blood cries out. He begins to cleanse the saints from impurities their worldliness, idolatry and religious ways etc (*see chapters 14A, 35, 42, 42A*). An awakening for revival Glory outpouring to come to His bride to become His Eph 5:27 bride, His Joel 2 people, His wise virgins (*Math 25*) for the harvest (*Rev 14:14-16, Joel 3:9-14*).

Dan 8:12-14 Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn (*Rev 13:1-10 beast*) to oppose the daily sacrifices (*prayer and worship in His church*); and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered. Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, "How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host (*saints ruling and reigning in heavenly realms*) to be trampled underfoot ? (*only spirit filled saints alive on earth His host down here can be trampled*) " And he said to me, "For two thousand three hundred days (*from its beginnings June 2013 see chapter 25*); then the sanctuary (*worldwide church*) shall be cleansed." (NKJV)

Is 30:25- 26 In the day of the great slaughter, When the towers fall (*9/11 in 2001 see chapter 19*)..... In the day that the LORD binds up the bruise of His people And heals the stroke of their wound (*war against saints in Iraq and Syria June 2013 – Jan 2017*). (NKJV)

Eph 5:27 That He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (NKJV)

All Christians and churches have had to face these seven revelation church spiritual conditions/situations to discern repent of and overcome in their walk “continually” (*a satanic battle against the church*) throughout the age of the church. This has been ongoing for the last

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2000 plus years, we have been called to be **“faithful to overcome”** to gain His rewards. To bow down to Him alone to overcome the obstacles in our way especially in these last days. As in the days of Noah the church needs to become the ark/boat the house of salvation to the nations in the midst of great wickedness.

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him (*Satan the accuser of the brethren*) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. (NKJV)

Mat 16:27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. (NKJV)

Rev 11:18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth.” (NKJV)

Rev 22:12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work “. (NKJV)

1 Co 3:11-13 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. “If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward”. (NKJV)



Rewards of the Seven Churches in Revelation - “Be faithful overcome”

Ephesus - "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes **I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.**" (Rev 2:7)

Smyrna - Be faithful until death, and **I will give you the crown of life.** (Rev 2:10) **“He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.”** (Rev 2:11 second death “the lake of fire and brimstone” from Rev 21:8)

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Pergamum - To him who overcomes **I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.**" (Rev 2:17)

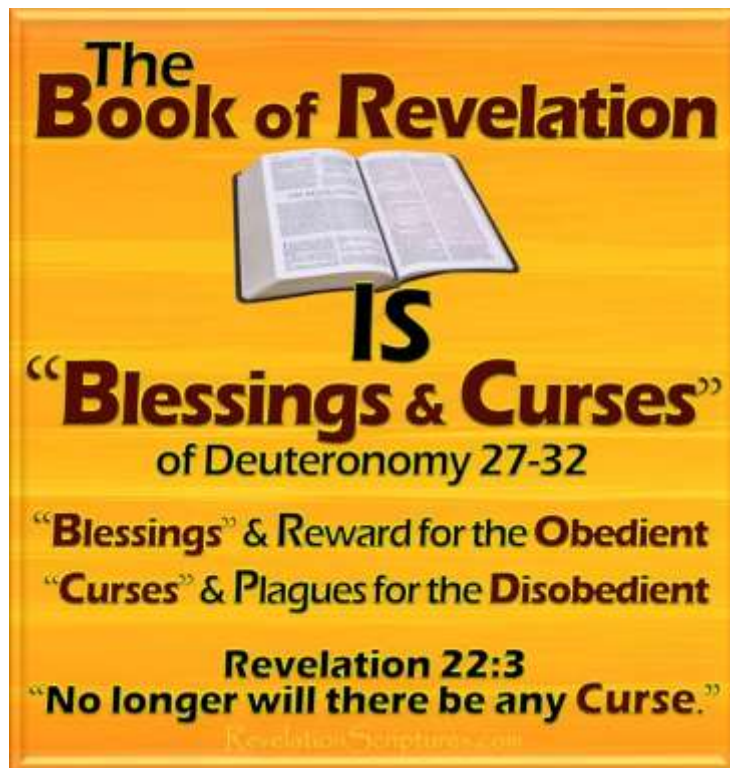
Thyatira - And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him **I will give power (authority) over the nations....** as I also have received from My Father; **and I will give him the morning star** ". (Rev 2:26-28)

Sardis - "He who overcomes **shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels**". (Rev 3:5)

Philadelphia - "He who overcomes, **I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. 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 out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name**". (Rev 3:12)

Laodicea - "To him who overcomes **I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne**". (Rev 3:21)

(Scriptures taken from NKJV)



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