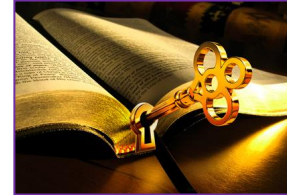




# Revelation

Unlocking the Future



*Lesson 05*

## Who's that Knocking at my Door?

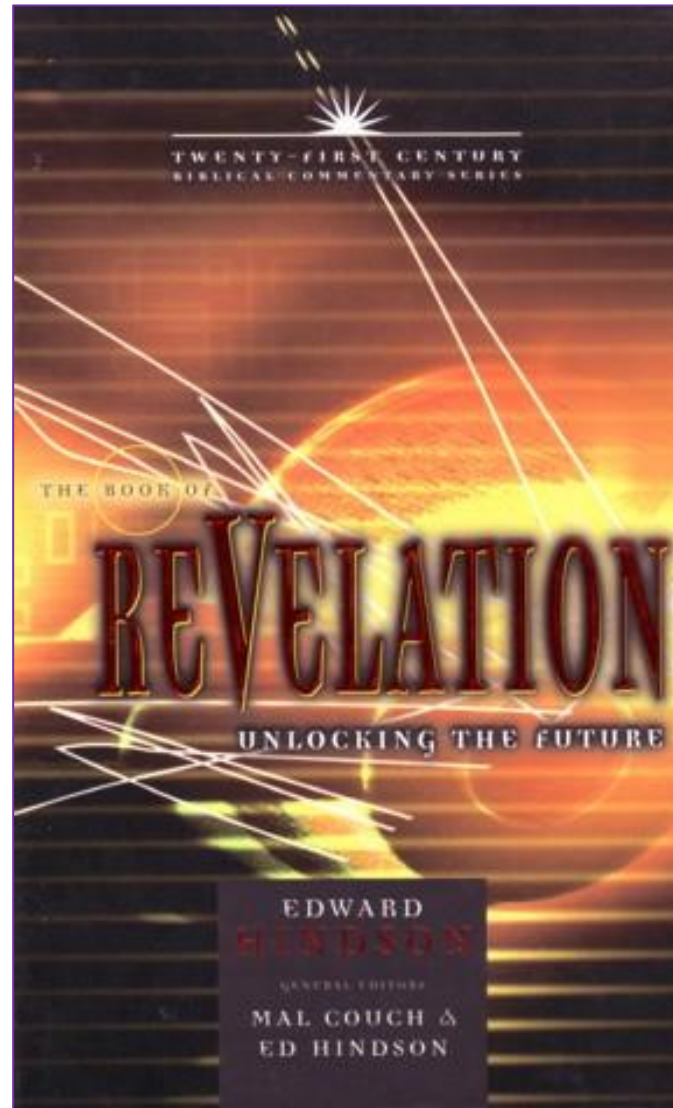
**Revelation 3**

Philip Giorgio

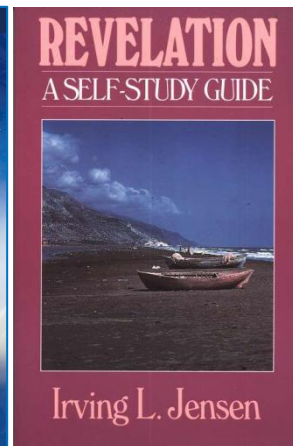
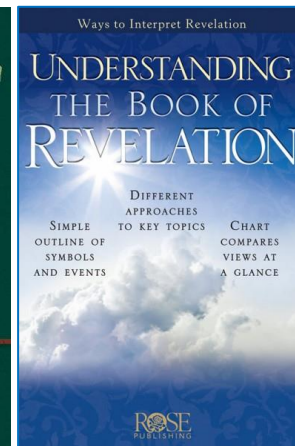
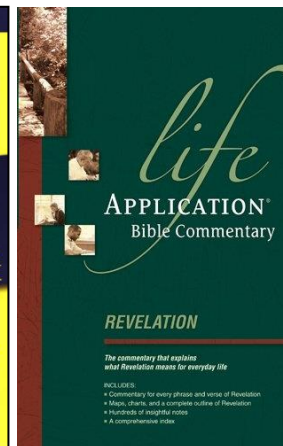
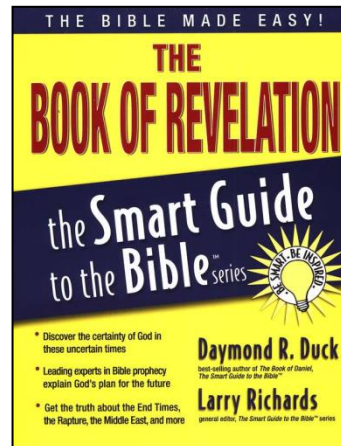
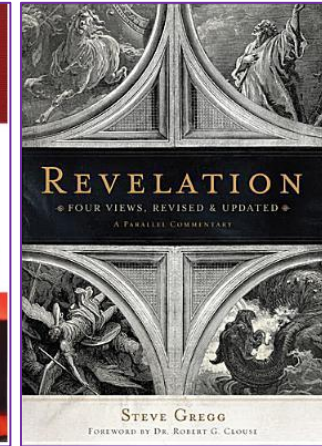
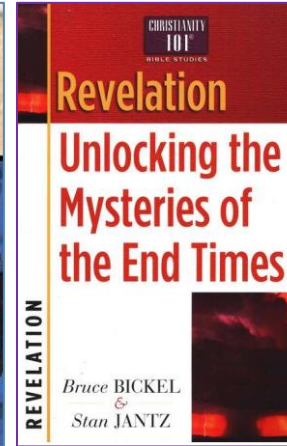
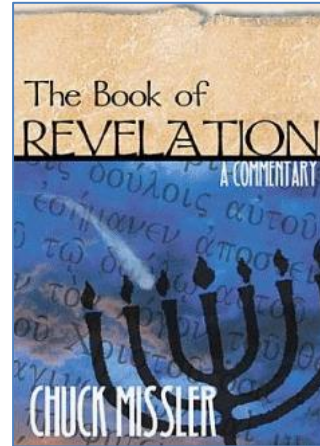
Sojourners Sunday School Class



