



INFORMED AND FAITHFUL

Lesson 12: The End of the Age

New Testament Prophecy

Revelation 1-8

JoLynn Gower

352-2458; 493-6151

jgower@guardingthetruth.org

THE REVELATION

- ❖ **Revelation 1:3** Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near
- ❖ **Revelation 14:13** And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!' "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors; their deeds follow with them"
- ❖ **Revelation 16:15** ("Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.")
- ❖ **Revelation 19:9** Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb'... "These are true words of God."
- ❖ **Revelation 20:6** Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection;
- ❖ **Revelation 22:7** "And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."
- ❖ **Revelation 22:14** Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, to enter by the gates into the city.

THE VISION

- ❖ John was “in the Spirit” on the Lord’s day
 - ❖ Instructed to write letters to 7 churches in Asia
 - ❖ Sees Jesus, girded as a priest, walking among 7 lampstands (churches)
 - ❖ Sees Jesus holding 7 stars (angels of the churches)
 - ❖ Sees Jesus with shining face and sharp two-edged sword coming from His mouth
 - ❖ Jesus dictates letters to the churches in Asia ...John may have been the bishop of the church in Ephesus
-

EPHESUS (loveless)

- ❖ Ephesus: current western Turkey; trade center and one of 5 great cities of Roman Empire
- ❖ Temple to Artemis was one of wonders of world
- ❖ Paul founded church on 2nd trip; stayed 3 years 3rd trip
- ❖ Timothy took leadership (1 and 2 Timothy)
- ❖ Many false teachers; riot against Paul 57 AD; weary
- ❖ 2nd generation of believers had lost zeal for God
- ❖ Hate deeds of Nicolaitans
- ❖ **Revelation 2:5** 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.'

SMYRNA (persecuted)

- ❖ Port city 25 miles north of Ephesus
- ❖ Strong Jewish population opposed to Christians
- ❖ Strong gentile population practice emperor worship
- ❖ Be faithful IN their suffering; resurrection to eternal life
- ❖ **2 Timothy 4:6-8** For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.
- ❖ **Revelation 2:10** 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

PERGAMUM (lenient)

- ❖ Sophisticated educational and cultural center
- ❖ Well defended
- ❖ Satan's throne was there!
- ❖ The church faced pressure to compromise but Antipas didn't
- ❖ Some had adopted the teaching of the Nicolaitans
- ❖ **Revelation 2:16-17** 'Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth. 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'

THYATIRA (compromising)

- ❖ Industrial town known for textiles
- ❖ Secular; no particular religion
- ❖ Church was loving, faithful and patient
- ❖ But they tolerated Jezebel who called herself a prophetess but wasn't; sexual sin; meat offered to idols
- ❖ Don't cave to the "deep things of Satan"
- ❖ **Revelation 2:24-28** ...the rest who are in Thyatira...I place no other burden on you. 'Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come. 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star.

SARDIS (lifeless)

- ❖ One of two of the seven cities uninhabited now
- ❖ Known as being “alive” but really “dead”
- ❖ Sardis had many cult gods and goddesses including Artemis and Demeter (variation of Ishtar)
- ❖ There didn't seem to be persecution...there didn't seem to be any spiritual growth either
- ❖ **Revelation 3:3-6** 'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. '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. 'He who overcomes will 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. 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

PHILADELPHIA (obedient)

- ❖ Founded by Pergamum; earthquake 17 AD
- ❖ Small, insignificant, obedient church
- ❖ **Revelation 3:9** 'Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you.
- ❖ **Revelation 3:11-12** 'I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; 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, and My new name.

LAODICEA (lukewarm)

- ❖ Wealthy; known for banking, eye salve, fashion
- ❖ Jesus says they are poor, blind, naked
- ❖ Lukewarm...spit out of mouth
- ❖ The church was complacent and rich; so busy with the material world that they didn't realize Jesus was knocking at the door
- ❖ **Revelation 3:20-22** ... if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. '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. 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.' "

THRONE DESCRIPTION

- ❖ **Revelation 4:2-4** Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.
- ❖ **Lightning, thunder, 7 eyes which are 7 spirits of God, sea of glass; 4 living creatures declaring holiness of God**





THE REDEEMER

- ❖ **Revelation 5:2** And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?"
- ❖ Only the rightful purchaser could break the seal on a deed of purchase; only the one who had paid the price;
- ❖ The deed had to be opened before witnesses who knew the rightful owner
- ❖ **Revelation 5:6** And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. (Isaiah 11)

**THE WORLD'S DESTINY IS NOT UNDER THE
CONTROL OF BLIND FATE! WE HAVE A SAVIOR!**

THE SEVEN

- ❖ SEVEN SEALS
- ❖ SEVEN TRUMPETS
- ❖ SEVEN BOWLS
- ❖ Most people believe that the last seven years of Daniel's vision begin with the breaking of the 1st seal
- ❖ Others believe that it begins with the first trumpet and that the seals include Ezekiel's war, and the subsequent making of a 7 year treaty
- ❖ **Ezekiel 37: vision of dry bones**
- ❖ **Ezekiel 38, 39: vision of war with Israel**

SEVEN SEALS

❖ Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

1. White horse; rider has bow; given crown; conquer
2. Red horse; rider can take peace; men kill each other; sword given
3. Black horse with scales; rampant inflation
4. Green horse; Death and Hades follow; authority over 1/4 of earth to kill with sword, famine, pestilence, wild beasts
5. Souls under the altar calling for avenger of blood
6. Earthquake (Ezekiel's War earthquake?)
7. Silence in heaven; angels given trumpets

THE SAINTS PRAY

❖ **Revelation 8:1-5** When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

SEVEN TRUMPETS

1. Destruction by hail, fire, blood; 1/3 of earth, trees, green grass ruined
2. Like a mountain burning with fire into sea; 1/3 of sea creatures and ships destroyed
3. Star falling from heaven like a torch; 1/3 fresh water made bitter; wormwood; people died from water
4. 1/3 of sun, moon, stars darkened; wouldn't shine for a third of day or night

THREE WOES ANNOUNCED

- ❖ First over in 9:12; second over in 11:14; third not specifically mentioned, maybe 12:12