



# Revelation 3

Letters to the Churches..

Continued.

# Review Revelation Chapter 2

## part 1: the first 4 churches

1. Empty Ephesus

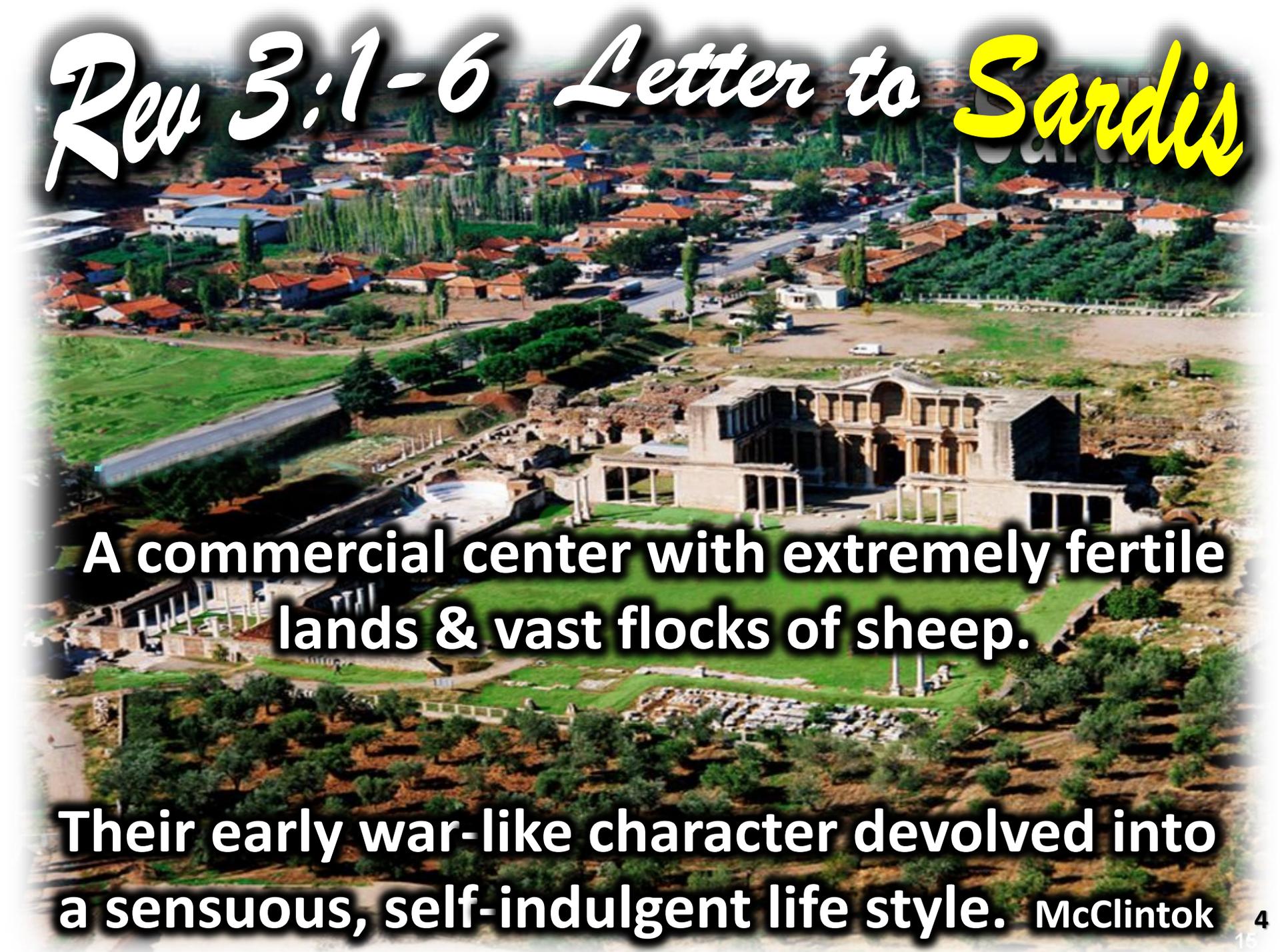
2. Suffering Smyrna

3. Poisoned Pergamum

4. Tolerant Thyatira



# Rev 3:1-6 Letter to **Sardis**

An aerial photograph showing the ancient ruins of Sardis in the foreground, with a modern town built on the same site in the background. The ruins include a large, partially reconstructed building with a colonnade and a courtyard. The modern town features numerous houses with red-tiled roofs and green spaces.

