

The Church God Wants

Text: Rev. 3: 7-13

Intro.

1. Without a doubt → one of the most fascinating + yet frustrating books in the Bible is the book of Revelation.
2. When we read it → try to analyze all of its symbols → sounds like a combination of Star Wars + UFO sightings.
3. In reality → one of the most relevant books of the Bible for our times → book of Revelation (Last chapter, really, baby) st
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etern
hell
 - 1) More than just apocalyptic literature.
 - More than 2) Symbolic treatment of the end times.
 - More than 3) Millennial view of history that talks about Rapture/Tribulation/Advent/Millennium/Judgment/eternity.
4. Book of Rev. → inspired by the Holy Spirit to really give us a picture of the Church God really wants to cope with modern life → prepare the church for the most important event of all → return of Jesus Christ (I Thes 4:16-17) is
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5. Thus, when we read Rev. ch. 2/3 → more than a message to seven specific churches in vivid ~~visions~~ ^(modern reality) → really a panorama of church history.

6. Many scholars who believe there are 7 churches represent 7 stages or eras of church development through the ages:

- 1) Ephesus → apostolic church → (A.D. 30-300)
- 2) Smyrna → Martyr's Church → (100-313)
- 3) Pergamon → Compromising Church → (314-590)
- 4) Thyatira → Universal / Pagan Catholic Church (590-1517)
- 5) Sardis → Reformation Church → (1517-1700)
- 6) Philadelphia → Revival Church → (1700-1900)
- 7) Laodicea → ~~Pre-Revival~~ Church → (1900 - present)

Preparation

7. When we look at the two segments for our life time →

1) Church in Rev. does not want a Laodicean church that is deceived + deluded by a prevarious age.

2) When talks about the Laodicean church - representing our time →

(1) ~~Misdirection of its end~~ → Rev. 3:17

(1) ~~Physical~~ Churchified by an intellectual degeneration →

Rev. 3: 15, 16.

(2) Misdirection of ~~that~~ ^{prevarious} ~~spiritual~~ ^{its} end → Rev. 3: 17

- (3) Need of a ^{repentant} ~~spiritual~~ renewal → Rev 3:18, 19
- (4) ~~Recognize~~ ^{Realize} its unparalleled opportunity → Rev. 3:20
- (5) Realize its eternal destiny → Rev 3:21, 22

8. Now is time → come to grips with what God is doing in the world → building a church -

- 1) Col. 1:15 → Christ is the head.
- 2) Eph. 2:19ff. → built on apostles feds of apostles
- 3) 6 Chas of Eph. → body / temple / saints / new humans / church / army.
- 4) Rev. 19:11ff.
- 5) Rev. 21:1ff.

9. What is going on now? 1 Cor 15:25ff

10. Sardis great! How do we become what God wants?

- 1) Pleading? Ill. eggs + trucks.
- 2) Piercing? Ill. Cut finger

11. Wants us to recover the spirit of the

Spirit of 1) Sardis → Reformation Church → day of Luther / Zwingli / Calvin / Knox / Millenium.

Power 2) Philadelphia → Jonathan Edwards / John Wesley / George Whitefield / William Carey /

Green St / Calvin Club Palmer St. Adoniram Judson / L. L. Moore / Outboard Outings / Classical renewal

Brought on people
Matt 16:18

12. How? → Turn to power of Philadelphians
13. Modern day formula.
14. Church God Wants →

* Center of Greek culture 200 B.
 * 30 miles S.E. of Seattle
 * Heavy Jewish population
 * Destroyed by earthquake A.D. 17 → rebuilt by Titus Caesar

I. Fulfills the Great Commission

1. Rev. 3: 7-8a →
2. When review this par. → reaffirmation of the Great Commission.
 - 1) Matt 28: 18-20
 - 2) Acts 1: 8.
 - 3) Matt 24: 14
3. ~~Heavenly court~~
 - 4) Opening of the open door → gospel will be preached → sending renewal → last day renewal → Rev 19: 9-17.
3. How to see the Communion:
 - 1) Words by of Jesus → different from words / flesh → key of renewal again → sign of new + new → John 9: 6 ff.
 - 2) Holy / True →
4. See: Ga. Baptist // Vital Seed.

II. Keeps the Word

1. Rev. 3: 8b → Little steps // kept Word.
 - 1) New generation / migration / converts.
 - 2) Sustaining force → Word.
2. Word more necessary than ever:
 - 1) Psalm 19: 7-11 → Power
 - 2) Rom 12: 9-21 → Productivity.
 - 3) Matt. 4: (Jesus) 1-11 → Present Presence
3. 2nd: Reel Series // Early Sunday story.

See: Utah Seed

See: Cindy Cullen

III. Exalts Christ.

1. Rev. 3: 8 c/d → "Not denied my name"
2. This is the promise → Is Christ really who we say he is?
 - 1) 2nd: Lay King →
 - 2) 2nd: ~~down~~ bails down to resurrection →
 - (1) Empty Tomb
 - (2) Silence from Romans / Pharaoh // never denied / fulfilled
 - (3) Charge of worldly time (Sat. to Sun.)
 - (4) Impact of disciples
 - (5) Epitaph of the Church.
3. 2nd: Never / Where → Witness at Paul's death
(Sports Life)
4. 2nd: C.S. Lewis ?
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IV. Endure Persecution

1. Rev. 3: 8 - (b) 9, 10 → (11)

1) Synagogue of Satan → New Age Jews.

2) Problems with Rome. (Held fort) vs. 11

2. Power of persecution → endure patiently →

3. ~~Let's Christ persecution~~ prepared for the Rapture:

3. Strength of Christian faith → persecution: → put us in 1 Peter (1) (baptism) → ch. 1: 3 - 9

1) In his great mercy he has given us new birth.
→ through renewal of Jesus Christ from the dead.

2) Inheritances that can never fade, perish, spoil or fade - kept in heaven for you (us).

3) Though faith → shielded by God's power → until the coming of salvation to be revealed in the last time.

4) In this we greatly rejoice.

5) For a reward → suffer grief in all kinds of trials:

These trials
persecution
11

(1) Have come to prove our faith genuine

(2) This faith is of greater worth than gold which perishes even though refined by fire.

(3) Result in glory, honor, praise, glory + honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

6) Though we have not seen him → we believe.

7) " " do not see him now → believe in him

8) Filled with an inexpressible + glorious joy.

9) Receiving the goal of our faith → salvation of our souls.

3. Let's Christ's Church.

V. Key Points For The Return

1. Rev. 3: 11-13

2. Beautiful portrait of future life with Christ. →
Bear the key signatures of Rev. →

1) Foundational →

a)

1) Substantial → Pillars

2) Spiritual → Temple.

3) Secure → go out no more

4) Significant → New Jerusalem.

5) Saved → Christ's new name.

(Rev. 19)
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3. Importance of the return →

See: C. R. Spain
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See: Handmaiden

Phil 2: 5