

The Book of

REVELATION

The word 'REVELATION' is rendered in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are filled with a dark blue color and are overlaid with a dynamic, glowing effect of purple and yellow lightning bolts. The lightning bolts are most prominent in the 'E', 'L', and 'A' characters, creating a sense of intense energy and divine revelation.

Lesson 4

Chapter 3:1-22

Look for the answer to these questions:

1. Of the seven churches in Asia, there were two that gave Jesus nothing GOOD to say. What were they?
2. Which two churches gave Jesus nothing BAD to say about them?
3. The church at Sardis was told to Remember and Watch. What were they to watch for? What were they to remember? (Both answers are Rev. 3:3).
4. What is the Lord's promise to "he that overcometh" in Rev. 3:5?
5. Who has "the key of David"?
6. What Old Testament prophet is quoted two times in the Lord's message to the church in Philadelphia?
7. Why would Jesus want a church to be either hot or cold?
8. In Rev. 3:17, what did the church at Laodicea say about themselves?
9. Also in Rev. 3:17, what did the LORD say about the church in Laodicea?
10. Finish this sentence from Rev 3:19: "As many as I love, _____."

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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Part 1: ... the things which thou hast seen 1:1-20

Part 2: ... the things which are 2:1 to 3:22

Part 3: ... the things which shall be hereafter 4:1 to 22:21

We continue in Part Two of the Book of Revelation and the messages from the Lord to “the seven churches which are in Asia.”

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



EPHESUS

SMYRNA

PERGAMOS

THYATIRA

(Rev. 2:1-7)

Once on fire for Christ, but now becoming indifferent.

(Rev. 2:8-11)

Persecuted, poor, but ever faithful and resolute!

(Rev. 2:12-17)

Permissive, sheltering false teachers and false doctrines.

(Rev. 2:18-29)

Idolatrous, seduced into corrupt beliefs and pagan rituals.

A BACKSLIDING CHURCH

A STEADFAST CHURCH

A LICENTIOUS CHURCH

A LAX, PAGAN CHURCH

CRITICISM:
“Thou hast left thy first love...”

NO CRITICISM!

CRITICISM:
“Thou has them that hold the doctrines of Balaam and the Nicolaitans...”

CRITICISM:
“Thou sufferest that Jezebel to teach and seduce my servants...”

COUNSEL:
“Remember..., and repent.”

COUNSEL:
“Be faithful unto death.”

COUNSEL:
“Repent, or I will come unto thee...”

COUNSEL:
“Hold fast to what ye have...”

So far, we have studied the word of the LORD to 4 of the 7 churches.

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



EPHESUS

SMYRNA

PERGAMOS

THYATIRA **UP NEXT**

SARDIS

(Rev. 2:1-7)

Once on fire for Christ, but now becoming indifferent.

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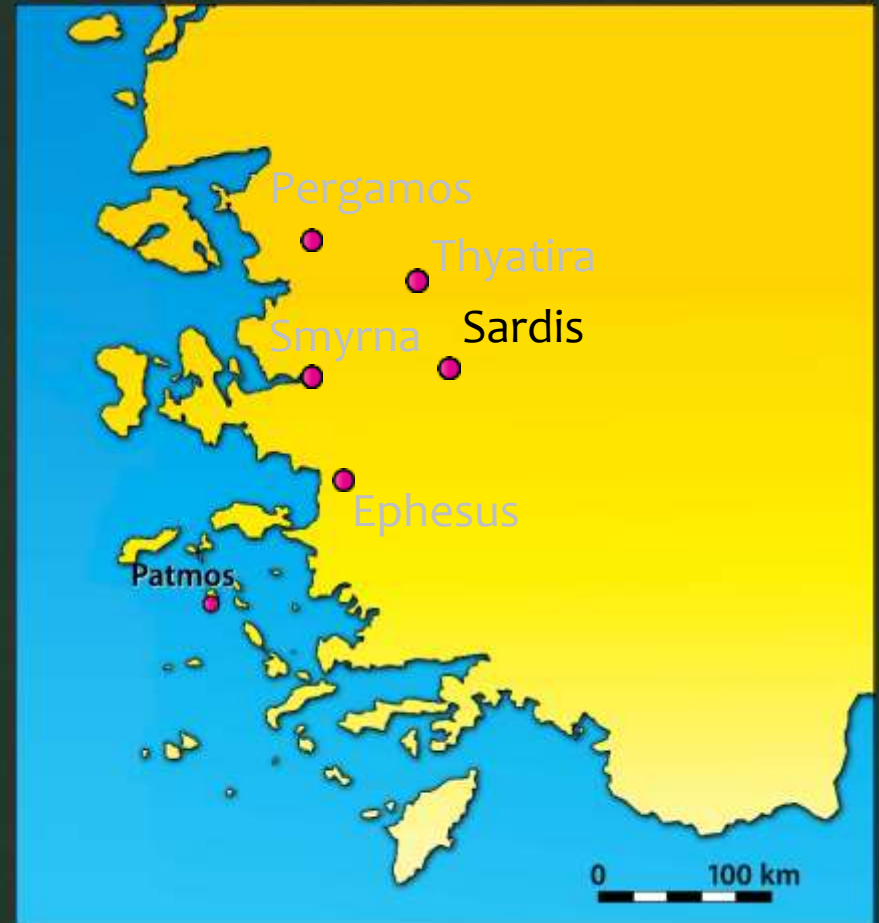
COUNSEL:
“Hold fast to what ye have...”

