

Revelation Chapter 3

The Church in Sardis

Jesus calls them to REPENT

Revelation 3:1 (continued)

3:1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write,

"These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars:

(Jesus) how do we know- very interesting because all other descriptions of Christ were in chapter one.

Rev 4:5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Rev 5:6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

"I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

In John's day, Sardis, once the capital of the ancient kingdom of Lydia, was comparatively insignificant. Even the church there partook of this abasement. (from The Wycliffe Bible Commentary)

DEAD

NT:3498 nekros (nek-ros'); from an apparently primary nekus (a corpse); dead (literally or figuratively; also as noun): KJV - dead. (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright (c) 1994, Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

(observe: nekros is from a primary word nekus and the word nekus means "a corpse or dead". The meaning of nekros is defined from it's use as shown in the "Hogg & Vine". Therefore, the word nekros means "spiritually dead")

Nekros NT:3498 is used of (a) the death of the body, cf. James 2:26, its most frequent sense: **(b) the actual spiritual condition of unsaved men, Matt 8:22; John 5:25; Eph 2:1,5; 5:14; Phil 3:11; Col 2:13; cf. Luke 15:24**: (c) the ideal spiritual condition of believers in regard to sin, Rom 6:11: **(d) a church in declension, inasmuch as in that state it is inactive and barren, Rev 3:1**: (e) sin, which apart from law cannot produce a sense of guilt, Rom 7:8: (f) the body of the believer in contrast to his spirit, Rom 8:10: (g) the works of the Law, inasmuch as, however good in themselves, Rom 7:13, they cannot produce life, Heb 6:1; 9:14: **(h) the faith that does not produce works, James 2:17,26**; cf. v. 20. From Notes on Thessalonians, by Hogg and Vine, p. 143. (from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright (c)1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

Revelation 3:2-3 (continued) The Church in Sardis

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. 3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. *(Rapture reference)*

Refer to topical studies "Watch Watchman Watch" and "as a thief".

Observe: these instructions are given to the church of Sardis and the church is called to be watchmen. Furthermore, the church is given a warning that "if" they will not watch, then Christ will come upon them as a thief. Examples are given in the old testament and can be applied to the instructions to the watchman during the last days. This will become important when the seven angels sound the "trumpets" as a warning to the inhabitants of the earth. [Rev 8:6 - Rev 11:15-17](#) Notice the number of times that "trumpet" is mentioned in the topical study "Watch".

[Mat 24:42](#) Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

[Mat 24:48](#) But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,'

[Mat 24:49](#) and begins to beat *his* fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,

[Luk 21:34](#) "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

[Luk 21:35](#) For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

[Luk 21:36](#) Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Revelation 3:4-6 (continued) The Church in Sardis

4 You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. 5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but 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." ' "

Overcomes: *Refer to study notes above; [Rev 2:7 Church of Ephesus](#)
There are 11 verses total (7 are spoken to the churches)*

BLOT OUT (9 verses – 8 in OT, 1 in NT)

[Ex 17:14](#)

14 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven."
(from New International Version)

[Ps 51:9-12](#)

9 Hide your face from my sins

and blot out all my iniquity.

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

(from New International Version)

Book of Life (8 times – 1 in Php, 7 in Revelation)

[Php 4:3](#) And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names *are* in the **Book of Life**.

[Rev 3:5](#) He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the

Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

[Rev 13:8](#) All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the **Book of Life** of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

[Rev 17:8](#) The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the **Book of Life** from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

[Rev 20:12](#) And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the* **Book of Life**. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

[Rev 20:15](#) And anyone not found written in the **Book of Life** was cast into the lake of fire.

[Rev 21:27](#) But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's **Book of Life**.

[Rev 22:19](#) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the **Book of Life**, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

The Church in Philadelphia

Jesus does not call them to REPENT

Revelation 3:7 (continued)

3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, **He who has the key of David**, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens" (*Jesus*)

Key of David (*abbreviated version*)

What is the "Key of David"? [Isa 22:22-25](#) is an old testament example shows Shebna as a prince over the palace and treasures of Judah and Jerusalem. The Lord says "[Isa 22:16](#) **What are you doing here and who gave you permission**" The scripture uses Eliakim as a "type" showing that God removed Shebna "a peg anchored in a wall and all that hung from it" and then God established Eliakim. Eliakim would remain "an immovable peg in a wall, placed there by God" and would have authority over the "key to the city of David" able to open and close doors to the treasures. When, [Rev 3:9](#) refers back to this example it is to show that Jesus is our King and "an immovable peg in a wall, placed there by God" and that His kingdom will remain forever and that He has the "key of David" such that He has opened a door to salvation and no one can shut it, and when He shuts the door to salvation, no one can open it.

Revelation 3:8 (continued) The Church in Philadelphia

8 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a **little strength**, **have kept My word**, and **have not denied My name**.

Little Strength:

Have you stored anything up for the coming time when [Rev13:17](#) happens and those who refuse to accept the mark of the beast will not be able to buy or sell.

[Prov 30:24-25](#)

24 "Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise:

25 Ants are creatures of **little strength**, yet **they store up their food** in the summer;
(from New International Version)

[Prov 6:6-8](#)

6 Go to the ant, you sluggard; **consider its ways and be wise!**

7 It has no commander, no overseer or ruler,

8 yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.
(from New International Version)

kept My word

John 15:17-27

17 These things I command you, that you love one another. 18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' **If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.**

John 17:12-19

12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.** 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. NKJV

G5083 τηρέω tēreō (*tay-reh'-o*) From τηρός teros (a *watch*; perhaps akin to G2334); to guard from loss or injury, properly by keeping the eye upon;

observe: also, same word used in [Rev 1:3](#) ...in other words, He is NOT rapturing you away...He is keeping an eye on you.

have not denied My name.

