



# THE END

A STUDY OF REVELATION

Rev. 3:14-22



Rev. 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

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

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

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

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



19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

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

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

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



## Scriptural Introduction

Rev. 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Part One – THE PAST: REVEALING GOD – “...the things which thou hast seen...” Ch. 1

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- I. THE COURSE OF THE AGE, 1:4-6
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## II. THE CONSUMMATION OF THE AGE, 1:7-8

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I. EPHESUS: THE FALLEN CHURCH, 2:1-7 (A.D. 0-200)

- A. The Faithful Works of This Church, 2:1-3
- B. The Fatal Weakness of This Church, 2:4-5a
- C. The Forceful Warning to This Church, 2:5b-7

II. SMYRNA: THE FEARFUL CHURCH, 2:8-11 (A.D. 200-325)

- A. The False Trend at Smyrna, 2:8-9
- B. The Fiery Trial at Smyrna, 2:10a
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III. PERGAMOS: THE FALTERING CHURCH, 2:12-17 (A.D. 325-500)

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- B. The False Creeds in This Church, 2:14-15
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- A. What the Lord Detected About This Church, 2:18-19
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V. SARDIS: THE FRUITLESS CHURCH, 3:1-6 (A.D. 1000-1500)

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- B. The Needed Reformation in This Church, 3:3-6



## VI. PHILADELPHIA: THE FEEBLE CHURCH, 3:7-13 (A.D. 1500-1900)

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1. All Saints Are Under His Control, 3:7-8
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3. All Situations Are Under His Control, 3:10-11

### B. The Call to Behave, 3:12-13

1. The Divine Initiative, 3:12
2. The Divine Invitation, 3:13





<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/283304632786978609>





*The church of Laodicea is still under excavation. Before the city was named Laodicea, it was called "Diopolis," the "city of Zeus." Photo by Karrie Sparrow.*





*Little is known about what has been unearthed in ancient Laodicea because excavation efforts are relatively new. Archaeologists currently believe this area served as a marketplace. Photo by Karrie Sparrow*





*Laodicea was established along a busy trade route. This ancient path, known as Syria Street, connected Laodicea to Colossae. Photo by Karrie Sparrow.*

<https://www.imb.org/2018/06/01/what-happened-to-the-seven-churches-of-revelation/>





<https://bibleatlas.org/laodicea.htm>



## VII. LAODICEA: THE FASHIONABLE CHURCH, 3:14-22 (A.D. 1900 + )

### A. The Dynamic Christ, 3:14

1. He is the All-Conquering One, 3:14a “And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen...”

**Original Word:** Λαοδικεία

**Transliteration:** Laodikeia = "rights or justice of the people"

**Definition:** Laodicea, a city in Phrygia

**Usage:** Laodicea, a city in the Lycos valley in the Roman province Asia, near Colossae and Hierapolis.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2993.htm>



Rev. 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

7 Behold, he cometh 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.** ...

18 I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, **Amen**; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Rev. 5:14 And the four beasts said, **Amen.** And the four *and* twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

Rev. 7:12 Saying, **Amen**: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, *be* unto our God for ever and ever. **Amen.**



Rev. 19:4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, **Amen**; Alleluia.

Rev. 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. **Amen**. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. **Amen**.

2. He is the All-Convicting One, 3:14b “...the faithful and true witness...”

- The Lord Jesus Christ will not dilute the truth.
- The Lord Jesus Christ will not distort the truth.
- The Lord Jesus Christ will not diminish the truth.
- The Lord Jesus Christ IS the truth!



3. He is the All-Controlling One, 3:14c “...the beginning of the creation of God;”

## **JESUS CHRIST IS THE BEGINNING!**

Jn. 1:3 **All things were made by him**; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Col. 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For **by him were all things created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him:**



Eph. 3:9 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, **who created all things by Jesus Christ:**

### New International Version

and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

### New American Standard Bible

and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;

### Holman Christian Standard Bible

and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things.

### King James Bible

And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things **by Jesus Christ:**



## B. The Deluded Church, 3:15-17

### 1. Its Sickening Compromise, 3:15-16

Rev. 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

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

### **THE TESTIMONY OF AMBIGUITY = NO DISTINCTIVES**

### 2. Its Sickening Complacency, 3:17

Rev. 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:



## C. The Definite Choice, 3:18-19

Rev. 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten:** be zealous therefore, and **repent.**

Jn. 9:6 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,



1 Jn. 2:20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. ...

27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Prov. 3:11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: 12 For **whom the LORD loveth he correcteth**; even as a father the son *in whom* he delighteth.

Heb. 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6 For **whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth**, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.



Prov. 9:8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: **rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.**

Eccl. 7:5 *It is* better to hear **the rebuke of the wise**, than for a man to hear **the song of fools.**

D. The Dual Challenge, 3:20-22

1. To Sinners in the Congregation, 3:20

Rev. 3:20 **Behold, I stand at the door, and knock:** if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.



## 2. To Saints in the Congregation, 3:21-22

Rev. 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in **my throne**, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in **his throne**.