## Textbook



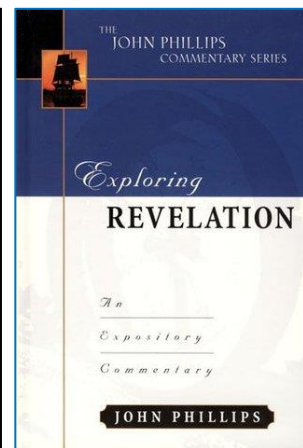
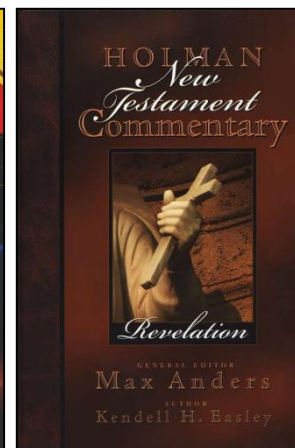
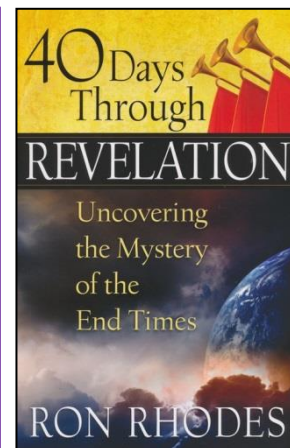
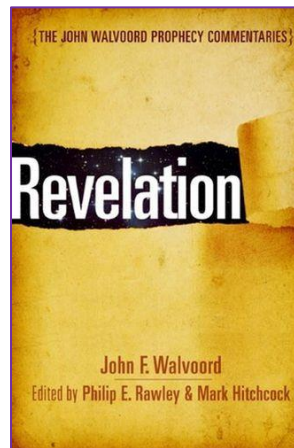
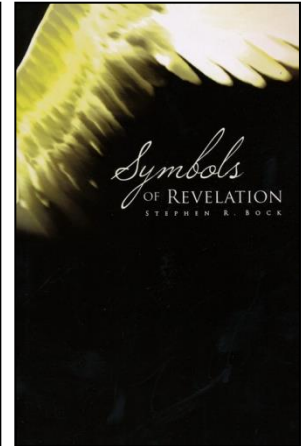
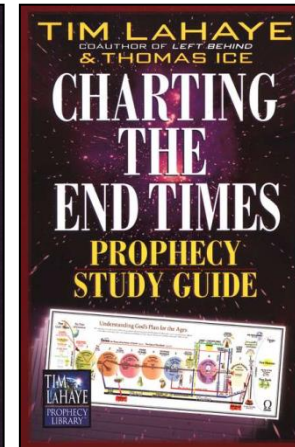
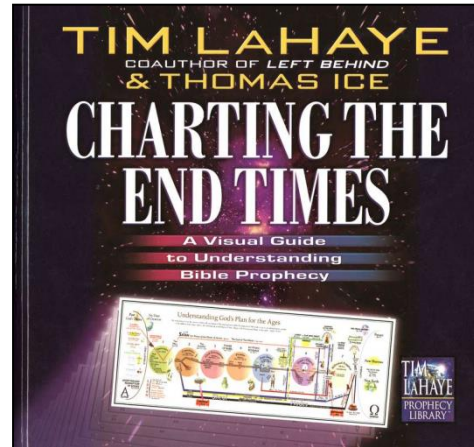
## References