To the church in Sardis

Salutation

Revelation 3:1a

- ¹ And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write;
These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars;



To the church in Sardis

Salutation

Revelation 3:1a

¹ And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write;

These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars;



Revelation 1:4 and 16

⁴ ... from the seven Spirits which are before his throne ...

¹⁶ And he had in his right hand seven stars:



To the church in Sardis

NO Commendation



There are TWO churches that Christ does not commend. They have done nothing worthy of his praise.

The church at Sardis is the first.

To the church in Sardis

Rebuke

Revelation 3:1b

¹ ... I know thy works,
that thou hast a name that thou
lives, and art dead.

They gathered in the name of the living
Savior, but their faith was dead.



Rebuke

Revelation 3:1b

¹ ... I know thy works,
that thou hast a name that thou
lives, and art dead.

They gathered in the name of the living
Savior, but their faith was dead.

James 2:26

²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is
dead, so faith without works is dead
also.



To the church in Sardis

Rebuke

Revelation 3:1b

¹ ... I know thy works,
that thou hast a name that thou
lives, and art dead.



Nelson Study Bible

“The church there was now virtually dead in spirit and works, and is representative of dead orthodoxy.”

To the church in Sardis

Admonition

Revelation 3:2

² Be watchful,
and strengthen the things which
remain, that are ready to die:
for I have not found thy works
perfect before God.



All that remained was a few coals of a dying fire that could be stirred up. Jesus told them to “strengthen the things that remain.”

To the church in Sardis

Admonition

Revelation 3:3a

³ Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent.

But first, this church had to be led to repentance.



Admonition

Revelation 3:3a

³ **Remember** therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent.

We REMEMBER by DOING:

James 1:23-25

- ²³ For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:
- ²⁴ For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.
- ²⁵ But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.



To the church in Sardis

Admonition

Revelation 3:3b

3 **If therefore thou shalt not watch,**
I will come on thee as a thief,
and thou shalt not know what
hour I will come upon thee.



To the church in Sardis

Admonition

Revelation 3:3b

³ If therefore thou shalt not watch,
I will come on thee as a thief,
and thou shalt not know what
hour I will come upon thee.

We must WATCH and be READY for the
Lord's coming.



Mark 13:35-37

³⁵ Watch ye therefore:
for ye know not when
the master of the house cometh,
at even,
or at midnight,
or at the cockcrowing,
or in the morning:
³⁶ Lest coming suddenly
he find you sleeping.
³⁷ And what I say unto you
I say unto all,
Watch.

Admonition

Revelation 3:4

4 Thou hast a few names
even in Sardis
which have not defiled their
garments;
and they shall walk with me in
white:
for they are worthy.

Even in this dead church, there was
a remnant who believed.



Admonition

Revelation 3:4

4 Thou hast a few names
even in Sardis
which have not defiled their
garments;
and they shall walk with me in
white:
for they are worthy.

We keep our garments white when
we walk with the Lord.

Ecclesiastes 9:8

⁸ Let thy garments be always white;
and let thy head lack no ointment.



Admonition

Revelation 3:4

4 Thou hast a few names
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We keep our garments white when
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⁸ Let thy garments be always white;
and let thy head lack no ointment.

The ointment represents the
anointing of God.



