### The Seven Churches Timeline - Part 1





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### Enter The Ark of Hope

The Great Controversy between God and Satan is primarily over

"WORSHIP"

Who will you Choose?



## Get into the Ark Sanctuary





And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Exodus 25:8

**Psalms 77:13** 



### Health Snippet - Rest: Sleep

<u>**DEP-rih-VA-shun:**</u> a condition that occurs if you don't get enough sleep. It occurs if you have any of the following:

- 1. You don't get enough sleep (sleep deprivation).
- 2. Sleep at the wrong time (not as body's natural clock).
- 3. You don't sleep well (that your body needs).
- 4. You have a sleep disorder that prevents you from getting enough sleep or causes poor quality sleep.
- \*2 types of sleep: rapid eye movement (REM) & non-REM. Non-REM sleep includes deep sleep or slow wave sleep. Dreaming typically occurs during REM sleep. Non-REM & REM sleep occur in a regular pattern of 3–5 cycles a night.
- \* If not enough sleep, are sleeping at the wrong times, or have poor quality sleep, you feel very tired during the day. Sleep deficiency interferes: with work, school, driving, social functioning, trouble learning, focusing, reacting, hard to judge other people's emotions and reactions, frustrated, cranky, or worried in social situations.

The signs and symptoms of sleep deficiency: differ between children and adults. Children who are sleep deficient are overly active, have problems paying attention, misbehave & school performance can suffer.

#### HOW SLEEP AFFECTS YOUR HEALTH SLEEP DEPRIVATION IMPAIRED COGNITION INCREASES SYMPTOMS Lack of sleep impairs OF DEPRESSION A lack of sleep disrupts memory and your ability to process information. neurotransmitters to the brain which regulates mood. HIGHER LEVELS OF ANXIETY INCREASED RISK OF BREAST CANCER Lack of sleep raises Melatonin decreases when the brain's anticipatory you are exposed to light reactions, increasing late at night. A decrease in overall anxiety levels. melatonin disrupts estrogen production which can lead to breast cancer. STROKE RISK When you sleep 6 hours or less a night, INCREASED RISK your chance of a FOR HEART DISEASE stroke increases 4x. Blood pressure decreases when you sleep. INCREASED RISK FOR DIABETES Lack of sleep increases WEIGHT GAIN cortisol and norepenephrine. Sleep helps balance both are associated with hormones that make you insulin resistance. feel hungry and full. "Early to BED and Early to Rise: Makes a Man Healthy, Wealthy & Wise"

# Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?





### Yes we Can!



**Revelation 1:11** 



### The Seven Churches Timeline

God's Messages for today's church



A brief study of God's grace to His church, then and now, from the Book of Revelation Chapters 2 & 3

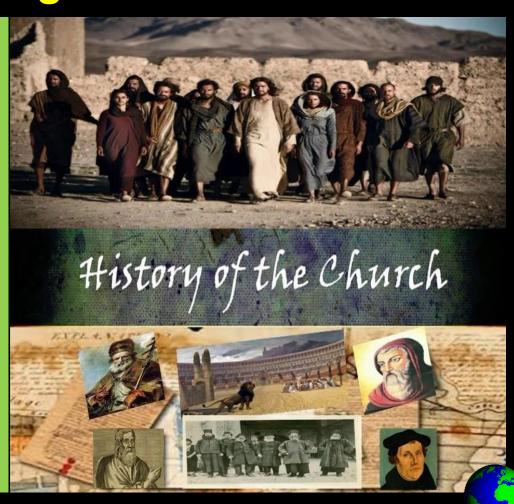


### The geographic location of the 7 churches



### Jesus reveals what the church goes through till His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming

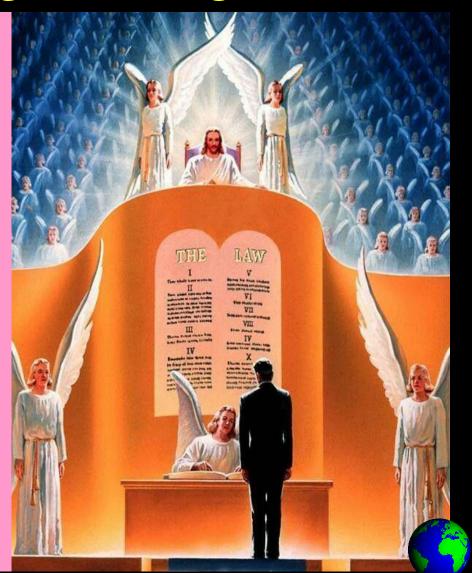
- Most pastors teach that Jesus was just addressing the churches that existed at the time it was written in 95 A.D.
- Do you really think that our Lord would have nothing to say to His church, to help them endure persecutions from the Jews, the Romans and Papal Rome?
- If Jesus's council *only* applied to the literal seven churches of the times current state, that would mean that He had nothing to say to His church that has spanned for nearly 2,000 years.
- Or of the Protestant Reformation which shined as a light with the pure gospel of Jesus, and birthed the Protestant Churches that most Christians now attend.
- Jesus clearly tells us that the prophetic events which He describes would begin to take place in the future.



#### The Seven Churches – The Investigative Judgement:

The messages are to the church, not the "world":

- The messages represent an investigative judgment of the state of the church.
- Jesus says, "I know your..." to every church.
- The condemnations do not represent Jesus' final judgment.
- Every church is given an opportunity to repent.
- Every church is instructed to listen to the Spirit.
- Compare with the parable of the ten virgins (lamps without oil)
- Some people from every "church" respond to the messages.
- Every promise has a fulfilment in the chiastic counterpart (Revelation 21-22)
- The problematic, divided church becomes a pure united bride.
- Promises made to separate churches are all realized by the one united collective church in the chiastic counterpart (Revelation 21-22)
- The "things which must take place after these things" cause the change.



#### The Seven Churches Timeline

Church Era Years							
Ephesus 33-100	Smyrna 100-313	Pergamos 313-538	Thyatira 538-1517	Sardis 1517-1755	Philadelphia 1755-1844	Laodicea 1844-2 <sup>nd</sup> Advent	
Roman Empire			Roman Catholic Church		Jesuits Of Rome		

This Revelation Timeline Bible study will show you how the 7 churches of Revelation represent seven Church eras that have spanned throughout history, and end when the Lord returns.

The book of Revelation is a war manual, which is layered. The Lord did this to hide its meaning from those who should not understand it.

Jesus wasn't merely revealing to the literal churches, but He was revealing what would happen in the future to church eras that bore their name.

The letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2-3, represent seven Church eras that have will have spanned from when Revelation was written, until Messiah returns.

The Ephesus church era faced the Roman Empire, who Satan used to try to wipe out the early church.

The Smynra church era faced the Roman Empire, and endured severe persecution, especially from 303-312 A.D.

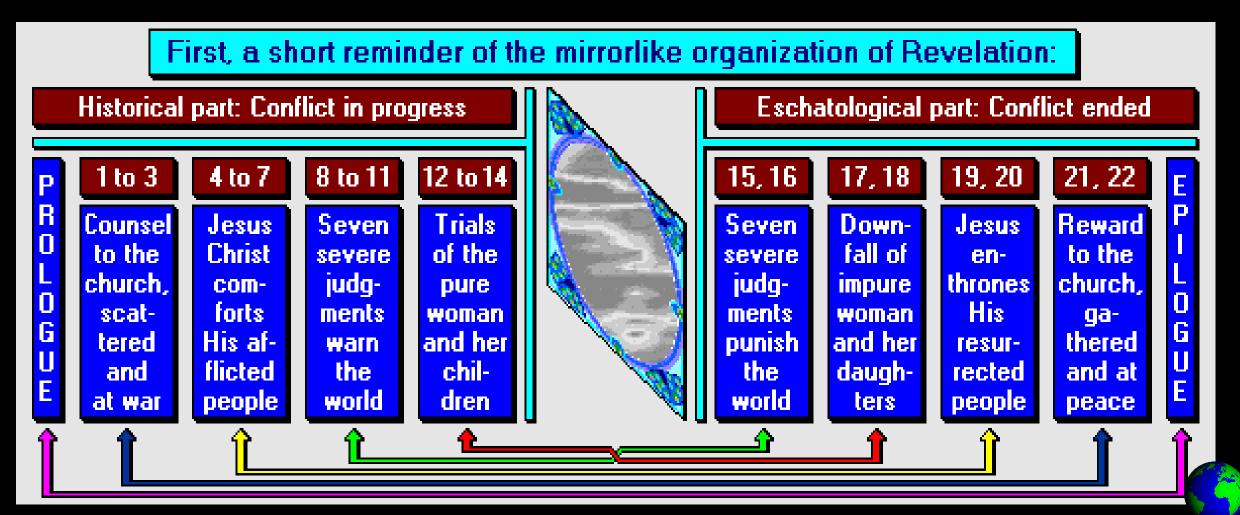
The Pergamos church era *fell away* from Scriptural truth, when Roman Emperor Constantine based Roman Christianity on pagan gods.

The Thyatira church era witnessed against the *antichrist* Popes of Rome from 538-1514 A.D., during the Dark Ages.

