

The Seven Churches Timeline - Part 3



Past > Present > Future



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Learn from the **Past** > Understand the **Present** >
Prepare for the **Future**



Inreach & Outreach Resource



This booklet is an eye opener of what's happening in the world.

This 40 page A5 size booklet has the key aspects of the –

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE.

It's available at the cost of printing & postage for bulk orders. PDF is available on ProphecyLive.org



Enter The Ark of Hope

The Great Controversy between God and
Satan is primarily over

“WORSHIP”

Who will you Choose?



Get into the Ark **Sanctuary**



**And let them
make me a
sanctuary;
that I may dwell
among them.**

– Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Nutrition: Carbohydrates

How to Get Enough of Right Carbs in a Plant-Based Diet:

Ancient grains are the oldest foods on the planet. Are an excellent source of complex carbohydrates, which help curb appetite. These contain phytochemicals, which can help lower cholesterol and prevent cancer and other diseases. When combined with legumes and vegetables, whole grains provide complete nourishment!

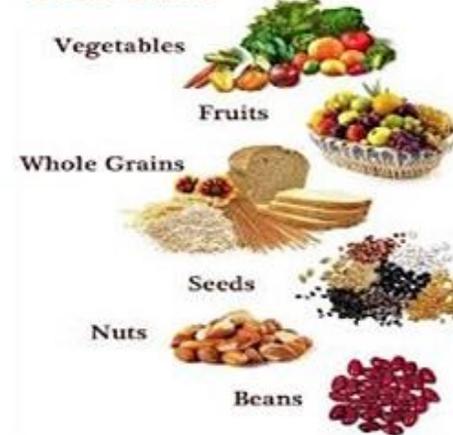
1. Consume one to two servings each day (1/2 cup or one slice of bread is equivalent to one portion of grain).
2. Focus on gluten-free whole grains (brown rice, quinoa, millet, amaranth, and buckwheat). They also cook quickly.
3. Choose alternatives to wheat (spelt, kamut, oats, barley, and rye).
4. Choose sprouted-grain products. (I like Ezekiel 4:9 breads and wraps because they're full of fiber and protein)
5. Use these grains in their whole form or as ground flours, in pastas, breads, wraps, and crackers.

Fruits: Organic, seasonal, low-glycemic fruits, such as apples, berries, and pears.

Legumes: Lentils, chickpeas, split peas, kidney beans, pinto beans, and black beans

Learning how to balance your intake of carbs can keep your body fueled while you manage to lose weight.

Good Carbs



Bad Carbs



Complex	Simple
Harder to Digest	Digest immediately
Burns calories being digested	Don't burn many calories being digested
Keep you feeling fuller longer	Makes you hungry - sooner
	Makes you crash
	Caused sugar cravings (it's addictive!)
Natural 'Sugar'	Processed + Added sugars
Doesn't spike blood sugar levels	Spikes blood sugar fast
Used for energy	Converts into fat easily
	Can cause other 'good' nutrients to be stored as fat
Low Glycemic	High Glycemic
Help you lose fat	Helps you store fat



Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



Yes we Can!



Revelation 3:7-13



The Seven Churches Timeline

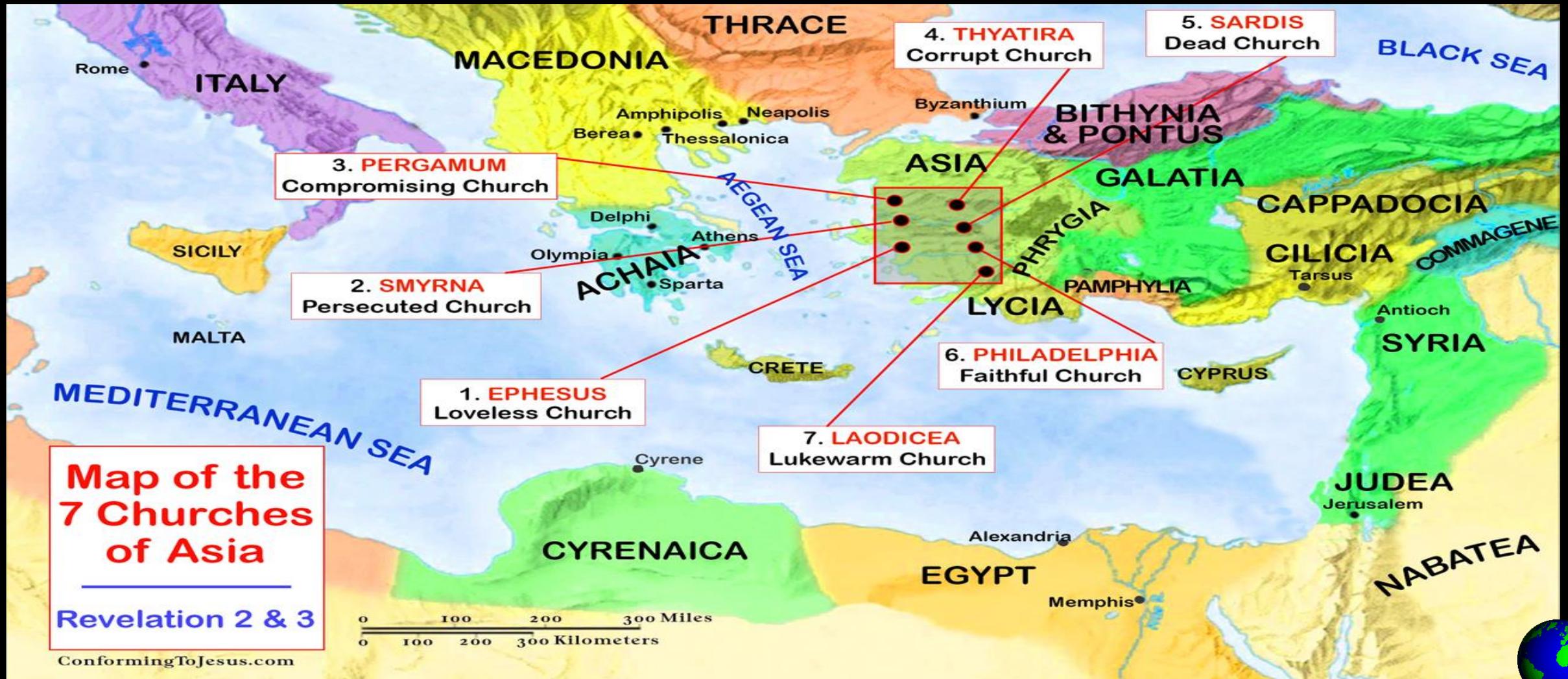
God's Messages for today's church



**A brief study of God's grace to His church, then and now,
from the Book of Revelation Chapters 2 & 3**



The geographic location of the 7 churches



All the letters will be broken down into seven sections:

REVELATION

Letters to the Seven Churches

(Revelation 2 & 3)

- **A pattern is followed in each of the messages to the seven churches.**
 1. Salutation
 2. Christ's self designation
 3. Commendation of good
 4. Condemnation of evil
 5. Counsel (warning & exhortation)
 6. Promise of reward to those who overcome
 7. Invitation to Hear



What are the three basic messages to these churches?

- **1. God knows about me.** He says: “I know thy works.” Note: **God cares about my conduct and this fact is repeated to all the churches.**
 - *Rev. 2:2,9,13,19 and 3:1,8,15.*
- **2. Overcoming is imperative.** To him that overcometh.” Note: **This takes place only through Jesus, and its importance is strongly emphasized to each church.**
 - *Rev. 2:7,11,17, 26 and 3:5,12,21*



What are the three basic messages to these churches?

3. **Listen to the Holy Spirit.** Jesus counsels, “Hear what the Spirit saith.”

He that has an ear, Let him hear

- **Note: The Holy Spirit convicts people of sin and leads them to repentance.**

- **John 16: 8,13.**

- Without the Holy Spirit no one ever feels sorry for sin or finds the new birth experience. No wonder Jesus stressed so forcefully the importance of listening to His Spirit!

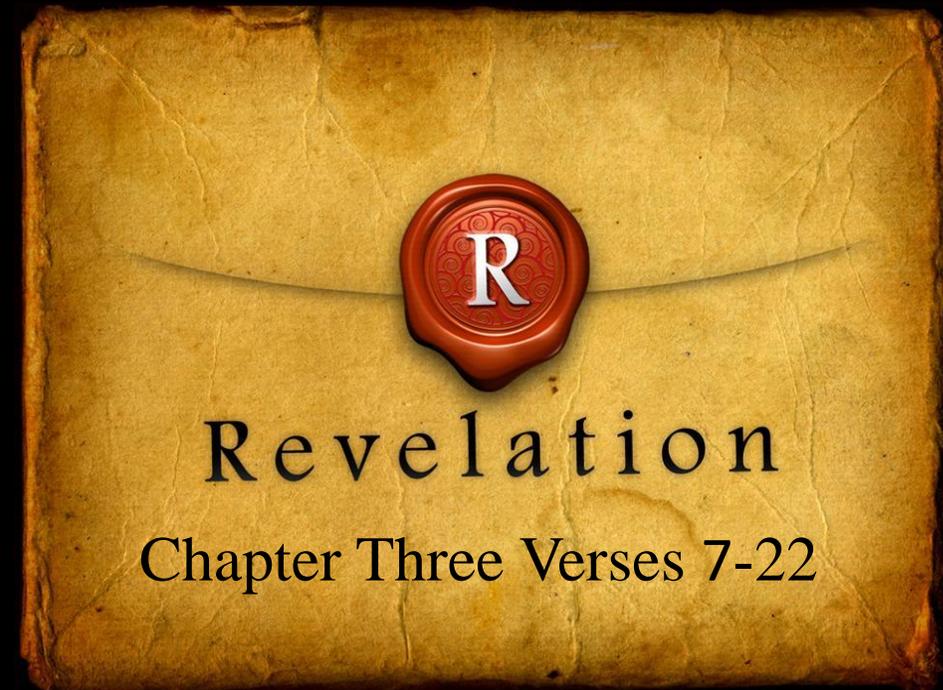
- **Rev. 2:7,11,17,29 and 3:6,13,22.**



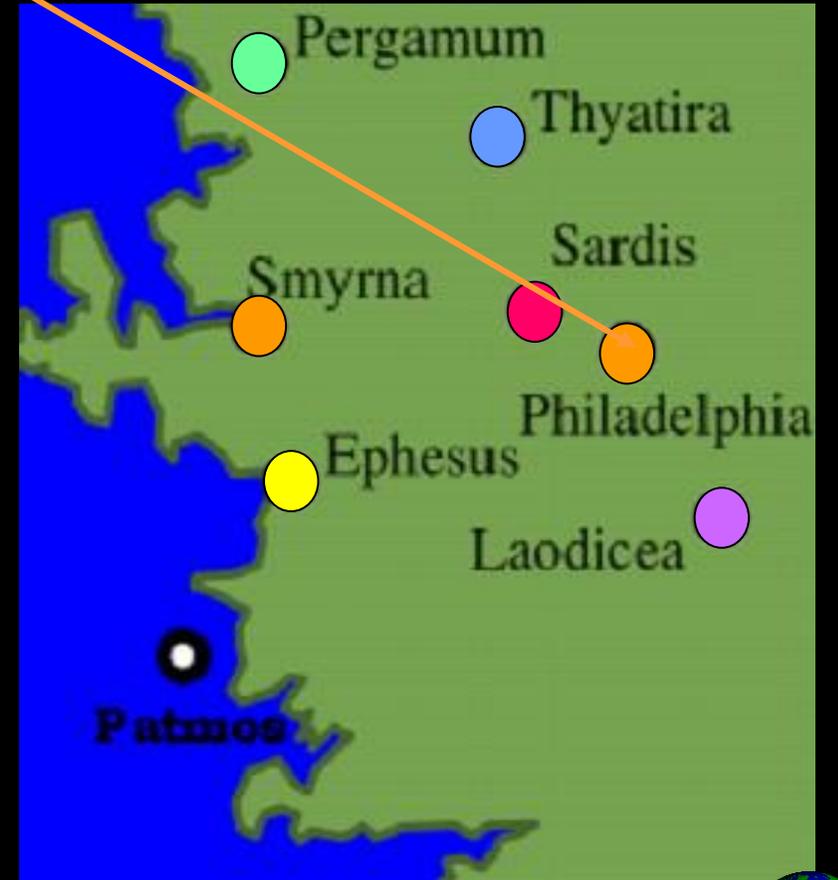
The Seven Churches Timeline

Church Era Years								
Ephesus 33-100	Smyrna 100-313	Pergamos 313-538		Thyatira 538-1517		Sardis 1517-1755	Philadelphia 1755-1844	Laodicea 1844-2 nd Advent
Roman Empire			Roman Catholic Church			Jesuits Of Rome		

**The Journey
Continues**



Philadelphia:



Philadelphia:

- The name means ‘the city of brotherly love’
- It was a city in the province of Lydia (Like Sardis)
- It was the center of the wine industry.
- The church there was considered a faithful church.



Ruins at present day Philadelphia



Ruins at present day Philadelphia



Ruins at present day Philadelphia





Philadelphia

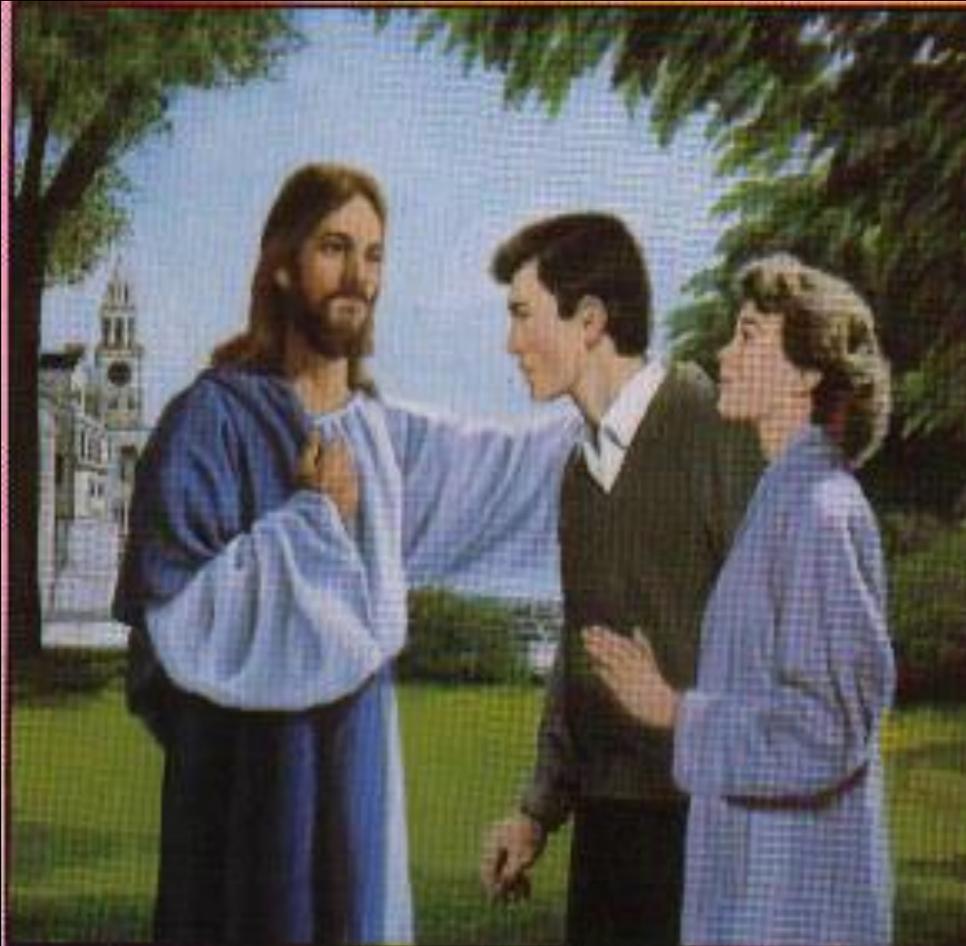
Missionary church (AD1755-1844)



