

*HOPE*  
of the  
*WORLD*

S E C O N D   E D I T I O N .

# **HOPE** *of the* **WORLD.**

**W**scriptural understanding is the greatest treasure any person can possess. It should be guarded as a sacred God given possession. When we respectfully listen to views expressed by other people, we do not change our ideas, we often clarify them. Our comprehension of some Bible truths may have been foggy, they may not have been clearly grasped. By talking with others, our knowledge becomes more clearly defined. We understand the Divine program better and love our Father more devotedly.

Heb.10:24,25.

**CUPERTINO ECCLESIA**  
**CUPERTINO,**  
**CALIF.**

# HOPE *of the* WORLD



**H**o ye therefore  
and teach all nations

# HOPE of the WORLD.

*This work is respectfully dedicated  
to the memory of  
Montgomery Reynolds  
and  
William Thomas Reynolds  
sons of the present  
writer.*

Published by  
**The Cupertino Ecclesia**  
10188 North Highway Nine  
**CUPERTINO, CALIF.**

Can men, whose souls are lighted  
With wisdom from on high,  
Can they to men benighted  
The lamp of life deny?  
Salvation! O salvation!  
The joyful *sound* proclaim,  
Till earth's remotest nation  
Has learned Messiah's name.

—*Reginald Heber*

As most  
people believe the evil  
one is evidenced by his  
activities, so we view  
evidence of our Lord's  
presence by what He  
is doing. Humbly in our  
eschatological contempla-  
tions, may His personal  
companionship guide us  
in our thinking as we  
further consider His  
word.

<Lu.12:5>

"But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear:  
Fear **G**od, which after he hath killed, hath power to  
cast into hell; yes, I say unto you, fear *him*."

# FOREWARD

May we use this work to the glory  
of God.

When an opinion is expressed, in harmony, with our own, there is little chance of developing conversation or additional thought on the subject. It is not necessary to be controversial in expressing a different opinion, and in presenting the following comments on the first three chapters of Revelation there is no effort to develop controversy. We are trying to develop thought, we are trying to encourage Bible study.

To the vast majority of readers, the conclusions herein expressed will be entirely new. The investigator should not be discouraged because of this. Each person has a legal and a moral right to the degree of spiritual understanding which God has given. We respectfully urge each one to guard his God given heritage with all diligence, irrespective of denominational lines. If the different views contained in this work are a help in understanding preconceived ideas more clearly, then the value of this little volume will be enhanced. Let each one gather to his own support, a "thus saith the Lord" for his opinion, and in this divine support, love God more and serve Him more perfectly.

Undoubtedly there are millions of people throughout the world today who need comfort and encouragement of the Scriptures, more than at any other time in their lives. This-this has never been more universally true than at present, because of the perplexity and intense



## Foreward

suffering throughout the world.

We have tried to give comfort to the needy and hope to the broken hearted but we are not trying to establish a new cult or a new sect. It is because some will claim we are trying to establish a new denomination that we here and now decline to answer any letters sent to us.

However, we desire to be constructive in our activity. Therefore, any comment deemed worthy of publication and appearing in any religious or secular publication, whether favorable or unfavorable to our present conclusions; these printed comments will receive special attention and reverent consideration as we prepare our comments on the succeeding chapters of John's great writing. In our effort, we sincerely request the unceasing prayers of our readers.

*"Blessed are those servants, whom when he cometh, shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them." (Lu 12:37)*

# The Seven Churches.

Those who follow our Lord's admonition to "search the Scriptures," find a wonderful portrayal of Himself, of the Father, His works, and words of great encouragement. God's work is perfect. (Deut. 32:4) "The works of the Lord are great." (Psa. 111:2) The truly consecrated "rejoice in Thy Word." (Psa. 119:162) As we consider these and other Scriptures, we glean the idea, the confidence, our Bible is the Word of God. That it is not the word of man. (1 Thes. 2:13) The purpose of it all is - "To the end He may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God even our Father." (1 Thes. 3:13).

Is the pathetic minor but for earth,  
    And will the heavens resound with joy alone,  
Tho' sadness often wakes a deeper tone?  
    Must all of life fall off, that cannot show  
Some fruit that did to full perfection grow?

    The tottering steps, the pause, the fall,  
Will not God's rare design have room for all?  
    And in the circle of infinity  
Must not all moods of life unfolded be,  
    But all complete - the weak within the strong,  
And the one verse become a perfect song;  
    The bud, the blossom, the fruit-laden bough,  
Seen by the light of the Eternal Now?

    May not all discords to one concord lead -  
Whose every missing note would leave a need  
    Vast, unimagined as a world untrod -  
An infinite harmony, whose name is God?

- Unknown -

# HOPE <sup>of the</sup> WORLD.

## Revelation

### One.

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ (symbolized by the scroll in the hand of Him who sat on the Throne) which God (the One on the Throne) gives to Him (the Lamb) to show unto His Servants (the Church first and then unto the world) the things which must shortly come to pass (the prophecies of this scroll) He sent and signified it (made it known by signs, not by realities) by His angel unto His servant John."

Re.1:1.-In the study of this verse the student is impressed with the apparent connection of this thought with Rev.22:6-21. The Book is declared to be a revealing or "The Revelation of Jesus Christ." This is the Divine title. Sometimes we call it Apocalypse which is the Greek word rendered Revelation. This sameword is translated, "When He shall be revealed," in 2 Thes.1:7; "Manifestation," Rom.8:19; "Appearing," in 1 Pet.1:7; "Coming," in 1 Cor.1:7. It is, therefore, a disclosure of the future course of events presented in a series of word

## Revelation 1:1

pictures. While on earth our Lord used the same method of speaking in parables. (Mt.13:10-16; Mk.4:11,12).

Our next clause, "which God gave to Him," shows us clearly, all things are of the Father but by the Son. "I have put My Spirit upon Him to bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.-- To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house." (Isa.42:1,7) Therefore we conclude, from the Scriptures and from the present conditions throughout the world, God's time has come and His Servant, His beloved Son Jesus, will establish His government. (Jno.5:19,20; 7:16;8:28; 12:49; 14:10; 17:7,8; Mt.11:27; Mk.13:32; Ac.1:7.)

Our verse continues, - "to show." This means, to present to view. This act of showing may be closely connected with (Mat. 4:8; 8:4). "To His servants," but not to all people. Servants of the Lord do not all enjoy the same degree of close relationship. Even a son is a servant. A hireling is also a servant, but their relation to the Father is quite different. The word "servants" occurs fourteen times in the book of Revelation. Paul tells us we are not our own. We are bought with a price. (1 Cor.7:21-24) Hirelings may be counted as sons by adoption. "Wherefore thou art no more a servant but a son" (Gal.4:7) The Jews are spoken of as being a "house of servants." (Lev.25:42,55) "Thou art my servant O Israel." (Isa.49:3) The Jewish nation is never called a house of sons. This is limited to the truly consecrated since Pentecost. (Heb.3:5,6)

"What things must needs come to pass."

## Revelation 1:1.

We understand the must-come to pass, comes because of Divine command. The wording of this statement eliminates the historical deductions of some theologians because these happenings are distinctly placed in the future of their recording. Therefore these writings could not picture past Jewish history. The Septuagint uses these same words in translating Dan. 2:29.

"With speed" (en tachei). Thus the student may translate this, "soon" or "quickly," This expression is used as authority for believing that Revelation pictured the historical happenings since the first century. While this is partially true the Gospel Age is an age of grace. It is not an age of must. The recorded invitation is, "come unto Me---and I will give you rest."--"I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God" &c.&c. In the Restitution period, when the world will be reconciled to God, the must and shall will be applied. Then "every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess" &c.&c. (Phil.2:10) That there is to be a delay in much of this Prophecy until after the present dispensation is implied in Lu.18:7, "though He bear long with them." That there was to be a delay between the writings of John and their fulfilment is clearly expressed in Rev.10:6, "for there shall be no more delay." It will be a time when things happen quickly. It took Lucifer 6000 years to bring about human slavery to himself, but in 1000 years our Lord will restore harmony. It will be the "Day of the Lord." (2 Pet.3:8) Our Lord will make short work of it. (Rom.9:28)

We read "and He signified it" - (to show by signs) Etymologically speaking, this is the correct meaning found here. The following

## Revelation 1:1,2.

passages in this great Book present word pictures and by these will show or indicate what will come to pass. As we progress in this study we will recognize fourteen or more symbols or signs explained in the context. These help us in placing the right interpretation on other texts, thus making the entire more clear and understandable. We should keep in mind a symbol, or sign, or word picture is not the real thing. It merely illustrates the thing represented.

"Sending by His angel to his servant John"  
Peter, Paul, John and others were selected for a special work. "Surely the Lord God will do nothing but He revealeth His secrets unto His servants the prophets." (Amos 3:7)

Rev.1:2 - "Who testified" - This expression, being in the past tense shows John did not begin writing until after the Revelation in full had been given him. At the conclusion of the Book we read, - "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things." (Rev.22:16, 20) There are only three places in this Book where the word "testify" is used. The beginning and the ending are thus linked together.

"As to the Word of God." While the entire Scriptures may properly be considered the "Word of God" and Revelation particularly the expression has the more specific application of special prophetic value. For example, - "Stand thou still awhile, that I may show thee the Word of the Lord." (1 Sam.9:27) "The Word of God came unto Shemaiah." (1 Ki.12:22) (1 Chr. 17:3) We must keep in mind there is a difference between the Written Word and the Living

## Revelation 1:2,3.

Word. For example, Abram had visitors in human form for the purpose of reassuring him. "The Word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not &c.&c." (Gen.15:1) John calls Jesus the Word. (Jno.1:1.) In Revelation we have pictures of Jesus, the Living Word and also of the prophetic Word of God. John was in Patmos to receive the Word of God. (Rev.1:9) even as Paul went to Arabia (Gal.1:17) for the same reason.

"and the testimony of Jesus." The scope of this Book does not go beyond the special ministry of Jesus during the present age and the Restitution period. It begins with His Church, the establishment of His orderly reign on earth and ends with His turning that Kingdom over to the Father. Any other explanation of it is a mistake of those who seek to explain. This will be proven as we proceed.

"whatsoever things he saw." John not only heard the words of this prophecy but also saw visions which pictured things to come. He says, "I John saw and heard them." (Rev.22:8)

Rev.1:3. - "Happy be he that readeth and they who hear." - This refers to the ancient custom of there being one reader and many listeners because of the scarcity of manuscripts. For example:- "And when He came to Nazareth where He had been brought up, and, as was His custom, He went into the Synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read." (Lu.4:16) Manifestly some have more understanding than others. Some have more of the mind of Christ than others but all are urged to read and those who cannot read are urged to listen to others read the wonderful words of life and their own future happiness.



## Revelation 1:3

"the words of this prophecy." In this Book there are a number of heavenly utterances which are not expressed in other things recorded. Prophecy of both heavenly and earthly happenings is the purpose, the subject of this book. The word prophecy is used seven times. (Rev.1:3, 11:6; 19;7,10,18,19) If it is a prophecy it is not a past history. Historicists twist some parts of this Book to their purpose but they admit other parts refer to the future. Another good translation reads, - "Blessed is he that readeth and they that understand the words of this prophecy." Reading comes first, understanding comes later. The inference is that some may read but never understand. All the words of this Book are prophecy. John saw and heard the things revealed to him. He was commanded to place in writing the things unveiled to him. Thus all of this prophecy is composed of things John wrote in it. Let us be guided by our Father in heaven and regard this Book as a prophecy and not as a history. The exaltation of the Church as Kings and Priests is most beautifully pictured but the subject of the Book is the destruction of evil, the blessing of the world and the preparing it for the honor of being turned over to the Father. These facts will be clearly presented as we progress.

We are admonished, - "and keep" (in your thinking and in your living) "the things written therein" The Greek word "shamar" means to ponder upon. Keep them in the heart. For example, - "Mary kept these things and pondered them in her heart." (Lu.2:19) "His mother kept these sayings in her heart." (Lu.2:51) "They that heard (these things) laid them up in their hearts." (Lu.1:66) The thought is, to remember,

## Revelation 1:3,4.

so as to obey.

"for the season is near." The appointed time is near which is covered by the following written Word which refers to the second advent, the day of the Lord, "the times of restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." (Acts 3:19-21) This concerns everybody. It cannot be put aside or neglected. Today man is judging man. Then our Lord will be judge. (Psa.7:8) Paul did not judge himself. (1 Cor.4:3) Therefore let us not condemn anyone. (1 Cor.4:5) "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay saith the Lord." (Rom.12:19)

Rev.1:4. - "John to the seven ecclesias which are in Asia." These seven groups represent seven periods of time during the age of grace, as stated by other writers, but also picture seven degrees of ultimate exaltation. Each of these general groups range from perfect men in the perfect paradise of God, (Rev.2:7) where they partake of the trees of life, to those exalted to the Divine Nature and a place in God's throne. (Rev.3:21) Thus some of our Lord's "purchased possession" (Eph.1:14) will be much nearer Him than others. While these letters held special meaning to the ecclesias then in Asia, and while they have had a special prophetic meaning concerning the seven stages of development in the Gospel Church, their present prophetic application is to the inheritance each will receive beyond the grave as result of the ransom for all. (Eph.1:10;1 Tim.2:6) While we will deal with these groups separately and at length we will have to wait until we come to them in the chapters which

## Revelation 1:4.

follow.

"Grace to you, and peace, from Him that is, and that was and is coming." In this and also the eighth verse the emphasis is on IS while in 4:8 it is on WAS. When we recognize this it helps our understanding of the passage. The Kingdom has not yet been turned over to the Father so the reference is to Jesus our Lord who was sacrificed for us, who is with the Gospel Church, and at this point in our record, is coming to bless all the families of the earth. Jesus Christ is to be Prince of the Kings of the Earth during the restitution period. "I will make Him my First-born, higher than the kings of the earth." (Psa.89:27) Is not the Gospel Church to be made Kings and Priests during the reconciliation or restitution period? (1 Cor. 6:2,3; 1 Tim. 6:15)

"and from the seven spirits which are before His throne." If before the throne then they are in the position of servants. Irrespective of future exaltation their work probably began on earth in their ministry to men. "Happy are thy men, happy are those servants which stand continually before Thee and hear Thy wisdom!" (1 Ki.10:8) They are like seven lamps letting their light shine, brightly burning before God's throne. (Rev.4:6) They are called seven Angels. (Rev.8:2) Their message was for those of spiritual understanding, those sealed in their forehead by the Holy Spirit. (Rev.9:4)

We must not confuse these spirits with Holy Spirit of God, for we read, "He maketh His angels (messengers) spirits and His ministers a flame of fire." (Heb.1:7,14; Psa.104:4)

## Revelation 1:4,5

For example, - The angel of the Lord spake unto Philip...Then the spirit said...the spirit of the Lord caught away Philip." (Acts 8:26,29,39) These seven spirits of God are are joined with the seven stars in Rev.3:1, and in Rev.5:6 we see these "seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth." While these angels or messengers are pictured as men and outstanding leaders in religious thought, their humility in service and in refusing any credit is prominent. When tribute is offered, they reply, "See thou do it not." (Rev.19:10;22:9) "I am thy fellow servant and of thy brethren. Worship God." Those men who make their calling and election sure are called "elect angels." (1 Tim.5:21) "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him shall the Son of Man also confess before the angels of God." (Lu.12:8)

In the Gospel dispensation, angels of God are servants of the truly consecrated church class as these are the true heirs of salvation. (Heb.1:14) "For unto angels hath He not put in subjection the world to come." (Heb.2:5) Thus it is necessary to regulate our thinking by the recorded Word of God and not by our own preconceived ideas. Our learning should be based on truth, on fact and not on vain imagination.

Rev.1:5 - "And from Jesus Christ." The word Jesus means Saviour. (Matt.1:21) "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth; And every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." (Phil.2:10,11) - "the Faithful Witness" - "So shall He sprinkle many nations;

## Revelation 1:5.

and the Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider." (Isa.52:15) "the First-born from the dead" - "And He is the head of the body, the Church; who is the beginning, the First-born from the dead; that in all things He might have preminence." (Col.1:18) "and the Ruler of the kings of the earth." "His throne shall be as a faithful witness in heaven." (Psa.89:27,37) "King of kings and Lord of lords." (1 Tim.6:15; Rev.17:14; 19:16)

Manifestly Jesus has not been "King of kings during the Gospel Age, else why should we pray, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven"? A careful study of the second Psalm will show the kings of the Gospel Age are to be smitten. Thus the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord by force. (Rev.11:15) This is a direct reference to His earthly rule in the times of Restitution when all the earth shall be judged. It is said of Jesus that He shall "reign over the house of Jacob," (Lu.1:33)" and we shall reign on the earth," (Rev.5:10) because the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. (Rev.11:15; Isa.9:6,7)

"Unto Him that loveth us." - Our Lord said unto Israel, - "You only have I known of all the families of the earth." (Amos 3:2) Therefore the first, the material, the earthly application of this text must be to Israel as a nation and particularly to the Patriarchs of the Old Testament Scriptures. But we also have the statement - "Christ also loveth the Church and gave his life for it." (Eph.5:25)

## Revelation 1:5

Thus we have a double aspect in this picture referring to the Kingdom and the Priesthood of the Restitution period. Neither one should exclude the other. These two groups are pictured here as sitting at the feet of our Lord in Deut.33:2,3 - and receiving words of instruction from Him.

In support of Israel we have the reminder, "the Lord loved you, and because He would keep the oath which He had sworn hath the Lord..... redeemed you." (Deut.5:37; 23:5) "When Israel was a child...I drew them with the cords of a man..with cords of love." (Hos.9.1,4) "thou wast precious in My sight...and I have loved thee with an everlasting love." (Jer.31:3) The governments of the pre-millennial period are symbolized by "Mountains and Hills which shall all pass away. "But My kindness shall not depart from thee." (Isa.54:10). Thus it is God's love for Israel which is a permanent thing and must be recognized, but does not exclude the Gospel Church from this and further unfoldments of the Apocolypses. God hath not cast away His people which He foreknew." (Rom.11:1,2)

While this is true, the structure of Rev. 1:5 proves it has a specific application to the Gospel Church. "Unto Him that loveth us" - this is present tense. (agaponti-loveth; not agapesanti-loved, which is past tense) At the beginning of the restitution period the Gospel Church, who have made their calling and election sure, are also able to claim the deep affection of their Lord as indicated in this expression. It is a present love of everlasting duration. - "And loosed us, (lusanti-loosed) past tense. The elect of the Gospel Church are the ones who are (Lousanti-washed or loosed)

Revelation 1:5,6.

from (ek, out of or from) our sins by His Blood." Thus it is the "Church of God which He hath purchased with His own blood." (Ac.20:28) It is not in the blood of Jesus we are cleansed, but by His blood. This applies not only for the Kings and Priests of the next age but for the world as well, for Jesus died a Ransom for all. The picture represents the loved ones of the Gospel Church with Jesus on the spiritual plane of being working with the Patriarchs under the Messiah in blessing all the families of the earth. "God so loved the world" that they should enjoy everlasting life.

Rev.1:6 - "And He made us (to be) a kingdom and Priests." In a material sense Israel is more particularly called, "a kingdom of Priests!" (Ex.19:6) Up to the present writing Israel as a nation has never been a kingdom of Priests. Their priesthood has been limited to the tribe of Levi. But the Jewish nation is to become Priests of God to an earthly, a material world of human beings. These in turn will be supervised by a higher order of priesthood. The Melchisedec priesthood on the spiritual plane of being, of which Jesus is the Head. (Heb.7:1-28)

The Church is built into a spiritual house, a chosen generation, a royal priesthood. (1 Pet. 2:5,9) "They shall be Priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with Him a thousand years." (Rev.20:6) "Do ye not know the saints shall judge the world, and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life? (1 Cor.6:2,3) If we would under-

## Revelation 1:6

stand this great prophecy, as recorded by the beloved apostle John, we must keep clearly in mind these two phases of the future priestly arrangement.

"Unto His God and Father." - Our God is not only "Our Father", as shown in numerous statements throughout the New Testament writings but it is worthy of note He is the personal Father of our Lord Jesus. (Rom.15:6; 11:28; Gal.1:14; 2 Cor.1:3 and others) This reference also occurs in the Apocalypse. (Rev.1:6; 2:27; 3:5,21; 14:1) Under Divine order the Priesthood was an hereditary office. Only Aaron's sons were eligible as Priests. Thus it is only sons of God can be Priests. As our study progresses we will show Jesus is the Head of the High Priests' Body. This Body is composed of those who have gained the prize of the "High-Calling" in Christ Jesus.

Next in order will be those who have run for that prize-and have been faithful in their consecration - but have lacked the diligence shown by those who have gained the prize. (Phil. 3:14; 1 Co.9:24) The yearning of their hearts may be answered in a place near to their Lord as under priests. Next will be those pictured by the tribe of Levi. They will be servants in the Court. They will wear the robe of righteousness given them by their Lord. "Who-soever shall confess Me before men, him will I also confess before my Father which is in heaven." (Mt.10:32; Ro.10:9; Re.3:5)

"To Him (be) the glory and the dominion forever and ever." Jesus, the Son of God is to be King of kings and Lord of lords. His kingdom is to come and the elimination of all



## Revelation 1:6

evil will become an accomplished fact under His divine administration of 1000 years. At the close of this period a perfect world will be presented to the Father and He will be recognized as being "All in All". (1 Cor.15:22-28)

In Jeremiah 31:31 there is a reference to the Mosaic Law Covenant which the Jews could not keep and which was done away with at Calvary. (Col.2:14) Our Lord defines His New Covenant in these words:-

This is the Covenant that I will make with the house of Israel, after those days, saith the Lord, I will place My Law in their inward parts, and upon their heart will I write it and I will be unto them for a God, and they shall be unto Me for a people," (Lesser. - Jer.31:32, 34; 30:24; Eze. 11:19 36:22-27; Heb.10:15,17; 8.)

# CLOUDS



"Behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people, but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee."—Isaiah 60:2.



## Revelation 1:7

"Lo, He cometh with the clouds (1) and every eye shall see Him (2) such also as pierced Him; and all the tribes of the land shall smite themselves (lament for-or-over) for Him.

(3) Yea! Amen. - References:-

1. - Dan. 7:13,14; Matt.24:30; 25:31; 26:64; Re.1:13;

Re.14:14.

2. - Isa.40:5; Lu.2:10-14.

3. - Zech.12:10-14; Jer.31:9; Ro.8:26; Jn.19:34

Ac.2:37; 2 Chron.35:22. (the valley of Megiddo)

Rev.1:7 - "Behold" - The testimony of Jesus Christ is to be revealed in two ways, first by words, second by visions. These two duplicate each other throughout the Apocalypse. "He cometh with (or "amid" the) Clouds." Owing to the many interpretations and misunderstandings of this passage we will give an extended comment. Manifestly it has specific reference of the time of our present generation.

This ascension of our Lord is recorded three times in our Scripture (Mark 16:19,20;

## Revelation 1:7

Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-12) Mark and Luke do not mention clouds. In Acts we have the record. He ascended into a cloud, in full view of His followers, and that He would return in like manner. There is no record that the worldly minded ever saw Him after His burial. To claim Jesus will return riding on a cloud, cannot be made on the authority of these writings, but let us look further.

Some human interpretations of these records have been highly fanciful, confusing and unreal. They are not at all in harmony with the symbol represented by clouds, as found in the Old and New Testament Scriptures. An objection was once made to this teaching that if Jesus would return on a cloud in Kings County California, then the rest of the world would not see Him. Our present Scripture states, "Every eye shall see Him." In other cases, human imagery has gone to further extremes. For this reason, a study of the Bible teaching on this subject, at this the end of the Gospel Age, is a worth while undertaking. The Scriptures were prepared for our learning upon whom the ends of the ages are come. (Col.1:26; Rom. 16:25,26; 1 Cor.10:11)

To gain an idea of what was in the mind of the Jews concerning clouds we turn naturally to the Hebrew Scriptures. The experiences of Elijah are typical. He was three and a half years in the wilderness and there was no rain. (James 5:17,18; 1 Kings 18:42-45) As result of his prayers a little cloud came up out of the sea and soon the heavens were black with clouds and there was a great rain. This great blessing came to Israel, as result of the prayers of one righteous man. Our Lord says to

## Revelation 1:7

His consecrated followers in these latter days, "Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain, so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field." (Zec.10:1)

Truth concerning Scriptures, the second coming of Christ, the time of trouble and many other truths were little understood during the "dark ages." One hundred years ago, if anyone preached about the coming time of trouble, he became an exceedingly unpopular individual. Today there is much darkness in Christendom, but there has been a rain of Gospel Truth in the last half century. The understanding of some devout people is beginning to show life. These good Christians are like tender blades of green grass springing up everywhere. "For all flesh is as grass and all the glory of man as the flower of grass." (1 Pet. 1:24)

Even the Church Federation is beginning to recognize their failure along many lines. The fundamentalists are boldly preaching by radio, the time of trouble, also the second coming of Christ and many other truths as far as they can see them. Let us continue our prayers that their ears may be unstopped and their eyes opened to see the glory of our Lord behind the clouds of confusion we now see. It is necessary these should be forewarned of coming events that when such come to pass they may not be disheartened. Let the latter rain of truth continue. Being forewarned they are fore-armed and will know how to meet the new conditions. In this text recorded by the Prophet Zechariah we conclude clouds indicate showers of blessed gospel truths. A blessing to all, as well as storm clouds, storm conditions and troublous

## Revelations 1:7

times, which will destroy all that is evil.

Clouds are frequently called clouds of glory. For example, the manifestation of the glory of the Lord was shown as a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, as Israel was guided from place to place through wilderness fastnesses. (Ex.13:21,22; Num.10:33-36; 14:14; Deu.1:33.) Our God forsook "them not in the wilderness; the pillar of cloud departed not from them by day to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night to show them light and the way wherein they should go." (Neh.9:19; Psa.78:14) The pillar of cloud was a defense, as Israel escaped from Pharaoh. (Ex.14:19,20) The Lord was in the cloud, and as they looked upon it, the Egyptians were exceedingly troubled. (Ex.14:24)

Our first reference, to this pillar of cloud, was in the preceding chapter. (Ex.13:21) While it meant trouble for others, the glory of the Lord was revealed to Israel (Ex.16:10) in these same clouds. "And the Lord said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud that the people may hear when I speak unto thee and believe thee for ever." (Ex.19:9) At the giving of the Law, "Moses went up into the Mount and the cloud covered the Mount and the glory of the Lord abode on Mount Sinai," (Ex. 24:15-18) "And the Lord descended in the cloud and stood by him." (Ex.34:5)

We have a pleasing picture of Jesus selecting seventy of His followers and sending them forth to represent Him. Shall we call them home missionaries? Jehovah instructed Moses to select seventy elders from among the people. Later on we will have extended comment on the

## Revelation 1:7

subject of elders. Now we read, "And the Lord came down in a cloud, and spake unto (Moses) him, and took of the spirit that was upon him and gave it to the seventy elders." (Lu.10:1-17; Num.11:25) Our God came in a pillar of cloud when He reproved Aaron and Miriam at the sedition. (Num.12;5,10) The glory of the Lord appeared in defense of Moses and Aaron in the Tabernacle when Israel rejected the favorable report of Joshua and Caleb. (Num.14:10) The cloud, the glory of the Lord, again appeared in the rebellion of Korah. (Num.16:19,42)

In Jewish history the cloud which indicated the Lord's presence, was usually seen about the Tabernacle or the Temple because these represented the throne of the Most High. (Num.9:15-22) At times Jehovah stood at the door of the Tabernacle covered with a cloud. (Ex.33:9, 10; Num.5:12; Deut.31:15) On other occasions He would fill the tabernacle. (Ex.40:34,35) At still other times Hewould rest on the Mercy Seat. (Lev.16:2; Ex.25:22; 30:6,36; Num.7:89; 17:4; 1Sam. 4:4; 2 Sam.6:2; 2Ki.19:15; 1Chron. 13:6; Ps.80:1; 99:1; Isa.37:16) Thus the Mercy Seat is pictured as the dwelling place of the God of Israel. The under priests were not permitted to approach it. This honor was reserved for the High Priest. As members of the anti-typical High Priests Body, the True Gospel Church has this privilege. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace to help in time of need." (Heb.4:16) In Solomon's Temple the presence of the Lord was indicated by a cloud. (1 Ki.8:10,11) In Ezekiel's vision a cloud was used to picture the brightness of Jehovah's glory. (Eze.10:4)

As far as the world is concerned the sec-

## Revelation 1:7

cond advent of our Lord will be, "a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness." (Joel 2:2) The world has cause to tremble for when they cry peace, peace there is no peace anywhere. (Jer.6:14; 8:11) There are ignorance, suspicion and revolutionary conditions throughout the globe. The Lord's day of vengeance is manifestly close at hand. It is to be a day of wrath, of distress, of wantonness, of desolation, of thick, black, watery clouds. Because of their wickedness the Lord, "Will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord." (Zeph.1:14-16)

At the present time men see these thick, watery clouds, but do not realize our Lord is in them. Our Lord will not reveal Himself to the world until He has let loose His full quota of hailstones of truth and burns and destroys all evil. He must batter down human pride, conceit, selfishness, prejudices. Then the clouds of obscurity will change, in this darkness, to clouds of light. (Ps.18:10-13) "With clouds He (temporarily) covereth the light (of His presence) and commandeth it not to shine by the cloud that cometh betwixt." (Job 36:32)

At the end of the age there is to be a whirlwind of trouble upon the world. "Behold He shall come up as clouds and His chariots shall be as a whirlwind." (as war planes fill the sky (Jer.14:13) "His way is in the whirlwind and in the storm. It is the Lord using the tempest of hail, a destroying storm, casting down the crown of pride among the worldly wise." (Isa.28:2; Nah.1:3-8) Our Lord, "maketh the clouds His chariot (and) walketh upon the wings of the wind (and) maketh His angels

## Revelation 1:7

spirits and His ministers a flaming fire."  
(Psa.104:3,4)

It is manifest that if Satan's empire is to be destroyed, the cloud of the Lord will mean as much trouble for that regime as it did to Pharaoh's army in Egypt. The Gospel Church is taught to pray - "Thy Kingdom come," Those belonging to that Kingdom will be protected by the cloud coming between them and their persecutors, as it came between Israel and the Egyptians. (Ex.14:19,20) Daniel expressed his vision which foretold the outcome of present conditions as follows; "I saw in the night, visions, and one like the Son of Man come with the clouds of heaven ---and there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations and languages should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." (Dan.7:13,14)

After the 1260 years mentioned in Daniel's great prophecy the sun, the Light of the New Testament, shall be darkened. We see this now being done by such things as higher criticism, evolution, a denial of the ransom either by definite denial or by contrary teachings of individual men and their man made creeds. Also the moon, the Old Testament Scriptures, shall likewise be darkened by false human teachings. Stars, which symbolize religious leaders, shall fall from their exalted positions and their false doctrines shall be shaken. It is then the "watchers" discern the Son of Man in these clouds of trouble which are now shaking the ecclesiastical heavens, which cause unorganized society to roar like a turbulent sea and which cause the mountains and



## Revelation 1:7

hills of organized society to crumble and melt. The little stone which strikes the feet of the Image is to become a great mountain and the Kingdom of our Lord shall fill the whole earth. (Dan.2:35,44,45) It is our Lord Himself who describes these trying conditions in the following words: - "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light. And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in the clouds, with great power and glory. And then shall He send His angels, and shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth, to the uttermost part of heaven." (Matt.24:29,30; Mar.13:24-27)

Thus it is, Bible Students shall recognize, "shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power and coming in the clouds of heaven." (Matt.26:64; Mark 14:62) This glorious news is true. Our Lord is being discerned more clearly. Each day His presence in the affairs of men being recognized by the truly consecrated. They lift up their voices in a shout of gladness and proclaim the message to all who will listen. Their message has the power of God behind it. The voice of an Archangel. It is a voice of discouragement, perplexity and bewilderment to the world. A voice of encouragement, comfort and assurance to the truly consecrated. Thus at midnight, at the darkest hour, the watching Virgins hear the call, they recognize the meaning of these clouds and respond by joining in the cry, - "Behold the Bridegroom, the Bridegroom is here." In spite of this world-wide shout, Jesus has come "as a thief in the night" to the vast

## Revelation 1:7.

majority. But to them whose eyes have been opened, know the end is here and the resurrection is just ahead of us. "The dead in Christ shall rise first." (1 Thess.4:16) Oh, what a blessing, "We know not what we shall be, but we know, when He shall appear we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." (Col.3:4; Heb.9:28; 1 Jno.3:2) Those of us who are still alive look forward to being together with Him and in company with those of like precious faith in the clouds which are now so hard to understand. Forever we will be with Him "Whom God has appointed heir of all things." (Heb.1:2)

Beautiful and encouraging as this hope is to the truly consecrated Bible Student, the blackness accompanying its fulfilment, shall eventually pass and the world shall also see (horao-meaning-discern) Him who gave His life to redeem them. The work of the Gospel Church during the Restitution period is to assist in opening the blind eyes. (Isa.35:5) Then the world will mourn, they will weep bitterly because of their wicked misunderstanding of Him. Those who abused Him and crucified Him, as well as all the kindreds of the earth, will repent. All who are in their graves shall hear His voice and come forth." (Jno.5:28,29 R.V.) Jesus died a ransom for all to be testified on behalf of all in due time. (Hos.13:14; 1 Tim.2:6) But every man in his own order. (1 Cor.15:23) While every eye shall discern (horao) Him, there is no Scripture which says this will happen instantaneously, or that all men's eyes, vision, understanding, discernment shall be opened at the same time. This will be the eventual accomplishment in the "time of restitution." Our Father has committed unto His church the word of reconciliation, thus through Christ,

## Revelation 1:7.

reconciling the world unto Himself. (2 Cor.5:19) "Behold He cometh with clouds, and every eye shall (eventually) see Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him." (Re.1:7)

There is much wailing at the present time because of these clouds. But it is the wail of temporal loss, the wail of fear. At present it is not the wail of repentance. It is more properly the wail of perplexity, of confusion, of terror. As the black cloud separated the Egyptians from the Israelites, as that cloud meant confusion and annihilation to the Egyptians, and as that cloud illuminated the way of the Israelites, -so it is today. The truly consecrated hear the voice of the Lord saying, "this is the way, walk ye in it. (Isa.30:21) Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." (Jno.14:6) He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of (the) life." (Jno.8:12) As the consecrated Gospel Church observe the fear and apprehension on every hand, they also hear God's command, "Fear ye not their fear." (Isa.8:12) "Fear not little flock - it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." (Lu.12:32; Ex. 14:13) and they realize our Lord is in this cloud of confusion, storm and discontent, to the end that all of the forces of evil may be forever destroyed. Therefore, beloved in the Lord, "When ye see these things, lift up your heads for your deliverance draweth nigh." (Lu. 21:28).

The clouds of today thus give the same encouragement to the people of God as they did to Israel when they crossed the Red Sea to the other side. They view the terror of others

## Revelation 1:7.

with compassion and in the spirit of helpfulness, strive to encourage the disconsolate, the weary and fear stricken. They know that He who has caused knowledge to increase and travel to be accomplished faster than sound (Dan.12:4), is preparing, is getting ready to answer our prayer, - "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven." Jesus gave us that prayer.