2Ti 2:12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.

Mat 10:33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Revelation 3:9 (continued) The Church in Philadelphia

9 Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, (*refer to topical study "synagogue of Satan"*) **who say they are Jews and are not but lie--indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.** (*Be clear about these promises, they occur "after" we have inherited our spiritual bodies [Rev 20:4](#)*) (*Also, refer to topical study "Kenites"; "Cain"*) This is a big study for later date.

H7017, qēynîy, *kee-nee'* Patronymic from H7014; a *Kenite* or member of the tribe of *Kajin*: - Kenite. **H7014**, qayin, *kah'-yin*; *Kajin*, the name of the first child, also of a place in Palestine, and of an Oriental tribe: - **Cain**, Kenite (-s).

Revelation 3:10 (continued) The Church in Philadelphia

10 Because you have kept **My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.**

Most Bible scholars see this **hour of trial** as a prophetic reference to the Messianic woes, the Great Tribulation, which precede Jesus' earthly kingdom. Jesus promised to **keep** these Christians from that **hour of trial**. David Guzik

John 17:15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should **keep** them from the evil one.

Rom 5:3-6; Heb 10:35-39; 1 Tim 4:16; Rom 8:24-30; Rom 12:12-14; 1 Cor 13:4-7; James 5:7-8; Rev 13:5-10; Rev 14:11-12; Matt 10:21-23

I also will keep you :

Your Father in heaven will guard you from loss or injury during your hour of trial that will come upon the whole world, during the time that Anti-Christ rules and deceives the whole world. You will not fly away or be Raptured during this time, however, not a hair on your head will perish. Refer to [Dan 3](#) and [Luke 21:10](#)

G5083 τηρέω *tēreō* (*tay-reh'-o*) From τηρός *teros* (a *watch*; perhaps akin to G2334); **to guard from loss or injury, properly by keeping the eye upon;**

Luk 21:13 But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. NKJV

Luk 21:18 But not a hair of your head shall be lost. NKJV

Luk 21:19 By your patience possess your souls. NKJV

the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world

Trial: NT:3986 *peirasmos* (*pi-ras-mos'*); from NT:3985; **a putting to proof (by experiment [of good], experience [of evil], solicitation, discipline or provocation); by implication, adversity: KJV - temptation, X try. Strong's Concordance**

Refer to "Church- Our Job"

Mark 13:9-13; James 1:12-15; 1 Peter 4:12-13; Matt 24:9-14; Luke 21:12-19; Acts 26:9-11; Matt 5:10-12; Matt 5:43-45; Mark 4:13-20; Rev 12:8-9; Rev 13:8; John 15:20-21;

to test those who dwell on the earth.

Test: NT:3985 *peirazo* (*pi-rad'-zo*); from NT:3984; **to test (objectively), i.e. endeavor, scrutinize, entice, discipline: KJV - assay, examine, go about, prove, tempt (-er), try.** (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright (c) 1994, Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

Revelation 3:11-12

11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. 12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God.

This is what it's all about. God's purpose is to prepare this earth so that He can dwell with man [Ez 48:35](#); [Rev 21:1-5](#)

[Rev 21:3](#) And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

[Rev 21:4](#) And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 3:13

And I will write on him My new name. 13 **He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**" ' [Rev 22:1-6](#); [Rev 19:11-16](#)

Church of the Laodiceans

Revelation 3:14-15

14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

We know this is Jesus because:

1. *The Beginning of the creation of God* [Mark 10:6 & 13:9](#)
2. *The True Witness* [John 8:14](#)
3. *The Faithful Witness* [Rev 1:5](#)

15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 **So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.**

Why then, is being "cold" better than being lukewarm?

LUKEWARM people believe they have their sins under control. (until it's too late)

Because, when you're lukewarm then you will never repent. [Rev 2:21-23](#); because you see no need to because you really haven't gone far enough toward good or far enough into evil to understand that there is division that separates them. You are therefore, easily deceived into believing good is evil and evil is good, and you call evil good and good evil.

[Rev 2:21](#) And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

[Rev 2:22](#) Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.

The Church has been given a "bench mark" and boundaries to live by and anything outside that bench mark we strive to avoid within ourselves and in our Church.

[1Pe 2:21](#) For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

[1Ti 4:12](#) Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Revelation 3:17-19

17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing!--and do not know that you are wretched [Rom 7:21-25](#), miserable [Gal 4:9-10](#), poor [James 2:5-7](#), blind [Matt 23:25-28](#), and naked-- [2 Cor 5:1-10](#); [Rev 16:15](#); [Rev 17:15-18](#); [Rev 19:6-8](#)

18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

Revelation 3:20-22

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. [Matt 7:7-8](#); [Matt 24:32-35](#) If anyone hears My voice and opens the door [Rev 4:1-2](#), I will come in to him and dine [Matt 9:10-13](#) with him, and he with Me. 21 To him who overcomes [Jer 1:17-2:1](#); [Matt 16:18-19](#); [Luke 10:19-20](#); [Rom 12:18-21](#); [2 Peter 2:20-22](#); [Rev 21:6-8](#) I will grant to sit 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." NKJV

END OF CHAPTER 3