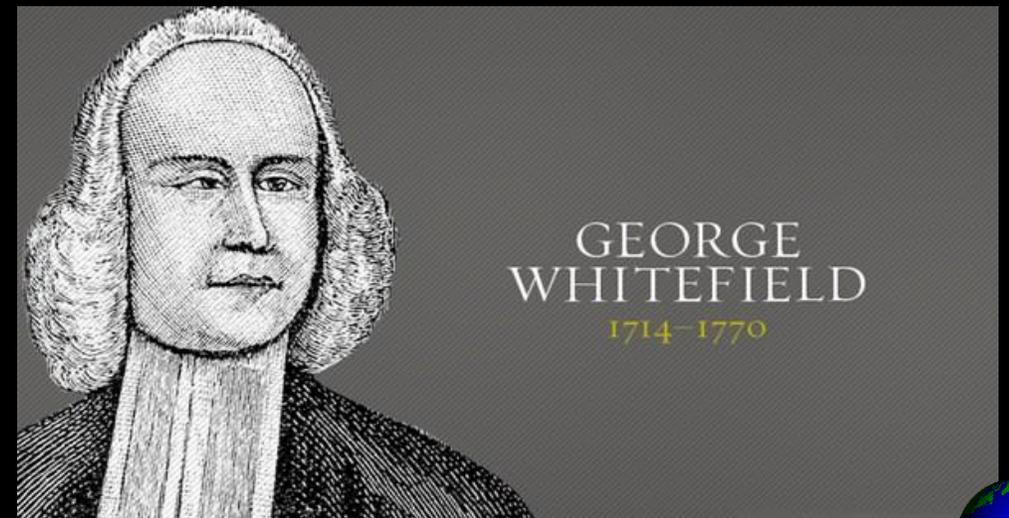
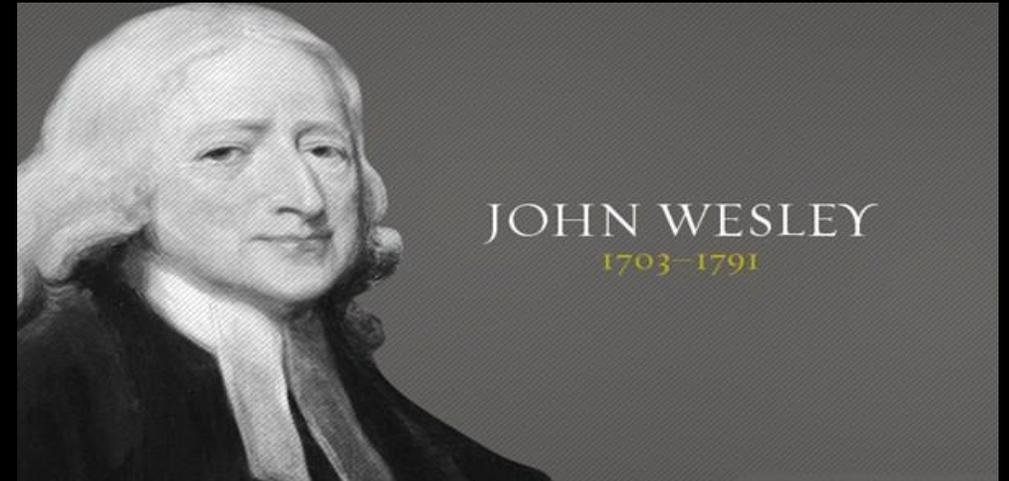
The literal meaning
of the name is
"brotherly love".



Philadelphia - Era of Revival



- **Note:** The Philadelphia era of the church covers the *second half of the 18th and first half of the 19th centuries*.
- During this time the birth and expansion of foreign missions took place.
- The American and British Bible Societies were organized.
- Great revival preachers like Wesley and Whitefield came on the scene.
- A study of the books of Daniel and Revelation sparked the greatest religious awakening since the Reformation.
- Jesus offers no reproof to this church.

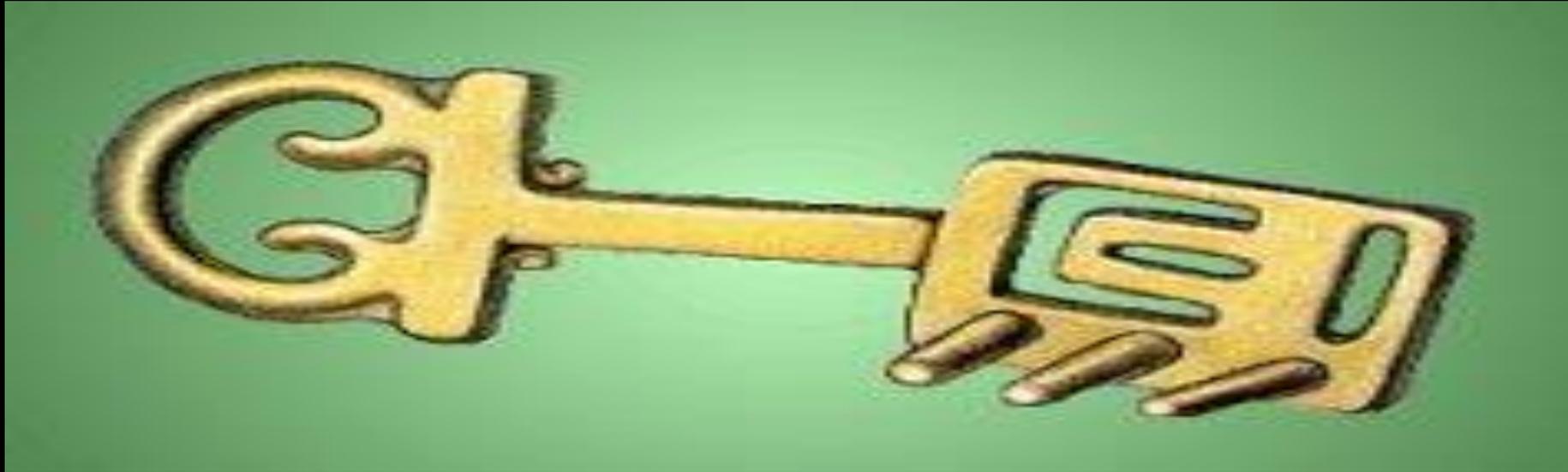


The sixth letter is addressed to the church of Philadelphia, a name meaning «*Brotherly love*».

This name was inspired by the affection of king Attalus II, founder of the city, for his elder brother Eumenes II. Attalus II reigned from 159 B.C. to 138 B.C.

Heavily damaged by a major earthquake in A.D. 17, Philadelphia was rebuilt during the reign of Roman emperor Tiberius, but still remained smaller than the original city.





Revelation 3:7

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write,
«These things said He that is holy, He that is true, He that has the key of David, He that opens, and no man shuts; and shuts, and no man opens.»

Isaiah 22:22

The key of the house of David will I lay on his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

Comments

Jesus also introduces Himself as the One who has the key of David, an image taken directly from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

What does this introduction mean?





Isaiah 22:20-22

I will call My servant Eliakim (...). I will commit your government into his hand. (...)

The key of the house of David will I lay on his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and spoke to [His disciples], saying, «All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.»

Comments

By giving to Eliakim the key of the house of David, God was giving him authority over this house.

Jesus too has the key of David, the sign of an authority which is, this time, expanded to the whole Universe.





Revelation 3:8

I know your works.

Behold, I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it.

For you have a little strength, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

Comments

The church of Philadelphia symbolizes the Awakening Church, from 1755 to 1844.

Finally coming out of its lethargy, the Church accomplished, during those years, the greatest missionary advancement of its entire history.

Expanding out of Europe, the gospel was proclaimed in Africa, Asia, India, the Pacific islands, and the New World, that is, America.





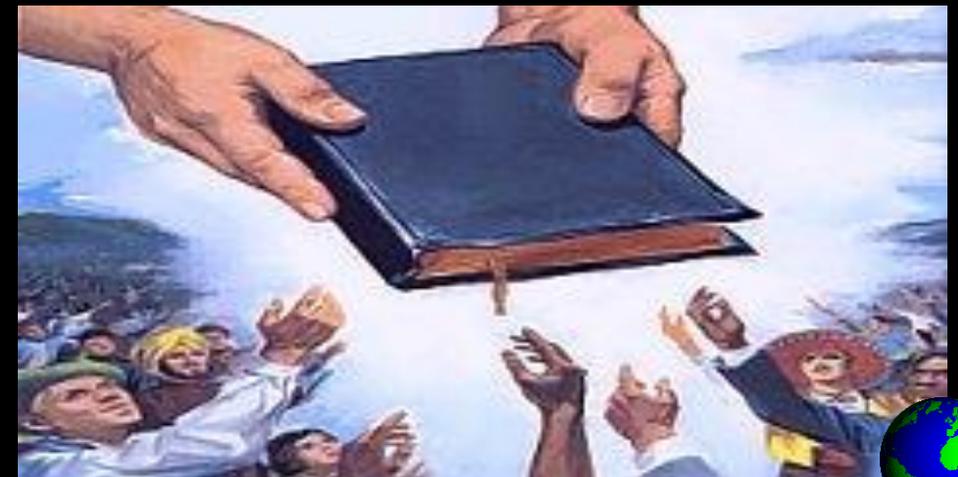
Between 1755 and 1844, Christianity rediscovered the worth of the Word of God, and its message.

Biblical societies appeared in Europe and America, distributing thousands of copies of the Bible and translations of Biblical excerpts in many languages.

Following the 1755 Lisbon earthquake, one of the most widely felt in history, Christians became aware that Jesus could come back very soon.

The Awakening Church ceased to rely on its massive structures and its political allies, as it did during the Middle Ages.

The common people, the laity, were those who, answering the call of the Holy Spirit, reinjected Christianity with the zeal and hope of the early days.





A sudden interest in Biblical prophecy sprang up among Christians.

The Holy Spirit unsealed the books of Daniel and Revelation, opening the door to the knowledge of the «*things which must be hereafter*».

God cast a favorable eye on the spiritual awakening of the Church, and abundantly blessed its missionary efforts.

This is what Jesus indicates, using the symbol of the open door that no one can shut.



The open door symbolizes the proclamation of the gospel in the world:

«And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.» (Acts 14:27)

«For a great door and effectual is opened to me, and there are many adversaries.» (1 Corinthians 16:9)

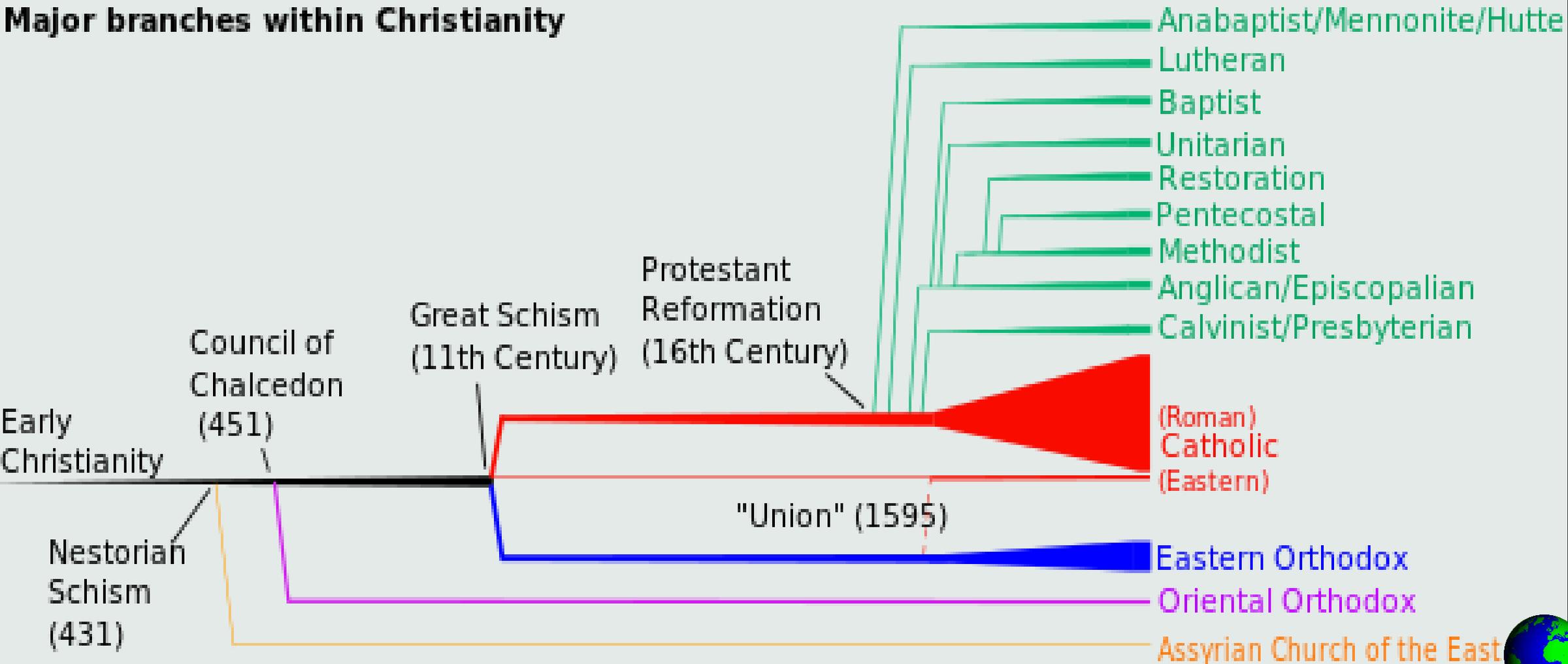
«Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, a door was opened to me of the Lord.» (2 Corinthians 2:12,13)

«(...) praying also for us, that God would open to us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds.» (Colossians 4:3)



Denominations that arose between 1755-1844

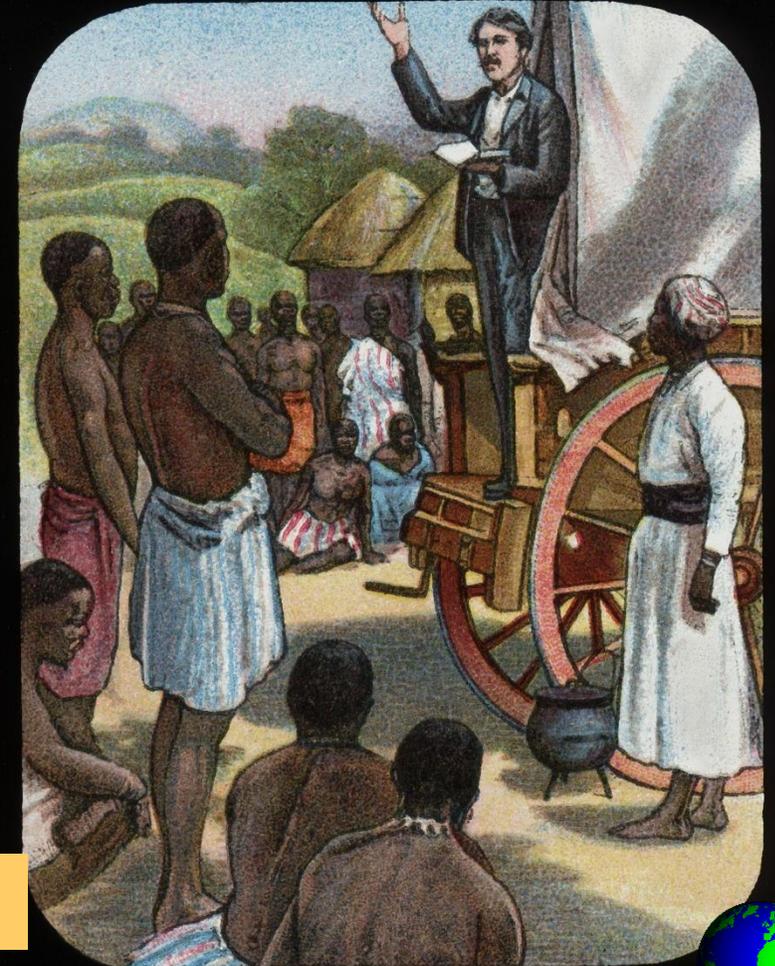
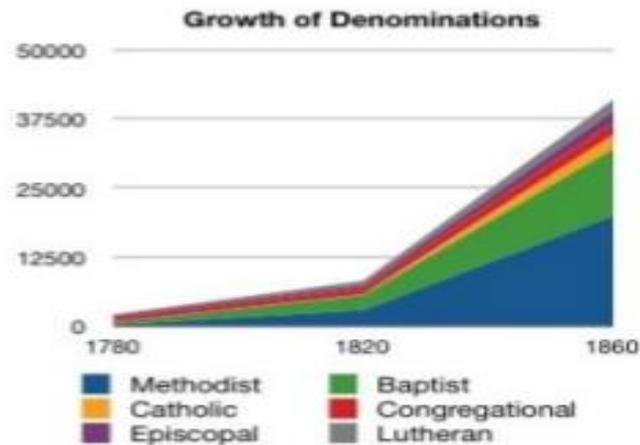
Major branches within Christianity



Denominations that arose between 1755-1844

Revival Movements

- Second (Great) Awakening
 - What was it?
 - c. 1790 – 1840; enormous increase around 1820
 - Methodists, Baptists
 - First Great Awakening (1730s and 40s)
 - Third Great Awakening (1850s to 1900)
 - Uh...How many times can we be greatly awoken?
- Hybrid: religious, social, recreational, multicultural, cross-generational

