

A yellow envelope is shown against a dark wood background. Inside the envelope is a card with a textured, parchment-like appearance. The card features a large, bold red number '7' in the center. Below the '7', the words 'SEVEN LETTERS' are printed in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. Underneath that, 'REVELATION 2-3' is printed in a smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font. The card has faint, illegible text in the background, suggesting it might be a page from a book or a document.

7
SEVEN
LETTERS
REVELATION 2-3

(Recap Part 2)

Truth Matters Church, Inc.

Overview of Today's Study



❧ RECAP: 7 Letters to the 7 Churches

- ❧ Historical Context
- ❧ Commendations, if any
- ❧ Criticisms, if any
- ❧ Exhortations
- ❧ Promises

❧ TAKE AWAYS

- ❧ Reflections



SARDIS: ALIVE BUT DEAD

REVELATION 3:1-6

Sardis: Historical Context



- ✧ Church founder unknown
- ✧ In ancient of ancient times, ruled by the Hittites
- ✧ Known for its public gymnasium, theatre, stadium
- ✧ Also known for the oldest coin in world history
 - ✧ Lydian Stater
- ✧ Had many temples and shrines erected to Greek gods, goddesses, Roman emperors
 - ✧ Artemis temple was under construction at penning of this book
- ✧ Early church father Melito's work and writings may have helped influence the eventual legalization of Christianity in 4th Century AD

Sardis: Commendations



❧ Reputation of being a live

❧ Kind of a back-handed compliment (they received their reward)

❧ A few in Sardis did not soil their garments (did not sleep with temple prostitutes)

Sardis: Criticisms



- ✧ Although they had a reputation of being a live, they were dead
- ✧ Incomplete deeds
 - ✧ We can fall short of the deeds or works that God has set before us
 - ✧ The good works set before them is about to die and go unfinished because of sexual sin

Sardis: Exhortations



- ✧ Jesus gave them time to wake up and strengthen the things that remain (unfinished deeds)
- ✧ Remember the gospel, keep it and repent OR ELSE Jesus will come “like a thief” (in judgment in the day of the Lord) at an hour they do not know
 - ✧ We learned that this is prophecy of the Great Battle of Armageddon!
 - ✧ Armageddon will happen at a time in history when no one knows the hour!
 - ✧ For those who were raised to a resurrection of judgment, Jesus will come upon them like a thief and at a hour that no one knows!
 - ✧ The unredeemed will be in darkness on that day! This does not apply to the us as we are not children of darkness, but children of the day!

Sardis: Promises



- ❧ The few faithful believers will be dressed in white
 - ❧ Speaks of purity and righteousness
 - ❧ Heavenly attire that Jesus Himself will provide
- ❧ Faithful believers will never be blotted from the book of life
 - ❧ Eternal Security if affirmed!
 - ❧ Will be marked present when the book of life is opened and read!
- ❧ Jesus will confess our names before His Father and the holy angels!



Philadelphia:

The Church that
Jesus
Loved



Philadelphia: Historical Context



- ✧ Church founder unknown
- ✧ Town named after King of Pergamum Attalus Philadelphus
- ✧ Had magnificent temples and shrines erected to Greek gods, goddesses, Roman emperors and public buildings
 - ✧ Known as “Little Athens”
- ✧ Also known for its wine, hot springs for medicinal and therapeutic purposes
- ✧ In his letter to the Philadelphia, Ignatius commended their “exceeding purity” just like Jesus does in this letter

Philadelphia: Brownie Points



- ✧ In our “The Key of David” study, we delved into Isaiah 22 to see what it meant when Jesus said that He “has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens”
- ✧ What is the key of David referring to?
- ✧ Who gave Him that key?

Philadelphia: Brownie Points



- ✧ In our “The Key of David” study, we delved into Isaiah 22 to see what it meant when Jesus said that He “has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens”
- ✧ What is the key of David referring to? **The Davidic Kingdom**
- ✧ Who gave Him that key? **God the Father!**

Philadelphia: Brownie Points



- ☞ The key of David is the Davidic kingdom which the Father promised to King David that He will always have son sitting on his throne, and the Father has made His choice, and He has given those keys to the glorified Son of Man, the Son of God speaking in this vision!
- ☞ And because Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth, there is nothing that the angels who joined the angelic rebellion nor any man or world power can do to thwart which was spoken of and prophesied by Almighty God!