The Sardis church era witnessed against the antichrist Popes of Rome from 1514-1798, during the Inquisition.

The Philadelphia church era featured worldwide Gospel preaching.

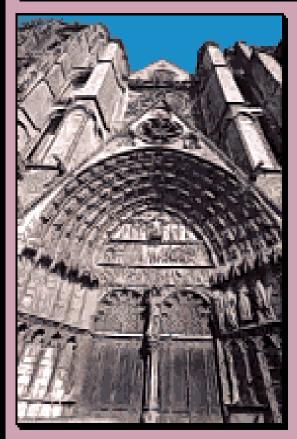
We are the end times Loadecian church era whom Messiah deems as lukewarn, wretched, miserable, naked, poor and blind.



In their eschatological application, the Seven Churches of Revelation describe the collective church on earth just before Jesus takes the reigns into His own hands and brings the history of the earth to a close. The description is that of the state of the church immediately prior to the "time of the end". The messages to the Seven Churches are intended to prepare the church for its role in end time events and for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.



#### The seven churches symbolize the seven stages of Church history:



Church Meaning of its name

Symbolized period

Dates

**Ephesus** 

Desirable

**Apostolic Church** 

33 - 100

2 Smyrna

Fragrant when crushed

**Persecuted Church** 

100 - 313

3 Pergamos

Raised up city

**Compromising Church** 

313 - 538

4 Thyatira

Savor of labor

Corrupt Church

538 - 1517

Sardis

That which remains

**Reformation Church** 

1517 - 1755

6 Philadelphia

Brotherly love

**Awakening Church** 

1755 - 1844

| 7

Laodicea

Judging the people

Today's Church

1844 - End

### Method of interpretation – Multiple Applications

"It is reasonable to conclude that the characterization of, and admonition to, the church at Ephesus was particularly appropriate to the needs of that church at the time the message was written. It is similarly appropriate to the needs of the entire Christian church in the apostolic age, and thus, in brief, represents the experience of that period in the history of the church. It was recorded for the inspiration and encouragement of believers in every age, for under similar circumstances the same principles apply. By analogy, the same is true of the messages to the other churches. In view of the fact that the focus of each of the four major lines of prophecy is on the closing scenes of earth's history, the messages of the book of Revelation have particular import for the church today.

"That a single prophetic passage may embrace more than one fulfillment is evident (see on Deut. 18:15). Some such prophecies have both an immediate and a more remote fulfillment, and in addition contain principles that are generally applicable at all times..."

- Introduction to the Book of Revelation, SDA Bible Commentary, Vol 7, pp. 725-726.



The letters (chapters 1 to 3) correlate to the reward (chapters 21 and 22)!



Historical part: Conflict in progress

Jesus counsels His church, scattered and at war

Jesus and candlesticks (2:1)

Tree of life (2:7)

Open door (3:8)

Jesus on God's throne (3:21)

The New Jerusalem comes

The New Jerusalem comes down out of heaven (3:12)

«I come quickly!» (3:11)

Eschatological part: Conflict ended

Jesus rewards His church, gathered and at peace

The Lamb is the light (21:23)

Tree of life (22:2)

Gates never closed (21:25)

God's throne and Lamb (22:1)

The New Jerusalem comes down out of heaven (21:10)

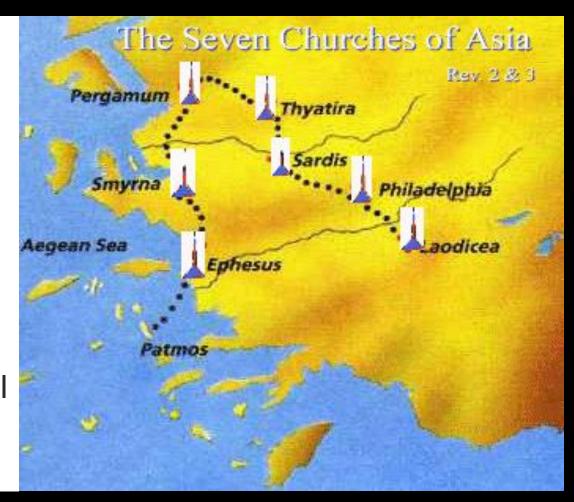
«I come quickly!» (22:7)

21 and 22

- 9 I John...was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.
- 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,
- 11 Saying..What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the 7 Churches...in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.
- 12 I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And…I saw 7 golden candlesticks;
- 13 In the midst of the 7 candlesticks ONE LIKE UNTO THE SON OF MAN...
- 17 When I saw him, I FELL AT HIS
  FEET AS DEAD. And He said ...Fear
  not; I AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST.



- The scene is a general scene
- Jesus is not tending the lamps; He is merely among the lampstands
- Note that the churches are described as "lampstands" – not lamps
- The only event associated with this scene is Jesus giving John the messages for the Seven Churches.
- Does this Introductory Sanctuary
   Scene describe an event or a general
   scene? Are there any clues as to the
   chronology of the scene?





The portrait of Jesus reflects the need of each one of the seven churches:



1 Ephesus

Jesus walks among the seven golden lampstands. The church must come back to Jesus, who won't abandon it.

2 Smyrna

Jesus was dead, but came back to life. It must confront trials, even facing death.

3 Pergamos

He has the two-edged sword.

It must return to the Bible.

4 Thyatira

He has eyes like fire, and His feet like fine brass. It must come out of darkness and come back to the Light.

5 Sardis

He holds the seven stars.

Jesus can give it life again.

6 Philadelphia

He has the key of David which opens the door.

It must take advantage of the door Jesus opened for it.

7 Laodicea

He is the Amen, the Beginning of God's creation. It must acknowledge that a new world will soon begin.

- In Revelation, we never see Jesus performing tamid, or daily, services
- Jesus is among the lampstands, not tending the lamps (Revelation 1:12, 2:1)
- No mention of the Table of Shewbread
- Jesus burns incense on the golden Altar of Incense (Revelation 8:3-5)
- No mention of any veil
- We see God's throne (i.e. the Ark), seven Lamps, and Sea of Glass (i.e. Laver) all in the same scene with no veils mentioned (Revelation 4)
- Jesus stands before God's throne (i.e. Ark of the Covenant) (Revelation 4-5) Revelation is a "Day of Atonement" vision !!!



#### **Description of Jesus:**

- Golden Girdle
- Parallel to "belt of pure gold of Uphaz" in Daniel 10
- Represents purity of faith purified by the fire of tribulation
- "Gold of Uphaz" represents distinction between Creator God and false idols (Jeremiah 10:1-13)
- Feet like burnished bronze
- In sanctuary "bronze" associated with the courtyard (i.e. earth)
- Jesus walked through the fires of tribulation on earth as a man
- Head and hair like white wool
- Parallels white turban of ordinary priests
- Denotes intrinsic righteousness of Jesus.



From one letter to another, Jesus' return is announced progressively!

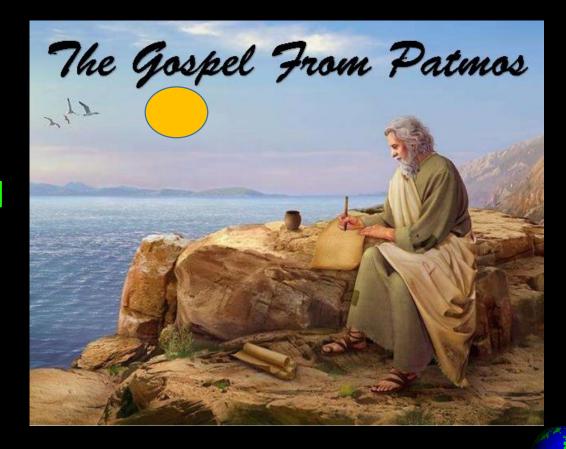


- 1 Ephesus
- «These things said He (...) who walks in the middle of the 7 golden candlesticks.» (Rev. 2:1)
- 2 Smyrna,
- «These things said the First and the Last, which was dead, and is alive.» (Rev. 2:8)
- 3 Pergamos
- «Repent, or else I will come to you quickly.» (Revelation 2:16)
- 4 Thyatira
- «But that which you have already hold fast till I come.» (Revelation 2:25)
- 5 Sardis
- «If therefore you shall not watch, I will come on you as a thief.» (Revelation 3:3)
- 6 Philadelphia
- «Behold, I come quickly.» (Revelation 3:11)
- 7 Laodicea
- «Behold, I stand at the door.» (Rev. 3:20)

### The Historical setting:

Christ had been back in Heaven (31AD) with His Father for just a few decades (approximately 60 years).

All the apostles had been martyred and John himself had been tortured and imprisoned and forced to live out the rest of his life in isolation on the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea off the coast of Asia Minor (Turkey).