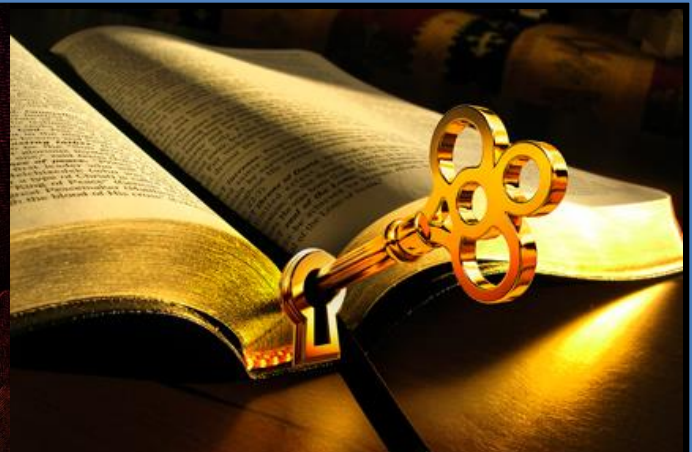




## References









# Course Outline



# Course Outline - Lessons

## ▪ Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 01: Book Survey ... [REVELATION]
- Lesson 02: Major Themes ... [REVELATION]
- Lesson 03: What in the World is Happening? ... [REVELATION 1:1-20]
- Lesson 04: Judgment Begins at the House of God ... [REVELATION 2:1-29]
- Lesson 05: Who's that Knocking at my Door? ... [REVELATION 3:1-22]
- Lesson 06: God is still on the Throne ... [REVELATION 4:1-11]
- Lesson 07: Worthy is the Lamb ... [REVELATION 5:1-14]
- Lesson 08: The Wrath of the Lamb ... [REVELATION 6:1-17]
- Lesson 09: From Tribulation to Jubilation ... [REVELATION 7:1-17]
- Lesson 10: The World at War ... [REVELATION 8:1-13]
- Lesson 11: Demons Unleashed ... [REVELATION 9:1-21]
- Lesson 12: Can it get any Worse? ... [REVELATION 10:1-11]



# Course Outline - Lessons

## ▪ **Revelation: Unlocking the Future**

- Lesson 13: Hell on Earth! ... [REVELATION 11:1-19]
- Lesson 14: War in Heaven ... [REVELATION 12:1-17]
- Lesson 15: Rise of the Antichrist ... [REVELATION 13:1-18]
- Lesson 16: Wine Press of the Wrath of God ... [REVELATION 14:1-20]
- Lesson 17: The Seven Last Plagues ... [REVELATION 15:1-8]
- Lesson 18: Battle of Armageddon ... [REVELATION 16:1-21]
- Lesson 19: Riding the Beast... [REVELATION 17:1-18]
- Lesson 20: Fall of Babylon ... [REVELATION 18:1-24]
- Lesson 21: Triumphal Return of Christ ... [REVELATION 19:1-21]
- Lesson 22: The Millennial Kingdom ... [REVELATION 20:1-15]
- Lesson 23: New Jerusalem ... [REVELATION 21:1-27]
- Lesson 24: Inside the Glorious City ... [REVELATION 22:1-21]



# Lesson Outline

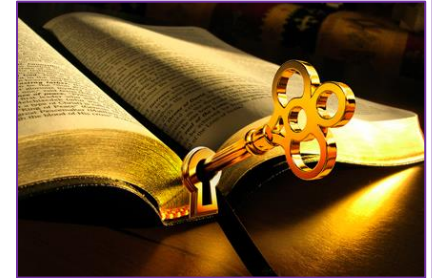
# Lesson 05 - Outline

## ■ Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 05: Who's that Knocking at my Door?

### ✓ STRUCTURE

- » Chapter Preview ..... *Introduction*
- » Sardis: The Dead Church.....*Revelation 3:1-6*
- » Philadelphia: The Faithful Church.....*Revelation 3:7-13*
- » Laodicea: The Lukewarm Church..... *Revelation 3:14-22*







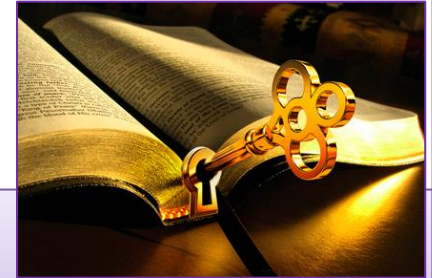
# Who's that Knocking at my Door?

***Structure***

# Lesson 05 - Outline

## ■ Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 05: Who's that Knocking at my Door?



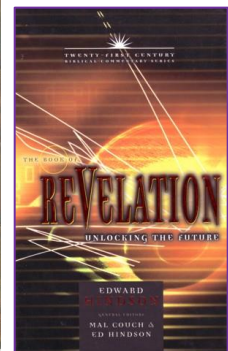
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# Chapter Preview - INTRODUCTION

## • Preview

- The letters to the seven churches conclude in this chapter. Each letter includes a personal assessment of the local church by Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church.
- In the Last letter, the Laodiceans are pictured as closing Him out of their church. Imagine the Lord of the Church knocking on the door of the church, asking us to let Him in

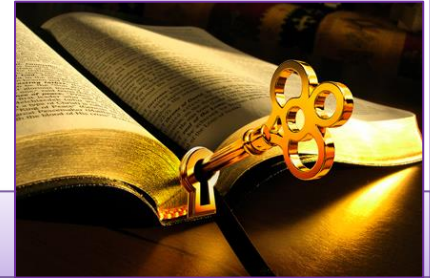




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- Lesson 05: Who's that Knocking at my Door?



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➔ » Sardis: The Dead Church.....*Revelation 3:1-6*

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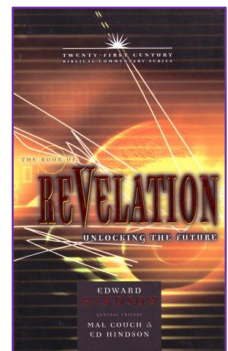
» Laodicea: The Lukewarm Church..... *Revelation 3:14-22*

# Sardis - PROFILE

## • Sardis: The Dead Church

- Sardis was once a prominent and wealthy city in Lydia.
- Sardis was devastated by an earthquake in **AD 17**.
- It continued to exist, but it's residents chose to dwell on its dead past instead of prospering - *never regaining their former wealth and power*.
- The city of Sardis had a reputation for being on top of the world, but that position had ceased to be a reality. The city seemed to have life, but in fact it was merely a shell of what it had been.
- The church of Sardis had all the external marks of a busy, productive church life. But decay was taking its toll internally - *leaving the glory days lost in the memory of what had been*.