More Brownie Points



- ❧ When Jesus says "I AM COMING QUICKLY", how is that to be understood?
 - ❧ A. He can come at any moment for the Rapture
 - ❧ B. He will pay a visit to that church in Philadelphia during their lifetime
 - ❧ C. He is coming at the end of the age TO RENDER TO EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO WHAT HE HAS DONE

More Brownie Points



- ❧ When Jesus says "I AM COMING QUICKLY", how is that to be understood?
 - ❧ A. He can come at any moment for the Rapture
 - ❧ B. He will pay a visit to that church in Philadelphia during their lifetime
 - ❧ C. He is coming at the end of the age **TO RENDER TO EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO WHAT HE HAS DONE**

Philadelphia: Commendations



- ☞ Good deeds
- ☞ Was not ashamed of the gospel (have not denied His Name)
- ☞ Endured the hostility from the Judaizers
- ☞ Held fast the gospel (kept the Word of His perseverance)

Philadelphia: Criticisms



❧ Absolutely NONE!

❧ 1 of 2 churches not to receive any criticism!

❧ The other one was Smyrna

Philadelphia: Exhortations



- ☞ Continue to endure enemies of the gospel
 - ☞ By those claiming to be Jews (synagogue of Satan)
- ☞ Continue to hold fast the gospel and faith

Philadelphia: Promises



- ✧ Faithful believers will receive a Crown encompassing:
 - ✧ Righteousness
 - ✧ Eternal Life
 - ✧ Glory
- ✧ Jesus will make us pillars of truth in the heavenly temple of His Father
- ✧ Jesus will write on our minds/hearts (forehead):
 - ✧ The Name of His Father
 - ✧ The Name of the New Jerusalem
 - ✧ His new Name



HE WHO OVERCOMES

I will make him a **PILLAR** in

the **Temple of My God**

he will not go out from it anymore; and 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 heaven from My God, and My new name

REVELATION 3:12



LAODICEA

THE LUKEWARM CHURCH

Laodicea: Historical Context



- ❧ Church founder unknown
- ❧ Named after wife (Laodice) of Greek Seleucid king Antiochus II
- ❧ Known for its wealth and economic prominence during Roman power
 - ❧ Especially for its production in eye salve
- ❧ Also known for really poor tasting and smelling lukewarm water
 - ❧ Unlike their neighbors Hierapolis (hot springs); Colossae (cold springs)
 - ❧ Artemis temple was under construction at penning of this book
- ❧ Had great Jewish presence who settled there after Babylonian captivity

Laodicea: Commendations



❧ Absolutely NONE

❧ Only church of the 7 churches to have nothing positive to say

❧ Question: Were any of them saved at the penning of this letter?

Laodicea: Criticism



- ❧ Neither cold nor hot (lukewarm)
- ❧ Claimed to be rich, acquired wealth, and have no need
- ❧ Failed to realize they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked

Laodicea: Brownie Points



- ✧ In our “I Stand at the Door and Knock” study, we delved into to see what it meant when Jesus said that He “stands at the door and knocks”
- ✧ What door is being referred to?
- ✧ What is knocking associated with?

Laodicea: Brownie Points



- ❧ In our “I Stand at the Door and Knock” study, we delved into to see what it meant when Jesus said that He “stands at the door and knocks”
- ❧ What door is being referred to? **Heaven’s door! (Rev 4)**
- ❧ What is knocking associated with? **His return to earth!**
 - ❧ It can be said that Jesus “knocked” 21 times 😊
 - ❧ 7 Seals/7 Trumpets/7 Bowls
- ❧ NOTE: Jesus may also knock on doors for certain elect (i.e. 144K)
 - ❧ Parable of the Wedding Feast

Laodicea: Exhortations



- ❧ Buy from Christ
 - ❧ Gold refined by fire
 - ❧ White garments
 - ❧ Eye salve to anoint their eyes

TRANSLATION:

- ❧ They believed they can see, however, because they do not recognize their true spiritual state, that they are wretched, pitiful, miserable, blind and naked
- ❧ Thus, when Jesus offered them these things, He was offering them SAVING FAITH, a white robe to cover their nakedness and eye salve to give them eyes to see their true spiritual condition and see clearly Who Jesus really is

Laodicea: Promises



- ❧ He will dine with us
 - ❧ Either at the marriage supper of the Lamb
 - ❧ Or sometime after that supper
 - ❧ When He returns from the Wedding Feast
- ❧ He will grant us permission to sit on His throne (the throne of David)