### The seven periods are generally given approximately as follows:

**Ephesus** - Apostolic church (A.D. 30-100)

Smyrna - Persecuted church (A.D. 100-313)

Pergamos - State church (A.D. 313-538)

Thyatira - Papal church (A.D. 538-1517)

Sardis - Reformed church (A.D. 1517-1755)

Philadelphia - Missionary church (AD1755-1844)

Laodicea - Apostate church (AD 1844 - II Advent)

The Journey Begins



#### All the letters will be broken down into seven sections:

### REVELATION



(Revelation 2 & 3)

- A pattern is followed in each of the messages to the seven churches.
  - 1. Salutation
  - 2. Christ's self designation
  - 3. Commendation of good
  - 4. Condemnation of evil
  - 5. Counsel (warning & exhortation)
  - 6. Promise of reward to those who overcome
  - 7. Invitation to Hear



### What are the three basic messages to these churches?

- 1. God knows about me. He says: "I know thy works." Note: God cares about my conduct and this fact is repeated to all the churches.
  - Rev. 2:2,9,13,19 and 3:1,8,15.
- 2. Overcoming is imperative. To him that overcometh." Note: This takes place only through Jesus, and its importance is strongly emphasized to each church.
  - Rev. 2:7,11,17, 26 and 3:5,12,21



### What are the three basic messages to these churches?

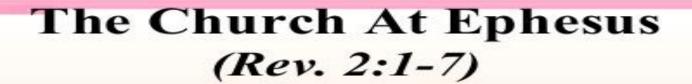
- 3. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Jesus counsels, "Hear what the Spirit saith."
- Note: The Holy Spirit convicts people of sin and leads them to repentance.
  - John 16: 8,13.
- Without the Holy Spirit no one ever feels sorry for sin or finds the new birth experience. No wonder Jesus stressed so forcefully the importance of listening to His Spirit!
  - Rev. 2:7,11,17,29 and 3:6,13,22.

### He that has an ear, Let him hear





### The 1<sup>st</sup> Church and it's time period

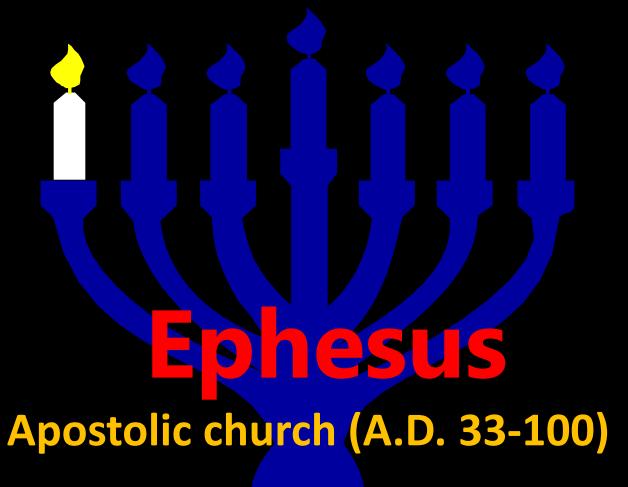


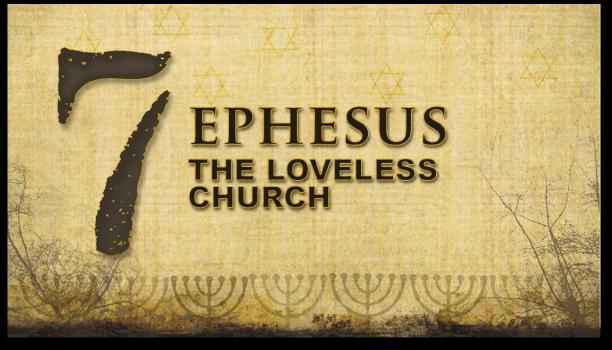
Get a letter - says lost what once had!



Your Fire Is Gone!







**Ephesus:** *means* 

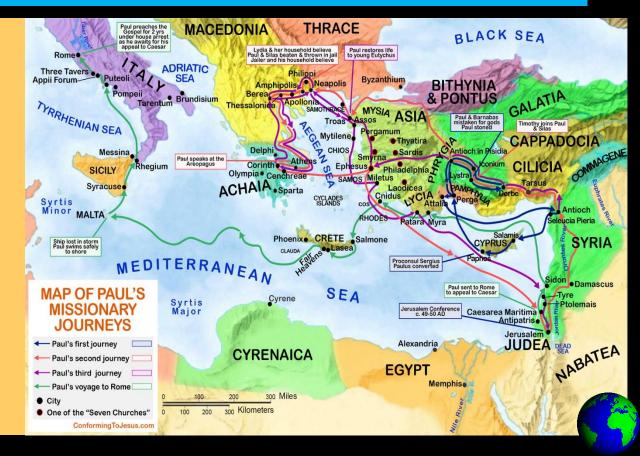
'permitted desirable'
(Acts 20:17-32)



### The Main Events During This Era:

The Roman Beast They Faced: The Roman Empire
Christian Groups During This Era: The Early Church led by Peter, Paul and the Apostles.

- The great fire of Rome in 64 A.D. was blamed on Christians, and Nero executed thousands of Christians. They were killed in Coliseums by gladiators and lions by Emperor Domitian.
- The Apostles spread the gospel in many countries and planted new churches, which required a lot of patience. They were burdened by opposition, and many were persecuted and killed.
- Many of them expected Messiah to return after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., so they may have relaxed their efforts.



### Ephesus - Era of Apostles





- Why was the church of Ephesus rebuked?
  - Revelation 2:4
  - Answer: They had left their first love.



### Ephesus:

- Was the largest city in the Roman Province of Asia Minor (approximately 300,000 population).
- It was a well situated sea port on the Adriatic Sea.
- It was a center of commerce.
- It was the center of worship to the pagan goddess Artemis (Diana according to the Roman name).





### Ruins at present day Ephesus

















#### **Revelation 2:1**

To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, «These things said He that holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the middle of the seven golden candlesticks.»

#### **Revelation 1:12,13,16**

I saw seven golden candlesticks; and in the middle of the seven candlesticks One like to the Son of man. (...) And He had in His right hand seven stars.

#### **Comments**

The letter to **Ephesus** indeed starts with a portrait of Jesus taken from John's initial vision.

What does this description mean?



# Revelation 1:19,20

Write the things which you have seen, (...) the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks.

The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which you saw are the seven churches.

# Comments

Once again, the Bible explains its own symbolism.

By holding the seven stars in His hand, and by walking in the midst of the candlesticks, Jesus gives us a comforting message: He holds the reins of His Church, protects it and promises that He will always be there.

But Jesus is not a tyrant: if the Church chooses to reject Him, He will not impose His will.





# **Comments**

First of all, the church has actually followed Paul's advice, and has «tried them which say they are apostles, and are not».

# **Revelation 2:2,3**

I know your works, and your labor, and your patience, and how This period begins in A.D. you can not bear them which are evil. And you have tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and have found them liars: and have borne, and have patience, and for My name's sake have labored, and have not fainted.

#### Hebrews 10:6

For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which you have showed toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

31 (the year of Jesus' ascension), and ends in A.D. 100 (the year of the death of John (The Revelator), the last apostle).



# Note:

- Ephesus, the church of the Apostles represents God's church in the <u>1st</u> century A.D. which grew with incredible speed.
- There were 6 million Christians scattered all over the world when the century ended.
- However, they lost their original love for Jesus and His wonderful message of salvation.
- We too must be careful on this point!

# 1<sup>st</sup> Century Churches





# The Growth of the Church in the 1st Century

Acts 2:41, "They then that received his word were baptized: and there were added (unto them) in that day about three thousand souls."

Acts 4:4, "But many of them that heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand."

Acts 6:7, "And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem exceedingly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith."

Acts 9:31, "So the church throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria had peace, being edified; and, walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, was multiplied."

Acts 11:24, "for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord."

Beginning with Stephen's death, the Jews in Jerusalem began to relentlessly persecute the Christians in Jerusalem.



Thousands became refugees, fleeing to other countries.

The Gospel Spread.

- Revelation 2:2 "Thou hast tried them which say they are Apostles and are not."
- Note: They withstood false teachers openly and Jesus commended them for this.
- The Nicolaitans advocated spiritual compromise with worldly practices. They felt their liberty gave them freedom to practice idolatry and immorality.
- (This sounds very much like the new morality that is creeping into some churches today).

# NICOLAITANES SYSTEM

- <u>Nicolaitane</u>, comes from two Greek words: Nikao which means "to conquer", and Lao which means "the laity".
- ONicolaitane means, "to conquer the laity".
- The Nicolaitane doctrine was "the corruption of the clergy as they sought political power amongst themselves."
- Nicolaitanism is organization, humanizing the leadership of the church, and thereby deposing the Spirit. Man over man.





Nevertheless I have somewhat against you, because you have left your first love.

# **Ephesians 6:24**

Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

# Comments

The letter to the church of Ephesus then shows the negative points.

The diagnosis of Jesus is very clear: the church has lost the love showed in its early times.

Now, let's note this interesting point: the very last verse of the Epistle of Paul to the people of Ephesus mentions the importance of loving the Lord *«with an undying love».* 



Remember therefore from where you are fallen, and repent, and do the first works.

Or else I will come to you quickly, and will remove your candlestick out of his place, except you repent.