"God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (Jno.3:16) The resurrection is not far distant. "The dead in Christ shall rise first." The rest of the shall come later, for Jesus died a ransom for all. (1 Tim.2:6) "All who are in their graves shall hear His voice and come forth." (Jno.5:28,29.R.V.) This is the Silver Lining illuminating the dark clouds which now indicate our Lord's presence. Therefore let us rejoice in the hope which is set before us, for we discern Jesus in the clouds we see. Just as surely as the Israelites discerned the presence of the Lord in the clouds, even so Gospel Church is able to discern His presence in the dark, turbulent conditions about us. Jesus, the Captain of our salvation is here. Behold, He cometh with clouds.

In our comments on Revelation 1:7 we have shown in the foregoing Scriptures, the eye of faith can discern (horao) the Lord's presence, He did not come to the truly consecrated of the Gospel Church, as a thief. (1 Thess.5:4) They read in present conditions their change is imminent. (1 Thess.4:17; Matt.24:30) But the world shall experience this trouble as travail on a woman with child, and their shall

Revelation 1:7.

be no escape. (1 Thess.5:3) Then will come the birth. "The times of restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began," (Acts 3:19-21) for the Kingdoms of this world must become the Kingdom of our Lord. (Rev.11:15)

THE OPEN DOOR

Beside the Door of Faith I stand,  
Imploring Christ to take my hand  
And lead me through it evermore,  
For I am weary and heart sore.

Could He but smile on my distress  
Would worldly hurt be less and less.  
To be inside this door, would life  
Find surcease from embittered strife.

Now through it shimmers rays of hope  
And shining stars of endless scope;  
And there! The Christ that I implore  
Is waiting at the open door.

Grace Reynolds Parrish,  
California.

"I - -

am the

Door."

John,10:9.

As most people believe the evil one is evidenced by his activities, so we view evidence of our Lord's presence by what He is doing. Humbly, in oureschatological contemplations, may His personal companionship guide us in our thinking as we further consider His word.

## Revelation 1:8.

Rev.1:8 - "I am Alpha and Omega." This escutcheon is repeated in the 17th verse of this chapter and also in 22:12,13. It is a term which pictures completeness. "Adam transgressed the whole law from Aleph to Tau." (Yalcut, Reubeni, fol.17:4) "Abraham kept the whole law from Aleph to Tau." (Ibed., fol.48:4) It is hard for the human mind to grasp the fulness of the Divine. In explaining Himself to Moses God said, - "I am that I am." (Ex.3:14) He says, "I the Lord am the first and the last." (Isa.41:4) "I even I am the Lord, and beside Me there is no Saviour." (Isa.43:11) "I am the first and the last and beside Me there is no God." (Isa.44:6) And again we read, - "It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end." (Re.21:6) Jesus the Logos is the first, the last and the only creation of Jehovah. All other things were made by the Logos and without Him was not anything made that was made. (Jno.1:3)

"Saith the Lord God" According to all critical Greek texts and the Revised Version, the word "God" is added to this text. "A Lord, the God," (Lu.1:32, Diaglott) clearly makes Jesus the one referred to. The title "Lord God," here treats of the settlement of man in Paradise, the Garden of God. Paradise was promised the thief on the cross. (Lu.23:43) Manifestly this is the same "Paradise of God" referred to in Rev.2:7. The expression "Lord God" is found in Gen.2:4; 4:26, and in Rev.1:8; 22:5, all of which links the thought of "Paradise Lost" with "Paradise Regained."

"that is, and was and that is coming" - In this text the emphasis seems to be on the word "is" The Logos was prior to the first

## Revelation 1:8,9.

advent. Jesus is the Christ to the Gospel Church. Now is the accepted time to attain joint heirship with Jesus. "And ye shall be my sons and daughters saith the Lord Almighty," (2 Cor.6:18) which sentiment is a quotation from Jer.31:1,9. The word Almighty means, - "Having dominion over all." The blessed hope of Israel is that Jesus their Messiah, is to be King of kings and Lord of lords. Jesus appeared unto Joshua as Captain of the Lord's host. (Jos.5:14,15)

While Jesus is A living reality in the hearts and minds of Gospel Age Christians, the "Who is to come" refers to the second advent. He is recognized as, "The Coming One," the one who will bruise the serpent's head. (Gen.3:15) The Book of Revelation, gives the details of how this will be accomplished. "For yet a little while and He that shall come, will come and will not tarry." (He.10:37) All of which proves Christ is the essential Being now considered, and was so considered in the past and will be, in time future, the expected "Coming One". Jesus is the first born of every creature. (Col.1:15) The beginning of the creation of God. (Rev.3:14) Since His resurrection Jesus says, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and earth." (Mt.28:18) "The Almighty" (ho pantokrator) is used ten times in the New Testament. (2 Cor.6:18;-see Jer.31:1,9-Rev.1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7,14; 19:6,15,22) The meaning seems to be "having dominion over all!" The Greek Septuagint translates it, "God of Hosts!" (See 2 Sam.5:10; 7:25,27; Amos 4:13)

Rev.1:9 - We now come to the first section of the Apocalypse proper. It extends from the present point to the end of the third chapter.



## Revelation 1:9.

The expression "come to be in the isle that is called Patmos!" may be properly translated, "found myself!" It is evident he did not come to Patmos voluntarily, but under the diabolical administration of Emporor Domitianus of Rome who later died under the hand of an assassin. (Sept.18,96,A.D.) John's brother James had already suffered death. (Acts 12:2) John was there because of his testimony concerning Jesus whom he had known from early childhood. John's mother Salome was a half sister of the Virgin Mary (Jno.19:25) (Mk.6:3) Mary their Mother had been wife of the learned Heli. When he died she married Cleophus, a younger brother of Heli, and became the Mother of Salome, James the less, Jude, Simion, Joses and others. Archaeological research reveals, Joseph of Arimathaea was a younger brother of Cleophus.

John gave first hand information concerning our Lord and his zeal brought him banishment which resulted in his unmolested reception of the Apocalypse vision. A vision of the ultimate establishment of the Kingdom of our Lord, the relation of the Gospel Church to that Kingdom and the blessing of all the families of the earth. John says, I "am your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience with Jesus Christ." We of the Church of God have need of patience. We are also looking forward to the kingdom. In his exile John had nothing to hinder his seeing and hearing and recording his vision of things to come, the pictures of realities which were to follow. Ezekiel's vision is recorded in his book. Paul received his revelation in Arabia. (Gal.1:15-17; 2:1,2) The transfiguration was a vision. It was not a reality. Our Lord said so. (Mt.17:9) As Jesus was the

Revelation 1:9,10.

first to be resurrected from the dead, Moses and Elias could not have been there in person. (1 Cor.15:20,23; Acts 26:23; Col.1:18; Rev.1:5) Visions are not realities. They are pictures of real things. In this they resemble parables which our Lord used so frequently during His life on earth.

Rev.1:10 - "I found myself, in the spirit, on the Lord's day" for the purpose of receiving this vision. Ezekiel also saw "visions of God" (Eze.1:1) As to how our Lord accomplished this we may again refer to Ezekiel's experience.- "And He put forth the form of an hand, and took me by the lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem!" (Eze.8:3) Paul was conveyed to the third heaven. (2 Cor.12:1-4) It is thus, by the spirit of God, John was transported down the period of time, to the times of restitution of all things, the Lord's day when the reconciliation of the Jews and the world to the recognition of Jesus the Jew as their Messiah, (Rev.4:2; 17:3; 21:10; Isa.2:11-17) will become a fact.

"And I heard behind me a voice as loud as a trumpet." The times of restitution were prophesied by the mouth of all the Holy Prophets since the world began. (Ats.3:19-22) These times will bring great distress on all wickedness and their institutions, their ultimate destruction and the establishment of right and righteousness. (Zeph.1:14-18) Joel adds the comforting assurance, "the Lord will be the strength and hope of the children of Israel!" (Joel 2:1,15; 3:16)

In our study it is helpful to note Rev.1:1,

## Revelation 1:10,11.

10,19 refer specifically to Rev.4 to 19. The Apocalypse is the unveiling to the Church of the order in which Jesus will remove former things and establish His kingdom. This will be done with speed, in the life of one generation. (Mt.24:34,22) The latter part of John's vision covers the 1000 year reign. (1 Cor.6:1; 1 Pet. 4:15; 2 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Pet. 3:7,8) With the close of one world order, another world order begins. Thus at the close of the Gospel age of grace we find there is an application to us who love and study and ponder these writings. The Millennial Age is about to begin. (Mt. 13:39; Re.19:11,14, 1 Pet.4:15; Amos 9:13; Rev. 14:17-20; Jer. 31:28-34) So it is, the close of the High Calling marks the beginning of the "time of trouble". The light of our Lord's coming kingdom will soon exercise its illuminating power. (Phil.3:14) Compare the Lesser translation. (Zech. 14:7; Isa. 30:26; 60:19,20) Also see. (Rev.21:23)

Rev.1:11 - The message of our Lord's trumpet call was, - "What you are observing write in a book;" - Record the entire vision that he who reads and they who hear may understand the words recorded. (Rev.1:3) - "and send to the seven ecclesias, - to Ephesus, and to Smyrna, and to Pergamos, and to Thyratira, and to Sardis, and to Philadelphia, and to Leodicea!" --

Undoubtedly copies of this entire Book were distributed among the seven Ecclesias mentioned, for their admonition and learning. It carried a special blessing for each of them. Furthermore this Book shows what will be the Kingdom arraignment during the 1000 year period. These conclusions will be amplified at

## Revelation 1:11,12,13

length when we come to consider these Ecclesias (assembly periods) separately.

Rev.1:12 - Beginning at this verse and continuing to the sixteenth we have a picture of the Coming One. - "And I turned to see the voice which was speaking with me!" In looking back John evidently saw the recorded testimony of former Scriptural writers, and recognized them as the voice of the Lord. In view of these past writings he saw "Seven lamp stands of gold!" - As we search ancient writings we recognize the seven lamped candlestick of Ex.25:31-40. Paul tells us "which are a shadow of good things to come!" (Heb.8:2,5; Ex.37:17-24) Then there was one lamp stand. God's chosen people Israel. Now we see seven separate lamps, each shining forth to the glory of God. Each perfect in itself. Each picturing future enlightenment of the world. Later we will explain this further.

Rev.1:13 - "And in the midst of the seven lamps, stands one like the Son of Man!" Like the Son of Man does not necessarily mean the Son of Man but in this case we believe it does. The Body of Christ is spoken of by Paul as a composite Body. The truly consecrated are members of that Body. (Eph.5:30) Jesus is pictured as being the Head of that Body. (Col. 1:18) This vision of the Son of Man is directly associated with the object and purpose of this Book. Daniel had a similar vision. (Dan.10:5, 6) The two visions are identical as to person and appearance. The message of Daniel was, - "Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days,

Revelation 1:13,14.

for yet the vision is for many days...I will show thee that which is noted in the Scripture of Truth! (Dan.10:14,21) In Revelation we have, "the latter days" and "the day of the Lord." Ezekiel had a similar vision of a throne and a man above it. (Eze.1:26; 8:2)

Let us call to mind, in Rev.1:1-3 we have the Angel testifying, "the time is at hand." In Rev.1:4-8 we have John testifying, "Behold He cometh!" In Rev.1:9-17 he saw the Coming One but in V.17 we have Jesus' message to the Church, - "Do not fear!" (Rev.1:17, Lu.12:32) Jesus is testifying of Himself and giving us the interpretation of the lamp stands and the stars. In Rev.1:12,13 are mentioned accessories, such as lampstands, clothing and girdle of gold as contrasted with the Aaronic Priesthood with their plain white garments. But the High Priest came out in garments of glory and beauty on the Atonement day. In Rev.1:14,15 we have our Lord's person pictured, His head, eyes feet and voice. In V.16 we have the stars, and sword and a further reference to His person, His hand, mouth countenance.

Rev.1:14 - The "many days" of Daniel are now at hand. Our Lord is further described, - "His head and hair white, as white as wool (Dan.7:9) and His eyes as a flame of fire, (Rev.1:14,15) and His feet like polished brass!" In Ezekiel we have the same picture presented. (Eze.1:7) Here the feet are like "burnished brass" which reminds us of the fittings of the Tabernacle where the bullocks were slain. Brass seems to picture the Old Testament Patriarchs as feet members of that Divine organization called the body of Christ, who will stand

Revelation 1:14-16

on Mount Zion and proclaim peace to the world.

Undoubtedly there are many interpretations of the pictorial language found in the Apocalypse. Another beautiful interpretation of this verse presents the feet as the last members of the Gospel Church. Brass would indicate some Spirit begotten ones would still be on earth when this prophecy begins to be fulfilled. It is evident there are still many consecrated ones faithfully carrying forward their ministry of love even in the fires of affliction. While this passage probably has a double meaning it is true both are burned and burnished in the fires of trying experiences but shine forth as burnished brass. "They glow as in a furnace." They come up out of great tribulation and His voice through them "is like the voice of many waters!" The voice of many unorganized people who have partaken of the water of life and live. This simile is used twice by Ezekiel as he pictures our Lord's voice "the noise of many waters." (Eze.1:24; 43:2) also (Rev.14:2; 19:6)

Rev.1:16 - "And having seven stars in His right hand, and out of His mouth a sharp two-edged sword going forth!" The meaning of these words are set forth by King David, - "The words of His mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in His heart; His words were softer than oil yet were they drawn swords." (Ps. 55:21; 57:4) Isaiah says He will "smite the earth with the rod of His mouth." (Isa.11:4) "He hath made His mouth like a sharp sword." (Isa.49:2) But the Apostle Paul explains this more clearly when he says, - "And then shall be revealed the lawless one whom the Lord will

Revelation 1:16,17,18.

consume with the breath of His mouth." (2 Thes. 2:8) (See also, Mt.24:51; Lu.12:46; Dan.7:11) The ultimate purpose of this is shown in Rev. 19:15,21. "But those Mine enemies which would not that I reign over them bring hither, and slay them before me." (Lu.19:27) "And His appearance as the sun shines in his strength."

Rev.1:17 - "And when I had seen Him I fell at His feet as one dead, but He placed His right hand on me saying "Fear not." - Moses had this experience. (Ex.33:20) Daniel also had this experience. (Dan.8:27) Manifestly these were visions. They were not realities for, "No man hath seen God at any time." (Jno.1:18) Daniel was overcome by his vision. (Dan.10:7-19) Even the Apostles were overcome at the Lord's transfiguration. (Mt.17:6,7) Peter also had to experience a trance in order to receive a Divine message. (Ac.10:10) Jesus has been given the highest place in glory. He was the beginning and the ending of the personal creative work of the Father. While exaltation has been His, He has also been counted among the least and experienced the lowest form of humiliation. (Phil.2:5-8)

Rev.1:18 - "And He that liveth." Jehovah lives forever. (Deut.32:40) Jesus was the first and the only other to gain the immortal nature, for we read, Jesus "only hath immortality, dwelling in a light which no man can approach unto." (1 Tim.6:16) And John records, - "In Him was life and the life was the light of men!" (Jno.1:4) "For as the Father hath life in Himself so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself." (Jno.5:26) "I am the way

Revelation 1:18,19.

the truth and the life...because I live ye shall live also." (Jno.14:6,19)

"I was even dead, yet behold, I am living for the ages of the ages." (Rev.4:9,10; 10:6)  
"This is He whom God hath raised up." (Ac.2:24)  
"And if we also are buried with Him in Baptism unto death we shall also walk with Him in newness of life." (Ro. 6:4)

"And I have the keys of death and hades."  
This expression does not admit the existence of an intermediate life. The Greek word hades clearly means the grave. Therefore, - "All who are in their graves" shall hear the voice of the Son of Man and come forth." (John 5:28)  
We also read the sea shall give up its dead. Death and the grave will deliver up the dead which were in them. (Rev.20:13) Therefore we can rejoice with Paul in the Ransom for all provided by our Messiah. Together we exclaim, "Oh death, where is thy sting, Oh grave where is thy victory." (1 Cor.15:55) Jesus has now appeared in the presence of God for us. (He.9:24) A Ransom for all. (1 Tim.2:6)

Rev.1:19 - Write therefore, what things thou sawest and what they are." Alford, Rotherham and many others translate this, "what they signify." As our Lord explained many of His parables, (Mt.13:37-39) so now Jesus explains many of the symbols used in this Book. The seven heads are seven mountains or governments. The waters are peoples. The woman is a great city. (Rev.17:9,15,18) The expression, "what thou sawest," indicates John had seen the entire vision before he began to write. "I Jesus have sent Mine angel to testify unto



Revelation 1:19,20.

you these things in the ecclesias." (Rev.22:16) This evidently refers to the entire vision and not merely the things recorded in the first chapter.

"Even the things which shall come to pass hereafter." Moses prophesied of these things which "should come." (Ac.26:22) Daniel recorded his vision of things to come "in the latter days." (Dan.10:14) The words "meta tauta," mean literally "after these things," and are properly translated by the English word "hereafter." (Rev.1:19; 4:1; 9:12) It is therefore prophetic and indicates future events.

Rev.1:20 - "The seven stars are." - The Scriptures tell us what these stars represent, namely, the angels (messengers) of the seven Churches. Therefore the mystery is explained. Throughout the Scriptures, a mystery is not an enigma, but a secret which lies beyond present explanation. The stars being in the hand of our Lord would seem to indicate their protection and guidance by the right hand of His power. Haggai was a messenger of the Lord. (Hag.1:3) Malachi was an instructor of the people, - "the messenger of the Lord of hosts" (Mal.2:7) Paul was a chosen vessel unto the Lord. (Ac.9:15) Revelation was especially entrusted to John. (Re.1:1.) This brings us to a consideration of the seven ecclesias which follow.

*As obedience was demand of Adam,  
As obedience was practised by our Lord Jesus,  
As obedience is required of the Church,  
So obedience will be required of the world.*

# EPHESUS

(Rev. 2:1-7)

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; - To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

(Gen.2:8,9; 3:22-24; Eze.31:8,9; Rev.22:2)

\*\*\*\*\*

When our Lord was on earth He taught the multitude, by using word pictures called parables. "All of these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake He not unto them;" (Mt.13:34)

When our Lord revealed His future plans to His beloved Apostle John, He used signs and symbols. (Signified it by signs: He indicated it by symbols. To sign-ify it, is the idea contained in the Greek. (Rev.1:1) Jesus painted word illustrations which were to be clearly understood when the time came for their unfoldment. Until that proper time arrived they were to be sealed mysteries. Among the prominent illustrations found in these writings are:- "The Tree of Life;" "The River of Life;" "The Bread of Life," and "The Broad Highway of Progress."

The Life beyond the grave is presented as a resurrection picture. Paul tells us, "Star differeth from Star in glory." (1 Cor.15:41) Some are larger than others. Some difference

## Revelation 2:1-7.

in color or brilliancy may exist. Whether they are Stars of heaven or Trees of the field, Jesus holds the destiny of the entire human race in the power of His own right hand. (Rev. 1:16) He purchased our human kind with His own precious life blood. The human family is a purchased possession. We belong to our Lord by legal right. (1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 15:22; Ac. 3:19-21; Jno. 5:28)

As each of the stars in our Lord's hand, represented teachers or leaders in the "Household of Faith," it is profitable for us to study the separate classification, which each will represent in the coming Kingdom. As Jesus purchased (Eph. 1:14; Ac. 20:28) all, He must give life to all, to enjoy the value of His possession. Each individual will be made perfect in his own separate sphere of exaltation.

Each of these stars (messengers) was given a message to one of the Churches in Asia. (Rev. 1:11) The first of these is given the name of "Ephesus." The precious promises found in Paul's letter to the Ephesians shows some among them would attain the High Calling and joint heirship with Christ in His Kingdom. On the other hand, the message to the Church of Ephesus as a whole, is of a material nature; - "To eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God." (Rev. 2:7)

Many commentators on this passage have placed its application in past history. Some claim its application to the Saints in the physical Ecclesia of Ephesus was too limited as many of these were of the Body of Christ, as indicated by Paul's Epistle. These were

## Revelation 2:1-7.

evidently entitled to more than the "Tree of Life," on the human plane of being. Some have had broader views and extend its application over that period of time extending from Pentecost to about 73 A.D. It is not our purpose to find fault with any of these findings or to criticize the honest effort of the consecrated men who sponsor these ideas. They have had their place and have served their purpose. Now we are making a different and, we trust, a more comprehensive application.

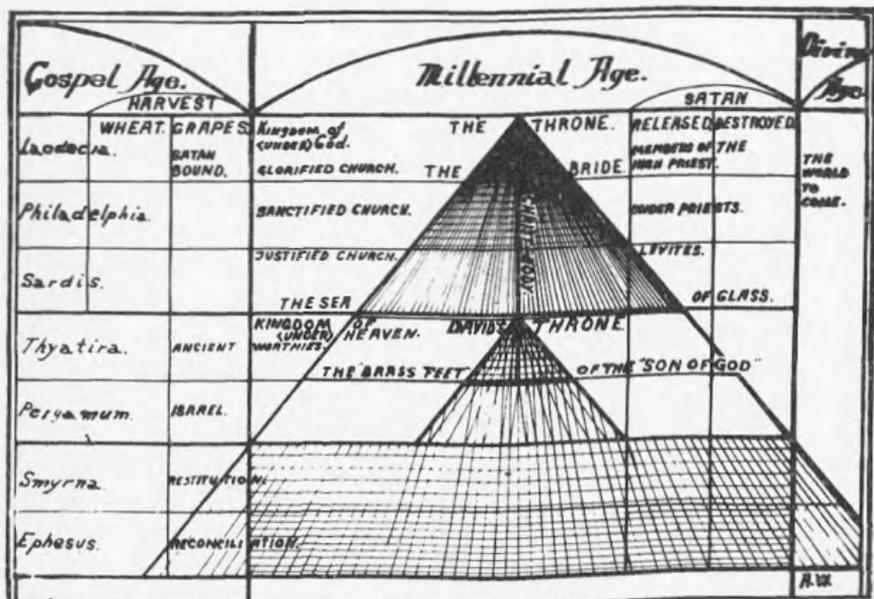
The word "Ephesus" means approval. The world of men will eventually have the approval of the God who brought them into being. In his Epistle the Apostle Paul reminds the Ephesians, they have been redeemed from sin by Grace, and not by works. He exhorts them to walk worthy of this calling, and keep the unity of spirit. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians was written while he was ministering in this City. Later Timothy was made Bishop of this Church. Among the prominent Saints living there were Trophimus, Tychicus (Ac.20:4; 21:29; 2:Tim.4:12). Onesiphorus and his household (2 Tim.1:16-19; 4:19). Ephesus was an idolatrous city and the manufacture of Idols was a profitable business. Alexander, the coppersmith and Demetrius, the silversmith, were at one time engaged in this business.

A large number of Jews resided in Ephesus (Ac.2:9; 6:9). Among these were found some of the Apostles of John the Baptist (Ac.18:25; 19:3). The first seeds of Christianity were probably sown here soon after Pentecost (Ac.2) and through Paul's stay in that City, of more than two years. (Ac.19:8,10; 20:31). Today the City of Ephesus does not exist. In its

Revelation 2:1-7

place is the small Turkish, village of Ayasuluk. The ruins of the old city are still discernible, and vast in extent. So much for the City of Ephesus.

The antitypical application of the heathen City of Ephesus we believe is for the heathen world. Those who have never heard of, "the only name given under Heaven or amongst men whereby we can be saved," (Ac.4:12) It is evident, that if Jesus died a Ransom for all, to be administered to all, therefore some provision must be made for all. (1 Tim.2:6) This provision must be something better than they have ever known, under better conditions than they had ever experienced.



## PARADISE.

In harmony with, the earthly, material, mental conceptions, and desires of the Ephesus class, and also in harmony with God's original designs for the human race, Paradise will be. It will be a glorious, beautiful, perfect paradise on earth. A paradise with access to the "tree of life," which was not permitted father Adam. To the "water of life," which will flow from the throne of God. They will have the privilege of progressing in mental, and spiritual character and also physical development, along the "Highway of Holiness," (Isa.35:8) until they reach the East Gate of the New Jerusalem and enter the City.

Sometimes the Apocryphal books make profitable contributions, in spite of their many faults. In the second book of Esdras. (7:26) we find these words, "Behold, the time shall come, that these tokens which I have told thee shall come to pass, and the Bride coming forth, shall be seen, that is now withdrawn from the Earth." - There is an evident allusion here to "The Bride, the Lamb's Wife (Rev.21:9). The "Holy City, the New Jerusalem" (Rev.21:10; 4:26) in which is the "Tree of Life" (Rev.22:2) which has been withdrawn since Eden, is now due to return and be located among men (Rev. 21:2,3) in the Headquarters of "Paradise Restored," on Earth.

Let us glance at that word picture of the first Paradise; - "And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed." (Gen.2:8)

Paradise on earth for the world of mankind, was God's purpose in creating this world.

## Revelation 2:1-7

Harmony in human conception, and an appreciation of right and worshipful reverence, for the Provider of every good thing, as well as His plan for carrying it forward, - a respect for the rights of others and of the rights of others; - a striving for the highest possible ideals: - these all will work a change in the mental attitude, of even the most depraved. The attaining of this objective is the Paradise Jesus promised the thief on the cross, "Verily I say unto thee today (while we are together in unfavorable conditions) thou wilt be with Me in Paradise." All the favorable promises for Paradise Restored, have been given under sinsick conditions. Paul had a vision of it, as it will ultimately be. (2 Cor.12:2,4). It is the Paradise which the ransom by Jesus, made possible for the world

Obedience is the one great lesson our human kind should and must learn. Disobedience brought death and expulsion from the first Paradise which God made. We read: "Now lest Adam put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life and eat and live forever." Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So He drove out the man and He placed at the east of the garden of Eden cherubims and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." (Gen.3:23,24)

Jesus is the antitypical Tree of Life. He was the original Life Giver of the world (Jno.1:1). It is through Him, also, the life beyond the grave will be realized. He is the Green Tree of promise (Lu.23:31) who gave Himself a ransom for all men of all ages. The

## Revelation 2:1-7

work of the entire restitution period will be that of making God's footstool glorious. Both men and conditions must be perfected. Paradise was lost in one small corner of the earth through disobedience. It now necessarily follows, that as Adam's race has complied with Gen.1:14 filled the earth, the entire earth must be redeemed. It must be made beautiful and enjoyable. It must become a paradise for the vast majority of our human race. It must have fruitfulness and the perfection of the Garden of Eden to attain the grand consummation of the promise - the purchased possession. (Mt.18:11; Eph.1:14)

Paul had a vision of this Paradise. He recorded it as due in the third heaven, the third period of spiritual control, - the Millennial Age. (2 Cor.12:2-4) John gives the earthly portion four separate names which we will consider at length separately. Perfect life is promised those who conform to God's rule and access to the "Tree of Life." "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the "Tree of Life" which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." (Rev.2:7)

"Paradise Restored" is not only a definite promise, but constitutes the only hope of the world at large. John saw this paradise and was permitted to describe it in these words, - "And he pointed out to me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, issuing forth out of the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the midst of the broadway thereof. And on this side of the river and on that was a tree of life bearing twelve crops of fruit every several months yielding its fruit, and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And no



Revelation 2:1-7

curse shall there be any more, and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be therein, and his servants will render divine service unto him and they shall see his face and his name shall be upon their foreheads. And night shall be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp or the light of a sun, because the Lord God will give them light and they shall reign unto the ages of the ages. Happy they who are washing their robes, that their right may be unto the tree of life and by the gates they enter into the city." (Rev.22:1-5,14)

*"And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat; for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for trouble: for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord."*  
(Isa. 65:21-25)

## "TREE OF LIFE"

The word translated "tree" (Rev.2:7) in this passage is "Xulon." It means stick, staff, tree, wood. Wooden timber is the thought behind it and may be used to describe fuel or any wooden article or substance. The general meaning during the first century was stick or stave and is so translated in the following texts: - Mt.26:47,55; Mrk. 14:43,48; Lu.22:52. The same word is used to describe the place where Jesus was nailed, and is translated tree in the following texts: - Ac.5:30; 10:39; 13:29; Gal.3:13; 1 Pet.2:24.

The use of the word "Xulon" in these ways has led some to conclude Jesus was not nailed to a Roman Cross. If this is the case, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are wrong, for they say He was (Mt.27:32,40,42; Mk.15:21,30,32; Lu: 23:26; Jno. 19:17,19,25,31). The Roman Cross was in use many years before its official adoption for the execution of slaves. The Greek word used in these cases is "Stauros!" This word may also be translated Stake or Post but it was generally used to describe the Roman instrument of capital punishment - a Roman Cross. Thus a Roman Cross was used and not a mere post as some think. However, this is not a doctrinal question and should not be made a condition of fellowship.

As Jesus came forth from His death on the Cross, so this cross of death becomes a striking symbol of life to the world in the resurrection. The victory over death. The glorious life, the glorious hope of a perfect life under perfect conditions beyond the grave which the cross of Jesus secured for all.

## Revelation 2:1-7.

The cross, the cross of Christ, thus becomes a symbol of the "Tree of Life for the world. The cross is typical of that staff of life, that tree mentioned in Rev.22:2, "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, and yeilding her fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations!"

The street referred to in this passage was not an ordinary street. We will refer to this later. Most of the streets of Jerusalem were narrow and crooked. The street referred to here was a broad plaza. It was a place of public assembly. A place for open air gatherings as shown by Mt. 6:2,5; Lu.14:21; Ac.9:11; 12:10. Water is refreshing like truth - "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free!" (Jno.8:32) Ezekiel describes the river of truth in these words:- "Now when I returned, behold, there were at the banks of the stream very many trees, on one side and on the other.---And by the stream upon its banks, on this side and on that side, shall grow up all kinds of trees for food, the leaves of which shall not fade, and the fruit of which shall not come to an end, every month shall they bring forth new ripe fruit; because its water is that which issueth out of the Sanctuary; and their fruit shall serve for food, and their leaves for remedies!" (Eze.47:7,12)

The "Tree of Life" in the first Paradise would have given eternal life, for we read:- "And the Lord said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:-

## Revelation 2:1-7

Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the Garden of Eden the Cherubim, and the flaming sword which revolveth, to guard the way to the tree of life" (Gen.3:22-24) When used in prophecy, the tree of life becomes a symbol or type of eternal life to those who overcome sinful tendencies under the beneficent conditions of the new regime.

Thus the rivers of water in Eden were like the river of truth because they gave refreshment to the trees growing there. The invitation to the world is to drink of the water of truth and partake of the trees of life and be healed by the leaves of these trees. The water of truth, or of life as it is sometimes called, is pictured as flowing from under the throne of God which is occupied jointly by the Father, by Jesus and His elect followers (Rev.3:21) Another Scripture states, "Out of Thy belly shall flow rivers of living water (Jno.7:38)

This river of water will not flow for the benefit of the world until, in the Millennium, the Church is fully established with Him. John the Revelator tells us that when this throne is set up, then the river of life will begin to flow as clear as crystal. The cleansing power of truth shall flow from under the throne, like an ever increasing river, giving life and freedom to all. (Eze.47:5-9) It is truth which shall cause the trees of life to flourish and give their "leaves for the healing of the nations" - the world. "And the Spirit and the Bride shall (then) say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will,

Revelation 2:1-7.

let him take the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17) Manifestly there must be a Bride, before they can give this message.

*"We have more firm the prophetic word: whereunto ye are doing well to take heed, as unto a lamp shining in a dusky place, until day shall dawn and a day-star shall arise in your hearts; Of this first taking note that no prophecy of Scripture becometh self-solving; for not by will of man was prophecy brought in at any time, but as by the Holy Spirit they were borne along-spake men from God." (2 Pet. 1:19-21) Rotherham.*

## Revelation 2:1-7

### *-DEVELOPMENT-*

"As a tree falleth so shall it lie." (Eccl.11:3)

There is nothing to indicate this text refers to man. It merely points out for our instruction that inanimate things, dead things including man, act under nature's laws - the laws which God has established. Clouds, full of water, drop moisture upon the earth and sustain life in living trees but even these cannot change their position. If any lesson or comparison to man can be drawn, it would be that man falls helpless in death, and that "there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest" (Eccl.9:10), but we see no comparison to living man in the above verse or its context. Isaiah 35:10 explains this Ephesus group will "obtain joy and gladness" but not come with it as will some others. They will progress up the broad highway of holiness. (Isa.35:8; 62:10; Jer.31:21) John 5:29 says the group we are considering shall come forth from their graves to a resurrection by judgments. The conclusion is, the world will come from the grave as they went down into it. That the development of this group into the likeness of the perfect man Jesus, will come after they return from the grave - not before. The growth of a perfect character can be likened to the growth of a tree. In death it is like a seed. Then the warm sun of the Millennial morning causes it to break forth thru the soil and become productive.

A righteous life may thus be compared to a tree whose virtues others may use and live.

## Revelation 2:1-7

Blessed are they, whose wise and righteous course of life becomes a constant incentive to virtue, winning others from the wrong path and encouraging them in godliness, righteousness, peace, faith and trust. "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." (Prov.11:30)

As the Church has had to be grounded in God's instruction, to win the prize of the "high-calling;" so the world will have to develop, to grow under the disciplinary experiences of the Millennial Age. Like trees, They must ever reach up to embrace the warm, enlightening rays of the "Sun of Righteousness!" (Mal.4:2) They must pray that they may grow downward and understand more, and the reason for their own past weaknesses, their vileness, more of their own littleness, and so become rooted in humility. They must seek to penetrate below the surface of the truth into the deep understanding of the underlying teachings of God; that they may get hold of the doctrines of eternal love and the satisfaction of union with Him in His eternal purposes, which He ordained in their Messiah before the world was.

This kind of growth will not be seen. It will not add to the vanity of the individual, but will be invaluable in helping each one to assimilate God's provision and live in spite of the future efforts of Satan to uproot him. As the roots go down, upward growth will naturally follow. They will send their higher branches of love and praise upward to heaven. The green shoots will reach up toward the sun, expressing greater love, greater desire, a nearer approach to their Life Giver in prayer; a sweeter spirit, a more intense intimate

## Revelation 2:1-7.

fellowship with their God through the Christ.

Growing upward will add to the beauty and delight of the new life. They will then extend branches on every side, seeking to extend the holy influence of their regained life, as far as possible, to the glory of Him who has called them from their graves, to newness of life which they can then enjoy. They will then seek to grow, as never before, in fruitfulness and productiveness. They will yield the fruit of good works and service every month in the year. They will ever seek to yield more fruit and better fruit, for thus in the giving they are better enabled to rejoice in the blessings given them.

There are trees in California, now growing most beautifully, which were good sized growing trees in 2170 B.C.- the year the Great Pyramid was supposed to have been built. These same beautiful trees were growing at the time when God made His promise to Abraham that through his Seed God would bless all the families of the earth. In the resurrection men are likened to trees, and we read: "As the days of a tree are the days of my people." (Isa.65: 22) However, we must remember the tree idea is only a picture, an illustration of better things. The world of mankind must and will lean to use God's blessings constructively.

In the first Paradise there was a tree of life. We read: "And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil." (Gen.2:9)



## Revelation 2:1-7.

Most Bible scholars agree, Jesus, as the Logos, was the Life giver at that time. We believe He is the "Tree of Life" referred to in Rev.2:7 and Rev.22:14. The latter reads: "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates of the City."

The thought behind the "Tree of Life" picture, is that of nourishment, food. Bread is also a food. Jesus says, "I am the Bread of Life," and our Lord's statement continues: "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying; 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' Then Jesus said unto them, 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father; so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread that came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead. He that eateth this bread shall live forever!' (Jno.6:31-58)

## THE HIGHWAY

We have already commented on the narrow, crooked streets of Jerusalem, in contrast with the broad plaza, the place of public assembly. By extending this broad plaza out into the world, we would have a broad, level, well paved Highway on which all mankind could travel to the City of God. A fourth dimension highway.

