

THE STORY SO FAR (as told by Dr Luke)

Luke 23 THE DEATH OF JESUS

Luke 24 THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Acts 1 THE ASCENSION OF JESUS

Acts 2 HOLY SPIRIT COMES AT PENTECOST

THE GROWING CHURCH // Ps Low Kok Guan

Acts 3 THE FIRST MIRACLE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

THE RELEVANT CHURCH // Elder Lok Vi Ming

Acts 4 PETER AND JOHN BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

THE BOLD CHURCH // Ps Edric Sng

Acts 8 PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH

THE MISSIONAL CHURCH // Elder Goh Hock Chye







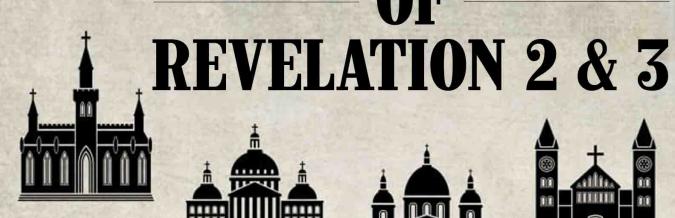


INTRODUCTION

THE 7 CHURCHES



Ephesus



Smyrna



Pergamos



Thyatira



Sardis



Philadelphia

The 7 Churches of Revelation 2 & 3

They existed in history at time of Apostle John in the <u>7 specific locations</u>.
 There is a specific message to the <u>Specific Church</u> in the City-Nation-Region.

PERSPECTIVE #1

of the 7 Churches at any one point in time in the different local churches.

The 7 Churches of Revelation 2 & 3

SEVEN WARNINGS

- Lost the First Love
- Persecution
- Idolatry & sexual immorality
- Tolerance of evil
- Spiritually asleep
- Lack of spiritual strength
- Lukewarm-ness

TRAITS OF THE OVERCOMER BELIEVER-CHURCH

- have First Love for God
- will overcome persecution
- will forsake idolatry & immorality
- will hate evil
- is spiritually alert
- is spiritually strong
- is Hot for God

PERSPECTIVE #2



Ephesus



Smyrna



Pergamos



The 7 Churches spans in time

from the early church

to the coming Rapture

Thyatira

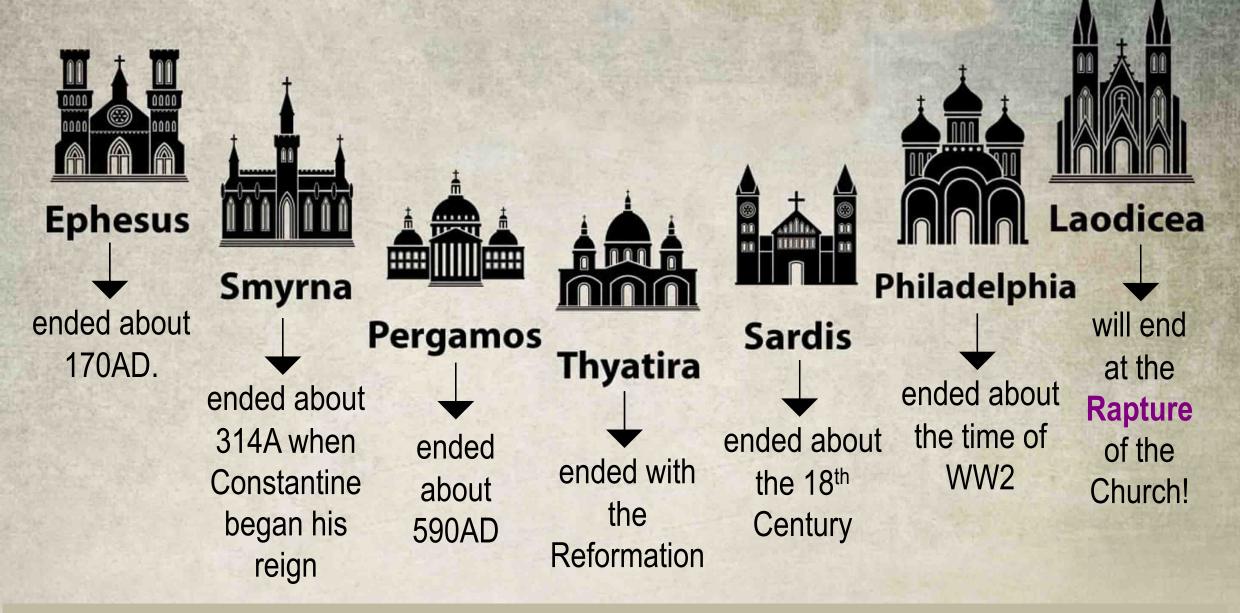


Sardis



Laodicea

Philadelphia



The world will then embrace the great religious prostitute - MYSTERY BABYLON of Rev 17

PERSPECTIVE #2











Hence, the Laodicean Church reflects the End-Time Church today where we are, with the imminent Rapture.