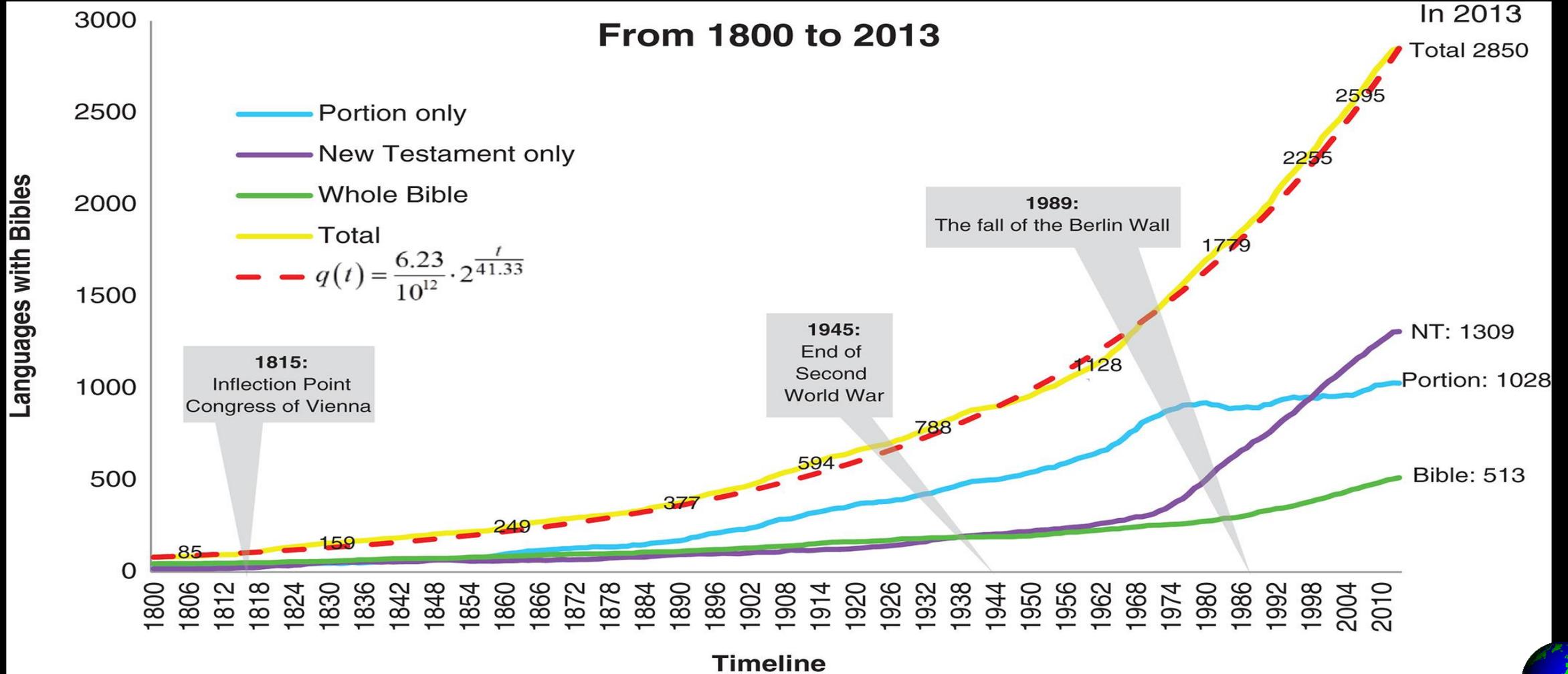


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Christian_missionaries

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



World wide Bible Translations grow Exponentially





Matthew 25:10

And while [the foolish virgins] went to buy [some oil], the Bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with Him to the marriage. And the door was shut.

Genesis 7:16

And they that went in [the ark], went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded [Noah]. And the Lord shut him in.

Comments

On the other hand, the shut door symbolizes the close of probation, the moment when the destiny of everyone is fixed forever.





Revelation 3:9

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before your feet.

Revelation 2:9

I know your works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but you are rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Comments

Just like the church of Smyrna, Philadelphia has to face false Jews, people trying to damage the progress of the Church.

But the evangelical movement is well launched, being «*an open door, and no man can shut it.*» (Revelation 3:8).



Conversely, the genuine Jew works with love for Christ and His Church:

«For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.» (Romans 2:28,29)

«For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children.» (Romans 9:6,7)

«If you be Christ's, then are you Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.» (Galatians 3:29)

«And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and on the Israel of God.» (Galatians 6:16)





Revelation 3:9

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

Isaiah 60:14

The sons also of them that afflicted you shall come bending to you; and all they that despised you shall bow themselves down at the soles of your feet.

And they shall call you, «The City of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.»

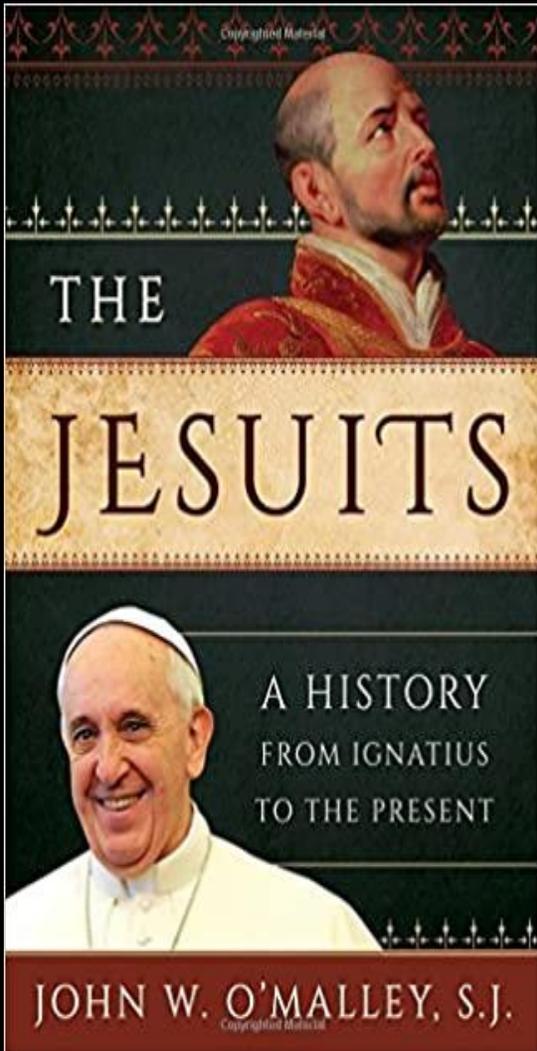
Comments

Jesus foretells that the Church will triumph over its enemies.

But infinitely more desirable than the defeat of the adversary is his conversion..



Papal Rome's - Jesuits



1.2

BRP

Gathering Souls:
Jesuit Missions
and Missionaries
in Oceania
(1668–1945)

Jesuit Studies
Editor-in-Chief: Robert A. Musy

BRILL

Alexandre Coello de la Rosa

BRP

The Years of
Jesuit Suppression,
1773–1814: Survival,
Setbacks, and
Transformation

ies

**Founded on
15 August 1534,
Montmartre, Paris, France**

BRILL

Paul Shore

On May 1st 1776 Adam Weishaupt a
Jesuit Professor of Vatican Canon Law
Founded **Illuminati**:

holy roman
empire rules
blogspot.com



Jesuit Adam Weishaupt
a Professor of
Vatican Canon Law

The caption reads:
"Adam Weishaupt, ehemaliger
Jesuit, gründete am 1. Mai
1776 die Geheimgesellschaft
der Illuminaten" (Adam
Weishaupt, former Jesuit,
Founded the secret society
of the **Illuminati**
on May 1st, 1776)

ADAMWEISHAVPT.
Adam Weishaupt, ehemaliger Jesuit, gründete am 1. Mai 1776
die Geheimgesellschaft der Illuminaten.

Adam Weishaupt began his formal education at age seven at a **Jesuit** school. After **Pope Clement XIV's Suppression** of the **Society of Jesus** in **1773**, Weishaupt became a Jesuit **professor** (1772) of **canon law**, a position that was held exclusively by the Jesuits until that time. On May 1, 1776 Weishaupt formed the **Illuminati Jesuit "Order"**. actual character of the society was modeled on the



Who are the Jesuits?



Our Founder

St. Ignatius Loyola was a Spanish soldier and aristocrat who established the Society of Jesus (commonly known as the Jesuits) in 1540. He instructed the early Jesuits to go out and "find God in all things" — the signature spirituality of the Jesuits.



In Canada and the United States:



- 2,600** Jesuit priests and brothers
- 81** Jesuit secondary and pre-secondary schools
- 30** Jesuit colleges and universities
- 9%** of the members of the U.S. Congress are alumni of Jesuit colleges and universities

2,300 schools in **67** countries

Schools

One of the founding principles of the Society of Jesus was "the education of children and unlearned persons." The Jesuits established their first school in 1548. Today, the Jesuits run over 2,300 schools in 67 countries. Georgetown University, founded in 1769, is the oldest Jesuit school in the United States. Cristo Rey Jesuit High School Milwaukee opens in 2015.



17,000

Men for Others

The Society of Jesus is the largest order of priests and brothers in the Catholic Church, with almost 17,000 members serving in 112 countries.

Spiritual Exercises

During the 1520s, St. Ignatius Loyola began writing about the exercises that took hold of him while contemplating the Scriptures. Still used today, his *Spiritual Exercises* is a compilation of meditations, prayers and other contemplative practices.

The spiritual path laid out by Ignatius is a way of discerning God's presence in our everyday lives — and doing something about it. This sense of spirituality is what inspires Jesuits to serve where needs are greatest — from underserved neighborhoods in East Los Angeles to schools in Micronesia.



A Faith that Does Justice

Jesuits have always been known for their commitment to social justice and their care for those who live at the margins of society. They advocate for immigration reform, domestic poverty relief and reform of the justice system.



A.M.D.G.

The Jesuit Mission

The Society of Jesus serves the Catholic Church for the greater glory of God. The abbreviation A.M.D.G. frequently appears in Jesuit art and publications. It stands for the Latin phrase "ad maiorem Dei gloriam" — for the greater glory of God — an unofficial motto of the Jesuits.

Best-known Jesuit?

Pope Francis, who entered the Jesuits as a novice in 1968 and was ordained a priest in 1969, is the first Jesuit to be elected pope. After his election to the papacy, Pope Francis said, "I feel I'm a Jesuit in my spirituality. I still think like a Jesuit."



THE JESUITS RULE

GLOBAL JESUIT ASSISTANCIES



Admitting his error, the opponent bows down at the feet of the Church:

«But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believes not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all. And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.» (1 Corinthians 14:24,25)

«In chains they shall come over, and they shall fall down to you, they shall make supplication to you, saying, “Surely God is in you; and there is none else, there is no God.”» (Isaiah 45:14)

«The sons also of them that afflicted you shall come bending to you; and all they that despised you shall bow themselves down at the soles of your feet.» (Isaiah 60:14)

«Thus said the Lord of hosts: In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, “We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.”» (Zechariah 8:23)





Revelation 3:10

Because you have kept the word of My patience, I also will keep you from the hour of temptation, which shall come on all the world, to try them that dwell on the earth.

2 Peter 2:9

The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust to the day of judgment to be punished.

Comments

Jesus then foretells a worldwide distress. Only those who persevere in Jesus will be protected from it.

What is this great trial, this great distress?





Revelation 13:8

And all that dwell on the earth shall worship [the beast], whose names are not written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Revelation 14:12

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Comments

A great power, whose identity will be revealed in a future lesson, will soon deceive the whole world.

Only the faithful believer will escape from its snares



Persevering in Jesus will be the only way to go through the final trial:

«Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that Day come on you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch you therefore, and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.» (Luke 21:34-36)

«And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great Prince which stands for the children of your people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time your people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the Book.» (Daniel 12:1)





Revelation 3:11

Behold, I come quickly.

Revelation 22:7

Behold, I come quickly.

Blessed is he that keeps the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Comments

Then, Jesus declares, for the first time in His letters to the churches, that He is coming quickly.

This message is very suitable for Philadelphia, the Awakening Church from 1755 to 1844, a time when Christians realized as never before the impending return of Jesus Christ.





Revelation 3:11

Behold, I come quickly.

Hold that fast which you have, that no man take your crown.

Revelation 2:10

Be you faithful to death, and I will give you a crown of life.

Comments

- As we can see, the church of Philadelphia is very similar to the church of Smyrna: both of them receive no negative comment from Jesus;
- both of them also have to face the opposition of false Jews;
- and finally, both of them will receive the crown if they persevere in Jesus until the end.

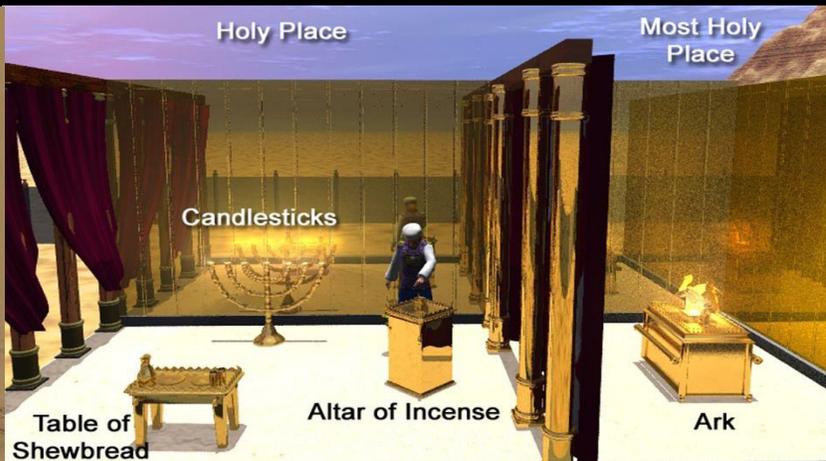
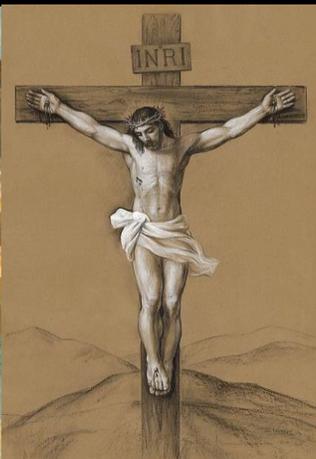


Need to understand - The Sixth Church

The Millerites were the followers of the teachings of William Miller, who in 1831 first shared publicly his belief that the Second Advent of Jesus Christ would occur in roughly the year 1843–1844. Coming during the Second Great Awakening, his beliefs were taken as predictions, spread widely, and were believed by many, leading to the Great Disappointment.



Need to understand - The Sixth Church



AD 27 = JESUS IS BAPTISED

AD 31 = JESUS IS CRUSIFIED

AD 31 = JESUS ENTERS HOLY PLACE

1844 = JESUS IN MOST HOLY PLACE

= JESUS COMES AGAIN



Need to understand - The Sixth Church

The Conclusion in "The Law of Moses"

1. A literal sanctuary exist in heaven.
2. The Hebrew sanctuary system was a complete visual representation of the plan of salvation patterned after the heavenly sanctuary.
3. Just as earthly priest had a two-phase ministry in the wilderness sanctuary, so Christ had a two-phase ministry in the heavenly. The first phase began in the Holy Place at His ascension, the second on October 22, 1844, when Christ moved from the first apartment of the heavenly sanctuary to the second.



Need to understand - The Sixth Church

The Conclusion in "The Law of Moses"

4. The first ministry of service dealt with forgiveness, while the second involves the blotting out of sins and the cleansing of both the sanctuary and the individual believer.
5. The cleansing of Daniel 8:14 was a cleansing from sin and was therefore accomplished by blood rather than by fire.
6. Christ would not return to earth until He accomplished His second-apartment ministry.



Our perseverance will be rewarded with an imperishable crown:

«Every man that strives for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.» (1 Corinthians 9:25)

«And when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, you shall receive a crown of glory that fades not away.» (1 Peter 5:4)

«Blessed is the man that endures temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love Him.» (James 1:12)

«I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. From now on there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but to all them also that love His appearing.» (2 Timothy 4:7,8)





Revelation 3:12

Him that overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go no more out.

Galatians 2:9

When James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship.

Comments

Jesus promises to him that overcomes that He will make him an eternal pillar in the temple of God.

The image of the pillar is used to designate the faithful and steadfast Christian who goes through trials with perseverance.





Revelation 3:12,13

Him that overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go no more out.

And I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, which is New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God.

And I will write on him My new name.

He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit said to the churches.

Comments

Jesus ends His letter to Philadelphia by promising to him that overcomes that he will receive a new name, in addition to bearing the name of God.

As we have seen in the lesson [«Letter to the Church of Pergamos»](#), a new name indicates a new destiny.