The Ephesus class have not had an easy time in their experiences with sin. Stumbling Stones in the form of prejudice, superstition, dread, fear, hate, ignorance, preconceived ideas, improper associates, inherited tendencies; weakness and infirmities of the flesh have all proven obstacles in the way of progress.

Early in the coming age, the command will go forth:- "Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway, gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people" (Isa.62:10) Jesus the Jew, Jesus the Messiah is the perfect standard the world is to follow. In the Gospel Age the way was truly hard because it was a way of sacrifice. In the next age, obedience in putting away of sin, will be the leading requirement. The new "Highway of Holiness" means progress, it means development, it means growth nearer and nearer to the likeness of that perfect man Christ Jesus. Each individual will receive aid as he progresses up the Highway, through the wise administration of Christ's Kingdom.

Leeser's English translation of Isaiah 35:8 reads like this: "And there shall be a highway and a way, and the Holy Way it shall be called; nunclean thing shall pass over it;

## Revelation 2:1-7

but it shall be (only) theirs; the wayfaring man, and those unaquainted (therewith), shall not go astray." What a contrast this will be to conditions in the present age: "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: (kingdom) for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Isa.11:9) Again we read:- "And they shall teach nomore every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord! for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more" (Jer.31:34)

The joy, the beauty, the perfection secured through the Ransom by our Lord, through the Reconciliation of mankind and through Restitution blessings due the human race in the coming age, cannot be properly described. The obtaining of these blessings has been assured by the promises of God. The retaining of these blessings will be conditioned on obedience. Obedience was the only thing required of Adam, when he had had no experience with sin. Obedience will be the only thing required of our race after having had this much needed experience. They will be supported by their knowledge of the exceeding sinfulness of sin. We believe they will make good. These obedient ones shall live perfectly, even as Adam could have lived. (Rev.22:14)

Undoubtedly some wilful ones will need correction and help. But our Lord is not taking snap judgment on any. He gave His human life to save the world of human beings. Those who trust Him and strive to follow Him will be abundantly blessed. The truly sincere will

## Revelation 2:1-7.

strive to control, not only their acts but also their thinking and their conversation. They will pray, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, Oh Lord my strength and my redeemer." (Psa.19:14) Because of my understanding and also my thinking, "my mouth shall speak wisdom." (Psa.49:3) Thus it is - "My meditation shall be sweet and I will be glad in the Lord." (Psa. 104:34) Each one will then continually strive to do and say the most praiseworthy thing in the most praiseworthy way. (Ps.39:1) "I said I will take heed to my ways, that I may not sin with my tongue; I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me."

All will have the spirit of rejoicing and all sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Songs of deliverance will be heard on every hand. Their prayers shall be given prompt attention. Their prayers shall be heard and answered (Jer.33:3). They will realize their refuge is in the Lord who will preserve them from trouble, who truly follow Him. "Thou art my hiding-place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah. I will instruct thee in the way which thou shalt go. I will guide thee with mine eye." (Psa.32:7,8)

All mankind must realize the exceeding sinfulness of sin. They will remember former experiences and compare them with their new blessings. They will know these good things are from the Great Lifegiver. If they draw back, they know it will mean disciplinary experiences for them. They will know there is nothing for them to go back to. We read, "If any man draw back, My soul shall have no plea-

## Revelation 2:1-7

sure in him! (Heb.10:38) Their new faith, their new hope, their new found happiness is centered on the Giver of every good thing. Those who continue on the highway of holiness and thanksgiving find joy evermore. Six thousand years of sin and sorrow which have existed on earth are but a moment in the sight of the Lord. It has been a night of dark experience. "For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning!" (Psa.30:5) Let us give further comment on this Scripture reference. - In the present evil world few persons hear the wonderful words of life. The message of God's love is seldom heard even when it is declared plainly. Manifestly our Lord is not dealing with the vast majority of our human kind during this night of sin, but in the Millennial Morning they shall hear and obey. "My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up" (Ps.30:5) And our Lord replies: - "Before they call I will answer and while they are yet speaking I will hear!" (Isa.65:24)

In the reconciliation period earth's new vast population will progress on the Highway of Holiness. They will regard their perfect human condition as their inalienable right. A possession bought and paid for by Jesus, the reigning Messiah. No one is to interfere with this or teach them to the contrary. (Ezek.46:18; 48:29) But they are to receive helpful instruction. (Ezek.44:33) They are to submit to rulership of Christ and His divinely appointed physical and spiritual government. (Ezek.44:24;45:6) The conscience of each individual must be kept clean. (Ezek.44:9) They are to lose,

## Revelation 2:1-7

they are to forget all former defilements and weaknesses, to the extent that they may rejoice in the perfect, the sincere, the heartfelt worship of God. (Ezek.43:6,7; 45:17; 46:1-3,9,10)

Those who progress along the "Highway of Holiness" have had much to overcome. They will be refreshed by the "Water of Life," nourished by the "Bread of Life" and the "Tree of Life." These become as trees, rooted and grounded, immovable in their knowledge and love of God. These produce fruit to His praise, they scatter healing leaves of kindness and good works to those about them and will enter into that City, the New Jerusalem (Rev.22:14) whose builder and maker is God, (He.11:10) Their love of sin must be in fatal decline. Their zeal for truth and righteousness must ever increase.

The world of mankind will not be changed to a new nature, as the Church will be, but will be restored to the perfect human nature lost in Adam. "For the Son of Man came to save that which was lost!" (Matt.18:11) It will take trials to remove the dross of former imperfection. (Ex.30:7; Mal.3:2) These testings will come in various forms, but will amount to little in themselves. It is how these trials are used which will count. They are for the purpose of developing the individual and making him stronger and more worthy of the love which God has given. The test will be, can the individual realize the cleansing power of his trials, that he may glory in his tribulations? (Rom.5:3) Is each one discarding his wood, hay and stubble, past construction, and learning to build anew, a character of gold, silver and precious stones? Is each one gaining strength, increased efficiency, increased

## Revelation 2:1-7

understanding because of his experiences? (Col.1:10,11) Can each one say he is using his experience helpfully, for the glory of God and the blessing of those with whom he comes in contact?

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised them that love Him! (Jas.1:12) Jesus Himself was tried and tested in all points as we are. (Heb.4:5) Many of the trials, tests and tribulations experienced by the Church will be experienced by the world in the next age. (1 Pet.1:7; 4:12; 5:10) When the world gets the right viewpoint it will be possible for them to rejoice in their experiences, while they may not have done so before. (Deut.13: 3; Psa.23:4; 119:67)

In their new life the world will soon outgrow sin. When a boy is cold in winter he begins to think of the coat he discarded during the summer. But his coat is now too small for him. No amount of patching or altering will make it fit his larger frame. He must have a larger coat. This is God's arrangement. He will clothe each member of the New Creation with a new body. A body as capable of reaching the greatest heights of human perfection as his outgrown body was capable of reaching the deepest depths of human depravity. A body capable of attaining perfect health, perfect happiness, of maintaining the perfect obedience required for a perfect life. Thus every knee shall bow to the glory of the Father. (Phil.2:10,11) In all probability the vast majority of human beings will be resurrected from their grave under this, the Ephesus class.

# SMYRNA.

Revelation 2:8-11.

"And unto the angel of the Church of Smyrna write these things - - - - He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death!"

Smyrna means bitter. Myrrh and Marah (Ex.15:23) are kindred words. This Church, so rich in faith, received a message of hope and comfort which is meant for all Gentiles of all ages who have loved right and justice. Their reward is the highest material reward offered to Gentile nations.

Other Churches had various judgments pronounced against them, but this Church Class received nothing but favorable commendation. The one condition being faithfulness unto death in spite of bitter persecutions received for righteousness sake.

The antiquity of Smyrna is shrouded in mystery. It is the most ancient of modern, important coast cities in Asia Minor. Early accounts present it as an Ionian Colony. In about 700 B.C., probably during the reign of Jeroboam II in Jerusalem (2 Kings 14:23; 15:1), it formed a part of the great Ionian League.

The old City was situated on the little stream called "Meles" on the North side of the Hermaean Gulf, which is now known as the Gulf of Smyrna. It claims the honor of being the



## Revelation 2:8-11.

birthplace of Homer, the great Greek poet. Near the source of this stream a grotto was hewn, and it is claimed Homer lived in this cave while writing many of his immortal Poems. Modern Smyrna is located about three miles south of its original location. One of the sights shown tourists in the ruins of this old City, is the Stadium in which Polycarp is supposed to have been burned alive.

Polycarp was the first Bishop of Smyrna and is listed among the first of the early Christian Martyrs. We have no record of who his parents were, or of when or where he was born. He is ascribed as being an unknown. He was brought up in Smyrna and when only a little child he was adopted by a rich Christian lady named Callisto. When she died she left all of her wealth to him. It was by this means he was able to finance his many Christian activities. The Church at Smyrna was very poor, though rich in faith. (Rev.2:9)

According to Irenaeus, Polycarp was taught many of the doctrines of Christianity by the Apostle John with whom he had "familiar intercourse!" He states:- "I can tell also the very place where the blessed Polycarp was accustomed to sit and discourse; and also his entrances, his walks, the complexion of his life, and form of his body, and his conversations with the people, and his familiar intercourse with John, as he was accustomed to tell, as also his familiarity with those that had seen the Lord. Also concerning His miracles, His doctrine, all these were told by Polycarp, in consistency with the Scriptures, as he had received them from eye-witnesses of the doctrine of Salvation (His.Eccl.ch.20)

## Revelation 2:8-11.

His martyrdom occurred in 166 A.D. and is recorded by Eusebius. The Proconsul Statius Quadratus wanted to save Polycarp and entreated him "to revile Christ!" To this the aged Bishop replied:- "Eighty and Six years have I served Him, and He never did me wrong; and how can I now blaspheme my King that has saved me?" (Hist.Eccl.Ch.14) One of Polycarp's letters to the Philippenses has been preserved. There are three English translations made by Cage, Clementson, and the third by Wake. The modern city of Smyrna is about 50 miles from the now deserted city of Ephesus, and has a population of about 200,000 people.

The application or placing the literal fulfillment of the Smyrna prophecy recorded by the Apostle John (Rev.2:8-11) is claimed to be from 73 A.D. to 325 A.D. It marks a period of most stupid, most barbarous persecution in the history of the Christian Church. In Egypt alone, as many as 1,500,000. Christians were martyred in one year. As Gold is tried in the fire, so these early Christians came forth.

The most severe persecutions of this period were from Nero to Diocletian; the ten years from 303 to 313 pictured some of the most sublime illustrations of Christian endurance the world has ever seen. If this is the right deduction, then this tribulation applied to all of the Churches and not to Smyrna alone, for all of them received special persecution during this period. Our text reads:- "Fear not those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life. He that hath

Revelation 2:8-11

an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death! (Rev.2:10,11)

1 Jno. 5:16.

*If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it."*

# *The Second Death.*

Revelation 2:8-11

The purpose of the Second Death is the elimination of all that is evil. The promise held out to all the Churches of the Smyrna class is that they would not be hurt by the Second Death. This is a definite promise of protection from the devastating results of the Second Death. That this is a promise for protection against a certain thing, it is also a statement that this particular thing must exist. Other Scriptures point out that this thing under consideration is the Gehenna Death, the Lake of Fire Death referred to in the following texts:-

(Mk.9:43-47)

"And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off, it is better for thee to enter into life maimed than, having the hands, to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched; where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt in to life, than, having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched; where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be cast into hell-fire?"

(Matt.5:22,29,30)

"But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment; and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger

Revelation 2:8-11.

of the council; but whosoever shall say, Thou Fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee; for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell!

(Deut.13:6-11)

"If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying. Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; namely, of gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth; thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him, neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him: but thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of the people. And thou shalt surely stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you!"

(Isa.33:14)

"The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites: who

Revelation 2:8-11.

among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?"

(Isa.66:24)

"And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh."

(Jas.3:6)

"And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."

(Lu.12:5)

"But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed, hath power to cast into hell; yes, I say unto you, fear Him."

In view of these Scriptures, it is hard to conceive why any Bible Student should teach the resurrection of any evil thing from the second death. - There is opposition to what the Scriptures seem to clearly teach. - Perhaps it would be helpful, as far as possible, to consider the matter from the viewpoint of these misguided ones without any sacrifice of Scriptural truth.

To claim all dead will come up from the Gehema grave because death and hell are to be destroyed (Rev.20:14), is equivalent to teaching the doctrine of immortality of the soul. If we claim Jesus is the Life Giver, we admit

## Revelation 2:8-11.

we have no life in ourselves and thus deny the doctrine of immortality. (Rom.2:6,7; 1 Cor.15:53; 1 Tim.6:16) If we claim our only hope beyond the grave is through Him who said, "No man cometh unto the Father but by Me" - - "I am the resurrection and the life" we automatically deny we have any inherent life of our own, independent of Him. We inherit immortality. We do not now possess it. If our souls are not immortal then why should those condemned to the Gehenna Hell be given another chance? "Christ dieth no more." (Rom. 6:9)

Evidently our heavenly Father does not plan to make His earthly children, dummies or puppets. He wants us to be in His image = God-like. He wants us to have a will, to will to do right as a matter of deliberate, intelligent choice. If our Maker intends us to develop, "Power of Will" could He do it more efficiently than by permitting evil that we may chose right or wrong? Even insects exercise power of choice. The use of a muscle develops that muscle. The use of a mental or moral power develops capacity along that line. When God permitted evil for a wise and beneficial purpose, He did not instigate evil. The word create is similar in meaning. The idea of God creating evil for His own pleasure is both blasphemous and contradictory. God is not the instigator of sin, wickedness and crime. (Jas. 1:13) He has permitted evil because of its educational value. Man must learn the exceeding sinfulness of sin.

The King James translation of Isa.45:7 and Amos 3:6 conveys the wrong idea. It centers around the wrong translation of the Hebrew word RAW, derived from the root RAW-AH. Sin is

## Revelation 2:8-11.

always evil but evil is not always sin. An earth-quake is an evil calamity. So is fire of a flood, but they are not sins. They are real afflictions. The same word RAW is translated affliction in Psa.34:19;107:39; Jer.48:16; Zec.1:15. It is translated calamities, adversity, distress, trouble, harm, mischief, sore hurt, misery, grief and sorrow in other places.

In Isa.45:7 and Amos 3:6 our Lord impressed Israel that He would protect them from the calamities common to other nations if they would obey Him. Obedience was to be the price of Divine protection. However, when chastisements came they were inclined to blame chance for these calamities rather than their own disobedience to God's commands. God withheld His protecting power and permitted calamities to come as proper chastisements for their neglect, their own disobedience.

Some theologans try to convince us God was the instigator of sin when He placed the forbidden tree in Eden. If their reasoning is correct then there is no second death and the Ransom by Jesus was not necessary. If God created evil, instigated evil, then the exercise of common Justice demands that God save all men irrespective of whether they have proven themselves to be good or bad at heart. If God caused sin, He must of necessity, cause the deliverance from sin and the result of sin, - death and hell.

Human experience with sin, with evil, is like a painful, a distressing but purifying furnace. It separates the dross of improper human tendency from the pure gold of Divine aspirations, desire and attainment as represen-



Revelation 2:8-11.

ted in Godly faith. "This is the victory which overcometh the world, even your FAITH!" (1 Jno. 5:4)

Death is a purge. As dross is skimmed off and discarded, it is destroyed. It is forgotten because the great Refiner has no further use for it. Evil will be blotted out of His memory. The wood, hay and stubble, all of the false conceptions, the evil tendencies among men will be purged away. All evil will be destroyed. The wilfully, the persistently disobedient among men will also be forgotten. They will cease to exist. The unfortunately mistaken idea held by some in the Universalist movement is more the fault of sectarianism than a deliberate plan to deceive. The claimed divinity of the man Christ Jesus, in contrast with the true Divinity of our risen Lord; the present supposed immortality of the soul, in contrast with the inherited immortality as the reward of faithfulness, will stick in our minds even when we find they conflict with the Divine arrangement for human destiny and the clear statements of Scriptures.

The mistaken idea in this case centers around a misunderstanding of what the soul really is. - Let us face the facts. At death when the breath leaves the body it goes into the atmosphere. Then the body is dissolved and becomes part of other elements of the earth. There is really nothing left of that person but the perfect memory of that character, that individual character in the mind of Jehovah. (Job.14:13, Isa.43:25; Lu.23:42) - But, as all who are in their tombs will hear His voice and come forth, the "it" referred to by Paul in 1 Cor.15:36 must be the resurrected soul. Be-

## Revelation 2:8-11.

cause of their confused idea, many good misguided people fail to realize the soul has ceased to exist and instruct their followers, the soul has merely lain in Hell unconscious, waiting the resurrection.

Their argument is most profound, but they contradict themselves. Foreexample, they agree with Gen.2:7 that the soul is a composite entity. They agree, "the soul that sinneth it (the soul) shall die;" (Eze.18:4), "the wages of sin is death;" (Rom.6:23) all of which contradicts the thought of soul sleeping. Then in their comments on the second death they say:- "The only immunity from condemnation lies in having a place in the scroll of life. This alone determines the sentence." (See Rev.20:15)

Undoubtedly there are those of the second death class, ones whose names have been blotted out of the Book of Life. (Rev.3:5) But the foregoing is not consistent with their claim that because the soul is in hell, that it must come forth when hell is destroyed and no longer exists. (Rev.20:14) The thought is, the soul must go somewhere. - If this is the case, then we are confronted with the uselessness of having one's name in the Lamb's Book of Life because all will come forth eventually when death and hell (grave) are destroyed. Such a conception is fantastic. This is not sound doctrine. It is not common-sense.

Death is a result, it is not a cause. Death and hell are used as a purge to eliminate evil-the cause of death and hell. - Death and hell will be destroyed when sin is destroyed. Then and not 'till then will death and hell have outlived their usefulness. Under the re-

## Revelation 2:8-11.

fining and disciplinary experiences of Christ's Kingdom all who will, shall be brought up to the level pictured by the Smyrna Church. They will wear the "Diadem of Life" and the second death will have no power over them. (John 3:16)

If our good Universalists Brethren will limit their claim to Sheol, Tartaro and Hades when discussing hell, we will agree that all will come forth and that death and these types of the grave will be destroyed, they shall cease to exist. If our friends go beyond this, we must ask for some Scripture which says those cast into Gehenna, and those cast into the Lake of Fire will ever come forth as they went in. If no text is found, then their doctrine of Universal Salvation, including the wilfully wicked, crumbles into nothing. Manifestly the sinful one must be purged from the dross of sin. Saved "so as by fire!" (1 Cor. 3:15) Wood, hay and stubble of character development must be destroyed. The soul must be cleansed, purified, refined. The Gospel Church is warned, "Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which shall try you!" (1 Pet. 4:12) While the Church is refined by fiery trials, the trials of the next age will be like a lake of fire. There will be no escape. Each one must be made clean because it is God who will have all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth! (1 Tim. 2:4)

Those who evade the proper meaning of the word Gehenna are saying it should never have been translated Hell. They say there is as much sense in translating Sodom and Gonorrhah hell, as to translate Gehenna hell. Manifestly this is to dodge the issue of the second death. Yet in their book "God's Eonian Purpose!" on

Revelation 2:8-11.

page 344, they honestly admit the soul and body of wilful transgressors will be destroyed in the Gehenna grave.

There is no Scripture saying those in their "Lake of Fire" experiences will ever come forth as they went in. There is no Scripture saying any in Gehenna, where "the fire is not quenched and the worm dieth not," will be resurrected. But there are Scriptures which tell us those in Sodom will return to their former estate on this earth, and that the Jews and the despised Samaritans will return to this earth at the same time. (Eze.16:53-56)

Let us consider other Scriptures:-  
Ecc.3:16-22.

"And, moreover, I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there. I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked; for there is a time for every purpose, and for every work. I said in mine heart concerning the estate of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts. For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no pre-eminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place: all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth? Wherefore, I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after

Revelation 2:8-11.

him."

Isa.26:12-14.

"Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us. O Lord our God, other Lords beside thee have had dominion over us: but by thee only will we make mention of thy name. They are dead, they shall not live; they are deceased, they shall not rise: therefore hast thou visited and destroyed them and made all their memory to perish."

Heb.6:4-8.

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost. And have tasted the word of God, and the powers of the world to come. If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. For the earth, which drinketh in the rain that cometh upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: but that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned."

Heb.10:26-31.

"For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much more punishment, suppose ye, shall be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God,

Revelation 2:8-11.

and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!

1 Jno.5:16.

"If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him Life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it."

Matt.12:31-32.

"Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men; but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come!"

The Bible declares that all unrighteousness is sin. That sin is the transgression of the Law. Therefore those who disobey God are guilty of sin through so doing. The thought underlying the word "obedience" is Life, while that associated with the word "disobedience" is Death. In proof of this we offer Paul's testimony as found in the fifth of Romans: - "By the disobedience of one man sin entered the world, in whom all have sinned, and so death passed upon all men. By the obedience of one man the free gift of life is to be offer-

## Revelation 2:8-11.

ed to all! But Paul does not say all men will accept the offer. The curse of death has been inherited by all men. They have no hope of life except on God's terms, - namely, through Jesus Christ. This is sound doctrine.

Someone may ask, Was Adam's act of disobedience the act of eating fruit which had been forbidden? We answer, Yes, we believe the Bible account in Genesis is a plain, simple statement of what actually happened. However, any other act could have caused death, if that act had been forbidden. It was disobedience which brought the death penalty. Many wonder why God placed such a heavy penalty, such a severe penalty as death for such a small act of disobedience. The laws of our own land recognize different degrees of punishment. A serious disobedience of law may be punished by imprisonment, while murder may draw the death penalty. In following this policy men have copied the laws which God gave Moses. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a life for a life. Why, then, should God exact such a severe penalty for eating fruit? Adam had not killed anyone.

The answer is that Adam had been guilty of the greatest crime he could commit. He did the only thing God told him not to do. Therefore he drew the heaviest penalty. All Adam had or was came from God. He was master of a world. He must learn to be master of himself. His moral quality of choice had to be developed. His willing obedience had to be proven. Manifestly implicit obedience can be better demonstrated by little things than by big ones. If the Devil had asked Adam to blaspheme God, he would have failed. Eating fruit was a

## Revelation 2:8-11

small thing. Adam was eating fruit every day. Therefore it was easy for the devil to trap him throu the inexperience of his beloved wife. This seemingly trifling act of eating forbidden fruit was the gravest crime he could commit, it proved disloyalty. It was disobedience and brought the penalty which had been announced in advance. It was a just punishment.

In His prehuman existence, our Lord was obedient to God. In that state of heavenly bliss everything was conducive to loyalty. When he came to earth he proved Himself just as obedient under adverse conditions. Of Him it is prophetically stated, "I delight to do Thy will, O God. Thy law is written in my heart" He learned, He proved His obedience by the things which He suffered. Thus He set an example, not only for His own foot-step followers, but for the entire world.

As obedience was demanded of Adam.

As obedience was practiced by our Lord Jesus,

As obedience is required of the Church,

So obedience will be required of the world. Those who deliberately and continuously refuse to obey will not be allowed to blight the happiness of others but will be eliminated as criminals. They will be placed in the Gehenna grave which is the second death. (Rev. 20:14) If they will not be purged from sinfulness they will be purged from the earth. They will be forgotten as dross from the refiner's kettle.

Manifestly the basis of life on any plane of being, will be obedience. The Divine Maker of this universe must be supreme. Any who show a contrary spirit, a contrary will, as a



Revelation 2:8-11.

result of deliberate choice, must be blotted out from Divine remembrance. Divine permission will be granted all men to embrace the Divine provisions which have been made for all, but the willing choice of embracing these provisions is with each individual and each person will thus determine his own destiny.

IN THE FURNACE

He that from the dross would win the precious  
ore,  
Bends o'er the crucible an earnest eye,  
The subtle, searching process to explore  
Lest the one brilliant moment should pass by  
When, in the molten golden virgin mass,  
He meets his pictured face as in a glass.

Thus in God's furnace are His children tried.  
Thrice happy they who to the end endure!  
But who the fiery trial may abide?  
Who from the crucible come forth so pure  
That He whose eyes of flame look through the  
whole  
May see His image perfect in the soul?

Not with an evanescent glimpse alone,  
As in a mirror, the Refiner's face,  
But stamped with heaven's broad signet there  
be shown  
Emmanuel's features, full of love and grace;  
And round that seal of love this mott be:  
'Not for a moment, but eternity!'

(Selected)

## Revelation 2:8-11.

In the Resurrection,  
Who will compose the  
Smyrna Group?

Jesus said: "In my Father's House are many mansions". (Jno.14;2) The Seven Churches in Asia picture seven stages or degrees of exaltation, seven general classifications or types of reward, or conditions of being, illustrating the kind of mansions our Heavenly Father has prepared for man. This is shown in the seven different and specific types of reward offered each separate group. (Rev.2:7; 2:11; 2:17; 2:26; 3:5; 3:12; 3:21.) We cannot do violence to the Word of God by claiming all seven of these promises apply to one group, as some are trying to teach. The seven Churches of Revelation two and three, manifestly have a deeper meaning. Nor do they refer exclusively to a period of time in the Gospel Age. They have a bearing on these literal Churches and their prophetic application, but their deep significance reaches out beyond into that reconstruction period, that restitution period just ahead of us, when the entire world will be reconciled to God. If anyone fails in securing a place, it will be his own fault. God has made provision for all.

The Smyrna Church stands, in reference to the rest of the Gentile world, as the Patriarchs living prior to the crucifixion of Jesus, stand to the Jewish Nation. They attain a better Resurrection, in that they are given a "crown of life" and will not be hurt of the second death. Evidently this promise is still future. Those of the Ephesus group were not

## Revelation 2:8-11.

blessed with this assurance. It is evident those who are fortunate enough to compose the Smyrna group will not be eliminated by the second death experiences. During their former existence, something happened, something was done, some character development was accomplished in their lives which entitled them to something better in their own resurrection than that enjoyed by the rest of the unconsecrated Gentile world.

It is not for us to set the bounds of Divine beneficence. It is not for us to say definitely who these fortunate people are, but we have an idea who they are not. For example, this class is not composed of the wilfully wicked Gentile nations. All of these will receive their schooling in the Ephesus group. They will receive help they need up the Highway of Holiness to the perfect understanding which will eventually be theirs.

The Smyrna group will not be composed of those begotten to a Spirit Nature, because Smyrna is an Earthly class. This is shown by the wreath, the garland or gift of earthly life called the crown of life. It is the reward of human achievement in faithfulness. All will receive this crown, for we read: Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life." (Jas.1:12) Those of the worldly class will be rewarded according to their works:- "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." (Rev.20:12) The Spirit

## Revelation 2:8-11.

Begotten ones receive theirs as a free gift:-  
"And no man taketh this honour unto himself,  
but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.  
(He.5:4)

There are no Scriptures which say the world of mankind will receive a crown of life immediately at death. The Crown of life referred to, seems to intimate that the faithful overcomers of the Smyrna group will be given perpetual life on the human plane of being even as the Church will be given immortal life on the Spirit plane of being. On either of these conditions the second death will have no destructive power.

Some expositors teach that only Jews by blood will compose this Smyrna group. The basis for their belief is the wording of Rev. 2:9 - "Them that say they are Jews and are not but are of the Synagogue of Satan." Of some of the Jews, Jesus said: "Ye are of your father, the Devil." (Jno.8:44) In all probability this use of the word Jew is not meant in its literal sense but refers to a Christian Standard recognized in the early Church. Paul says:- "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: but he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." (Rom.2:28,29) To say the term "Jew" is never applied to Christians is to contradict the inspired statements of Paul, and John's witness concerning the Smyrnanian Church. Paul says:- "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's,

## Revelation 2:8-11.

then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." (Gal.3:28,29) Those nominal Church Members of our present day who are hypocritically pretending their Christianity are also of the Synagogue of Satan.

Jews by blood will not be found in this Smyrna group, nor will the Patriarchs of antiquity. We believe we can show from the Scriptures that they will come forth from the grave in groups of their own. This leaves for our consideration a large class of unconsecrated gentiles who have lived since the beginning of human history. They are that group of noble individuals who love fair play.

They are those who have loved that which was right in preference to that which was wrong irrespective of circumstances. They may not have understood the Divine arrangement for blessing them, but they have done that which was right for, right's sake, - for the sake of being right. They are persons who have lived righteous lives, even suffering death because of their loyalty to principle, - because they would rather die right than live wrong. They are ethically just people. They are morally just.

In this group may be found the children of consecrated parents. It may have been hard for some of these parents to understand why their dear ones did not have the seeing eye or the hearing ear in spiritual matters when they were such fine young people in their other conceptions. These parents did not understand why their children would not accept God, but it will cause great rejoicing when they realize God's gracious provision for blessing them. In fact the Smyrna group may include many who

Revelation 2:8-11.

have learned God's plan, and having learned it they have counted the cost and deliberately chose the earthly phase of the Lord's Kingdom, in preference to sacrifice, consecration and the spiritual reward. They are children of Good Will.

## PERGAMOS.

Revelation 2:12, 13, 14, 15, 17.

*"A City set on a hill cannot be hid." Mt. 5:14.*

*"He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; to him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it."*

Rev. 2:17.

*"I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in loving-kindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth the unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord."*

Hos. 2:19, 20.

*"I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death."*

Hos. 13:14.

Pergamos.

What was his creed?

I do not know his creed, I only know  
That here below, he walked the common road  
And lifted many a load, lightened many a task,  
Brightened the day for others toiling on a  
weary way.

His creed? I care not what his creed:  
Enough that never yielded he to greed,  
Plucked many a thorn and planted many a flower,  
Glorified the service of each hour;  
Had faith in Right, himself and fellow men;

Perchance he never thought in terms of creed,  
I only know he lived a life, in deed!

(Unknown)

*Genesis 13:14-17,—"And the Lord said unto Abram after that Lot was separate from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward; for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land, in the length of it, and in the breadth of it, for I will give it unto thee."*

In formulating an analysis of the significance of John's letter to the Church at Pergamos we are again confronted with a three fold task of unfoldment. The physical Church of Pergamos had problems peculiar to themselves. The pro-

## Revelation 2:12-17

phetic fulfilment of the Pergamos letter is eloquent in the praises of our God. We believe it applied to a specific time in the Gospel Age. The antitypical fulfilment of this prophecy will occupy most of our attention at this time. We believe it will occur in the earthly phase of Christ's Restitution Kingdom and refers to a special blessing to the particular class it represents.

Pergamum was an important city of the Teuthania district in Mysia. The name means earthly exaltation or elevation and is associated with an isolated lofty hill, around which the city was built. It is situated in a broad, fertile valley of Caicus about fifteen miles from the coast. Associations around the name well describe a church in close proximity to the center of the Kingdom of Evil and yielding itself to sensual alliances.

Per is an article of emphasis, equivalent to our English word very. Ga or Gee means earthly. Thus in Acts 13:13 Perga means very earthly. Mos or Mum means high. Our conclusion is obvious. Hence a very high earthly elevation is the idea. It is not a Spiritual elevation on a Spiritual plane of being. An earthly citadel placed on an earthly hill, conveys the thought of Divine Government of earthly affairs which satan usurped and which Christ will restore.

The city was founded by Arcadian colonists headed by Telephus, son of Hercules. It was famous for its worship of Aescupahius, to whom the title of Saviour was given and whose emblem was a serpent. Its worship was identified with soothsayings of Appollo in Acts 16:16, pro-



## Revelation 2:12-17

bably brought over by pagan Babylonian priesthood.

The city of Pergamos ranked well with Ephesus and Smyrna as one of the three great cities of the province. Little was known of it until the time of Xenophon when it was only a small fortified town on the top of a hill. Lysimachus established its importance when he deposited there his fortune of 9000 talents in 283 B.C. Attali collected in Pergamos a library only inferior to that of Alexandria. The greatest splendor of Pagen Pergamum was under Eumenes 2nd (197-159 B.C.) The idolatry of the city was most barbarous and obscene. It became a city of idolatrous temples devoted to sensuous worship (Rev.2:14). The place still exists under the name of Bergamah.

The antitypical application of John's prophetic Pergamum picture is essentially earthly. God's covenants with the Jews were all of an earthly, material nature. The Scriptures read, - "You only have I known of all the families of the earth." By definite selection God exalted the descendents of Jacob to an elevation in Divine favor far above that enjoyed by other nations of the earth even as Pergamos was on an exalted hill above the valleys surrounding it. For a few moments let us refresh our memory with Scripture proofs that an earthly Paradise for the Jews is a definite Divine promise.

*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. (Mt.13:44)*

*A MATERIAL PARADISE  
for the Jewish Nation.*

Strange as it may seem, the vast majority of Bible expositors do not recognize the Bible teaching concerning a physical, a material inheritance as the ultimate reward of the majority of humanity including Jews. But these same theologians are perfectly willing to consign all who do not agree with their Theology, to literal fire, brimstone, devils and pitch-forks for all the endless ages of eternity. They want a material punishment while denying the reality of a material reward. Some are even willing to accept the thought of total, hopeless annihilation as a reward for those who do not accept their views. Distorted though they may be, these are honest conceptions of honest men. They are Godly men. Why so many of them shut their eyes to so beautiful a Bible teaching, while claiming to preach and teach the Bible, is hard to understand. Evidently God is giving some more spiritual enlightenment than He is now giving other believers.

Perhaps this because they have concentrated thought on doctrinal matters to such an extent, they have become blinded to the fullness of God's love as manifested along other lines. The Spiritual reward is limited to three groups. Namely, those who win the "Prize of the High-Calling," (Phil.3:14, Heb. 3:1; 2 Pet.1:10) those who have remained faithful unto death, (Rom.6:5; Phil.3:10; Rom.8:17; 2 Tim. 2:12) and those who have merely confessed our Lord before men. (Mat.10:32; Lu.12:8; 1 Jno.4:15; Rev.3:5) We will comment on these at length at a later

## Revelation 2:12-17.

time. So far we have indicated those of the Ephesus and the Smyrna groups, will have an earthly, a material inheritance. We have reason to also believe, the Jews as a nation will have an earthly reward in a group the Scriptures designate as the Church at Pergamos. We believe and we intend to show from the word of God, the Patriarchs of the Bible, including King David and John the Baptist will also have a physical, a material, an earthly resurrection. These statements are not made for the purpose of starting an argument. They are made because the Bible says they are true; they are facts, as shown from the Scriptures and should be recognized by intelligent people.

Because of doubt in the mind of some, we will take "time out" to consider this matter. We hope to do it in a way that even the most skeptical, may know, may realize the true facts. Facts which are repeated over and over by every prophet of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Most Students of the Scriptures believe in them. They have faith in the recorded promises of God. They believe they are true. If we can hold to this thought, to the extent that there will be no deviation from it, then we must admit even Abraham is to have an earthly reward and the time of his reward is still in the future from this present writing. We read in Genesis 13:14-17, - "And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separate from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward; for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can

## Revelation 2:12-17

number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land, in the length of it, and in the breadth of it, for I will give it unto thee."

This text has been studied by Godly men for many centuries. It is one of the most profound pronouncements of the entire Scriptures. It is a definite, unconditional promise by the Diety that a definite piece of LAND, a certain acreage, will be given to a definite person, a particular human being.

