

*Welcome to “Revelation In Turkey”
“Where Bible Prophecy Comes Alive”*



*“The 7 Love Letters
& The 7 Churches”*

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Study Guide

www.connectedtotheword.com

1. The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to Him, to show to His servants things which must shortly come to pass; He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John:
2. Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.
3. Blessed is He that reads, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.
4. John to the 7 churches which are in Asia: Grace be to you, and peace, from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the 7 Spirits which are before His throne;
5. And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood,
6. And has made us kings and priests to God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
7. Behold, He comes with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen.
8. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, says the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.
9. I John, who also am your brother and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.
10. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,
11. Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What you see, write in a book, and send it unto the 7 churches which are in Asia; to Ephesus, and to Smyrna, and to Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and to Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

12. And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And being turned, I saw 7 golden candlesticks;
13. And in the midst of the 7 candlesticks one like unto the Son of man,
clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.
14. His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow;
and His eyes were as a flame of fire;
15. And His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace;
and His voice as the sound of many waters.
16. And He had in His right hand 7 stars: and out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword:
and His countenance was as the sun shines in his strength.
17. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me,
saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:
18. I am He that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen;
and have the keys of hell and of death.
19. Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are,
and the things which shall be hereafter;
20. The mystery of the 7 stars which thou saw in My right hand, and the 7 golden candlesticks.
The 7 stars are the angels of the 7 churches:
and the 7 candlesticks which you saw are the 7 churches.

Revelation (apokalupsis 602) the unveiling of something that has always been there

Bondservant (doulos 1401) A servant who has been set free by his master who chooses now to serve out of love for the master: His ear is pierced by an awl at the post of the door!

Shortly (entachei - 2450) will occur rapidly once it starts

Blessed (makarios - 3701) happy, to be envied! (Same word used in the Sermon of the Mount!)

Grace (charis - 5485) a gift we don't deserve

Witness (martyr - 3144)

Glory (doxa 1391) The heaviness or weightiness of His presence!

Dominion (kratos 2904)

Alpha and Omega The Aleph is the 1st letter, the Omega is the last letter in Greek Alphabet. Jesus is the beginning and the End and EVERYTHING in between. Aleph - Tav in Hebrew!

Almighty (pantokrator 3841) all power

Tribulation - (thlipsis 2347)

Spirit (pnuema 1451) the breath of GOD, the Ruach HaKodesh in Hebrew

On the Lord's Day John was fast forwarded in time to the Day of the LORD!!

Hell (Hades 86) the temporary place of the dead (sheol - Hebrew), not permanent Lake of Fire

Dating the Book of Revelation - 95 AD

In Against Heresies, written by *Ireneus* in 180 AD) we can know that John was exiled to the Island of Patmos during the reign of the Roman Emperor Domitian (81-98AD)...after the Jewish Temple was already destroyed in 70 AD. This completely dispels the "preterist" interpretation that says Revelation has *already occurred*, making it "irrelevant" for today.

The Book of Revelation is A Future Event!

John on the Island of Patmos! Early Church history tells us that John was the last living apostle and the leader of the church. He was condemned to death by the Romans for speaking about Jesus Christ: the punishment was being boiled alive in burning oil. Miraculously John survived this: Domitian then exiled him at 86 years old to the Isle of Patmos, 24 miles off the coast of Turkey, to hard labor until death. John was there when The Spirit of the LORD gave him the Book of Revelation! As soon as Domitian died, John was released, returned to Ephesus with the Book of Revelation. He later died about 100 AD!

Of course, everyone studying this book of Blessing, expects to know all there is to know about the End times. Amazingly, what you will discover here is Jesus as you will meet Him in heaven. He came the first time as a babe in the manger, then as a carpenter in Nazareth, as a prophet to Israel, and finally as the Lamb of GOD, crucified on the cross for our sins. He was humiliated, suffered and died. However in Revelation you will meet the glorified Jesus in heaven, who is God. Write down the description of Him in Revelation Chapter one!

Voice like a _____(vs.10)
One like the Son of Man (vs.13) _____
Clothed in a garment (vs,13) _____
Wearing a _____girdle around His chest (vs13) _____
Head and hair _____(vs14)
Eyes like _____(vs14)
Feet _____(vs15)
Voice of many _____(vs15)
In His right hand _____(vs 16)
Out of his mouth _____(vs 16)
His face _____(vs 16)

And what is John's response to Jesus in person?

How does Jesus treat John? _____

Write Seven Things Jesus says about Himself: You will see these again!

1. "I am the _____ and the _____, who is and was and who is to come, the Almighty
2. "I am the _____ and the Last _____, the _____ One."
3. " I was _____ and I am _____ forevermore."
4. "I have the keys of _____ and _____."
5. "Write what you have _____."
6. "Write what is _____."
7. "Write what will come to pass _____."

Jesus Came as Prophet, Priest and King

The wise men brought 3 gifts that revealed God's prophetic plan:

gold for the King
frankincense for the priest
and myrrh for the prophet

Jesus ministered in the office of a prophet when He was on the earth. He rose again to sit at the right hand of GOD as our intercessor, our High Priest! In Revelation, Jesus is officiating as priest and will be crowned King of Kings!! In this first chapter we see Jesus in His Priestly robes!

Precious Believer, have you noticed a lot of 7's? There are so many more to come in this book. Vine's Word Studies says this, "The number 7 was regarded by Hebrews as sacred and as the covenant number, the sign of God's covenant with man, and especially the CHURCH. ..."

God rested on the 7 th day in Genesis	7 Pieces of Furniture in the Temple
Israel marched around Jericho 7 days (7x on 7 th day)	
There are 7 Feasts of Israel	7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, 7 Bowls
Naaman dipped 7x in the river to cure leprosy	The Book of Esther
7 Beautitudes, 7 loaves	

God deals with the heathen nations in this way also showing that He is working in covenant with Israel. Nebuchadnezzar becomes a beast in the field for 7 years, until he learned who is The Almighty God. The Book of Esther is full of sevens. In Joseph's day, there are 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine decreed for Egypt

Write here what you find out about 7:

<u>7 golden lampstands</u>	<u>7 seals</u>	<u>7 bowls</u>	<u>7 trumpets</u>
<u>7 stars in Jesus' hand</u>	<u>7 Spirits of God</u>		

What comes to mind when you picture a 7 branch candelabra?

We are just going to touch on these other BIG topics: Tell what you think these mean.

The Alpha and Omega (8) _____
 In the spirit on the Lord's Day (10) _____
 Out of His mouth came a two-edged sword(16) _____
 I have the keys of death and Hades (18) _____
 Behold He is coming with the clouds (7) _____
 First begotten from the dead (5) _____

Do you see any mention of the TRINITY in this first chapter? Where _____

What is your favorite verse in Chapter One?

Why Seven Churches?

This is the question that you should be asking, and why these particular seven? There were many more important churches in the first century; the Church at Colossae (Book of Colossians!), at Thessalonica (1st and 2nd Thessalonians), the Church at Phillipi (Philippians)? How about Corinth? or Rome? There are layers of prophetic revelation in Revelation. Jesus picked these 7 Churches specifically for their spiritual condtions. Could Jesus also be describing the complete Church AGE! Every problem and wrong doctrine in all the Churches we have been in Is addressed here also....and maybe most important, Jesus is talking to us personally about our spiritual condition right now– Our Body is the Temple of God!

1. "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the 7 stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the 7 golden lampstands, says this:
2. I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;
3. And you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.
4. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.
5. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place--unless you repent.
6. Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.
7. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches:
To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the Tree of Life which is in the Paradise of God."

Ancient Ephesus was a large, prosperous, and beautiful city, located near the coast of modern day Turkey, then known as the chief city of Asia. It was the commercial and pagan center of the area, which influenced both Europe and Asia. The city was built by the Anatolians around the temple worship of Diana/Artemis, the goddess of fertility, the many-breasted one. Worship to this goddess consisted of wild orgies and drunkenness, She was later called Cybele. Alexander the Great rebuilt this Temple into the largest Greek Temple, one of the 7 wonders of the world, with over 100 marble columns 56' high. The platform itself was over 2x the size of a football field, 4x larger than the Parthenon at Rome. People traveled to Ephesus from all over the world to deposit money into the Temple bank, and to indulge in all its vices. A huge gold statue of Artemis could be seen by ships miles away at sea. When sailors landed in the harbor, they walked down a magnificent marble road, flanked with carved columns lit with fire, past temples to every pagan god and goddess imaginable. Everything decadent was available in the shops, baths, brothels and villas lining the boulevard, all leading to a huge theater seating 25,000 people. Paul's preaching caused a riot in this very theater (Acts 19:28-29) and he barely escaped death.

Church Ministry

Yet this is the very place God sent Paul with the gospel of Jesus, into the very center of sin. He arrived at the end of his 2nd missionary trip around 51 AD (Acts 18:19). Ephesus was a vibrant, healthy church, mighty in works and perseverance. They tested their leaders and defended the faith!

In Acts 18:24-26, we meet Aquila and Priscilla who witnessed to Apollos in Ephesus. Paul returned and lived in Ephesus for 3 years (52-55 AD) on his 3rd mission trip, leaving Timothy in charge (I Tim. 1:3). While in prison in Rome (60AD) Paul wrote a letter to the believers here, the Book of Ephesians. It is reported that the gospel went out to the whole known world from here.

John moved to Ephesus in 66AD with Mary, the mother of Jesus and was elder of the Church here for 30 years, writing the Gospel of John, then I, II, and III John. After exile on the island of Patmos, he returned here with the Book of Revelation and lived until his death. Both Mary and John are buried here.

Did the Church of Ephesus heed Jesus Warning to Repent?

True to His Word, the city of Ephesus today is in ruins. No one lives there: the light in the church has been blown out! It is not how we start that matters, but how we finish!!

We are going to discover this ancient city which is the home the ancient temple of Artemis/Diana, the 7th wonder of the ancient world. This is also the home of Paul's 3-year missionary stay where he taught daily about Jesus, so that "all of Asia heard the gospel."

It is time to learn how to do word studies so that we can "uncover" the meaning of the letters that Jesus wrote. So, using a Strong's Concordance, please do a little work.

work/ deeds (2:2) 2041 ergos

toil/ labor (2:2) 2873

patience/ perseverance (2:2) 5281

Nikolaitanes(2:6) 3531 Nicolaites from (3534 nikos) conquer, triumph
laos (2992) the common people, possibly followers of Nikolas

Jesus condemns so strongly the deeds of the Nikolaitanes that we have to find out what He hates. There seem to be 2 parts to this heresy: one of endorsing sexual sin within the first Church by teaching that their fleshly nature was separate from and did not influence their spiritual nature, giving them freedom to indulge in all kinds of sin. (Say Hello to the Postmodern Church!)