DO WE NOT  
SEE THIS IN  
CHURCH  
MOVEMENTS  
TODAY?



# Sardis - Revelation 3:1a - OBSERVATIONS

- **Sardis: Characteristic**

- Jesus describes Himself as the one who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars
- **Seven Stars**
  - Seven stars are the seven angels of the seven churches, and they are in Jesus' right hand (1:20)
  - Seven angels are the seven pastors of the seven churches
- **Seven Spirits**
  - Seven Spirits of God is a reference to the Holy Spirit
  - The life-giving Spirit was badly needed by the lifeless church in Sardis

**3** "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

--- Revelation 3:1 ... NKJV

## SCORECARD SNAPSHOT

CHRIST CRITICIZES THE MAJORITY OF THE **SARDIS** BELIEVERS FOR BEING SPIRITUALLY ASLEEP; SO THEY MUST REPENT AND RETURN TO THEIR EARLIER SPIRITUAL LIVELINESS.



# Sardis - Revelation 3:1 - OBSERVATIONS

- **Sardis: Compliment**

- Sardis is only one of two churches that does not warrant a compliment from Christ
- **Can you name the other?**
  - Laodicea

- **Sardis: Criticism**

- Christ's criticism
  - The complaint Christ lodges against this church is that its reputation is faulty.
  - Others may think that this congregation is lively;
  - Christ knows differently.
  - The church is almost **spiritually dead**.
  - A **corpse** may be beautiful, but it is still dead.
  - In contemporary terms, Sardis was filled with *"nominal Christians"*.

**3** "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

--- Revelation 3:1 ... NKJV

## **LET US EXAMINE OURSELVES.**

LET US NOT DECEIVE OURSELVES TO THINK WE HAVE A NAME AND ARE ALIVE, **IF** WE ARE DEAD.

# Sardis - Revelation 3:2-4 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Sardis: Command

- The urgent command Christ gives, lies in a series of five verbs, (1) be watchful (2) strengthen (3) remember (4) hold fast & (5) repent.
- Foreign armies had captured Sardis twice in history because its failure to watch. The believers in Sardis now have an opportunity to avoid a parallel spiritual destiny.
- The church's works appeared wonderful to those outside the church, but they were not perfect (*complete*) before God.

<sup>2</sup> Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. <sup>3</sup> Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. <sup>4</sup> You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

--- Revelation 2:2-4 ... NKJV

# Sardis - Revelation 3:2-4 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Sardis: Command

- Part of the remedy was for Sardis to **remember** its glorious past, when it had been spiritually alive.
- When the believers in Sardis were converted, they had received something important - **the Gospel and the Holy Spirit**. They had forgotten about the Spirit's work.
- They must **repent** of their neglect of the spirit and obey the command to "*be filled with the spirit*" (Ephesians 5:18).
- Christ threatens to judge the lifeless Sardis church by coming upon them as a thief at an unexpected time. [Matthew 24:43; Luke 12:39; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 16:15]

<sup>2</sup> Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. <sup>3</sup> Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. <sup>4</sup> You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

--- Revelation 2:2-4 ... NKJV



# Sardis - Revelation 3:2-4 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Sardis: Command

- Is it possible for a “dead orthodox” church to change?
  - Yes.
- In Sardis a few had remained faithful.
- They had not defiled their garments by assuming that the appearance of true religion can substitute for the reality.
- Christ does not ask these faithful few to leave the majority, but to maintain their presence as a witness.
- Christ commends them worthy of special praise.
- They will appear dressed in white one day, revealed as truly righteous. Their righteousness was not the appearance but the reality, because they *“washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”* (Revelation 7:14)
- Their righteousness was based on Christ’s death for them, which results in righteous living.

<sup>2</sup> Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. <sup>3</sup> Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. <sup>4</sup> You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

--- Revelation 2:2-4 ... NKJV

# Sardis - Revelation 3:5-6 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Sardis: Commitment

- He who overcomes
  - These overcomers from all ages and all churches shall be clothed in white just as the faithful few in Sardis will be clothed.
- Book of Life
  - Reference to this book goes back as far as [Exodus 32:33](#)

<sup>33</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book. -- [Exodus 32:33 ... NKJV](#)

- Christ specifies His commitment to the overcomers with a negative and positive promise.