In the Bible, a change of name indicates a new destiny:

«Neither shall your name any more be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made you.» (Genesis 17:5)

«Your name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince have you power with God and with men, and have prevailed.» (Genesis 32:28)

«In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name with which she shall be called, “The Lord our Righteousness”.» (Jeremiah 33:16)

«The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. (...)

You shall no more be Termed “Forsaken”, and your land shall no more be termed “Desolate”; but you shall be called “My Delight Is in Her”, and your land “Married”; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married.» (Isaiah 62:2,4)





Revelation 14:1

And I looked, and, see, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father's name written in their foreheads.

Revelation 22:3,4

The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in [the city]; and His servants shall serve Him.

And they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads.

Comments

Whoever receives a new name and bears the name of God on his forehead can look forward to a new destiny: eternal life on the New Earth with Jesus!



James 5:8

Be you also patient. Establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draws near.



In spite of modest means, the Awakening Church, symbolized by Philadelphia, proclaimed with power the message of salvation in Jesus Christ, and His imminent return. And God blessed its efforts. It's a fine example to follow. Let's end this lesson with a summary of the letter to Philadelphia

And now, what is the personal application of the letter to the church of Philadelphia?

While we wait for the return of Jesus, let's take advantage of the door He opens before us and let's proclaim the gospel with perseverance!





The five points of the pattern in the letter to the church of Philadelphia:

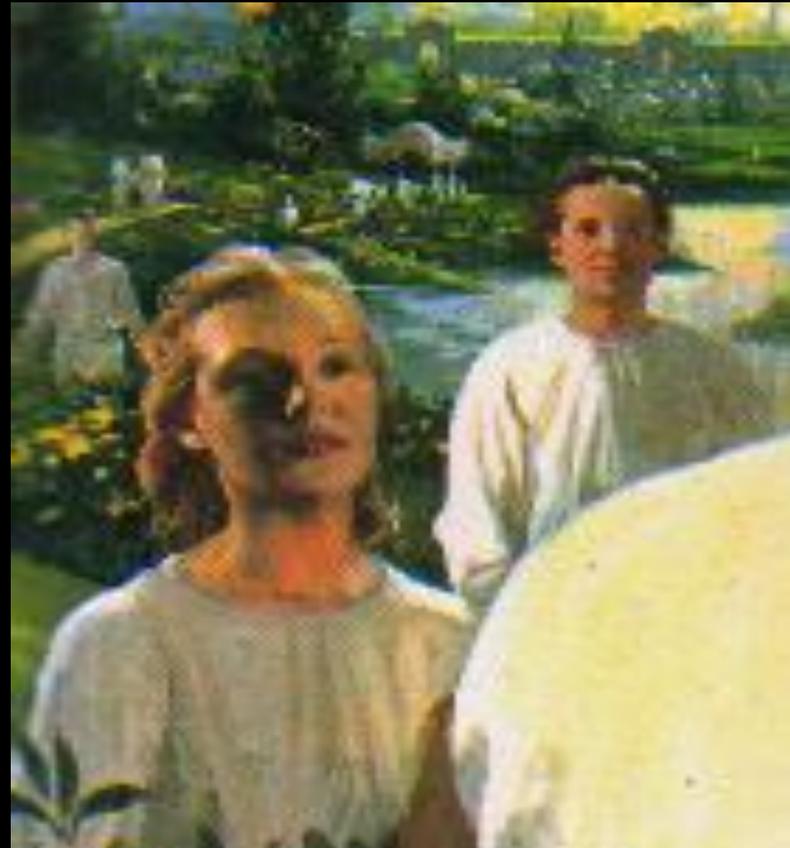


- 1 Portrait of Jesus, according to the spiritual state of the church**
«He that is holy, that is true, that has the key of David.» (Revelation 3:7)
- 2 Praise, acknowledgement of the positive points**
«You have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. (...) You have kept the word of My patience.» (Revelation 3:8,10)
- 3 Condemnation, identification of the negative points**
Jesus doesn't identify any negative point for this church.
- 4 Appropriate counsel**
«Hold fast which you have, that no man take your crown.» (Rev. 3:11)
- 5 Promise, encouragement to persevere**
«Him that overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of My God. (...) And I will write on him the name of My God.» (Revelation 3:12)

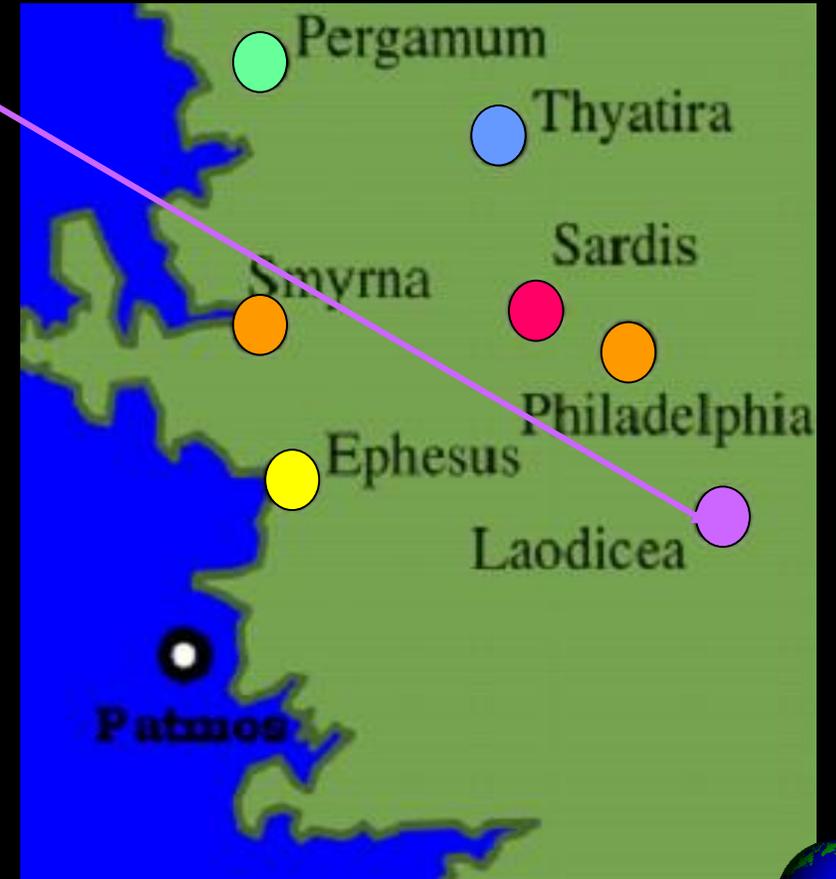


Overcomers of Philadelphia

- Revelation 3:12
- Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, ... and I will write upon him the name of my God ... and I will write upon him my new name.

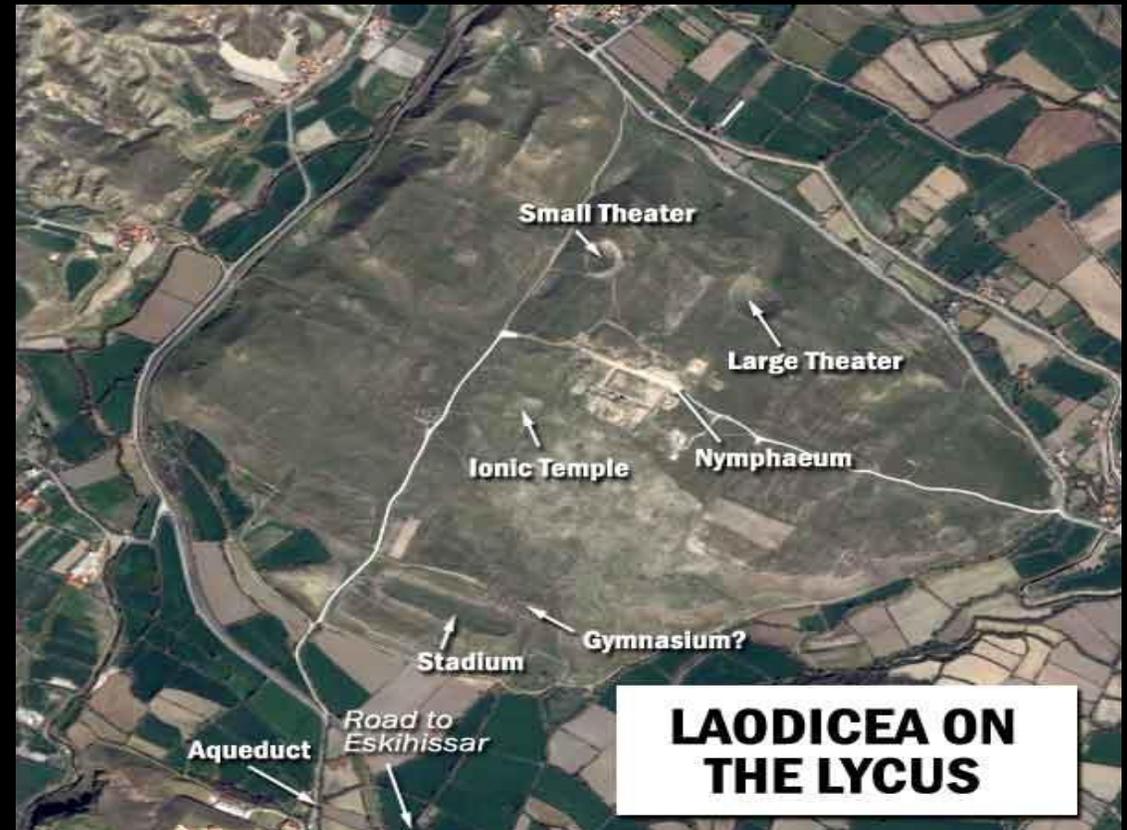


Laodicea – the last church letter:



Laodicea:

- Was economically prosperous and of high social prestige.
- It was destroyed in an earthquake in 60 AD but refused aid from Rome (was prideful).
- It was known for its black wool garments.
- Water carried by aqueducts and barrel pipes was warmed on its long journey.
- The church considered itself 'self-sufficient'



Ruins at present day Laodicea



Ruins at present day Laodicea



Ruins at present day Laodicea



Ruins at present day Laodicea





Laodicea:
“means *justice of the people*” – *human rights*
(Colossians 2:1,2)

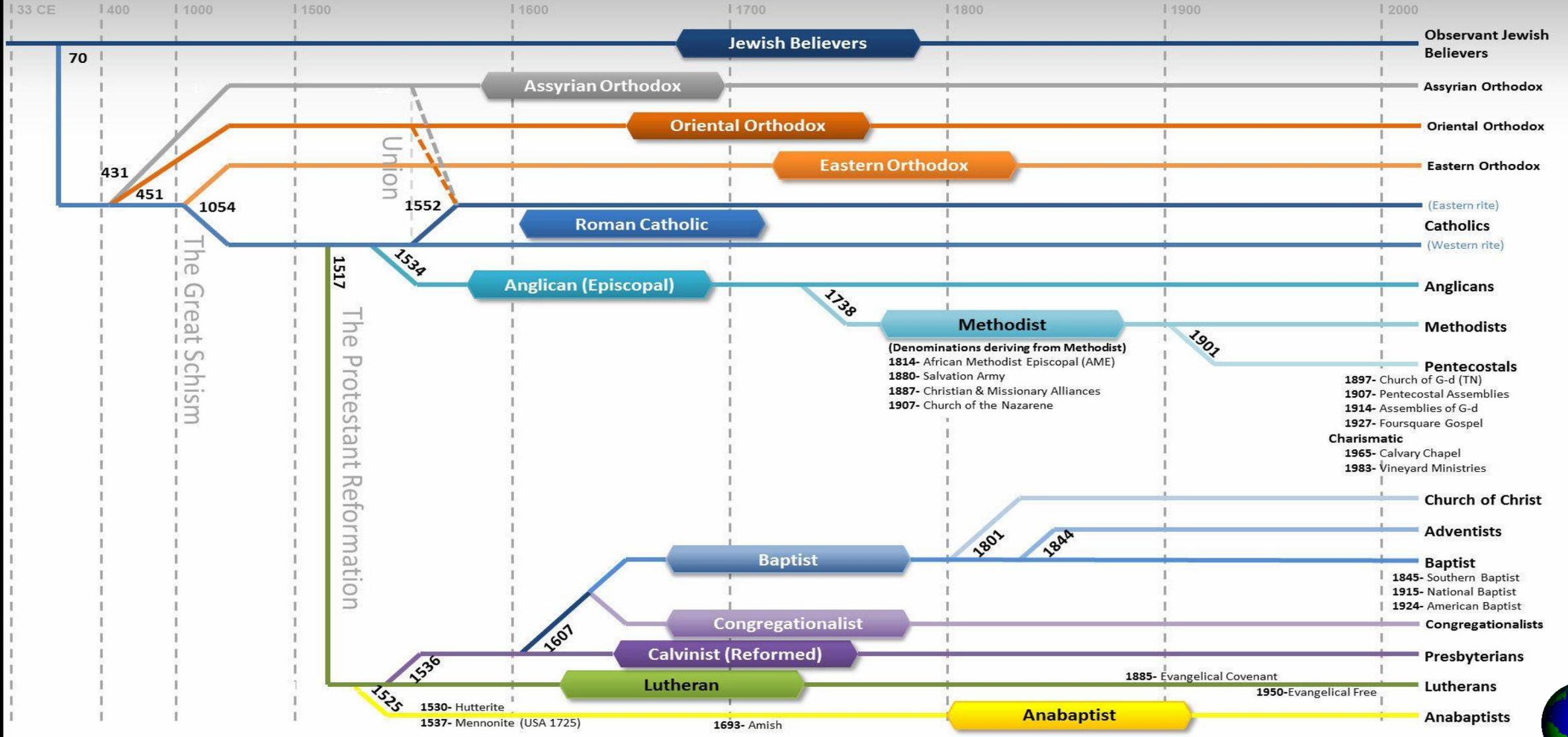


- Note:

- The Laodicean era of the church covers the second half of the 19th century on through the time when Jesus returns (*1844 A.D. to the end of time*)
- Our heart hurts to see that Laodicea represents the church of today.
- *It is a church that is big and boastful, but is dreadfully sick* and in need of Heavenly healing.
- This condition is alarming and needs prompt attention!



Family Tree of Christian Denominations



The Birth of God's Last Church – Revelation 12:17



Seventh-day Adventist Church
21 May 1863, Battle Creek, Michigan, United States



Letter to the church at
Laodicea:

NO
commendations





The last of the seven letters is addressed to the church of Laodicea, a name which means «*Judging the people*».

Founded under Antiochus II Theos, who reigned from 261 to 246 B.C., and named in honor of his wife, Laodice, the city was an important banking and commercial center.

Its wealth came from, among other things, its clothes made of black wool, and its eye salve which was widely renowned on the continent.





Revelation 3:14

And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,
«These things said the Amen (...).»

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all the promises of God in [Jesus Christ] are «Yes,» and in Him
«Amen,» to the glory of God by us.

Comments

By introducing Himself as «*the Amen*», Jesus announces that we are at the end of Church history on earth, and that, at His imminent return, He will finally fulfill all God's promises which still remain unaccomplished





Revelation 3:14

And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,
«These things said the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness (...).»

Revelation 19:11

And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse.
And He that sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in
righteousness He does judge and make war.

Comments

In addition to «*the Amen*», that is, the end of all things, Jesus also introduces Himself as «*the Faithful and True Witness*», once again referring to His glorious return, and His work of judgment of the nations.





Revelation 3:14

To the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,
«These things said the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness,
the Beginning of the creation of God.»

Revelation 1:5

Jesus Christ [is] the faithful Witness, and the first begotten of
the dead.

Comments

Finally, Jesus introduces
Himself as the
*«Beginning of the
creation of God».*

By comparing these two
passages, we see that
Jesus does not say that
He was created. He
declares, rather, that by
His resurrection, He
allows the beginning of a
creation which, this time
will be eternal.



Being God like His Father, Jesus always existed, and created everything:

«In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.» (John 1:1-3)

«[God] in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds.» (Hebrews 1:2)

«For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: and He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.» (Colossians 1:16,17)

«I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.» (Revelation 22:13)





Revelation 3:15

I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I would you were cold or hot.

Comments

Finding nothing positive in Laodicea, Jesus continues His letter with the main negative point: its spiritual lukewarmness. This feature corresponds exactly with the Church of the last days, from 1844 to Jesus' return. Satisfied with itself, the Church is nonchalant, becoming more insensitive to the calls to repentance than a really cold Church, which could still cast a critical look at its tragic situation.





2 Timothy 3:1,2,4,5

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, (...) lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.

Comments

The lukewarmness of the outwardly pious end-time Church is often foretold in the Holy Scriptures.

Letting materialism invade it, the Church delights in its comfort, its wealth.

The Church knows that Jesus is coming very soon, but still cannot find enough motivation to seriously prepare itself for that glorious Day.





