

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.

This, then, is the 'other' part of the Church of the Last Days, the far larger part, the part that is actively falling away from the True Faith. Jesus is obviously speaking to believers when He speaks to the Church of Philadelphia... we all want to be part of that Church, the only church to have received no correction at all but there are also genuine believers, even in Laodicea.

When Jesus says, '*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,*' He is speaking to genuine believers, albeit weak and in danger of 'falling away' but we know they are real believers because just before that He said, '*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*' Turn around! Come back! Wake up!

The writer to the Hebrews wrote: '*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. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? ⁸ But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*' Heb 12:5

This final, Laodicean Church of Revelation is growing stronger and stronger, swallowing more and more of the true Church. The modern Laodicean Church began to grow strong around the middle of the last Century. The missionaries continued, the revivals continued but error and apostasy began to creep in. It started slowly but grew ever stronger until today it is everywhere... it is growing in most Churches, Bible Schools and Seminaries... it is found everywhere!

Philadelphia and Laodicea represent a stark transitional period. Do you remember the great statue Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream? It represented the future history of the World's successive Empires; the head of gold represented Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar; it then devolved down: silver represented Persia; bronze, Greece; iron stood for Rome; later the Roman Empire would split between East and West until finally, in the End Times, a revived Roman Empire would emerge as the final World Empire ruled by the Antichrist; it would be an unstable empire like an attempt to mix iron with clay without any genuine adherence of the peoples.

The Church would follow a similar path, beginning as the golden body led by the Disciples which would then begin to devolve through false teaching and errant doctrine until the Church of the End Times would be a mixture of true believers and apostates, often, even together under the same roof.

The Book of Daniel is the Old Testament's 'partner' to the New Testament's Revelation. They actually do go hand in hand as End Time Prophecy. Not only as a picture of the history of World Civilization, but I think we can also see, in that dream, a picture of the Church's coming history.

At the end of Daniel, he is told '*Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end,*' the End Times. Dan 12:9 At the end of Revelation, Jesus tells John, '*Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.*' Rev 22:10

I believe Jesus was directly referring to what He said to Daniel, further signifying the close relationship of these two books as both being intended for the End Times, for our time.

I am simply saying that, just as the progression of the World's empires, so, too, the Church seems to have followed the same kind of path. Interestingly, the Church grew between the time of the fall of the Roman Empire and the reemergence of the revived Roman Empire of the Last Days.

Here is that dream from Daniel: *'Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. ³² This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, ³³ His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. ³⁴ Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces... and as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. ⁴³ And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, **they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men:** but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed.'* Dan 2

God was telling Nebuchadnezzar, and us, that there would be a succession of World empires with each successive empire being inferior to the previous. The final World empire of man would be divided and, so, weak; that would be the World government of the very Last Days, culminating in the rule of the Antichrist followed by the return of Jesus Christ to establish His Millennial Reign and then His Eternal Kingdom.

The Church seems to have followed a similar pattern; she began strong, vibrant and growing but, soon, apostasy began to creep in which we see, increasingly between Ephesus and Sardis until finally, the Church, too, is irreparably divided between the true Church, comprised only of genuine believers and the apostate church, comprised and inhabited, exclusively, of deceived and unsaved church-goers... *'The churchied.'*

The important element is that throughout the modern church... there is a co-mingling together of both Christians and so-called christians. Some bodies will contain more genuine believers with some being of all believers because of the faithfulness of the leadership to constantly explain the Gospel, sin and Salvation; others will be made up of more, or even all, of the unsaved... like the division of the feet and toes of the statue: iron and clay mingled but not adhering to each other, the True Church and the apostate church.

Laodicea represents that mingling of weak believers and apostate unbelievers; this is the church which, at the moment of the Rapture, through which they will have lost a few members, will wholeheartedly receive and embrace the Antichrist because they are, even now, being primed to receive that false, imitation christ.

Then, one day soon all will see the stark difference between Philadelphia and Laodicea; one moment, we will all be here; the next moment, the remnant of Philadelphian believers will vanish while the fallen away church will be told that God had taken away all the troublemakers and unbelievers, leaving the rest to prosper and take over all the regions of civilization:

1. Family 2. Religion – (Spirituality) 3. Business – (Economy, Finance) 4. Politics – (Government) 5. Education 6. Media – (Communication) 7. Arts – (Entertainment, Celebration, Sports)

They are being taught that their purpose is to 'Advance the Kingdom' until all the World is 'christianized' so that Jesus can then return, that He is now returning within each one of them.

But then, when the Antichrist comes in power and glory, as an angel of light, they will be deceived and their hearts will be hardened and darkened so that they will believe the lie and, so, willingly take his mark.