**Negative:** I will not blot out his name from the Book of life.

**Positive:** I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

<sup>5</sup> He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

<sup>6</sup> "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

--- [Revelation 3:5-6 ... NKJV](#)

BOTH OF THESE  
SYMBOLIZE  
ETERNAL LIFE

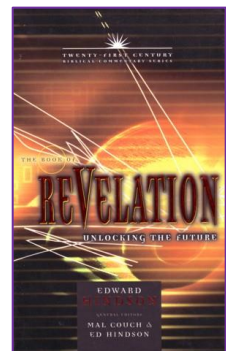
# Sardis - REVIEW

- Sardis: The Dead Church

SCORECARD	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
MESSAGE	Return to spiritual life	3:1-6
CHARACTERISTIC	Holds the seven spirits and the seven stars	3:1a
COMPLIMENT	None	----
CRITICISM	Spiritually dead	3:1b
COMMAND	Wake up	3:2-4
COMMITMENT	Will receive white clothes and a name	3:5-6



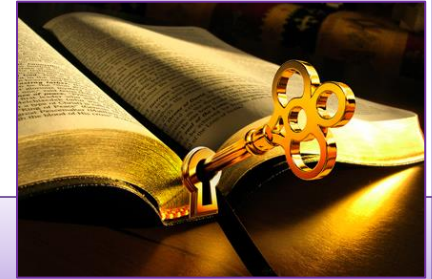
HOW DOES YOUR "REPORT CARD" LOOK?  
HOW CAN YOU IMPROVE IT?



# Lesson 05 - Outline

## ■ Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 05: Who's that Knocking at my Door?



### ✓ STRUCTURE

- » Chapter Preview ..... *Introduction*
- » Sardis: The Dead Church.....*Revelation 3:1-6*
- ➔ » Philadelphia: The Faithful Church.....*Revelation 3:7-13*
- » Laodicea: The Lukewarm Church..... *Revelation 3:14-22*



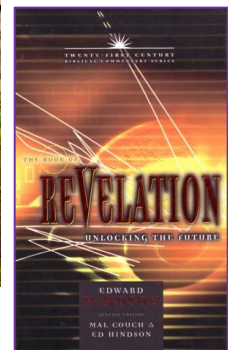
# Philadelphia - PROFILE

## • Philadelphia: The Faithful Church

- Like its neighbor Sardis, Philadelphia was demolished by a massive earthquake in AD17.
- Though the city was quite small at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century, it was home to a strong Jewish community. It's likely that a large percentage of Christians in Philadelphia were Jewish - *which caused severe conflict between the church and members of the synagogue.*
- In light of Philadelphia's disastrous earthquake, it's significant that Jesus promised that they would be made pillars in the temple of God, never to go out from it again (3:12).

ARE YOU A  
PILLAR IN  
YOUR LOCAL  
ASSEMBLY?

CAN YOU BE  
COUNTED  
ON TO BEAR  
THE WEIGHT  
OF  
SUPPORT?



# Philadelphia - Revelation 3:7 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Philadelphia: Characteristic

- For the first time in these letters Christ identifies Himself with a symbol not found in the opening vision of [chapter 1](#).
- He who has the key of David
  - Similar to Isaiah's prophecy concerning Eliakim, who became the royal guardian of ancient Jerusalem.

<sup>22</sup> The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open. --- Isaiah 22:22 ... NKJV

- Christ alone has the authority to admit persons to His heavenly city.
  - *Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people!*
- Because He is holy and true, no one can ever argue that His admission of some and refusal of others is unrighteous.

<sup>7</sup> "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens":

--- Revelation 3:7 ... NKJV

## SCORECARD SNAPSHOT

CHRIST ENCOURAGES THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA TO TAKE HEART THAT THE OPEN DOOR TO HEAVEN IS THEIRS DESPITE HUMAN AND SATANIC HOSTILITY AND TO "HOLD ON" AS CHRIST PROMISES TO PROTECT THEM IN THE FACE OF A COMING WORLDWIDE TRIAL.

# Philadelphia - Revelation 3:8-10 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Philadelphia: Compliment

- The church of Philadelphia was small. Its members had little strength to oppose the forces of evil.
- Yet they had kept My word and have not denied my name. And kept My command to persevere.
- In the city, members of the Jewish synagogue had played havoc with the believers. They claimed to be the true people of God, but they were not. Their claim to be Jews was based on biology rather than having the faith that Abraham had demonstrated ... [Romans 4:13-16; 9:8](#)
- They had actually become the synagogue of Satan, just like in Smyrna ... [Revelation 2:9](#)
- They were liars in their rejection of Christ and His followers, for they had been deceived by the devil.

<sup>8</sup> "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. <sup>9</sup> Indeed I will make *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup> Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

--- Revelation 2:9 ... NKJV

# Philadelphia - Revelation 3:8-10 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Philadelphia: Compliment

- Christ's compliment includes three specific pledges

1. **He** had set before them an open door that no one can shut. [Refers to: **Entrance to heaven**]
2. **He** promised that hostile Jews would one day be made to come and worship before your feet. [Refers to: **Final judgment and recognition of Christ**]

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. --- Philippians 2:9-11 ... NKJV

3. **He** promised to keep the Philadelphia believers from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world. [Refers to: **The Great Tribulation**]

<sup>8</sup> "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. <sup>9</sup> Indeed I will make *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup> Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

--- Revelation 2:9 ... NKJV



# Philadelphia - Revelation 3:11 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Philadelphia: Criticism

- Philadelphia is only one of two churches that Christ do not warrant a criticism.
- **Can you name the other?**
  - Smyrna

## • Philadelphia: Command

- Christ's prescription is tailored to their need.
  - They must hold fast to what you have.
  - So that no one may take your crown.
- The term crown is the word for a victor's crown - *the ancient equivalent of a modern Olympic medal.*



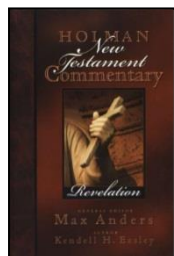
**11** Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

--- Revelation 3:11 ... NKJV

KEEPING A FIRM GRIP CAN  
BE DIFFICULT FOR THOSE  
OF LITTLE STRENGTH.