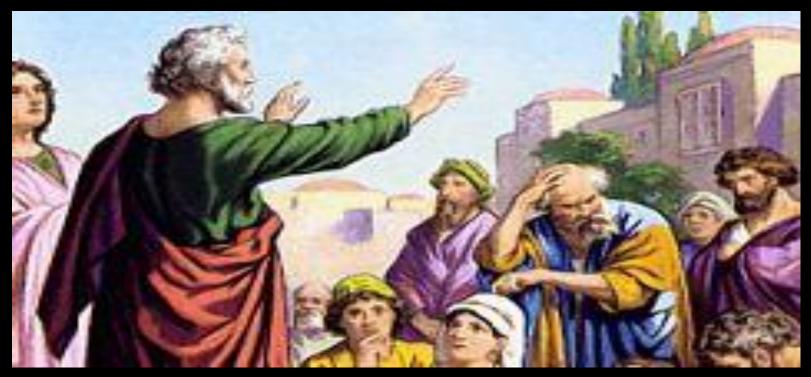
## **Luke 19:40**

If these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

# **Comments**

Jesus tells this to the local church of Ephesus, to the first century **Apostolic Church, and to** each one of us: we must regain this first love, before He entrusts someone else with the evangelical mission, which will be accomplished anyway.





But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.

#### **Revelation 2:15**

So have you also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

# **Comments**

However, Jesus praises the church of Ephesus for rejecting the works of the Nicolaitanes, unlike the church of Pergamos (subject of a future lesson), which will be following their doctrine.

What do we know about the Nicolaitanes?





#### **Acts 6:5**

They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch.

#### Acts 20:30

Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

# **Comments**

The Nicolaitans were the disciples of Nicolas, one of the first deacons of the Apostolic Church.

We do not know much about Nicolas, but it seems that one day, he began to teach a strange and false doctrine.





# **1 Corinthians 6:19,20**

What? Know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own? For you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. Proverbs 23:7

For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

# **Comments**

The Nicolaitans were teaching that the body was independent of the soul.

This way, according to them, it was possible to commit sin in one's body without causing harm to one's soul.

This doctrine, though firmly rejected by the Bible, can still be found today in some Christian churches.



He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit said to the churches. «To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the middle of the Paradise of God.»

#### **Revelation 22:14**

Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

# **Comments**

The letter to the church of Ephesus ends with this promise for those who persevere until the end: the access to the tree of life.





# Genesis 2:9

And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food. The tree of life [was] also in the middle of the garden.

## Genesis 3:24

So [the Lord God] drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the garden of Eden cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

# **Comments**

So, in the letter to Ephesus, Jesus promises to restore access to the tree of life, which had been lost after the disobedience of Adam and Eve.





In the middle of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bore twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month.

And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

# **Comments**

In his last vision about the New Earth, the apostle John describes this same tree.

Don't we wish to eat the fruit of the tree of life?

Jesus freely offers us the victory which will give us back access to this tree!



# It is also the era of the Death of the Apostles













# 12 Disciples of Jesus

- Andrew (Martyred: 70 A.D.) was crucified and was buried at Patrae, a town of Achaia [Greece].
- Bartholomew (Martyred: 70 A.D.) greatly tortured, flayed alive and beheaded, by King Astyages in Allanum, Armenia [Georgia].
- James, Son of Alphaeus (Martyred: 63 A.D.) thrown from a pinnacle of the Temple, then stoned and beaten with Fuller's club to death at Jerusalem (Israel).
- Thaddaeus/Judas son of James (Martyred: 72 A.D.) beaten to death with sticks and was buried at Berytus (Beirut Lebanon).



# 12 Disciples of Jesus

- Simon/Peter (Martyred: 64 A.D.) was crucified by Nero with his head downward, as he had himself desired to suffer in that manner in Rome.
- Philip (Martyred: 54 A.D.) was tortured and crucified with his head downward in the time of Domitian, and was buried in Hierapolis (Turkey).
- Simon the Zealot (Martyred: 74 A.D.) was crucified in a very painful way by a certain governor in Syria.
- Thomas (Martyred: 70 A.D.) was tormented with red-hot plates, his side pierced with a pine spear, and burned alive at Calamene, India.



# 12 Disciples of Jesus

- James, Son of Zebedee (Martyred: 44–45 AD) was beheaded with the sword by Herod Agrippa the tetrarch, and was buried in Judea (Israel).
- John, brother of James and son of Zebedee (Martyred: 97 A.D.) was thrown into boiling oil and banished by Domitian to the Isle of Patmos, and later died in Ephesus (Turkey)
- Matthew/Levi (Martyred: 60–70 A.D.) was nailed to the ground and beheaded, by king Hytacus at Nad-Davar (Ethiopia)
- Judas Iscariot Hanged himself (Suicide)

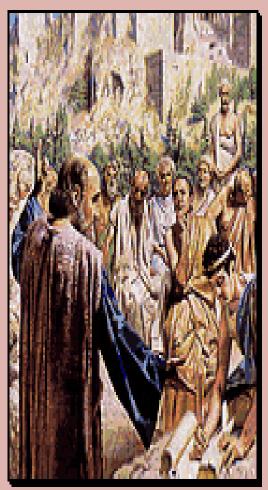


# Other Disciples of Jesus

- Matthias (Martyred: 70 A.D.) was stoned while tied hanging upon a cross and beheaded at Jerusalem (Israel).
- Paul (Martyred: 67 A.D.) was beheaded under Nero in Rome.
- Luke (Martyred: 93 A.D.) was hanged on a green olive tree in Greece.
- Antipas (Martyred: 95 A.D.) was enclosed in a red-hot brazen ox, and thus burned alive with great pain in Pergamum (Turkey) - Rev 2:13



# The five points of the pattern in the letter to the church of Ephesus:



- 1 Portrait of Jesus, according to the spiritual state of the church
- «These things said He that holds the seven stars in His right hand.» (Rev. 2:1)
- 2 Praise, acknowledgement of the positive points
- «I know your works, and your labor, and your patience.» (Revelation 2:2)
- 3 Condemnation, identification of the negative points
- «You have left your first love.» (Revelation 2:4)
- 4 Correction, counsels to restore the situation
- «Remember therefore from where you are fallen, and repent, and do the first works.» (Revelation 2:5)
- 5 Promise, encouragement to persevere
- «To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life.» (Revelation 2:7)

# The Over comers of Ephesus:



- Rev. 2:7
- To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.



# What is the message for us today?

# Remember Your First Love Thoughts on the Seven Churches

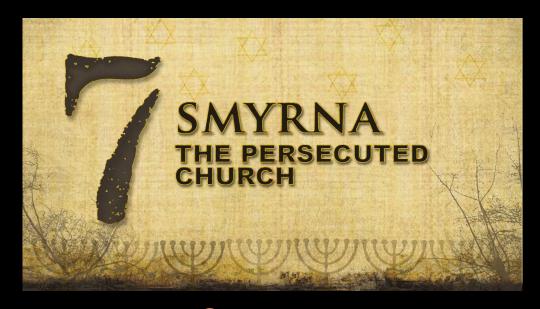
# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Church and it's time period





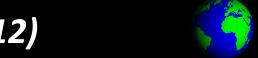


Persecuted church (A.D. 100-313)



# Smyrna:

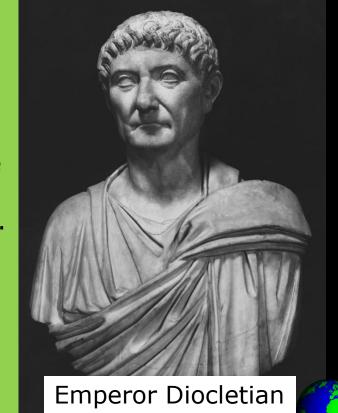
means 'myrrh' - sweet fragrance - used for medicine to deaden pain, - anointing oil preparing a bride (Esther 2:12)



# The Main Events During This Era:

The Roman Beast They Faced: The Roman Empire
Christian Groups During This Era: The Early Church, led by Polycarp and other church leaders.

- Satan empowered the Romans to persecute Christians, to try to stop the progress of the Gospel.
- The church was hated in the Roman Empire, and every natural calamity, whether flood, earthquake or drought, was blamed on the Christians and on their refusal to worship the Roman gods.
- The most terrible, most prolonged persecution in the history of the early church occurred during the time of Diocletian (303-313 A.D) who sought to root out Christianity from the very face of the earth.
- Under Maximin (Maxentius) this persecution reached its climax.
  Before the decisive battle, he vowed to Jupiter (Satan) that, if
  victorious, he would abolish the Christian name. The Lord caused
  the defeat and death of Maximin, which delivered the Church from
  the last and most implacable of her enemies. (History Unveiling
  Prophecy, Henry Grattan Guinness)



# Smyrna - Era of Persecution

# What encouragement did Jesus give Smyrna?

- Revelation 2:10:
- "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life."





# Smyrna

- Had a superb harbour on the Adriatic Sea making it an important commercial center.
- Called itself the 'first city of Asia.
- It built temples to Emperor Tiberius the city became a centre for cult emperor worship.
- represent 10 major, and identifiable persecutions, under 10 Roman Emperors.
- It is known today as Izmir.