'And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: ¹² That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.' 2 Thes 2:11

God's Word warns of these wolves, these false prophets and false apostles:

Jesus said, *'Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves'* Matt 7:15

'For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.' 2 Cor 11:13

'Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.' ³ *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;* ⁴ *And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.'* 2 Tim 4:2

Today, in these very Last Days before Jesus comes for us in the Rapture, so many areas of the Church are being led into apostasy by false prophets and false apostles. False teachers, apostles and prophets have infected the Church since its birth at Pentecost. The modern false apostolic movement began in 2004 when C. Peter Wagner announced that "God told him in 2001 the apostolic era was going to begin again and that there would be **apostles** once more." Wagner's work began, in earnest, in 1996; he organized a convention of 500 'evangelical' leaders; he called it, 'The National Symposium on the Postdenominational Church. That is the deadly virus, first begun in the mind of Rick Warren, which has caused so many churches to be embarrassed of their history and to change their names to remove their historical names, such as 'Baptist,' and others.

This is all related to the 'The Third Wave of the Holy Spirit,' Dominionism, Advancing the Kingdom,' etc.

They even have their own 'Bible' now: *The Passion 'Translation;'* it is a complete rewording of God's Word in order to cause it to agree with, and promote, this dangerous heresy.

In 'The Passion,' the Bible was rewritten by one man, Brian Simmons and it is endorsed by a 'Who's Who' of apostatizing christianity: Bill Johnson, Lou Engle, Patricia King, Heidi Baker, Che Ahn, and many others. It is an heretical 'translation,' instrumental in preparing those in apostasy to willingly receive the Antichrist.

Here is Simmons to Patricia King: 'We're the seed of Christ, the 42nd generation, we complete the genealogy of Jesus. **Christ is no longer a man, He's a people.** YOU AND I CARRY LIKE MARY. WE WILL BRING FORTH THE CHRIST. THE SECOND COMING IS THE BECOMING OF THE LORD. The Father loves the Son so much, he is going to fill the earth with people just like Him.' (4 minutes 31 seconds in video).

<https://thewordlikefire.wordpress.com/2020/06/02/the-passion-translation-authors-heretical-views-about-christs-return/>

Simmons teaches: 'Christ is no longer a man, He's a people! The Second Coming is the '*Becoming* of the Lord!'

This is nothing more than the New Age ideal of 'the' christ for the New Age which will prepare them to be fully ready to receive the Antichrist. He espouses heresy, denying the Second Coming and the Millennium.

That is the modern manifestation of the great falling away, the Great Apostasy. This is Laodicea for today.

Now let's look at those various promises Jesus gives to us at the end of each of the seven letters:

Ephesus: *'To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.'*

Smyrna: *'He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.'*

Pergamos: *'To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.'*

Thyatira: *'And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: ²⁷ And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. ²⁸ And I will give him the morning star.'*

Sardis: *'He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.'*

Philadelphia: *'Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.'*

Laodicea: *'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.'*

Although each of these promises is given to a specific church of the late first century, they are one of the proofs that all of these letters were intended for every church group throughout the time of the Church on Earth and all of these promises are given to every believer, every true child of God; everyone who has put their faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work through His Life, Death and Resurrection.

John clearly established that these are for every believer when he expounded on this truth in his third Epistle, III John, chapter 5. Every believer is one who overcomes; we overcome, not by our own goodness, strength or power but because every believer's victory is in Jesus Christ and His complete Victory.

'Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.' 2 Cor 2:14

See what Paul says: it is God Who causes us to triumph in Christ... our victory, our triumph, our *overcomability* is His work and His responsibility; none of it is according to our works but according to His power and ability working through our faith in Him, and Him alone.

John writes: *'For **whatsoever is born of God** overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, **even our faith.** ⁵ Who is he that overcometh the world, but **he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**'* 1 John 5:4

If we are born again, born of God's Holy Spirit, if our faith is in Him, if we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, we have overcome the World! John tells us that every true child of God is one who overcomes.

These promises are to us:

*We will have access to the Tree of Life in the Paradise of God.

*We will never be hurt by the second death; we have Eternal Life in Him.

*We will eat of the 'hidden manna' and be given a white stone with a new name.

*He will give us power over the nations during His Millennial Reign as we rule and reign with Him, as His Bride, for 1000 years and then forever; we will be clothed in pure white linen and He will announce us, He will present us as His beloved Bride before His Father and to His angels and His promise is to never blot out our name from the Book of Life; no child of God's name will ever be blotted out of His Book.

*He will make us a pillar in His Temple and He will write upon us the Name of God, the name of New Jerusalem, our home, and His own New Name.

*When He says He will make us a pillar in God's Temple, He means as a firm and permanent position of authority as in teaching, preaching, evangelizing. We've heard the phrase: 'he's a pillar of the community,' 'he's a pillar of the church.' It means that and so much more.

*He will invite us to sit on His Throne with Him.

These are sure and certain promises The Lord Jesus Christ has given to His Bride: every true child of God. These are the kinds of things Paul referred to when He commanded us to *'set our minds on the things above, not on the things of the Earth.'* Col 3:2

*'For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, **who mind earthly things.** For our conversation **is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:**²¹ **Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.** Phpp 3:18*

Here is another example of His promise to come for us, in the Rapture, and to then change our sinful bodies into glorious eternal bodies like His own.

All of these promises are the things we are to set our minds and hearts upon, to think on, to meditate on, to imagine and look forward to... not on things of the World.