However the more pervasive and destructive doctrine was that of an elevated ecclesiastical order or priests, bishops, and popes that enslaved the common people, while gaining more and more power. This set up a man made power system that kept the laity in religious bondage and elevated their leaders to be worshipped themselves, instead of God. They ruled and lived luxuriously while the laity struggled. Only the leaders could "hear from God."

The doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which was vigorously cast out of the Church of Ephesus, was then indulged at Pergamum. Jesus condemns the deeds of the Nikolaitanes. In Paul's last words to the precious Church of Ephesus, he warns them strongly in Acts.20: 29-31. Write down here what was Paul's concern for the Church.

Who were the Nikolaitanes and where did they originate? Many scholars and especially the early Church historians point to Nicholas in Acts.6:5. Please do a little extra background reading: Acts 6:1-6 and write down what you discover about Nicholas. (We will come back to this as we study Pergamum!)

The Church at Ephesus

9

Acts 18:18-20

On Paul's 2nd missionary trip, we first read of the church at Ephesus.

Acts 18:18-20

Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchrea, he had his hair cut because he made a vow. They arrived in EPHESUS, and he (Paul) left them (Priscilla and Aquila) there.

Now Paul himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent, but took leave of them, saying, "I will return to you if God wills," he sat sail from Ephesus.

Paul returns to Ephesus and explains the HOLY SPIRIT Baptism to them! Acts 19.

It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

And Paul said, "Into what were you baptized then?"

And they said, "Into John's baptism."

Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is JESUS." When they heard this, they were, baptized in the name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST. And when Paul laid his hands upon them, the HOLY SPIRIT came upon them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. There were 12 men.

And Paul entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for 3 months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of GOD. But when some of them (in the synagogue) were becoming hardened and disobedient speaking evil of the Way before the people, Paul withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. This took place for 2 years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

GOD was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that when handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.

But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those all who had evil spirit the name of JESUS, saying, "I command you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." Seven sons of one Sceva, who was a Jew and chief of the priests, were doing this. And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know this man Paul, but who are you?" And the man, in who was the evil spirit leaped upon them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of the house naked and wounded.

This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Many of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. And many who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the WORD of the LORD was growing mightily and prevailing.

They got rid of everything pagan to follow Jesus!

Now after these things were finished, Paul purposed **in the Spirit** to go to Macedonia and Achaia, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."

And having sent to Macedonia 2 of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, Paul himself stayed in Asia for a season. For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing big business to the craftsmen. Demetrius gathered together workmen of similar trades and said, "Men, you know that our prosperity depends upon this business. You see and hear that not only in EPHESUS, but also in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods wade with hands are no gods at all. (duh!) Not only is here danger that this trade of ours to be set at nought, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be regarded as worthless and that she whom all of ASIA and world worship (not us, not ever!) be regarded as worthless will be dethroned from her magnificence.

When they, (craft guilds) heard this and were filled with rage, they began crying out, saying, and "Great is Diana (Artemis) of the Ephesians!"

The whole city of Ephesus was filled with confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristachus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia. When Paul wanted to go to the assembly, the disciples would not let him. And some of the chief ones from Asia who were friends of Paul's sent to him and repeatedly urged him not to venture into the theater.

So some were shouting one thing and some another, for the assembly was in confusion and the majority did not know for what reason they had come together. And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, and Jews putting him forward. And Alexander beckoned them with the hand, and would have made his defense unto the people. But when they recognized Alexander was a Jew, a single outcry arose from them all as they shouted for about 2 hours, "Great is Diana (Artemis) of the Ephesians!"

After quieting the crowd, the town clerk said," Men of Ephesus, what man is there after all who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Artemis and of the image which fell down from heaven?

(Black Meteorite stone worship is same as Kaabah in Islam!!)

Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against, you ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rash. . For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess. So then, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a complaint against any man, the law is open and deputies are available; let them bring charges against one another. But if you want anything beyond this, it shall be settled in the lawful assembly. For indeed, we are in danger of being accused of a riot in connection with today's events, since there is no real cause for it, and in this connection we will be unable to account for this disorderly gathering. After this, the clerk dismissed the assembly."

Paul's Last Meeting with the Church at Ephesus!
He Warns the Leaders about False Teachers and Apostasy!

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Acts 20:1; Acts 20:16-38

1. After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and when he had encouraged them and taken his leave of them, he left to go to Macedonia.

16-38. For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he would not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to him.

And when they came to him, he said, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, bound in Spirit I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except the HOLY SPIRIT solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord JESUS. To testify solemnly of the GOSPEL of the grace of GOD. And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in and among you, not sparing the flock; and from among all your own selves, men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Therefore be on the alert, remembering night and day for a period of 3 years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build and to give you the inheritance among those who are sanctified.

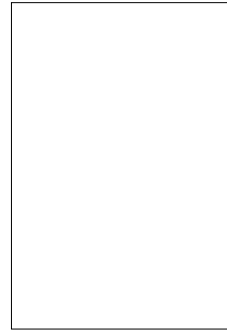
I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes. You yourselves know that with these hands I have ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the LORD JESUS. That He himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive.

When Paul had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. They began to weep aloud and embrace Paul and repeatedly kissed him, grieving especially over the word which he had spoken that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied Paul to the ship.

This refutes the "once saved, always saved" doctrine.
Paul says some out of even these leaders would depart from the truth!!

Jesus' Report Card to _____

Picture of Jesus:



I KNOW!

Good things _____ A+

_____ A+

_____ A+

_____ A+

Bad things _____ F

_____ F

_____ F

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches

Reward:

8. And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These things says the first and the last, who was dead, and lived *again*:

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

10. Fear not the things which you are about to suffer: behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tried; and you shall have tribulation 10 days.

Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

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

He that overcomes shall not be hurt of the 2nd death.”

Brief History

Smyrna is the oldest city on the Aegean coast (along with Troy - founded 3000 BC). The name *myrrh* has the Hebrew root “mar” and means *bitterness*. Small myrrh bushes grow everywhere in that region and produced a bitter gum made by cutting incisions into the bark. In Bible times, myrrh was used as a costly perfume, as an anesthetic ointment to relieve pain, and also for embalming.

List two places in the Bible where myrrh is used.

- 1.
- 2.

Myrrh is also the name of the pagan goddess who was worshipped there as goddess mother of Adonis. (Same cult as Semiramis and Tammuz worship from Babel). Women would weep in mourning for the death of the young god for 40 days who was resurrected and worshipped as a god! (weeping for Tammuz in Ezek. 8:14). **40 Days of Lent, Mardi Gras, Carnevale = Mystery Babylon!**

This ancient city was relatively unimportant until Alexander the Great seized it and moved the city to the top of Mt. Pagos, where it is in the Bible. It grew to become an important city and was captured by the King of Pergamum, and then by Rome. In 26 AD the city won the right to build a temple to Emperor *Tiberius*. Rome became the center for the cult of emperor worship and devotion to it never wavered.

The city history is full of besieging armies, massacres, earthquakes, fires and plagues. In 178 AD, 80 years after John wrote the Revelation, Smyrna was destroyed by a terrible earthquake - the earth opened and swallowed 5000 people. In 1758, a plague almost wiped out the whole city and in 1922, the Turks/Moslems captured it. As the defeated Greeks left, they destroyed it as part of a “scorched earth” policy. The Turks named it *Izmir*, and today it is one of the few churches of Revelation that has lasted into modern times with a population of 2.7 million. *Izmir* is the last stronghold of Christianity in Turkey with about 12 active churches, only one of which is Protestant.

Church Age 100-312 AD Babylonian Mysteries Move into Christian Church
 Earliest Church Fathers Mix Truth with Error!!!

***1. Iraneus (177-200AD) - gives accurate date of Revelation yet confuses truth

***Clement (150-215 AD)

*** Tertullian (150-220AD)

1. Doctrine of Trinity replaces Babylonian sun, moon, and star demi- gods
2. Invention of Latin for church leadership and rituals
3. Teaching that Water Baptism is Regeneration/Salvation! (Not Blood of Jesus!)
4. Infants had to be baptized or risk dying and having no hope
5. Purgatory
6. Introduced Doctrine of Penance as Biblical
7. 7 mortal sins not forgivable unless baptized!
8. Only priest could minister penance
9. Extreme Asceticism necessary for penance, whipping, cutting body
10. Leaders only can have filling of Holy Spirit with power gifts
11. Taught all churches have to submit to Church at Rome

****Ireneus (177-200 AD) got the dates right and confused the doctrines!

*****Clement of Alexandria (150-215AD)

****Origen (185-254 AD)

- a. Taught Jesus was lesser god than the Father (Jehovah's Witnesses!)
- b. Strengthened doctrine of water baptism as salvation
- c. Doctrine of penance and mortal sins
- d. Bishops of Roman Church only have Holy Spirit gifts
- e. Must be in submission to Leadership of Rome, or not Christian
- f. Taught the highest leader of Rome was the highest authority!

****Victor, Bishop of Rome (200 AD) violently opposed Jewish Passover as crucifixion date of Jesus and substituted Easter (Ishtar goddess worship) as true date, threatened to ex-communicate anyone who observed Jewish dates which Jesus' disciples all kept! Rome had their own festival to goddess ASTARTE and "weeping of Tammuz." The Bishops of Asia (John is overseer) refused to comply, knowing the truth of Passover dates. Great persecution arises over this and true believers have to go underground! Mystery Babylon is a demonic spirit who has been at work since the beginning of Jesus' Church! Constantine declared all sacred spots for Jesus' ministry/miracles/crucifixion by occult dreams. His mother Helena built Catholic Churches at all these sites.

Mystery Babylon Goddess Is Worshipped Around the World (just a few examples!)

Goddess:	son as god:	Location:
Semiramis	Tammuz	Babylon
Venus or Fortuna	Jupiter	Rome
Cybele	Deiuis	Asia
Shingmoo-"Holy Mother"	shown with son in her arms	China
Virgin Paritura/Mother		Ancient Druids
Diana/ Artemis		Ephesus
Isis "Mother of god"	Horus	Egypt
Virgin Hirtha	shown with son in arms	Germany
Indrani	shown with Son in arms	India
Isi "Great Goddess"	Iswara	India
Devaki	Krishna	India
Nanna (moon)		Sumerian
Virgen Mary/Madonna	baby Jesus	Rome
Pachamama/mother earth	baby son	South America

When John visited Smyrna, the city had about 100,000 people and was a major commercial seaport, known for its beauty and magnificence. The acropolis, Mt. Pagos, rose 500 feet above the city. Smyrna was known as the crown of Ionia. Jesus is confronting the pagan worship at Smyrna and at the same time presenting truth about who will wear the crown! Write below what Jesus says about a crown here!

first (4413) protos	foremost, best, chief, beginning
works (2041) ergos	actions, deeds, labor
tribulation (2347) thlipsis	pressure, anguish, burden, persecution, trouble
poverty (4432) ptocheia	beggary, indigence
blasphemy (988) blasphemia blas - (hurtful) evil phemi - to speak	evil speaking, railing
synagogue (4864) sunagogon sun - union with ago- to lead	assembly
Satan (4567) satanas	the accuser, the devil
devil (1228) dia bolos dia - through ballō - to cast	falsely accuses and divides
crown (4735) stephanos	not kingly, but victory crown - woven of oak, olive leaves, garland, <i>not the diadem of royalty!</i>
faithful (4103) pistis	to fully persuaded as to produce actions
overcome (3528) nika	

Ten Periods of Roman Persecution

One meaning of Jesus' warning to Smyrna believers dealt with intense suffering.
Please fill in the blanks:

Rev. 2:10 "Do not _____ what you are about to _____. The _____
is about to cast some of you into prison so that you will be _____, and you will
have tribulation _____ days. Be _____,
and I will give you the crown of _____."