# Ruins at present day Smyrna

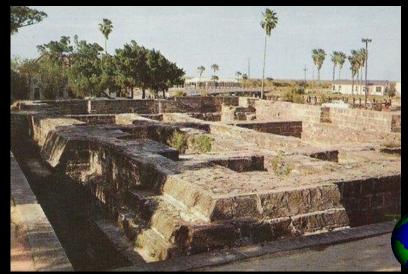






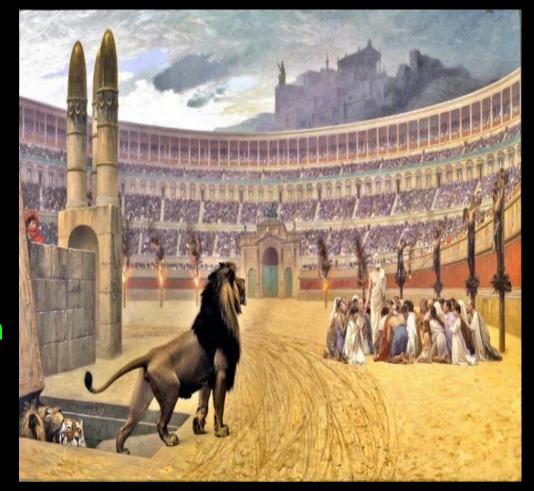






# • Note:

- Smyrna represents the church from about 100 A.D. through to 313 A.D.
- This was a fearful time of persecution and martyrdom.
- The Roman Empire tried to stamp out Christianity.
- Only God knows how many of His children were beheaded, burned, fed to lions or slain by the sword.
- The church in this period lived so close to Jesus that He gave them no reproof, only words of encouragement.







# **Comments**

The name «Smyrna» comes from the Greek word «myrrha», which means «which gives off a good smell when crushed».

# Revelation 1:9-11

I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, saying,

«What you see, write in a book, and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia; to Ephesus, and to Smyrna (...).»

Besides, this same Greek word also designates myrrh, an aromatic gum coming from the balsam tree, used as incense and for embalming human remains.



And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, «These things said the First and the Last, which was dead, and is alive.»

# Revelation 1:17,18

I am the First and the Last. I am He that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for ever more, Amen.

And I have the keys of hell and of death.

# **Comments**

Once again, the letter begins with a portrait of Jesus, taken from the initial vision of John.







This would be similar to referring to someone in English as the "A and Z".

# Revelation 1:17,18

I am the First and the Last. I am He that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for ever more.

## **Revelation 1:8**

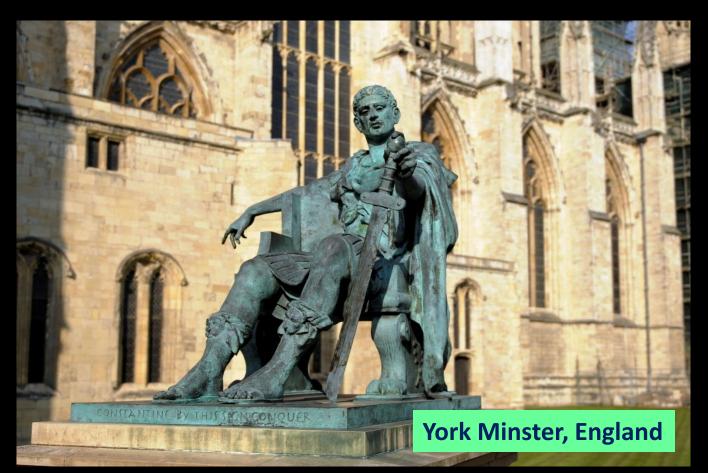
«I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending,» said the Lord, «which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.»

# **Comments**

Jesus' title, "the First and the Last", corresponds with the "Alpha and Omega" of God, which are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet.

So Jesus reaffirms here that He is God, just as the Father is.



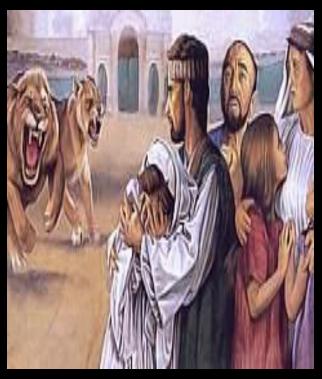


I know your works, and tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich).

# Comments

Here is an interesting point: history tells us that after the Apostolic Church (from A.D. 33 to 100), symbolized by the church of Ephesus, the Christian Church actually went through intense persecution for about 200 years, more precisely from 100 to 313.

With the Edict of Milan, in 313, Roman emperor Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Empire.



I know your works, and tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich), and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

#### **Comments**

While being persecuted by the Roman Empire, the Church also had to suffer the attacks of the Jews.

Historians of this time report that at the martyrdom of Polycarp, minister of the local church of Smyrna, the Jews of this city personally, and with great eagerness, gathered firewood to supply the stake, even though it was the Sabbath day.

Jesus calls people from all nations to become Jews inwardly, not in the flesh, thus making up *«the Israel of God»* (Galatians 6:16), His Church.





I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

# **1 Corinthians 6:19,20**

What? Know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own? For you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

#### Comments

Jesus also brings up the danger, for the false Jew, of becoming "the synagogue of Satan" rather than "the temple of the Holy Ghost".



# Comments

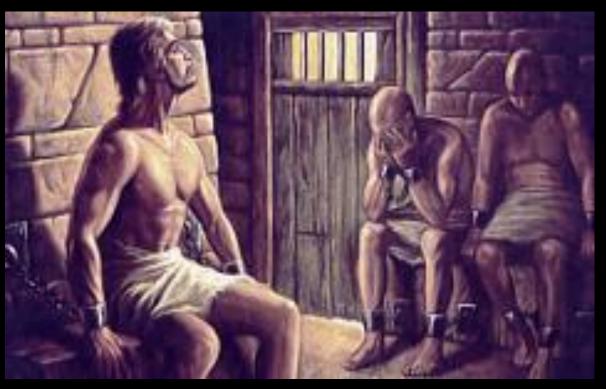
The letter to Smyrna goes on, still on the theme of the persecution of the Church. From 100 to 313, the persecution of Christians, whose religion was then illegal, was encouraged by many Roman emperors, among which were:

- 1. Trajan (98-117)
- 2. Hadrian (117-138)
- 3. Antonine (139-161)
- 4. Marcus Aurelius (161-180)
- 5. Septime Severius (193-211)
- 6. Maximus (235-238)
- 7. Decius (249-251)
- 8. Valerian (253-260)
- 9. Diocletian (285-305)
- 10. Galerius (305-311)





Fear none of those things which you shall suffer. Behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that you may be tried; and you shall have tribulation ten days.



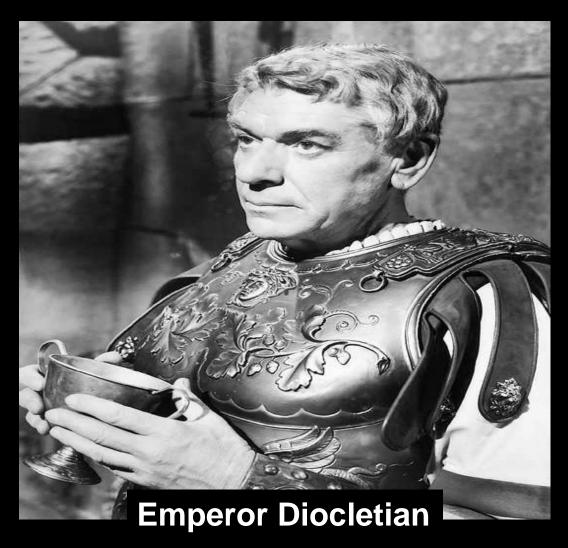
# **Comments**

The letter to the church of Smyrna completes the dark picture by announcing that it *«shall have tribulation ten days»*. What is that tribulation?

In Bible prophecy: a day represents a year. After the number of the days in which you searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall you bear your iniquities, even forty years. - Numbers 14:34

You shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have appointed you each day for a year. - Ezekiel 4:6

### What is that tribulation of ten days?



Indeed, history reports that the most severe persecution during this period was the one launched by the emperor Diocletian. Modern historians estimate that during this period, known as the Diocletianic or Great Persecution of Diocletian, as many as 3,000-3,500 Christians were executed under the authority of Imperial edicts This persecution began in 303, and ended exactly ten years later, in 313, with the promulgation of the Edict of Milan by the emperor Constantine, which made Christianity the official religion of the Empire.



Be you faithful to death, and I will give you a crown of life.

### **James 1:12**

Blessed is the man that endures temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love Him.



### **Comments**

Just as myrrh spreads its fragance when crushed, the martyrs' blood, once spilled, becomes a seed of life for all those who witness their faithfulness.

To all those martyrs, Jesus promises the crown of life.



He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit said to the churches. «He that overcomes shall not be hurt of the second death.»

### **Revelation 20:14**

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

#### **Comments**

The letter to Smyrna ends with a very appropriate promise from Jesus: the believer who goes through the first death on this earth won't have to suffer the second death in the lake of fire, at the Day of Judgment.





### **Revelation 13:15-17**

And [the second beast] had power to (...) cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark.

#### **Comments**

Now, what is the personal application of the letter to Smyrna?

**Prophecy announces that** faithful believers will go through very difficult times just before Jesus' return.

The advice, encouragements and promises to Smyrna, the Persecuted Church, will surely be of great help to us.