**A commercial center with extremely fertile lands & vast flocks of sheep.**

**Their early war-like character devolved into a sensuous, self-indulgent life style. McClintok**

# Rev 3:1-6 Letter to **Sardis**

## B. Jesus' Self-Designation

Rev 3:1 "He who has the **Seven Spirits** of God..."

Rev 1:4 "The **seven Spirits** who are before His throne."

**Jesus is in Control!**

John 15:26 "**I will send.. the Spirit of Truth**"

John 16:7-8 "If I go, **I will send Him** to you."

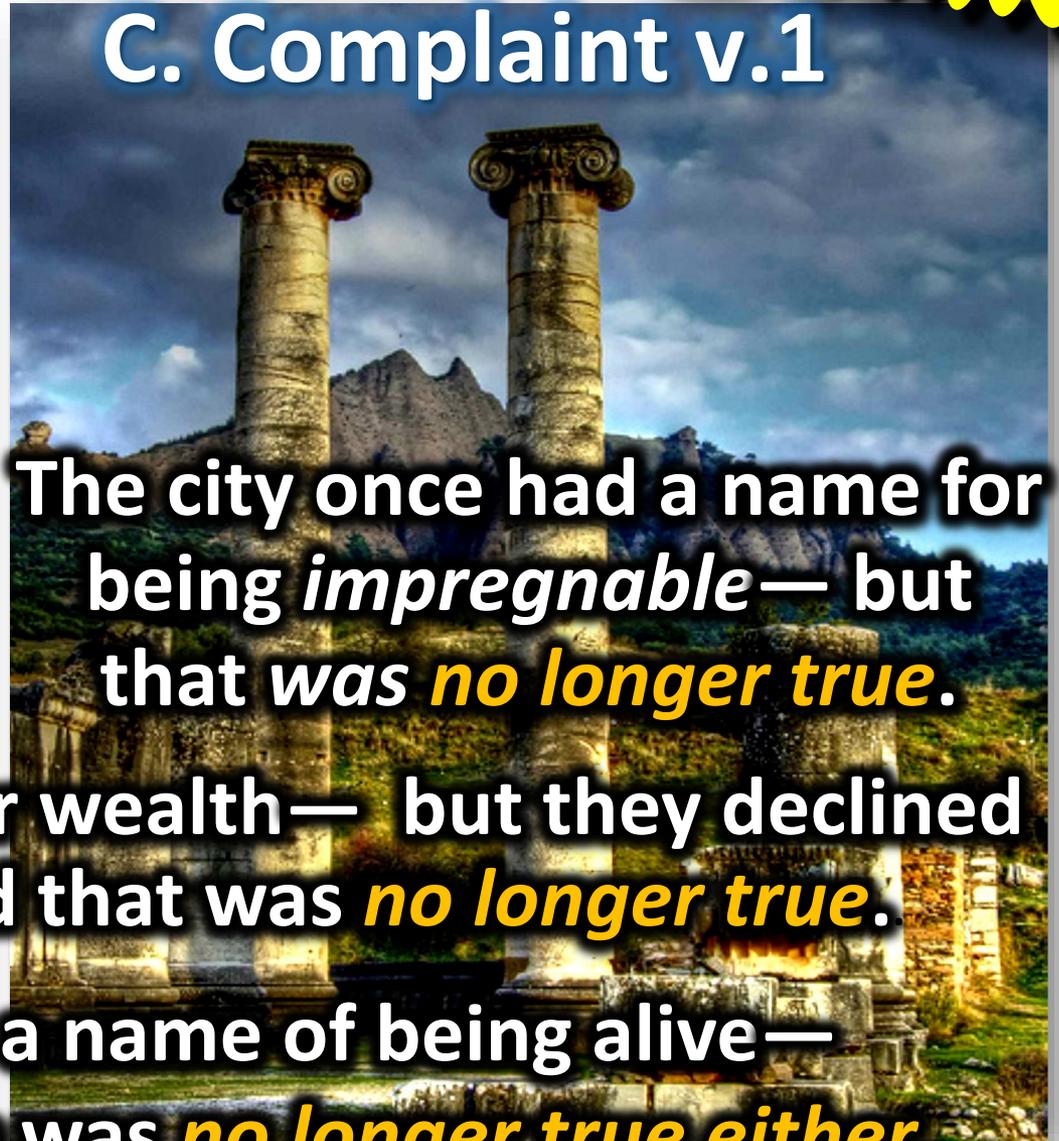
# Rev 3:1-6 Letter to **Sardis**

## C. Complaint v.1

Rev 3:1 I know your deeds, that you have *a name that you are alive, but you are DEAD.*

They had a name for wealth— but they declined under Rome and that was *no longer true*.