Comments

When God is no longer our only God, the problem of Laodicea arises.

1 Kings 18:21

And Elijah came to all the people, and said,
«How long halt you between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him:
but if Baal, then follow him.»

But the people answered him not a word.

Matthew 6:24

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.





Revelation 3:16

So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth.

Daniel 8:14

To two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

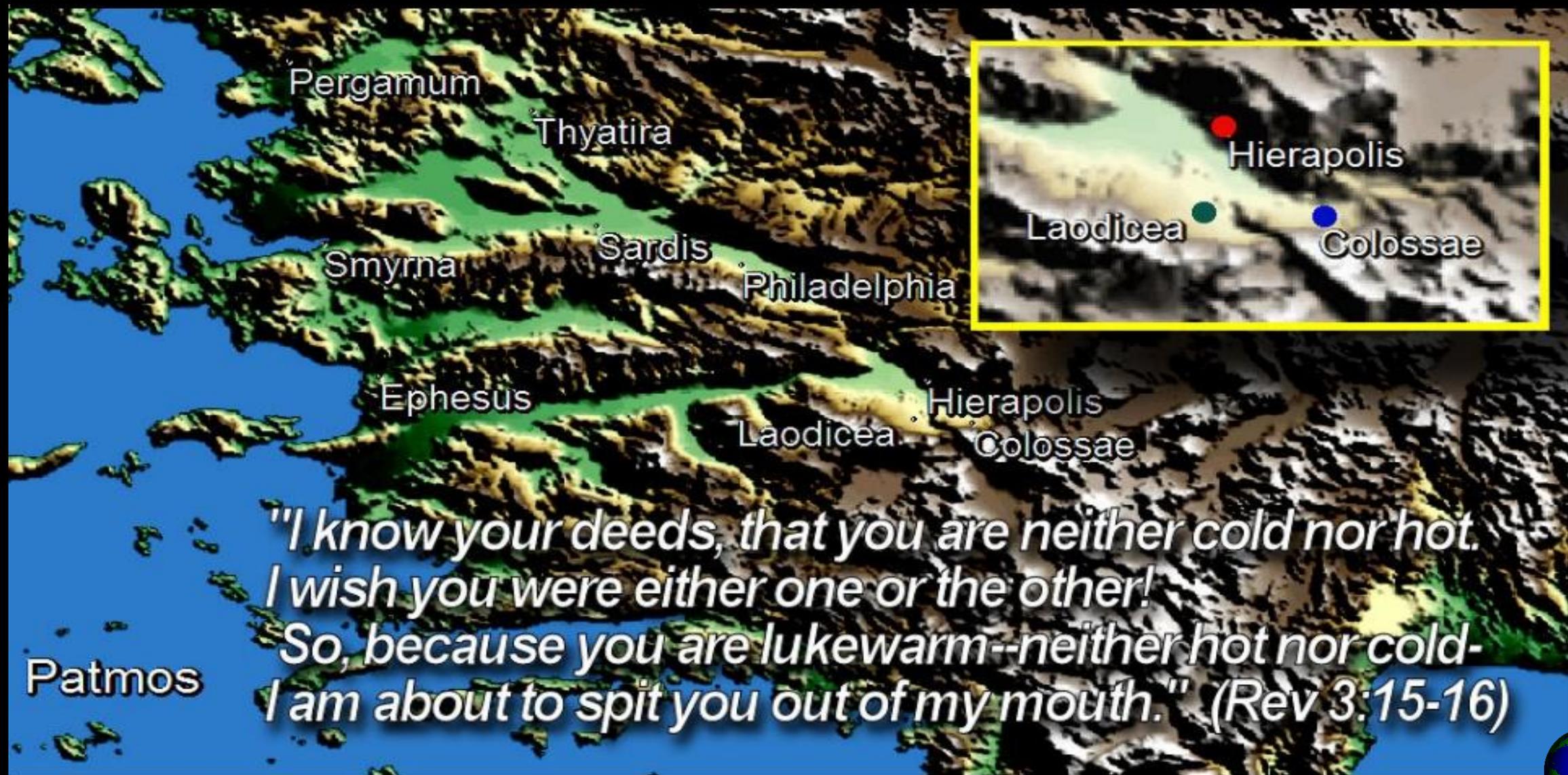
Comments

Just like the lukewarm and undrinkable water of Laodicea, the lukewarm Christian won't be able to abide in Jesus Christ.

A judgment work is now taking place in heaven, keeping in the Book of Life only the believers whose conversion is genuine, and rejecting the others.

«For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God.» (1 Peter 4:17)





*"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot.
I wish you were either one or the other!
So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--
I am about to spit you out of my mouth." (Rev 3:15-16)*

Patmos



Hierapolis



Comments

Lacking sufficient springs of water, Laodicea had to rely on the thermal waters of Hierapolis to lay in supplies.

Transported by a stone canal system, these hot waters were lukewarm when they reached Laodicea, being excellent for therapeutic bathing, but definitely undrinkable.

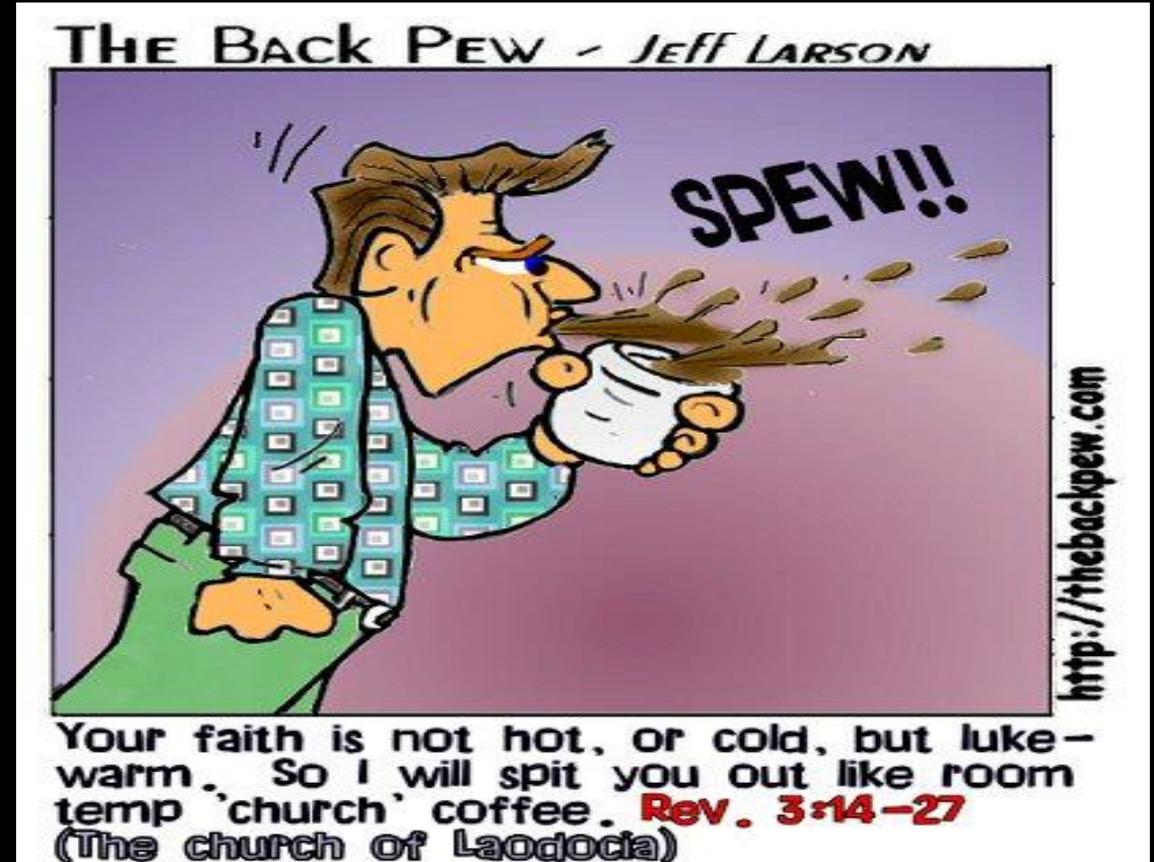


Hieropolis' hot springs



Located about 6 miles from Laodicea





Lukewarm water tasted so bad
that it made people sick



Colossae Cold springs



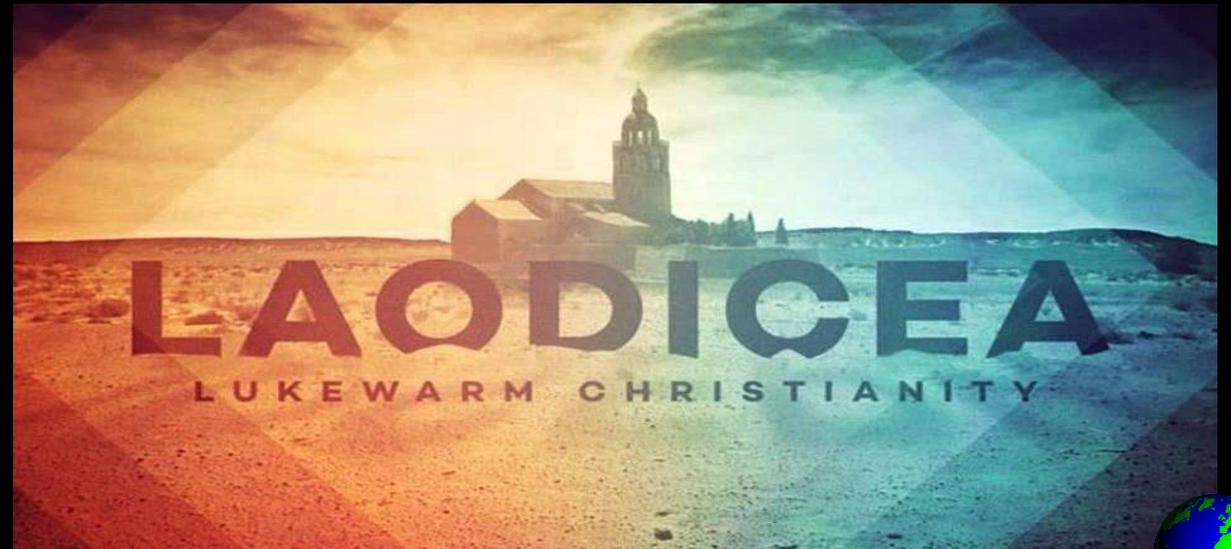
Located about 11 miles from Laodicea



Hot = Good for something
Cold = Good for something
Lukewarm = Good for nothing!



*Church of Laodicea was
just like it's nauseating
water supply from
Jesus' perspective!*





Comments

Revelation 3:16,22

So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth. (...)

He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit said to the churches.

Luke 14:34,35

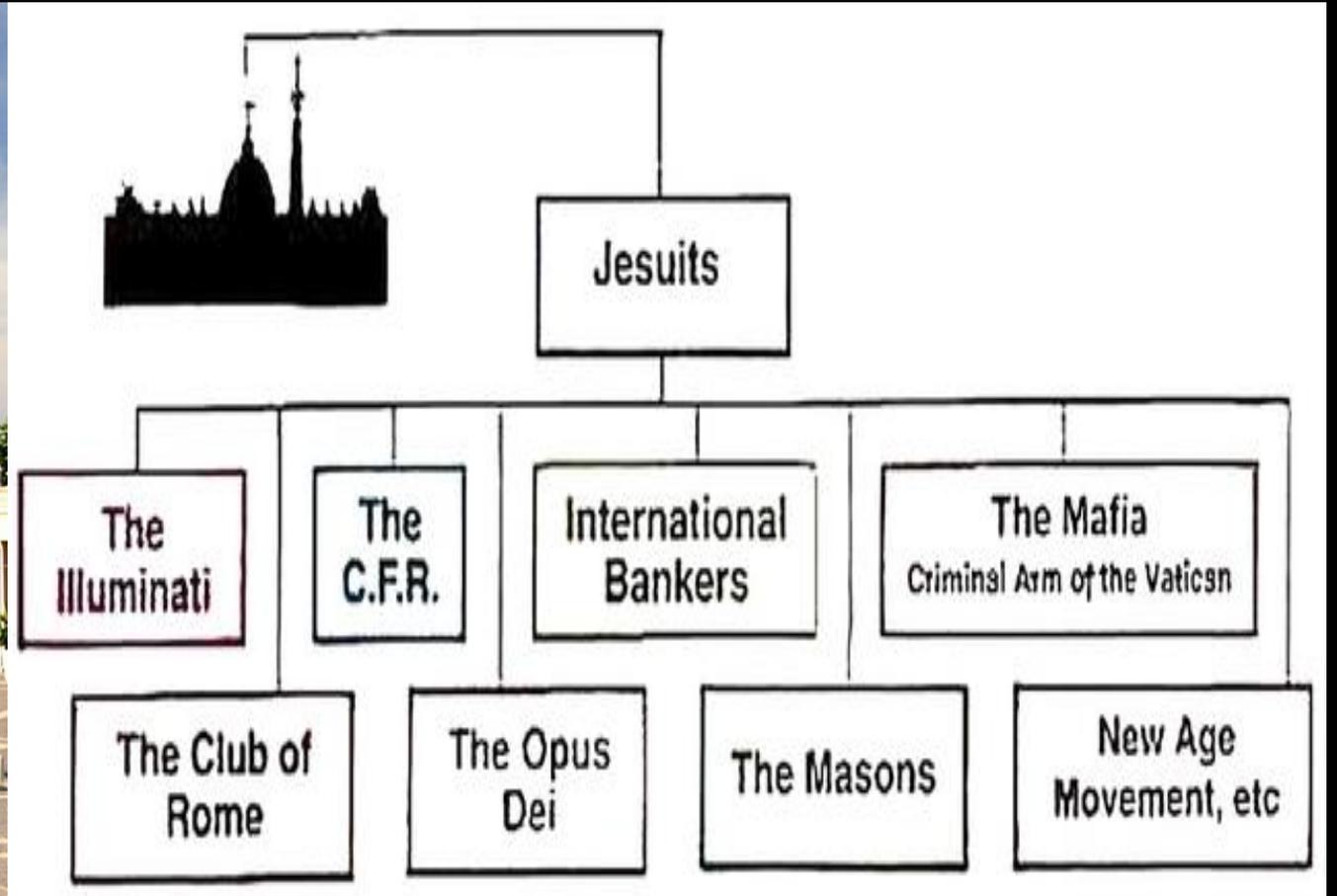
Salt is good: but if the salt has lost his flavor, with which shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out.

He that has ears to hear, let him hear.

Let's note the parallel in Jesus' words about spiritual lukewarmness.



Mystery Babylon today – Papal Rome's Agents



Jesuit Infiltration and Counter-reformation

The Jesuit Oath

The Counter-Reformation War

I furthermore promise and declare that I will, when opportunity present, make and wage relentless war, secretly or openly, against all heretics, Protestants and Liberals, as I am directed to do, to extirpate and exterminate them from the face of the whole earth; and that I will spare neither age, sex or condition; and that I will hang, waste, boil, flay, strangle and bury alive these infamous heretics, rip up the stomachs and wombs of their women and crush their infants' heads against the walls, in order to annihilate forever their execrable race. That when the same cannot be done openly, I will secretly use the poisoned cup, the strangulating cord, the steel of the poniard or the leaden bullet, regardless of the honor, rank dignity, or authority of the person or persons, whatever may be their condition in life, either public or private, as I at any time may be directed so to do by any agent of the Pope or Superior of the Brotherhood of the Holy Faith, of the Society of Jesus.