Laodicea means "people ruling" or "justice of the people". Luke 18:8; Jude 1:3; 2 Tim 4:7

It's the people who rule the Church and Christ has NO part in it! 1 Pet 4:17

The 7 Churches of Revelation 2 & 3 THREE REPEATED - CONTINUAL EXHORTATIONS to all the 7 Churches:

- Let him who has ears, hear what the Spirit is saying to the <u>churches</u>
 [churches → many congregations, local assemblies].
- 2. Let him who has ears, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches [only Word-based, Spirit-Filled believers/churches can hear].
- 3. To him who <u>overcomes</u> (present tense)
 [The overcomer believer-church]. Luke 18:8; Jude 1:3; 2 Tim 4:7

Implications, Applications + REVIVAL TODAY for every BELIEVER and LOCAL ASSEMBLY who HEEDS the specific message and the 3 exhortations

Matt 24:12 & 2 Thess 2:1-3

GLOBAL REVIVAL only AFTER THE RAPTURE

At Ministry of 144K Evangelists (Great Multitude saved)

+ 2 Witnesses + Angels with E-Gospel (Matthew 24:14) during the 7 Tribulation Years

This then culminates in the 2nd Coming and reign of our Lord in the Millennial Kingdom (Habakkuk 2:14)

The Laodicea Church - Revelation 3:14-22

14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans 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 are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." "

The Laodicean church reflects the End-Time Church

The Laodicean Church reflects the End-Time Church

- I. There is <u>no commendation</u> from the Lord for this church unlike those in the other churches.
- II. Condition of this church.
- III. Four Counsels of the Lord to this church.



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- I. There is no commendation from the Lord for this church unlike those in the other churches.
- II. Condition of this church.



- **II.** Condition of this church.
 - 1. Church in Laodicea was lukewarm and draws strong rebuke.

Revelation 3:15-16 I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are ukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

- **II.** Condition of this church.
 - 2. Church in Laodicea had a wrong perception of itself as being rich, became wealthy and needed nothing.

Revelation 3:17a Because <u>you say</u>, 'I am <u>rich</u>, have become <u>wealthy</u>, and have <u>need of nothing</u>'



- II. <u>Condition</u> of this church.
 - 3. Church in Laodicea, from God's Verdict, were:

A. Wretched	B. Miserable	C. Poor
D. Blind	E. Naked	

Revelation 3:17b ... and do not know that you are <u>wretched</u>, <u>miserable</u>, <u>poor</u>, <u>blind</u>, and <u>naked</u>—

Luke 12:21 So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.



- I. There is no commendation from the Lord for this church unlike those in the other churches.
- **II.** Condition of this church.
- III. Four Counsels of the Lord to this church.

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Revelation 3:18-19

18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

COUNSEL #1

Buy from God gold refined in the fire that they may be rich.

Revelation 3:18a I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich ...



COUNSEL #1

Buy from God gold refined in the fire that they may be rich.

A. This is genuine tested personal faith of an overcomer.





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1 Peter 1:6-7

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though <u>now for a little while</u>, <u>if need be</u>, you have been <u>grieved</u> by <u>various trials</u>, 7 that the <u>Genuineness</u> <u>of your faith</u>, being <u>much more precious than gold</u> that perishes, though it is <u>tested by fire</u>, may be found to praise honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ ...

A. This is genuine tested personal faith of an overcomer.

Our belief system is a **mixture**.

- A part of it is rooted in the Word of God.
- But, the other portion of our belief system comprise impurities that are not aligned with the Will, Word, Ways and Wisdom of God.

1 Peter 1:6-7

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though <u>now for a little while</u>, <u>if need be</u>,

you have been **grieved** by **various trials**,

7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is

tested by fire,

may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ ...



1 Peter 1:6-7

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be,

you have been grieved

by various trials,

7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ ...

Similarly, <u>trials</u> in our lives, like fire, purifies our faith

1 Peter 1:6-7
6 In this you greatly rejoice,
though now for a little while,
if need be,
you have been grieved

7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ ...

by various trials,

Trials are for a <u>season</u>.

This season, in the light of eternity is a <u>little while</u>.

1 Peter 1:6-7

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be,

you have been **grieved** by **various trials**,

7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ ...

Trials are **grievous/painful** to the person undergoing it.

1 Peter 1:6-7

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though <u>now for a little while</u>,

if need be,

you have been **grieved** by **various trials**,

7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ ...

Trials are only as <u>needed</u>, and seem to attract those whose <u>faith-experience</u> need to be perfected in those areas.







Proverbs 23:23 Buy the **truth** .. also **wisdom and** instruction and understanding.

- From Scriptures (Romans 10:17)
- From the Holy Spirit (John 16:13)
- From godly people (Proverbs 15:22)

B. We do not have <u>absolute</u> knowledge.

There will be situations where we will <u>not</u> completely know and understand on this side of heaven.

1 Corinthians 13:12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.



C. But, God has given us <u>sufficient</u> knowledge in His <u>Word</u> and <u>Revelation</u> from the Holy Spirit when we seek Him.

Sufficient knowledge from God's Word and Revelation by the Holy Spirit will help to **purify** our faith.