The church had a name of being alive— but now that also was *no longer true either*.



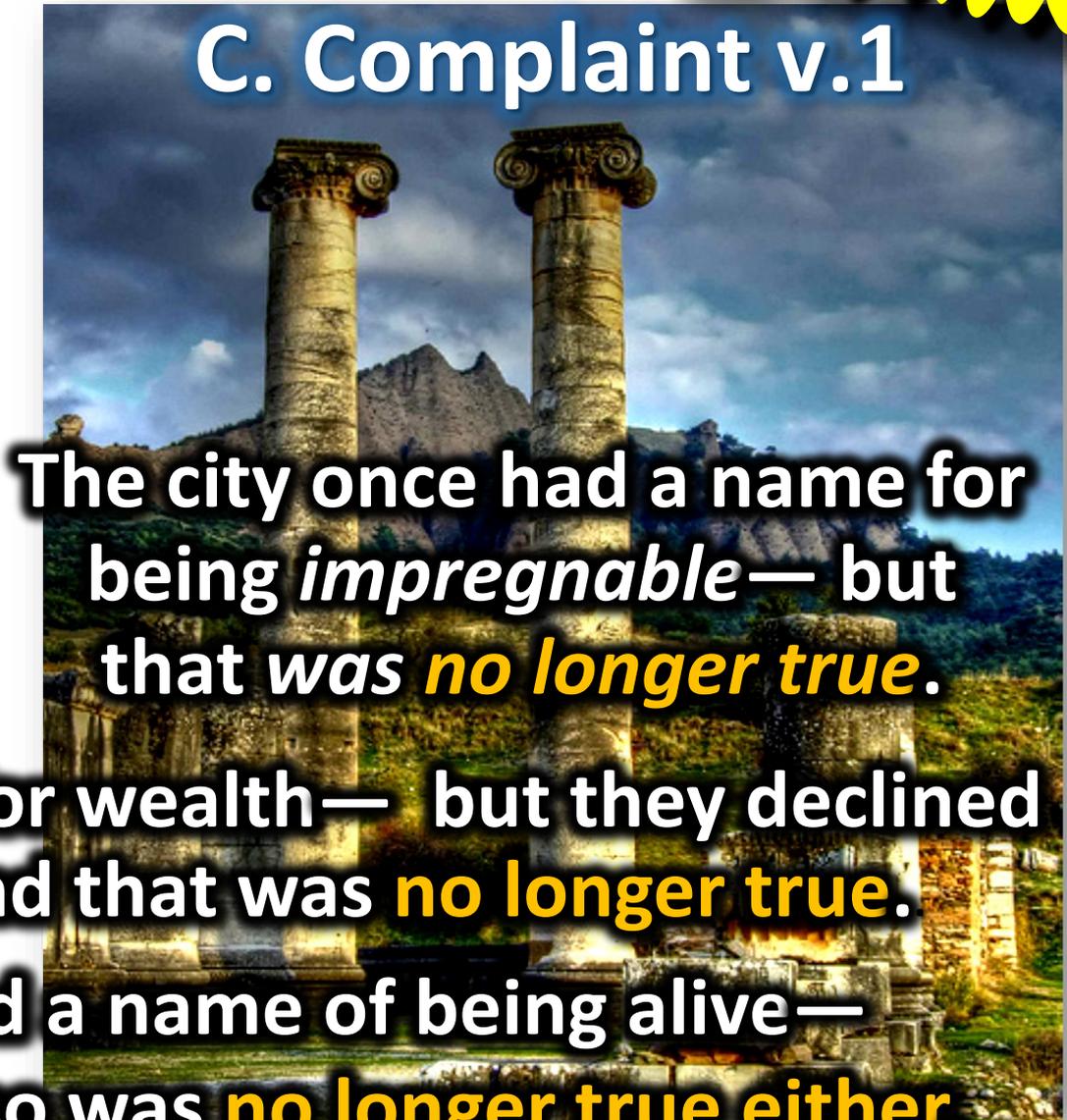
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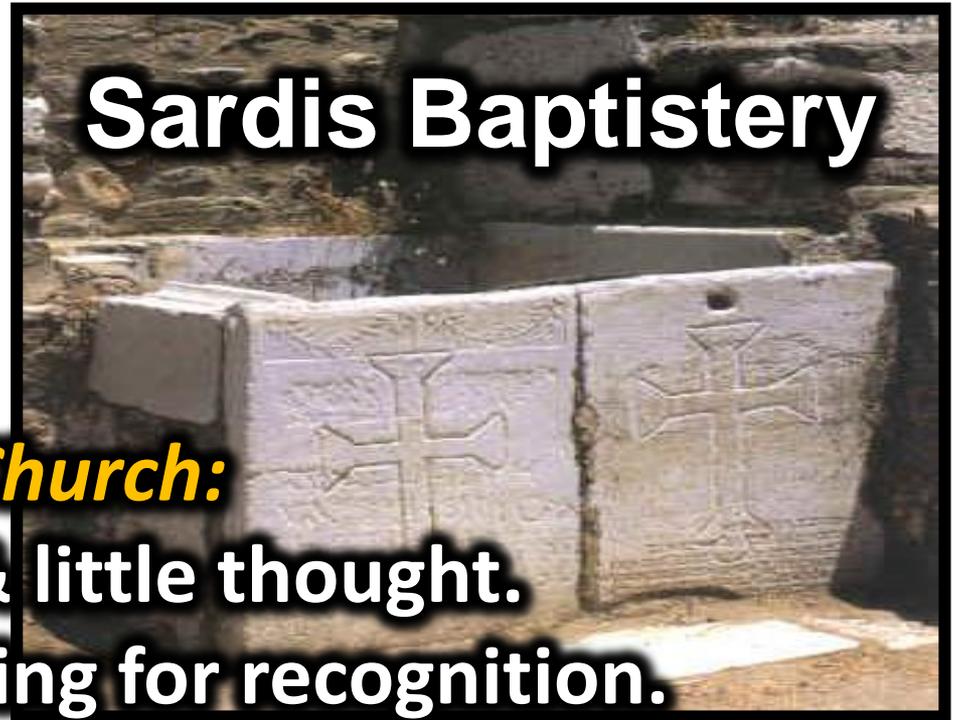
The church had a name of being alive— but now that also was **no longer true either.**