The only explanation Bible scholars have to date that makes sense of the 10 days here
is the 10 waves of intense persecution by the Roman Emperors to warn believers not
to turn away!

Emperor	Dates	“The blood of the martyrs has become the seed of the church.”
Nero	64-68 AD	Burned Rome to make room for his new palace then blamed Christians, killing thousands by crucifixion, beheading (Paul) and killed Paul. He fed believers to wild animals, burning them as “human torches”.. Erected 100 ft. Statue of himself as sun god Apollo with star shaped crown in Temple of Mars
Domitian	90-96 AD	Erected giant marble statue and demanded worship as a god. Killed his own nephew for refusing to offer sacrifice, exiled John -Patmos
Trajan	104-117 AD	Outlawed Christianity, burned Ignatius at the stake, thousands of Christians slaughtered daily for refusing to worship Roman emperors, gods
Hadria	117-138	Identified as Zeus, erected temples of Jupiter and Venus at Temple Mount.
Marcus A.	161-180 AD	Tortured and beheaded Christians - Justin Martyr, Polycarp burned at stake in Smyrna stadium. Famous for execution of Christians!

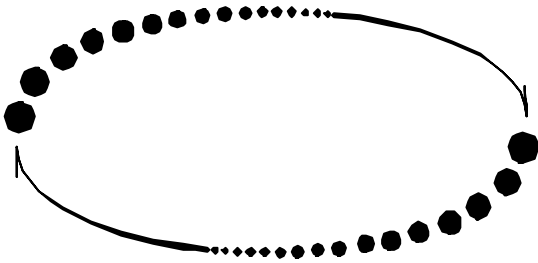
Severus	203-211 AD	Burned, crucified, and beheaded Christians..they were torn apart by lions, bodies burned, many children slaughtered, women violated, perhaps the worse persecution of Christians to date. He proclaimed himself god and married the daughter of the sun priest at Emesa
Maximus	235-237 AD	Executed Christians by beheading, setting their heads on city gates, beaten with clubs, pricked with sharp stakes, stoned, burned at stake.
Decius	250-253 AD	Tried to wipe out Christianity and executed all he could find....starved to death, beheaded, burned, cast into prison, made all people produce certificate to prove they had worshipped the gods.
Valerian	257-260 AD	Tried to wipe out Christianity, executed Bishop of Carthage....by beheading, fastened feet to tail of a bull until their brains poured out on ground, whipped, beaten, tied to burning plates, roasted alive over open fire. He revived law of Decious, must have certificate of worship of gods.
Aurelian	270-275 AD	Tortured and beheaded
Diocletian	303-312 AD	Burned the Scriptures. The worst emperor of all. Revived the imperial cult worship of Emperor, sentenced to death or exiled to hard labor, including the most famous of all – John to Patmos

To Smyrna: "He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death."

To understand victory over second death, we need to understand the first death. The first death is physical; the second death is spiritual. Death is not the end of life, but separation! Every being is eternal, forever! First death separates soul and spirit from the body. Second death separates soul and spirit God! Now you will need to investigate the Great White Throne.

Read Rev. 20:11-15 (write what happens here)

Write Rev. 20:6 -



Dwight Moody says, "He who is born once will die twice. He who is born twice will die only once."

Hades (86) The region of the departed spirits of the lost. Same as Sheol in the Old Testament where the righteous dead awaited Jesus' resurrection. . . a temporary condition Read Luke 16:19-31. *The Story of Lazarus and the Rich Man!*

Hades / Sheol / Hell - What's the Difference?

So where are the righteous dead right now? This has been one of the most confusing topics to uncover because many translations call these two separate places the same! Let's uncover truth for ourselves in the Bible about the questions that everyone has about death! This study will show why a Greek lexicon is so important to give a word picture to us!

In the 39 books of the Old Testament, the world of the dead is called in Hebrew "sheol" and has been translated "the grave," "death," or "hell" in 65 places. The very same word in the New Testament is in Greek "Hades" and appears 42 times. They are both the same temporary place of the dead which is so incredibly described by Jesus himself in Luke 16:19-31, where we read about Lazarus and the rich man who both die and end up in Hades, in two different compartments. This is not a parable but an actual account as actual names are used to make sure we believe all that is written here. The poor man Lazarus, who ate crumbs from the rich man's table, ends up in Hades in "Paradise" or "Abraham's bosom" and is comforted, while the unrepentant rich man is in Hades in torment and could look across the chasm and see Lazarus comforted in Paradise. Two compartments are in the same place—Hades or Sheol. One is for the righteous dead: the other is for the unrighteous dead.

There is no way to change once a sinner arrives there after death!

What Jesus bought for us on the cross He declares in Revelation 1:18—that HE holds the keys to death and Hades! All the righteous dead were placed in Hades, in paradise, until Jesus became the firstborn from the dead and sprinkled His Blood on the mercy seat in Heaven and emptied that compartment of Hades forever. Remember when the thief on the cross trusted Jesus, Jesus assured him "today you will be with me in paradise!" When Jesus died, He descended into Hades and led all the Old Testament believers who were held captive out of captivity and took the keys from Satan!

Now to the best truth. Ephesians 4:8-10 reveals that paradise in so longer located in Hades, but has been taken by Jesus up to heaven. When a believer dies today, he immediately is present with the Lord in heaven and with all the other saints. The body decays in the ground, while the spirit immediately joins Jesus in heaven to await the resurrection in the last days! The Blood of Christ emptied paradise!

The unrighteous dead, however, will remain in the "place of torment in Hades" until the Great Throne Judgment of Revelation 20:12-15, when all the dead will be called up to heaven to give an account for their deeds, and all who have not accepted Jesus Christ will not have their names written in the Book of Life and will be thrown into the lake of Fire. This is the 2nd death!! Gehenna –hell is the permanent place of the unbelieving dead for eternity!
Sheol / hades is temporary and hell/ gehenna is permanent!

Please read about Sheol:

Proverbs 9:18 - a place where the dead exist

Psalms 86:13 - a place for the soul

Psalms 9:17 - a place for the wicked and those who forget God

Genesis 44:29 - a godly Jacob expected to go there

Psalms 88:3 - David expected to go there

Psalms 89:48 - all men will go to Sheol

Psalms 49:15- God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol

Luke 22:43 - today you will be with me in paradise (Sheol)

Now that we've covered hades and sheol, it is time to discover *hell or gehenna!* In the New Testament, Jesus Christ calls *gehenna* the permanent place of the dead *11 times*. This word is fascinating because it comes from two Hebrew words meaning *valley* and *Hinnom* referring to the *Valley of Hinnom*, just outside *Jerusalem*. There the city garbage was dumped and burned continuously, sending smoke and noxious odors into the air. The ancient Jebusites burned their children alive as sacrifices to the pagan gods (*controlled by satan*) in this same place. No wonder God the Father has created *gehenna* for *satan and his angels*, "*where the fire is not quenched*" (Mark 9:49), otherwise known as *the Lake of Fire* (Rev. 20:14).

Please now do a word study of *Gehenna* (1067)

Matthew 5:22 – that whoever is angry with his brother *without a cause* shall be in danger of *judgment*; and whosoever shall say to his brother, "*you fool*," shall be in danger of *hell fire*.

Matthew 5:28 - that whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye offend you, pluck it out, and cast it away, for it is better for you if one of your members should perish, and not that your whole body be cast into *hell*. (30) and if your right hand offend you, cut it off and cast it from you, for it is better that *your whole body not be cast into hell*.

Matthew 10:28 - Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; rather fear him who is able to *destroy both soul and body in hell*.

Matthew 13:42 - and shall cast them into *a furnace of fire*: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 18:9 - And if your eye offend you, pluck it out and cast it from thee; for I say unto you it is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes and be *cast into hell*.

Matthew 23:15 - Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you compass land and see to make one proselyte, and when he is made you make him twice the child of *hell* that you are.

Matthew 23:33 - You serpents, you generation of vipers, how can you escape *hell*?

Luke 12:5 - But I forewarn you whom to fear: fear him which after he has killed has power to *cast into hell*, yes, fear him.

James 3:6 - And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, that it defiles the whole body and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of *hell*.

tapatoo - tartarus (5020) is a word for *hell* that appears only once in 2 Peter 2:4 as "the deepest abyss of Hades and is the place reserved for the fallen angels that sinned and were cast down to hell and delivered into chains of darkness to be reserved unto judgment. This is the Great Throne Judgment of Revelation Chapter 20 where "*death and hades* are cast into the *Lake of Fire*, known as *the Second Death*."

22.

Heavenly Crowns for Overcomers



1.

Incorruptible Crown

for faithful, submitted



2

Crown of Rejoicing

for witnesses, soul winners



3

Crown of Life
James 1:12

endures persecution
martyrs

Rev. 2:10



4

Crown of Righteousness
II Timothy 4:8

those who love His appearing



5

Crown of Glory

pastors / elders/ shepherds
servants / leaders
those who feed the sheep

There are 2 types of crowns mentioned in the Bible; the overcomer's crown (*stephanos*) for believers who will reign with Jesus Christ and the crown of royalty (*diadema*) which rightfully belongs to only one, Jesus Christ!! The anti-christ wants the *diadema*. *He wants to be worshipped* as king of all the earth.



Note carefully who wears the Crown (*diadema*) of Royalty and Authority...Christ or Anti-Christ?

Revelation 12:3

Revelation 13:1

Revelation 19:12



Heavenly Crowns For Believers – Overcomers!

23

While we are visiting Smyrna, the crown of Asia, we discover Jesus promising the crown of life to those who overcome persecution. He is talking about the stephanos crown (4735) for us as overcomers, not the diadema crown (1238) of royalty, which He alone will finally wear as King of Kings! We were never to be kings *equal to Jesus' majesty*, but we will have places of honor and authority as judges and leaders *under His Kingship!*

1. Strong's Concordance
2. Greek Parallel (Zodiatas Word Study N.T.)
3. The Holy Spirit to help
4. A strong desire to dig deep into the Word!

