

Study Notes – Revelation 3

Seven Churches of Yeshua the Messiah - Revelation 2:1- 3:22 (TLV)

- ✚ Yeshua is walking among the Menorot (Candlesticks) – Rev 1:13
- ✚ John commissioned by Yeshua to:
 - What you have seen: Things revealed to John prior to addressing the 7 churches. (Chapter 1)
 - What is: John's present time, which are set forth in the letters to the churches. (Chapters 2 &3)
 - What will happen after these things: The things in the future to John's time. (Chapter 4 – 22)
- ✚ When did the "Church Age" begin? Shavuot / Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13)



Sardis

- ✓ The Capital city of Lydia.
- ✓ Known for its great wealth.
- ✓ May have been earliest kingdom to mint coins (7th century bc).
- ✓ In John's time a trade center known for textile manufacturing, dyeing and jewelry.
- ✓ Croesus, King of Sardis, had almost unlimited wealth.
- ✓ A large temple dedicated to Artemis, 160'x300' with 78 columns 58' in height.
- ✓ No persecution of believers.

Sardis: Coming Like a Thief

Rev 3:1 ¹To the angel of Messiah's community in Sardis write: "Thus says the One having the seven spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your deeds—you have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead.

- ✓ Seven Spirits of God Rev 1:4 – The Spiritually dead congregation is why Yeshua introduces Himself this way. 7 is the number of completion, fullness and perfection. The Holy Spirit perfect & complete. John 3:5-8, Acts 2:33, Rom 8:9, 1 Cor 12:12-13, Zec 4:1-14. Isa 11:1-5 & John 7:37-39.
- ✓ have a reputation for being alive – zes: referring to inner life. Yeshua is saying this is how it appears to men is not how it appears to God.
- ✓ you are dead – they are an active congregation but have no spiritual regeneration. Matt 8:22, Luke 9:60, 1 Tim 5:6 & Eph 5:14.

3:2² Wake up and strengthen what remains that was about to die. For I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of My God.

- ✓ Wake up – a command, the strongest way that you could ever say this! The congregation is dying. They received no commendation from Yeshua. Their faith is dead and because of this their deeds/works are incomplete. Eph 2:8-10, Titus 3:5-8 & James 2:14-26

3.3³ So remember what you have received and heard—keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you.

- ✓ if you do not wake up – unexpected judgement – the Lord will come and destroy the Sardis congregation if there is no revival. 1 Thes 5:1-6 & Matt 24:42-51

3.4⁴ "But still, you have a few people in Sardis who have not stained their clothes. They will walk with Me in white, because they are worthy.

- ✓ have not stained their clothes – moluno (grk): to pollute, stain, contaminate, defile. Isa 64:6
- ✓ walk with Me in white – washed white & clean with the blood of the Lamb. Zec 3:3-5 White speaks of the righteousness of Yeshua and the marriage garments worn by His bride & those attending the marriage feast. Eph 5:25-27
- ✓ they are worthy – axios (grk): suitable, as in drawing praise. They are adopted into God's family and found worthy to attain the resurrection of life eternal.

3.5⁵ The one who overcomes thus will be dressed in white clothes; I will never blot his name out of the Book of Life and will confess his name before My Father and His angels.

- ✓ dressed in white clothes;
 - a symbol of Redemption. The sin of the overcomer will be removed from God's sight by being covered by the righteousness of God. Rom 3:5, 21-26, 10:3, 2 Cor 5:21 & James 1:20
 - This is a possible allusion to the glorified state of the redeemed. Dan 12:3, Matt 13:43, Rom 8:19,23 & Phil 3:21.
- ✓ I will never blot his name out of the Book of Life:
 - This book records the name of every individual that will live with God forever. Also known as the **Lamb's book of Life**, those that fail to exercise Faith prior to death are "blotted out". Being blotted out of this book results in spiritual death and eternal damnation.

Note: The Book of Life is **not** The Book of the Living. Psalm 69:28 or Your (Adonai) book that You have written Exodus 32:32

- ✓ will confess his name – Yeshua will acknowledge and agree fully that you are written in His book and truly belong to Him. Matt 10:32 & Luke 12:8

The congregation in Sardis no longer exists, not a single believer.

Philadelphia



Philadelphia:

- 27 miles ESE of Sardis
- Built by Attalus II Philadelphus, king of Pergamum, the king loved his brother Eumenes so much that he named the city in honor of him. The name means “Love of a Brother.”
- Frequent earthquakes
- To this day a vibrant Christian community.
- Persecuted by the Jews.