# Rev 3:1-6 Letter to Sardis

## C. Complaint v.1

Rev 3:1 “You have a name that you are alive, **but you are dead.**”



**Examples of a Dying Church:**

**Songs** without spirit & little thought.

**Prayers** as ritual. Serving for recognition.

**More** concern with physical than spiritual.

**Attending** out of habit rather than a desire.

**Worshipping** the past not planning the future.

# Rev 3:1-6 Letter to **Sardis**

## D. Exhortation v.2-4

**Rev 3:2** *Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die..*

In war, a Lydian soldier dropped his helmet down a cliff— & a Persian enemy watched him climb down a tiny path.

The Persians came up that same path and defeated the citadel —because that route, so inaccessible, was not watched in 549 BC.

# Rev 3:1-6 Letter to Sardis

## D. Exhortation v.2-4

Rev 3:2 “For I have Not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.”

Do you finish what you start ?

I was going to lead singing. teach a class..  
I was going invite more people, be hospitable.  
I was going be more outgoing an friendly.  
I was going to be more generous & giving.  
I was going to be more spiritual & prayerful.  
I was going to complete my goals this year.

# Rev 3:1-6 Letter to Sardis

## D. Exhortation v.2-4

Rev 3:3 “So remember what you have received & heard; and **keep it**, and **repent**.”

1. **Remember** : Continuous: “**Keep on remembering**”
2. **Keep it** : Continuous: “**Hold tight, don't let loose**”
3. **Repent** : Point Action:  
“**Change your mind—  
& keep it changed**”



Remember what God has done for you (Rom 8:1-37)<sub>1</sub>

# Rev 3:1-6 Letter to **Sardis**

## D. Exhortation v.2-4

Rev 3:4 But you have a few people in Sardis who have **not soiled their garments.**

Temples to **fertility** goddesses of both Artemis & Cybele were here.