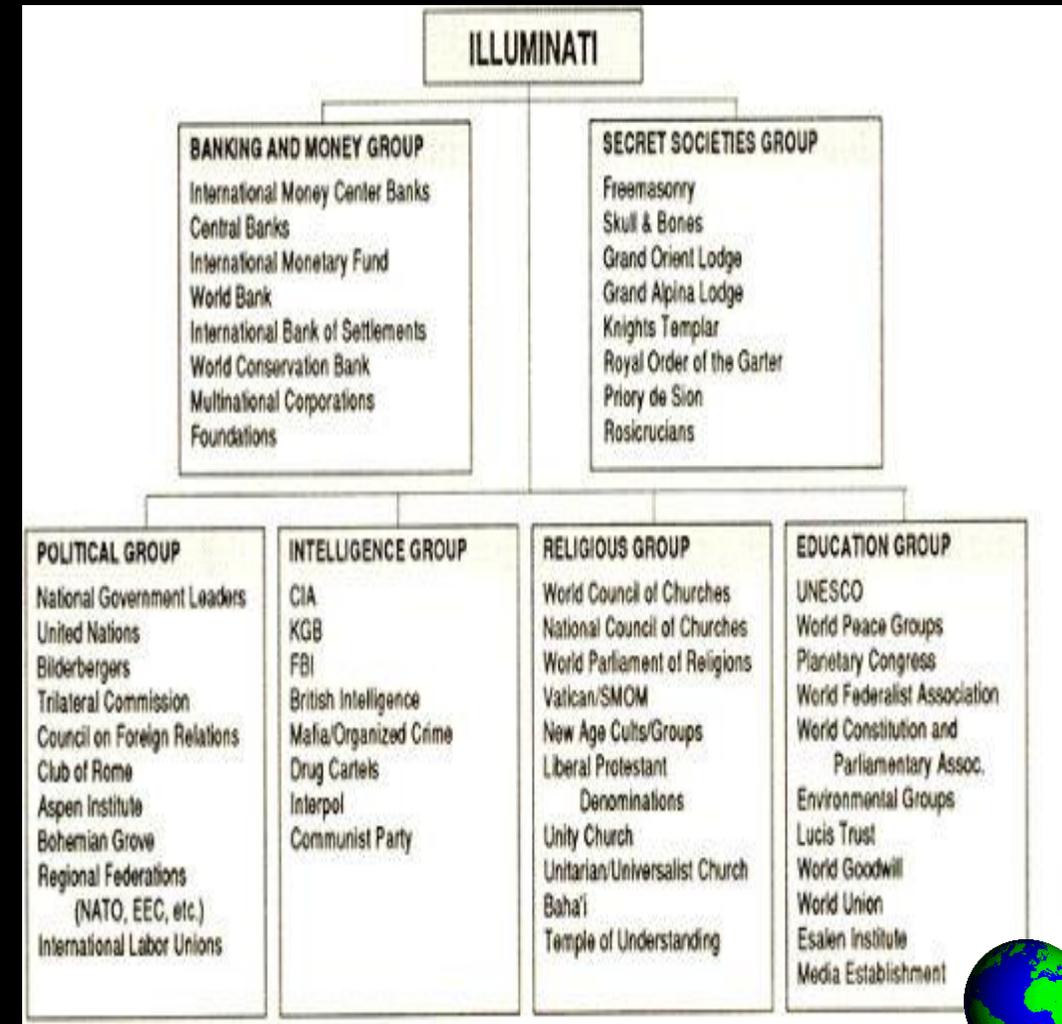
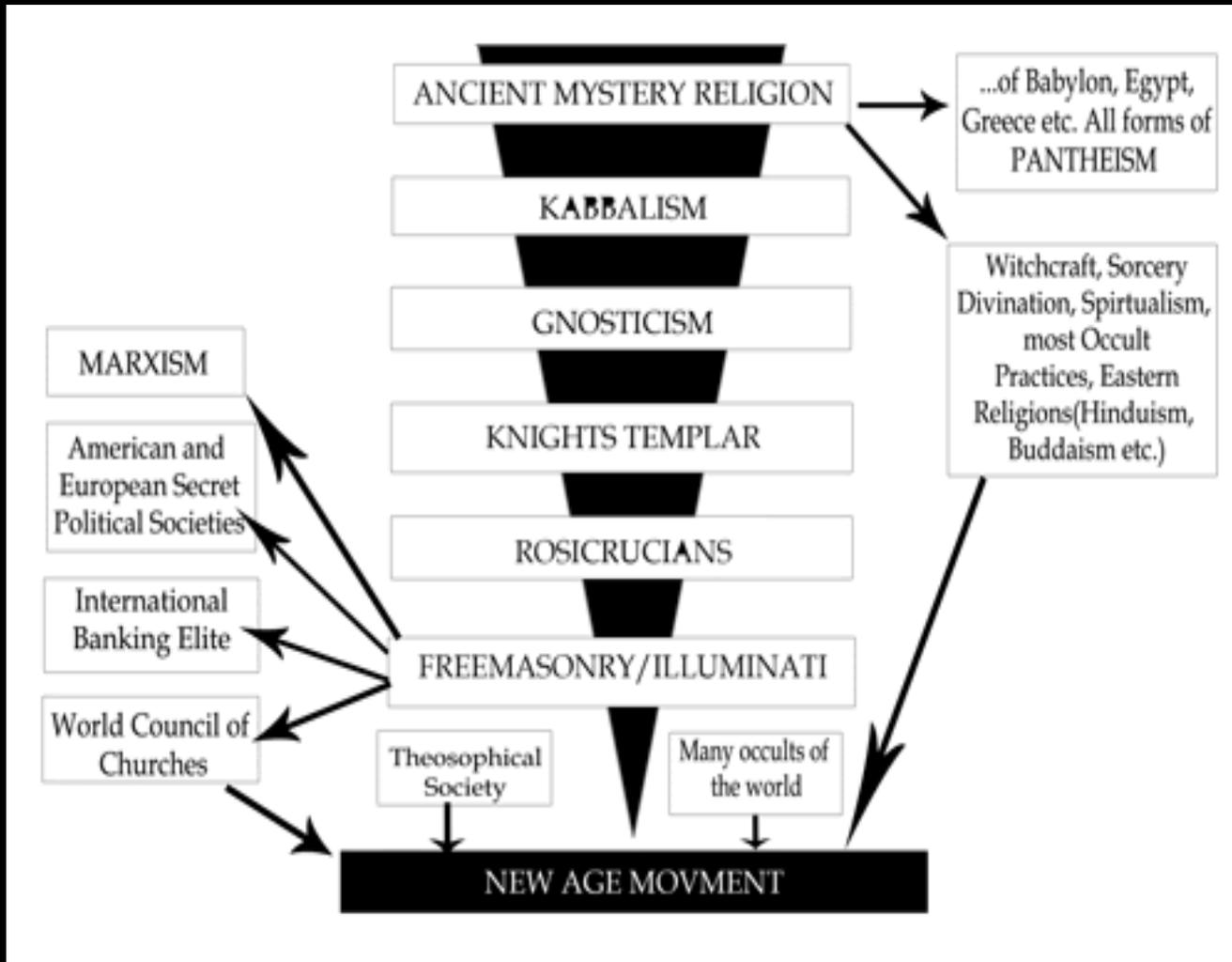
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WORLD INSTITUTIONS HEAVILY INFILTRATED BY JESUIT AGENTS



Mystery Babylon today – Papal Rome’s Agents



The Pen of Inspiration on the last days

I saw that the mysterious signs and wonders and false reformations would increase and spread. The reformations that were shown me were not reformations from error to truth. **My accompanying angel bade me look for the travail of soul for sinners as used to be. I looked, but could not see it; for the time for their salvation is past.** The "false reformations" here referred to are yet to be more fully seen. **The view relates more particularly to those who have heard and rejected the light of the advent doctrine [The 3 Angel's Messages is the same kind of message as Noah, Jonah and John the Baptist gave].** They are given over to strong delusions. Such will not have "the travail of soul for sinners" as formerly. **Having rejected the advent, and being given over to the delusions of Satan, "the time for their salvation is past."** Ellen White, *Early Writings*, p. 45. (1882).



Ellen Gould Harmon White
(1827 – 1915)





Revelation 3:17

You say, «I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.»

Hosea 12:8

Ephraim said, «Yet I am become rich, I have found me out substance: in all my labors they shall find none iniquity in me that were sin.»

Comments

The lukewarmness of Laodicea is also explained by the simple fact that it believes it is self-sufficient, rich, in need of nothing.

Just like Ephraim, it is strongly convinced that its spiritual condition is absolutely blameless.





Revelation 3:17

You say, «I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;» and know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.

Proverbs 21:2

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord ponders the hearts.

Comments

Unfortunately, Jesus' diagnosis is completely different: the spiritual condition of Laodicea is pathetic, wretched, even critical.





Revelation 3:17,18

Because you say, «I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;» and know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel you to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich; and white raiment, that you may be clothed, and that the shame of your nakedness do not appear; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

Comments

- Jesus recommends three remedies for Laodicea: «gold tried in the fire»;
- «white raiment»;
- and «eye salve».

What do these three items symbolize?





Comments

«Gold tried in the fire»
symbolizes faith in Jesus Christ, tested by the fire of adversity and trials, and by our battle against sin.

Revelation 3:18

I counsel you to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich.

1 Peter 1:7

(...) that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found to praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.



Faith in Christ is gold tried in the fire, the wealth of the believer:

«Listen, my beloved brothers: Has not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He has promised to them that love Him?» (James 2:5)

«For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision avails any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which works by love.» (Galatians 5:6)

«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 be rich.» (2 Corinthians 8:9)

«God would make known [to His saints] what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.» (Colossians 1:27)





Revelation 3:18

I counsel you to buy of Me (...) white raiment, that you may be clothed, and that the shame of your nakedness do not appear.

Revelation 7:13,14

What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and from where came they? (...)

These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Comments

Next, Laodicea must obtain the white raiment, symbolizing the righteousness of Jesus Christ which cleanses us from all our sins.



The white raiment covering our nakedness is Christ's righteousness:

«All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.» (Isaiah 64:6)

«Put you on the Lord Jesus Christ.» (Romans 13:14)

«You are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.» (Galatians 3:26,27)

«Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the Angel. And He answered and spoke to those that stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "Behold, I have caused your iniquity to pass from you, and I will clothe you with change of raiment."» (Zechariah 3:3,4)

«I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation.» (Isaiah 61:10)

«He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life.» (Revelation 3:5)





Revelation 3:18

I counsel you (...) [to] anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

John 16:8,13

And when [the Comforter] is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. (...)

When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth.

Comments

Finally, Jesus advises Laodicea to anoint its eyes with eye salve, symbolizing the Holy Spirit who reveals our real spiritual condition.



The eye salve's anointing is the anointing of the Holy Spirit, who opens our eyes:

«The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatever I have said to you.» (John 14:26)

«You have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.» (1 John 2:20)

«The anointing which you have received of [God] stays in you, and you need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teaches you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it has taught you, you shall abide in Him.» (1 John 2:27)

«(...) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling.» (Ephesians 1:17,18)





Revelation 3:19

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.

Hebrews 12:4,5

You have not yet resisted to blood, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to children, «My son, despise not you the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when you are rebuked of Him.»

Comments

Jesus loves Laodicea.

The severity of His letter does not aim to discourage His Church, but rather to awaken it before it is too late.





Revelation 3:19

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.

Be zealous therefore, and repent.

Revelation 3:3

Remember therefore how you have received and heard, and hold fast, and repent.

If therefore you shall not watch, I will come on you as a thief, and you shall not know what hour I will come on you.

Comments

Laodicea must quickly awaken and repent, because Jesus' return draws near, and if the Church does not change, it surely won't be ready for that great Day.





Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock.

If any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.

John 14:23

[Jesus said,] «If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our stay with him.»

Comments

Jesus longs for us to invite Him to come into our heart, so that He may transform us into His image.

But the expression «*I stand at the door*» doesn't only refer to the door of our heart...





Matthew 24:33

So likewise you, when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

Luke 12:36

And you yourselves like to men that wait for their Lord, when He will return from the wedding; that when He comes and knocks, they may open to Him immediately.

Comments

By indicating that He stands at the door, Jesus also indicates that His return is really imminent!

This message is especially well suited to Laodicea, since it is the last church, that is, the church of the last days.





Revelation 3:8

Behold, I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it.

Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock.

If any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.

Comments

To the church of Philadelphia, Jesus had announced that He opened a door which no one could shut, symbolizing the spreading of the gospel throughout the whole world.

But He reminds Laodicea that He cannot force the door of our heart: it is up to each individual to open this door and let Jesus enter.





Revelation 3:21,22

To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne. He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit said to the churches.

Revelation 20:4

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them.

Comments

Jesus ends His letter to Laodicea with the promise to share His reign with him who overcomes, giving him access to His heavenly throne.

This also means that he who overcomes will be granted the power to judge the nations.



He who overcomes will reign with Jesus and take part in the judgment:

«Truly I say to you, that you which have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, you also shall sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.» (Matthew 19:28)

«You are they which have continued with Me in My temptations. And I appoint to you a kingdom, as My Father has appointed to Me; that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. » (Luke 22:28-30)

«[God] withdraws not His eyes from the righteous: but with kings are they on the throne; yes, He does establish them for ever, and they are exalted.» (Job 36:7)