As this is true, either God is a deliberate and wilful Liar (a thing we cannot admit) or there is more to this promise than most Bible expositors and commentators are willing to admit. This promise is not a chance interpolation, of some copiest. It is repeated too many times. (Gen. 12:7; 15:3,18; 17:8; 26:3). With all of this evidence our Lord must have had a deep, a lesson of far-reaching importance. He was and is trying to drive into our dull comprehension a fact; for Stephen comes back with this statement: - "And He (God) gave him (Abram) none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet He promised that He would give it to him for a possession! (Acts 7:5)

Furthermore, history does not record that Abraham has since returned to his former heritage.

In all common honesty we must admit, a future time is meant, - that Abraham is to be brought back to this earth in the flesh. That he will occupy the land of promise as its legitimate owner, and that this will be recog-

## Revelation 2:12-17

nized as a gift from Jehovah God according to and as a fulfilment of His "Cath Bound Covenant" (obligation) which He voluntarily made freely without anycondition attached. Tothis thought agree other Scriptures. The time of this occu-pancy is expressed inthese words:- "Thus saith the Lord, In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities, I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded and the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the Garden of Eden; and the waste, and desolate, and ruined cities, are become fenced, and are inhabited. Then the heathen, that are left round about you, shall know that I the Lord build the ruined places, and plant that, that was desolate: I the Lord have spoken it and I will do it!" (ezek.36:33-35)

Again we read a definite statement in connection with Ezekiel's record. Israel is not to be cleansed from all her iniquities until after "Jacob's trouble, as testified in Jer.30:7-9:-"Alas for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it; For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of Hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: but they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their King, whom I will raise up unto them."

David had been dead for a long time when this prophecy was uttered, but in it we have the definite statement David is to return in

## Revelation 2:12-17.

the flesh and rule, as well as Abraham is to return in the flesh and occupy the land of promise. In addition to this, the Scriptures state, all of Abraham's descendents are to have a material, an earthly inheritance. We read:- "For, lo, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the Lord; and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it!" (Jer.30:3) The vast majority of Israelites are now being held in the great prison house of death, but they will be liberated.

A Spiritual inheritance does not offer the material promises; the earthly reward, which we believe apply to the Pergamos group, we are now considering. This becomes even more apparent when we understand the earthly groups are to build houses, cultivate gardens, eat food and drink wine in the resurrection. Our Lord says:- "And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God." (Amos 9:14,15)

As our Lord intends to bring His chosen people to their home land, He reminds us and them of how He brought them from the land of Egypt, and that if He was strong enough to do that, He assures them, He is strong enough to bring them from the Ghettos and concentration camps of Europe. We read this in Jereremiah 23:7,8:- "Therefore, behold, the days come,

Revelation 2:12-17.

saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; but the Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land!

We are not to understand that all Jews are going to return to Palestine, a country much smaller in area than some of our own United States. A representative number of them have already returned as result of the first and second World Wars. The law of the Messiah shall go forth from this Holy Mountain (Government), and the peace of it shall fill the entire earth.

Isaiah records: - "And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat; for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for trouble: for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear: The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord." (Isa. 65:21-25)

All of this has to do with the resurrec-

## Revelation 2:12-17.

tion. The giving of life to all those in their graves and giving them a mental appreciation and heart affection for their God. Let us now quote another direct reference to the Jewish Nation found in Ezek. 37:11-14.

"Then he saith unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost, we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, O my people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, and shall put my Spirit in you, and ye shall live; and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord." It is unfortunate so many Jews have failed to observe this promise taken from their own Scriptures.

It is comforting to know that in the resurrection the Jews as a nation will recognize Jesus the Jew as their Messiah and King of Kings of the world. This will be a hard jolt for some of these stiff necked sons of Jacob, but it is coming and the sooner they recognize it, the easier it will be for them. Undoubtedly the strict administration of the Restitution Government will do it. For we read: "Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." (1aa.45:23; Rom.14:11; Phil.2:11) While Jesus in the unseen ruling Messiah, the great loving Shepherd of all, they shall have a fleshly King.



Revelation 2:12-17.

"And David my servant shall be king over them: and they all shall have one Shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. They shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt, and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children, for ever; and my Servant David shall be their prince for ever." (Eze.37:24,25)

Thus we see the Scriptures clearly teach there will be a material, anearthly resurrection for the Jewish nation. Now let us consider some parts of our text which show the Pergamos Church pictures the Restitution hopes of the Jewish nation, - in our next chapter.

*"And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah; and I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy government into his hand: and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder so he shall open and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place, and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house. And they shall hang upon him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the issue, all vessels of small quantity, from the vessels of cups, even to all the vessels of flagons. In that day, saith the Lord of Hosts, shall the nail that is fastened in a sure place be removed, and be cut down, and fall; and the burden that was upon it shall be cut off: for the Lord hath spoken it." (Isa: 22:20-25)*

## David's God

I looked into the man-made creeds  
Of Gentile and of Jew,  
And found them but as hollow reeds  
Which men have come to rue.

The heathen idols are as near  
As gods of creedal lore,  
With ears as quick to bend and hear  
When men their help implore.

For though they're served in temples fair,  
With formal lips and alms,  
The one I sought was never there - - -  
The God of David's psalms.

I almost laughed, their idols are  
So tintured with our sod,  
So weak and cold and far away - - -  
I looked for David's God.

Forever near, the God of truth,  
I longed for with each breath;  
The God from whom alone can come  
Deliverance from death.

Who hides Himself and yet reveals  
To us His mighty power,  
In earth and sky and stormy sea,  
And in each sun-filled hour.

Not in a temple made with hands,  
When burdened with earth's cares,  
But in His Word I found the God  
Who answered David's prayers.

by Ruth Gamble,  
(Louisiana.)

Revelation 2: 12,13.

-Note-

In connection with this we are wondering if there is any connection between Antipas and the scholarly writer Papias. Three Apocalyptic writings sprang from this region. John's Revelation came from Patmos, a short distance from Miletus, a small city located off the coast of the Malander valley. The second came, the fourth book of Sibylline Oracles, written in the Meanders valley, or near it, in A.D. 81.- Third is "Papias Exposition of the Oracles of the Lord" in five books. He warned Christians against the worship of angles who were subordinate beings who have sometime sinned. He taught, all reverence should be given to Christ alone. His absorbing interest was in the literal coming of the Messianic Age, the resurrection, the increase of fertility and productivity so that grain and wine would be produced in miraculous plenty. Whether Papias died in Pergamum has not been definitely established. Josephus reports a certain Pappus being sent to Samaria by Antigonus. (Antiq. 14, 15:12; War 1, 17:5) It was here that Philip had served the local Ecclesia for twenty years. Herod killed Pappus.

Revelation 2: 12,13.

*ANTI--PAPAS.*

"I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth."

The Jews as a nation have denied their faith even while holding on to it. They were condemned by Jesus, their Messiah, for so doing. But there were some faithful ones among them, heroically upholding the teachings of Jehovah, in the midst of evil surroundings.

The same thing has been true of the Christian Church thruout the age. Much of our Christianity is only on the surface. It is much like a garment which is sometimes worn and sometimes not. But as it was with the Jews; some Christians, of all Churches and denominations, serve from the heart. Our text gives us the name of a martyr. He was supposed to have been connected with the early Church at Pergamos.

## Revelation 2:12-13.

We know almost nothing about the individuals of the early Pergamos Church and have no authentic information concerning Antipas aside from the text we are now considering. This being true, we conclude the mention of this name is a prophetic mention of faithful Martyrs during a period in the Gospel dispensation. Anti means against, Papas means Father or Pope. Many thousands of Christian people have died because of their opposition to the apostate system headed by the Pope. They were Anti-Popists. A large percentage of the early Church, chose faithfulness to God in preference to a life of falsehood. These were faithful witnesses, chief of whom is Jesus Christ. We read: "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood." (Rev.1:5) Martyrs of this group were made a spectacle to the world and to the nominal Church, "where Satan dwelleth." (Rev.2:12):- "And to the angel of the Church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges." Jesus is the one who holds in His own hand the destiny of our human race as represented by the seven stars and the seven candles. The two edged sword which He wields is not a literal sword. It comes out of His mouth.-Rev.1: 20) "The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in My right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches; and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches!" It is our belief the sword referred to in Rev. 2:12, is the Word of God (Eph.6:17; Heb. 4:12) as is also shown by the following texts:-

Revelation 2: 12,13.

(Isa.11:4) "But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked."

(Isa.49:2) "And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;"

(Hos.6:5) "Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth and thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth."

The great struggle of the Christian Church during this Age of Grace has been against base apostasy. This was particularly acute between 323 A.D. and 1160 A.D. - It was during this period the true servants of God had to contend most seriously against the infamies of worldly lordship and tyranny. The period when true followers of Christ struggled against the virulent workings of "The Mystery of Iniquity" and the final development of the "Man of Sin."

The most prominent worker for and in behalf of "The Faith once delivered to the Saints"; as taught by Jesus and the Apostles was a Saint named Arius. His teachings have since been recognized as fundamental truths. He wrote so much and so well condemning the blasphemous creeds and practices of Constantine, that this Emperor, through his emissaries, had all of his writings burned.

Arius was so eloquent in his outspoken

Revelation 2:12,13.

condemnation - - that the Emperor banished him with others to Illyria (Albania) and the Balkin mountains, and thus brought his faithful testimony to an end. But in 335 A.D. Arius was restored to his Bishopric over Egypt with headquarters in Alexandria. This Saintly Servant of God was then 80 years old and exceedingly feeble. He died on the boat which was bringing him back to his former field of Christian service. The works of consecrated ones throughout this period have been many. The workers were few though zealous and faithful in their fight against iniquity. As Satan enthroned himself on the hill at Pergamos, even so he enthroned himself on the seven hills of Rome - in the seat of Constantine. Thus the apostate Church became the stronghold of modern paganism, the principal persecutor of Jews throughout the age.

Jesus the Messiah is cognizant of the unfavorable worldly conditions in which His Church is laboring. As to place, - Satan seems to be anywhere people dwell. This is also evidenced by the falling away Paul spoke of in 2nd Thes.2:3:- "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day (of the Lord) shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition." Faithful ones are commended for holding fast the name of our Lord (Rev.2:13) They are commended for their marvelous fidelity, considering their unfavorable surroundings. Read the lives of the Popes and the truth of these statements will be realized. What a hellish parody theirs is of the true kingdom of Jesus. It is Jesus personally who shall be great, "and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto Him

## Revelation 2:12,13.

the throne of His father David." (Luke 1:32)

This usurpation of our Lord's throne by the powers of evil, - the head-ship of the Church - is likened unto the activities of a wild beast described as follows: - "And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a Lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority." (Rev.13:2) It is on the throne of this beast our Lord's wrath will be poured: - "And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain." (Rev.16:10)

At this time we have touched upon a condition in the Christian Church because the admonition to "hold fast," in spite of many imperfections, was given to the Pergamos group in Rev.2:13 is identical with that given the Sardis group in Rev.3:3. There seems to be the special need of warning these two groups, which we will discuss at length under the Sardis heading. The important thing is, the Jews as a group have held the faith, and through the centuries have tried to keep the commandments of God.

In the antitypical application, we repeat, the only nation who have continued trying to keep God's laws throughout their entire history, in spite of their many failures, is the Jewish Nation. They are the only nation on earth, which has been able to preserve their national identity in the face of persecution, and irrespective of geographical boundaries. This is one of the reasons why we believe "the



## Revelation 2:12,13.

Church of Pergamos" refers to the Jewish Nation, in the resurrection. At the close of the Gospel Age of Grace we have a different picture than that presented during the Gospel Age, which we have just considered. Let us now pass on to another thought.

### ARE YE ABLE ?

Matthew 20:22.

Able to suffer without complaining,  
To be misunderstood without  
explaining;

Able to endure without a breaking,  
To be forsaken without forsaking.

Able to give without receiving;  
To be ignored without any grieving;

Able to ask without commanding;  
To love despite misunderstanding;

Able to turn to the Lord for guarding,  
Able to wait for His own rewarding?

—Herald of Hope.

## *BALAM*

Another link in the chain which ties this prophecy to the Jewish Nation is the reference to Balaam. This was an experience of the Jews, the Israelites, not of the Gentiles. We read, (Rev.2:14) "But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication."

Balaam was a type of double minded person who love money and public attention more than they love their God and are willing to compromise religious principle for earthly wealth or power. In Scripture language, a union of religion and civil power, worldly interests, is called adultery. (Jer.3:8; Col.3:5; Eph.5:3) God's people are to be in the world, but Jehovah is to be first in their affections. God divorces unfaithful ones.

In the book of Numbers, 22nd to the 25th chapters, is recorded the story of how Balaam, a prophet of God, used the daughters of Moab to induce leaders in Israel to join in ceremonial prostitution, idolatry, and the eating of meat sacrificed to Idols. This was forbidden in the Mosaic Law. In the New Testament we also read, (Acts 15:29) "That ye abstain from meats offered to Idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well." Also, (1 Cor.10:8): "Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed

Revelation 2:14,15.

and fell in one day three and twenty thousand!

In making reference to Balaam in connection with the Pergamos prophecy, our Lord links the Jews to the material and highly exalted earthly position He intends them to occupy in His Kingdom. Christians who forsake the narrow way for earthly gain are of this class: (2 Pet.2:15) "Which have forsaken the right way, and have gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness." Their condemnation is spoken of in no uncertain terms, (Jude 11,15, 16,23): - "Woe unto them for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. To execute judgment upon all; and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage. And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."

While there are many references to Balaam which can be properly used, we should also note the reference to the Nicolaitans used in Rev.2:15: "So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate."

The sect of Nicolaitans would eat meat offered to pagan idols and they practiced adultery. They were worldly minded. They had

Revelation 2:14,15.

the spirit of subserviency to worldliness and at the same time desired to be leaders - to lord it over others. This was the beginning which led to a division of Clergy and Laity in the early Church. The next step was to choose Bishops to lord it over other Clergy. Next came the choice of a Pope to lord it over the Bishops. All this was displeasing to God. Naturally Israel furnished a striking example. God had led them through Moses. They were successful and happy under God's leadership but they wanted to be like other earthly nations and have a king. Their experience began with King Saul and ended with the overthrow of King Hezekiah.

As God condemned this system with the Jews, so He condemns the Nicolaitans of the Pergamos group. The Pergamos Church as a whole was commended for hating this sort of thing. (Rev.2:15) The true followers of Jesus are warned: "Neither as being Lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." (1 Pet.5:3)

The "thus saith the Lord" should be our guide in all doctrinal matters. If the Scriptural support of a religious teaching is not forthcoming, then that teaching should be rejected. Those who advance theories without Scriptural backing are merely trying to start another sect in which they can be leader. They are not declaring the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 2:14,15.

CAUSE OF CENSURE.

Amos 3:2 - "You only have I known of all the families of the Earth, therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

The Jews were a covenanted people and still are. In a special sense the Christian Church has been a covenanted people during the Gospel Age. Our Lord has been dealing with the Church as He has not been dealing with the world.

During the Jewish Age the Jews were special recipients of Divine favor. In this period their Kings, their Priests, the Scribes and Pharisees were the Nicolaitans then in power. Then it was the doctrines of the Nicolaitans, the doctrines and policies of Balaam were first followed. (Nu.22-25; 31:13-16) The females of Moab were used to accomplish the debauchery. The abomination of Idolatry spread rapidly throughout Israel and the curse of God came as a result. This specific passage links the Pergamos prophecy with the Jewish Nation.

Its antitypical fulfilment is in the resurrection, and applies to Israel as a whole. The blessings of the Church at Pergamos will be, exalted earthly blessings granted "God's chosen people" and not granted to the world in general - that is, those of the Ephesus or of the Smyrna groups. During this reconciliation period the words of the Messiah will be observed to the letter. Let us quote Mt. 23: 8-12.

"But be not ye called Rabbi: for one

Revelation 2:14,15.

is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."

This is a God given law which has long been in force. The diabolical combination of church and state attempted by the felonious Adolph Hitler is an illustration: - We quote from "Spiritual Issues of the War" January 29, 1942 as follows: - "We believe in one great eternal National Socialist German State. We believe in the National Socialist conception born in the man Adolf Hitler during the great struggle between German Humanity and all the races of the earth. We believe that, in answer to his prayer, Almighty God restored to this soldier the sight he had lost during the World War. We believe, we see, and we realize in this man alone, the Saviour and the Ruler sent, to our German Nation, to our country, and to our people who are bound to us by ties of blood. We believe in his written work, "Mein Kampf, which alone is holy; we believe we must obey all the commandments laid down therein with all our knowledge and all our power, and if we carry them out in all sincerity, we believe that we may thus confess ourselves: 'O Lord, we stand before Thee without sin.' We are bound body and soul to our Fuehrer, to

Revelation 2:14,15.

our country, to our people, and we cry together with a loud voice, Adolf Hitler, our Feuhrer, we shall be faithful to thee unto eternity!" Notwithstanding these bombastic claims, God's promise to the Children of Jacob still stands,—"I will bless them that bless thee and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." (Gen.12:3) Thus it is Hitler has fallen. He found God's Word true.



Thou must be true to thyself  
If thou the truth would'st teach;  
Thy soul must overflow if thou  
Another soul would'st reach.  
It needs the overflow of heart  
To give the lips full speech.  
Think truly, and thy thoughts  
Shall the world's famine feed;  
Speak truly, and each word of thine,  
Shall be a fruitful seed;  
Live truly, and they life shall be  
A great and noble creed.



REPENT.

As the entire Jewish Nation is to have a chance for life and happiness, they are called upon to repent, (Rev.2:16): "Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth." Some few of the Pergamos group have already repented, the others are warned to repent before they attain high but unholy earthly aspirations. They are advised to displace their pernicious doctrines with the true teachings of Christ. The judgment of the Jewish people is being carried forward at the present time. The Apostle Paul warns those who are not watching, that the great Messiah will come as a thief, - He will come when they are not expecting Him. (1 Thes. 5:1-4)-

"But of the times and the seasons, brethren ye have noneed that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly, that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

While many of the Jews will be on the alert and watching, our Lord will make war against the unrepentant and unfaithful ones. There are only two places in the Bible where the word "Fight" means to "make war." (Rev.2:16; James 4:2) This is intended as a direct threat.



Revelation 2:16.

(2 Thes. 2:8): "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming." Men may deceive men, but our Lord is able to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart, (He.4:12): "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

*"But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you; but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you ye shall abide in him." (1Jno.2:27)*

## Revelation 2:17

### *THE PROMISE.*

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." (Rev. 2:17)

The overcomers of the Pergamos group are promised to eat of the hidden manna and receive the White Stone of approval from their Lord. Thus again we have a direct reference to the Jews as a Nation. They were the only ones fed with Manna and each tribe had a stone in the Breast Plate of the High Priest with their name engraved on it.

Of the Christian Church it is said: "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." (Col. 3:3) The life of the Church is hid with Christ in God. Manna was the life of the Jews. Without it they would have died. The hidden Manna is the life of the Jewish Nation - hidden in their Messiah, and we read, (John 6:49-51):-

"Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead, This the bread which cometh down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

## Revelation 2:17

Prophetically speaking, this was illustrated by God's command for Moses and Aaron to hide an omer of Manna in the Ark of the Covenant, (Ex. 16:33,34):-

"And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the Lord, to be kept for your generations. As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept."

Other things hidden in the Ark of the Covenant are mentioned in Hebrews 9:3-5: - "And after the second veil the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; Which had the golden censer, and the Ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; and over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercy-seat; of which we cannot now speak particularly."

The more we consider the matter, the more we are convinced this was for the purpose of establishing a future testimony. The Ark had seven names. (1) "Ark of the testimony:" Ex.30:6. (2) "Ark of the Covenant of Yahweh," - Num.10:33 (3) "Ark of Yahweh Lord of all the earth,"- Josh.3:13. (4) "Ark of Elohim,"- 1 Sam.3:3. (5) "The Holy Ark,"- 2 Chron.35:3. (6) "Ark of my Adonai Yahweh, - 1 Ki.2:26. (7) "Ark of Thy strength,"- Ps. 132:8. The question is, will the Ark ever be restored? In our opinion, this is quite possible. Scriptures to the contrary seem to have a more or less temporary application. Let us consider the matter. Jeremiah was the last one to have

Revelation 2:17.

the Ark in his possession.

This is recorded of Jeremiah in 2nd Machabees 2:4-8. - "It was also contained in the same writing, how the prophet, being warned of God, commanded that the tabernacle and the ark should accompany him, till he came forth to the mountain where Moses went up, and saw the inheritance of God. And when Jeremias came thither he found a hollow cave; and he carried in thither the tabernacle, and the ark, and the altar of incense, and so stopped the door. Then some of them that followed him, came up to mark the place; but they could not find it. And when Jeremias perceived it, he blamed them saying: The place shall be unknown, till God gather together the congregation of the people and receive them to mercy. And then the Lord will shew these things, and the majesty of the Lord shall appear, and there shall be a cloud as it was also shewed to Moses, and he shewed it when Solomon prayed that the place might be sanctified to the great God."

While these writings of Jeremiah may be and possibly are dependable, and the original ark of the covenant may be restored to Israel, we must remember the meaning of the word Tabernacle and "to Tabernacle with," means a dwelling, to live with. It does not necessarily mean a tent or a building. God is able to Tabernacle in the hearts of men. "My son, give me thine heart." (Pro.23:26) "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's." (1 Cor.6:19,20) "So we being many, are one body in Christ, and

## Revelation 2:17.

every one members one of another." (Rom.12:5)  
"In whom all the building fitly framed together  
groweth into an holy temple in the Lord: in  
whom ye also are builded together for an habi-  
tation of God thru the spirit." (Eph.2:21,22)

But Jeremiah is not the only one to assure us the literal ark and tabernacle will be restored. Ezekiel 37:26,27 also says so.-"Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them: it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them; yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people." This is a definite promise recorded by a reliable authority. The Apostle John records a similar testimony in 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."

As we consider the act of Jesus in feeding a multitude with five loaves and two fishes, we know He certainly can feed the Jewish Nation with "hidden manna" from the Ark of God, should occasion require. This is forcibly brought to our attention in Rev.2:17 which reads, "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna." If we believe this refers to the life giving manna hidden in the Ark, then the Jews represented by the Pergamos Church, must have access to the Ark. If they have access to the Ark, they will have access to other things in it. Aaron's Rod, indicating his

## Revelation 2:17.

authority as a Priest was there. The Jews are to be Priests in the coming age. The Tables of the Law were also inside the Ark, and we are told the laws of God shall go out to the entire world from Jerusalem.

As the Pergamos group will have access to the Ark, our conclusion is they will be earthly messengers of the "Higher Power" in the Restitution Government. This does not mean immortality, but it does mean life on an exceedingly high plane of Divine favor as long as they partake of God's provision for them as found under the "Mercy-Seat" of the Ark of God's covenant with them.

We are told to pray, "Thy Kingdom Come," and "give us this day our dole of bread." When the Messiah sets up His Kingdom, the words of the Psalmist will be true, (Psa.78:24,25) "And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven. Man did eat angels' food; he sent them meat to the full." Again we refer to the prophetic bread spoken of by the Apostle John. "This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as the fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever."

In addition to manna, the Pergamos Church who hold fast the teachings of their God are given a white stone containing a new name. Of all the Scriptures linking the Pergamos picture with the Jews, none is more convincing than John's simple recorded reference to this stone. Confusion has come because of the popular use of the symbol by the ancients.

Some used the White Stone as an emblem of

## Revelation 2:17

favor as contrasted with a black stone, an emblem of favor as contrasted with a black stone, an emblem of disfavor. Tradition tells us, David used a white stone to slay Goliath. A white stone was used in balloting (Acts.26:10) according to some manuscripts. A white stone was given to the victors in ancient athletic games. The Greeks used it as a symbol of acquittal in their courts.

Stone is used to illustrate hardness of heart, (1 Sam.25:37) "And it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone." While the Jews are considered hard hearted, our Lord promised to take out of them their heart of stone, (Ezek.11:19):- "And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh." The hard heartedness of Jerusalem has been a burdensome stone on the hands of the world, (Zech.12:3): "And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all the people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it." This new heart they are to receive, is a new Spirit, (Eze.36:26) "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh."

In ancient times Greeks and Romans had a way of perpetuating friendship by means of a white stone. The stone was divided in half and each person inscribed his name upon it. These

## Revelation 2:17.

halves were then exchanged. A production of either half was enough to secure aid in time of need. A similar practice among the ancients was to break a white stone in half. No other broken stone would fit, therefore it served as a means of identification and a guarantee of mutual support.

A white pebble was used by the Israelites in allotting the Land of Promise. Each tribe had its name written on a pebble and these were placed in a bag. As each allotment was called, a pebble was withdrawn and the land was given to the tribe inscribed on the pebble. As it was with the tribes, so it was with the individuals composing each tribe. As the land allotment was announced in each Tribal division it was sub-divided among individuals by the same method. Thus the white pebble has been an earnest allotment in the earthly Kingdom of God. This is for Israel after the flesh. It is not for members of the Christ Body.

John Wesley once made an interesting observation. He said: "Jacob, after his victory, gained the new name of Israel. Wouldst thou know what thy new name will be? The way is plain, - overcome. 'Till then, all thy inquiries are vain. Thou wilt then read it on the White Stone."

The change of Jacob's name is recorded, (Gen.32:28): "And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed." God also changed the name of Abraham, (Gen.17:5); "Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram; but thy name shall be Abraham: for a father of many



Revelation 2:17.

nations have I made thee," and Sarah, (Gen.17:15) "And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be." All of which was typical of the New Name their descendants would ultimately receive.

The prophet Isaiah describes it most beautifully in these words, (Isa.62:1-3):-

"For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness and the salvation as a lamp that burneth. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all the kings thy glory; and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name. Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God."

In another way the same thought is prophetically expressed, (Isa.65:15)" And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord God shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name."

With these definite statements concerning the White Stone and the new name, we have the Jewish People definitely tied in with the Pergamos prophecy. The Jews rejected Jesus as their Messiah. Jesus was God's gift especially to the Jews but also to the world (Jno.3:16) Manifestly, none receive anything which has not been given them (Jno.3:27). During His first advent our Lord was rejected by the Jews,

Revelation 2:17.

yet Jesus is called "the Stone of Israel" in Gen.49:24, and we read in Acts 15:16,17: After this I will return, and will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up. That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things."

The earnest, the seal, the pledge which God gives, is in the heart convictions of the individual. For this reason few recognize it. The top stone of the Pyramid is supposed to have been of White Marble. During construction, this stone was rejected. It was in their way. Just because the Jews rejected Jesus is not going to interfere with the plans of the Divine Architect. "The Stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner." (Psa.118:22) "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner-stone, a sure foundation:" (Isa.28:16) We have reason to believe the new name given the Jews, will be that of their rejected Messiah.

The Apostle Paul tells us, "He who establisheth us with you in Christ and hath anointed us, is God" (2 Cor.1:21,22). It is God who hath made Jesus the Chief Corner Stone, and the rest of the world, including the Jews and the Christian Church come under Him, (Eph.2:20-22) "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ him-being the chief corner-stone; in whom all the building, fitly framed together, groweth into an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

## Revelation 2:17.

This is also confirmed by the Apostle Peter, (1 Pet.2:6): "Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner-stone, elect and precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded." Jesus came to the Jews as a living stone, which they disallowed, but to God was exceedingly precious. (1 Pet.2:4) He is also precious with all those who follow and believe in Him. (1 Pet.2:7,8): "Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner. And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto they were appointed."

Only the names of the tribes of Israel were engraved on the stones in the Breast-plate of the High-Priest. The only race of people through whom the promised Messiah should come were the Jews. Scriptures show the Jewish race will enjoy a place of favor on this earth through their unseen Messiah. Under Him and through them it is God's purpose to bless all the families of the earth. (Acts.3:19-21). Of this time we read: "And it shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them, to pick up and to break down and to destroy, and to afflict, so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant, saith the Lord. In those days they shall say no more, The fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children's teeth are set on edge. But every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grape his teeth shall be set on edge. Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah. Not according to

Revelation 2:17.

the covenant that I made with their fathers, in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, altho I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord, But this shall be the covenant that I shall make with the house of Israel; after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write them in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall no more teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they all shall know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquities and their sin will I remember no more." (Jer.31:28-34)

Jehovah became the husband of Israel at Mount Sinai. (Jer.31:32; Isa.54:5) But the Jews forsook Him and sought other lovers. (Hos. 2:6-13) God then divorced Israel. (Deut.24:1-4) Legally the Jews have no claim on God but He invites, even urges, her to return. (Jer.3:1) He promises to wait for her until the latter days, "Thou shalt not be for another man, so will I also be for thee." (Hos.3.) - This brings us to a consideration of Old Testament Patriarchs and God's method of blessing the Jews and the world, in our next chapter.

<Isa.33:14>

*The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites: who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?*

# He Who Serves



- He should have a growing experience in understanding of Christ.
- He should teach objectively with conviction of purpose.
- He should know the spiritual development, interests and needs of others.
- He should teach the importance of living as well as studying and pondering truth.
- He should plan each Bible Study with care and with prayer.
- He should link present studies with the problems of life.
- He should be loyal to Present Truth.
- He should appreciate the constructive effort of other Bible Students.
- He should strive for a fellowship of mutual helpfulness.
- He should develop creative powers in his associates.
- He should encourage the weak, the stumbling, the faltering.
- He should seek to reward those who have made most spiritual progress.
- He should develop capacity of leadership in himself and others.

# THYATIRA

<Rev. 2:18-29>

"And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:  
And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.  
And I will give him the morning star.  
He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

"there hath not risen a greater" -  
Matt.11:11.

In their antitypical application, there is a close relationship between the Pergamos and the Thyatira Churches. This is largely because many of those who compose the Thyatira group, are of the seed of Abraham. But included with these are Noah, Enoch, Seth and others. (Heb.11).

As with other prophetic Churches, there are three possible applications of the Thyatira picture. In this case, the thought of it referring to the time when the Apostle John wrote the message, is lacking in tangible support. The application to the Reformation period in the Gospel Age contains many valuable lessons of considerable beauty and force. The present

## Revelation 2:18-29

application is to the vast responsibilities the Thyatira Church will enjoy during that reconstruction period when the world of man shall be reconciled to God. "The times of restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." (Acts 3:19-21).

Numerically speaking, Thyatira is the smallest and most insignificant of the seven Apostolic Churches in Asia Minor. The village was founded by Seleucus Nicator about 293 B.C. It is located on the Lycus - in the confines of Mysia and Ionia. Dyeing was the principal commercial activity of the town. The only record we have of anyone from Thyatira is a woman convert from there who lived in Philippi and listened to the words of Paul. (Acts 16:14): "And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshiped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul."

The Pagan worship of Apollo and Sambatha was most prevalent there. The latter seems to have been brought by certain dispersed and corrupted Jews. This lends an illustration to the obscure passage in Revelation 2:20, 21, which we will consider in this study later on.

Tertullian and Epiphanius say there was no Ecclesia in Thyatira at the time of John's letter. If this is true it lends weight to the belief this prophecy was meant for the early part of the Millennium. Therefore the lessons taught are worth investigating at this time.

## Revelation 2:18-29

The geographical position of Thyatira is on the main caravan route from the north of Egypt, half way between Pergamos and Sardis. From our antitypical viewpoint this indicates Thyatira as an intermediary between the earthly and the heavenly phase of the kingdom. This thought will be amplified in our study concerning the Sardis Message.

The ones to whom the Thyatira letter applies are indicated in the reference to Elijah, that great prophet who condemned Jezebel for her wickedness. He was one of the most prominent ancient patriarchs. The reference to Queen Jezebel indicates the reproof of all that is evil and the ruling of nations with a rod of iron.

The recorded picture of the Thyatira period during the reformation, represents to us the false church was in power. The predominance of false conditions prevailed. A clue to the real application is given in the allusion to the faithful old prophet fleeing for his life into the wilderness from the idolatrous King and Queen. None of the patriarchs received their promised earthly power. Jezebel was the protectress of the pagan priests of Baal. She (the church) used her husband's civil power to persecute loyal servants of God. There was a literal drought of "truth" in the land for 1260 days. But to the faithful overcomers of the Jewish and Patriarchal Age or period, our Lord says, (Rev.2:26,27): - "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers; even as I have received of



## Revelation 2:18-29

my Father." Those faithful ones of the past have not yet received power over Nations.

The word "Thyatira" means, "The sweet perfume of sacrifice." The application during the Gospel Age would be to the period of Papal persecutions at the close of the Pergamos period. The antichrist had seated himself in the Temple dedicated to the worship of God and announced himself as "Our Lord God the Pope," ruling the nations and the churches with a rod of iron, dashing to pieces, those who oppose him, like a potter's vessel. During this period the Virgin Church endured much hardship in a figurative wilderness condition, while the Harlot appropriated to herself the power of the Kings of the earth, her paramours, and reveled in her lewdness. There was a drought of hearing the true word of God for 1260 years. (Amos 8:11-13) "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land; not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord; and they shall wander from sea to sea, from the north even to the east: they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it. In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst."

The time for the real application of Rev. 2:18-29, is indicated by the reference, in Rev. 2:28, to the Morning Star. At the present time we see, darkness and trouble, "such as never was since there was a nation," settling down more and more throughout the world. As we see these conditions becoming blacker and blacker we realize the present twilight will be followed by the blackest night in human history. Already the world is bankrupt and

## Revelation 2:18-29

the people of many nations are suffering for proper nutrition. A night is coming, it is almost here, "when no man can work."

The Morning Star appears just before dawn. It is sometimes called the "Day Star". It is during this time, just before dawn, while the forces of evil are still engaged in their work of self-destruction, that the real Thyatira class will come forth. Some people believe this time is much nearer than others, but it is certainly not far distant. In fact, some have gone so far as to provide a place, on the sunny shores of California, where these of the Thyatira group may be cared for, when they return from the grave, make their new start and --firmly establish the Kingdom of God among men.

"We have more firm the prophetic word: whereunto ye are doing well to take heed, as unto a lamp shining in a dusky place, until day shall dawn and a day-star shall arise in your hearts: Of this, first taking note that no prophecy of Scripture becometh self-solving; for not by will of man was prophecy brought in at any time, but as by (the) Holy Spirit they were borne along-spake men from God." (2 Pet.1:19-21) Rotherham.

Adam was given dominion of the earth and maintained it up to the time of his fall. This Kingdom, this Paradise then passed to Satan as a matter of usurpation. That the Kingdoms of this world did belong to Satan is shown in his offer to give them to our Lord for a con-

Revelation 2:18-29

sideration. Jesus refused. He recognized Jehovah as supreme. The Kingdoms of this world belonged to Him and not to an usurper. Therefore Jesus taught His followers to pray: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." Jesus knew this prayer would be answered by our Father through His own selected agents. We have reason to believe the Thyatira group will be God's representatives in charge of the earthly phase of His Kingdom. They have been tried in the testing fires of experience. They are insignificantly small in number, but strong in the spirit of the Lord.

*"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one, members one of another." (Rom. 12:4,5)*

**=THE-SON-OF-GOD-WITH-FEET-OF-BRASS=**

(Rev.2:18)

To the Church at Ephesus our Lord announced Himself as the one who held the destiny of our entire human race in His hand, as pictured by the seven stars. To the Church at Smyrna our Lord announced Himself as the First and the Last. To the Church at Pergamos our Lord announced Himself as one having a sharp two-edged Sword. But to the Thyatira group we read, (Rev.2:18):- "And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass."