Philadelphia: I Have Loved You

3.7⁷ To the angel of Messiah's community in Philadelphia write: "Thus says the Holy One, the True One, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens:

- ✓ Holy – Hagios (grk): Belonging exclusively to God, set apart, sacred, pure, morally blameless, worthy of reverence.
- ✓ True – alethinos (grk): real, ideal, genuine. God fulfills the meaning of his name. He is “Very God”, in distinction from all other gods. He is true to his words, He cannot lie; of Christ; His judgements; His ways (Vines Dictionary).
- ✓ Key of David - I will set the key of the house of David upon his shoulder—what he opens, no one can shut; what he shuts, and no one can open. Isaiah 22:22
 - Keys symbolize authority & power. Jer 23:5-6, 33:14-22 & Luke 1:30-33
 - He has the right to the throne of David – He is the promised King.
 - The power of Keys allows the decision as to who is and is not received into the Kingdom.
 - Yeshua alone has the authority to open the scroll – initiating the judgements of Daniels’ 70th week (The Great Tribulation).
- ✓ who opens and no one will shut – He is actively holding open the door such that no can shut it.
- ✓ who shuts and no one opens – He is actively shutting things which are to remain closed.

3.8⁸ I know your deeds. Behold, I have set before you an open door that no one is able to shut—because you have little power, but you have kept My word and have not denied My name.

- ✓ open door – It seems most likely (vrs.3:7 & 9) the door provides entrance into the Messianic Kingdom where Yeshua will reign on the Throne of David. No one can shut them out including the Jews persecuting this congregation.

3.8 (continued)

- ✓ you have little power – must have been a small congregation.

3.9 ⁹ Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of satan—who say they are Jewish and are not, but lie— behold, I will cause them to come and bow down before your feet, so that they acknowledge that I have loved you!

- ✓ synagogue of satan – a Jewish synagogue that opposed the congregation of Philadelphia and persecuted them. John 8:37-47
- ✓ bow down – worship.
- ✓ acknowledged that I have loved you – The worship is not to the Philadelphia congregation, but before them in recognition that God has loved & favored them. They are not deities but will be sitting on thrones with Yeshua. Rev 3:21

3.10 ¹⁰ "Because you have kept My word about patient endurance, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is coming upon the whole world to test those who dwell on the earth.

- ✓ kept – tereo (grk): to observe, preserve, keep guard (from loss). The word of my patient endurance – didn't deny my name.
- ✓ I will also keep you from – ek (grk): from, out of place, time or cause. The faithful are removed before God's time of judgement.
- ✓ the hour of trial – hour (hora – grk): a certain definite time or season, point of time, moment.
- ✓ test – (peirasmos – grk): a putting to proof, trial, attempt, affliction, adversity, trouble sent by God & serving to test or prove one's character, faith or steadfastness.
- ✓ those who dwell on the earth – dwell (katoikeo – grk): inhabitant throughout the earth (ge -grk): earth as a whole, abode of men & animals.

Note: "Those who dwell on the earth" will be a major subject in the rest of Revelation and what the sovereign God does to them during the "hour of testing". Read carefully the promise is to be kept from the hour of trial. The church will not experience the trial when it comes upon the earth. He is talking here about the "Great Tribulation hour" which will be recorded after the letters to the 7 churches.

3.11 ¹¹ I am coming soon—hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown.

- ✓ crown (stephanos – grk): a symbol of honor, a victor's crown. The crown associated with the reward of the believer. An incorruptible crown of righteousness. Life & Glory.

3.12 ¹² The one who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the Temple of My God, and he will never leave it. And on him I will write the name of My God and the name of the city of My God—the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God—and My own new Name.

- ✓ I will make him a pillar in the Temple – pillar (stulos – grk): column, prop or support. Temple (Naos – grk): the spiritual temple consisting of the Saints of all ages joined together by and in Christ. Used of the Temple at Jerusalem, but only of the sacred edifice or sanctuary itself; consisting of the Holy Place & the Holy of Holies.
- ✓ he will never leave it – promise of fellowship with God – to walk once again in full fellowship with God!
- ✓ on him write the name of my God – an identification of who you belong to.
- ✓ the name of the city of My God—the New Jerusalem – the name of the believers citizenship in the New Jerusalem on the new earth.

3:12 (continued):

- ✓ comes down out of heaven from My God—and My own new Name – Rev 21, 22:1-5

Note: The earthly Jerusalem is not the final destiny of the Saints or abode of God's presence. At the end of the Millennium, the Messianic Kingdom, there will be a new Heaven, new Earth & new Jerusalem. 2 Pet 3:10-13

Laodicea



Laodicea:

- A major commercial & financial center located on a critical juncture of a major highway in the Lycus Valley.
- Known for its glossy black wool.
- Eye salve developed at a famous medical school used for the treatment of eye disease.
- It was wealthy; so wealthy that after a major earthquake the city was repaired without outside financial assistance.
- Laodicea had major water problem. Water was piped in underground from two sources. Hot water from nearby Hierapolis, while Colossae provided cool pure water. By the time the water reached Laodicea, both were lukewarm.
- A garment manufacturer which pioneered mass produced clothing making them cheap outer garments.