Even if you're in a dead church & corrupt society— you can still be **saved, pure!**



# Rev 3:1-6 Letter to **Sardis**

Rev 3:5

E. Promise v.5

They shall walk with me in **White** for they are **Worthy**.

(Rev 19:8) Linen= **Righteous acts** of the saints

# Rev 3:1-6 Letter to **Sardis**

## E. Promise v.5

Rev 3:5 “He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; ***and I will not erase his name from the book of life..***

And ***I will confess his name*** before My Father, and before His angels.

Your ***citizenship*** will not be revoked & Jesus will acknowledge ***YOU*** in heaven. (Mt 10:32)

# 5. Sleeping Sardis



# Rev 3:7-13 Letter to Philadelphia



## A. Salutation v.7

Rev 3:7 To the angel of the church in *Philadelphia* write:

# Rev 3:7-13 Letter to *Philadelphia*

## Church Character

Founded primarily to advance Greek culture & religion. The *city* & the *church* looked *for opportunities to influence.*

A city in *Lydia of Asia Minor*. Built about 150 BC, situated on the lower slopes of the "*Mt Tmolus*" 28 miles East of Sardis.

# Rev 3:7-13 Letter to Philadelphia

## B. Jesus Self-Designation v.7

Rev 3:7 He who is **holy**, who is **true**..

**Key of David:** Kingdom authority to create opportunity (Isa 22:22)

**Who Opens:** opportunity (1 Cor 16:8)  
(Troas 2 Cor 2:12)

Who has the **key** of David, who **opens** and  
no one will **shut**, & who **shuts**  
and no one **opens**...

# Rev 3:7-13 Letter to Philadelphia

## C. Commendation v.8-10

Rev 3:8 “I have put before you **an open door** which no one can shut, because you **have a little power**, and **have kept My word**, and have **not denied My name**.

**Little power**: strength / resources

2 Tim 2:21

Don't compare yourself to others.

**Get prepared.** God doesn't open doors for the unprepared to foul up His work.

# Rev 3:7-13 Letter to Philadelphia

## C. Commendation v.8-10

Rev 3:9 I will cause those of the *synagogue of Satan*, who say that they are Jews & are not, but lie--I will make them *come and bow down at your feet*"

*Synagogue of Satan* – Jews gather, of Israelite descent but benefited Satan.

*Bow down* – Acknowledge that your cause is right. And some convert. (Acts 18:8)



# Rev 3:7-13 Letter to Philadelphia

## C. Commendation v.8-10

Rev 3:10 “Because you have **kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing**, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world.”

**I will keep you:** ie “guard you, protect you.”

**From the hour of testing:** Roman persecution.

**Upon whole world:** Roman empire (Col.1:5-6)

# Rev 3:7-13 Letter to Philadelphia

## D. Warning v.11

Rev 3:11 I am coming quickly; **hold fast what you have**, so that no one will take your crown.