YET CHRIST COMMANDS  
US TO HOLD FAST TO HIM.

**HE WILL BE WITH US.  
HE WILL NEVER LEAVE  
OR FORSAKE US.**



# Philadelphia - Revelation 3:12-13 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Philadelphia: Commitment

- Jesus's commitment to the overcomer is ...
  - I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God
  - I will write on him the name of My God
  - I will write on him the name of the City of My God, the New Jerusalem - *refers to the new heavens, new earth and the new Jerusalem ... Revelation 21-22*
  - I will write on him My new name - *Jesus has a new name in Heaven*

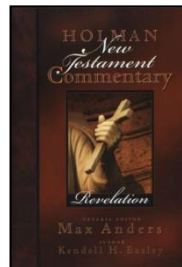
<sup>22</sup> But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup> The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light. <sup>24</sup> And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. <sup>25</sup> Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). <sup>26</sup> And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. <sup>27</sup> But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

--- Revelation 21:22-27 .. NKJV [The Glory of the New Jerusalem]

<sup>12</sup> He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on 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 *I will write on him* My new name.

<sup>13</sup> "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

--- Revelation 2:12-13 ... NKJV



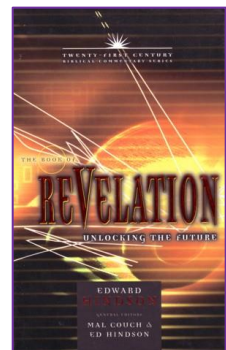
# Philadelphia - REVIEW

- Philadelphia: The Faithful Church

SCORECARD	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
MESSAGE	Be sure of the kingdom	3:7-13
CHARACTERISTIC	Holds the key of David	3:7
COMPLIMENT	Kept Christ's name patiently	3:8-10
CRITICISM	None	----
COMMAND	Hold on	3:11
COMMITMENT	Will be an inscribed pillar in God's temple	3:12-13



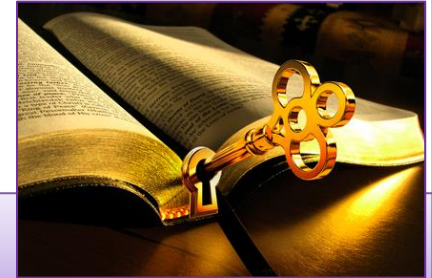
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- » Sardis: The Dead Church.....*Revelation 3:1-6*
- » Philadelphia: The Faithful Church.....*Revelation 3:7-13*
- ➔ » Laodicea: The Lukewarm Church..... *Revelation 3:14-22*



# Laodicea - PROFILE

## • Laodicea: The Lukewarm Church

- Devastated by an earthquake in AD 60, Laodicea chose to pull itself up without the assistance of Rome - *like Philadelphia did*.
- Because of its location on important Asian trade routes, Laodicea quickly became one of the wealthiest cities in the region.

Poor

- Laodicea was a major banking center of Asia Minor.

[ 'frijēən ]

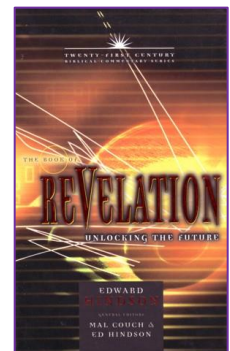
Blind

- Laodicea was also famous for its medicine - *especially known for Phrygian powder, a substance mixed with water was used as a salve to treat ailments of the eye.*

Naked

- Laodicea had a thriving textile trade - *coveted garments woven from a special wool found only in Laodicea.*

<sup>7</sup> 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— --- Revelation 3:17 ... NKJV



# Laodicea - Revelation 3:14 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Laodicea: Characteristic

- *Lao* = people; *Diceans* = rulers: "*Rule of/by people*"
- Christ identifies Himself for Laodicea as

1. The Amen
2. The Faithful and True Witness
3. The Beginning of the creation of God

- As with the letter to Philadelphia, this description is not a part of the vision of [chapter 1](#).

### 1. The Amen - "*the truth*"

- Jesus is full of grace and truth ... [John 1:14](#)
- Christ as the truth is contrasted with the untrustworthiness of the Laodiceans

### 2. The Faithful and True Witness

- John referred to Jesus by this title in [Revelation 1:5](#)

### 3. The Beginning of the creation of God

- Jesus is the firstborn over all creation ... [Colossians 1:15](#)
- Christ as supreme Creator and Ruler of the universe has every right to critique His wayward church.