In the various salutations our Lord gives to the Churches, Thyatira is the only one where He designates Himself as the "Son of God." In the second Psalm the Patriarch David makes a direct reference to our time in these words, (Ps.2:8,9) "Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." His bright, watchful eyes, like a pure discerning flame, have been watching over His faithful ones as they wandered through dark valleys or hid in darker caves of earthly experience. The beauty of the Christ Head is also mentioned in Revelation 1:14,15:- "His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire: and his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters."

## Revelation 2:18.

Brass is typical of an earthly condition and seems to indicate the earthly representatives of our Lord and His Divine Government will be counted as part of His Body. Since the beginning of the world our Lord has been faithfully walking by the side of those who love Him as they seek faithful service, no matter where, in the desert, across rugged mountains or on fertile fields; footsore and weary they seek a place to plant the seeds of God's message of love. We read:- "I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, thy patience, and thy works; and the last be more than the first."

It has been a peculiar characteristic of God's people, since the beginning of time; they are not quitters. They really work harder, more faithfully, more intelligently as they approach the evening of life than at any other time. However, "the last more than the first" may refer to the resurrection. The last of the Patriarchs was John the Baptist. Of him Jesus said:- "Verily I say unto you. Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding, he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." (Matt.11:11-15)

As the forming and choosing the Heavenly Saints came after the death of John the Baptist, they receive a higher place than he. But among the Patriarchs, the Earthly Saints, he is given first place. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last." (Mt. 20:16; Mk. 10:31; Lu.13:30.) This Church of Thyatira is the only one commended for improvement in spiritual and philanthropic activity. To the faithful ones among the Jews, our Lord says,

Revelation 2:19.

(Ex.19:6): "And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation." Manifestly the Patriarchs were faithful, for we read, (Heb.11:33-38):-

"Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: and others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in the mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth."

All of these will be the visible, the physical representatives of the invisible, the spiritual Messiah. They have proven their worthiness in the school of affliction and they will be counted as part of the Divine Theocracy which will break Satan's empire into pieces. They will crush the discontented nations of the earth like crockery cast down with force onto a hard pavement.

Nor are we to conclude these feet of brass, which will stand upon the Mount of Olives (Zec. 14:4) will be unorganized or arranged in a haphazard manner. In the past the great lawgiver Moses was greatest among the Israelites while

## Revelation 2:19.

Aaron was only High Priest. Later Jesus tells us John is greatest among the Patriarchs but David is to be King. We read, (Zec.37:24,25): "And David my servant shall be king over them; and they shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgements, and observe my statutes, and do them. And they shall dwell in the land I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt, and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever."

Nor are we to conclude these highly bur-nished feet members of the Christ organization were perfect men. "There are none perfect, no not one; all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Ro.3:23) A majority of the Patriarchs were under the Mosiac Law, and we read, "The Law made nothing perfect." (Heb.7: 19) Jesus is the only one who has perfection. He is the Chief Cornerstone of God's Theocracy, God's organization. However, God did select certain ones prior to the advent of Jesus for purposes to be accomplished by and through this Thyatira group. These are mentioned in some detail in Heb. 11, for our instruction.

While all of the Patriarchs had come short of perfection, their repentance for sin received Divine recognition. Jehovah chose Saul to be King over the Jews. Saul sinned. His throne was given to David because he did not repent. David sinned. But David repented. This made a difference. Samson was chosen for a special work. He disobeyed God and suffered greatly as result. But Samson also repented. Our Lord used the voice of a donkey to bring Baalam to his senses. He had a great fish put

Revelation 2:19-24

Johan back on the right path. Then note what Jezebel was permitted to do to Elijah because of his lack of faith.

Like those of any other group there were those who were good and those who were not so good in the Thyatira Church. Those who were wise and those who were foolish. There were many Jews living in the City of Thyatira. A percentage of these had yielded to the tendency of the village, and had embraced idolatry. Some, however, remained loyal to the Lord in spite of great persecutions. Many of these tried to accomplish the Lord's work but failed largely because of conditions over which they had no control.

This is summed up in the following text:-  
"Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not." (Rev.2:20,21). As result she and those of her kind were cast upon a bed of sickness and punished for their iniquity, for we read:- "Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I give unto every one of you according to your works. But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, (as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak,) I will put upon you none other burden." (Re.2:22-24)



## Revelation 2:20-24

This forceful word picture is of such great importance we should consider each word separately. Revelation 2:20 deserves special consideration. In connection with this the Apostle Paul asks, (1 Cor.10:19-20) "What say I then? that the idol is anything, or that which offered in sacrifice to idols is anything? But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils."

The situation in the early Church was a critical one, as it was with the ancient Patriarchs. The admonition was repeated twice in Acts 15:- Vse.20 "But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood." Vse.29:- "That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well."

Undoubtedly Babylon, the false church of the Christian Age, made all people drunk with the wine (spirit of influence) of her fornication (worldly affiliations). (Rev.18:3). In their effort to get members into their church, truth has been compromised and the beneficent designs of our Heavenly Father were misrepresented. The space given the church for repentance (chronos) was 360 years. We have reason to believe this period ended April 1st 1878. Luther's 95 Theses were placed on the doors of the church at Wittenberg October 31, 1517. This was the beginning of the reformation movement in Germany, and by April 1st (360 years prior to 1878) the knowledge of his act

## Revelation 2:20-24.

and the reformation had spread throughout Europe.

The specific reference to Jezebel, that wicked wife of King Ahab, has particular significance in connecting the Thyatira picture to the Patriarchs of Old Testament Scriptures. Ahab was condemned for his unusual, his unseemly act; (1 Ki. 21:25):- "But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to the work of wickedness in the sight of the Lord whom Jezebel his wife stirred up." And again in (1 Ki. 16:31):- "And it came to pass, as if it had been a light for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nabat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him."

It was the pagan Jezebel who slew the Prophets of the Lord, and led her husband into Idolatry, and fed the Pagan Prophets of Baal at her own table. A more striking figure could not picture the abominable conditions with which the faithful Prophets of the Lord as pictured by Elijah) have had to contend throughout all ages. (1 Ki. 18:19,21). The apostate religion of Jezebel became the state religion and is condemned by our Lord. (Rev. 9,20,21; 17:2,4; 18:3). The Churches of Ephesus (Rev. 2:6), Pergamos (Rev. 2:14) and Thyatira were all warned against this evil. Devil worship means sedition, idolatry.

Because of the unfaithfulness of Ahab, Jehu was anointed King. The Lord's instruction was, (1 Ki. 9:7):- "And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the

## Revelation 2:20-24.

blood of all the servants of the Lord, at the hand of Jezebel." Our Lord says in Rev.2:21;- "And I gave her space to repent of her fornications; and she repented not" This abominable Jezebel class, who do not repent, will be eliminated from the Divine program as stated in Rev. 9:20,21;- "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues, yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornications, nor of their thefts."

A careful study of Rev. 2:22 makes this clear. All systems of Government have failed to restrain the greed and selfishness of men and their bondage to sin has increased. (See History of Waldenses.) If Jezebel means the apostate systems of the Jewish and Gospel Age of Grace, then the Daughters must mean branches or subsidiaries of these systems. Both Mother and Daughters are to be thrown into a bed of sickness to make them realize their impossible conduct.

The elimination of wilfully wicked ones brings out an important thought in vs.23:- "And all the Churches shall know." - There were seven Churches referred to. In this connection we again note some Bible expositors claim the seven Churches existing at the time of the Apostles are referred to. This is not absolutely true because all of the Churches mentioned were not in existence at that time. Other writers place the application in seven different epochs or periods of time during the

## Revelation 2:20-24.

Gospel Age. While this is proven true through partial fulfilments recorded in secular history; while this fulfilment is partially true it is not absolutely true.

If the "seven churches" refers in part to seven periods of time, and in part to seven groups who will ultimately make up the earthly and heavenly kingdom, then it is evident, some will be taken from and during each of these periods to make up each of the seven general classifications designated as Ecclesias or Churches. The reference to "All the Churches means all of the Ecclesias are to witness the things mentioned. This shows the word "Churches" refers to seven particular classes or groups of people and not exclusively to seven periods of time. There will be a time when all seven Churches will witness these things, - the times of restitution when all the world will be reconciled to God.

From this it is quite evident the Millennial period is the only time when this will be possible. It is then each individual will be given 100 years trial. (Isa.65:20) It is then Satan's empire will be smashed, as a Potter's vessel is broken, under the Brass Feet of the Son of God. His flaming eyes of discernment and His two-edged sword will separate right from wrong. It is then the Rule of Grace will end, and the Rule of Iron will be substituted. It is then the Kingdoms of this world shall become the Kingdom of our Lord. It is then, and not till then, that every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

During the Jewish Age and the Millennial

## Revelation 2:23,24.

Age the Law has been and will be, "thou shalt and thou shalt not." During the Gospel Age the Law of Grace has prevailed. But in all three periods of time the test has not been that of lip service. It has not been and will not be the number or quality of books sold, or of literature the individual may write. It will not be the number of sermons preached or religious meetings conducted. It will not be the number of Books circulated or the number of subscriptions taken. Nor will it be the number of homes visited in the Lord's work. The Scripture clearly states the real test will be according to the thoughts, the impulses, the intents of the heart first; after this, if the works result from pure sincere purposes, then the reward will be according to those works. There will be no hypocrites in that great reconciliation period during the times of restitution just ahead of us. Those of the Thyatira group, who will make up the visible rulers of earth, - the Feet of, or like, Brass, - will make sure of this.

As the world will be judged by their works, which spring from the promptings of a pure heart, so the Patriarchs have been judged in the heart purity back of their works of faith. Those who have remained unfaithful to God will be classed with the Jezebel group. The trials experienced by the faithful, those who have proven loyal to Jehovah under great affliction, will be spared further trial. Our Lord assures, "I will put upon you none other burden." (Rev. 2:24) They shall attain a "better resurrection" (Heb.11:35)

"They shall serve the Lord their God,  
and David their king, whom I will

## Revelation 2:26-29.

raise up unto them." (Jer.30:9)

What a wonderful prospect. To these overcomers of the Thyatira group, our Lord says,- "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron." (Rev.2:26,27) If David is to return from the grave and become their king, then this prophecy must refer to the "better resurrection" the Patriarchs are to enjoy. The Son of God prayed for the same oneness of heart, thought, impulse and spirit between members of His organization and Himself, as He enjoyed with the Father. (John 17:22) Hence The Christ, The Son of God, The Messiah is pledged to closely related organization like or similar to the human body. We read:-"Beloved, now are we the sons of God; and it doth not appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is." (1 Jno.3:2) As Jesus suffered for us, so we suffer for one another. (Col.1:24; Matt.5:11,12; Phil.2:17.)

As the head is over the body, so Jesus is Head over the Church. As the body is over the feet, so the Church is over the worthy ancient Patriarchs who are called the feet of Brass or polished copper, in our present word picture. We read: "God having provided some better thing for us, that they without as should not be made perfect." (Heb.11:40)

This brings us again to the highly important realization of order in the resurrection of the dead. (1 Cor.15:23) It pertains to the time as well as to the order of this "better resurrection." - The nations of the earth, with

Revelation 2:28,29.

all their evil systems, will still be here, else the Thyatira group could not be used in smashing them to pieces. It is true the foot members of the Bride class began this work by exposing the systems of evil, - the Devil's organization. But the entire Church class, the entire Christ organization are to participate. This means the feet of copper will do the material, the physical work of the Christ organization as a whole.

Therefore, the conclusion must be that at the close of earth's "Dark night," or toward its end, these Ancient Worthies, these Patriarchs, will come from the grave. The specific reference to the "Morning Star" seems to confirm this thought. (Rev.2:28) Consequently it would be consistent to conclude the advent of these Patriarchs would make possible the dawn of the Millennial day. As John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus at His first advent, it is reasonable he should also be at His second advent.

"But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yes, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before, thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. Verily I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist." (Matt.11:9-11).

In matters of honorable preferment it is plainly stated," the last shall be first and the first shall be last." (Matt.19:30; 20:16; Luk.13:30; Mar.10:31; Rev.2:19.) As this is

## Revelation 2:28,29

true it is possible the time element is included. For purposes of identification, this is eminently important. To illustrate the thought, suppose a father died when his son was twelve years old. If the father returned from the grave first how would he identify his son who may have lived to be ninety? In the majority of cases this would be impossible. But reverse the situation. The man of ninety would remember and be able to identify his father who died when he was a boy.

John the Baptist being the last of the Prophets, would be able to identify his father Zacharias, and his mother Elizabeth. He would remember Joseph the foster father of Jesus, but none of these would recognize John as he was at the time of his death. Manifestly the earthly phase of the resurrection will be orderly as is every other arrangement under Divine control.

"In the days of these Kings (Not after their days) the God of Heaven will set up a Kingdom. It shall never be destroyed." (Dan. 2:44,45) The earthly phase of this Kingdom, will be under the physical control and administration of these Holy Men of old, - from John the Baptist back to righteous Abel. (Matt. 11: 11; Lu. 13:28; Heb. 11:39,40).

At present these good men are considered the fathers or instructors, through the Scriptures, of the Gospel Church class. But in the coming age, instead of being considered fathers, they will be the children of the Church, who will make them Princes in all the earth. (Psa. 45:16.)

The "dark night" on the earth, when no



Revelation 2:28,29.

man can work, is pictured as a time of anarchy and starvation following soon after destructive war conditions. The Scriptures indicate two-thirds of earth's population-men, women and children-will die during this night of horror. The Bible tells us, no flesh would be saved,-- but for the elect's sake. We believe the prayers of the faithful will be heard and will accomplish the shortening of this "time of trouble" which will be used by our Lord in the destruction of evil and in the establishment of Christ's kingdom on earth.

Prayers of believers will be answered by our Lord and He will cause John the Baptist, and David, Daniel, Moses, Abraham, Noah, Abel and all the other faithful ones whom Jehovah God has chosen to deliver our human kind, from the hellish grip of the Devil, under whom they have been subjected since the beginning of human history. The Scriptures clearly indicate these faithful overcomers of the Thyatira group will be given power over the nations. Under the guidance of the Gospel Church, they shall rule them with a rod of iron. (Rev.2:26-29)

This Church, represented by the Ecclesia is the little village of Thyatira, does not picture any spiritual phase of Christ's Kingdom. It is essentially earthly. But it occupies the most exalted, the most powerful, the most honored of all groups which will make up the earthly Kingdom of our Lord. The great Sea of Glass seems to separate the Earthly and the Heavenly phases of Christ's Kingdom. We will now pass on and consider the Heavenly or Spiritual inheritance. "At the last trump -- the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." (1 Cor.15:52)

*"I want to be an Angel and with the Angels stand"*

*< Revelation 3:1-6.>*

# SARDIS

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment, and I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life, but will confess his name before my Father, and before His Angels.

Rev. 3:5.

"The least in the Kingdom of Heaven." - Matt.  
11:10-14.

Some Bible expositors teach that the Church, the Kingdom of Heaven class, is limited to what they term, "The Bride of Christ."

This teaching has been accepted by many denominations, but it is not a Bible teaching. It is a teaching of man. It is not a teaching of God. The Scripture does not use such an expression anywhere.

But there is a Bride and it is worthy of

### Revelation 3:1-6

note that all of the church class will not be of this Bride. The supposed number who compose the Bride is small compared with the number of consecrated persons who have lived during the Gospel Age. Many have been called, but few have been chosen for this exalted place. "The Bride the Lamb's Wife" (Rev.21:9) cannot be the Bride of Christ because they are part of the Body of Christ. (1 Cor.12:27) This thought presents such beauty, such farreaching majestic power, our study of it is undertaken with more than passive interest.

The thought contained in the close ties of the marriage relation suggests a covenant relationship. Jehovah was an Husband to the Children of Israel (Jer.31:32) but He divorced them because they sought the favor of other gods. (Deut.24:1-4) As result, only a few faithful ones among the Jews were given this high honor. God than turned in Gentiles to take out a people for His name. (Acts.15:14) This special recognition of the Patriarchs is illustrated in the Church of Thyatira picture. Jehovah stands ready to receive the remainder of His covenanted people (Jer.3:1) and raise them to an exalted earthly place as illustrated by the Church of Pergamos picture. But God so loved the world that He long ago planned the salvation of all. (Jno.3:16) Thus we have the Church of Smyrna and the Church of Ephesus illustrating that plan most beautifully. In our study of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos and Thyatira we have seen how God's love will extend to all the world who will receive it. They will constitute God's kingdom on Earth.

God's kingdom of Heaven presents an even more beautiful picture which we will now begin

## Revelation 3:1-6

to consider. The Bride which Jehovah has chosen for His Son Jesus is taken from the Gospel Church since Pentecost but does not include all of the nominal Church class of this age, any more than the Patriarch's included all Jews. Again we have a picture of degrees of exaltation. These degrees are illustrated or pictured in the Church of Sardis, the Church of Philadelphia, the Church of the Laodiceans.

Our Lord used the figure of a man in picturing earthly powers. His head was of gold, but his feet were of clay and iron. (Dan.2:32, 33) But in the days of these powers - while they are still in existence - our Lord is to set up a Kingdom of His own. A true Empire, a Theocracy, which shall fill the entire earth. (Dan.2:44)

This true Empire, this Kingdom of God is also like a man in the perfection of its organization, its perfect co-ordination and harmony of operation. No picture could more perfectly convey the idea of our dependence on our Head, Jesus, than does the study of the human body. In Him, -under Him, -we live and move and have our being. (Acts 17:28) Thus it is God's organization, God's theocratic government under Jesus the Head shall overturn all that is false and establish peace on earth and good will among men through out the world.

Thus it is clearly stated, "God hath placed the members in the body as it hath pleased Him." (1 Cor.12:18) This makes clear that some will be placed nearer the Head than others. That some will perform one function and some another but each will remain faithful in the performance of his own assigned activi-

## Revelation 3:1-6

ties. (1 Cor.7:20; 12:17)

It is the feet of brass, or burnished copper (Thyatira) who will constitute the earthly, the physical, representatives of the "Son of God." (Rev.2:18) We will soon show from the Scriptures, that a messenger service will exist between these feet members and the main body, as represented in the legs of the body. They represent a class of people who have confessed Jesus before men, as their Saviour and their Messiah. These He will also confess before His heavenly Father. This is pictured by the Sardis group which we will consider presently. Next will come the Bridesmaids in their position of honor; then the Bride will come, -and next, Jesus who is above all-The Head of the Body of Christ.

The earnest effort of many diligent students of Holy Writ has failed to place the Sardis period between any two specific dates is the Gospel Age. There are almost as many conclusions concerning this period as there have been writers. We believe that the Scriptures clearly show there has been a great company of Justified believers in Jesus Christ who have lived at various times throughout the entire period of the Gospel Age. The Bible pictures the faithful ones of this group as receiving the White Robe, given them by Jesus Himself - a Spiritual inheritance in righteousness.

The thought of Sardis representing a group of Angelic beings, who had lived on the earth during the Gospel Age, is a new thought to many Christians, but it is not new to the Bible. This we will prove by the Word of God

### Revelation 3:1-6.

before we have finished. The Sardis picture is highly instructive. Let us study it.

Its highest degree of prosperity in Sardis was under the dynasty of the Marmadae (700-546 B.C.), the last of whom was Croesus, famous for his enormous wealth in Gold. Sardis was the capital of Lydia. It was noted for the fruitfulness of its soil and for the gold obtained from its streams and from its mines in the hills. The little stream Pactolus, which flowed through the market place, is said to have been lined with "sands of gold." Sardis was also important because of its military strength and its position on one of the main arteries of commerce. In its later history it lost its importance in favor of other cities, such as Philadelphia. Sardis no longer exists, while Philadelphia is still a city of some importance.

There is a beautiful picture here of the small river of life springing from under the throne of God. It is only a small stream when it reaches the market place in Sardis, but it is lined with the golden messages of God. It is easy to picture the Sardis group as Justified messengers of the Kingdom carrying messages of life from the Throne to the Thyatira group and elsewhere, as the stream gains proportions as it flows, that the world of mankind may drink the water of life freely. (Rev. 22:17)

Let us not make the mistake of thinking because we study our Bibles that we are true Christians. Some men have even studied for the ministry, obtained their degree as Doctor of Divinity or Doctor of Theology without having

### Revelation 3:1-6.

made a heart consecration. Unfortunately, the ministry is only a means of making a living with many. We trust our Lord will be merciful in dealing with men of this type.

The majority of Christians in our various Church systems are those who have had a load lifted from their hearts through repentance and rejoice in their faith that Jehovah has forgiven their sins and that they now have hope beyond the grave through God's dear Son. Many of these have come to repentance by way of the "Saw-dust trail." They feel they are saved from their sins and their spiritual inheritance is assured. They have confessed Jesus and now they sing, "I want to be an Angel and with the Angels stand." The letter to the Church at Sardis describes the nominal Christian. He has started something which he is not willing to finish because it involves personal sacrifice. He is alive. He has repented of his sins, he has confessed Christ before men and is called a Christian. But he is dead in that he does not practice Christianity in his daily life.

From natural observation the dividing line between cultured, ethical people of the world, and these nominal Church Members has been almost obliterated. From appearances there is no difference between them. Most Christians are not necessarily "footstep followers of Jesus Christ." Many of them are Christians in name only. However there are some faithful Christians in the Sardis group who are loyal justified believers. Our Lord warns them, "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will

### Revelation 3:3,4.

come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy." (Re.3:3,4)

The distinction noted in Rev.3:3, seems to be with those who watch and those who do not watch. Those who keep their own hearts and minds prepared for the second coming of our Lord and those who do not. This verse would seem to indicate the proper application of the Sardis picture would be just preceding the second advent of our Lord. The warning is, "If, therefore, thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief." The coming is positive. The blessing is conditional on the heart and mind condition of individual Christian Churchmen. It is not dependent on the doctrines, standards or precepts of the particular denomination to which he may belong. His carelessness or his indifference about watching would not prevent the coming of our Lord. On such He would come as a thief and he as an individual would be deprived of a great blessing. To the faithful watchers of the Justified Sardis group and to those consecrated to service and sacrifice, the Apostle says:- "Ye, brethren, are not in darkness that that day should overtake you as a thief." (1 Thes.5:4)

It can be truly said, even in our present day - in spite of the vast amount of worldliness in the nominal Church - there are some whose garments have been kept free from defilement and contamination. These have lived and are still living their daily lives in harmony with requirements of justified believers:- "To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep themselves unspotted



Revelation 3:3,4.

from the world." (James 1:27)

A true Christian is rather a lonely person, in this world of sin, but the Lord does not overlook such a faithful one. The vast multitude of indifferent ones on every hand, - the degradation, the sin and crime with which such are surrounded, - does not hide them from God's discerning eye. True, they don't go on to consecrated service, but they have confessed Jesus as their Saviour. They are incomplete, they are in an unfinished condition but they have kept their garments unspotted and they shall be given a blessing. They will receive the white robe and honorable mention before the Throne. These plain white robes given the Justified of Sardis group must not be confused with the white raiment covered with rich embroidery, worn by the Bride the Lamb's Wife.

Many persons are invited to the wedding, as may be represented in the tribe of Levi. Comparatively few of those invited to attend will compose that group known as Bride's Maids. These may also be pictured by the descendants of Aaron. Thus the group known as the Bride is so small it is represented by only one person as found in Aaron, the High Priest. While these are not literal pictures showing the exact number composing each group, they do convey the idea that those of the Sardis group is, numerically, the largest of the three. They are wearing white robes of righteousness. Their own righteousness is but filthy rags. These have been discarded and they come to the Father in the righteousness of Jesus whom they have acknowledged as their Head. Thus the righteousness of Jesus constitutes their wedding garment.

### Revelation 3:3,4.

For this reason the White Robe is an emblem of the Spirit Nature, the righteousness of Jesus, without which none will be able to stand before the Throne of God. Hence the Prophet says:- "Take away the filthy garments" (Zec.3:4,5) of his own righteousness and give him a white garment of fine linen. These will compose part of the Army of Christ on white horses, in white raiment following Jesus wherever He may lead them. (Rev.19:14)

Manifestly these faithful, justified ones from our Church systems will have a great advantage over the unfaithful who will come up with the world, in the general resurrection, and have the disciplinary experiences of the "Day of Judgment." All the faithful ones eventually shall have their names in the "Lamb's book of Life." Having one's name written there is a great honor, and the Apostle warns all of the followers of Jesus Christ of the possibility of having preached to others and then becoming a castaway because of unfaithfulness. (1 Cor. 9:27)

The faithfulness of the faithful ones in the Sardis group has been demonstrated. For this reason the promise has been given that their names shall not be blotted out of the Book (Scroll) of Life, while those who are unfaithful will be blotted out-erased. This same promise was made to faithful ones of the Smyrna group. It seems to indicate permission of endless life, but subject to death if disobedient. It is not "Immortal Life." It is not a death-proof condition. To the Smyrna group our Lord says, "He that overcometh will not be hurt of the second death." (Rev.2:11) They shall have a crown of life. The vast

### Revelation 3:3,4.

majority will undoubtedly retain their crowns. With both Church groups the test is, conduct consistent with principle, - faithfulness.

There are four things the true Sardis Church must do:-(1) They must receive the "Word of Truth" into the fertile ground of their honest hearts - (2) They must grasp the importance of Divine forgiveness of sin. (3) They must appropriate this blessing to themselves by public confession of Jesus Christ, by sincere repentance of past sins and the forsaking of evil in all its various forms. (4) They must hold fast these truths, faithful to their confession through life unto death. (Rev.3:3-5)

The resurrection, the re-standing, the reconciliation process on the other side of the grave, centers around repentance and continued obedience. Without repentance of past sins, the name will not be placed in the Book of Life. Without continued obedience, the name will be blotted out of that Book "Repent ye, therefore, that your sins may be blotted out." (Acts 3:19-21) When sins are blotted out, they shall no more be remembered, against the justified one, forever. (Heb.8:12)

This proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which the justified must receive, began at Jerusalem and spread from there to all parts of the Earth. (Act.1:8)

(A) Intense zeal for righteousness of the Smyrna group had its reward but did not give a spiritual inheritance.

(A) Intense zeal for righteousness, plus

### Revelation 3:3,4.

(B) a recognition of and subjection to the will of Jehovah, brings the exaltation of the Thyatira group as administrators of the earthly promises of their God. This does not give a spiritual inheritance. Of such was John the Baptist (Matt.11:7-13), but the least in the Kingdom of Heaven class, "will be greater than he." (Matt.5:19)

(A) Intense zeal for righteousness, right-living, plus (B) recognition of and subjection to the will of Jehovah, plus (C) recognition of and applying the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ as making perfect our own failures, as cleansing each one from all sin. All of those thus cleansed are made just, they are justified, they have a standing before God and will enjoy an angelic, a spiritual inheritance. The law of Moses made manifest the unrighteousness of mankind, but the Law of Jesus Christ has made manifest the Grace of God and the way to life in all its various forms. (1 Cor.15:35-48)

Some claim there has been only one call during the Gospel Age, the call to be footstep followers of Christ, the call to be joint heirs with Him in His Kingdom. Are we then to conclude, "the least in the Kingdom of Heaven?" referred to in Matt.11:11, are of this class? Are we to conclude "the more than conquerors" seated with Jesus, the Lamb of God, in His Throne (Rev.3:31) are the group who compose the "least in the Kingdom of Heaven?"

We think not. But undoubtedly these "least ones" have repented of their sins, have recognized Jesus as their Saviour and have confessed their repentance and their faith before men.

### Revelation 3:3,4.

The command is "add to your faith." (2 Pet.1:5) Manifestly there are three general stages or conditions of development open to each individual. Some take advantage of these and progress to the place of greater blessings, greater honors, and also greater responsibilities. On the other hand, the vast majority are complacent and do not progress. It is interesting to note the Bible presents these conditions of progress in various word pictures:-

Called, chosen, faithful  
Repentance consecration exaltation.  
Justified, Sanctified, Glorified.  
Levites, Priests, High Priest.  
The Court, the Tabernacle, the Most Holy.

- (A) Those who contend in the games or contests.
- (B) Those who conquer in these games or contests.
- (C) Those who more than merely conquer in these contests.

All Priests are Levites, but all Levites are not Priests. All of the chosen ones, have been called, but all of the Faithful have been both called and chosen. While these word pictures present a condition of development or growth with each individual, they affect each individual of the entire Church from Pentecost to the present day. They represent separate general classes. Each general class is made up of those who have attained the degree of individual development represented by each class, irrespective of the name of the religious denomination to which they may belong.

All who repent of their sins, and accept (acknowledge) Jesus Christ, don't go on to

### Revelation 3:3,4.

consecration, service and sacrifice. They are told to count the cost. (Lu.14:27,28) If they find the cost too great, they are not condemned for not going on. Certainly not. But they lose the higher reward. The higher blessing is only given to those who consecrate, who sacrifice their every earthly ambition in the service of their Head and Master. These are more than Justified Believers. These are running for the "prize of the High Calling in Christ Jesus." (Phil.3:13,14)

Those who do not consecrate are the Justified ones represented by the Sardis Church. Jesus said:—"Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. (Matt. 10:32,33) Luke quotes our Lord thus:- "Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him shall the Son of Man also confess before the angels of God: But he that denieth Me before men shall be denied before the angels of God." (Lu.12:8,9) Mark presents our Lord's word in a negative way:- "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation: of him also shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." (Mark 8:38) The Apostle Paul sets us an example and voices his admonition in these words:- "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God." (2 Tim.1:8) And again he says:- "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to

### Revelation 3:3-5

every one that believeth; to the Jew first, also to the Greek." (Rom.1:16)

The entire matter of acquiring an inheritance in the Kingdom of Heaven centers about and begins with public recognition of Jesus, - the public confession of Jesus and believe in His resurrection. Let us read, Rom.10:8-11: -

"But what saith it? The word is nigh, thee even in thy mouth, and in thy heart; that is the word of faith, which we preach; that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed."

Manifestly this will include many who have been faithful to the Lord but who have lived and died in "Babylon." This is not a denominational matter. It is more; it is an individual matter. Numerically speaking, these represent, truly represent the largest general group who will attain a spiritual, an Angelic, inheritance thru faith in Jesus Christ. (Rev. 3:5; 7:9)

Man's treatment of Christ in this world will determine Christ's treatment of man in the next. "The just shall live by faith." (because of faith) (Heb.2:4). If men "they" would

## Revelation 3:1-6

be owned (recognized) by Jesus at His second advent, they must be governed by His will now; they must all be governed by His will now; they must not be ashamed to acknowledge Him before men, and must perseveringly obey His commands. Be not afraid," we are warned. A common form of hypocrisy has always been dissimulation and the denial of Christ through fear of men. (1 Jno.2:22-24):-"

"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. Let that therefore abide in you which ye have heard from the Beginning."

With this abundant Scriptural support of our conclusions let us now consider the "Sardis Stone" sometimes called "Sardine Stone." Some writers believe the City of Sardis was named after this stone which is found near the old city. The Lord's Jewels are sometimes represented by twelve stones in the High Priest's Brestplate which began to be worn about 1490 B.C. Among these the Sardine Stone or Ruby occupied first place as mentioned in Exodus 28:17; 39:10.

Precious stones are spoken of as the adornment of certain members of the Angelic Hosts of Heaven. Lucifer had a Sardis Stone as part of his adornment (Ezek.28:13), but so did Jehovah. When John was given his vision of "Our Father which art in Heaven", His glory



### Revelation 3:1-6

appeared "like a Jasper (Diamond) and a Sardine Stone." (Rev.4:3) These two luminaries seem to picture the source of light in the New Jerusalem. (Re.21:11) The Sardis Stone Ruby is a kind of Carnelian found near Sardis. In Bible symbology it is a beautiful picture of God's love for the race as a whole. In connection with the long suffering, the patience of Jehovah in dealing with the Sardis Church Class it has a special significance of its own.

The Sardinus is a blood colored stone, sometimes covered with a thin layer of white. It has a look of purity but in reality is of a deep red flesh color below the surface. The symbol is of a white robe covering carnal propensities. From outward appearances it is white-spiritual, but inwardly it is red-typical of an animal, a fleshly, a carnal heart. It is a fitting illustration of the Justified Christian who can not follow the footsteps of our Lord in sacrificing earthly rights, earthly nature, earthly ties and other legitimate possessions of man. They have remained in the first stage through which the True Church, the Bride must pass. However, they are still brethren though they have not responded to the call of consecration and sacrifice. (Rom.12:1, Rev.3:20)

Thyatira was commended for faithfulness. (Rev.2:19) Sardis is reprimanded: "I have not found thy works perfect before God." (Rev.3:2) Sardis is incompleteness, deadness, defalcation, need of repentance, What this group received and heard was not remembered and held. Their newly engendered life was soon enfeebled, it languished, it did not progress to better

### Revelation 3:1-6

things. They are stagnant and lifeless. They are like good wheat sown among thorns.

Things committed to the Church, of our present day, have been allowed to droop and wither thru too much neglect. Generally speaking, its Agents are sincere, pure and noble. Their conception of Christianity is right and true as far as they have it, but we are told the fruits of the Sardis Church were incomplete, marred, and its achievements came short of their mark. Thus the Scriptures indicate a large number of the Sardis group will be alive on earth at the time of Christ's second coming. Do we not find, their described condition prevailing in the church systems of our present day? The warning is, "If perchance, then, thou mayest not watch, I will have come as a thief, and in no wise mayest thou get to know during what kind of hour I shall have come upon thee!" (Rotherham Translation). Those who are asleep at this time will be overtaken.

All who have repented of their sins and confessed Jesus as their Saviour, and remained true to that confession in this life, will be acknowledged by our Lord and compose part of the Sardis group in the next life. The unfaithful ones will come up with the world and progress laborously up the Highway of Holiness. (Isa. 35:8) The faithful ones will be clothed with an angelic, a spirit nature, the White Robe of Christ's righteousness - and we read: "But thou hast a few names in Sardis which have not defiled their garments, and they shall walk with me in white for they are worthy." "He that overcometh shall be thus arrayed in white garments; and I will in no wise blot his name out of the Book of Life, and I will con-

Revelation 3:1-6.

fess his name before my Father, and before His holy angels." - "blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."