Admonition

Revelation 3:4

4 Thou hast a few names
even in Sardis
which have not defiled their
garments;
and they shall walk with me in
white:
for they are worthy.

Those who are worthy are those who
have overcome:



Exhortation

Revelation 3:5

⁵ **He that overcometh,**
the same 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,
and before his angels.

Those who are worthy are those who
have overcome:



Exhortation

Revelation 3:5

⁵ He that overcometh,
the same 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,
and before his angels.

Again we are reminded:

1 John 5:5

Who is he that overcometh the
world, but he that believeth that
Jesus is the Son of God?

Exhortation

Revelation 3:5

⁵ He that overcometh,
the same 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,
and before his angels.

The Lord will not blot out a name
that is written with his blood.

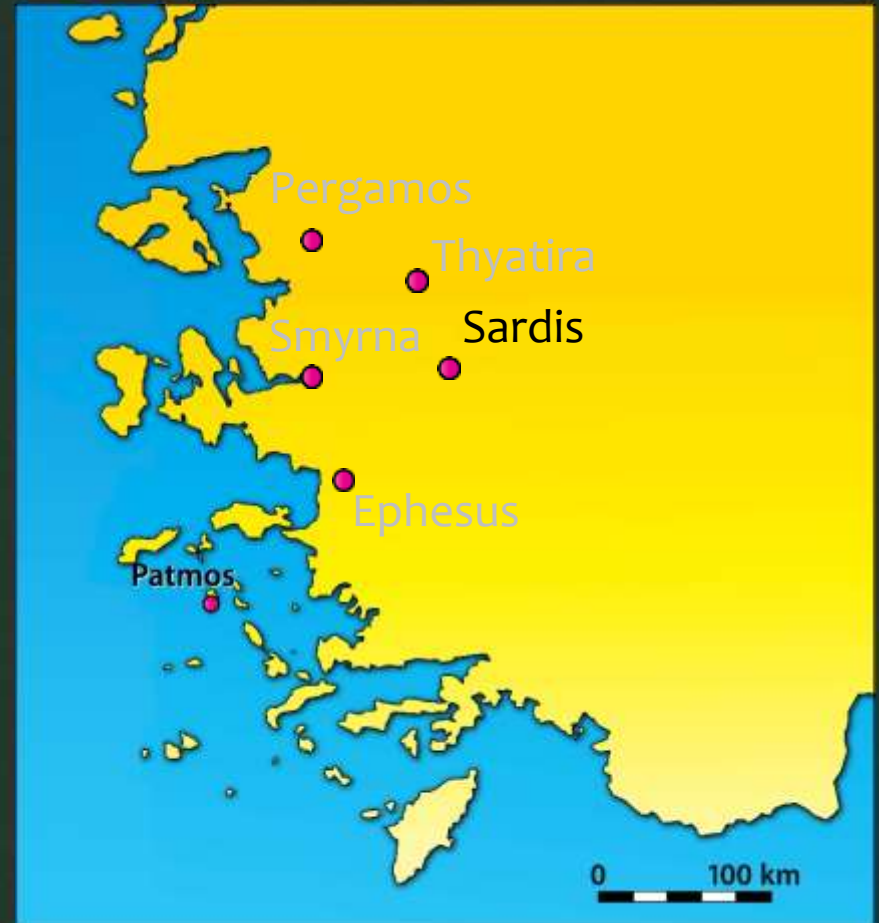


To the church in Sardis

Exhortation

Revelation 3:6

⁶ He that hath an ear,
let him hear what the Spirit saith
unto the churches.



THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



EPHESUS

SMYRNA

PERGAMOS

In Review:

SARDIS

(Rev. 2:1-7)

Once on fire for Christ, but now becoming indifferent.

(Rev. 2:8-11)

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(Rev. 2:12-17)

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Idolatrous, seduced into corrupt beliefs and pagan rituals.

(Rev. 3:1-6)

A church in name only, without results and spiritless.

A BACKSLIDING CHURCH

A STEADFAST CHURCH

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A LAX, PAGAN CHURCH

A DEAD CHURCH

CRITICISM:

“Thou hast left thy first love...”

NO CRITICISM!

CRITICISM:

“Thou has them that hold the doctrines of Balaam and the Nicolaitans...”

CRITICISM:

“Thou sufferest that Jezebel to teach and seduce my servants...”