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:

--- Revelation 3:14 ... NKJV

## SCORECARD SNAPSHOT

THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA IS GUILTY OF SUCH SELF-SUFFICIENCY THAT THEY MUST REPENT AND RECEIVE CHRIST'S PROVISION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IN ORDER AGAIN TO EXPERIENCE INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM

# Laodicea - Revelation 3:15-17 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Laodicea: Compliment

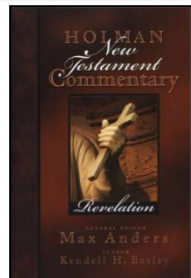
- Laodicea is only one of two churches that does not warrant a compliment from Christ
- **Can you name the other?**
  - Sardis

## • Laodicea: Criticism

- I know your works: you cannot hide from God
- The Laodicean believers were neither cold nor hot - *repeated three times for emphasis.*
- They are lukewarm.
  - Common Interpretation
    - Hot = spiritual fervor
    - Cold = outright antagonism to the things of God
    - The Lord prefers outright rejection than spiritual "lukewarmness" (*indifference*)
- This is the only church for which the Lord expresses a form of disgust

<sup>15</sup> "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. <sup>17</sup> 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—

--- Revelation 3:15-17 ... NKJV



# Laodicea - Revelation 3:15-17 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Laodicea: Criticism

### • Historical Interpretation

- Laodicea was near two cities.
- Hierapolis: had hot medicinal waters.
- Colossae: had cold, pure, refreshing water.
- Both waters were excellent in these cities.
- The water in Laodicea was lukewarm, it was awful.
  - Example: tea ... *We drink it hot or cold, not lukewarm*

### • Christ threatens to vomit you out of My mouth.

- Vomit means He will judge and reject them for their self-righteousness or self-sufficiency - *rather than spiritual fervor.*
- The symptoms of their barrenness are specified in [verse 17](#).

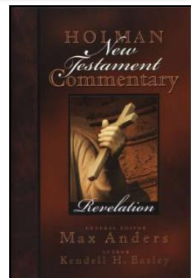
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--- Revelation 3:15-17 ... NKJV

WE NEED TO TAKE OUR OWN TEMPERATURE TO ENSURE WE ARE NOT LUKEWARM TO OUR LORD.

THAT WE ARE NOT SELF-RIGHTEOUS OR SELF-SUFFICIENT.

WE NEED TO DEPEND ON THE HOLY SPIRIT TO EMPOWER US!





# Laodicea - Revelation 3:15-17 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Laodicea: Criticism

### • The Danger is of the Disregarded Principle

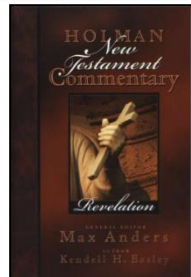
- Religion enough to lull the conscience, not to save the soul;
- Halting between two opinions  

1 Kings 18:21; 2 Kings 17:41;  
Ezekiel 20:39; Matthew 6:24
- The hot and cold springs near Laodicea illustrate the simile.
- The certain barrier to truth is the presumption that one already has it.

HOW MANY OF THE MAJOR DENOMINATIONS MANIFEST A TRUE PASSION FOR THE GOSPEL *TODAY*?

<sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!  
 --- 2 Timothy 3:5 ... NKJV

<sup>15</sup> "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. <sup>17</sup> 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—  
 --- Revelation 3:15-17 ... NKJV



# Laodicea - Revelation 3:15-17 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Laodicea: Criticism

- “Name It & Claim It” or “Blab It & Grab It”
  - Scriptural?
  - God always warns the rich.
  - Contrast Smyrna - “poor but rich”

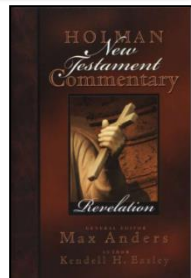
**THIS CHURCH IS SPIRITUALLY POVERTY-STRICKEN!**

**21** “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. **22** Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ **23** And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

--- Matthew 7:21-23 ... NKJV

**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—

--- Revelation 3:15-17 ... NKJV



# Laodicea - Revelation 3:18-20 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Laodicea: Command

- There is still hope for this church. Christ cares for its members.
- Christ's command is threefold

1. Buy from Me gold refined in the fire

- that you may be rich

THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE RICH - YET THEY WERE POOR

2. Buy from Me white garments

- that you may be clothed

THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE CLOTHED - YET THEY WERE NAKED

3. Anoint your eyes with eye salve

- that you may see

THEY THOUGHT THEY COULD SEE- YET THEY WERE BLIND

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. <sup>20</sup> 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.

--- Revelation 3:18-20 ... NKJV

# Laodicea - Revelation 3:18-20 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Laodicea: Command

- The Lord's criticism is based on His love
  - Love: Greek - *phileo* : to have tender compassion
- Christ's declaration of love is balanced by a severe expectation of rebuke and chastening.
- The believers of Laodicea must repent of their self-sufficiency and be zealous.
- Christ not only wants to provide gold, garments, and eye salve to this church. He wants them to enjoy His person, and His fellowship. If they open the door, He will provide them all these things.
- The verb for knock suggests insistent, repeated pounding.
- Note: "anyone", "him", "he" - invitation is addressed for the individual believer.

**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.

--- Revelation 3:18-20 ... NKJV

JESUS IS KNOCKING AT THE DOOR OF YOUR HEART.  
WILL YOU LET HIM IN TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH YOU?