A topical study is the complete, most comprehensive study of a subject, looking up every reference the Bible uses! Crown is stephanos (4735) - a victor's crown made of olive leaves or branches. Since revelation of the word is progressive, each scripture you look will give you another piece to this exciting puzzle!

Matthew 27:29

Mark 15:17

John 19:2,5

I Corinthians 9:25

Philippians 4:1

I Thessalonians 2:19

II Timothy 4:8

I Peter 5:4

Revelation 2:10

Revelation 3:11

Revelation 4:4

Revelation 4:10

Revelation 6:2

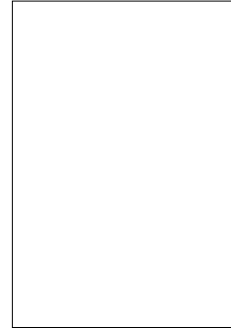
Revelation 9:7

Revelation 12:1

Revelation 14:14

Jesus' Report Card to _____

Picture of Jesus:



I KNOW!

Good things _____

A+

A+

A+

Bad things _____

F

F

F

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Church:

Reward:

¹² And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These things says he that has the sharp two-edged sword:

¹³ I know where you dwell, *even* where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My Name, and did not deny My faith, even in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have there some that hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit fornication.

¹⁵ So you have also some that hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans in like manner.

¹⁶ Repent therefore; or else I come to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of my mouth.

¹⁷ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

To him that overcomes, to him will I give of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows but he that receives it.

Because you have decided to love truth and to dig into God's Word, this next study will take us to Satan's throne. Let's do some review: The apostolic church (Evangelizes!) In early Ephesus was named by God the "darling" because of her passionate love for Jesus. This brand new group of Christians turned from paganism and idols as the disciples and early Christians preached the gospel of Jesus crucified and as the Holy Spirit showed up in power! The kingdom of Satan was under violent attack. He responded by sending false teachers and loosing all kind of heresies into the brethren to pervert the truth. Ephesus eagerly defended truth, but toward the end of this age their preoccupation with battling heresy cost them the very intimacy with Jesus they were once known for! Jesus said they "lost their first love." Bible scholars say this period of church history lasted from Pentecost to the death of John (30-100 AD).

Satan viciously attacked the new church during the time of Smyrna (church age 100-312 AD). *Foxes Book of Martyrs* says the blood of five million Christians was poured out for refusing to deny Jesus. And the gospel spread to all the known world!! Because our enemy is cunning, he changed his tactics of attacking outside the church to infiltrating the church, and so PERGAMUM, which means mixed marriage. This is truly the age when the church began "sleeping with the enemy." (Church Age 314-590 AD)

Early History - Pergamum was the capital of Asia until the end of the first century. Temples were erected to every pagan god and their worship included their basest immoral orgies and priesthood. Satanic worship first began at Babel with Nimrod and Semiramis, and when Babylon declined, its cult migrated to PERGAMUM. Every false religion sprang from the cradle of Babylon. This is the PAGAN church in full glory!

Pergamum fought for the honor to build a temple to Caesar Augustus, which made it a royal city. The governor of Pergamum had a special privilege no other had - "the right of the sword" which is the power to condemn to death any who opposed. It was a beautiful city built high on a mountain between two rivers and heavily defended. Here was located the greatest library of the pagan world with 200,000 books. From Pergamum we get the word parchment. They were filled with the world's greatest knowledge and yet had no knowledge of truth!

Jesus said to this church, "I have the sharp sword with two edges!" Jesus is strongly telling all that He and He alone has the power over death - not the pagan government!

Let's do a few word studies now!

Satan's Throne - 2362 thronos

Antipas - 493

Martyr - 3144

Stumbling block - 4625 skandalon

Fornication - 4203

Balak - 904 waster, destroyer

Jesus said to the church at Pergamum, "I have a few things to say against you because you have there some that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak, to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication. . ."

Since the best interpreter of scripture is scripture, let's read everything we can about Balaam (another topical study for you!)

We start in Numbers 22:1 - 25:9 (read carefully).

Who is Balak?

What is he afraid of?

What does he ask Balaam to do exactly?

What is the promised reward

Why can't Balaam do what Balak wants?

Does God really talk to Balaam? Is he really a prophet of God?

What does God say to Balaam about Moab, Midian and Israel? Vs. 12

What does the donkey have to do with Balaam? 22:22-30

Who stands in the way? Vs. 31-35

Does the enemy ever give up trying to curse/harm God's people?

What does it take to stop God's anger against Israel? 25:7-8

How many died for this sin - the doctrine of Balaam? 25:9

The Error of Balaam Jude 10-16

- What does God say will happen to these evil men?
- what exactly motivates them?
- Is this present in the Church today?

Did Balaam ever really love God or was he just deceived by the lure of profit?
We have one more place to read about Balaam according to God. Turn to 2 Peter
2:15-19 and discover the truth! Now write what Balaam loved more than God:

When men apostasize, what does God call them (vs 17) and where is their end?

Was Balaam a true prophet of God? (Did his prophecies come true?)
Does God use unsaved people to speak truth?

How did he die? Read Joshua 13:22

Now record here what Joshua 24:9-10 says about Balaam.

God Himself said this reward for this sin in Deut. 23:3-5. Write here: "No Moabite or
Ammoniate will be allowed in the Lord's congregation for ten generations because
_____."

Only two more passages on Balaam to complete our study!

Nehemiah 13:

Micah 6:5

Notice that each time GOD turned the curse into a _____.

Finally, has God changed his mind about cursing those who curse His people?

Jesus said He hated the teaching of Balaam and of the Nicolaitanes. He says,
"REPENT, or else I will come quickly and will fight against them with the WORD of
my mouth." To guard against error, you must know the Word!

Historic Pergamum

But why did Jesus say this was where Satan's seat was? We have much to discover still in this ancient city. There was a magnificent temple to Athena. Nearby was a great sacrificial altar to Zeus, the king of the gods. Citizens had to have priests pour the blood of slain bulls over them to ritually cleanse them.

What a perversion of the shed blood of Jesus poured out to cleanse us from our sins!

Another temple promoted the worship of Dionysus, the god of debauchery and drunkenness. He is also named Bacchus, the god of wine, the "goat-god". This is where the church got the visual picture of Satan - half man and half goat with horns, cloven feet and a tail. Even pagan Rome outlawed the Feast of Dionysus because of its unrestrained depravity. How about Demeter, the grocery goddess? But we cannot leave Pergamum without exploring the temple of Asklepios - the snake - god of healing. The cult priests used psychology and drugs to heal thousands and indoctrinate them into worshipping the serpent who healed them. The cult of the sun god with his solar blaze and the moon goddess, it is all there. These ancient gods and goddesses were sculpted in marble in a magnificent temple. (This entire pantheon of gods can be seen today at the Berlin Museum. It was carefully excavated, transported and completely re-constructed from the actual ruins in Pergamum!) Hitler spent many hours here and birthed the "final solution" to destroy the Jews - Satan's master plan!

Satan's throne is wherever people are deceived and worship him in place of Jehovah God Almighty who created us to worship HIM alone!

Symbolic Pergamum

In 314 AD Constantine became Emperor of Rome and the church entered into a new age of mixing the holy with the occult. Constantine had a vision of a cross in the sky signifying that if he became a Christian, *he would conquer all the world*. He ended persecution for the saints and made it "politically correct" to follow Christ. As the defender and highest authority of the pagan cults (*Pontifex Maximus*), Constantine also became the head and defender of Church! The church and the occult officially married! He did decree the first 50 copies of Scripture to be given to the church, but did Constantine love Jesus? NO. Did Constantine love power? Yes! To assimilate pagans into the new religion, he appointed pagan priests as the "*new temple priests*." Using money, awarding favor and power, the pagan temples became "the temple" of God. Babylonian occult doctrines were re-introduced as Bible doctrines, and pagan holidays became Christian holidays. The Jewish roots that birthed Christianity and explained God's festivals and doctrines were "ex-communicated." Many studies exist on the real origins of Christmas, mistletoe, Yule logs, Easter, fertility eggs, rabbits, Halloween, lent, maypoles, bonfires, and many familiar holidays we love to celebrate came to us from Mystery Babylon and are not biblical!

AD 300 Prayers for the dead

AD 300 Making the sign of the cross

AD 375 Worship of saints and angels

AD 394 Start of Mass

AD 431 Worship of Mary begun

AD 500 Priests begin to dress differently than lay people

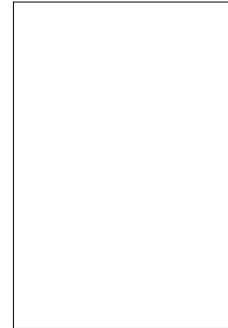
AD 593 - Doctrine of purgatory introduced

AD 600 Worship services conducted in Latin (lay people can't know)

AD 600 - Prayers directed to Mary, not Jesus

Jesus' Report Card to _____

Picture of Jesus:



I KNOW!

Good things _____

A+

A+

A+

A+

Bad things _____

F

F

F

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches!

Reward:

18. And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These things says the Son of God,

who has his eyes like a flame of fire, and his feet are like burnished brass:

19. know your works, and your love and faith and ministry and patience,

and that your last works are more than the first.

20. But I have *this* against you, that you suffer the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess;

she teaches and seduces My servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed to idols.

21. And I gave her time that she should repent; and she will not to repent of her fornication.

22. Behold, I cast her into a bed, and those that commit adultery with her into great tribulation,

except they repent of her works.

23. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am He that

searches the reins and hearts: and I will give unto each one of you according to your works.

24. But to you I say, to the rest that are in Thyatira, as many as have not this teaching,

who know not the deep things of Satan, as they are wont to say; I cast upon you none other burden.

25. Nevertheless that which you have, hold fast till I come.

26. And he that overcomes, and he that keeps my works unto the end,

to him will I give authority over the nations:

27.and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to shivers; 32

as I also have received of my Father:

28.and I will give him the morning star.

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

Thyatira Word Studies

works (2041) ergon - deeds, labors, action

charity (26) agape - agape love

service (1248) diakonia - ministering

faith (4102) pistis - conviction of truth leading to action

patience (5281) hypo mone - cheerful continuance, hopeful endurance

Jezebel (2403) 348 Hebrew - not chaste

prophetess (4398) prophetis - inspired woman

seduce / lead astray (4105) planaÇ - to stray from safety, wander from truth, seduce, err, deceive (always fundamental departure from truth)

repent (3340) metanoēÇ - to completely change your mind and action
(Not metamellomai (3338) to regret because of the consequences, to be sorry you got caught.)

fornication (4202) porneia - harlotry and spiritual adulteries, idolatry, includes adultery, incest, homosexuality, lesbian, bestiality, every sexual perversion

cast (906) ballo - to cast off, to carry impulsively

great (3173) megas - the greatest, mightiest, strongest

children (5043) teknon – child, physical or spiritual children

searchest (3045) ereunah - inquire, investigate, a careful follow-up or tracking

bed (of anguish) - the scene of the sin is also the scene of the punishment

Meet Jezebel - Woman or Spirit?
Jez (unclean, impure daughter) of Baal

Today we encounter one of the most fascinatingly wicked, manipulative, and controlling people in the entire Bible: her name is Jezebel. Please write down everything you learn from the Word of God about Jezebel and Ahab from I Kings 16:29-33 (who is king of Israel and king of Syria, where, when, who marries who, what is God's reaction to . .