CRITICISM:

“Thou livest and are dead...”

COUNSEL:

“Remember..., and repent.”

COUNSEL:

“Be faithful unto death.”

COUNSEL:

“Repent, or I will come unto thee...”

COUNSEL:

“Hold fast to what ye have...”

COUNSEL:

“Strengthen what remains...”

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



EPHESUS

SMYRNA

PERGAMOS

THYATIRA

UP NEXT

PHILADELPHIA

(Rev. 2:1-7)

Once on fire for Christ, but now becoming indifferent.

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COUNSEL:
“Hold fast to what ye have...”

COUNSEL:
“Strengthen what remains...”

To the church in Philadelphia

Salutation

Revelation 3:7

7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write;

These things saith he that is holy,
he that is true,
he that hath the key of David,
he that openeth,
and no man shutteth;
and shutteth,
and no man openeth;



Salutation

Revelation 3:7

⁷ And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write;

These things saith he that is holy,
he that is true,
he that hath the key of David,

he that openeth,
and no man shutteth;
and shutteth,
and no man openeth;



Revelation 1:18

¹⁸ ... and have the keys of hell and of death.

These things saith he that is holy,
he that is true,
he that hath the key of David,

THE KEY OF DAVID

“By this figure our Lord is describing the right of Jesus Christ to rule and reign. He only can [send] men to heaven or to hell. He has never delegated this power to another.”

A Dictionary of Bible Types



Salutation

Revelation 3:7

⁷ And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write;

These things saith he that is holy,
he that is true,

he that hath the key of David,

he that openeth,

and no man shutteth;

and shutteth,

and no man openeth;

This is written in Isaiah 22:22-23:

²² And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder;

so he shall open,
and none shall shut;
and he shall shut,
and none shall open.

²³ And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house.



To the church in Philadelphia

Commendation

Revelation 3:8

⁸ **I know thy works:**

behold, I have set before thee an
open door, and no man can shut it:

for thou hast a little strength,
and hast kept my word,
and hast not denied my name.



To the church in Philadelphia

NO Rebuke!



This is the second church which received no reproof from Christ.

(The first was the church of Smyrna.)

Admonition

Revelation 3:9

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 thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

The two churches that were not reprov'd by Christ – the churches in Smyrna and Philadelphia – were both troubled by false Jews of the synagogue of Satan.



Admonition

Revelation 3:9

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 thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

This is another reference from Isaiah:

Isaiah 60:14

¹⁴ The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.



Admonition

Revelation 3:10

¹⁰ Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.



Because of their faithfulness, the Lord promised to protect the people of this church from the coming tribulation.

To the church in Philadelphia

Exhortation

Revelation 3:11

¹¹ Behold, I come quickly:
hold that fast which thou hast,
that no man take thy crown.



The Lord can come at any time!



To the church in Philadelphia

Exhortation

Revelation 3:11

¹¹ Behold, I come quickly:
hold that fast which thou hast,
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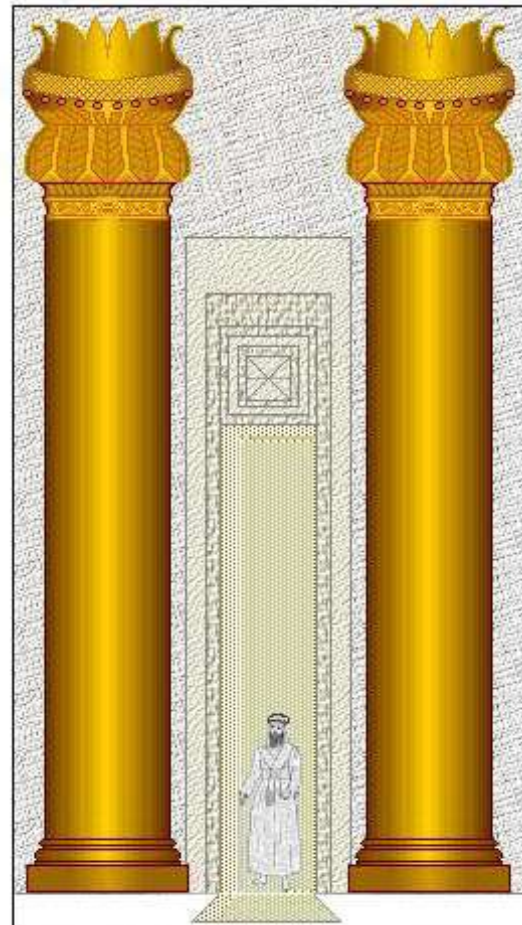
Don't let anything take you off
the path of faithfulness.