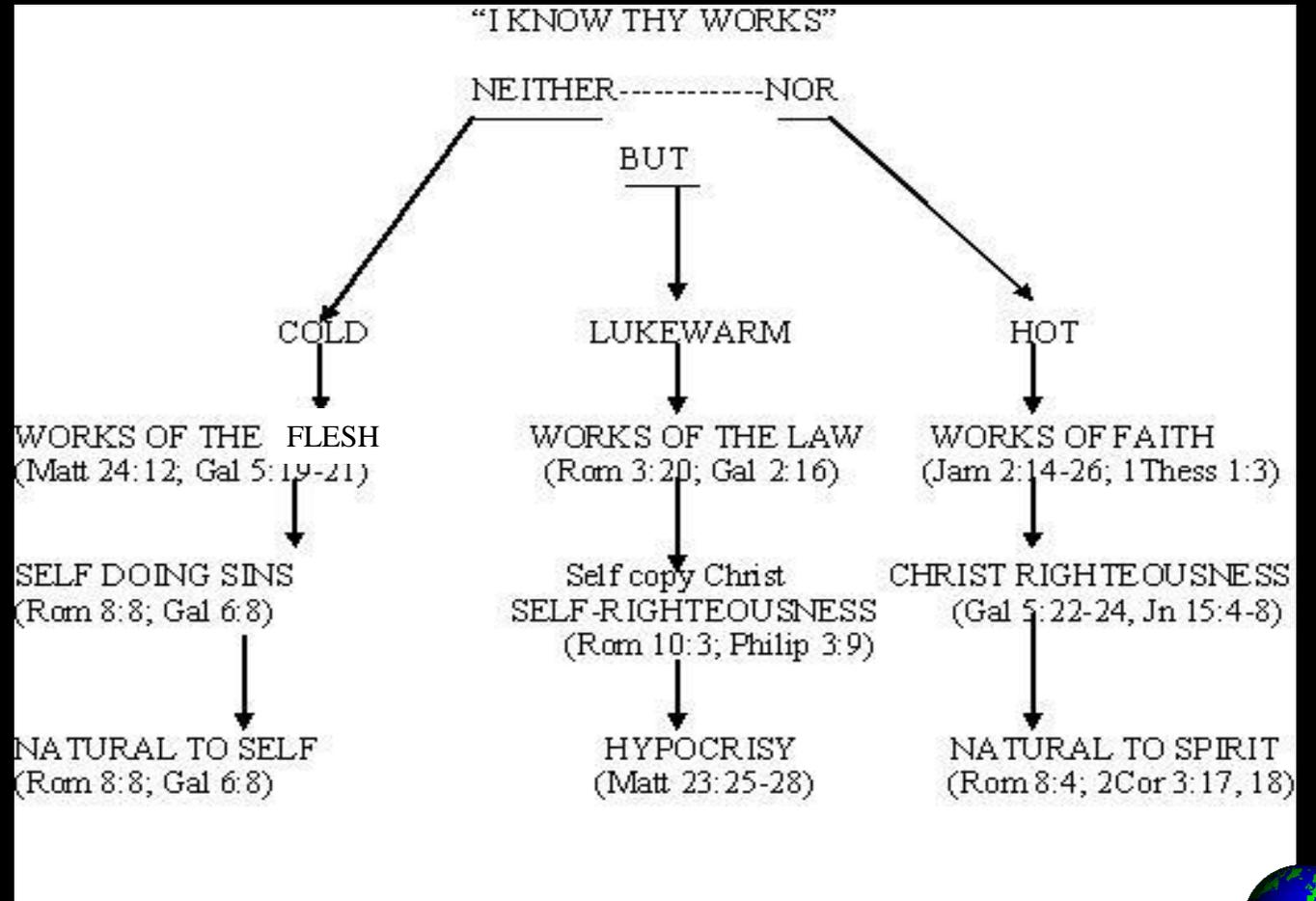


Laodicea - Christianity Today

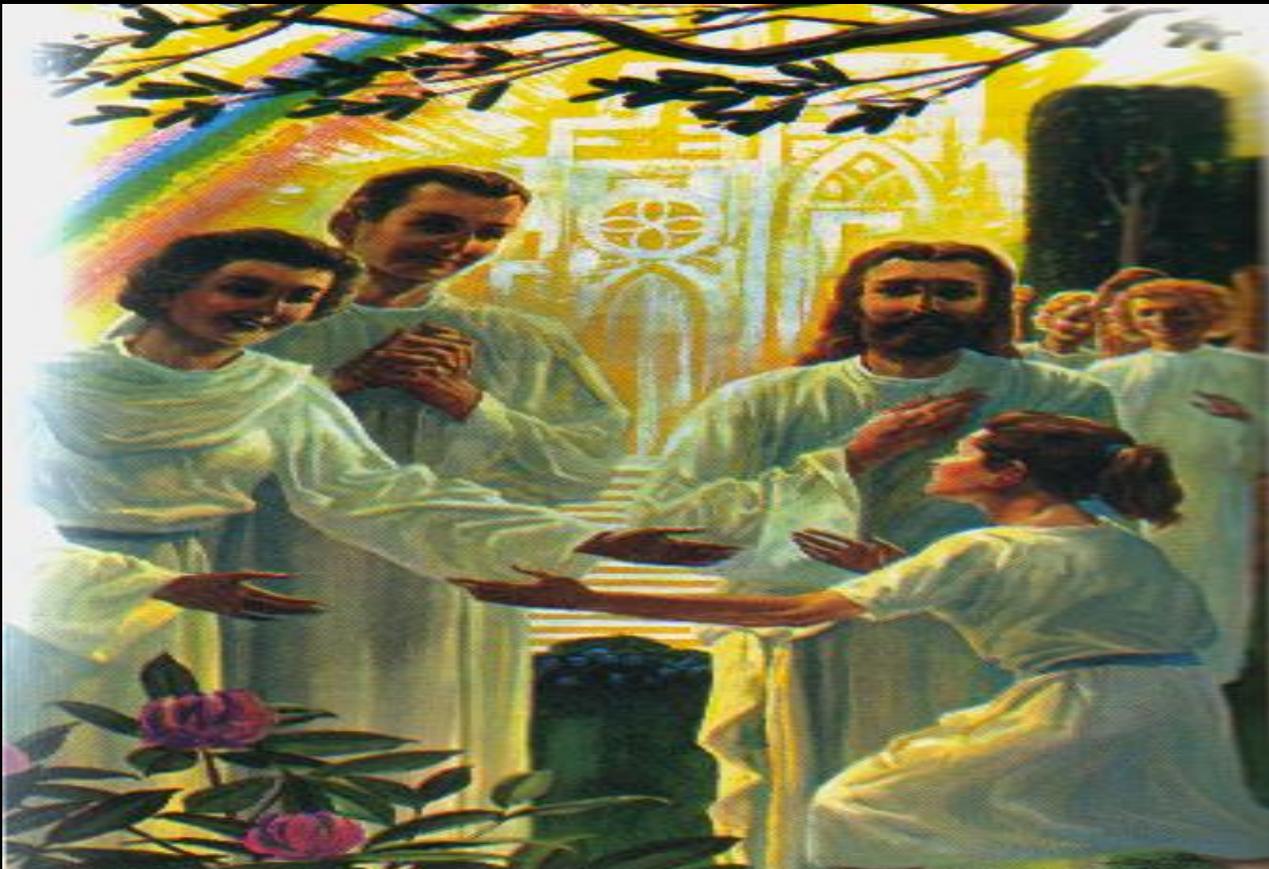
- **What is Laodicea's Problem?**

- **Revelation 3:16, 18**

- a. **We are "lukewarm".**
- b. **We feel we are spiritually "rich" and need nothing when we are actually, wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.**



What 3 things that Jesus tells us to buy.
Revelation 3:18



• Answer:

1. GOLD

2. WHITE RAIMENT

3. EYESALVE



1. Gold

- This means the true riches of Heaven which are manifested in a Christ-like character.
 - This comes from a knowledge of God's Word applied by faith in your life and revealed by deeds of love.
- (*Psalms 19:7 - 10, Gal. 5:6, James 2:5, Job 23:10*)



2. White Raiment:

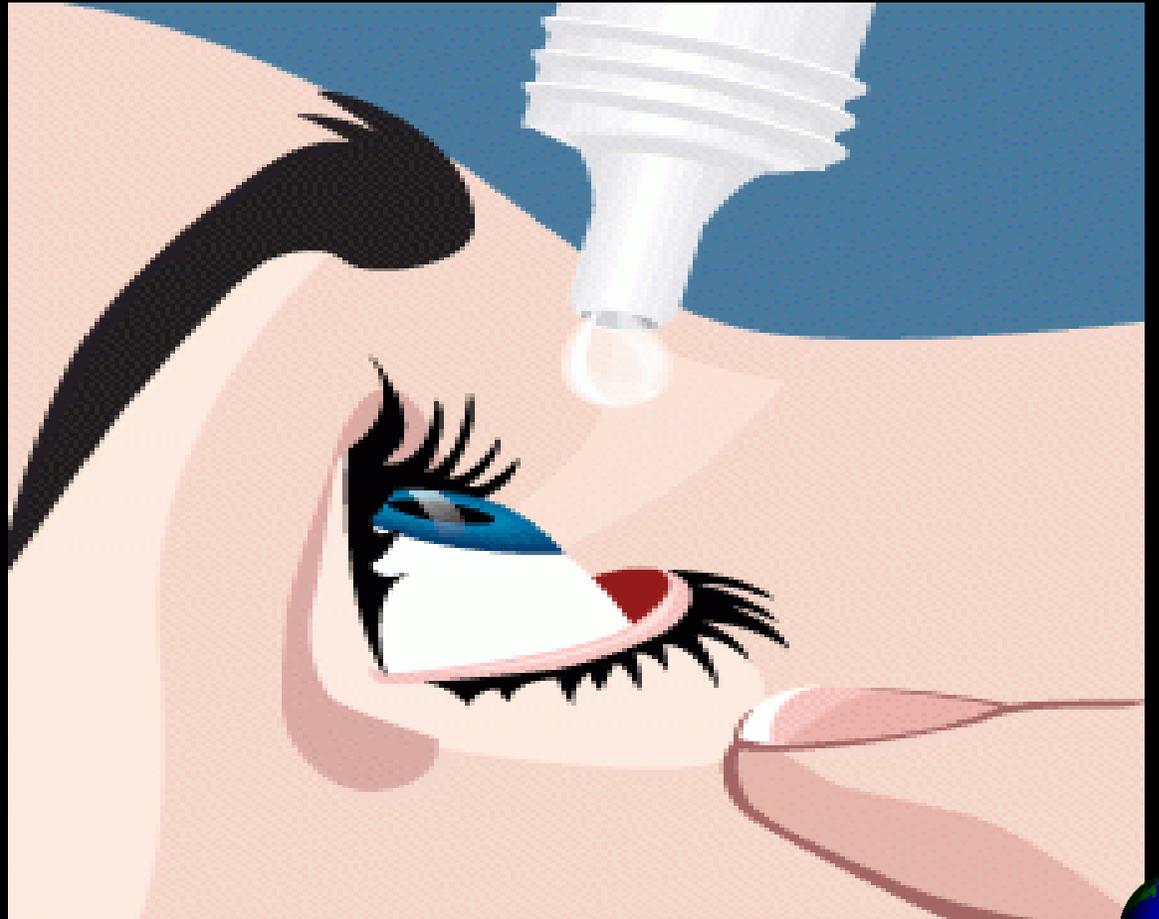
- This means *Jesus' robe of righteousness.*
 - *Isaiah 61:10 & Rev. 19:8*
- It is given by Jesus as a free gift. We do nothing to earn it. We receive it by faith alone and it is retained by faith.
- *Zechariah 3:1-5, Rom. 1:17.*



3. Eye salve:

This means:

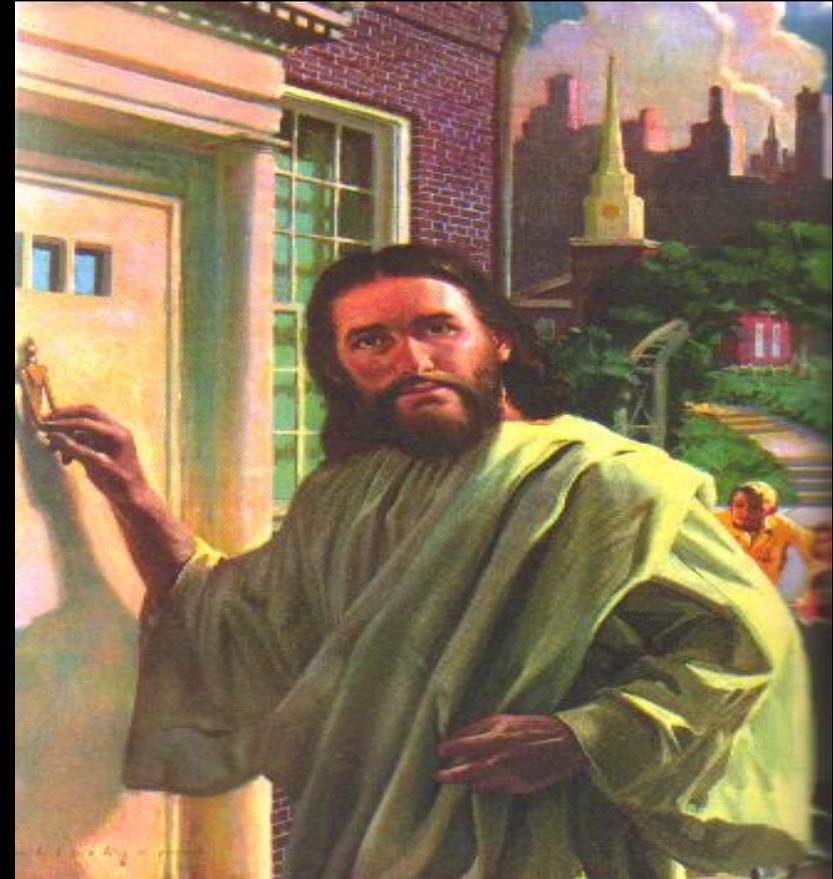
- (a) discernment to understand God's Word.
- *Psalm 119:18, 1 John 2:20, 27.*
- b) the Holy Spirit to help us see our true condition and make proper choices.
- *John 14:26; Eph. 1:17-19*



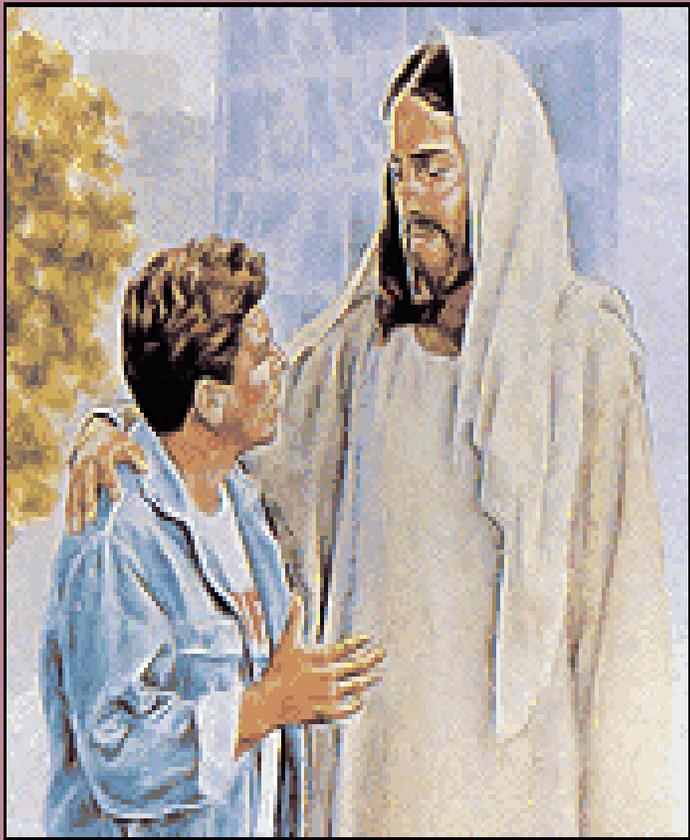
How can I receive these precious gifts?

Revelation 3:20

- **Answer:** Open my heart's door and let Jesus enter my life.
- **Note:** *Though Jesus can open many doors, He will not force open the door to my heart. I must open the door myself.*



The five points of the pattern in the letter to the church of Laodicea:



1 Portrait of Jesus, according to the spiritual state of the church

«These things said the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God.» (Revelation 3:14)

2 Praise, acknowledgement of the positive points

Jesus doesn't identify any positive point for this church.

3 Condemnation, identification of the negative points

«You are lukewarm, (...) miserable, poor, blind, naked.» (Rev. 3:16,17)

4 Correction, counsels to restore the situation

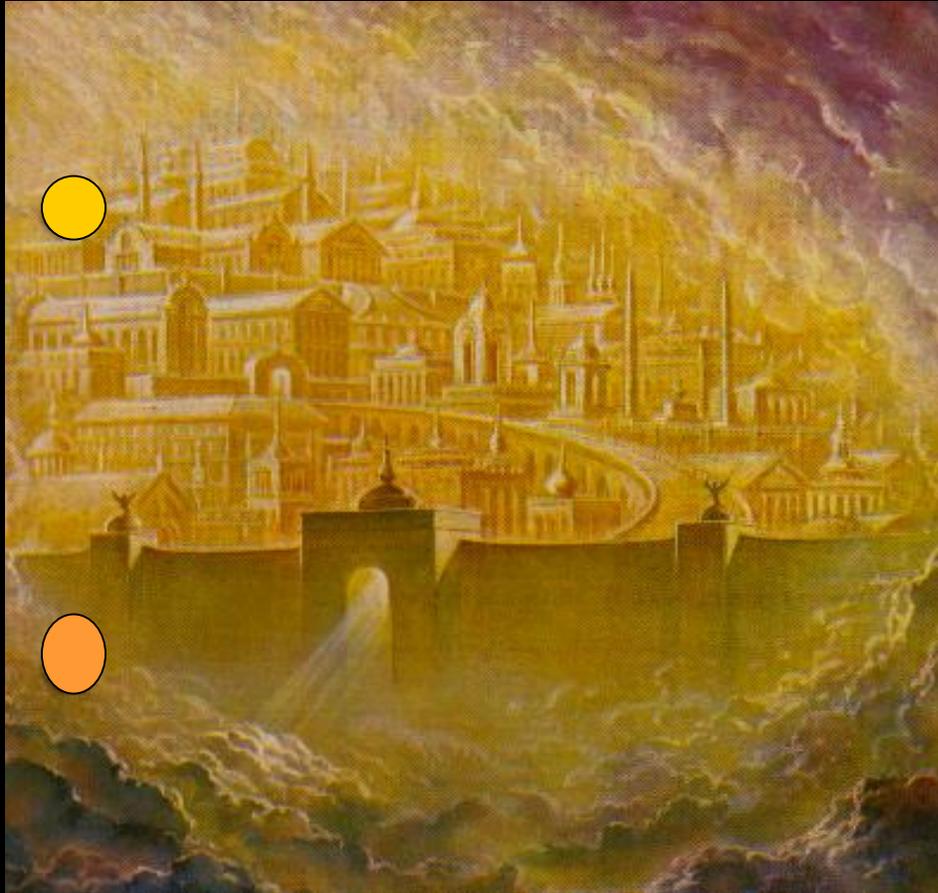
«I counsel you to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, (...) white raiment, (...) and anoint your eyes with eye salve.» (Revelation 3:18)

5 Promise, encouragement to persevere

«Him that overcomes [will] (...) sit with Me on My throne.» (Rev. 3:21)



Overcomers of Laodicea



- **Rev. 3:21**

- **To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne.**



Laodicea – The Seventh Church

“Laodicea signifies a “judging of the people.”

From 22nd Oct. 1844 to the close of probation is the hour of God’s judgment!

“The Laodicean message applies to the people of God who profess to believe present truth... The term “lukewarm” is applicable to this class. They profess to love the truth, yet are deficient in Christian fervor and devotion...” {EGW, 4T 87.1}

“It will be observed that no fault is found with the Laodiceans on account of the doctrines they hold. They are not accused of harboring any Jezebel in their midst... So far as we can learn from the address to them, their belief is correct, and their theory sound. The inference therefore is that having a correct theory, therewith they are content. They are satisfied with a correct form of doctrine without its power...” {Uriah Smith, Daniel and Revelation (1897 Edition) pg. 377,378}

WHO ARE
REALLY THE ONES
IN LAODICEA?