### The five points of the pattern in the letter to the church of Smyrna:



- Portrait of Jesus, according to the spiritual state of the church
- «These things said the First and the Last, which was dead, and is alive.» (Revelation 2:8)
- 2 Praise, acknowledgement of the positive points
- «I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich).» (Rev. 2:9)
- 3 Condemnation, identification of the negative points

  Jesus doesn't identify any negative point for this church.
- 4 Appropriate counsel
- «Fear none of those things which you shall suffer.» (Revelation 2:10)
- 5 Promise, encouragement to persevere
- «Be you faithful to death, and I will give you a crown of life. (...) He that overcomes shall not be hurt of the second death.» (Revelation 2:10,11)

# Overcomers of Smyrna



- Answer: They shall not experience "the second death." Revelation 2:11
- Note: All must die the first death (Hebrews 9:27) but there is a resurrection from the first death (1 Corinthians 15:51-54). The second death is the one in which the lost die in the fire Revelation 21:8). From this death there is no resurrection.

Jesus said, «These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.»

- John 16:33



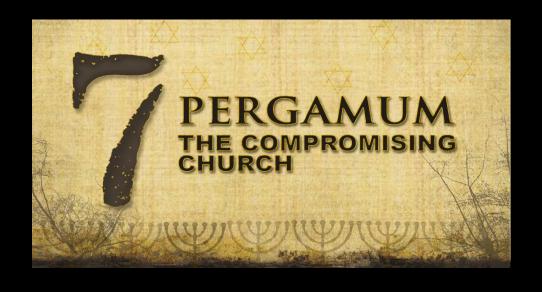
### The 3<sup>rd</sup> Church and it's time period







State church (A.D. 313-590)



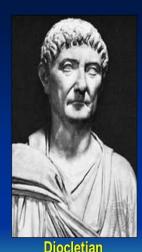
Pergamum:
Means
Capital, Citadel



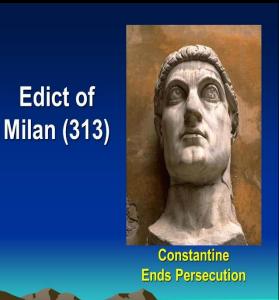
### The Main Events During This Era:

The Roman Beast They Faced: The Roman Empire as it collapsed. Christian Groups During This Era: The rise of Papal Rome.

- When the Medo-Persians conquered Babylon, the Babylonian priests moved to Pergamos and established a place of Satanic cultic idolatry, pagan worship, with various customs and deities.
- Satan lost power over the Roman Empire, as it collapsed.
- Satan couldn't destroy the church with ten persecutions from Pagan Rome, so he changed his strategy to destroy it from within.
- Satan caused Constantine to unite Christianity with pagan idol worship and feasts, and fornication. Pagan Rome had many gods and idols, which they weren't going to give up. So to make Satan's Papal Church more acceptable to them, the church took the idols and simply gave them new names.
- The Rome beast didn't die, it simply changed its appearance and its approach, as Satan empowered the Roman Catholic Church to destroy Christ's Church from within.

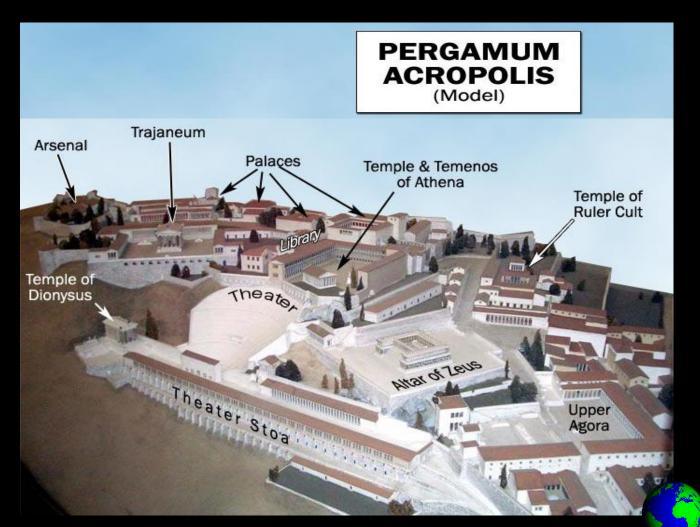


Diocletian Worst 10 Years of Persecution 303 - 313



### Pergamum (Pergamon):

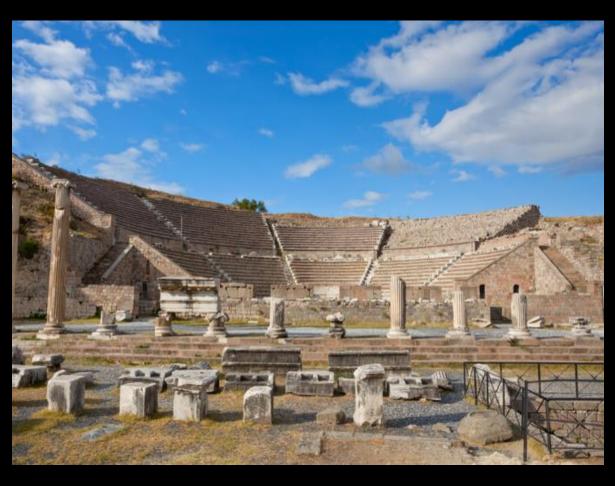
- Had the second largest library of the time.
- It became the capital of the Roman Province of Asia.
- It was the site of the pagan temple to Askelops – god of medicine and healing.
- Huge statue of Zeus and temples of Athena and many other gods.











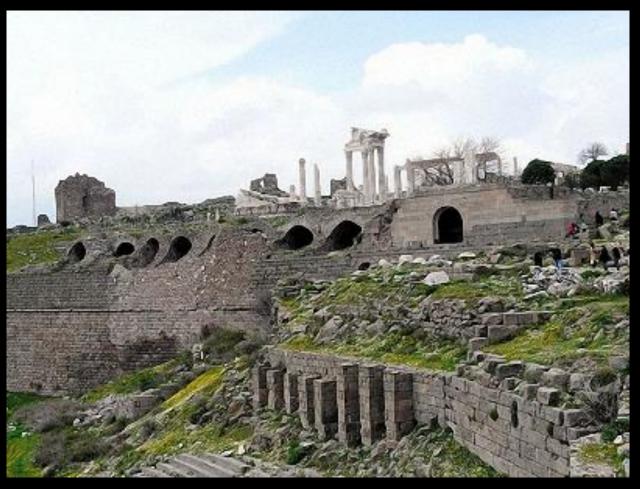


















And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, «These things said He which has the sharp sword with two edges.»

### **Revelation 1:16**

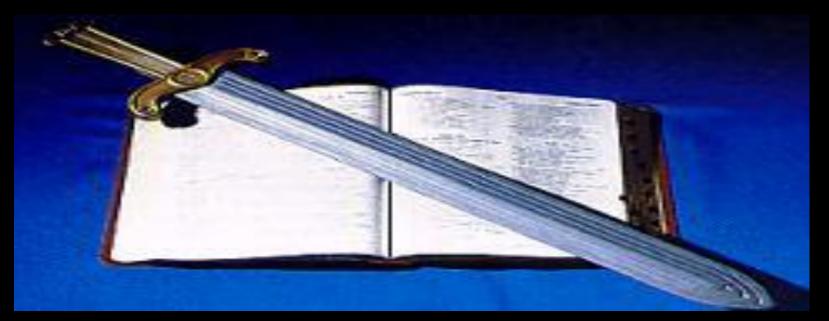
Out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and His countenance was as the sun shines in his strength.

### **Comments**

Just like the previous ones, this letter begins with a portrait of Jesus taken from John's initial vision.

What does the sharp twoedged sword mean? The answer to this question will help us understand the message of this letter.





### **Ephesians 6:17**

Take (...) the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

### **Comments**

The sharp two-edged sword symbolizes the Word of God.

So it seems that the condition of Pergamos requires the use of the Word of God to bring this church back to the right path.





Revelation 2:12
These things said He which has the sharp sword with two edges.

### **Comments**

First, let's look at the local application of the letter to the church of Pergamos.

As early as 29 B.C., Pergamos distinguished itself by becoming the site of the first worship of a living Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus.

As the religious capital of Asia Minor, it accommodated temples for many oriental religions. One of its pagan temples, dedicated to Aesculapius, god of healing, received thousands of pilgrims each year.

Error mixed with truth thus justified the intervention of the sharp two-edged sword, the Word of God.



Revelation 2:12
These things said He which has the sharp sword with two edges.

### **Comments**

The letter also gives a precise prophecy about the Church.

Indeed, when Roman emperor Constantine embraced Christianity in A.D. 313, persecution came to an end. From the status of forbidden sect, the Church rose to a position of undisputed popularity and power. From 313 to 538, it imposed itself in Western Europe, both on religious and political levels. To succeed, it became flexible regarding doctrine: however, all the compromises made resulted in a sad mixture of Christianity and paganism.



I know your works, and where you dwell, even where Satan's seat is.

And you hold fast My name, and have not denied My faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwells.

### Comments

Pergamos thus symbolizes the Compromising Church.