Exhortation

Revelation 3:12

¹² Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.



Exhortation

Revelation 3:12

¹² Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, **and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem,** which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him my new name.*

There will be more about “the holy city, new Jerusalem” in chapter 21.



To the church in Philadelphia

Exhortation

Revelation 3:13

¹³ He that hath an ear,
let him hear what the Spirit saith
unto the churches.



THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



EPHESUS

SMYRNA

PERGAMOS

THYATIRA

In Review:

PHILADELPHIA

(Rev. 2:1-7)

Once on fire for Christ, but now becoming indifferent.

(Rev. 2:8-11)

Persecuted, poor, but ever faithful and resolute!

(Rev. 2:12-17)

Permissive, sheltering false teachers and false doctrines.

(Rev. 2:18-29)

Idolatrous, seduced into corrupt beliefs and pagan rituals.

(Rev. 3:1-6)

A church in name only, without results and spiritless.

(Rev. 3:7-13)

Exemplary! Faithful to God's Word and filled with his love!

A BACKSLIDING CHURCH

A STEADFAST CHURCH

A LICENTIOUS CHURCH

A LAX, PAGAN CHURCH

A DEAD CHURCH

A FAVOURED CHURCH

CRITICISM:
"Thou hast left thy first love..."

NO CRITICISM!

CRITICISM:
"Thou has them that hold the doctrines of Balaam and the Nicolaitans..."

CRITICISM:
"Thou sufferest that Jezebel to teach and seduce my servants..."

CRITICISM:
"Thou livest and are dead..."

NO CRITICISM!

COUNSEL:
"Remember..., and repent."

COUNSEL:
"Be faithful unto death."

COUNSEL:
"Repent, or I will come unto thee..."

COUNSEL:
"Hold fast to what ye have..."

COUNSEL:
"Strengthen what remains..."

COUNSEL:
"Hold fast, that no man take thy crown."

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



EPHESUS

(Rev. 2:1-7)

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“Remember..., and repent.”



SMYRNA

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(Rev. 2:18-29)

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CRITICISM:
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COUNSEL:
“Hold fast to what ye have...”



SARDIS

(Rev. 3:1-6)

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A DEAD CHURCH

CRITICISM:
“Thou livest and are dead...”

COUNSEL:
“Strengthen what remains...”



PHIL **UP NEXT**

(Rev. 3:7-13)

Exemplary! Faithful to God’s Word and filled with his love!

A FAVOURED CHURCH

NO CRITICISM!

COUNSEL:
“Hold fast, that no man take thy crown.”