The Book or Scroll of Life, under control of the Lamb of God, is referred to seven times in the Book of Revelation. Those who have not worshipped the beast are written there:- "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him whose names are not written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev.13:8)" "The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition; and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is." (Re.17:8) This Book of Remembrance is presented before the Throne of God:- "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." (Rev.20:12) Any person not having their name in the Book, will pass through the second death experiences. "And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of fire." (Rev.20:15) Those whose names are recorded, will have access to the New Jerusalem. "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's Book of Life." (Rev.21:27) Those who magnify, depreciate or detract from the

### Revelation 3:1-6

words of this Book of Prophecy, shall be punished:- "And if any man shall take away from the words of the Book of this Prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the Book of Life, and out of the Holy City, and from the things which are written in this Book." (Rev. 22:18,19)

Any person brought to an accurate knowledge of God's true message, who turns to other gods and disregards Jehovah's great love, and counts it a cheap thing, will have his name rubbed out: "Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe whose heart turneth away this day from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of those nations; lest there should be among you a root that heareth gall and wormwood; the Lord will not spare him, but then the anger of the Lord and His jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the Lord shall blot out his name from under heaven." (Deut.29: 18,20) In Old Testament writings we find life was dependent on conduct, upon faithful works, For example, David rubs out names of those untrue to him:- Ahithophel and the mighty Joab were erased. Our life and our hope of future life, and the hope of all Justified ones is hid with Christ in God:- "That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Col.2:2,3)

Rubbing out a name means two things. First, the individual must have done something

Revelation 3:5,6.

worthy of recognition or his name would not have been recorded. Second, he must have been untrue to his calling or it would not be erased. This will be on account of individual failure and not on account of some inherited weakness. "In those days they shall say no more, the fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children's teeth are set on edge. But every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grape, his shall be set on edge." (Jer.31:29,30) "What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge? As I live, saith the Lord God, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die." (Ezek.18:2-4) "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it." (1 Jno.5:16)

The Book of Life is a record of things said and done which entitle, which grant the continued permission of life to those whose names are recorded therein. We read:- "And death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, even the lake of fire. And if any was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire." (Rev.20:14,15,R.V.) All of those who are recorded in the Scroll of Life will eventually be delivered up to God even the Father. "And all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject un-

## Revelation 3:6

to him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all." (1 Cor.15:28)

The word Sardis signifies, "Prince or Song of Joy" (Isa.35:10), or that which remains, - the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. Evidently there are some of this Sardis group in each one of the seven period Churches, for again the message reads, "He that hath an ear let him hear what the spirit saith unto the (plural) Churches." (Rev.3:5,6)

We will next consider Philadelphia, the Church of brotherly love.

Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.—1 Tim. 5:17.

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.  
—James 3:17.

For therein is righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith, as it is written. The just shall live by faith.—Rom. 1:17.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.  
—2 Tim. 2:15.

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.—1 Pet. 5:5,6.

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.  
—Heb. 10:25.

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and ever. Amen.  
—2 Pet. 3:8.

## THE MINISTER'S DAUGHTER

In the minister's morning sermon,  
He told of the primal fall:  
Of how henceforth the wrath of God  
Rested on each and all.

And how of His will and pleasure,  
All souls, save a chosen few,  
Were doomed to eternal torture,  
And held in the way thereto.

Yet never, by faith's unreason,  
A saintlier soul was tried,  
And never the harsh old lesson,  
A tenderer heart belied.

And after the painful service.  
On that pleasant, bright first day,  
He walked with his little daughter,  
Through the apple bloom of May.

Sweet in the fresh green meadow,  
Sparrow and blackbird sung;  
Above him its tinted petals  
The blossoming orchard hung.

Around, on the wonderful glory.  
The minister looked and smiled:  
"How good is the God who gives us  
These gifts of His hand, my child.

"Behold in the bloom of apples,  
And the violets in the sward,  
A hint of the old, lost beauty  
Of the Garden of the Lord."

"Had there been no garden of Eden,  
There had never been a fall.  
And if never a tree had blossomed,  
God would have loved us all."

Then upspoke the little maiden,  
Treading on snow and pink.

"O father! these pretty blossoms  
Are very wicked, I think.

"Hush, child!" the father answer'd,  
"By His decree man fell:

His ways are in clouds and darkness  
But He doeth all things well.

"And whether by His ordaining  
To us cometh good or ill,

Joy or pain, or light or shadow,  
We must fear and love Him still."

"O, I fear Him," said the daughter.  
And I try to love Him, too;  
But I wish He were kind and gentle,  
Kind and loving as you."

The minister groaned in spirit,  
As the tremulous lips of pain.  
And wide, wet eyes uplifted,  
Questioned his own in vain.

Bowing his head, he pondered  
The words of his little one.  
Had he erred in his life-long  
teachings,  
Had he wrong to his Master done?

To what grim and dreadful idol  
Had he lent the holiest name?  
Did his own heart, loving and  
human

The God of his worship shame?

And lo! from the bloom and green-  
ness,  
From the tender skies above,  
And the face of his little daughter,  
He read a lesson of love.

No more as the cloudy terror  
Of Sinai's Mount of Law,  
But as Christ in the Syrian lilies  
The vision of God he saw.

And as when, in the clefts of Horeb  
Of old was His presence known.  
The dread, ineffable glory  
Was Infinite goodness alone.

Thereafter his hearers noted  
In his prayers a tenderer strain.  
And never the message of hatred  
Burned on his lips again.

The scoffing tongue was prayerful.  
And blinded eyes found sight.  
And hearts as flint aforetime  
Grew soft in his warmth and light.

—John G. Whittier.

# PHILADELPHIA

<Rev. 3: 7-12>

## The Church of Brotherly Love.

"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from God: and I will write upon him my new name."

Brotherly love as contained in the word Philadelphia, (Rev. 3:7-12) is not sensual and it is not transitory or trivial. It is a lasting, tender passion centered around an enthusiastic fervent devotion. It is a deep affection which carries with it, fellow feeling of sympathetic understanding and a tender yearning for companionship. It is the cherished treasure of constant adoration. Thus Philadelphia means Brotherly Love, or Love of a Brother, while Sardis represents something started which remains unfinished.

Thus Sardis is not spoken of very highly, while Philadelphia receives the highest commendation of the Seven Churches. The confusion among Theologians, in fixing the date for applying the Sardis message to the Christian Church, is especially noticeable when its position is considered in connection with that of



Revelation 3:7-12.

the Philadelphia Church.

Some claim the Sardis letter applied to Christian Church history between 1378 and 1518. Others apply it to the time of the Apostles, while some swing to the other extreme and apply it to the time of Moody and other evangelists, when literally thousands of people repented and confessed their faith in Jesus Christ.

In our opinion the application of the Philadelphia letter has also been placed everywhere except in its right position. One prominent expositor has given 1518 to 1874 as the proper time, then later, in 1916, he published this statement. - "Many now living have the characteristics of the Philadelphia Church." With an apology, we ask, When Doctors of Divinity disagree with themselves and with others, who shall decide?

In describing the requirements of Brotherly Love, Jesus is claimed by some, to be the Father of modern socialism. But if modern socialism refuses to recognize Jehovah as the Divine Architect of the Universe, if modern socialism denies Jesus is the Messiah, if modern socialism denies the Golden Rule, then modern socialism denies Jesus Christ ever taught modern socialism.

There is a big question whether socialists agree among themselves, as to what or how to define the modern socialist. One of the best definitions is from the pen of Ella Wheeler Wilcox, (New York American) under the heading "Who is a Socialist?"

Revelation 3:7-12.

"Who is a Socialist? It is the man  
Who tries to formulate or aid a plan  
To better earth's conditions. It is he  
Who, having ears to hear and eyes to see,  
Is neither deaf, nor blind when night rough-  
shod  
Treads down the privileges and right which  
God  
Means for all men. The privilege to toil,  
To breathe pure air, to till the fertile  
soil -  
The right to live, to love, to woo, to wed,  
And earn for hungry mouths their need of  
bread.  
The Socialist is he who claims no more  
Than his own share from generous nature's  
store;  
But that he asks, and asks, too, that no  
other  
Shall claim the share of any weaker brother,  
And brand him beggar in his own domain,  
To glut a mad inordinate lust for gain.  
The Socialist is one who holds that best  
Of all God's gifts, is toil--the second  
rest,  
He asks that all men learn the sweets of  
labor,  
And that no idler fatten on his neighbor;  
That all men be allowed their share of  
leisure,  
Nor thousands slave that one may seek his  
pleasure.  
Who on the Golden Rule shall dare insist  
Behold in him the modern Socialist."

The basis of the theory that Jesus taught socialism is that His followers actually did put the principles of Brotherly Love into practice. To preach and teach a thing, is much easier than putting this same teaching into

Revelation 3:7-12.

practice. Members of the early church put in-  
to practice the principle of sharing their  
wealth and social position with others less  
fortunate but of the same faith, as recorded  
in Acts 4:32-35:-

"And the multitude of them that be-  
lieved were of one heart and of  
one soul: neither said any of them  
that ought of the things which he  
possessed was his own: but they  
all had things in common. And  
with great power gave the apostles  
witness of the resurrection of the  
Lord Jesus: and great grace was  
upon them all. Neither was there  
any among them that lacked: for as  
many as were possessors of lands  
or houses sold them, and brought  
the prices of the things that were  
sold, and laid them down at the  
apostles' feet: and distribution  
was made unto every man according  
as he had need."

This most striking characteristic of the  
early Church received Divine recognition.  
Those who were in proper heart and mind condi-  
tion received strength for future work through  
the anointing at Pentecost. A loving gift  
from a loving Father. Promised by Jesus.

### Revelation 3:7-12.

As this brotherly love is still with us, we may properly claim the application of the Philadelphia letter to the early church as well as to other periods in Christian history. The test of membership in the Philadelphia group is and always has been unselfishness, prompted by deep brotherly affection. God foreknew and predestined this group. He planned for them, to bless them with the character likeness of His Son, and with the first resurrection. In Romans 8:29 we read:- "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Jesus came into the world to save, to bring back people of the world from the great prison house of death. This salvation is being carried forward according to His own pre-arranged plan. Some are CALLED from among the world to compose the Sardis or Justified Class. Next, come the CHOSEN ones from among the Sardis or Justified group to be conformed to the image of God's Son. They are set apart, as it were, to join with Jesus in sacrifice. By so doing they become one with Him now, and will be used by Him later in blessing all the families of the earth when His Kingdom is established. "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee." (Heb.2:11,12) "I will declare thy name unto my brethren; in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee. My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him. They shall come, and shall declare

Revelation 3:7-12.

his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this." (Psa.22:22,25,31)

The law of brotherly love was a new commandment, and it superseded the commandments recorded by Moses. Thus we read, "Love is the fulfilling of the Law," and "Perfect love casteth out fear." Those who have the Philadelphia love in their hearts, will not only keep the Law scrupulously, but they will keep the spirit of it as well. Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." (Jno.13:34)--- "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (Jno.15:10-13)

Jesus' love, prompted Him to lay down His life, not only for His followers, but for the world of mankind as well. We prove our worthiness of uniting with Him, by laying down our lives for one another. If we know we love the brethren, we have this fact as evidence we have passed into the new, higher life for we read:- "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." (1 Jno. 3:14) Therefore:- "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." (1 Jno.3:16) And this again comes under the heading of being doers of the word, doers of the law, the divine instruction,

### Revelation 3:7-12.

and not hearers only. No one can gain "the Prize of the High Calling in Christ Jesus," just by talking about it. This Philadelphia love must be practiced daily in our lives as long as life lasts. As Jesus expressed it, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (Jno. 13:35)

In all probability the number of Christians who reach the mark of perfect love is comparatively small, in proportion to the total number of those who claim to be Christians. This is because the nominal Christian is found in the Sardis group. They lack the love which is required of the Philadelphia Church. However, let us not judge anyone else. Let each one determine his own course. Each one must make his own calling and election sure. We cannot do it for others and no one else can do it for us. Throughout the Gospel Age of Grace this condition has existed. We are still Justified by Faith but we may also be "set apart", that is Sanctified, by joining with Jesus the Jew, in sacrifice of our flesh and material interests in the spirit of sincere brotherly love. Again we say, Jesus is the Door.

Philadelphia, the City, whose name indicates a possible Macedonian population, is situated about 35 miles south-east of Sardis, 83 miles east of the City of Smyrna, on a 927 foot elevation above the sea. It is on the lower slopes of Tomolus overlooking the fertile plain of Hermus. It is also on the boundary of Lydia and Phrygia Catacecaumene. It is supposed to have been built by Attalus 2nd, King of Pergamum, about 200 B.C.-Revelation 2:9 seems to indicate there was a group

### Revelation 3:7-12.

of Hellenizing Jews living there, as well as Christians.

Profane history tells us little about this city except for a few fragmentary references by Pliny. The locality is subject to frequent earthquakes, which remind us of the frequent shake-ups the Christian Church has had, since its Founder laid down His life for it. The cost of making expensive and frequent repairs has had much to do with the poverty of the district. At present it has a population of about 20,000 people.

The promises of the Lord concerning it are sure. Gibbon says, (Vol.2 ch.64,P.427) Philadelphia long has maintained its independence but "at length capitulated with the proudest of the Ottomans among the Greek colonies and churches in Asia - - - Philadelphia is still erect; a column in a scene of ruin."

"It is indeed an interesting circumstance," says Mr. Hartley, "to find Christianity more flourishing here than in many other parts of the Turkish Empire. There is still a numerous Christian population. They occupy 300 houses. Divine Services are performed every Sunday in Five Churches." There are also fifteen Mosques in the City.

It is generally conceded that of the seven letters to the Churches, the one to Philadelphia is the one of most far-reaching importance to Christian people. They have recognized Jesus as their model. Prompted by unselfish love, they have not hesitated at self-sacrifice. They are one in spirit with Him. Jesus asks:—"That they all may be one; as thou,

### Revelation 3:9-12.

Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." (Jhn.17:21) For this reason, those of the Philadelphia class seek Divine aid in practicing the Brotherly Love principle He has given them, in close association with those of like mind.

Mr. Hartley also calls our attention to the Bishop of the Greek Church in Philadelphia who claims "the Bible is the only foundation of all religious belief" and that "abuses have entered into the Church, which former ages might endure, but the present must put them down." Mr. Hartley again states, "the circumstance that Philadelphia is now called Allah - Shehr (the city of God), when viewed in connection with the promises made to that Church, and especially with that of writing the name of the City of God upon its faithful members, is to say the least, a singular occurrence. When all else fell around it, Philadelphia stood erect, - a column in a scene of ruins."

The spirit of Philadelphia is in our midst today, as it has existed throughout the Gospel Age. It expresses the desire, the attitude, the devotion of those who receive God's message of grace. They are from all sectarian Churches. There is no party feeling among them. Their hearts beat in union, an homage of love, of praise, of full consecration to Jehovah, the only true God. Selfishness and self interest are laid aside and the desire to join Christ in sacrifice is cherished. The spirit of Christ is in every individual heart and His praise on every lip. Language fails to describe the holy, happy contentment of mind enjoyed by this loving group.



Revelation 3:9-12.

This letter to the Philadelphia Church is framed as if embracing a limited but exceptional company of Christians living among a less consecrated body. They are not by-standers. They have entered the race for the "High Calling." They continue to run even unto the end, tho they do not win first place. They are true. They keep God's Word. They are comparatively small in number, poor in this world's goods and little thought of by the worldly minded. They are bound to their God and to each other by sacred, fraternal cords of love and enjoy special exemptions, special recognition by their Lord.

*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God: and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth into an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the spirit. (Eph. 2:19-22)*

## *Keys of David.*

"And to the angel of the church of Philadelphia write: These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; he that shutteth, and man openeth;"

(Rev. 3:7)

We have found the Philadelphia Candle does not represent any particular man made sect, cult, or denomination, for there are some consecrated, sincere Godly people in all branches of the Christian Religion. Nor does this picture limit itself to one particular time or period in the Gospel Age to the exclusion of all other periods.

Many of God's prophecies have been sealed, locked with the great time clock, which cannot be opened until the proper moment. At the proper, the appointed time the key which fits this great time lock will be used and God opens to us His plans and purposes by unfolding knowledge and understanding. As the treasures of infinite wisdom illuminate our minds, and as we put into practice "Brotherly Love" among ourselves, we recognize God's great love for us as "A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." (Lu. 1:32) While we, we were yet sinners Christ died for us. His sacrifice of love, in obedience to the Father's plan, gave Him the keys of David. He says: "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." (Rev. 1:18) The grave itself now responds to Him. "I am the Door, others are thieves and robbers.

### Revelation 3:7

Another reference to the keys of David is found in Isaiah. God's people are frequently spoken of as "Precious Jewels," and a "Golden Treasure." Therefore Keys to the Imperial Treasury is a possible application. Satan has held in his power over man. He is being deposed by the Christ. Sheba was David's Treasurer and had Keys to David's Treasure Vault. But Sheba was a thief and was replaced by Eliakim as treasurer or minister of valuable treasures of the Realm and of the Temple. The account reads as follows:-

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my Servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah; and I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy government into his hand; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder so he shall open and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place, and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house. And they shall hang upon him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the issue, all vessels of small quantity, from the vessels of cups, even to all the vessels of flagons. In that day, saith the Lord of Hosts, shall the nail that is fastened in a sure place be removed, and be cut down, and fall; and the burden that was upon it shall be cut off: for the Lord hath spoken it."

### Revelation 3:7

The power which Lucifer held is now given to Jesus. (Matt.28:18) The promise to Mary the mother of Jesus was along this same line. "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David." (Lu.1:32)

We believe the "Signs of the Times" indicate the "Son of God" is about to take the power which has been given him and use it for blessing the human race. He is the rightful heir to the "Throne of His father David." The Key is the symbol of power to unlock and release the many valuable blessings God has in reservation for those who love Him. Not only for the highly elevated ones in His Kingdom, like the Philadelphia Church, but for all the world. We read: - "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea; And I, John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 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. 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. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful." (Rev.21:1-5)

The Bible definition of God is:- "God is Love." (1 Jno.4:16) As the Philadelphia Church

## Revelation 3:7

put in practice the principles of Brotherly Love, the mysteries, the secret things of the Divine Plan are revealed to them which are not revealed to others. God must be true to His own nature. "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are of him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life." (1 Jon.5:20) Even Devils believe this and tremble - - - "Saying, Let us alone; and what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God." (Mark 1:24)

To appreciate this it is necessary for us to recognize Jesus as our High Priest, the High Priest of the true Sanctuary which is above. The Apostle Paul says he was: "A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." (Heb.8:2)

Moses built, for our admonition, a pattern of the Heavenly Sanctuary, for we read:- "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them according to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments there of, even so shall ye make it." (Ex.25:89) Later the Apostle calls our attention to the exactness of the copy in these words:- "Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion he had seen." (Acts 7:44) This earthly Sanctuary had ordinances for Divine Service even to the sprinkling of blood, thus picturing Christ's

## Revelation 3:7

blood shed for us.

We read:- "Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of these things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy place made with hands, which are a figure of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." (Heb.9:1,21, 23,24)

The earthly Sanctuary had three divisions. A court-yard, surrounded by a high cloth fence. This was for the Levites, the servants of the Sanctuary, or Tabernacle as it was sometimes called. It contained the Altar of Sacrifice and the Laver containing water for washing. The Court thus pictured the Justified condition of the Sardis Church. All Priests were consecrated. They represent a Sanctified class, the Priests, who were taken from among the Levites. The Philadelphia group must first be Justified before they can be set apart, Sanctified, and perform the special service of Love to which they are called.

These advance to the next place, the Holy Place, which contained the table of Shew-Bread, the Golden Candlestick and the Golden Altar of Incense. Only those set apart and made Priests, the Sanctified ones, were permitted to enter

## Revelation 3:7

this Holy Place.

Next comes the Most Holy or the Holy of Holies. It was made by hanging a curtain or "Veil which divided the tent or Tabernacle proper into two compartments. This shows the close relationship which existed between the two classes represented. The "Most Holy" contained the "Ark of the Testimony" which was supposed to represent the Throne of God. We read God's instructions:-

"And thou shalt hand up the veil under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the veil the ark of the testimony: and the veil shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy. And thou shalt put the mercy-seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy place." (Ex.26: 33,34)

The glorified or highest place of honor is the "Most Holy." The under Priests were not permitted to enter here. This was for the High Priest only. As the under Priests were Levites set apart for a special service so the High Priest was set apart from among his brethren. As the Sanctified are chosen from among the Justified, so the Glorified or exalted ones will be chosen from among the Sanctified ones. The High Priest is a picture of the completed Christ. Jesus the Head and, the true Church, which is His Body. Or, as another picture presents it, - the Lamb of God and the Church the Lamb's Bride.

A brief description of the earthly Tabernacle or Sanctuary is also given by the Apostle

### Revelation 3:7.

Paul in these words:- "For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all: which had the golden censer, and the blessed ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant: and over it the cherubims of the glory shadowing the mercy seat; of which we cannot now speak particularly." (Heb.9:25) In the Earthly Sanctuary the sacrifices had to be offered continually year by year, but of the Heavenly Sanctuary we read:- "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God." (Heb.9:12) "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; (Heb.10:19-22) Thus Jesus the Jew is the Door, the way to life.

Manifestly the Tabernacle of Sinai would be a profitable study for any Christian. The ministry of the Priests was an illustration of the Ministry of Christ in the Kingdom when He will use the Keys of David. Jesus says "I am the Door." (Jno.10:9) No one can pass from one part of the Temple to another except by Him. To those who have the Brotherly Love spirit of the Philadelphia Church He says:- "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matt.16:19)



## The Door

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews and are not, but do lie: behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."

- Rev. 3:8,9.-

The Key suggests a door. The door suggests the door our Master shut in the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, the recording of which is found in Matthew Twenty-fifth chapter. This seems to picture a dividing or separation of members of the Brotherly love group. All of the maidens were virgins. They were all pure. They were all prompted by their love for and their desire to be with their Lord at His marriage. All of them had on the wedding garment. All of them had their lamps and the lamps were all burning.

The command to the Philadelphia group is, "Let your light so shine before men that they, seeing your good works, may glorify your Father which is in Heaven." The natural question is, what is the Lamp? The Scriptures answer, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet." God's spirit is revealed to His people by His Word. God's Word has both a cleansing power and an illuminating power. If we have God's Word in our hearts

### Revelation 3:8,9.

we are able to show forth the Godlike spirit. We have no illuminating power of our own - this is a gift from God. Therefore our hearts and minds must be kept refreshed by the study of God's Word or our lights will go out.

The parable indicates some of this group will be called to a more exalted place than others in this Virgin class. Those who attend the marriage go in first. These are cleansed by the washing of the Word. (Eph.5:26,27,32):-"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word. That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." We will go into this subject again at a later time. But Jesus is the door (Jno.10:9), in the sense that it is through Him we have access to better things. He stands at the door of our hearts and knocks. (Rev.3:20) He invites us to come up higher. The separating work is going on. Those who have the oil of the spirit, have the necessary enlightenment to proceed on their way. Those who have not, will not attend the marriage. The door will be shut. But they will attend the marriage supper. We read, "Blessed are they which are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb." (Rev.19:9) Let us be thankful God does not shut the door to His Divine mercy and forgiveness. The only door shut is the one to chief place of favor, a higher place than that already enjoyed by the Philadelphia group.

### Revelation 3:8,9.

The picture of the wise and unwise virgins is a picture painted in vivid words to convey an important idea in our minds. Jesus is the one who comes to the door of our hearts. Jesus is the one who opens up the way and "no man shutteth." We call to mind our Lord set before the Jews an open door to special favor. He later described the Jewish nation as being of the Pergamos group. The Patriarchs entered the door opened to them and became members of the Thyatira group. Abraham and many others, used their faith and entered that door. They will partake of the greater blessings which God has set aside for that church. John the Baptist was the last to enter, then this door was shut. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth among many self-righteous Jews, not because they have been cast into a lake of fire, but because they have lost a coveted prize. (Luke 13: 23-28)

The door of opportunity is now open before Justified Christians. They can come up higher even as the Jews had higher honors and responsibilities opened to them. Justified believers of the Sardis group are called brethren. Paul urges them:- "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.---- For a great door and effectual is opened."- (Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 16:9)

Naturally there are adversaries blocking the way. But strangely enough we find most of them within our own selves. Weak-

### Revelation 3:8,9.

ness and besetments stand in front of the door and block, or at least hinder our progress. But would God "open the door of faith" if none could enter? (Acts 14:27) If effort is made to declare God's message and divine principles are practiced in brotherly love and self-sacrifice, the door of opportunity by faith will be open (2 Cor. 2:12) and sufficient strength will be given. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." (Eph. 2:8) Let us quote another Scripture, from the pen of the Apostle James:-

"Be ye also patient; establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and patience. (James 5:9)

As the door was open to the faithful prophets but closed to the unfaithful ones among the Jews as a whole, who refused to accept our Lord's provision, and there was weeping and gnashing of teeth; so the door of opportunity through Jesus Christ will eventually be closed against Justified believers. Our Lord will set apart, or sanctify for His special service, only those who respond to His call. The indication is they will suffer similar torment if they fail to respond. (Rev. 14:11) While this torment is probably more in the form of mental anguish and regret, it nevertheless is real suffering. They have denied themselves a

Revelation 3:8,9.

great blessing by their own neglect. In contrast "Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." (Rev.14:12) Our Lord is able to bless those who do His will and He is able to withhold a blessing from those who do not. "Behold, he breaketh down, and it cannot be built again; he shutteth up a man, and there can be no opening." (Job.12:14)

Our Lord assures the Justified Church, "Thou hast a little strength," therefore use it." God is faithful." He explains so far thou "hast kept my word." (1 Jno.2:5) In the face of affliction thou "hast not denied my name." (2 Tim.2:12) Jesus gave us His own explanation of His parable about the open door. (Jno.10:1-10) He says, "I am come that ye might have life and that ye might have it more abundantly." The Sardis group will have life, but those who respond to the call of the Philadelphia Church will have "everlasting life."

Those who have found the door and have used the little strength they have to enter and present themselves a living sacrifice, are given the "spirit of adoption" into Christ. (Rom.8:15) Many people object to the modern church. They claim there are too many hypocrites in it. But these hypocrites do not deceive our Lord. He knows their heart condition. He does not judge them by their outward appearance. He will make them of the synagogue of Satan, (Rev.2:13) "Which claim they are Jews (Israelites indeed) and are not."

It is God's plan to adopt many of us as children. (Eph. 1:5) Those who are adopted into Christ, are described as those - "Who are

### Revelation 3:8,9.

Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises." (Rom.9:4) All of these have agreed to lay down their lives in sacrifice with Jesus, and are prompted by no other motive than that of love. Many thousands of this group have been numbered among our Christian Martyrs. All of them have shown the "love of a brother" attitude in their every day living, even to the end of life.

To those who have suffered death or who have been mistreated by the civil or ecclesiastical authorities, our Lord assures it is He "That bringeth the princes to nothing; he making the judges of the earth as vanity." (Isa. 40:23) The trying experiences of life are used to develop more perfectly the character of Christ, in the hearts and minds of these consecrated ones. Jesus also suffered. Those who cause suffering are sometimes called nursing fathers and nursing mothers to the consecrated people of God. "And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet, and thou shalt know that I am the Lord: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me." (Isa.49:23) The Lord "will make them come to Him." "All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name." (Ps.86:9)

The Philadelphia Church of pure, unselfish, consecrated brotherly love, is the stronghold of faith for the entire world. They are called the New Jerusalem. The City of God. It is called Zion where all men may gather and

Revelation 3:8,9.

worship God.

"The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending before thee; and all they that despised thee shall come bending down at the soles of thy feet, and they shall call thee, The City of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy ONE of Israel." (Isa.60:14)

All flesh shall know these despised ones consistently try to follow the footsteps of Jesus, as He revealed Himself to their understanding; will "Know I have loved thee." The love of God passes over and beyond ordinary human intelligence, but it is He who "hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." (Eph.2:6-8) When Jesus uses the "Keys of David" and opens the door of opportunity to anyone, it is intended that one should enter: Those who do not enter will find the door to higher things is finally shut and these will have no one to blame but themselves.

*And to the angel of the church of Philadelphia write: These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; he that shutteth, and no man openeth;" (Rev.3:7)*

## Patient Endurance.

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."

(Rev.3:10)

"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience." Because thou hast kept my admonition, my warning, my instruction to be patient. The expression "Of my patience" is from the Greek word "Hupom one," meaning cheerful, constant endurance. Many of us may think we are patient, but are we cheerful, are we happy about it? Have we brought forth good to others by our attitude? "But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience." (Luke 8:15)

In the many vicissitudes, in the stress and distress of human experience, faithfulness, constancy, the ability to hold on means a test of endurance. The requirement of a consecrated Christian is not to be a quitter. The true Christian must remain true to his consecration, to the end of his life, no matter what happens. "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." (Rev.14:12) "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." (Matt.10:22)

The true admonition and assurance which our Lord has given to the faithful ones of the



### Revelation 3:10

Philadelphia group are essentially necessary for their comfort their encouragement and support, because their own strength is small. The words "keep from" or "keep out," as it is in some translations, convey the wrong idea. It does not mean they will have no trying experiences. It does mean that God will help his consecrated ones so they may pass through their trials even unto death and come out victorious. He assures:- "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to men; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Cor.10:13) They shall be conquerors and may become more than conquerors through His protecting power.

All through the Gospel Age the test of endurance has been applied. It began with Jesus. Then Stephen followed soon after. All of the Apostles except John suffered violent deaths. Other faithful ones followed as the pages of history testify. Faithful endurance is still required. Owing to increased population throughout the world, the printing press and general education, the increase in knowledge and travel, it is reasonable to assume there are more people of the Philadelphia condition of mind now living than in all other decades combined.

In describing the days in which we are now living the Prophet Zephaniah voices this warning to the Church:-

"The great day of the Lord is near,  
it is near, and hasteth greatly,  
even the voice of the day of the

Revelation 3:10.

Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness. A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord; and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land. (Zep. 1:14-18)

How many people realize that when they repeat the "Lord's Prayer," when they ask God to establish His Kingdom on Earth, they are asking Him to either destroy present earthly governments, or that He will permit present earthly governments to destroy themselves? When request is made for God's will to be done on earth, it is an admission that the will of some other personality is now being done.

God's government is a clean government, - it is a pure government. Can anyone picture a pure government existing in a cesspool of iniquity? This is the process by which our Lord operates: - "Wisdom from above is first PURE, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality

## Revelation 3:10.

and without hypocrisy." (James 3:17) Note this - - God is not first peaceable, then pure. He proposes to be pure even though He must fight for it. To eliminate sinful tendencies in our own lives, we have a fight on our hands. When our Lord finds sinful conditions on earth, there is a fight. Sin must be wiped out, before a pure government can be established. Therefore our Lord says:- "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth; I am come not to send peace, but a sword." (Matt.10:34) Concerning the tribulation coming upon the world, our Lord's words contain a ray of hope, which Daniel also gives, but in a different wording:- "And at that time Michael shall stand up, the great Prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be written in the book." (Dan.12:1) Our Lord expressed in these words:- "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." (Matt.24:21)

The time of trouble is a real thing, but it shall never come again. It began with the first World War which resulted in the permission of Jews to return to their home land. Matthew twenty-four tells us this trouble will come like travail on a woman. Bad pains with a rest in between. There was an armistice at the end of that conflict. Then the second World War. But the pain, the suffering was much greater. This was followed by the organizing of the nation of Israel and their admission into the family of nations. Thus war of increasing violence follows each lull but the winds of Anarchy will be held back. Whatever the future may develop we

Revelation 3:10.

know nothing can interfere with consecrated Christians making their calling sure. They will be helped in perfecting their understanding.

"And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed, the servants of our God in their foreheads." (Rev.7:1-3)

The Philadelphia group are active people. Their love for God and for their fellow men has made them leaders. They may be Priests, Preachers, Teachers, House to House Workers, - to all these the Apostle voices this warning:- "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of the Messiah which He hath purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which

### Revelation 3:10

is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." (Ac.20:28-32)

All do not preach God's Word because of their belief in it or love for Him. There are black sheep in every flock. There are some religious workers whose activities are prompted by ulterior motive. These will not endure when the test comes. "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and the whole world, to gather them to the battle of the great day of God Almighty." (Rev.16:14) But the truly consecrated have nothing to fear, for "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished. (2 Pet.2:9)

The spirit of love does not rejoice in the affliction of those who despitefully used and persecuted them. They follow the admonition expressed by the prophet Isaiah:- "Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth." (Isa.24:17) Those who heed this warning will be given the white robe of the spirit nature. "They shall rest from their labors but their works do follow them." "And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, should be killed as they were." (Rev.6:11) Ah yes! "The word of my patience." (Rev.14:12):- "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Those who do the will of God-who respond to His requests will stand the test are just entering. These of patient endurance.

## Let no Man take Thy Crown.

"Behold, I come quickly: Hold fast that which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."

(Rev.3:11.)

The expression, "Behold, I come quickly," is an expression, indicating a large proportion of the Philadelphia Church, if not the majority of them, would be present on the earth during and just preceding our Lord's second advent. "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." (Rev.1:3)

The coming of the Lord means the liberation of the world. Those who put in practice their professions of piety, those who are "doers of the word and not hearers only" are given a special prize as indicated by several Scriptures, including Rev. 3:11:- "Behold, I come quickly; blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book." "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. He which testifieth these things, saith; Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev.22:7,12,20)

While knowing these things the Philadelphia Church is not fanatical. They are considerate of the opinions of others while not always accepting them. They let their moderation, their well balanced fairmindedness, be known and recognized by all men. (Phil.4:5) In practicing the Brotherly Love principle, they have learned how to be exceedingly kind and fair in their

### Revelation 3:11.

consideration of the misguided opinions and honest mental deductions of other people. Theirs is not a stupid moderation, a stupidly dull kindness; theirs is a sympathetic, a deep loving understanding.

They prayerfully hope each of their friends may attain the same sympathetic understanding which they enjoy. All of us change our ideas from time to time. The conceptions of a three year old are not those of a child of twelve. Our appreciation of some subjects at twenty, may not be our appreciation of these same subjects at forty. He is indeed dumb who cannot learn. If we have changed our own views concerning the Divine arrangement we may not expect others to immediately grasp an enlightenment we may have only just received. Experience tempered by love should make us considerate of the views and opinions of others who have not progressed as far as we have been privileged to go.

If we have eyes to see and ears to hear God's message to the Philadelphia Church (Rev. 3:13); if we have progressed far enough to appreciate and practice the principles of "Brotherly Love", we have much to be thankful for in the promises of our present study. Verse eleven comes nearer to a threat than any other part of the Philadelphia letter. It says, "hold fast that which thou hast," implying a chance of losing hold, of slipping back to an inferior position. Perhaps this is for the purpose of driving home the thought - "Be thou faithful unto death." God has given a rich heritage to this Church. He has apportioned a rich legacy to each member of it. They hold on to it.

### Revelation 3:11

The Philadelphia Church is like a group of men seeking office legislature. All of them are American citizens, but all of them will not be legislators. Only those elected will become members of that august body. Those not elected are still American Citizens, but those who are elected have a seat in the Legislature and retain their much valued American Citizenship as well.

In this case our Heavenly Father is doing the choosing, the electing. His choice is determined by the heart and mind condition of each individual member of the Philadelphia group selected for the higher place. The special crown now offered was never offered before. It is the crown of joint heirship with Jesus Christ as members of a more exalted group, - the Leodicean Church.

The number of crowns is limited. Only "Israelites indeed" may receive these crowns. We believe the Scriptures clearly show there are only 144,000. crowns. Only the most faithful, the most worthy of the Philadelphia Church will receive them. It is estimated there are 500,000,000 Christians in the world today. In all probability most of these are Justified Believers of the Sardis group. But few, exceedingly few of these are active Christians. Some are Sanctified Believers in active service and of the Philadelphia group. Some of these will be chosen to wear the Leodicean Crown. They are Called, Chosen and found Faithful.

As many were called to repentance and became members of the Sardis group - irrespective of their denominational name - so a comparatively few of these have been chosen to become



### Revelation 3:11.

members of the Philadelphia group. As some were chosen, throughout the Gospel Age, to compose the Philadelphia group, so a limited number of these, the most faithful ones, will be chosen to sit with our Lord in His Throne. (Rev.3:21) Those who lose their chance of getting this crown are not doomed to eternal torment. Undoubtedly they will regret they did not watch their step more carefully, that they did not use their time and their talents more wisely, but they are still Philadelphians. Shall we say they are still American Citizens though not Legislators? This Church, this Ecclesia, this group has the love of God deeply rooted in their hearts.-

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord," (Rom.8:28,39)

Those who do not obtain one of these Crowns are still consecrated followers of Jesus Christ. The fact of their consecration indicated their "Brotherly Love" has given them a victory over the world. They constitute the Philadelphia Church and will ever be kept near to the Throne of God though they will not be in it. The command is to hold fast to the valuable position already obtained.