1st Ephesus

2nd Smyrna

3rd Pergamum

4th Thyatira

5th Sardis

6th Philadelphia

7th Laodicea

Deeds, toil, perseverance

Tribulation and poverty, but are rich

Satan's throne and dwelling place

Deeds, greater than at first, love, faith, service, perseverance

Deeds, have a reputation of being alive, but are dead

Jesus sets before them an **open door** which no one can shut

Deeds or neither cold nor hot (lukewarm) and will be spit out of Jesus's mouth

Tested apostles and found them to be false

Slandered by professed Jews and are a synagogue of Satan

Held fast and did not deny the faith

Tolerated Jezebel, self proclaimed prophetess

Deeds found incomplete

Have little power and kept Jesus' word and have not denied His Name

Deceived by their riches and wealth

Persevered, endured, and not grown weary

Do not fear about impending suffering

Held to the teaching of Balaam (put a stumbling block before Israel)

Jezebel lead believers astray to commit immorality and eat food sacrificed to idols

Called to remember the truth and repent

Persecuted by professed Jews who are a synagogue of Satan

Failed to see their sin (wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked)

Left first love (**apostasy begins**)

Devil will cast some into prison

Ate food sacrificed to idols and committed immorality

Those who refused to repent of her will be thrown into **great tribulation**

If you don't repent, Jesus will come like a thief and you will not know what hour

Jesus will honor them before these evil men

Advised to anoint their eyes so they can see their spiritual condition

Called to repent and return

Tribulation for 10 days

Called to repent for **Jesus is coming quickly**

Her children will be killed and churches know this is God's judgment on them

The few who remain faithful will walk with Christ in white

Will be kept from **hour of testing** (Rev 14:8: 7 bowl judgments) that will come upon the unbelieving world

Called to repent or will be reprovved and disciplined

Hate deeds of Nicolaitans

Be faithful until death and will receive crown of life

Jesus will make war with those who refuse to repent

Those who reject her are to hold fast until Jesus comes

The few who remain faithful are found to be worthy

Called to hold fast for **Jesus is coming quickly**

Jesus stands at the door and knocks, if he opens He will dine with him

Overcomers will eat of tree of life in Paradise of God

Overcomers will not be hurt by 2nd death

Overcomers will be given hidden manna, a white stone with his new name written on it

Overcomers will be given authority over the nations and the morning star

Overcomers will be clothed in white, not be erased from the book of life, and Jesus will confess his name

Overcomers will have a pillar in the temple, God's new Name and the new Jerusalem written on him

Overcomers will be given permission to sit on Jesus's throne

TAKE AWAYS



- ❧ The entire book of Revelation is a parable shrouded in mystery
 - ❧ Using the actual historic 7 1st century churches as part of the parable
- Matthew 13:10-13 (Parable of the Sower)
- 10 And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” 11 Jesus answered them, “**To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has not been granted. 12 For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. 13 Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

TAKE AWAYS



- ✧ Thus, the 7 letters to the 7 churches contains within it insights and prophecies concerning the end of the age and the age to come
- ✧ Examples:
 - ✧ **Ephesus:** “left your first love” + false apostles = the Great Apostasy
 - ✧ **Smyrna:** “synagogue of Satan” + “about to suffer” = great persecution at the hands of those who claim to be Jews
 - ✧ **Pergamum:** “Satan’s throne” + “Satan dwells” = arrival of Antichrist
 - ✧ **Thyatira:** known for its purple dye + Jezebel alludes to the Great Harlot who sits on many waters clothed in Purple + sitting on a scarlet beast (Rev 17)
 - ✧ **Sardis:** “like a thief” (day of the Lord) = Battle of Armageddon (Rev 16)
 - ✧ **Philadelphia:** “open door” kingdom established on earth; “hour of testing” = 7 Bowl Judgments (Rev 16)
 - ✧ **Laodicea:** “lukewarm” + “spit you out of my mouth” = judgment against the unrepentant church at the arrival of Christ

TAKE AWAYS



☞ Another key take away: I believe these 7 letters to the 7 churches are examples for all the churches that follows of what to do and not what to do

☞ In other words, what to pursue and what to avoid

1 Corinthians 10:6-11 (Concerning God not being pleased of the people of Israel during their wilderness wanderings)

6 Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved. 7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY." 8 Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. 9 Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. 10 Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

TAKE AWAYS



☞ Another key take away: I believe these 7 letters to the 7 churches are examples for all the churches that follows not to be deceived

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

☞ Many professed Christians will be in for a rude awakening when Jesus returns ☹