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

CHURCH	PROMISE	REFERENCES
Ephesus	Eat of the tree of life in the Paradise of God	2:7; 22:14
Smyrna	Deliverance from the second death	2:11; 20:6
Thyatira	Authority over the nations	2:26; 20:4
Thyatira	The morning star	2:28; 22:16
Sardis	Clothed in white garments with Christ	3:4-5; 19:14
Philadelphia	The name of God written on them	3:12; 22:4
Laodicea	Sitting with Christ on His throne	3:21; 20:4



## SYNOPSIS OF REVELATION 2 AND 3

<i>Church and Passage</i>	<i>Description of Jesus Christ</i>	<i>Commendation</i>	<i>Criticism</i>	<i>Exhortation</i>	<i>Promise to the Overcomers</i>
Ephesus (2:1-7)	One who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands	Their deeds, toil, perseverance (twice), intolerance of wicked men, testing of professing apostles, endurance, and hatred of the deeds of the Nicolaitans	Left their first love	Remember your former position, repent, and repeat your first deeds.	Will receive permission to eat of the tree of life in God's paradise
Smyrna (2:8-11)	The first and the last, who was dead and has come to life	Endured tribulation, poverty, and blasphemy by professing Jews		Do not fear temporary suffering and <u>tribulation</u> , but remain faithful.	Will enjoy freedom from hurt by the second death
Pergamum (2:12-17)	One who has the sharp two-edged sword	Held fast Christ's name, and did not deny His faith	Some held the teachings of Balaam and the Nicolaitans.	Repent or expect an attack from the sword of His mouth.	Would receive hidden manna, a white stone, and a new secret name on the stone



Thyatira (2:18-29)	The Son of God who has flaming eyes and burnished bronze feet	Their deeds, love, faith, service, perseverance and recent improvement in deeds	Their toleration of seductive, immoral, idolatrous, and impenitent Jezebel	The faithful should hold fast.	Gets authority to rule over the nations with Christ, and the morning star
Sardis (3:1-6)	He who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars	Some had not soiled their garments.	They were dead, had incomplete deeds, and were asleep.	Wake up, strengthen what remains, remember what you heard and obey it, and repent.	Clothed in white garments, name retained in the book of life, and name confessed before the Father and His angels
Philadelphia (3:7-13)	He who is holy, true, has David's key, and permanently opens and shuts	Their deeds, a little power, had kept His word, had not denied His name, and had persevered		Hold fast what you have.	Made a pillar in God's temple that he will not leave; have the names of God, His city (the New Jerusalem), and Christ's name written on him



Laodicea (3:14-22)	The Amen, the faithful and true witness, and the source of God's creation		Lukewarm, self-sufficient, wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked	Buy from Christ refined gold, white garments, and eye salve. Repent. Open the door to Him.	Will sit down on Christ's throne with Him
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A general scheme of the periods of western civilization that correspond to the conditions described in each of the letters to the seven churches is as follows.

<b>The Prophetic History of the Church in Revelation 2 and 3</b>			
2:1-7	Ephesus	Apostolic Era	ca. A.D. 0-200
2:8-11	Smyrna	Period of Persecution	ca. A.D. 200-325
2:12-17	Pergamum	Era of Official Patronage	ca. A.D. 325-500
2:18-29	Thyatira	Middle Ages	ca. A.D. 500-1000
3:1-6	Sardis	Protestant Reformation	ca. A.D. 1000-1500
3:7-13	Philadelphia	Missionary Era	ca. A.D. 1500-1900
3:14-22	Laodicea	Modern Period	ca. A.D. 1900-????

<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/dcc/revelation-3.html>

1 Thess. 5:9 For **God hath not appointed us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rev. 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, **I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world**, to try them that dwell upon the earth.



## Conclusion



<http://www.victorianweb.org/painting/whh/replete/P16.html>



Isa. 55:1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and **he that hath no money**; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk **without money and without price**.

2 Wherefore do ye spend money for *that which* is not bread? and **your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me**, and eat ye *that which* is good, and **let your soul delight itself** in fatness.

3 Incline your ear, and **come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live**; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *even* the sure mercies of David.

4 **Behold, I have given him for a witness** to the people, a leader and commander to the people.

5 **Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not**, and nations *that* knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee.

6 **Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:**

7 **Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**

8 For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9 For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, **so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.**



## William Holman Hunt

- The closed door was the obstinately shut mind,
- the weeds the cumber of daily neglect, the accumulated hindrances of sloth;
- the orchard the garden of delectable fruit for the dainty feast of the soul.
- The music of the still small voice was the summons to the sluggard to awaken and become a zealous labourer under the Divine Master;
- the bat flitting about only in darkness was a natural symbol of ignorance;
- the kingly and priestly dress of Christ, the sign of His reign over the body and the soul, to them who could give their allegiance to Him and acknowledge God's overrule.
- In making it a night scene, lit mainly by the lantern carried by Christ, I had followed metaphorical explanation in the Psalms, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path," with also the accordant allusions by St. Paul to the sleeping soul, "The night is far spent, the day is at hand." (I.350-51)
- There is no door-handle on the outside – it must be opened from the inside.