

Revelation 3:1-6 **'In the Last Days' series**

Ephesus-left 1st love-remember, repent, return, repeat 100AD. **Smyrna**-w/o rebuke-fear not/persecuted 100-300AD. **Pergamum**-mixed marriage, church/world, state churchy & church worldly 300-600AD. **Thyatira**-dark ages of Papacy 600-1500AD. **Sardis**-spiritually dead, 1500-1800AD

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

Sardis – reputation w/o reality, living on past glories-*remnant or those who have escaped* 1500-1750AD **discover** America, inventions, printing press (bibles) study--scrutinize scriptures (false doc) set stage for Protestant reformation **Martin Luther** 1517 expose corruption-nailed 95 (*beliefs—Bible the central religious authority & salvation only by faith apart from deeds*) Thesis to door Wittenberg chapel in Germany. Atrocities of Roman Catholic Church.

1170AD Peter Waldo-Waldensian movement-a return to simple doctrine of NT, removal erroneous Roman rites, rituals, liturgy & rule of local bishops over their sermons-Excommunicated & driven from home by Pope Lucius 3

1208AD Pope Innocence III led crusade of persecution against the Waldensians & Albigensians (*reformers*) w/ millions slaughtered.

1382-3AD John Wycliffe dissenting Catholic Priest-Translated bible into English- leader of Lollards. Catholic church so enraged after he died dug up bones and publically desecrated them.

1415AD John Huss burned at the stake w/ friend Hugh Latimer for opinions contrary to Catholic Church declared a heretic *'we are lighting a candle today that will never go out'*.

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1497AD Savonarola of Florence spoke (like OT prophet) out against selling indulgences (to permit). A giving of permission--exoneration (absolve sin) to sin by paying \$ to Priest w/ immunity from God's punishment. Pope Alexander VI hanged him then burned his body.

1528AD Hubmaer Swiss Anabaptist of Zurich denied the efficacy/worth of infant baptism for salvation...burned at stake 3 dys later stone tied to wife neck thrown into Danube

Reformation came like a flood w/ Martin Luther, Erasmus, Zwingli, John Calvin – a rediscovery of lost truths of the bible, inerrancy of word; virgin birth, heaven and hell, blood atonement of Christ--C church errors exposed

Yet immediately after movement began it split into factions--**denominations** a spirit of carnality created dead, cold orthodoxy—large buildings w/ formalism, ceremony & ritual **but no life**. *'you have a name alive but dead'*

Today liberalism of Luther's movement Lutherans – Wesley's movement of Methodists. **Today: Resurrection** 51% Methodist not believe; 35% Episcopalians; 33% American Baptist; 33% Presbyterians. **Virgin birth**: 60% Methodist not believe, 44% Episcopalians, 34% American Baptist, 49% Presbyterians. **Inerrancy**: 87% Methodist not believe, 97% Episcopalians, 67% American Baptist, 77% Lutherans don't believe.

Vance Havner 4 stages of spiritual ministry **1** a man **2** a movement **3** a machine **4** a monument....I'll add a fifth **5** a **mausoleum**—place to bury the dead-tomb – **Sardis** like aged prize fighter past his prime

Sardis capital of Lydia (Turkey) oldest most prominent city Asia Minor, 5 main roads in (like hub--spokes of wheel) A trade/military center. Built atop impenetrable plateau elevated Acropolis 1500' above main road w/ sheer cliffs & one guarded access. Nature worship-Artemis Reincarnation (death/rebirth). Invented art of dying wool

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7 Spirits(Is 11:2), 7 stars-all power--holding all pastors—complete work-
Jesus wants rule, run, control His ministry by HS--not mans ingenuity,
cleverness & devices. God doesn't want man organizing HS. **Illus A large
denomination had 40,000 delegates meet for a general convention. One of
their leaders stood up and said 'Part of our purpose for gathering is to
devise business methods by which the HS of God may be regulated and
made efficient'**

HS is not at it, things or device to be regulated & made efficient. He is a
person-He is God seeking to manage-direct & control where He is allowed

**2 'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I
have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. 3 'Remember
therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. If therefore
you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I
will come upon you.**

1Wake up – stop dreaming--see how God sees--not heresy but complacent
no impact on city. Major EU churches now Mosque

Complete-not done all you can do or what God intends/plans for you to do.

Works not complete **five-fold** exhortation **1** wake up...keep awake--vigilant,
a watchman while others sleep **Matt 25** 10 virgins--City captured twice

2Strengthen – to face stubbornly in particular direction away from where
you were at before-do it now or else **about to die** go into death spiral of
sleep

3Remember – same 3:5 or review, call to mind, recount what received &
heard. Think back when on fire days & not just dream it but do it all over
again. **'The Lord shall appear a second time for those who eagerly await Him.**

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4 *Keep it*...hold fast 'guard from loss by keeping eye on **Heb 4:14** *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.*

5 *Repent* – 'think differently', change your mind (**seat of moral affections**) John Bapt Repent **Matt 3:7-8** *But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 "Therefore bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance; Mt 4:17* Jesus '**repent K of G is at hand**' How do I repent---**Do 1-4**

Come like thief (**Rapture**)—Sardis impenetrable yet twice conquered. 549 & 218BC Antiochus. Asleep not guard walls. Soldiers helmet fell as looked over wall--went to retrieve, enemy watch as made way down path in crevice then back up enemy entered and conquered as slept.

4 *'But you have a few people in Sardis who have **not soiled** their garments; and they will **walk with Me in white**; for they are worthy. 5 'He who **overcomes** shall thus be clothed in **white garments**; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels. 6 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'*

Not soil garment –

can accidentally spill or food fight (**go after each other**) To live in that condition is to soil, leave stain--w/ sin, unbelief or sleep when should be watching--**laundered** **1Jn 1:9** *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us..* Some stayed true to word & calling, *walk w/ Lord*.

White --imparted righteousness...garment given to wedding guests.

Reformation not go far enough—Today many Protestant churches deny **virgin birth**, **deity of Christ**, **hell**, **second coming**, **literal devil** **inerrancy**.

Overcomes--God not **air-lift** over but persevere thru. **White garment** imparted righteousness-reward.

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Not erase – Zeal consume Me....Ps 69:28 May they be blotted out of the book of life, And may they not be recorded with the righteous.

2Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance..

All names in book initially? Die w/o Christ then erased? Final judgment only names of believers become *'Lambs book of life'* Rev 21:27

We are the 'Bride of Christ' Jesus to disciples **Lk 10:20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.**" Rev 13:8 written from foundation of world

John Walvoord **'The Revelation of Jesus Christ'** Some have indicated that there is no explicit statement here that anybody will have his name blotted out, but rather the promise that his name will not be blotted out because of his faith in Christ. The implication however is that such is a possibility. On the basis of this, some have considered the book of life not as the roll of those who are saved but rather a list of those for whom Christ died, that is, all humanity who have possessed physical life. As they come to maturity & are faced w/ the responsibility of accepting or rejecting Christ, their names are blotted out if they fail to receive Jesus Christ as Savior whereas those who do accept Christ as Savior are confirmed in their position in the book of life, and their names are confessed before the Father and the heavenly angels.

Not just lost sinners but disobedient saints...remember John is writing to the church. A warning to all who are on fire but the flame is flickering....and dying out. **'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'**

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