PHM



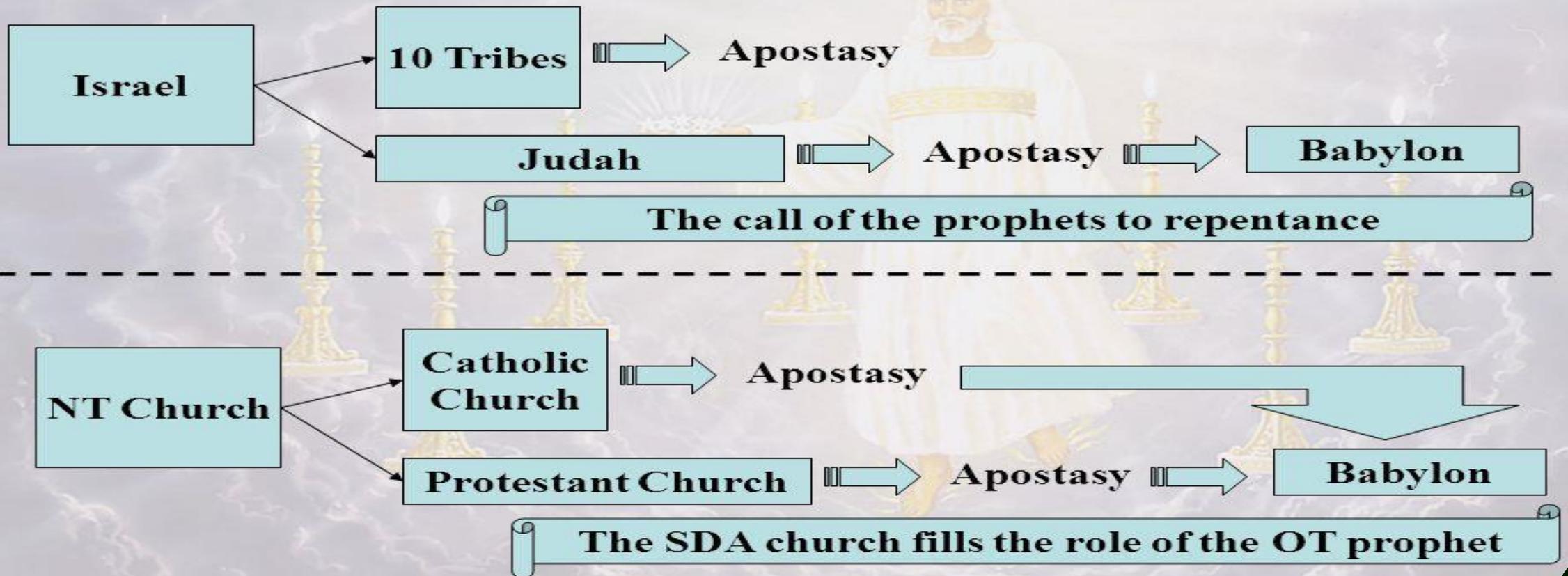
Laodiceans Lay off the Armour of God

“When efforts are made to set things in order, and bring the people up to the **position** God would have them occupy, a class will be affected by the labour, and **will make earnest efforts to press through the darkness to the light**. But many do not persevere in their efforts long enough to realize the sanctifying influence of the truth upon their hearts and lives. The cares of the world engross the mind to that degree that self examination and secret prayer are neglected. The armor is laid off, and Satan has free access to them, benumbing their sensibilities, and causing them to be unsuspicious of his wiles.” {EGW, RH August 10, 1886, par. 3}



The Seven Churches

The Role of the SDA Church



Remnant's Role and Responsibility

Seventh-day Adventists have been chosen by God as a peculiar people, separate from the world. By the **great cleaver of truth** He has cut them out from the quarry of the world and brought them into connection with Himself. He has made them **His representatives** and has called them to be ambassadors for Him **in the last work of salvation**. The greatest wealth of truth ever entrusted to mortals, the most solemn and fearful warnings ever sent by God to man, have been committed to them to be given to the world.--7T 138 (1902).



The seven churches symbolize the seven stages of Church history:



	Church	Meaning of its name	Symbolized period	Dates
1	Ephesus	Desirable	Apostolic Church	33 - 100
2	Smyrna	Fragrant when crushed	Persecuted Church	100 - 313
3	Pergamos	Raised up city	Compromising Church	313 - 538
4	Thyatira	Savor of labor	Corrupt Church	538 - 1517
5	Sardis	That which remains	Reformation Church	1517 - 1755
6	Philadelphia	Brotherly love	Awakening Church	1755 - 1844
7	Laodicea	Judging the people	Today's Church	1844 - End



What Jesus knows about each one of the seven churches:



1 **Ephesus**

«I know your works, and your labor, and your patience, and how you can not bear them which are evil.» (Revelation 2:2)

2 **Smyrna**

«I know your works, tribulation, poverty.» (Rev. 2:9)

3 **Pergamos**

«I know your works, and where you dwell, even where Satan's seat is.» (Revelation 2:13)

4 **Thyatira**

«I know your works, and charity, and service, and faith, and your patience.» (Revelation 2:19)

5 **Sardis**

«I know your works.» (Revelation 3:1)

6 **Philadelphia**

«I know your works.» (Revelation 3:8)

7 **Laodicea**

«I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot.» (Revelation 3:15)



The positive points Jesus finds in each one of the seven churches:



1 Ephesus

«You have tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and have found them liars: and have borne, and have patience, and for My name's sake have labored, and have not fainted.» (Revelation 2:2,3)

2 Smyrna

«You are rich.» (Revelation 2:9)

3 Pergamos

«You hold fast My name, and have not denied My faith.» (Revelation 2:13)

4 Thyatira

«As for your works, the last are more than the first.» (Rev. 2:19)

5 Sardis

Jesus doesn't identify any positive point for this church.

6 Philadelphia

«You have a little strength, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.» (Revelation 3:8)

7 Laodicea

Jesus doesn't identify any positive point for this church.



The negative points Jesus finds in each one of the seven churches:



1

Ephesus

«You have left your first love.» (Revelation 2:4)

2

Smyrna

Jesus doesn't identify any negative point for this church.

3

Pergamos

«You have there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam. (...) So have you also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.» (Revelation 2:14,15)

4

Thyatira

«You suffer that Jezebel, which calls herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce My servants.» (Revelation 2:20)

5

Sardis

«You have a name that you live, and are dead.» (Rev. 3:1)

6

Philadelphia

Jesus doesn't identify any negative point for this church.

7

Laodicea

«You are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot. (...) You know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.» (Revelation 3:16,17)



The counsel Jesus gives to each one of the seven churches:



1

Ephesus

«Repent, and do the first works.» (Revelation 2:5)

2

Smyrna

«Be you faithful to death.» (Revelation 2:10)

3

Pergamos

«Repent.» (Revelation 2:16)

4

Thyatira

«I gave her space to repent. (...) That which you have already hold fast till I come.» (Revelation 2:21,25)

5

Sardis

«Remember therefore how you have received and heard, and hold fast, and repent.» (Revelation 3:3)

6

Philadelphia

«Hold that fast which you have, that no man take your crown.» (Revelation 3:11)

7

Laodicea

«I counsel you to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, (...) and white raiment, (...) and anoint your eyes with eye salve. (...) Be zealous, and repent.» (Revelation 3:18,19)



The warning Jesus gives to each one of the seven churches:



1

Ephesus

«I will come to you quickly, and remove your candlestick out of his place, except you repent.» (Rev. 2:5)

2

Smyrna

No warning is given to this church.

3

Pergamos

«Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.» (Rev. 2:16)

4

Thyatira

«Behold, I will cast (...) [them] into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.» (Revelation 2:22)

5

Sardis

«If you shall not watch, I will come on you as a thief, and you shall not know what hour I will come.» (Rev. 3:3)

6

Philadelphia

No warning is given to this church.

7

Laodicea

«So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth.» (Rev. 3:16)



What Jesus promises to him who overcomes in each of the seven churches:



- | | | |
|---|--------------|---|
| 1 | Ephesus | «I will give to eat of the tree of life.» (Revelation 2:7) |
| 2 | Smyrna | «He (...) shall not be hurt of the second death.» (Rev. 2:11) |
| 3 | Pergamos | «I will give to eat of the hidden manna; I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name.» (Rev. 2:17) |
| 4 | Thyatira | «To him will I give power over the nations. (...) And I will give him the morning star.» (Revelation 2:26,28) |
| 5 | Sardis | «He that overcomes shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life, but I will confess his name before My Father.» (Rev. 3:5) |
| 6 | Philadelphia | «I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, (...) I will write on him the name of My God.» (Revelation 3:12) |
| 7 | Laodicea | «To him will I grant to sit with Me in My throne.» (Rev. 3:21) |



The letters to the seven churches present an interesting correlation:

1 **Ephesus** **Common theme: Ardor gives way to lukewarmness** **Laodicea** **7**

Abandonment of first love (Rev. 2:4) ↔ **Is neither cold nor hot (Rev. 3:15)**

2 **Smyrna** **Common theme: Faithfulness through trials** **Philadelphia** **6**

Problems with false Jews (Rev. 2:9) ↔ **Victory over false Jews (Rev. 3:9)**

Crown of life promised (Rev. 2:10) ↔ **Crown of life promised (Rev. 3:11)**

3 **Pergamos** **Common theme: Living faith threatened** **Sardis** **5**

Threatened by apostasy (Rev. 2:14) ↔ **Threatened by formalism (Rev. 3:2)**

4 **Thyatira** **The Church is plunged into the greatest spiritual darkness of its entire history, into «the depths of Satan» (Revelation 2:24).**



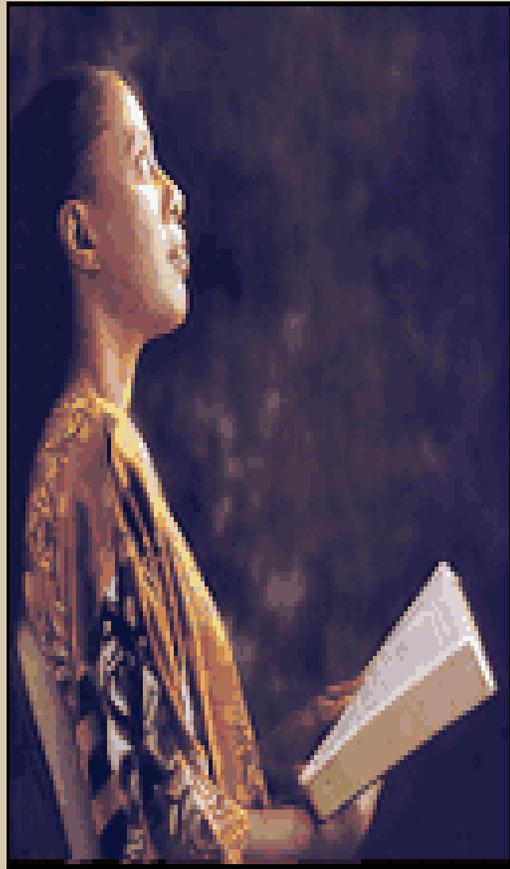
Jesus' promises to him who overcomes restore what had been lost in Eden!



Church	What Jesus promises	The promise puts an end to
Ephesus	Access to the tree of life	Supreme effect of sin
Smyrna	Won't be hurt by second death	Definitive effect of sin
Pergamos	Food without severe labor	Immediate effect of sin
Thyatira	Domination over the earth	Continuous effect of sin
Church	What Jesus promises	The promise restores
Sardis	Justice giving forgiveness	The way to eternity
Philadelphia	A place where one meets God	The place of eternity
Laodicea	To share His throne with him	The inheritance of eternity



The letters to the seven churches have a message for each one of us:



1

Ephesus

Let's keep the fire alive by prayer, study of the Word of God, and persevering work in God's harvest.

2

Smyrna

Let's be courageous in spite of difficult times coming.

3

Pergamos

Let's resist the ease of yielding to compromise.

4

Thyatira

When we mix with the people to whom we present the gospel, let's keep our faith and our commitment toward God pure.

5

Sardis

Let's make sure that our faith, so ardent at the time of our conversion, does not become a dead formalism.

6

Philadelphia

Let's take advantage of the door Jesus opens, and proclaim the gospel with perseverance according to our abilities.

7

Laodicea

Let's not be satisfied with our spiritual state; we must always better prepare ourselves for the return of Jesus.



Conclusions

The thirteen rewards for the overcomer:

- (1) Authority over nations (2:26)
- (2) Name not erased from book of life (3:5)
- (3) Inherits the earth (21:7)
- (4) New name on a white stone (2:17)
- (5) Eat of hidden manna (2:17)
- (6) Pillar in temple (3:12)
- (7) Sits on Christ's throne (3:21)
- (8) Tree of life (2:7)
- (9) Not hurt by second death (2:11)
- (10) Morning star (2:28)
- (11) White Garments (3:5)
- (12) Name of God, city, and Christ written on him (3:12)
- (13) Name confessed before the Father and His angels (3:5)



Are you willing to accept these gifts?

- **Note:** Jesus says His last day church is not ready for His appearing. His counsel to us in Revelation 3 is fantastic. However, He has much more to say to us in the remaining 19 chapters of Revelation. Some of His counsel may be startling, or even shocking, but since it is His counsel, I want it anyway. Don't you?



Concluding remarks

The overcomer is the individual who enjoys special benefits in eternity for refusing to give up his faith in Jesus in spite of persecution during life on earth.

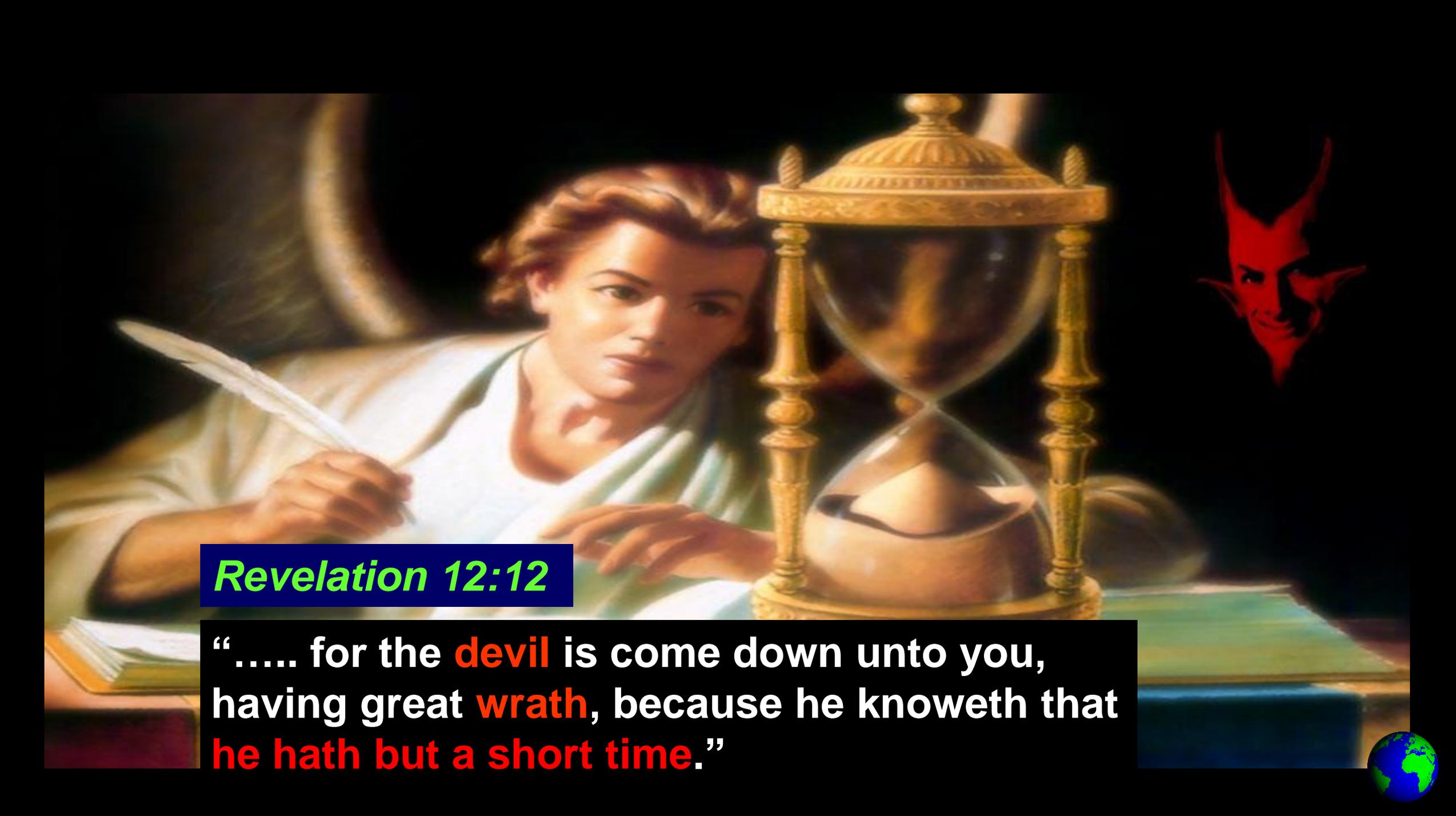


God has given all:



The Power of Choice



An angel with a halo and wings is shown writing in a book with a quill pen. To the right of the angel is a large, ornate golden hourglass. In the background, a red devil's face with horns is visible. The scene is set in a dimly lit room with a book on a desk.

Revelation 12:12

“..... for the **devil** is come down unto you, having great **wrath**, because he knoweth that **he hath but a short time.**”



Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

– John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. –
Revelation 3:20





THE END



ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?