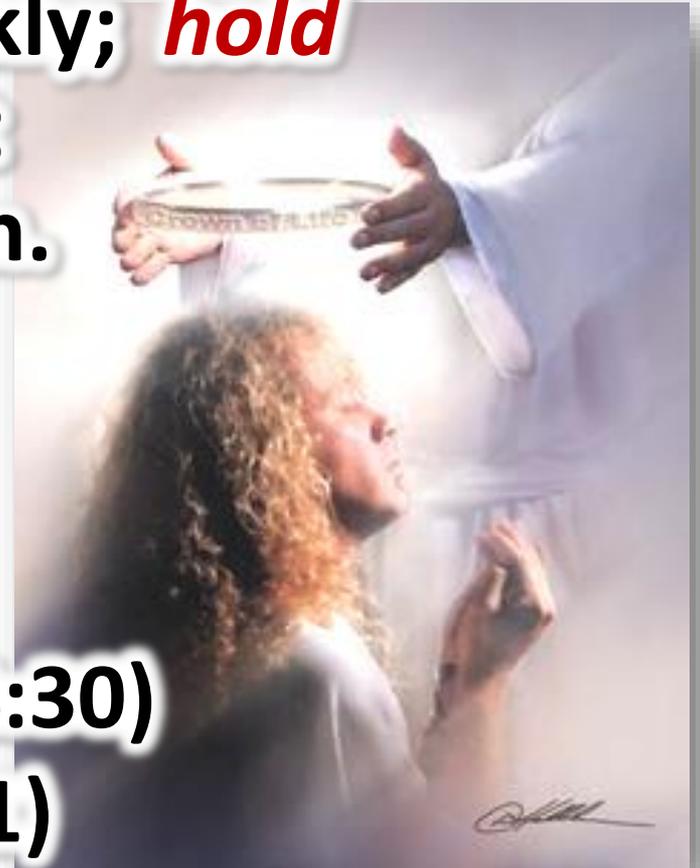
**I am coming quickly:**

ie: in earthly judgment.

Like for **Jerusalem** (Mat 24:30)

Like for **Egypt** (Isa 19:1)

Like for **Ephesus** (Rev 2:5)



# Rev 3:7-13 Letter to Philadelphia

## E. Promise v.12

Rev 3:12 He who **overcomes** I will...

***“Make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore.”***

***Honored & stabilizing force for God.***

***“Write on him the name of My God,”***

***“Name of the city of My God.”*** (Rev 14:1)

***“And My new name.”*** (Rev 19:12, 16)

# Powered Philadelphia

# Rev 3:14-22 Letter to *Laodicea*

## A. Salutation v.14

Rev 3:14

To the angel of the church in **Laodicea** write:

Wealthy Laodicea was founded 250 BC by Antiochus II. It had banking operations & was a retirement center for the affluent.

Paul hadn't visited the church at Laodicea (Col 2:1), but was concerned for them and wrote them a letter (Col 4:16).



# Rev 3:14-22 Letter to *Laodicea*

## B. Self-Designation v.14

***The Amen***—That what Jesus says  
“*will take place.*”

***Faithful & true witness***—It’s ALL “*factual.*”

***Beginning of the creation***- (Arche) Jesus  
“*rules*” creation! He is the *ruler* and  
originating source, *Thayers*. (Lk 12:11)

Arche = magistrate. Cf (John 1:3; Heb 1:2).

# Rev 3:14-22 Letter to **Laodicea**

## C. Complaint v.15-17

Rev 3:15 I know your deeds, that you are **neither cold nor hot**; I wish that you were **cold or hot.**

Laodicea's aqueducts transported calcium laden hot water from springs 6 miles but it arrived "**Lukewarm.**"

*WWW Bibletools.com Also: Christian Travel Study Program*



# Rev 3:14-22 Letter to **Laodicea**

## C. Complaint v.15-17

Rev 3:16 So because you are lukewarm, & neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

But this church was not Hot enough to be zealous nor Cold enough to get out of religion.



# Rev 3:14-22 Letter to *Laodicea*

## C. Complaint v.15-17

Rev 3:17 You say, "*I am rich*, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,"  
*Laodicea was the wealthiest* of the 7 cities.

When the city was almost entirely destroyed by an earthquake in AD 60 the citizens *turned down aid to rebuild* offered by the Roman government. They quickly rebuilt it and *didn't need* Rome's help.



# Rev 3:14-22 Letter to Laodicea

## D. Exhortation v.18-20

Rev 3:18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich

They thought there were rich  
and self-sufficient.



Jesus said—that they were actually poor (v.17), literally “destitute” spiritually.

But our treasures from Christ— (Col 1:3)

# Rev 3:14-22 Letter to *Laodicea*

## D. Exhortation v.18-20

Rev 3:18 Buy ... *white garments* so that you may clothe yourself and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed.



Laodicea was famous for garments made from the *glossy black wool* of its sheep.

They didn't realize that they were spiritually *naked* (Rev 3:17) & had to be clothed by Christ (Gal 2:17).

# Rev 3:14-22 Letter to *Laodicea*

## D. Exhortation v.18-20

Rev 3:18 [And buy from Jesus] *eye salve* to anoint your eyes so that you may see

Laodicea was also the home of a *medical school*, and the manufacture of “*Col-ly-rium*” a Phrygian powder *famous in eye-salve* used to treat eye diseases and was widely sought.



# Rev 3:14-22 Letter to Laodicea

## D. Exhortation v.18-20

Rev 3:19 Those whom I love, I reprove & discipline; therefore be zealous & repent

- Discipline is a sign of love. (Prov 13:24)
- Don't withhold from son. (Prov 23:13f)
- Whom Lord loves, He reproveth. (Prov 3:12)

*Medically*, you have the best eye salve in the world.