Laodicea: Standing at the Door

Rev 3:14¹⁴ To the angel of Messiah's community in Laodicea write: "Thus says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Originator of God's creation:

- ✓ The Amen – derived from Hebrew term which denotes certainty, a reliable support.
- ✓ Faithful – worthy of trust, reliable.
- ✓ Witness – martus (grk): one who bears witness by his death. Rev 19:9,11,22:6
- ✓ the Originator of God's creation – protos (grk): first in time or place that by which everything begins.
- ✓ the Originator of God's creation (continued): The beginning of the creation of God. He is the source of all creation. When Paul is writing to the church at Colossae, he is also writing to the church at Laodicea. Colossians 1:15-18

3:15 ¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. Oh, that you were either cold or hot!

- ✓ that you were either cold – An unbeliever is cold to Yeshua, but there is always hope that they will come to believe in Him.
- ✓ or hot – On fire for Him refers to a spiritual state.

3:16 ¹⁶ So because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spew you out of My mouth.

- ✓ Lukewarm – complacent, no personal relationship.
- ✓ Spew – means vomit.

3:17 ¹⁷ For you say, 'I am rich, I have made myself wealthy, and I need nothing.' But you do not know that you are miserable and pitiable and poor and blind and naked.

- ✓ rich – Abundance is so great they are self-reliant & don't need God. They have forgotten He is the provider of provision.
- ✓ miserable and pitiable – afflicted, to be pitied.
- ✓ poor- spiritually, ptochos (grk): crouched like a beggar, reduced to begging, destitute of wealth/position/honor; destitute of eternal riches.
- ✓ blind – unable to see their spiritual condition.
- ✓ naked – they did not have the white garments of righteousness and faith in Yeshua. Their lack of faith is revealed.

3:18 ¹⁸ I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich, and white clothes so that you may dress yourself and so the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed, and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.

- ✓ buy from Me – I have what you want.
- ✓ gold refined by fire – 1 Cor 3:12-13
- ✓ white clothes – the ones you receive from having a relationship with Yeshua. They needed to turn to Him and not depend on their own wealth.
- ✓ shame of your nakedness – see through the garments of their own works.
- ✓ eye salve – they needed the Holy Spirit so they could see their condition accurately, just as the "7 eyes" saw them.

3:19 ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline. Therefore, be zealous and repent.

- ✓ Yeshua's letter of rebuke to them was an indication of His love. A loving father always disciplines a child that he loves.
- ✓ Zealous – zeleue (grk): present tense; be continually full of zeal, same root word as "hot". Pursue God with all your heart.

3:20 ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

- ✓ come in to him – John 14:21-23
- ✓ dine with him – this is an intimate, relaxed meal of the day when the partakers would recline on their side, resting on each other. Talking, laughing and enjoying each other's company while they ate.

3:21 ²¹ To the one who overcomes I will grant the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I myself overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

- ✓ sit with Me on My throne - share his rule the same way He sits at the right hand of God the Father and shares His rule.

Note: This will be the last mention of the “church” in the book of Revelation until Rev. 22:16. The absence of the church from the events following Chapters 2 & 3 is intentional and should be taken literally. **Now Daniel’s 70th week will begin as God turns His eyes and attention back to Israel.**

Yeshua’s Kingdom

- ✚ Yeshua taught that there would be a delay in the coming of His kingdom. Matt 6:10, Luke 11:2, 19:11-15 & Acts 1:6-7
- ✚ Its arrival will be indicated by signs. Luke 21:31
- ✚ It occurs at the end of the 7-year Tribulation when Yeshua returns to judge the sheep & goats. Matt 25:31 & 2 Tim 4:1
- ✚ In the regeneration when the Apostles will rule over the Tribes of Israel. Matt 19:28, Luke 22:29-30
- ✚ And believers co-rule. Rev 20:4-6
- ✚ When He drinks wine and eats the Passover again with His followers. Matt 26:29, Mark 14:25 & Luke 22:16-18

The Restrainer

- ✚ Paul writes that the “Day of the Lord” cannot come until the “Restrainer” is removed. 2 Th 2:6-7
- ✚ The “Church Age” began on Shavuot / Pentecost. 1 Cor 6:19
- ✚ The Restrainer has been suppressing the revealing of the “Man of Lawlessness” (Antichrist) for about 2,000 years. A global restraining.
- ✚ The Ruach HaKodesh / Holy Spirit will restrain until He is taken out of the way. He is supernatural in power.
- ✚ If the Holy Spirit indwells the believer permanently for the day of redemption, how is he “taken out” unless all born again believers indwelt by Him are taken with Him?
- ✚ Paul wrote to the Thessalonians because some of them believed they had already entered the “Day of the Lord” forgetting his teaching of the gathering together to be with Yeshua before this event happens – the Great Tribulation. This event is different from Yeshua’s second coming at the end of the 7 year – Great Tribulation.