

Revelation Part 4
- From Him who Loves us





Neapolis
Apollonia

Nicopolis

Cenchreae

Areopagus

Island of Patmos

Mitylene

Adramyttium

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Miletus

Colossae

Myra

Attalia

Perga

Tarsus

Haran

Antioch

Seleucia

Salamis

Paphos

Mount Hor

Mount Hermon

Merom

Damascus

Shechem

En-rogel

Sodom

Alexandria

Mount Halak

Temar

Mount Ararat

Babylon

Focusing on the
Future

- If Jesus were to write a letter to your church, what would he condemn or commend?



Letters to the Churches— The Things That Are

- Letters to 7 churches on the roman postal route – in order
- Could loosely correspond to “Church Ages”
- Five of these churches rebuked for tolerating sin
- Modern churches can have a mixture of these characteristics, good and bad





seven letters to seven

Patterns of the Letters to the Churches

A greeting: 'To the angel of the church in ...'

A title of the risen Christ, usually taken from the description in chapter 1.

A section headed 'I know', introducing praise for what is good in the church's record (not in the case of Laodicea).

A criticism of the church (not in the case of Smyrna nor Philadelphia).

A warning.

An exhortation beginning, 'He who has an ear ...'.

A promise beginning with something like 'To him who overcomes I will give ...'.

In the last four letters the order of 6 and 7 is reversed.

The Church of Sardis – The Dead Church

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: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. 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. 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.”’

Q: Who does Jesus say is worthy to walk with Him?

A: Those who have not defiled their garments; remaining pure. For they are worthy implies they did not earn their justification but did nothing to forfeit it.

Q: What does Jesus condemn?

A: Having a good reputation but not living up to it. Like James 2 – faith without works is dead.

Q: Compared other churches in these letters, what’s missing from the Church of Sardis?

A: Persecution. Satan has no need to persecute them.

Q: What does Jesus command?

A: Actively watch for His return. This is not referring to His second coming, but the immediacy Christ could require our lives at any time. Repent; hold fast.

Q: What is the Lamb’s book of life?

A: This is the book all believers are written into before the foundations of the world.

Math 10:32 – Everyone who confesses me before men, I will also confess him before my father.

Romans 8:28–39:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Q: Who will Jesus confess to the Father?

A: Those who confess Him before men.

Q: Who can separate us from the love of God?

A: No-one!

Rev 13:8 And all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

Rev 17:8 – ...and the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast...

Q: When were Christians written in the book of life?

A: Before the forming of the world

The Church of Philadelphia

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": 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.

9 Indeed I will make those of the 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. 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.

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. 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 I will write on him My new name.

13 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."'

Q: What things did Jesus commend?

A: Works through perseverance; keeping His Word, even when they had little strength

Q: What is the hour of trial?

A: The 7 year tribulation, where ½ of the world's population dies

Q: What does Jesus command them to do?

A: Hold fast to their crowns, or victories

Q: What does pillar in the temple signify?

A: There is no temple in heaven, this means permanent presence with God

Q: What does having God's name written on you mean?

A: Ownership by Jesus.

Next Up

Laodice and the
throne room of God





The Rapture

1 Thessalonians 4 –

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.