LAODICEA

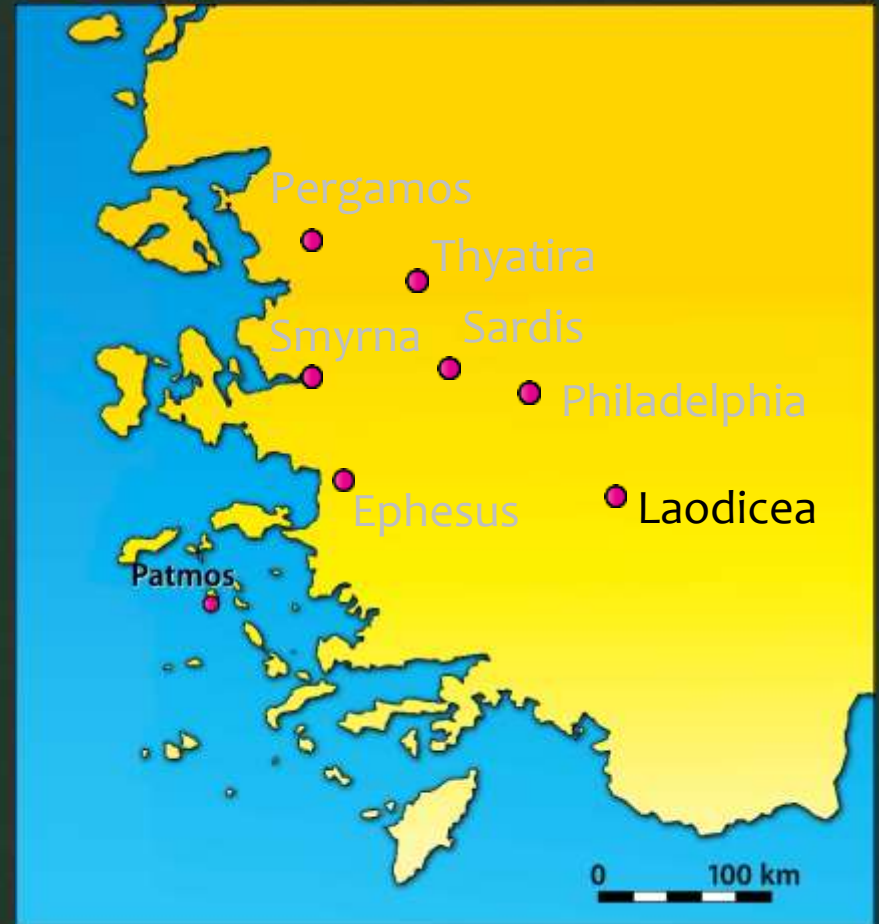
A LUKEWARM CHURCH

To the church of Laodicea

Salutation

Revelation 3:14

¹⁴ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;



Salutation

Revelation 3:14

¹⁴ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, **the beginning of the creation of God;**

Colossians 1:15-16

¹⁵ Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:
¹⁶ 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:

To the church of Laodicea

NO Commendation



This is second church which gave Christ nothing to praise.

(The first was the church at Smyrna.)

Rebuke

Revelation 3:15-16

- ¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.
- ¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.



Rebuke

Revelation 3:15-16

¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art
neither cold nor hot:
I would thou wert cold or hot.

¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm,
and neither cold nor hot,
I will spue thee out of my mouth.

The most common interpretation of this passage is that hot water is GOOD and cold water is BAD. In other words, God wants you to be either totally WITH him or totally AGAINST him.

But why would God want his people *against* him? And if they were, why wouldn't he also spit them out of his mouth?



The Scriptures have GOOD things to say about cold water.

Matthew 10:42

⁴² And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

Rebuke

Revelation 3:15-16

¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot:

I would thou wert cold or hot.

¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Cold and hot water are BOTH good!

Cold water is refreshing.

Hot water is purifying.

But lukewarm water is neither.



Rebuke

Revelation 3:17

¹⁷ Because thou sayest,
I am rich,
and increased with goods,
and have need of nothing;
and knowest not that thou art
wretched, and miserable,
and poor,
and blind,
and naked:

This church was prospering in the things of this world, but they were poor in the things of God.

They had been seduced by “the deceitfulness of riches” (Mark 4:19).

Admonition

Revelation 3:18

¹⁸ I counsel thee to buy of me
gold tried in the fire,
that thou mayest be rich;
and white raiment,
that thou mayest be clothed,
and *that* the shame of thy
nakedness do not appear;
and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve,
that thou mayest see.

The LORD gave them a word of counsel that would cure their spiritual poverty, nakedness, and blindness.



To the church of Laodicea

Admonition

Revelation 3:19

¹⁹ As many as I love,
I rebuke and chasten:

be zealous therefore,
and repent.

The LORD reminded them that it is an act of love to correct someone, rather than let them go astray.



Admonition

Revelation 3:19

¹⁹ As many as I love,
I rebuke and chasten:

be zealous therefore,
and repent.

Hebrews 12:5b-6

- ⁵ My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:
- ⁶ For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.



Exhortation

Revelation 3:20

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.



Exhortation

Revelation 3:21

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.