AHAB

JEZEBEL

How did this very real woman treat the men of God? I Kings 18:4

When Elijah proves God is God alone on Mount Carmel and puts to death all the pagan priests, what does Jezebel do? I Kings 19:1-3

When a righteous man Naboth refuses to sell King Ahab his birthright, how does Jezebel move into action? 1 Kings 21:1-16 Who is actually ruling, King Ahab or Queen Jezebel?

How does God avenge righteous blood? 2 Kings 9:1-8 What does He appoints Jehu king to do?

How does God deal with Jezebel? I Kings 22:37 (King Joram is Jezebel's son)

Would you agree that we are studying a very powerful woman? Her history dates around 735 BC in Thyatira which is **800 years before** John wrote Revelation in 95 AD. Thyatira is a literal church in 95 AD that lists a Jezebel trying to destroy the believers. The Holy Spirit is clearly asking us to make comparisons between the old and new so we will recognize the patterns a Jezebel will use. Please list comparisons between Jezebel 1 and Jezebel 2 (Rev. 2:20-23).

Have you made your mind yet? Is this Jezebel merely a historical woman found twice in history or is this a powerful demonic spirit that works even now in church, politics, businesses, homes? (A demonic spiritual force always attacks godly leadership and authority to bring destruction to God's plan or order—in the home, church, country and world. Jezebel cannot operate with an Ahab to enable her control!)

Since God Himself calls Jezebel guilty of witchcraft (2 Kings 9:22), what does the Word say about permitting witchcraft? (Divination, false prophecy, psychics, astrology, fortune telling, occult practices, magic, hypnosis, chakras,etc.) Deut. 18:9-15

Any method of seeking supernatural knowledge, wisdom, guidance and power apart from God is witchcraft!!

I Samuel 15:22-23 we should memorize and hold close to be free of this influence!
“For rebellion is the sin of _____ and _____ is iniquity and idolatry!”

Precious believer, if this convicts your heart in any way, Jesus' words to Thyatira will also free us! He gave that church time to REPENT. Remember to truly repent you must confess and actually call SIN what it is . . . SIN! Most often we settle for remorse (metamelomai—I'm sorry for what I did and for the consequences when I got caught) and never get to true repentance (metanoia - a real change of heart, mind, and action) hating the sin and its root cause, and completely changing! (even if it means changing jobs, addresses, friends, hobbies....)

God Himself proposed spiritual authority and submission not to humiliate or to imprison His people, but to protect them. That is why He placed children under their parents' authority, wives under husbands, believers under a pastor, citizens under a leader, the elder over the younger, and then made it all work without overbearing by saying, each one submit unto the other (I Peter). A Jezebel spirit is one of rebellion that destroys godly leadership (usually male) and promotes the manipulator into an abusive seat of power and control. It will destroy a church, a marriage, a home, or any relationship if it is not recognized and strongly dealt with.

Read Mark 6:17-21 and write the name of the woman who operated as a Jezebel to destroy to destroy the prophet of God and how she achieved it.

Why was she so eager to shut the mouth of the prophet John?

As we continue to study we will discover that Queen Jezebel is the prototype of Mystery Babylon, the Queen of Harlots, Revelation 17 -18 that God will ultimately destroy at Christ's 2nd Coming. Every Bible reference to a “widow” or “queen” that will not repent is a prophetic clue to the harlot religion that will be ushered in as true religion in the last day's deception!

In the letter to Thyatira, we read of Jezebel introducing and seducing the people of God to spiritually fornicate with Satan by idol worship. The continuous pagan sacrifices, a works system that causes people to earn their salvation by penances, indulgences, absolutions and the “deep things of Satan” must appease a pagan religion so that a person is under bondage until they die. This denied the finished work of Jesus Christ, who died once for all and His Blood was shed once for all and Christ cannot be crucified over and over! Only Jesus can offer us salvation, and any other way is “the deep things of Satan” that was demanded of the Church during this time in church history.

HERESY - doctrines of perversion of truth. There are many, but generally fall into two categories:

1 Denies Jesus Christ came as a man in the flesh and is equally God.

(Salvation comes by Jesus because of His shed Blood for our sins.) Salvation is by faith and because of the grace of God! It is blasphemy to suggest that the precious mother of God or anyone or anything else can dispense salvation. Salvation does not come by:

Baptism	Kaballah	church attendance	mass, novenas	meditation
Nirvana	crystals	religious beads	idols, images	
crosses	animal sacrifices	lighting candles	modern day prophets	The Quran
Indulgences	graces	penances	purgatory	pilgrimages
Saints	gurus	empowerment	yoga	mecca
Mary	Buddha	Mohammed	priests, pastors	islam
Jihad	crusades	church membership	portals to heaven	
Judaism		ecumenism	angel visits	The Watchtower
keeping Sabbath		holistic medicines	interfaith prayer	offerings
being a good person		Labyrinths	dietary laws	

Jesus (John 14:6), “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except by ME.”
 “There is no other Name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

2. Man can earn his own way to heaven by his own works. No, Jesus, the Lamb of God, has already done the work. Hallelujah! We have been delivered from religious bondage!! We are saved to do good works!

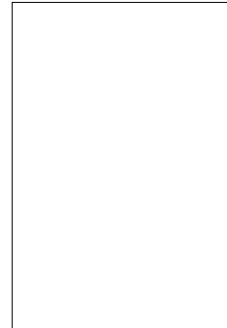
Paganism Added to the Roman Catholic Church A.D.

607 Boniface made first pope	1220 adoration of the wafer “host”	1546 The Apocrypha added
786 worshipping images, relics	1229 Bible forbidden to lay people	1854 immaculate conception
850 use of holy water begun	1414 communion cup forbidden lay	of Mary adds
995 canonization of dead saints	people	1864 Syllabus of Errors
998 Fasting on Fridays, Lent	1439 purgatory introduced	1870 infallibility of Pope
1079 celibacy of priesthood	1430 doctrine of 7 sacraments	1930 public schools
1090 sale of indulgences	1508 Ave Maria approved	condemned
1184 The Inquisition 1534	Jesuit order founded	1950 Assumption of Mary
1215 transubstantiation	1534 Tradition granted equal	1965 Mary proclaimed Mother
	authority with the Bible	of GOD, not just Jesus

Jan. 1, 2000- Pope declared to be the “Millennium of Mary.” All faiths must return to the mother Church of Rome. Mary is already been declared “co-redeemer.” Prayer must go through Mary to Jesus. Thousands have petitioned Rome to make Mary, the mother of God, a member of the Trinity. (She replaces the Holy Spirit to reintroduce the pagan trinity: father sun god, mother moon good, and stars as lesser gods or children - Mystery Babylon cult). Adoration of Mary is ancient Babylonian goddess worship. All pagan religions will merge together again bringing unity for “the end time revival.” The World Parliament of Religions has been meeting for years, under the Vatican’s leadership, promoting love and unity. Modern day “Christian movements promoting unity and love in order to bring “Dominion Now” “Joel’s Army” or “End Time Revival” heresy: NAR apostles, some Word of Faith giants, The Grace Revolution, IHOP, Bethel, most Mega TV pastors, Azusa Street Revival, Promise Keepers, Tres Dias, Extreme Prophetic, - all cry for love and unity with NO examination or agreement of Bible doctrines....EMERGENT, DIVERGENT, CONVERGENT = producing a powerless Apostate Church.

Jesus' Report Card to _____

Picture of Jesus:



I KNOW!

Good things _____

A+

A+

A+

A+

Bad things _____

F

F

F

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit say to the Churches!

Reward:

¹And to the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These things says he that has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars: I know your works, that you hast a name that you live, and you are dead. ²Be watchful, and establish the things that remain, which were ready to die: for I have found no works of yours perfected before my God. ³Remember therefore how you have received and did hear; and keep it, and repent. If therefore you shall not watch, I will come as a thief, and you shall not know what hour I will come upon you. ⁴But you hast a few names in Sardis that did not defile their garments: and they shall walk with me in white; for they are worthy. ⁵He that overcomes shall thus be arrayed in white garments; and I will in no wise blot his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. ⁶He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Key words:

7 Spirit (3) complete

name (3x)

watchful/watch (2)

die, dead (2)

thief

names (4x)

white garments/raiment/clothes

name (3686) onoma - authority, character, name, The character described by the name!
Delegated power and authority!

watchful (1127) gregoreuo - to keep awake, be vigilant, watch

things which remain (3062) loipoy - residue, others which remain, remnant, the rest

perfect/complete (4137) plero - complete, level up, finish a task, to satisfy, fulfil

hold fast (5083) - to guard by keeping eye upon

thief

defiled (3435) molun - soiled, defiled

Melas means “black” (Molech - pagan god)

garments (2440) himation - apparel, cloak, clothes, garment, robe, raiment in white

blot (1813) exaleiph - to smear out, to obliterate, blot out, wipe away

Book of Life

confess (1843) exomologeo - to acknowledge, to fully agree, promise, profess

ek + homologia homo - to swear an oath + logos - spoken word = to covenant!

There are many books mentioned in the Bible other than the Book of Life.

1. Book of Curses (Numbers 5:23)
2. Book of Wars (Numbers 21:14)
3. Book of Cities (Joshua 18:9)
4. Book of Remembrance (Mal. 3:16)

We have now studied the evangelistic Ephesus (the "darling" church) the persecuted Smyrna, (suffering) the pagan church of Pergamos (intermarried with the true church) and the Jezebel church at Thyatira. We have arrived at Sardis, which means "escaping".

The historical Sardis was an ancient and important city, right in the crossroads of all Asian traffic and was founded between two rivers, on top a high ridge. Later the city was also extended to the base of the ridge; gold was discovered in the streams. Coins were first minted here and Sardis became the capital of the carpet industry. This wealthy city was made famous by King Croesus, the richest man ever and his son King Midas, "everything he touched turned to gold".