Although it held fast to the name of Jesus and the main elements of Christian faith, which is its only positive point, it allowed paganism to invade it, because of its craving for domination over people of all beliefs.

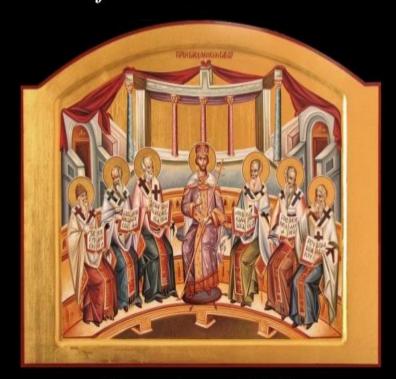
This is why Jesus now looks upon it as the place *«where Satan dwells»*.

### «You hold fast My name, and have not denied My faith.» (Revelation 2:13)

The councils held by the Church between the years A.D. 313 and 538 reaffirmed some of the great biblical truths about Jesus Christ:

- 1. The Nicea Council, in 325, concluded that Jesus is fully God.
- 2. The Constantinople Council, in 381, concluded that, in addition to being fully God, Jesus is fully human.
- 3. The Ephesus Council, in 431, concluded that Jesus combines within Himself full divinity and full humanity.
- 4. The Chalcedonia Council, in 451, concluded that the divine nature and the human nature of Jesus, though combined in a single person, are nevertheless distinct one from the other.

The first Ecumenical council



Nicaea, the year 325 AD





But I have a few things against you, because you have there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit fornication.

### **Comments**

To describe what happened in the Compromising Church, from 313 to 538, Jesus compares this age with the work of Balaam, a prophet of God who was overcame by a craving for power and wealth.

By studying the life of Balaam, we will better understand the meaning of this comparison.



### **Numbers 24:10,11**

And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he smote his hands together. And Balak said to Balaam, «I called you to curse my enemies, and, behold, you have altogether blessed them these three times. Therefore now flee you to your place: I thought to promote you to great honor; but, see, the Lord has kept you back from honor.»

### Comments

The story of Balaam is simple:

Balak, king of Moab, asked him to pronounce a curse upon the people of Israel. Balaam failed because, at each attempt, a blessing came out of his mouth.

So Balaam suggested another strategy to Balak: the corruption of Israel through the women of Moab.



### **Doctrine of Balaam**

- Teaching of Balaam refers to seducing or sabotaging the people.
- To curse themselves by enticing them with prostitutes.
- To eat unclean food sacrificed to idols.
- God's wrath was invoked and God sent a deadly plague to them as a result.

# Doctrine of Balaam

It Twists Scripture And Lures You Out Into Worldly Things. Yoking You With Ungodly People And Things Causing You To Sin. Promotes Hyper-grace.







### **Numbers 25:1-3**

The people [of Israel] began to commit prostitution with the daughters of Moab.

And they called the people to the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.

And Israel joined himself to Baalpeor: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel.

### **Comments**

The strategy of Balaam, whose name means *«Devourer of the people»*, was very effective.

The women of Moab introduced their pagan rites among the people of Israel, who then lost God's approval.

But how does this story describe the Compromising Church, from A.D. 313 to 538?





### 2 Peter 2:15

[They] have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.

#### **Comments**

By craving for domination over people of all beliefs, the Church was willing to *«convert to Christianity»* many pagan doctrines and rites. So:

- 1. In 307, baptism by sprinkling replaced baptism by immersion;
- 2. In 321, the day of rest was changed from Sabbath to Sunday;
- 3. In 375, worship of saints began;
- 4. In 400, worship of the dead (Saints)was instituted;
- 5. In 416, the Church began to baptize babies;
- 6. In 432, worship of the Virgin Mary began.



So have you also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

### Revelation 2:1,6

To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, «(...) But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.»

### **Comments**

Another negative aspect of Pergamos was its attachment to the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, distorting God's grace, unlike the church of Ephesus which was fighting against this same doctrine.



### Doctrine of Nicolaitanes — Jude 4

- The Nicolaitanes are the followers of Nicolas, who was one of the seven first ordained to the diaconate by the apostles
- They are dominating people.
- They lead lives of unrestrained indulgence.
- They support either polygamy or the holding of wives in common.
- They approve to eat things sacrificed to idols.

### Nicolaitans around today?

- The Nicolaitans were an example of unrestrained indulgence.
- Ignore the clear will of God in the Bible.
- . If it feels good, do it.
- Anything goes.
- · Nothing is immoral.
  - If any of this sounds like today then the Nicolaitans are still around.





Repent; or else I will come to you quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Isaiah 49:2

[The Lord] has made My mouth like a sharp sword.

### **Comments**

Jesus was patient with Pergamos, which symbolizes the Compromising Church of the years 313 to 538.

He invited it to repent, to come back to the Word of God, before this same Word became for the Church a judgment tool in the mouth of Jesus and His faithful servants.





He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit said to the churches. «To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the hidden manna.»

### Exodus 16:14,15,31

And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground. So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, «What is it?» For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, «This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat.» \* And the house of Israel called its name Manna.

### **Comments**

To Israel recently come out of Egypt, a pagan nation which darkened the beliefs of God's people, God gave manna.

Likewise, God promises the hidden manna to him who overcomes Pergamos' confusion.



To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the hidden manna.

### **Deuteronomy 8:3**

So [the Lord your God] humbled you, and suffered you to hunger, and fed you with manna, which you knew not, neither did your fathers know; that He might make you know that man does not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord does man live.

### **Comments**

The promise of manna first reminds us of our complete dependence upon God, both physically (bread) and spiritually (the Word of God).





### **Comments**

The promised manna is also the promise of everlasting life that God offers us in Jesus Christ.

John 6:31-35

[The people said to Jesus,] «Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."»

Then Jesus said to them, «Truly, truly, I say to you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He which comes down from heaven, and gives life to the world.»

Then said they to Him, «Lord, ever more give us this bread.»

And Jesus said to them, «I am the bread of life: he that comes to Me shall never hunger; and he that believes on Me shall never thirst.»





### **Exodus 16:33,34**

And Moses said to Aaron, «Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the Lord, to be kept for your generations.» As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept.

### **Hebrews 9:3,4**

The Holiest of all (...) had the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant.

### **Comments**

Finally, the hidden manna is the manna kept inside the ark of the covenant, beside the element which Pergamos neglected so much: the Ten Commandments.





### **Comments**

In the Greco-Roman courts, a stone was given to the defendant by way of verdict: a black stone if guilty, a white stone if innocent.

### **Revelation 2:17**

To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone.

### **Romans 8:1**

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.

The promised white stone thus completely clears those who overcome in Jesus.





To him that overcomes 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 knows saving he that receives it.

### Isaiah 56:5

Even to them will I give in My house and within My walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters. I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.

### **Comments**

Finally, Jesus promises a new name to him who overcomes in the church of Pergamos.

According to the Bible, what are the implications of changing one's name?



# In the Bible, a change of name indicates a new destiny:

«Neither shall your name any more be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made you.» (Genesis 17:5)

«Your name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince have you power with God and with men, and have prevailed.» (Genesis 32:28)

«In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name with which she shall be called, "The Lord our Righteousness".» (Jeremiah 33:16)

«The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. (...) You shall no more be termed "Forsaken", and your land shall no more be termed "Desolate"; but you shall be called "My Delight Is in Her", and your land "Married"; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married.» (Isaiah 62:2,4)



### 2 Corinthians 6:14,15,17

Be you not unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what concord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has he that believes with an infidel? (...)

Why «Come out from among them, and be you separate,» said the Lord, «and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.»

### Comments

Now, what is the personal application of the letter to the church of Pergamos?

To keep one's beliefs is often a lot more difficult than to yield to compromise. But Jesus invites us to always remain faithful to Him in all things.



### Matthew 6:24

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.

You cannot serve God and mammon.

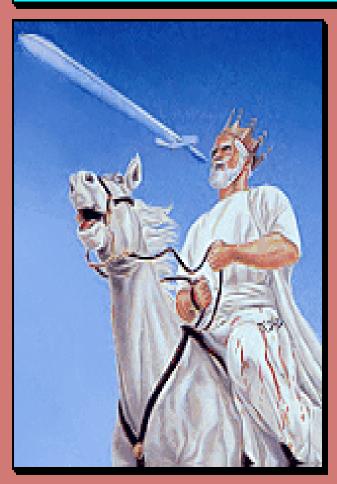
### **Comments**

The Compromising Church, symbolized by Pergamos, tried to serve both God and its craving for power. A vile mixture of paganism and Christianity was thus created.

We must avoid this dangerous trap in our life.