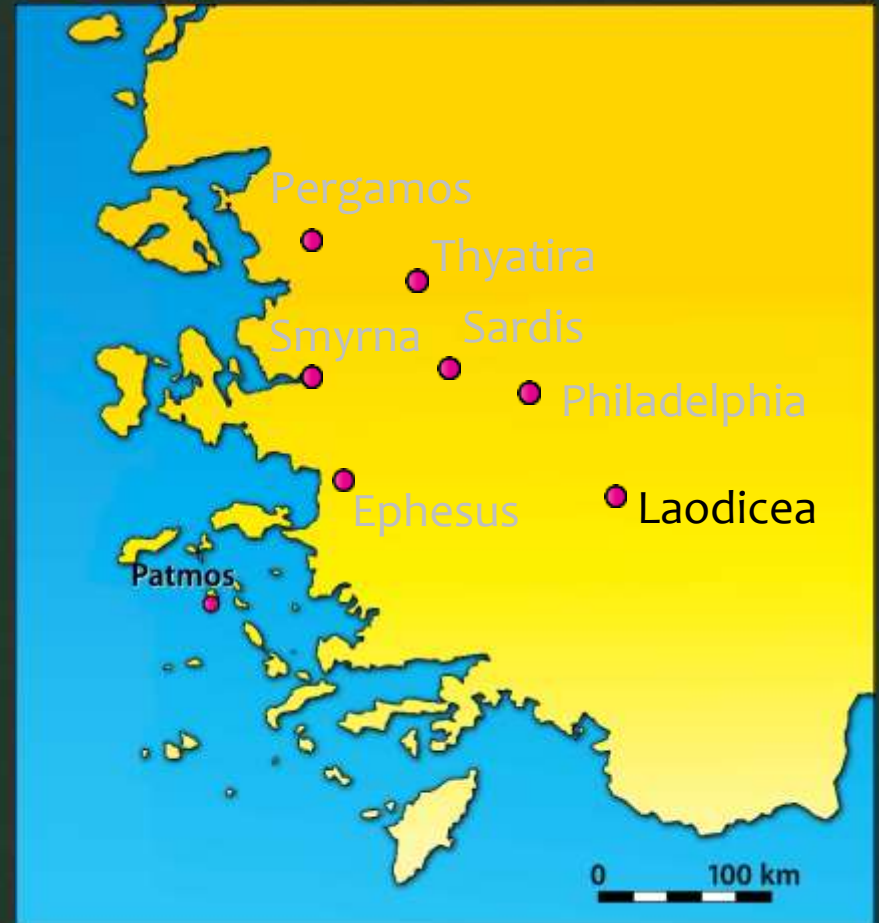


To the church of Laodicea

Exhortation

Revelation 3:22

²² He that hath an ear,
let him hear what the Spirit saith
unto the churches.



THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



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SMYRNA

PERGAMOS

THYATIRA

SARDIS

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(Rev. 3:7-13)

Exemplary! Faithful to God's Word and filled with his love!

(Rev. 2:14-22)

Self-indulgent, rich, and full of worldly pride.

A BACKSLIDING CHURCH

A STEADFAST CHURCH

A LICENTIOUS CHURCH

A LAX, PAGAN CHURCH

A DEAD CHURCH

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"Thou has them that hold the doctrines of Balaam and the Nicolaitans..."

CRITICISM:
"Thou sufferest that Jezebel to teach and seduce my servants..."

CRITICISM:
"Thou livest and are dead..."

NO CRITICISM!

CRITICISM:
"Thou art wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked"

COUNSEL:
"Remember..., and repent."

COUNSEL:
"Be faithful unto death."

COUNSEL:
"Repent, or I will come unto thee..."

COUNSEL:
"Hold fast to what ye have..."

COUNSEL:
"Strengthen what remains..."

COUNSEL:
"Hold fast, that no man take thy crown."

COUNSEL:
"Buy my gold and white raiment..."

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

Part 1: ... the things which thou hast seen 1:1-20

Part 2: ... the things which are 2:1 to 3:22

Part 3: ... the things which shall be hereafter 4:1 to 22:21

This concludes Part 2 of the Book of Revelation,
THE THINGS WHICH ARE.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

Part 1: ... the things which thou hast seen 1:1-20

Part 2: ... the things which are 2:1 to 3:22

Part 3: ... the things which shall be hereafter 4:1 to 22:21

In the next lesson, we will begin the largest portion of this book

Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. Of the seven churches in Asia, there were two that gave Jesus nothing GOOD to say. What were they?
2. Which two churches gave Jesus nothing BAD to say about them?
3. The church at Sardis was told to Remember and Watch. What were they to watch for? What were they to remember? (Both answers are Rev. 3:3).
4. What is the Lord's promise to "he that overcometh" in Rev. 3:5?
5. Who has "the key of David"?
6. What Old Testament prophet is quoted two times in the Lord's message to the church in Philadelphia?
7. Why would Jesus want a church to be either hot or cold?
8. In Rev. 3:17, what did the church at Laodicea say about themselves?
9. Also in Rev. 3:17, what did the LORD say about the church in Laodicea?
10. Finish this sentence from Rev 3:19: "As many as I love, _____."

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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