These ancient Lydians prided themselves on their high fortress city that no one could reach. On 3 sides it was surrounded by inaccessible cliffs. They felt totally "secure" from the enemy. Because they failed to keep a defensive watch, the whole city was overcome by the Persians under King Cyrus due to an accidental discovery. A guard from Sardis dropped his helmet down the unscaleable walls, then carefully climbed over the side with a rope, revealing a hidden path. This was noted by an undercover Persian soldier; the whole enemy regiment used this path to conquer the city of Sardis. This happened again in history several hundred years later, due to the same sense of false "security." Again another enemy found a hidden way up the walls and conquered the proud Lydians who thought themselves secure. When Jesus says, "Be Watchful!" the city of Sardis is a perfect lesson is failure to watch.

Sardis was ruled by the Persians, the Greeks, the Syrians and finally Rome before it was destroyed by an earthquake during Emperor Tiberius' reign. The main pagan goddess was Cybele (also known as Diana) and Apollo the sun god. She was the moon goddess. Together they formed a very corrupt brother-sister worship. Sardis exists as the tiny town of Sart today; excavation is on going of the magnificent gymnasium, the early synagogue, the pagan temples, and the Roman road.

This period in church history could historically represent the Protestant Church escaping from the bondage and tyranny of pagan Catholic popes. During the Dark Ages, with no gospel for the lay people to read, religious Rome required indulgences (\$\$) to absolve believers from sin and claimed power to save or condemn to hell king and peasants alike. Peoples' lives were controlled by the Vatican from the cradle to the grave. Anyone who did not celebrate mass and go to confession or have their infants baptized by priests was destined for purgatory, a horrible temporary hell. People prayed and paid to get their beloved dead ones "out of the fires of purgatory." Horrible spiritual abuses routinely occurred until Martin Luther protested by nailing 95 Theses on the church door, declaring that man is saved by faith, not works. The Reformation began with the cry of "Sola Scriptura" and hundreds of thousands died for the privilege of owning and believing the Bible. Amazingly mega ministry stars today ignore Church history anything to re-align with Rome as "the unified Church."

The whole theme of Sardis points to the leading of the Holy Spirit in the Church. How interesting that complete work and incomplete work will be a big topic for this church! Now for a topical study on the 7 fold Spirit of God. Meet the person of The Holy Spirit in all His facets.

Rev. 1:4

Rev.3:1

Rev. 4:5

Rev. 5:6

Isaiah 11:1-2 “Then a shoot will spring up from the stem of Jesse, and a branch
From his roots will bear fruit (Jesus!). The Spirit of the _____ will
Rest upon him, the Spirit _____ and _____. The Spirit of
_____, the Spirit of _____ and the _____ of the Lord.”

-
The Holy Spirit gives us the mind of Christ by revealing God’s supernatural words (logos) in our lives by His supernatural power (dunamis)!

1. The Spirit of the Lord (ruwah /Heb. pneuma/greek) the creative power source that supernaturally brings God’s thoughts into our hearts and life to our spirit.

Rev.8:1-2

Rev.11:11

2. The Spirit of Wisdom (chokmah/ Heb Sophia/Gr.) all of God’s thoughts

Eph. 1:17

John 16:13-14

James 1:5-8

3. The Spirit of Understanding (Binah/sunesis) God reveals His truth personally

4. The Spirit of Counsel (esa/boulomai) personal instruction to make God choices

Psalm 32:8

5. The Spirit of Strength (gibbor/kratos) supernatural power to perform or overcome

Psalm 18:32

Romans 8:37

Gal 5:13,16

6. The Spirit of Knowledge (daath/oida) perceives truth, recognizes deception

John 5:20

2 Peter 1:10-11

7. The Fear of the Lord- Holy reverence for God’s Presence cause us to hate sin yet love the sinner, enable us to grasp God’s grace, and desire to glorify God and not ourselves

Psalm 111:10- “The fear of the LORD is the _____ of _____.”

Just when you think we have covered everything, there are some more holes in the road we are on to examine truth. If we remember that this may pertain to Protestant truths, why does Jesus describe Sardis as dead and about to die? Why are their deeds not completed?

Here are some possibilities:

1. Replacement Theology says since the Jews rejected Jesus, God rejects Israel as the people of the Covenant and the Church replaces Israel as the inheritor of all the promises and is the subject of all the prophecy, not Israel! God has a covenant and a design for Israel and a covenant and a design for the blood-bought Church. This changes how seminaries teach about the end times. It also promotes the idea that we are already in the millennium (post-millennialism) since the Church by its own efforts and goodness will usher in the return of Christ, because things will get "better and better." The Word of God clearly teaches the opposite. (Dominion Now theology)
2. The Work of the Holy Spirit - this movement believes miracles and prophecy are over and so negates the work and welcome of the Holy Spirit in their fellowships, leading to dead rituals with no salvations, no deliverances, no healing, no passion, no conviction, no testimonies, no prayer life, no spontaneous worship... Ever been in a church like this?
3. Denominationalism - The Protestant Reformation had great men of God stand up and introduce great truths to set the people free from the bondage of Romanism. Martin Luther of Germany, started the Lutheran Church, John Knox of Scotland the Presbyterian faith, John Calvin, and Paul Bunyan, the great Baptist, and of course John Wesley, the father of the Methodists, and many more. Christ is now split into many fragments and the Church begins to fight with each other, becoming exclusive and haughty over differences.
4. Eternal Security ("once saved always saved") because of John Calvin's teaching, the Reformed Church believes:
 - T - total depravity of man, he has no free will and can't repent unless God calls him.
There is absolutely no good in mankind
 - U - Unconditional Election. God, by His sovereign plan, has determined beforehand who shall be saved and who shall be damned—"predestination"
 - L - Limited Atonement - Jesus did not die for the sins of the whole world, only the elect
 - I - Irresistible Grace - God's grace alone causes man to come to salvation
 - P - Perseverance of the Saints - (the elect can never lose their salvation)

Simply stated, if someone becomes saved, it is because they were one of the fortunate elect before they were born. A person is too depraved to respond to the gospel unless, as God's elect, he or she is one of the chosen ones Jesus died for. A person is then regenerated (born again) so they can then repent and believe in Christ. Since God's grace is irresistible, those predestined to believe will automatically do so. Finally, since a sinner has nothing to do with becoming a Christian, then nothing he or she ever should do would jeopardize that salvation ("once saved, always saved").

Why Evangelize? Why send missionaries? Why witness? Why pray?

These are the very words Jesus speaks to the Church of Sardis, and if we stand on dispensational truth - that the seven churches of Revelation lay out the complete history of the church prophetically, then this is the REFORMATION Church, or the Protestant Church. Let's explore what Jesus could be talking about by doing a study on the words "a thief in the night". Remember that we are digging for treasure and ask the Holy Spirit to be your guide!

Mathew 24:43 -44 "But know this, that if the Goodman of the house had known in which watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken into, therefore be you also ready, for in such an hour as you think not, the Son of man comes!"

Luke 12:35-38 "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, the master will dress himself to serve and will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them."

Luke 12:41 "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. He will put him in charge of all his possessions! But suppose the servant says to himself, "The master is taking a long time in coming, and he begins to beat the men servants and women servants and eat and get drunk. The master of the house will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers." The servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded, and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked!" (NIV)

So who is the manager? _____ Is this passage talking about true believers? _____ Who is the master? _____ What is the reward for obeying the master in his absence? _____ What happens to the servant who acts as if the master is not coming back? (who eats, drinks, and abuses the other servants) _____ Who is held accountable, the servant who knows the master's will and doesn't do it, or the servant who is ignorant of the Master's will? _____ How will we then apply this truth to our lives? _____

I Thess. 5:1-10 "Now brethren, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying "Peace and safety," destruction will come upon them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you brethren, are not in the darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. We are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. For those who sleep, sleep at night and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." Please stop and do a comparison chart because this is so important to understand.

We / day / light

They / asleep / darkness

Jesus promised Sardis that the overcomers would be clothed in white and He would not blot out their names from the Book of Life. Precious believer, it is time to do a topical study--to cover every mention of the Book of Life, to collect all the pieces to the puzzle of what this really means.

Old Testament first:

Ex. 32:32-33

Psalm 69:28

Psalm 87:6

Malachi 3:16

Daniel 12:1-2

New Testament:

Phil 4:3

Luke 10:20

Rev. 3:5

Rev.13:8

Rev 17:8

Rev. 20:12

Rev. 20:15

Rev. 22:19

In the times of Sardis, when a person was born, his name was added to the rolls and when he died, it was blotted out. Are we talking about physical death or spiritual death here? Can someone who is saved (dressed in white) have his name blotted out of the Book of Life? _____

What happens to those who are not in the Book of Life? _____

How do you know if your name is written in the Book of Life?

The Book of Life is distinctly mentioned only 9 times in the New Testament.

Phil. 4:3 I entreat you also true workers, help those women who labored with me in the gospel, and Clement also—and with my other fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

Luke 10:20 Do not rejoice over this, that the demons are subject unto you; but rather rejoice that your names are written in heaven.

Rev. 3:5 He that overcomes, the same will be clothed in white raiment and I will not blot his name out of the Book of Life, and I will confess his name before My Father and His angels.

Rev. 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him (beast/anti-christ) whose names are not written in the Book of Life before the foundation of the world.

Rev. 17:8 And they shall wonder that dwell on the earth, whose names were not written in the book of life before the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Rev. 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God: and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Rev. 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev. 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defiles, nor anything that works abominations, or causes a lie, but they which are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Rev. 22:19 And if any man takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city and from the things which are written in this book.

It is only hinted at in the Old Testament in these places:

Exo. 32:32-33 Yet now if you will forgive their sin, and not blot me out I pray of your book which You have written. And the Lord said to Moses whosoever has sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

Psalms 69:28 Let them be blotted out of the Book of the Living, and not be written with the righteous.

Psalms 87:6 The Lord shall count when he writest up the people that this man was born there.

Malachi 3:16 Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name.

Dan. 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince that standeth for the Israelites, and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation, and at that time thy people shall be delivered, everyone that shall be found written in the book.

Please remember that God promised an inheritance to Israel and made a covenant. In Revelation 7, we find he blotted out two names of two tribes—Ephraim and Dan—and replaced them with Joseph and Levi! Why? Idolatry.

Read Deut. 29:18-21- describe what happened here:

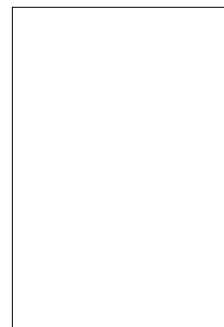
The tribes of Dan and Ephraim permitted Jeroboam to set up golden calves to Worship (I Kings 12:25-30). Describe what happens here:

Therefore, because of idolatry, these tribes will not be sealed in Revelation 7 and will go through the Tribulation without the protection of God.