The expression, "Behold, I come quickly," is used many times in the Scriptures. It is interesting to note that the letters to Ephesus,

Revelation 3:11.

Smyrna and Pergamos contain no reference to the second coming of Christ. If our application of these letters is correct, then those who compose these groups would not have understood the reference if it had been made. With Thyatira it was different. All of the Patriarchs had prophesied concerning the second advent. (Ac. 3: 21) To them He says "Hold fast till I come,"

The Patriarchs were thoroughly consecrated men from an earthly standpoint. They were entitled to this recognition. Sardis will have a Heavenly reward because they come up under Christ, having lived as Justified believers since Pentecost. To them it is said, "If thou wilt not watch I will come on thee as a thief." But to Philadelphia He plainly says, "Behold, I come quickly." The great event is more definitely urged upon the truly consecrated ones of this Church group. Their deep love for their Lord entitles them to more than others receive.

*Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

(Rev. 3:10)

Rev. 5:9, 10.

Worthy art Thou to take the  
scroll and to open its seals  
For Thou wast slain and didst buy  
us for God by Thy blood  
Out of every tribe and language  
and people and nation,  
Thou dost also make us a kingdom  
and priests for our God,  
And we will be reigning  
on the earth."

## The New Name.

"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of God---and I will write upon him my new name!"

(Rev.3:12)

It is intriguingly interesting to note how many times the Bible uses stone to illustrate Scriptural truths. The Ephod which held the Brest-plate of the High Priest, was studded with stones. (Ex.25:7) The Brest-plate contained twelve stones engraved with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. It was called the Brest-plate of Judgment. (Ex.28:29,30)

The judgments of the Lord will proceed from the "New Jerusalem" with its twelve foundations (Rev.21:14) each foundation engraved with the name of one of the twelve Apostles of our Lord "A city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." (Heb.11:10) The foundations of the wall of the City, were garnished with all manner of precious stones."

The true Church is described as being "Lively Stones", alive unto good works, "built up a spiritual house." (1 Pet.2:5) Jesus is spoken of as being the "Chief Corner Stone" of the Lord's Temple. (Isa.28:16) This precious corner stone has been a "Stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to both of the houses of Israel", the Jewish house and the Christian house. Never the less it is made the Head Stone, the Chief Stone of the divine structure. (1 Pet.2:7,8) In this there is an hidden reference to the Pyramid.

The top stone, occupying the chief or top

### Revelation 3:12.

corner - the corner nearest the Heavens - would not fit any other place. It was a perfect pyramid in itself. The great pyramid had to be finished before it could be raised to its exalted place. The entire structure was shaped up in exact proportion to this top stone. Thus the Church is built up into the image of Jesus Christ. Each stone fitted into its proper place and cannot be removed from its position without doing injury to the entire structure.

Paul pictures the Consecrated Church of God as being stones built up into the Temple, Jesus Christ being the Chief Corner Stone:-

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth into an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the spirit." (Eph.2:19-22)

Solomon's Temple is probably the picture of Revelation 3:12. The stones of this Temple were not shaped to size on the grounds. These stones were first shaped and then the Temple was fitted together without the sound of a hammer. The exalted Church - member by member - is fitted and shaped during the Gospel Age for their place in God's Temple during the next age. The thought of permanency is also implied in that each stone had its place. No other stone could fit this place. Furthermore, each stone must stay put or the Temple would be damaged

Revelation 3:12.

to that extent.

The Philadelphia Church is being made ready. They are to be called Pillars in the Temple of God. "They shall nomore go out." The Apostles themselves were called Pillars of the early Church. (Gal.2:9) A Pillar is not only one of the main supports of a building, but contributes to its beauty as well. Pillars also convey the idea of permanency. This Church is ever before the Lord, singing praises to their God. "Saying, Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen." (Revelation 7:12)

The Philadelphia Conquerors are like the great Pillars of Jachan and Boaz. They serve day and night in the Temple of God.-

"And he set up the pillars in the porch of the temple; and He set up the right pillar, and called the name thereof of Jachin: and he set up the left pillar, and called the name thereof Boas. And upon the top of the pillars was lily work: so was the work of the pillars finished." (1 Ki;7:21,22)

Those Stone Pillars, with their exquisite workmanship and golden ornamented tops, suggestive of Golden Crowns, were beautiful, important, permanent fixtures which "should nomore go out!"

The important distinction for us to notice is, those who compose the Temple Class, these "Pillars of God," are not in the Throne. They are near the Throne but not in it. They are before the Throne of God.

### Revelation 3:12.

Attentive Students will notice another change here. The Sardis Church was to have their names engraved in the Lamb's Book of Life. This is important. For the Scriptures tell us: "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Rev. 20:15) The Philadelphia Church will not have their names in that Book. This is an evidence they are numbered among the Judges of earth rather than among those to be judged. They have part in the first resurrection: "on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him." (Rev. 20:6) Their names are not written anywhere, but the "name of my God" is written on them.

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their forehead, or in their hands: and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." (Rev. 20:4)

They seem to loose themselves in Christ.

This new name will not be that of Jehovah in its most vivid interpretation because He distinctly says, "My glory will I not give to another." (Isa. 42:8) The name "Righteousness of Jehovah" (Jer. 23:6) is suggested. Jesus was called by numerous names of a descriptive nature, such as "Wonderful", "Counsellor", "The

Revelation 3:12.

Mighty God," "Everlasting Father," "Prince of Peace". (Isa.9:6) There seems to be much indefiniteness about the exact title the Philadelphia Church will have. Isaiah expresses it in these words:- "And Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name." (Isa.62:2) They shall be called "The Holy People," "The Redeemed of the Lord," "and thou shalt be called Sought Out, a City not forsaken." "Which is the New Jerusalem." The glorious City of peace whose foundation laid in justice, can never be moved, and whose builder and maker is God. It is in the light of it, which will shine from this glorious City (Kingdom) of God, that the nations (people) will walk on the "Highway of Holiness," up to perfection and to full harmony with God. "And I John saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 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. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God," (Rev.21:2,3,10)

As this City comes down out of heaven from God, for the blessing of all the families of the earth; if this City is composed of the true Church of the Gospel Age under their Lord (Rev. 21:22), it then follows that the Church must have first been gathered to our Heavenly Father in the first resurrection else they could not come from Heaven with Him.



### Revelation 3:12,13.

The word "Heaven" occurs fifty-two times in the book of Revelation. It is always in the singular, referring each time to some particular phase of the Heavenly condition, except in Rev. 12:12 which reads:—"Therefore rejoice, ye heaven, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea: for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." The inference is that all, irrespective of the degree of their exaltation, will rejoice in what God has given them. But evil on earth will be ended by the approach of the New Jerusalem.

The overcomer has now entered the Heavenly phase of his ministry for mankind. He is now in close personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He now bears the new name which Jesus and His Father are pleased to give, and he rejoices in the work which is to be accomplished by the new Theocracy, the New Jerusalem, the Divine Government.

Thus it is God's promise to Abraham will be kept and all the families of the earth will be blessed:-

"And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply (thee) thy seed, as the stars of the Heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the

### Revelation 3:12,13.

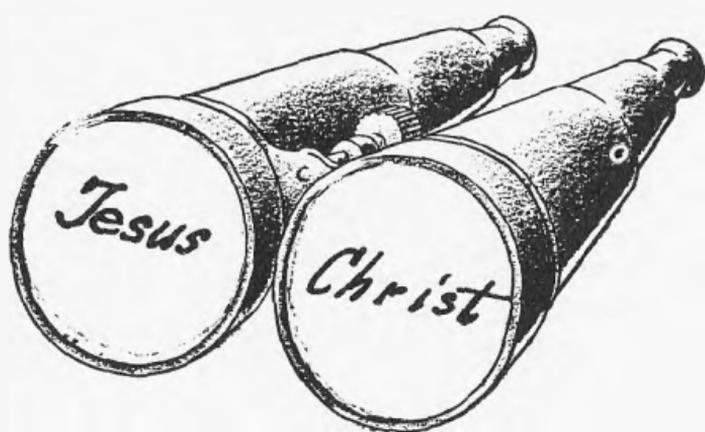
nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice. (Gen. 22:15-18)

"And the scripture, foreseeing God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He said not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ-- And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise." (Gal. 3:8,16,29)

The Philadelphia Church is evidently composed of those who have made consecration of their all, as Jesus did at Jordan, and entered the race for the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus. Some try to limit the Philadelphia Church to a certain period of years during the Gospel Age. From one viewpoint this is right but the selecting of members for this group has been through all periods from Pentecost, for we read:- "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches." (Rev. 3:13) The plural is indicated. This means the entire Gospel Age is meant. Their personal is not chosen from a limited period of a few years.

Paul indicates all who run in the race for the prize offered, will not win. But he does not indicate any penalty for losing, except that they lose the prize. In fact they deserve much credit for trying. They are still consecrated. Our Lord loves them for their effort, though some ran better than they. We will now pass on and consider the Laodicean Church.

## LOOKING AHEAD



# LAODICEANS

*"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God."*

*< Revelation 3:14 >*

## God's Angels.

In considering our Lord's letters to the seven Churches, seven general but separate groups in God's arrangement, we should ever keep in mind, God's intelligence comprehends more, is more far-reaching than the keenest finite mind can grasp. This is especially true of the Laodicean message. Jesus is true as the Scriptures testify. "It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. I am one that bear witness to myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me." (Jno.8:17,18)

In His comfort and encouragement to a discouraged world, God has illustrated our deliverance from sin and death, by His miraculous deliverance of the Jews from Egyptian slavery. We are warned against the sin of unfaithfulness. "I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not." (Jude 5) God's promise is:- "I will make him my firstborn, higher than the

### Revelation 3:14.

kings of the earth." (Psa.89:27) As a result we see Jesus assuming the power God gave Him but never before exercised.

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war." (Rev.19:11)

While this means trouble for the evil powers of earth, it also means the establishment of righteousness. An orderly Theocratic Government, with all things under Christ, and Him under the Father of all: "For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him." (1 Cor. 15:27)

Let us now consider the city of Laodicean people. Laodicea was a city of Phrygia, in the Roman province of Asia. It was situated two miles from the small river Lycus (Churuk Su) and, nine miles east of the confluence of the Lycus and Maeander Rivers, in the fertile Meander Valley. The graceful lines of Mt. Cadmus overhung the valley on the south. The cities of Colosse and Hierapolis were not far distant. In Paul's epistle to the Colossians he makes use of these words:- "For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis." (Col.4:13)

According to Pliny (V.29) the original town was called Diospolis and Rhoas. The Turks now call it Eski-Missar ("the old Castle"). It was probably founded by Antiochus 2nd (Theos

### Revelation 3:14.

the God), who named it for his wife Laodicea. Altho destroyed by earth-quake several times, the city became quite wealthy and was famous for its extensive money transactions (Compare Rev.3:17,18)

Its leading Temple Men Karou contained the best know Medical School in Asia. Art, Science and Philosophy were also taught and produced the, so-called, "Sceptic Philosophers"! In this city originated the Royal Family of Polemon and Zenon whose curious history has interested modern students. The city fell into the hands of the Turks in 1255 and was again destroyed by earthquake in 1402.

Laodicea is ninety miles from Ephesus. Christianity came from there to this city as we have no record Paul ever preached in Laodicea. (Ac.18:19;19:41)

His preaching in Ephesus probably resulted in the forming of Churches in several nearby cities. Many Bible critics believe Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians was really intended for the Laodiceans, as indicated by Col.4:16:- "And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea."

Laodicea finally became a Christian city of prominence. It was the headquarters of a Bishop and the meeting place of Church Councils. The first Council of far-reaching importance was held in 363 A.D. It adopted canons concerning the old and new Testaments and ecclesiastical discipline. The second Council which occurred in 476 A.D. condemned

### Revelation 3;14.

Love Group. The very diversity of interpretation may help us understand why such severe criticism, on part of our Lord, was made of those who will receive the highest honors. These are judged from the Divine, the perfect viewpoint. They are not judged by imperfect human standards. It seems their self-satisfied complacency is the greatest hindrance to their progress. Those who respond in the proper way to God's judgment of them, will be raised to a place far above all angels, principalities and powers, We read:-

"Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in heavenly places. Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come; and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all. (Eph.1: 20-22)

We know these things must be true because they are given by the "Amen," frequently translated "Verily;" meaning true. Thus we read:- "These things saith the faithful and true one, the beginning of the creation of God." Undoubtedly this "true one" is our Lord Jesus:-

"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every crea-

## Revelation 3:14.

the Eutychians.

However, it is the Church of Laodiceans and not necessarily the Church at Laodicea we are now to consider. The Laodiceans seem to picture a special group which has existed throughout the Gospel Age and which has faded out from the world and worldly connections while still remaining in it.

"If ye were of the world the world would have loved its own;---but I have chosen you out of the world!"  
(John 15:19)

The Apostles were members of this group. Throughout the Age there have been some outstanding ones of the "Brotherly Love" group who can properly be called Saints. Today, amid the selfishness, the conflict, the evil of our times, there are some who are outstanding Saints of God. No one denomination has the monopoly of them. For this reason it is impossible to limit the membership in the Laodicean group to any particular sect or period of time since Pentecost. At this present writing it is important for us to remember that at some time during Laodicean condition our Lord's second advent will take place.

The word Laodicea means "a just people" according to Cruden. Other Authorities claim it means "the judgment of the people" Strangely enough, both views may be right in their application to both the Gospel Age and the Millennial Age. During the Gospel period the Laodicean Group are being chosen from the most worthy ones among the Brotherly



### Revelation 3:14.

For that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him." (Heb.2:8) Redemption has not yet been worked out. Jesus was the first born from the dead and we are told all (both good and bad) who are in their graves, shall hear His voice and come forth. (Jno.5:28,29,R.V.) The fact that some come forth to judge while others come forth to be judged only confirms our findings in the Laodicean Church. It is "God who will have all men to be saved," but naturally some will attain an higher degree of recognition than others as shown by the promises to the Seven Churches. Through Jesus and His resurrection to the highest celestial realm, to a place in the Throne of God itself. (Rev.3:21) This will attain fulfilment. Then and not "till then will the water of life flow freely to all. "And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely." (Rev. 21:6) Note the words, "will give;" refers to a time future to the Age of Grace, the Gospel Age.

Justice is the habitation of God's throne. (Psa.89:14) Those who share that throne with Him must be just. It is the Just Laodicean Church who will judge both men on earth and Angels of heaven. (1 Cor.6:2,3) Hence we have the picture of the just Laodiceans as a Court of final appeal during the "Times of Restitution;" when the world will be reconciled to Their Maker. Undoubtedly the Laodiceans will be assisted by the Philadelphia and Sardis groups, who will be before the throne on the Spiritual plane of being, and by the Thyatira

Revelation 3:14.

ture: for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." (Col.1:15-18)

Thus we understand Jesus was not the beginner, but the Beginning of the creation of God. Jesus was not an evolved being as some of the lower forms of creation seem to be. He was a direct creation, the first to have existence, created by His Father the "Self Existing One." Thus He is termed the Logos, and the Agent of Jehovah by whom all other things were made. (Jno.1:1,3)

We must recognize Jehovah God is the Author of all creation. All these things come "from the Father but by the Son." Jesus, the Logos, is the Agent used by Jehovah in carrying forward His Divine plans, purposes and intents. This includes all things Celestial as well as things found on or in our Terrestrial Sphere. These things exist through Him and by Him for the use and glory of the Father.

Jesus' sovereignty is predominant in redemption as well as in creation. He is the true image of God, hence we read:- "Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet.

### Revelation 3:14.

group as their earthly material representatives. "The feet members of the Son of God."  
(Rev.2:18)

God's Angels are in constant contrast to the Devil's Angels. God's servants are in contrast with the servants of evil. The message we are now considering is not given by the Angel of the Laodicean group, the message is unto or to the Angel, - collective sense, including all who have ministered to the Laodiceans. This means the Angels or Messengers of the Church, as well as the Church are responsible for the bad conditions described. Thus the Stars of Rev.1:16 in our Lord's hand, represented seven groups of Angels or Messengers which God has sent to different groups which will participate in the blessings of the Divine Government. If we study this subject carefully we will realize, many of these have ministered simultaneously, but each to his particular group. Each star, or group, had its own assignment in ministering to the needs of some one of the seven Church Groups. These messengers are called to faithfulness, to vigilance, to activity, and are warned:

"Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! The sword shall be upon his arm and upon his right eye. His arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened." (Zec.11:17)

And again we read: - "But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My Lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with

### Revelation 3:14.

the drunken; the Lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, and shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matt.24:48-51)

While these Stars, these Messengers, called to special service among God's people during the Gospel Age, may accomplish the work given them and may be faithful unto death, they accomplish the work given them in borrowed Heavenly strength, they are never to be considered infallible in either their utterances or their conduct. Jesus has power to continue any who are faithful, or He may remove any of His ministering servants who prove lazy, indifferent or unfaithful; without retarding the progress of His own plans. It cannot be truthfully said seven men and only seven have been used by our Lord in advancing His plans and purposes. But it can be truthfully said there have been seven movements directed by numerous individuals or leaders. Our Lord's care for His Church is manifest in His raising up true Teachers and Pastors for them and by protecting such faithful ones in their ministry, while removing all unfaithful teachers and pastors, for the protection of His Church from undesirable and possibly evil influence. Our Lord knows His Angels whether they are cold, or luke-warm, or hot.

The Apostles were all of this Star group. We cannot claim twelve Apostles were represented by seven Stars to the exclusion of all others. Nor can we properly claim the seven

### Revelation 3:14.

Stars included some of our present day to the exclusion of the Apostles. These were all dead when John wrote these epistles. For this reason Paul could not have been the exclusive Star or Angel to those of the Ephesus group, as some claim. His recordings are still applicable. Other good people claim John was the Angel of the Church at Smyrna. But Saint John was a prisoner on the barren Isle of Patmos at the time he was supposed to write the Smyrna letter to himself. He died on Patmos without so much as visiting Smyrna. Hence it is clear there must have been other Angels, other Messengers of the Lord involved. Neither John nor Paul could be considered "unfaithful Stars," unfaithful Stewards. Our Lord loves those served, as greatly and as tenderly, as those who do the serving. The Angel of the Church is as guilty of the things charged, as is the Church responsible for the wrong condition among themselves. The rejected apostate condition of which the Laodicean Ministry and Laity are accused seems to apply to those of the Philadelphia group who seek the honors and rewards given exclusively to the Laodiceans and to none others. This we will consider later. The Stars who let their light shine continuously, Stewards who have been proven faithful and wise, may truly be called God's Messengers, God's Angels. "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion." (Amos 6:1)

## Christianity vs. Churchanity.

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art luke-warm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth."

(Rev. 3:15,16.)

Protestantism, with its many translations of the open Bible is being tested more crucially today than in former ages. The individual person who has espoused Christianity is being sifted more thoroughly than in former times, where they did not have the support, the encouragement, the enlightening power of the "Word of God" as we now have it.

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear; and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." (Lu. 21:25,26) As the powers of spiritual control are now being shaken through their own inadequacy, it is the people, the chosen individual, loyal Laodiceans who are now being made manifest and declared faithful or unfaithful according to their love and zeal.

Possibly the most helpless of all persons, from a spiritual standpoint, are our nominal Church Members. They have professed piety

### Revelation 3:15,16

without any evident heart possession of it. Their attitude is unfavorable to true Christianity. They are Christians in name only. "Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble." (Jer.11:14)

While it may be proper to say those who aspire to Laodicean blessings may be hypocritical, it would be utterly wrong to intimate any of the finally called, chosen and faithful ones of this group are hypocrites. These are rich in faith and abundant in their works. The others have much religion but little Christianity, much sentiment but very little heart confidence, much profession of faith but little activity to prove their faith. They are self-satisfied, boastful and empty of the full Laodicean requirement.

The charge brought against the Laodicean group of the Gospel Age is a fearful one and is evidently not addressed to the world, who are not in covenant relations with Jehovah, but to the Church, to the Christians in name only. One who has a form of religious devotion but lacks sincerity, fervency, zeal, true devotion. They are merely luke-warm while enjoying the invigorating influence, the brilliant illuminating power of the Scriptures. They have some knowledge, but it is because of their sluggish works that this "faithful and true witness," brings fearful charges against them. We are assured, however, that some of this group are proving themselves faithful. As compared with the total number of consecrated Christians only a small group will "make their calling and election sure." There are few winners in

### Revelation 3:15,16.

the race for "the prize of the high-calling in Christ Jesus." From this tentative Laodicean Ecclesia of the Gospel Age will be selected those who will receive the highest reward offered to any of God's creatures.

God abhors clicks, clans, sects among the Laodiceans, whom He loves, as much as He loathes their complacency and infidelity. There are too many saying I am of this church or of that church, this set or of that denomination. There are too many saying, "I am of Paul or I am of Apollis," in this day and age. Too few are closely following the foot-steps of Jesus Christ. Our Lord says, "I know thy works." Such have "a form of Godliness but are denying the power thereof." True Laodiceans are warned, "from such turn away." ( 2 Tim.3:5) Of these He says:- "And she hath changed my judgments into wickedness more than the nations, and my statutes more than the countries that are round about her: for they have refused my judgments and my statutes, and have not walked in them." (Eze.5:6) But in His judgment He administers unspeakable comfort to those who are at heart faithful to Him.

"He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment. The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills by righteousness. He shall judge the poor of the people, He shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor. In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river



## Revelation 3:15,16.

unto the ends of the earth. Yea, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve him." (Psa.72:2-4, 7,8,11)

To the Laodiceans as a group our Lord says, "I would thou wert cold or hot." Heat, cold and luke-warm have to do with temperature and personal feeling. A man of ability, out of a job, is both cold and hungry. He will not stay that way long because he is a man of ability. His services will be sought. "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." (Mat.5:6) A man who wants work in our Lord's vineyard will be given employment, (Matt.20:6,7) "the Father seeketh such." (Jno.4:23) Those who seek the Lord are cold to lifegiving Scriptural truths until they find Him. As Job expressed it, "Oh that I knew where I might find him: that I might come even to his seat." (Job 23:3) The sense of coldness, unfitness, unworthiness, discomfort, prompts an earnest searching after better things and will cause such a person to become active. Activity, productivity and, shall we say, temperature are the result. "But on good ground are they, which, in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience." (Lu.8:15)

This condition of coldness among our Lord's consecrated followers is much more pleasing to Him than the attitude of those who are merely luke-warm. This individual is comfortable. He is satisfied with the truths he understands and does not realize God has additional blessings for him. The luke-warm man thinks he has everything - all the rich trea-

Revelation 3:15,16.

asures of truth God has to give. He makes no effort to use his God-given knowledge to assist him to a better understanding and a more loving appreciation. He does not use his gifts, resources and ability unselfishly for others or to the glory of God "Who hath called him out of darkness into His marvelous light." Such an one is conscious of no lack. He feels the need of nothing. For this reason our Lord prefers a cold person to one who is luke-warm. Our Lord wants His Church to be active. Our Father abhors self-satisfied luke-warm ones, like Ephraim, who are only half baked. - "Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned." (Hos.7:8)

"If God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest He also spare not thee." (Rom. 11:21) He will no longer recognize these dormant, tentative, Gospel Age members of the Laodicean group, as His mouth-piece. He says, "I will spew thee out of my mouth." (Rev.3:16)

Nothing can be spewed out of the mouth which has not been taken in. These luke-warm ones have been given every chance. They have been accepted tentatively during the Gospel Age, as members of the Laodicean family. Hot water is an acceptable drink, but luke-warm water, tepid water is like an emetic. It sometimes causes vomiting. Manifestly, acceptance to the exalted position Laodiceans are to occupy, means effort on part of each individual member. To be spewed out denotes, utter separation and final rejection from membership in the Laodicean Church. Whatever their final reward, it will not be found in this Ecclesia. "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed

## Revelation 3:15,16

lest he fall." (1 Co.10:13)

Our Lord's real preference, the condition He seeks for among the Laodiceans, is heat, resulting from activities in His service, prompted by deep heart affections. Activities arising to the highest point of zeal and fervency consistent with the spirit of a sound mind.

There will be no drones in the Throne of God. Those given that place will be active, they will be full of eyes, as it were, to observe and use every opportunity for service. They will be used by our Lord in bringing "Peace on Earth and good will among men." (Lu. 2:14) At the cost of self-denial, patient cross-bearing, valiant aggression in determined well planned witnessing for Christ, the faithful Laodiceans will have won the approval of their Lord and Head. In brief, - they are hot. The question each child of God should ask himself is - "Am I as full of warm loving devotion to Christ as was John or Paul, or am I a Judas?"

Judas had every possible advantage through personal companionship, personal instruction from our Lord. He neglected profiting by these blessed opportunities and he failed as result. His judgment was warped. His heart was wrong although outwardly a follower of Jesus the Messiah.

Love, heart devotion should be the prompting power in all action. Paul loved God. He had enjoyed no advantages such as Judas had. He honestly believed Jesus to be an imposter. His zeal led him to persecute the followers of

Revelation 3:15,16

Jesus, but his heart was right. He was sincere and honest. His actions were prompted by a deep love for Jehovah. God recognized this and loved him for it. "Man looketh on the outward appearance but God looketh on the heart." (1 Sam.16:7) Our Father in Heaven saw in Saul the making of a Paul. He had the proper heart qualities even though his head was full of wrong ideas. True Laodiceans will seek to clarify their understanding that their activities may be directed aright.

Again may we ask ourselves, Are we following the example of Paul? Are we practicing Christianity, or are we Christians in name only? Which?



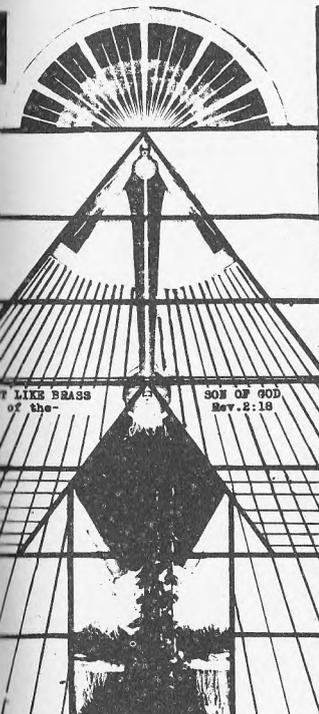
The Lord will  
answer and say  
unto His people  
Behold I will  
send you corn and  
wine and oil and  
ye shall be satisfied therewith  
and I will no more make you  
a reproach among the nations

—Joel 2:19

# Hope of the World.

The

KINGDOM



Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth \*peace,\* good will to-  
ward men.

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>To him that overcometh *will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even he shall overcome, and am set down with my Father in his throne.</p> <p>¶ Him that overcometh, will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.</p> <p>¶ He that overcometh, his name shall be clothed in white raiment: and I will not blot out his name out of the *book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.</p> <p>¶ And he that overcometh, and keepeth *my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him *the morning star.</p> <p>To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone *a new name written, which no man knoweth, saving he that receiveth it.</p> <p>¶ He that overcometh, shall not be hurt of *the second death.</p> <p>To him that overcometh will I give to eat of *the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.</p> | <p>Rev. 3:21; 20:6,4.<br/>Heb. 9:11,24.<br/>Jon. 1:12.<br/>1Cor. 6:2,3.<br/>Den. 7:12,14.</p> <p>Rev. 3:12.<br/>Eze. 40:45,46.<br/>Heb. 9:5.<br/>Num. 3:32.</p> <p>Rev. 3:4,5; 19:9.<br/>Luk. 12:3,36-39.<br/>Jer. 8:20.<br/>Eze. 44:10-14.<br/>Rom. 5:1,2.</p> <p>Rev. 2:26-28.<br/>1Cor. 15:23.<br/>Ma. 11:11.<br/>Heb. 9:15; 11:10,16; 12:22.<br/>Heb. 11:13,35,39,40.</p> <p>Rev. 2:17.<br/>Gen. 2:14-17.<br/>Act. 7:2-6.<br/>Gen. 15:18.<br/>Isa. 61:4-6.</p> <p>Rev. 2:11.<br/>1Cor. 4:5.<br/>Jon. 10:2d.<br/>Act. 3:19-21.</p> <p>Rev. 2:7.<br/>Luk. 23:43.<br/>Gen. 2:15,24.<br/>Isa. 65:20-25.</p> | <p>MEMBERS OF THE HIGH PRIEST.</p> <p>UNDER PRIESTS.</p> <p>LEVITES.</p> <p>ANCIENT WORTHIES</p> <p>ISRAEL</p> <p>RESTITUTION.</p> <p>PARADISE RESTORED.</p> | <p>¶ And the Lamb overtook me, and said, * Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.</p> <p>¶ For *the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak; and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will *surely come, it will not tarry.</p> <p>The Lamb hath sworn, and *will not repent, *Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.</p> <p>¶ The Lord *at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath.</p> <p>Now while these things were thus *ordained, *the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God:</p> <p>Levites shall be ministers in my sanctuary, *having charge at the gates of the house.</p> <p>¶ And it shall come to pass, that when they enter in at the gates of the inner court, *they shall be clothed with linen garments:</p> <p>I had rather be a than to dwell in the house of my God, than to dwell in the house of wicked men.</p> <p>But they shall serve me *loam their God, and I *desire their kings whom I will raise up unto them.</p> <p>¶ Behold, the *days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah.</p> <p>For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall *break forth before you into singing, and *all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.</p> <p>¶ Instead of *the thorn shall come up the fir-tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle-tree: and it shall be to the Lamb for a name, for an overruling sign that shall not be cut off.</p> |
|---|---|--|---|

THE RESTITUTION HERALD  
A THOUGHT

In the kingdom of tomorrow  
There shall be no gloom of night  
When the saints by His own glory  
Pass from darkness into light.

Yes, the flowers of His Kingdom  
Will be larger, fresh and fair.  
We will find relief from sorrow  
And an end to all our care.

So, I say to you, my brothers,  
As you journey down life's way,  
It is worth a mighty effort,  
So, prepare for it today.

—*Claude D. House.*

# The Divine Condition.

"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; thou knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear, and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefor, and repent."

(Revelation 3:17-19)

Are we to conclude from this that the Laodiceans were more depraved, more vile than those of all the seven Churches? We answer no. The most praiseworthy of these Churches, from a human standpoint, are found in the Philadelphia group. The best, the most worthy from the Divine standpoint are chosen from this Church of Brotherly Love, to compose the Laodicean Royalty in the Throne of God. This is the Crown, the "prize of the high-calling in Christ Jesus" which they all sought.

More is required, an higher standard is demanded of the Laodiceans than the Philadelphians. Being judged from an higher standpoint, their exalted Philadelphia condition appears as filthy rags. For example:- Jehovah God is perfect, Jesus is perfect, those who gain a place in God's Throne must reach perfection. Those chosen for this place are from

## Revelation 3:17-19.

among those who have run well as Philadelphians. Possibly they have become self-satisfied because of their progress, and their destitution from the Divine view is not realized. God condescends to point out their lack, and says: - "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." (Isa.55:1) But they say, "I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing." (Rev.3:17) When a Christian thinks he has made his calling and election sure, that very confidence is often an indication he "knows not, and knows not that he knows not." He says, "I have now secured all of the Spiritual light that exists!" - "I have much goods laid up for many years" - "She saith in her heart I sit as a queen and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow." (Rev.18:7) "I have found me out substance in all my labours. They shall find none iniquity in me!" (Hos.12:8) They say, "We have reigned like Kings." (1 Cor.4:8) The Lord pleads with such. "Return unto me and I will return unto you." but many of these are so wise in their own conceit they reply, "Wherein shall we return?"

The nominal church is a combination of church systems "increased in goods." They count their numbers and their donations by the millions. Some of their leaders feel "We have need of nothing." They refuse to see, they refuse to recognize the lack of spiritual life in their midst. They do not admit they have departed from right ways of the Lord. We quote:-

"Even from the days of your fathers



Revelation 3:17-19.

ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? (Mal.3:7)

It seems strange that any of this blessed group, who have had so many blessings, should of all others be "wretched and miserable." Yet we must realize that if the world in general was brought up to the standard of the modern church, the poor world would still be far from perfect. Wherein is the nominal Christian "poor"? - They possess little spiritual wealth, little of the spirit of truth. They are lacking in the fruits of the spirit. They are like the barren fig tree.

Wherein is the nominal Christian "blind?" Possibly we may say "the God of this world hath blinded their minds." The spirit of worldliness has blinded them from seeing afar off. They do not recognize their own true position. They do not discern the "signs of the times." They do not realize what the true spirit of Christ is. They do not know, their judgment is pending before the Throne of God.

Wherein is the nominal Christian "naked?" Possibly this word should have been translated "scantily clad." They are stripped of the robe of Christ's righteousness and are trying to stand in their own righteousness. They are void of what constitutes righteous spirituality and are without the robe of merit of Christ. They lean on the wisdom of men rather than the wisdom of God.

### Revelation 3:17-19.

It is not this Christendom of ours which says, "I am rich and increased in goods and have need of nothing?" Drunk with the wine of their own greatness. This condition reminds us of a certain inscription which appeared on the wall of a certain festal hall in Babylon. It read:—"Mene, mene tekel upharsin." Naturally Belshazzar wanted to know what it meant. None of his wise men could read it. Finally a man of God was found among his slaves who read the message, but it was too late for the drunken King to profit by the translation. The Babylonians had already been weighed in the balance and found wanting. However, some individuals - most of them humble slaves-escaped the destruction of the City. Today there are many Godly consecrated people in our Church systems. In proportion as they seek the Lord they will escape the judgment of the world. They will be united with their Lord as members of the true Laodicean Church.

Judged from the Divine standpoint as being poorly clothed, halting, blind, poverty-stricken, - these Laodiceans can buy without money and without price from the One who has reproved them. They can buy through the medium of request. They buy through asking, by discarding their earth born baubles. Our Lord says: - "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." (Isa.45:22) They receive by coming to Him who supplies the means of purchase. It is a legitimate purchase and an honorable possession.

The council given them is, "Buy of Me." (Psa.73:24) "Thou shalt guide me with thy council, and afterward receive me to glory."

### Revelation 3:17-19

The only cost is self-sacrifice. The sacrifice of self-will to the will of Christ. This treasure is worth going after with all we have.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field." (Mt.13:44)

To buy was the admonition given to the unwise Virgins of Matt.25. The Virgins should buy oil for their lamps. The Lord's chosen ones are admonished to let their light shine. Through the illuminating power of their lamps they are enabled to find the pure gold of the higher nature.

Pure gold is the most precious metal on earth. It represents wealth, and great possessions from an earthly viewpoint. It represents an earthly picture of heaven's richest possession. It is tried in the furnace. It is free from dross. Therefore, "think it not strange concerning the fiery trial that shall try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." (1 Pet.4:12,13)

"Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye thru

Revelation 3:17-19.

follow her shall be brought unto thee." (Psa.45:13-14)

True Laodiceans know their own righteousness are as filthy rags. - "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities like the wind have taken us away." (Isa.64:6)

But God has proved the righteousness of Jesus to cover them as a robe of purity "not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing." (Eph.5:27) And we read again:-

"And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints!" (The covering furnished by Jesus) Rev.19:8.