# Laodicea - Revelation 3:21-22 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Laodicea: Commitment

- Jesus knows that some will respond - some will overcome and be granted to sit with Christ on His throne. **Who's Throne(s)?**
- Jesus identifies with the overcomer since He overcame and sat down with the (My) Father on His (the Father's) throne.
- Overcame: Christ's conquest of sin at His first coming is in view here.
  - Later in Revelation, His ultimate conquest of God's enemies is described ... [Revelation 17:14](#).
- Sit on Christ's throne: Reference to the reign and rule of God's people throughout eternity - *not the actual sitting on the actual throne*.

<sup>21</sup> 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.

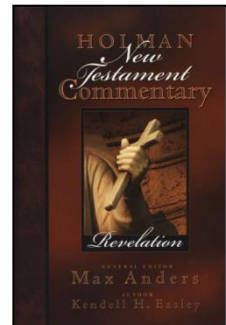
<sup>22</sup> "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.""

--- Revelation 3:21-22 ... NKJV

In the next chapter we will be in the Throne Room of God!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR?

THEN HEAR WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS SAYING TO THE CHURCHES,  
YOUR LOCAL CHURCH, AND TO YOU PERSONALLY!



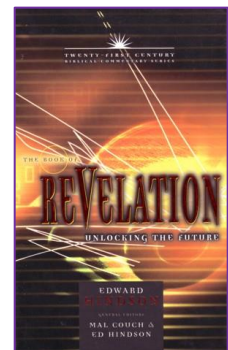
# Laodicea - REVIEW

- Laodicea: The Lukewarm Church

SCORECARD	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
MESSAGE	Repent of self-sufficiency	3:14-22
CHARACTERISTIC	True witness and ruler of creation	3:14
COMPLIMENT	None	----
CRITICISM	Spiritual ineffectiveness and poverty	3:15-17
COMMAND	Receive Christ's spiritual provision and person	3:18-20
COMMITMENT	Will sit with Christ on His throne	3:21-22



HOW DOES YOUR "REPORT CARD" LOOK?  
HOW CAN YOU IMPROVE IT?







Instructor: Philip Giorgio  
[www.GiorgioMinistries.com](http://www.GiorgioMinistries.com)

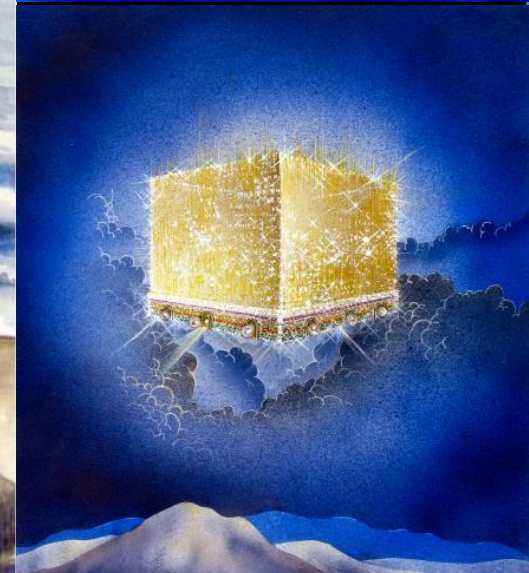
# Revelation

*"Unlocking the Future"*

## End of Lesson



Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. **Rev. 1:3 NKJV**



Revelation Illustrated - Pat Marvenko Smith



# Revelation: Unlocking the Future

Lesson **06**:  
God is still on the Throne  
[**Revelation 4**]

***Next Week's Lesson***



# Next Week's Lesson

## ▪ Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 01: Book Survey ... [REVELATION]
- Lesson 02: Major Themes ... [REVELATION]
- Lesson 03: What in the World is Happening? ... [REVELATION 1:1-20]
- Lesson 04: Judgment Begins at the House of God ... [REVELATION 2:1-29]
- Lesson 05: Who's that Knocking at my Door? ... [REVELATION 3:1-22]
- Lesson 06: God is still on the Throne ... [REVELATION 4:1-11]
- Lesson 07: Worthy is the Lamb ... [REVELATION 5:1-14]
- Lesson 08: The Wrath of the Lamb ... [REVELATION 6:1-17]
- Lesson 09: From Tribulation to Jubilation ... [REVELATION 7:1-17]
- Lesson 10: The World at War ... [REVELATION 8:1-13]
- Lesson 11: Demons Unleashed ... [REVELATION 9:1-21]
- Lesson 12: Can it get any Worse? ... [REVELATION 10:1-11]

# Next Week's Lesson

## ▪ Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 13: Hell on Earth! ... [REVELATION 11:1-19]
- Lesson 14: War in Heaven ... [REVELATION 12:1-17]
- Lesson 15: Rise of the Antichrist ... [REVELATION 13:1-18]
- Lesson 16: Wine Press of the Wrath of God ... [REVELATION 14:1-20]
- Lesson 17: The Seven Last Plagues ... [REVELATION 15:1-8]
- Lesson 18: Battle of Armageddon ... [REVELATION 16:1-21]
- Lesson 19: Riding the Beast... [REVELATION 17:1-18]
- Lesson 20: Fall of Babylon ... [REVELATION 18:1-24]
- Lesson 21: Triumphal Return of Christ ... [REVELATION 19:1-21]
- Lesson 22: The Millennial Kingdom ... [REVELATION 20:1-15]
- Lesson 23: New Jerusalem ... [REVELATION 21:1-27]
- Lesson 24: Inside the Glorious City ... [REVELATION 22:1-21]