Sardis represents those Christian denominations that claim “eternal security” no matter what their deeds. Sin in the life of a Christian is not without penalty. I Cor. 11:27-32 tells us to examine ourselves before we take the Lord’s Supper and what God requires of us as heirs of salvation. Those Protestants with this view believe it is impossible to have your name blotted out of the Book of Life—“once saved, always saved”—and have persecuted harshly anyone with different viewpoints. (Calvinism vs. Arminianism). Sardis reminds us that those who do not defile their garments will walk with Christ for they are worthy. We wear filthy rags until the blood of Jesus cleanses us and we are dressed in white by Jesus. Only we can defile our garments!

Jesus' Report Card to _____

Picture of Jesus:



I KNOW!

Good things _____

A+

A+

A+

A+

Bad things _____ F

F

F

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches..

 Reward:

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

These things says He that is holy, He that is true, He that has the key of David, he that opens and none shall shut, and that shuts and none open: ⁸I know your works (behold, I have set before you a door opened, which none can shut), that you have a little power, and did keep My word, and did not deny My name. ⁹Behold, I give of the synagogue of Satan, of them that say they are Jews, and they 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. ¹⁰Because you did keep the word of my patience, I also will keep you from the hour of trial, that *hour* which is to come upon the whole world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. ¹¹I come quickly: hold fast that which you have, that no one take your crown. ¹²He that overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go out thence no more: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God, and mine own new name. ¹³He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

7. "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:
8. I know your deeds. Behold, 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.
9. Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews, and are not, but lie— behold, I will make them to come and bow down at your feet, and to know that I have loved you.
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, to test those who dwell upon the earth.
11. I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, in order that no one take your crown.
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; and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.
13. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Philadelphía - The Church of Brotherly Love

Dear Believer, Be encouraged and hold fast! We are at the sixth church of Revelation— Philadelphia, and we are on the last stretch to the finish. Let's find out all we can about the actual church in the first century!

Philos - fondness, lover, affection

Adelphes - brother

Philadelphia is the newest of the cities and was founded 170 B.C. Because of the great affection this King Attalus II had for his brother, the King of Pergamum, he called the city, “the love of the brother” or Philadelphia. The coins found in the ruins here show two identical brothers back to back. It became the second largest city in Lydia. Called the gateway, it is a beautiful small valley surrounded by four or five hills and a branch of the Hermes River that commands a strategic door to Sardis, Pergamum, Asia Minor, and parts east.

Philadelphia was built on top of a major geological fault and constant tremors and earthquakes constantly shook the city, so much that not one wall except the pillars of the temple were considered safe. The people took refuge in the open fields during these shocks because there was no security inside any building. However, the people never abandoned Philadelphia, because there were great fertile valleys and grape vineyards flourished and wine was a great industry here.

The god **Dionysis**, or **Bacchus**, was worshiped here, and there are also temples to **Artemis (Diana)**, **Zeus**, **Helios** the sun god, and **Aphrodite, or Venus**. Please feel free to do any research on any of these pagan cults. There was a strong Jewish presence in Philadelphia also. From this key city, the Greek culture was spread to all surrounding peoples, so it had a pagan missionary emphasis.

Philadelphia is known as the last outpost of Christianity in Turkey, until it fell to the Muslims in 1390. Today, they reverently call it Aleshehir, or Allah Shehr, the “city of God Allah” The Christians in this city were a small presence, but were commended by Jesus strongly for their stand. Why?

3. Jesus says when they were weak, He was strong!

(This was a small presence, beaten down, but sound in word and deed.

Jesus says they will become pillars in His Church.)

4. Jesus says they did not deny His Name or God’s Word.

(Here we have real Christians who knew the word, believed it, lived it
- not empty rituals from religious show-offs.)

5. Missionary zeal - They spread the gospel through an open door. They had the key.

After any destruction, they always rebuilt!!

(Oh, if the Church today could grasp this.)

6. They eagerly awaited the Rapture and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ

- because they knew the Word,
they believed their Redeemer was coming again to keep them from the tribulation!

Write down any words to describe Philadelphia, historically or spiritually—as many as you can!

The Lesson Of Eliakim - Isaiah 22:15-25

Here we learn God's judgment of Shebna, the treasurer of the king, who had the key (authority) of the king's treasury, his presence, and all the things of the kingdom under his power. Shebna tried to exalt himself by building a beautiful tomb so that he could be buried with the high and mighty. God said he would send him into captivity and cover him (humble him) because of his pride! He removed Shebna and called Eliakim, the son of Hilkiah and said, "I will clothe him with your robe, and strengthen him with your girdle, and I will commit your government into his hand; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. (vs.22) And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so that he shall open, and none shall shut, and he shall shut and none shall open."

**An interesting note here is that the pope wears the Key of Janus on his royal vestments and claims the sole authority of binding and loosing as a means of excommunicating those disloyal to him and reinstating those who pledge allegiance to papal infallibility. (The pope alone hears from God and so his every word is true and holy and to be obeyed.) These keys were seen on the pagan gods also!

Apostolic Succession?

Is the doctrine of papal succession valid? Did God appoint one man alone to hear from Him and must all Christians follow him.

Was Peter the first pope? Was this authority that controlled all the kings of Europe delegated by Jesus in Matt.16:13-19? Does this power belong to the Roman popes alone to be passed from pope to the next pope in succession.

Read carefully this passage and decide for yourself.

(vs 13) And Jesus asked, "Whom do men say that I the son of man am?" And they said, "Some say you are John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." And Jesus said unto them, "But who do you say that I am?" and Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Then Jesus said, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto you that you are Peter (gr. petros - a fragment of a rock) and on this ROCK (gr. petra - a huge stone mass) I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."

A mis-interpretation of this passage has led the Catholic Church to declare that Peter is the Rock on which the Church will be built: therefore the Pope is the foundation of the Church. The difference between a tiny pebble (Peter) and the immovable mass ROCK (Jesus alone) has caused wide splits in belief over the power of a pope or any man to build the true Church. Paul clearly teaches that Peter was only one of the stones of the foundation and that Jesus was the chief cornerstone.

Eph 2:19-22 *"Now therefore you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God. And you are built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone. In whom (Jesus) all the building fitly framed together grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom (Jesus) you are also built together for a habitation of God through the Spirit."*

There are many, many more verses that say Jesus is the chief stone, the rock. Power will be given to no man to control other men, not pope nor preacher or prophet.

Jesus re-emphasizes this truth "when He promises to make overcomers pillars in the temple of God. Pillars are not the foundation, but the supporting walls. Gal.2:9 "And when James, Cephas (Peter) and John who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me (Paul), they gave to Barnabus and me the right hand of fellowship, that we would go to the heathen and they to the circumcision."

** The city of Philadelphia erected a pillar in one of the temples, inscribed with the name of the honorary citizen who died. Jesus says He will make the overcomer a pillar in the temple of my God!

He is Holy and True

Jesus says He is holy and true. Could it be that this church needs to hear these words because everything surrounding them was defiled and hypocritical? Remember that the Philadelphian Church was under the jurisdiction of Sardis, the dead church of religious bigots and lifeless rituals that had quenched the Holy Spirit. Their words did not match their deeds.

1 Peter 1:16 - "Be ye _____ for I am _____"

It would be good to remember that Jesus is coming back for a pure and spotless bride.

Each one of these characteristics of Jesus confronts something false in this church and this age. The Philadelphians believed that the pagan god Janus had "all power in heaven, on earth, and the sea. He is also known as Nimrod, and is the god of all gods. He had the power of "turning the hinge" or "opening and shutting the door" as the grand mediator of all affairs. No matter how important the business or family matter, Janus must be worshiped before any other lesser gods. He is thought of as the divine father-son combined. The pagan priest wore a key on his shoulder to show he alone had power and authority. The Pope wears the key of Janus on his papal robes for all to see. Is he operating under God's authority? Please read about God's true authority and who has it and who doesn't!

Luke 1: 32-33

Isaiah 9:6-9

Jeremiah 23:5

Amos 9:11

Acts 15:13-18

Jesus uses the word key to condemn the religious scribes who thought they alone knew the Scriptures and so held the key to salvation and to the Messiah! Read what He says in Luke 11:52

"Woe to you lawyers, for you have taken away the key of knowledge; you entered not in yourselves and you hinder those who are entering."

Then in Matt.16:19, Jesus teaches Peter and the disciples on the keys to the kingdom and the authority true believers possess.

"And I will give unto you the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatsoever you shall bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatsoever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven."(Amplified)

Can we really grasp all that this means?
Who has the Key or authority by God's decree? Only _____

Matt 18:18-19 Jesus gives the power of binding and loosing to Believers using forgiveness as His text.

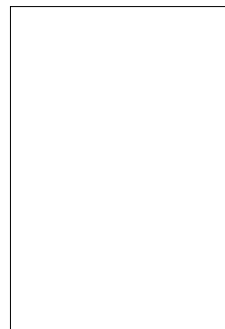
"Verily I say unto you, whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatsoever you loose on earth shall have already been loosed in heaven."

"Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven."

Who does Jesus give His authority to? _____

Jesus' Report Card to _____

Picture of Jesus:



I KNOW!

Good things _____ A+

_____ A+

Bad Things _____ F

_____ F

_____ F

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches!

 Reward:

Laodicea

Revelation 3:14 And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These things says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God: 15. I know your works, that you art neither cold nor hot: I would you were cold or hot. 16. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spew you out of my mouth. 17. Because you say, I am rich, and have gotten riches, and have need of nothing; and know not that you are the wretched one and miserable and poor and blind and naked: 18. I counsel you to buy of me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich; and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and *that* the shame of your nakedness be not made manifest; and eye-salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. 19. As many as I love, I reprove and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20. Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21. He that overcomes, I will give to him to sit down with me in my throne, as I also overcame, and sat down with my Father in his throne.

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

throne /2362/ thronos

zealous /2206/ zeloo - to have warmth or feeling for or against, desire, covet earnestly

Laodicians /2994/ from 2992 laos and 1349 dike - judgment, punish, vengeance

Amen /281/ selah - so be it, absolutely, truly

faithful /4103/ pistos - believable, sure, true

beginning /746/ arche - beginning, first estate

creation /2937/ ktisis from 2936 - original formation

cold /5593/ psuchros - chilly cold

hot /2200/ zestos - boiled hot

lukewarm /5513/ chiliaros from chitio (to warm) - warm, tepid, lukewarm

spew /1692/ emeo - to vomit

rich /4145/ plousios - abounding with wealth

increased with goods /4147/ plouteo - abounding with wealth - to grow wealthy

wretched /5005/ talaiporos from 5007 talaton (weight) and 3984 peira (trial) - a weighty ordeal

miserable /1652/ eleeinos - pitiable, miserable

poor /4434/ ptochos - to crouch, a beggar

blind /5185/ taphlos - from 5187 opaque - blind

naked /1131/ gumnos or gymnos - nude (We get gymnasium.)

counsel /4823/ sumbouleuo from 4802 +1011 - to reason together, to give advice jointly, to counsel together

gold /5553/ ehusion - a golden article, ornament, or coin = gold

tried /4448/ puroo from 4442 - to kindle, ignite, be inflamed, -bury, fiery, try

fire /4442/ pur - fiery, fire

shame /152/ aischune - shame or disgrace - dishonesty

anoint / 1472/ egchrio from 1722 and 5548 - to smear or rub with oil

salve /2854/ kollourion - a cake, poultice, a plaster

rebuke /1651/ elegcho - to admonish, tell a fault, reprove, rebuke

chasten /3811/ paideuo from 3816 - to train up a child, then to discipline, train, teach

Wealthy city inland 40 miles from Ephesus, steeped in Greek culture and learning, huge in commerce and industry. There are ruins of three Christian churches here and yet nothing is known of its early evangelism efforts, whereas in Ephesus, much is recorded. There is no commendation to this church, the only one of the seven to get the worst report!