*Physically*, you are the best-dressed in Asia.

*Financially* you're the wealthiest church.

But you're blind, naked & broke!

# Rev 3:14-22 Letter to *Laodicea*

## D. Exhortation v.18-20

Rev 3:20 I stand at the door & knock; *if anyone hears My voice and opens the door*, I will come in to him & will dine with him, and he with Me.

The Lord *won't force* his way in.

But he wants a *close relationship*.

This image denotes intimacy and friendship.

It's he *symbol of friendship* the Savior promises.



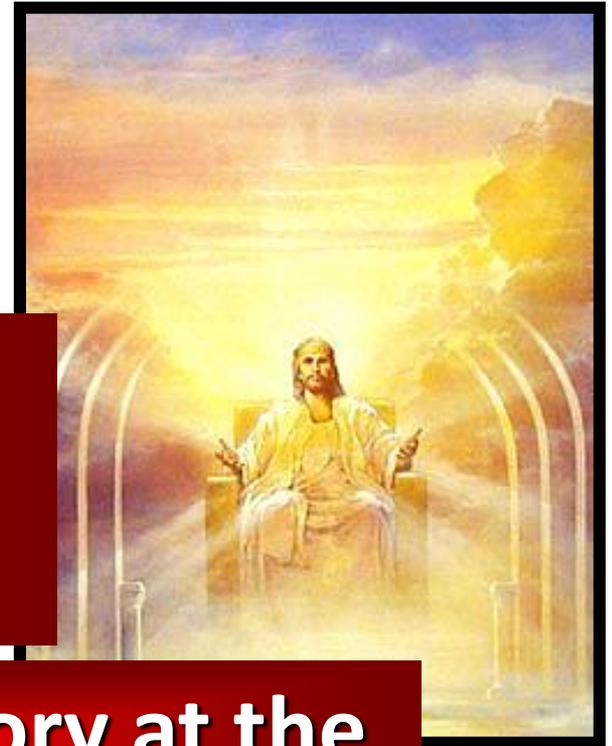
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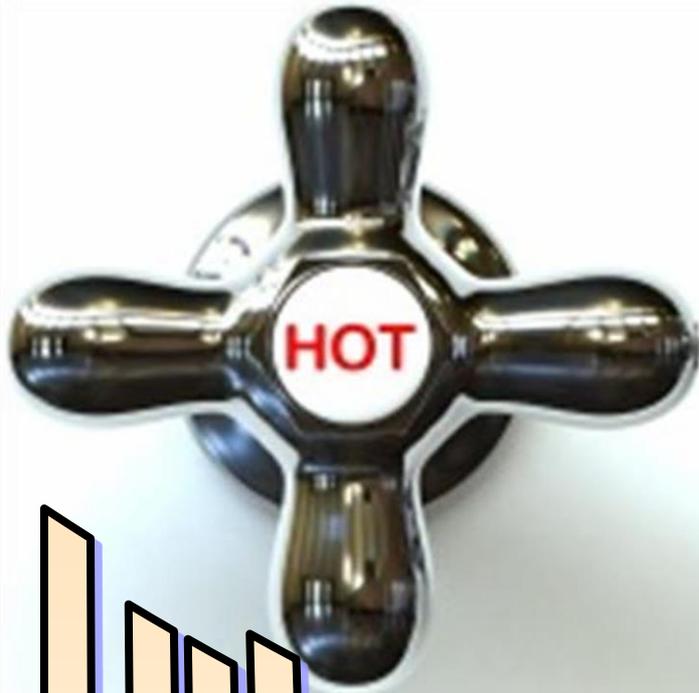
## E. Exhortation v.21

**Rev 3:21** *He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne*

**We must overcome prosperity, peace, pride, pleasure and persecution.**

**Our is the throne of victory at the right hand of God Heb 1:3**





Lukewarm  
Laodicea

## Chapter 2

1. Empty Ephesus
2. *Suffering Smyrna*
3. Poisoned Pergamum
4. Tolerant Thyatira

## Chapter 3

5. **Sleeping Sardis**
  6. *Powered Philadelphia*
  7. Lukewarm Laodicea
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