### The five points of the pattern in the letter to the church of Pergamos:



- Portrait of Jesus, according to the spiritual state of the church 
  «These things said He which has the sharp two-edged sword.» (Rev. 2:12)
- Praise, acknowledgement of the positive points

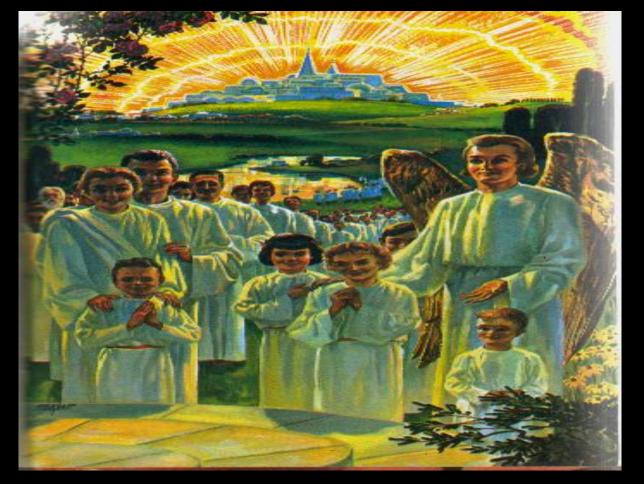
  «You hold fast My name, and have not denied My faith.» (Revelation 2:13)
- Condemnation, identification of the negative points

  «You have there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam. (...) So have you also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes.» (Rev. 2:14,15)
- 4 Correction, counsels to restore the situation 
  «Repent; or else I will come (...) and will fight with the sword.» (Rev. 2:16)
- 5 Promise, encouragement to persevere
- «To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and (...) a new name.» (Revelation 2:17)

# Overcomers of Pergamos

### • Revelation 2:17

• 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.





### The Seven Churches – The Remnant application:

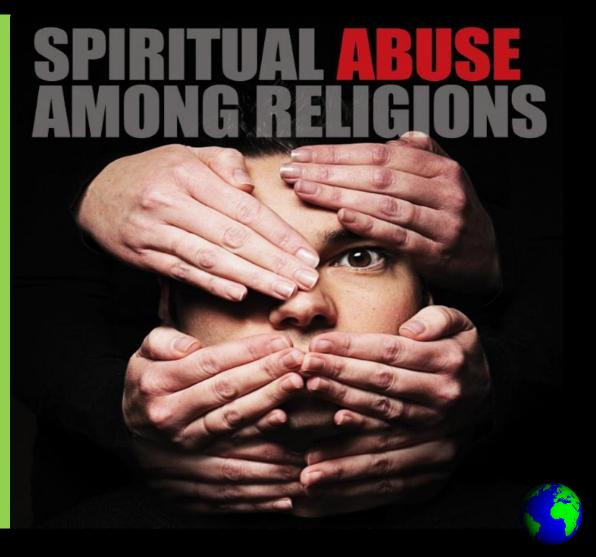
"Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who Joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness." TM 300.





### The Seven Churches – The Remnant application:

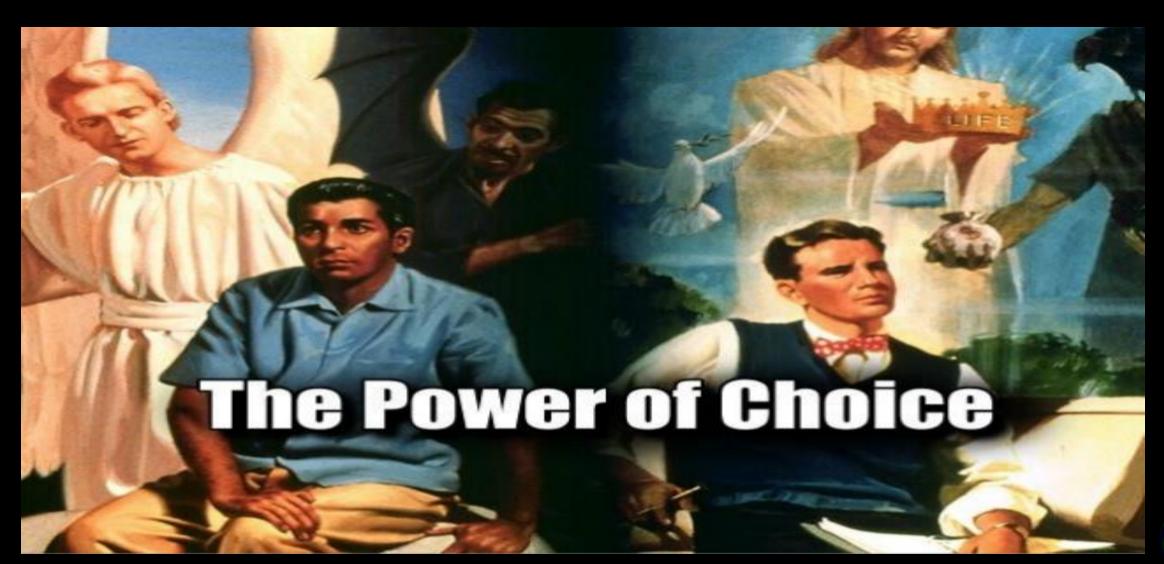
"Do you believe that the Lord is coming, and that the last great crisis is about to break upon the world? There will soon come a sudden change in God's dealings. The world in its perversity is being visited by casualties, --by floods, storms, fires, earthquakes, famines, wars and bloodshed. The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power;...but His forbearance will not always continue. Who is prepared for the sudden change that will take place in God's dealings with sinful men?" - Fundamentals of Christian Education, p.356, 357.



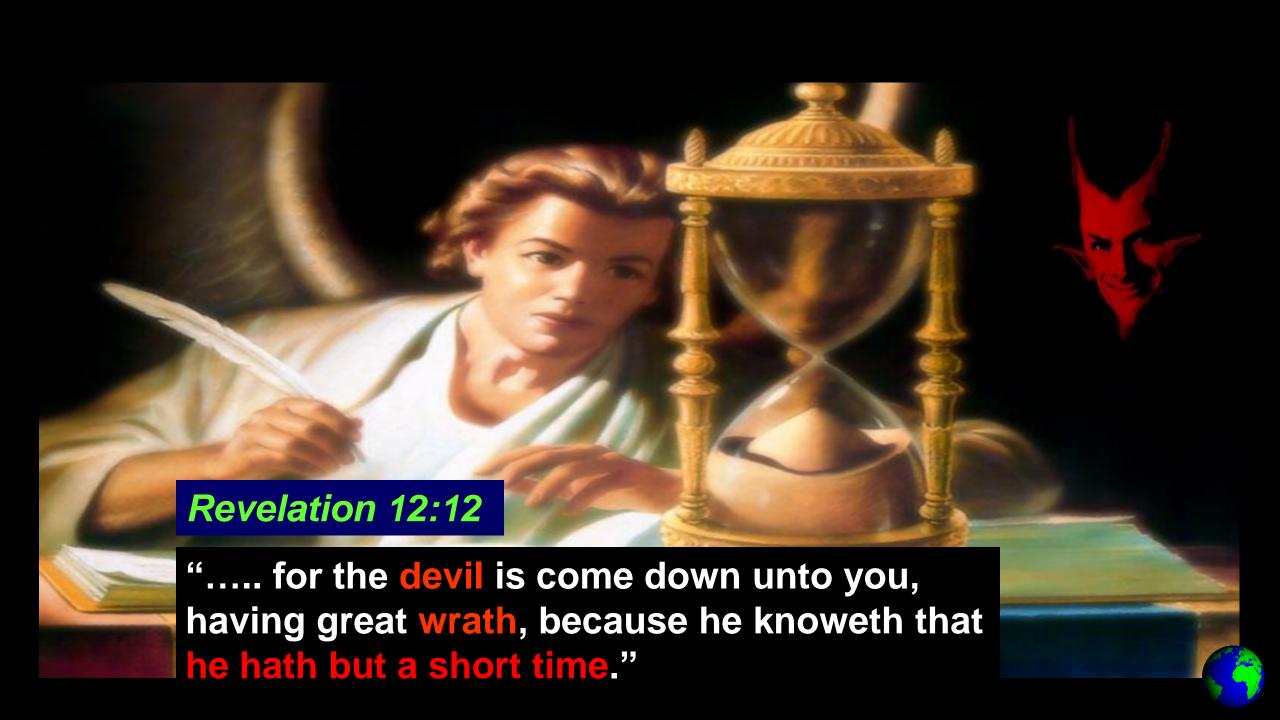
# Concluding remarks

The overcomer is the individual who enjoys special benefits in eternity for refusing to give up his faith in Jesus in spite of persecution during life on earth.

# God has given all:







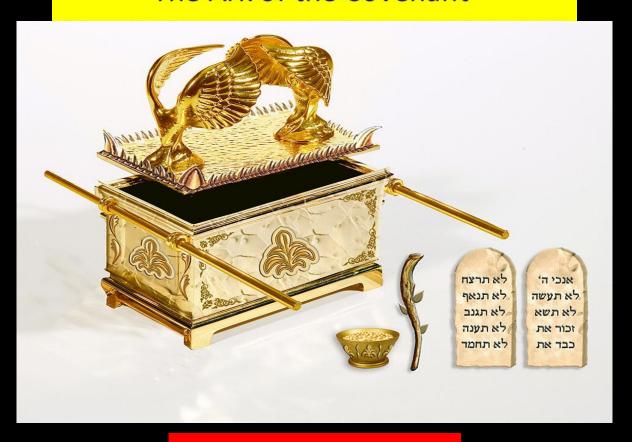
### Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

- John 10:16



### The Ark of the Covenant



**Psalms 77:13** 

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. -Revelation 3:20