1. Lukewarm - not hot (zealous), not cold (lost)—just indifferent. All kinds of organizations, programs, committees, activities—no power! Liberal! “All About Me” messages. Man Pleasing, not God pleasing. Th Emergent church movement! Psychology based leadership / church growth movements to bring biggest crowds.

2 Tim. 3:5

“In the last days, many will have a form of godliness, but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.”

Souls never really get transformed from the inside out but think they are saved. Watered down preaching of the gospel causes watered down, carnal Christians. These churches are more interested in social action than gospel reformation—more planning, no praying. Forty Days of Purpose Churches “deeds matter more than creeds” eject the Bible truths for solving the world’s problems of poverty, AIDS, only preach good messages. Will partner with and affirm all religions, dangerous! Promote unscriptural books (*The Shack, Blue Like Jazz, The Velvet Elvis, Forty Days of Purpose*) that re-image Jesus or God as heathen deity.

2. Self-deceived - They say they are wealthy and rich. They have it all spiritually and materially. . . fabulous architecture, million dollar buildings, large fund raising and huge memberships. Only the Holy Spirit can convict and change lives. If it glorifies man, it doesn’t glorify God. This church will be at the forefront of homosexual rights, feminist movements, and tolerance in the name of church unity. They will not live by Bible truths!

“Have nothing to do with them!”

Matthew 7:22-23, “Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and drive out demons, and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘Depart from me, workers of iniquity. I never knew you.’”

3. Wretched, pitiful - They have books on positive thinking, meditations for inner peace, constantly looking for supernatural visitations, yet they are miserable and have no peace. Because they choose to be deceived, their ministries/faith crash and burn.

4. Poor - in the spirit, immature, sensitive to the flesh, constantly bragging about how wealthy they are because of God, (huge ministries crashing over mis-use of donors’ funds!)

5. Blind - They think they can see the answers to life’s problems with man’s wisdom, never bothering to seek God. When truth is presented over and over, they can not grasp it! Divorce in leadership is so common in churches, and destroys purity of fellowship!

6. Naked - They are beautifully clothed in religion—regal religious robes, assume grandiose titles (Bishop, prophets, Apostle, Seer) write books that proclaim their theology, burn candles, say creeds, misquote Scriptures to gain followings, tolerant of all faiths, yet they are not covered by the protection of GOD because they will not follow His commandsthey are naked spiritually without His protection and will

- 1.They must buy gold - Isa. 55:1-2, “Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters: you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Come buy wine and milk without money, without cost. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy. Listen carefully to me. Eat what is good. Delight yourself in abundance.” 1 Peter 1:7*
- 2..They must buy white clothes - Isa. 61:10
- 3..They must by eye salve so they can see. - Only spiritual eyes can see our true spiritual condition. I Cor. 2:14, “The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, they are foolishness to him, and he can’t understand them, for they are spiritually discerned.”

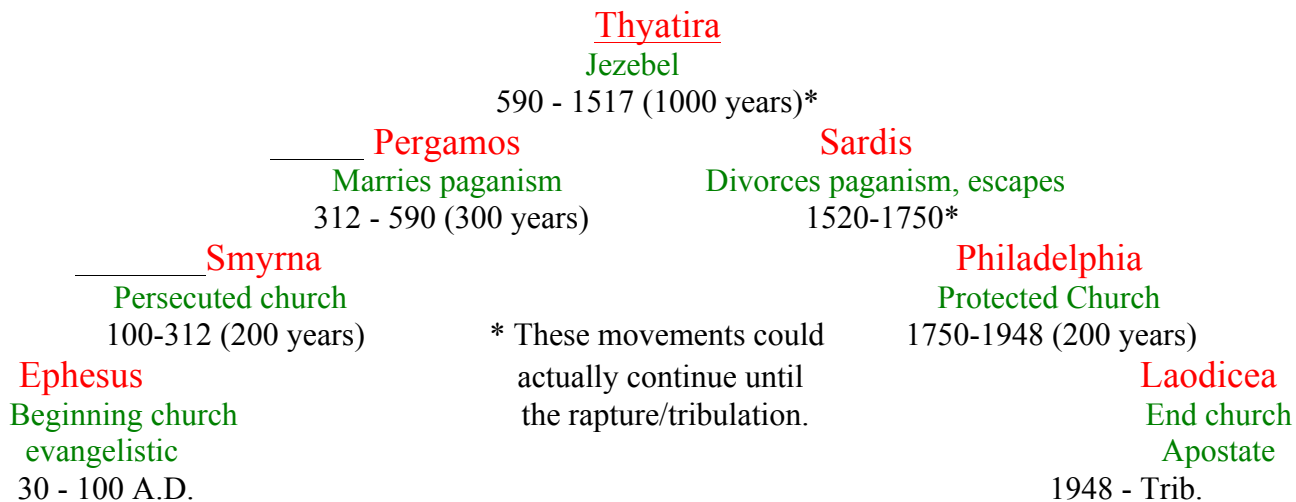
Laodicea - literal - “the people judge or speak.” Laodicea was named after Laodice, the wife of Antiochus II (285-247 BC Syria) whom he was forced to divorce to enter a more favorable alliance with Ptolemy II by marrying his daughter, Bernice, of Egypt. Bernice had money, but Antiochus went back to his former wife, Laodice, and their children. Laodice then poisoned Antiochus and had Bernice murdered out of fear of future rejection. She set up her son, Callinicus(SeleucusII) on the throne of Syria, and he was called Antiochus II. Talk about judgment! (See Dan. 11:6 where this event is prophesied

Historical City Facts: Chief city of Phrygia - a Roman province now in Turkey called “Eski Hisar” (old castle). Built on the bank of the Lycus River, it has a very fertile valley and was very wealthy because of two strengths—clothing industry (especially black wool) and financial banking centers. A third strength was the Laodicea medical school, famous for its eye salve. (Clothes, money and eye salve.) It was forty miles southeast of Philadelphia and famous for its great limestone cliffs. Only ten miles from Colossae, and Paul mentions his love for Laodicea in his letter to the Colossians (chapter 2:1; 4:13-15). This city also had a famous hot springs health resort (spa) for the wealthy and was a great place to retire. Epaphras of Colossae founded the church here and Philemon is also from here.

Lukewarm - Nearby Hierapolis had wonderful natural hot springs that attracted many (health spa!) and ten miles away, Colossae had the coldest, purest spring water. Laodicea built aqueducts to bring water to its city and the hot and cold waters alike became tepid in the ducts—so in Laodicea, the water was lukewarm! Stagnant, stale, foul water in ponds.

Jesus—outside the church door knocking to come in!

One World Religion, Government



Thyatira - (The Jezebel religion) will have a great role in the Great Tribulation. The letter itself says she was given time to repent and would not, and later in Revelation we will study the woman who rides the beast, the great harlot of chapters 15-16.

Notice that in the Laodicean church Jesus says, “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.”

Again this apostate group who later repents will not go to Christ (Rapture), but Jesus comes to them. They stay. He comes. They must partake of his cup—the cost of salvation after the Rapture will be great suffering and probably death. The question is this. If we can’t live for Christ now, how will we live for Christ when it is so hard.

Jeremiah says this in 12:5,

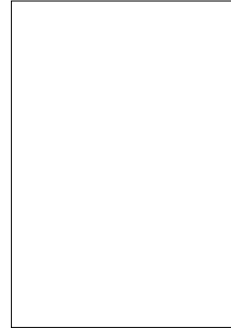
“If you have run with footmen and they wearied you, how will you run with horses?”

Matt. 20:20-23, Jesus asks the mother of James and John if her sons would be willing to drink of the cup he was to drink of and to be baptized with the baptism he was baptized with, in answer to her request for one of her sons to sit on Jesus’ right hand and one on his left hand in His kingdom. Those two disciples did indeed get a chance to drink of Jesus’ cup. This church is given the same invitation—to drink of his cup and then receive their reward. Rev. 3:21, “To he that overcomes, I will give him to sit down with me in my throne, as I also overcame, and sat down with my Father in his throne.”

How did Jesus overcome? By giving up his life! How will the Laodicean church overcome? By repenting and giving up their lives! “Sup with Him” could also mean “The Marriage Supper of the Lamb.”

Jesus' Report Card to _____

Picture of Jesus:



I KNOW!

Good things _____

A+

A+

A+

A+

Bad things _____ F

F

F

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches..

 Reward:

We have spent hours and weeks studying the first three chapters of Revelation, and we trust the Holy Spirit as the Revealer and as our Teacher. On the way to discovery, we learned many different ways to study this Book therefore we will need to not depend on anyone else's summary of the truth. God holds us personally accountable for truth!

Greek word study - We know how to use a Strong's number system and how to use a Greek lexicon to find an original word used and that the Greek gives us a word picture!

Topical study - To get the complete picture, i.e. with crowns, we learned to look everywhere (Strong's) the word crown is used and piece together all the information like a puzzle.

Simile and metaphors - By understanding key words in the text as "like" or "as" (simile) or metaphors implying comparison of two completely different things, i.e. "I am the bread of life."

Repetition - We learned that when something is repeated over and over in the text, it is important to God and therefore it is a "key word."

Law of first mention - When we run into a theme, subject, or phrase we do not recognize, we need to use a Strong's to find the first place it is mentioned and start our search there, picking up every piece of the puzzle, i.e. "The tree of life."

Numbers - We see that numbers in the Bible are very important and are clues to themes and understanding. I.e., 7 = complete. Any multiple of this number also has prophetic significance $\frac{1}{2} (7) = 3 \frac{1}{2}$

Comparison charts help us look at truths and untruths side-by-side to further cement our picture together.

Names suggest character - Every person's name, every town usually tells the character or significance of the text! I.e. Philadelphia means "brotherly love."

Context - We learned to have the whole picture we need to read the whole chapter—so we don't take verses out of context!

Old Testament References - We can not truly discern the Book of Revelation without Looking up every Old Testament reference for the prophetic picture we are to see. The Book of Revelation has over 800 references to OT passages!