

The Frozen Chosen-Laodicea

Revelation 3:14-22

It was over 100 years ago that a ship was missing in the Arctic ocean. For years it was believed the ship sunk & all the crew were lost. But 13 years after the report of the missing ship & crew the vessel was discovered among the icebergs of the Arctic Sea w/ the captain frozen in the wheelhouse (pilothouse, bridge) as he was making his last entry into the log book. The crew were discovered, some in their hammocks, others in the cabin all frozen to death. The last date in the log book showed that for 13 years the vessel had been moving among the icebergs—a drifting sepulcher manned by a frozen crew.

This describes church of Laodicea (**final period of church history**) & is the story of many churches in the last days. Started w/ a man then a movement then a machine then a memorial finally a mausoleum-place for the dead-
Church of sepulchers.

40 mi SE Philly—Antiochus II in 3rd C BC named for wife Laodice—a principle banking center of the area, famous for wealth, glossy black wool, eye salve w/ school of medicine Ophthalmology—earthquake destroyed 62 AD self-reliant refused help to rebuild-**self-reliant churches not need Gods help**

14 “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

Amen – Title of Jesus indication His Sovereignty & what said is final word
2Cor 1:20 For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us. Not maybe but yes & amen—tell truth about Laodicea’s condition

Faithful and true witness – Church was neither (**Gods will for us**) - Title for God – **Is 65:16 “Because he who is blessed in the earth Shall be blessed by the God of truth; And he who swears in the earth Shall swear by the God of truth.....**

Beginning **arche** – source, origin of creation Jn 1:1; Col 1:16, 2:9- Whole context of Revelation is Jesus is God. All the church had came from Him so why self-reliant and boast as if you did it. No commendation but only condemnation.

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15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. 16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. 17 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,

Cold springs from Colossae and hot springs from Hieropolis piped to Laodicea and by the time each arrived both were lukewarm, describes their spiritual condition.

There is the idea that when Paul sent his letter to the church of Colossae it was to be passed on and read to neighboring Laodicea. He sent a greeting to them *Col 4:16 And when this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea. 17 And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."*

He was believe to be the pastor, now 30 years had passed and John writes about the deterioration of a neglected calling and neglected church—now lukewarm.

Tepid coffee or soda doesn't satisfy—Vanuatu water & this kind of spiritual condition is repulsive to God. Lukewarm worship, lukewarm faith, lukewarm love of God and others, lukewarm commitment, lukewarm teaching of word.

World and it's bobbles and bangles eclipse the spiritual life of a believer.

And they were boasting in possessions and what they had....boast drive

RR – One word/fairly wealthy heretic said *'no longer can they say silver and gold have we none'* A keen Christian observer remarked *"neither can you say in the name of Jesus Christ rise and walk"*. Gods testimony of church not ours that counts

18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see.

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Advice - non-confrontational— used for those who won't listen to commands—rebel against authority. They are self-determined—Judas offered sop, *'that which you do, do quickly', 'betray me w/ a kiss'*

Gold refined by fire – consumes or transforms into permanency 'faith more precious than gold refined....tested and proven

White garments – Imparted righteousness of Christ not our own self-righteousness *'I'm a good person'* as those in Laodicea had-**needed nothing**

Is 64:6 *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness is as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

Rev 19:7 *"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." 8 And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright & clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

Matt 22:11 *"But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw there a man not dressed in wedding clothes, 12 and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?' And he was speechless. 13 "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."*

Eye salve to see – Satan blinds--**2Cor 4:4***in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they will not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. God opens the eyes--Pr 20:12***The hearing ear and the seeing eye, The LORD has made both of them.**

19 *'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent.*

Those whom God has 'affection for' reprove=to convict & discipline=train, to educate a child. **Pr 3:12** *For whom the LORD loves He disciplines, Just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights. If not illegitimate Heb 12*

Hope remains when repent, lukewarm replaced w/ white hot fervency.

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20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me. 21 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

Jesus outside the church knocking to be invited in. Philly had open door, Laodicea closed door. We often use this scripture for unbelievers, God knocking on their hearts door. But this is lukewarm believers God is appealing to that a new work, fresh anointing of Holy Spirit come.

It is an invitation to reign w/ Christ and the saints and sit in an honored place. Sons of Zebedee *Mk 10:35 And James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, came up to Him, saying to Him, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You." 36 And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" 37 And they said to Him, "Grant that we may sit in Your glory, one on Your right, and one on Your left."*