- D. It will help answer such questions:
 - > Why did this accident happen?
 - Did God send the typhoon-tsunami to judge us?
 - Did God give me <u>cancer</u> to punish me?
 - Did God send this illness to teach me godliness?

D. It will help answer such questions:

- Why did God not answer my prayer?
- Why is it so <u>unfair</u> to me?
- Why was I retrenched?
- Why was I rejected?
- > Why did I lose the money?
- Why? Why? Why?

- COUNSEL #1 Buy from God gold refined in the fire that they may be rich.
- E. Sufficient knowledge from God's Word require us to always base a principle or truth on the entire weight of Scriptures instead of some portion that seems to say otherwise.

Psalm 119:160 - the entirety/sum of scriptures is truth.

2 Timothy 3:16 - all Scripture is profitable

Acts 20:27 - whole counsel of God

BUT, God has given earth to Man.

- He has given-allowed-permitted Man a <u>free will</u>.
- God Himself cannot violate His own Laws.
- He has placed <u>laws</u> and <u>principles of life</u> on earth.
- Everything on earth occurs according to <u>His Laws</u> and <u>Principles of Life</u> given to Man and earth.

- We disobey and violate to our <u>loss</u> and <u>destruction</u>. We obey and flow to our <u>gain</u> and <u>prosperity</u>.
- Thereafter, whatever we sow, we will <u>reap</u>.
- God is <u>not</u> responsible for the decisions we make.
- Choices and <u>Consequences</u>
- God does <u>not</u> randomly, haphazardly intervene <u>unless someone prays</u>
 [a law-principle He laid]
- God's intervention is always consistent with His character (Jeremiah 9:23-24).

COUNSEL #1 - Buy from God gold refined in the fire that they may be rich.

F. Our faith is purified when we know the <u>direct source</u> of the pain and trials in our lives.

ALL SUFFERING by a believer is a trial of his **faith**.

- (1) Suffering in a fallen world
- (2) Suffering due to our own "faults"
- (3) Suffering for righteousness sake

- NO choice
- WRONG choice
- **RIGHT** choice

God is NOT glorified in All our sufferings!
Only for Christ and Righteousness sake!

- **COUNSEL #1 -** Buy from God gold refined in the fire that they may be rich.
- **G.** God is <u>always</u> good. When we turn to Him, He will see us through our trials to turn it for our <u>ultimate good</u> even though we may not yet fully see it or understand it at this point in time.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Genesis 50:20 But as for you, <u>you meant evil against me</u>; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

COUNSEL #1 - Buy from God gold refined in the fire that they may be rich.

G. God is always good.

Do NOT confuse God's goodness in seeing us through a trial to mean that He is the source of our trials.

BIBLE

Buy from God white garments that they may be covered.

white-spotless-eat laksa/meesiam

Revelation 3:18b ... and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed ... (@Judgment Seat - 2 Corinthians 5:10 after Rapture)

1 John 2:28 Abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

Buy from God white garments that they may be covered.

Revelation 19:7-8 (After Rapture and Judgment Seat but prior to Second Coming)

- 7 ... the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His Bride has made herself ready.
- 8 Fine linen, bright and clean was given her to wear, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

(Fine linen stands for the Righteous Acts of the saints)

Buy white garments means

- A. We pay the price to walk in righteousness and holiness.
 - Separation from : everything that hinders the fulfilling of God's purpose.
 - : the things that do not value-add to our godliness.
 - Separation to : everything that value-add to the fulling of God's call.
 - : the things that will value-add to our godliness.

Relationships-Activities-Hobbies-Attitudes, etc.

How you spend \$, time, energy, resources, etc.

Buy white garments means

- A. We pay the price to walk in righteousness and holiness.
 - What is permissible for <u>others</u> may not be permissible for you.
 - What <u>was</u> permissible may not be permissible now as you grow spiritually.



- B. We pay the price to be blameless:
 - To have a <u>conscience</u> void of offense before God and man (Acts 24:16).
 - To have <u>integrity</u> wholeness (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Embrace Brokenness-Is57:15 Matt5:25 Heb4:13 1Cor6:7 VCF-LS-DHEC-ECTY

Buy from God eye salve that they may be see.

Revelation 3:18c ... and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

- 1 Corinthians 2:9-10
- 9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

Buy from God eye salve that they may be see.

This is **Spiritual Seeing**. This is **Wisdom** and **Revelation** only **from the Holy Spirit**.

Ephesians 1:17b-18a

17 ... may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling ...

Price to pay to walk closely with the Holy Spirit - Galatians 5:16, 18, 25 - 2 Corinthians 4:18 -

Buy from God eye salve that they may be see.

Luke 11:34-35

34 The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of darkness. **35** Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness.

1 John 2:11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Hear and respond to the Lord's knocking on the door of our lives.

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

Total Dependency on the Lord!



BOTTOM-LINE: Revival for the believer and local church 4 Counsels

- #1 Buy from God gold refined in the fire that they may be rich.
- #2 Buy from God white garments that they may be covered.
- #3 Buy from God eye salve that they may be see.
- #4 Hear and respond to the Lord's knocking on the door of our lives.