It is so easy to slip and in the slipping do something or say something of which we are ashamed. Jesus says:- "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." (Rev.16:15) Each one of the Spirit Begotten condition receives and must wear the robe of worthiness, the robe of righteousness which Jesus gives. If Jesus gives this garment to each of His Saints, it then becomes their own possession. Instead of appearing before God in the poor, filthy rags of their own righteousness, they appear in the perfection of Jesus, which is now theirs. Anyone attempting to appear before our perfect King, in his own righteousness, is given a

### Revelation 3:17-19.

his poverty might be rich." (Jas.2:5:  
2 Cor. 8:9).

Refined gold is a comprehensive illustration of what constitutes spiritual riches. The great wealth our Lord has to give or sell will be given, will be exchanged with those who prove the greatest degree of loving loyalty to God thru their Advocate Jesus. This great blessing is offered to the Laodicean group and to none others. It is the God-like nature found in perfect love. It is most precious. It is Divine.

Thus the Bride, the Lamb's wife is pictured as being all glorious with sweet beauty and true holiness within herself, though not so recognized in the vision of natural man. When glorified, her clothing will be decorated with wrought gold. Her raiment will be furnished by Jesus Himself. A simple white robe of His righteousness, but adorned most beautifully with needle-work of Christian graces, - painstaking embroidery of actual attainment in love. Nor are the Philadelphians forgotten. They are not sufficiently worthy to attain a place in the Throne, but they are before it. They are still Virgins and are counted as companions of the Bride. They are part of a great company before the Throne. (Rev.7:9,13-17) Another picture is that of Rebecca, the Bride, and the damsels who accompany her. Still another picture is presented by the Psalmist in these words:-

"The king's daughter is all glorious within; her clothing is of wrought gold. She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that

### Revelation 3:17-19.

solemn warning in these words:- "And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment; and he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matt. 22;11-13)

The sorrow experienced by such an individual, seems to result from a deficient heart condition. These have attained much in their search for holiness. The happiness which resulted from their success, along these lines, may have led to over-confidence. Our Lord says:- "Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, they shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man." (Isa.47:3) Perfect love is the attainment desired. (Heb.12) Perfect love will endure chastisement, discipline, and realize, with much encouragement, that these are an evidence of Sonship. And evidence God is dealing with such an one. In response he will cry, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." (Job.13:15) Trust and faith, when backed by love, is blind to adversity. It is implicit confidence. Job is an example. The Apostles are examples. How we endure, what we may accomplish, are merely outward expressions of what the inward man is. Each one should keep his heart anchored in our Lord. Each one should repent of every failure, at the earliest possible moment. Each should be zealous in using every opportunity, faithfully serving Jehovah. Each

## Revelation 3:17-19.

should seek to profit under the rod of correction and maintain the sweet spirit of loving devotion and fervent affection. Hence we read, "As many as I love I rebuke and chasten," I train. (Rev.3:19) However, all faithful ones are not necessarily Laodiceans. Those of the Sardis Ecclesia are faithful to the Sardis standards and requirements. Philadelphians are what they are, because they are faithful to the requirements of their own group.

"But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whom much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more." (Luke 12:48) Many of the

Philadelphia group will be given the Laodicean Crown. They have run better than others. They have responded to additional training. As Laodiceans they must now be faithful to the higher standards of the Laodicean Ecclesia. As they receive more light they see the far reaching power of God's love more clearly.

The eye seems to refer to comprehension, appreciation, understanding. You may hear but not comprehend, but if you say, you see, it means you understand. True Laodiceans must have more than knowledge, they must have understanding. We may properly say the God of this world has blinded the minds of many, lest the light of the glorious gospel should shine unto them. (2 Cor.4:4) In times past, many who now see the light, walked according to the prince or the power of the air "that now worketh in the children of disobedience." (Eph. 2:2)

Revelation 3:17-19.

Those who now see have cried, "Consider and hear me. O Lord my God; lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death." (Psa.13:3) Such have taken comfort for "The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." (Psa. 19:8) During His earthly ministry our Lord gave an example of how he would open the eyes of the blind by making eyesalve of clay. (Jno.9:6,4)

Eyesalve is the remedy advised by our Lord in Rev.3:18. In this He probably had reference to the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus performed His work, by this divine help. (Acts 10:38) And the true Laodiceans have this same "unction from the Holy One, which gives them power to understand. (1 Jno.2:20) The Church is assured:-

"But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you; but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you ye shall abide in him." (1 Jno. 2:27)

The comfort, the assurance, the power which the Church would receive as result of their anointing with the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of understanding. This was foretold by our Lord in these words:-

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of Truth is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he



Revelation 3:17-19.

will shew you things to come."  
(Jno.16:13)

Thus we are admonished, under the word pictures of "Gold", "White Raiment" and "Eye-salve," to seek Jesus speedily and earnestly for that which He alone can furnish. No fault is found with the doctrines held by the Laodiceans, as has been true of some of the other Churches. They are not accused of having a Jezebel or a Balaam or the Nicolaitans in their midst. Their fault is in being too comfortable. They are luke-warm, and blind to their real needs, and to their opportunities for service. The Lord's people are urged to be hot, zealous of good works, earnest in prosecution of sincere loving service. They are urged, not only to hear, but also to see. They are admonished to understand the full meaning of God's great love for the world in general and for them in particular.

In spite of their blindness they will frequently pray, "Our Father which art in Heaven." They are quite free in claiming God as their Father, but are they conducting themselves as faithful, obedient loving sons? Are they neglectful? -- When a Father takes the son he loves, out into the woodshed, is it for the father's good, or thy son's good? If the son is properly exercised by the experience, he will benefit. God says:-

"My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction: for whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth." (Prov.3:11,12)

### Revelation 3:17-19.

While God is conducting Himself like a loving Father, are we conducting ourselves like slaves, or as loyal, loving, obedient sons should?

The text of our study reads:- "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten." Paul voices this warning:- "But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." (Heb.12:8) Job expresses it thus:- "Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty." (Job.5:17) If the adopted child of God is properly exercised by the experiences our Lord sees fit to permit, then the Crown of Life will be his. The Apostle James gives assurance in these words: "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." (Jas.1:12) If any lose their crown it will be their own fault. They shut their eyes and ears. They refuse to recognize Jesus is - not coming - but is present and dealing with them. They refuse to hear the "knock" at the door of their hearts, or the "call" which our Lord is extending to the highest place in the Divine Government. They neglect, many of them wilfully neglect, to take up their cross daily and follow their Lord's leading. They are too complacent.

Jesus says, "as many as I love" I am dealing with in this way. I train them, I educate them, I give them more perfect care than a natural parent gives his own child. "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you."

Revelation 3:17-19.

(1 Pet.5:6,7) Heart loyalty to God on part of the adopted child is of utmost importance. Thus it is God's love for us appears most astounding to our natural selves. Our own littleness, our insignificance is more and more apparent. But in the realization of our filthy rags, our own meanness, we take fresh courage from the Scriptures:- "Hearken, my beloved brethren, hath not God chosen the poor of this world, rich in faith, and heirs of the Kingdom, which He hath promised to those who love Him. (Jas.2:5)

To love Him we must believe in Him. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for," therefore our hope must be built upon our faith in the promise of God. To be rich in faith, is to be rich in the spiritual sense:-

"But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. For the promise that he should be the heir of all the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect." (Gal.3:22,26,27; Heb.4:13,14)

While some "hit the saw-dust trail," that is they repent of their sins, they publicly acknowledge Jesus as their Saviour and stop

Revelation 3:17-19.

there; these are granted blessings promised the Sardis group. All of these are urged to go on, to be weaned from the milk of the word and partake of strong meat. They are urged not to forsake the foundation on which they have begun to build, but to keep on building, keep on rearing their faith structure-up and up into greater perfection.

"Therefore, leaving the (elementary) principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us do on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.

(Heb.6:1)

As it is possible for some of the Sardis Church to develop so as to attain membership in the Philadelphia Church, so it is possible for some of the Philadelphia Church to develop, so as to finally attain a place in the Church of Laodicea.

The sin of unbelief, which does so easily beset, brings its own reward under the divine arrangement. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Heb.11:6) True faith, confident faith, intelligent faith is a thing to be prayed for and diligently sought. True faith is only given, by the grace of God, to those who love Him supremely. "For by grace are ye saved thru faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." (Eph.2:8)

Again let us quote:- "Now faith is the

Revelation 3:17-19.

substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hope is therefore an inseparable accompaniment of faith. However, this is not sight, it is hope that our faith may be realized and that we may eventually see.

"For we are saved by hope; but hope that is seen is not hope; for what a man seeth, why doeth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not then do we with patience wait for it." (Ro.8:24,25)

But let us remember, "Faith without works is vain." Those who have faith, "which worketh by love," (Gal.5:6), will do good to all men as they have opportunity.-

"They do good, that they, be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." (1 Tim.6:18,19)

Those whom God loves He deals with as sons. Those sons who love Him will seek to serve Him. "And now abideth faith, hope and love, these three, but the greatest of these is love." (1 Cor.13) The greatest of these is love,= God-likeness, for "God is love."

**P**RAISE GOD FOR THIS :  
That sin itself will cease to  
be ; that right alone will be  
set free ;

with every realm at liberty !  
Then every soul will be re-born  
to hail the gifts of golden  
morn : its fruit and oil and  
fragrant corn. They'll own and  
bless Divinity. Praise God for this !

*Unknown.*

# Jesus Is Not Coming. He Is Here!

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

(Rev.3:20)

We have already shown that Jesus must first come for His "Bride" during the "Gospel Age", before He can come with His "Bride", His Church, for the purpose of blessing the world in the next age. In all history of our human kind, there never has been a time when so many helps were available to assist our understanding, in intelligent research. It seems the time is here, for a Scriptural understanding of God's program, of exalting the Church and the redemption of the world. This text is being fulfilled:- "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace; the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints." (Eph.1:7, 18)

Until "God's due time" was reached, it had been impossible to understand the blessings the world will enjoy through Jesus Christ. "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Col.2:3) Even at the present time the world cannot understand the riches of

## Revelation 3:20.

the Holy Spirit which God now gives freely to those few who really give their all to Him. These realize, training and more training is necessary. Therefore let us cheerfully take up our cross daily and follow His leading. "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." ( 2 Cor. 4:17)

There is an interesting study involving matters of far reaching importance, in the promises made to Sardis. "I will come as a thief;" to Philadelphia, "Behold I come quickly: and to Laodicea, "I stand at the door and knock." Jesus is not coming to His Church, He is now standing at the door present but unseen. Jesus has been standing at the door of the heart of each one of the Laodiceans since the days of the Apostles, but not to those of other groups. In all probability this mystery, "Christ in you, the hope of glory," (Col.1:27) will not be understood by any who are not of this exalted Church. His knock is made known through many channels. The oral and printed evidence is everywhere. The opening of the door is an individual matter. No one Church organization has the monopoly of Christ's blessings. Other Churches, of Revelation two and three, will hear the knock after the wedding of the Lamb of God and His Bride. "And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord, when he will return from the wedding; that, when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately." (Lu.12:36)

Notwithstanding the incompetence, the utter unworthiness of the Philadelphia applicants for Laodicean blessings, our Lord humbles Himself in His determination to bless the



## Revelation 3:20

most faithful among them.

"Blessed are those servants, whom when he cometh, shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them."

(Lu.12:37)

None of the un-love-like, luke-warm Philadelphians, who have become tentative members of the Laodicean group are compelled to accept our Lord's gracious ministrations. It is the privilege of each individual to accept or reject His offer. We wonder, how many of the Philadelphia Church have bought "five yoke of oxen," how many have "married a wife," how many have "bought a piece of ground"? Jesus knocks, Jesus calls. Shall any be held guiltless who counts this invitation a cheap thing?

In addition to the spoken word and the printed page, the Lord's knock is also indicated by chronology as set forth in the Bible, and again by numerous happenings which are specifically mentioned in the Scriptures. Not least of these is the increase of general knowledge and the increase in travel. The existing trouble, turmoil and confusion; the present breaking down of the nations indicate we are about to enter the seventh thousand year period, the Millennium of human history.

Jesus not only knocks, but He also calls forth His invitation to partake of "joys evermore." Jesus even agrees to come in and make His abode with those who open the door. Let us quote Jesus words:—"If a man love me, he

### Revelation 3:20.

will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." (Jno. 14:23) Jesus even agrees to partake of food with such. He agrees to feast on the same hopes and joys Jehovah offers the Laodiceans, and permits these to serve Him, for He says, "I will sup with him and he with Me." Evidently this is not a collective matter, in which some one religious sect decides the issue. It is an individual matter for there are some Laodicean Saints both in and from out of every religious denomination.

Very gently, dearly beloved, may we ask, - at the hour of prayer, are you on hand? When the opportunity comes to speak an encouraging word, are you on hand? When poverty comes, when toil and sweat and blood overwhelm you, are you able to say, "I thank thee Lord that Thou hast counted me worthy of bearing this cross for Thee?" Nothing short of faithfulness unto death, nothing short of the fullness of perfect love can indicate membership in the Laodicean Church. Perfect love cannot be had without the Master's help. Behold, He stands at the door of your heart and knocks. In your own utter unworthiness will you, in the privacy of your own room, prostrate yourself, in all humility, bid Him enter, and make up your deficiencies. Will you unburden your heart and tell Him all about it? Will you?

Jesus' knock, and Jesus' voice, are recognized by the acquiring of information, the gaining of knowledge. We may know about heavenly things if we apply our understanding, if we pay attention, if we tune in our hearing ear. Mere knowledge of a thing, a person, or a condition, does not necessarily mean we un-

## Revelation 3:20.

derstand all we know.

It is not enough for us to hear and pass on. We must act on the information received, if we would secure the blessing. Only those who open their hearts to the Lord will receive His blessing. Those who commune with our Lord must heed His voice. Let us remember His words - "I will come in to him and sup with him and he with Me." What a friendly companionable picture this is. What fellowship. What a festal scene. Those of the Laodicean Church, and none others, are privileged to entertain "the King of Glory." He thus sets before individual members of this group a foretaste of coming glory. It is an earnest of their hope. The sign of a glorious morning now beginning to dawn.

# Praise God for this!

"Blessed are they that dwell  
in thy house they will be  
still praising thee."—*Psa.* 84:4



# The Divine Nature

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am sat down with my Father in his throne."

(Rev.3:21.)

In our study of metalurgy we know that metal must be tested as produced, else the finished product may have a flaw which would prove fatal. This is a truism of mechanics which needs no argument. Those who are to receive the spiritual inheritance are like that. They are tested for spiritual strength even as Jesus was tested. He proved Himself worthy by the tests which He suffered. The Scriptures state:- "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?" (Lu.24:26) If the Church is to share His glory, they must also be tested. "If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him He will also deny us." (2 Tim.2:12) Under opposition, is each one struggling forward to the highest principles, which are found in the Heavenly Father Himself. Under opposition is each one maintaining the pure principles taught by Jesus Christ.

Jesus' promise of dining with His disciples was made before they had made their calling and election sure. It was for the purpose of helping them, of assisting their understanding. Those who will partake of the great honor He has for those who love him best, must understand the significance of the high favor He is about to bestow. A place in

### Revelation 3:21.

God's throne. The highest place in heaven. A position and a nature far above angels, principalities and powers unseen.

Realizing this, will they begin to Lord it over God's heritage, will they become domineering? Or will they profit by their daily earthly experiences, and realize their blessings and trials are to be used constructively, helpfully in assisting one another and those less fortunate. Will each one use his understanding to bless even those who curse him. Jesus commands:- "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hurt you, pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you." (Matt.5:44) Luke records the same thought, "Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." (Lu.6:28) Evidently this is a matter of character development. Are these going to be sympathetic with other members of the body of Christ?

"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we being many, are one body in Christ, and every one, members one of another." (Rom.12:4,5)

Sometimes our heaviest crosses come from the misunderstandings of brethren. Is each one going to develop the love of God so perfectly he will not even answer when reviled by others but will give them the blessing which will do them the most good.

Tentative Laodiceans are thoroughly consecrated people and none others. All of them are overcomers. The test is to prove who a-

### Revelation 3:21.

mong them are more than overcomers. Stephen was of this latter group. The Scriptures tell us:- "But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father." (Acts 7:56) Stephen was not forsaken in the moment of his greatest need.

The group who fail in the "High-Calling" are not bad people - they are just luke-warm. They cannot stand the test because they are lacking in zeal, because their love is not developed far enough. They may neglect to sacrifice present worldly advantages, and honors, for the spiritual exaltation God has for them. It may be they cannot overcome love of self, popularity, and worldly prosperity. Or it may be they cannot forsake human theories and systems for honors which God has to give those who win by making a more clearly cut sacrifice.

Jesus says:-"In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (Lu.24:26) To those who remain faithful under test Jesus says-"Will I grant to sit with me in my throne." The establishment of Christ's Kingdom is for the purpose of "blessing all the families of the earth," In harmony with God's promise to Abraham. This is for the purpose of eliminating, of wiping out all evil. It is for the purpose of lifting the curse which has harassed man throughout human history.

But there can be no Kingdom until, that which our Lord has planed, is established. Those who are to constitute Kings and Priests

## Revelation 3:21.

in all the earth, cannot assist in establishing Christ's reign, until each one of them has been tested and found, has been proven worthy by positive trial. Jesus says:- "And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me." (Lu.22:29) If our studies continue through-out the Apocalypse we hope to show the greatest blessing the Laodiceans will receive, comes to them at the close of the Millennial period, when the reconciled world will be turned over to the Father.

However, let us not be dogmatic. Overcomers of the nauciating Laodicean group are promised a wonderful reward immediately in the resurrection, but have we a right to claim it on the authority of Rev.3:21 alone? Is this a safe practice?--Some theologians do not hesitate in using one text as authority for a fundamental doctrine. The danger of this lies in using a possible interpolation, placed in the Scriptures by the devil for the confusion of the household of faith. It is safer to prove Scripture with Scripture, if we would avoid confusion.

There are a number of tests illustrating this thought. Let us take Revelation 20:5 for example. "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection." This is clearly an interpolation as is proven by an inspection of the Syriac manuscripts covering this passage. Yet it has caused more argument, more dispute among Godly sincere Christians than almost any other text. But why the fuss? Verse four says there were resurrections during the Millennium. Then verse five says those raised to life at the close of this period are



## Revelation 3:21.

first. Statements like this do not make sense in any language. It is self evident there is a mistake somewhere.

In fact, the most reliable manuscripts do not contain the words, "The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished." Both the Syriac and the Coptic manuscripts omit this sentence. Many Greek manuscripts of later date omit this sentence as spurious and self-contradictory. One of them is, "Codex Cantabujiensis" of the seventh century, and "Vatican Manuscript #1160," of the eleventh century. At a future time we hope to present an exhaustive study on the 20th Chapter of Revelation. For the present we use this text to show how unwise it is to base a fundamental doctrine on one unsupported text.

Now we are interested in knowing what other texts of Scripture support the teaching of Revelation 3:21. That this teaching is a Divine purpose is shown by an Old Testament prophecy in the words:- "The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool." (Psa.110:1) In other words, "Jehovah said unto Adon (Jesus my Lord) sit thou on my right hand (sit thou along side me in my throne) while I make thine enemies thy footstool." This passage is referred to seven times in the New Testament. (Matt.22:41-46; Mk.12:36; Lu.20:42; Ac.2:34,35; He.1:13,10:13; 1 Cor.15:25) Thus Jesus is exalted above all, above every name that is named, and His faithful Laodicean Church will be with Him, as shown by Eph.1:20 & c.

Which he (Jehovah) wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead,

### Revelation 3:21.

and set him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

Most commentators agree that it is during the Millennium the Human race will be brought back to God. It is then the great reconciliation period will take place. All must know Him, "from the least unto the greatest." It is then the Scriptures show, Laodicean Saints will judge the world. This is partly shown by Revelation 20:4. - -

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the world of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

In speaking words of encouragement to His Church, Jesus says:—"I am the vine, ye are the branches." (Jno.15:1-19) The counsel of peace shall proceed from God's throne and be administered by Jesus and His Church as testified by Zech. 6:12,13:-

Revelation 3:21.

"And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The Branch: and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord: even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne; and the counsel of peace shall be between them both."

With such an High Priest, as Jesus our Lord, is there any reason to doubt? Should any of the Lacedaean Saints question or tremble with fear on the brink of any trial? It is the Divine Architect of the Universe who is doing this, and the Apostle Paul voices encouragement in these words:-

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: we have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched, and not man." (Heb. 8:1,2)

Yes "the saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever" is the testimony of the Prophet Daniel, - and then he shows that when harmony is restored on earth, the government will be turned over to the people who have learned obedience.

"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the

Revelation 3:21.

Saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him." (Dan.7:18,27)

When "peace on earth and good will among men" has finally been established, will Psalm 110:1 have reached its consummation? We believe so, and quote in support of our opinion:-

"When cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father: when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, 'till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all." (1 Cor.15:24-28)

Surely, the Laodiceans will be "partakers of the Divine nature." (2 Pet.1:4) Verily, our Lord's words ring true, - "I appoint unto you a kingdom, even as My Father hath appointed unto Me." As the Scriptures abundantly prove the Laodiceans will sit in the throne of God with Jesus, we know we shall be like Him. (1 Jno.3:2) This means every effort should be made to copy the Christ character in our daily lives. now, both in spirit and in act.

### Revelation 3:21

The proper spirit is that of meekness, of submission to the Divine arrangement, realizing that what is received, comes to us because of God's greatness rather than our own worthiness. "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you." (Jno.15:16) A lowly spirit our Lord will not despise. Each must put off his own will and put on the Divine will. Each must cheerfully be resigned to the experience. God's wisdom sees fit to permit. They must be affable and courteous in dealing with others, modestly remembering that what they have is a gift from our Father.

When meeting opposition from others, yield with good grace whenever possible, always holding Jehovah in supreme reverence, veneration and loving respect. With sanctitude of conduct, humble prostration of mind and profound devotion of spirit, let each hold his consecration as a sacred thing, a privilege of inestimable value.

The promise is, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I overcame and am sat down with my Father in His throne." In this word picture there is only one throne. It is Jehovah's throne. As Jesus overcame to the uttermost, the Father exalted Him to the highest place. As the Father was willing to share His throne with His Son, so now the Son shows the Father's spirit by sharing His part in that throne with the most faithful ones of the Laodicean Church irrespective of their sect or creed since Pentecost." "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches."

Revelation 3:21.

Dearly Beloved.

These promises are not made for the mere purpose of creating enjoyable reading entertainment, for those who are living in the trying, the exceedingly discouraging times now existing. These words contain something we can use. Our loved ones may not believe as we do, but God has a place for each one of them, as well as a very high, a very exalted place for each one who seeks to be foot-step followers of Jesus Christ. May each one seek to make the hope of God an anchor to his soul, for encouragement of himself, and others, through fog and storm, and through spring and sunshine.--

"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast within the veil; whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec." (Heb.6:19, 20)

To us there is one God, -- our Father in Heaven, -- and one Mediator between God and men, -- the man Christ Jesus, -- the Hope of the World. (1 Tim.2:5)

Cupertino Ecclesia  
Cupertino, Calif.

# *The Hearing Ear.*

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life! "He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches!"

(Jno.3:16; Rev.3:22)

We are now considering the last verse, the concluding words of God's seven great promises of future happiness for the world. All seven of these letters, one to each of the seven Church groups, conclude their message with these words, "let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches."

In the worldly beclouded religious conception, there are many sects which go to make up Christendom in our Gospel Age. The Catholics have their Jesuits, Dominicans, Franciscans and others. The Protestants have their Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists and others. These sects are made up of individuals, who will ultimately compose Christ's Kingdom, the Divine Government in the Millennial Age. Some of these individuals believe, their particular sect is going to save them, while those outside their denomination, will be eternally lost. Their hope is in their Church, when their hope should be centered in Christ irrespective of Church.

Isn't it unfortunate, that so-called Christ-

### Revelation 3:22.

ian people, cannot be more kind in their conception of other honest people. Creed-anity is not necessarily Christ-anity. There is nothing in the Bible which says, the members of any one sect or creed are to be saved, to the exclusion of all others. This wrong conception is called Babylon, in Bible symbology, meaning confusion. This is condemned. God gave His Son that the entire world, of all Ages of time, might have a chance to believe and live. This is not that just one religious sect might live. Jesus Christ, Jesus the Messiah is the only hope given any human being of any period of time. The only hope of any man, of any age, of any sect, of any creed is in and through Him. It is an individual matter.

Our present text contains a phrase used with the promise made each one of the seven Churches. "He that hath an ear." The significance of this statement is that of favoritism or priority for those who pay attention to the words of comfort and of encouragement, over those who do not listen to each particular promise our Lord is giving.

To hear, a person must pay attention. He must have a disposition to hear. He must hear-ken. Thus Job says, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee." (Job. 42:5) To those who heed the Divine admonition the Lord says, "Blessed are **your** ears for they hear." During the Gospel Age, those who have the hearing ear, have had a great advantage over the Prophets and Patriarchs of old, for we read: - "Verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things



## Revelation 3:22.

which ye hear, and have not heard them." (Matt. 13:17) Those Christians of the Gospel Age who have paid attention to the Word of the Lord, will readily recognize that each individual, of all the people of earth, from the beginning of human history, is represented in some one of these letters to the seven Churches.

Our first letter, our first message is addressed to that wicked, that profane, that idolatrous city of Ephesus. It deals with the change from sin and corruption in this life, to the life beyond the grave where each individual may be lifted up to a state of incorruption, a state of perfect manhood under perfect earthly conditions. Their change is to be accomplished through disciplinary experiences which will, under the blood of Christ, cleanse them and give them access to the Tree of Life, the Water of Life, the Bread of Life; and permit them to progress up the Highway of Holiness to the New Jerusalem itself.

Many Christian parents are deeply concerned over their wayward children. Let such consider God's plans as being bigger, better and higher than ours. His love for us and for our children is much greater, and more intelligent than ours. Such parents should study the hope and comfort God gives us in his letter to the Ephesians. Our comments may help some. While we have not covered this letter as fully as we would have liked, we respectfully urge the studying these comments, and using them in connection with your own findings. All men will have a chance, and this chance will be made permanent by each one cherishing, and holding fast the love of our Messiah, and His message of Truth.

### Revelation 3:22.

The letter to Smyrna is addressed to those who love righteousness, and choose righteousness for themselves, irrespective of their past knowledge or belief in Jehovah the Author of all righteousness. In the resurrection the Ephesian Church will compose the largest group numerically. Smyrna will be second in point of numbers. Doing right, being right, and loving right for right's sake, is their redeeming virtue. This virtue will be a fundamental requirement of the reconciliation period or period of restitution. This love, for that which is right is made secure through victories over adversity, persecution, affliction, and through the faithful adherence of each one, to the principles of right and righteousness. On such, who will then, to this extent, obey the beneficent rule of the Messiah, the second death will have no power. These will rejoice in their privilege of recognizing Jesus as their righteousness. Jesus Christ their Messiah, the hope of the world.

With a certain amount of ridicule, many worldly people point to the shortcomings and failures of nominal Christians. They use some worldly person as an illustration of how much ethically superior such an one is to the Church member. It is hard to show such that our Lord has chosen the mean things of this world to confound the wise. We have tried to explain these phenomena in our comments on the Smyrna Church. We trust that they have been helpful.

A still smaller group, than those who compose either the Ephesian or Smyrna Churches, is the one called, Pergamos Ecclesia, and pictures the future hope of the Jewish Nation. The blessings to this covenanted people are more the

### Revelation 3:22.

result of God's promises, than their own worthiness. It is because of His own promises, God will exalt this nation to an exceedingly high position in His Kingdom arrangement. As a nation they have failed, they have not been true to God. But because of His promises God will use this people as helpers to others who seek Him. Jews, as a nation, will owe their future exalted position in earth's affairs to Jehovah and Him alone. Otherwise they have no credit due them.

Faithful Old Testament Patriarchs will go to make up the Thyatira Ecclesia. These will be called the "Brass feet of the Son of God" in the next age. They attain this distinction because of their past recognition of the Divine arrangement, their loyalty to their God under adversity and their opposition to false teachings of the world. They will be the physical Kings, the physical Priests, the physical representatives on earth, of the reigning invisible Messiah. To clear understanding of the establishment of "Peace on earth and good will among men," this letter to the Thyatira Church, commends itself to our careful study.

Many times the question has arisen as to why our Lord has permitted evil, Why has God held back blessings our human race craves? Evidently the reign of Christ has been held back for the purpose of choosing His own servants. These are to be exalted, and placed on the spiritual plane of being. These must be trained in the school of experience. They must obtain intellectual understanding of God's plan to bless the world. God's command is, "Hurt not the earth - - - till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." (Rev.

## Revelation 3:22.

7:3) Those who have taken the name of Christ have Divine protection whether they know it or not, for we read:- "And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads." (Rev.9:4) The last three of these letters refer to those given intellectual appreciation of God's plan of redemption, during that period since Pentecost. They are given different degrees of exaltation in the Heavenly Kingdom. Their higher life is thru their acceptance of Jesus Christ, and according to their own knowledge, development, faithfulness. Theirs will not be a material inheritance, but spiritual.

Numerically speaking, the largest group to attain a spiritual life are called, "Least in the Kingdom of Heaven." They are called the Sardis Church. These are given white robes and picture the average Church member. If they keep their garments unspotted, they have much for which to be thankful. Many a pastor and religious worker has become discouraged concerning the spiritual life of his congregation. Such should study this Sardis message most carefully. He will obtain much encouragement in his work by so doing.

The Philadelphia Church is in a more exalted position than that enjoyed by Sardis. Numerically it is a smaller group. They are called the Bridesmaids of the Wife of the Lamb. They are pictured as holding palm branches of victory as well as wearing White Robes. As the Philadelphia Church comes up from the Sardis group, so they are told a certain number from their Ecclesia will be given the Laodicean Crown. They are gently urged to compete for

## Revelation 3:22.

these crowns. As the Philadelphia group include many whom all of us have known, and loved, and admired, we believe a study of this letter will prove most profitable.

Laodicea is sometimes called the nauseating Church, yet, the highest reward possible for Angels or men is given to this Church.

This reward is for the "more than overcomers," the "more than conquerors" of the Gospel Age. They are the ones whom our Lord has chosen for this high position. As this is true, the seven Churches properly designate seven grades of exaltation which will include the entire human race, from the wilfully wicked to those who are truly Saints of God.

Kingdom rewards increase in proportion to the apostacy with which they have to contend. The reward is not given to those who have not earned it. A certain one whom Jesus loved asked Him, "Grant that my two sons may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left, in thy kingdom." (Mt. 20:21) But Jesus could not grant her request. Their place had not yet been earned. The reign of Christ is one in which His Church will assist in extending His beneficent powers to, with and over others. In this, the chief administrators of God's legacy of love to the world of mankind will be these Laodiceans, seated with Him in His throne. (Mt. 19:28)

When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, all nations shall be gathered before Him. It is God who will have all men to be saved. Jesus died a ransome for all to be testified in due time. However we may consider

Revelation 3:22.

these promises, they describe blessings, privileges and exaltations which the natural eye has not seen, the natural ear has not heard, neither have they entered into the heart of man. These seven promises, these seven letters contain the most complete picture of future happiness for the Human Race found anywhere in the Bible. They picture the Hope of the World.

Again we quote:—"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein; for the time is at hand." (Rev.1:3)

This study covers, in part, the following general subjects.

The second death: - Rev.2:11,20:14; 21:8.

The new name: - Rev. 2:17; 14:4.

Authority over the Nations:- Rev.2:26; 20:4.

The Morning Star: - Rev: - 22:16; 2:28.

The White Garments:- Rev.3:5; 4:4; 7:9,13.

The Book of Life: - Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 20:15; 21:27.

The New Jerusalem: - Rev.3:12; 21:2,10; 22:14.

His Throne: - Rev. 3:21; 4:4.

Final Promises: - Rev. 2:11; 21:8.

Blessing to the world: - Rev. 2:7; 22:2,14.

Warning: - 22:19.

"Hope of the World."

= APPENDIX =

Texts, -

Some of which may be helpful in studying the seven last promises of our Lord to the Churches. These promises are not addressed to any one of the Churches, nor do they apply to any one period of the Gospel Age. They are specifically addressed to all the Churches throughout the Age. All of them are expressed in the plural.

Cupertino Ecclesia,  
Cupertino, Calif.

APPENDIX

The First Promise-Rev 2:7.

He that hath an ear -

Rev. 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22,13:9.

1 Cor. 2:9.

Matt. 11:15; 10:27.

Mar. 4:9

Luk. 8:8; 12:8.

What the Spirit saith -

Rev. 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22; 14:13,22:17.

Unto the Churches -

Mar. 13:37.

1 Tim. 2:14.

Rom. 16:4.

2 Tim. 1:4.

1 Cor. 7:17; 14:33.

2 Cor. 8:18,23.

Gal. 1:2,22.

Rev. 1:4,11,20; 2:7, 11,

17,23,29; 3:6,13,

22; 22:16.

To him that overcometh -

Luk. 11:22.

1 Jon. 2:13,14; 4:4;

Jon. 16:33.

5:4,5.

Rom. 3:4; 12:21

Rev. 2:7,11,17,26;

3:5,12,21; 6:2;

11:7; 12:11;

13:7; 15:2;

17:14; 21:7.

To him will I give -

Jon. 18:11.

Rev. 2:7,10,17,23,26,

Rom. 6:23.

28; 11:17,18;

Heb. 11:6.

21:6; 22:12.

To eat of the Tree of Life -

Matt. 12:33.

Gen. 2:9,17; 3:22-24.

Jer. 17:7,8

Rev. 2:7; 22:2,14.

Prov. 3:18; 11:30; 13:12; 15:4.



## Appendix

Which is in the Paradise of God -

Gen. 2:7; 3:1.           Luk. 23:43  
Eze. 31:8,9; 28:13.    Rev. 2:7.

### The Second Promise - Rev. 2:11.

Unto the Churches - See Rev. 2:7.

Shall not be hurt, (in nowise hurt.) Jon. 6:37.

Of the second death, (The lake of fire)

Psa. 49:12,20.           2.Chron. 33:6.  
Mat. 10:28; 5:22.       Isa. 30:33-called  
Luk. 12:4,5.             Tophet.  
Jon. 11:25-26;         Jer. 7:31-33.  
5; 28,29.               2 Ki. 23:10.  
Col. 3:1.                Mar. 9:48.  
1 Jon. 5:16,17.         Isa. 66:24.

Obedience is the price of life.

Gen. 2:17.               Mal. 4:1.  
Act. 3:23.               Deut. 18:18,19.  
Rev. 1:18; 2:10; 20:14,15; 21:8.

### The Third Promise - Rev 2:17.

Unto the Churches, - (Plural.) See Rev.  
2:7,11.

Will give of the hidden Manna.

Ex. 16:32-34.           Jon. 4:32; 6:32-35,  
Deut. 8:6.               51; 11:25,26.  
Psa. 78:24,25.         Heb. 9:4.  
Rev. 11:19.

## Appendix

I will give him a white stone.

Ex. 28:15,37,38, - A white diamond is not mentioned in this chapter.

Lev. 8:8.

Jer. 17:1.

Num.27:21.

Eze. 3:8,9.

Matt. 8:11.

Zec. 7:12.

Luk. 21:5,36.

1 Cor. 3:12.

Rev. 1:13,14; 1:5,6.

A new name written -

Isa. 62:2.

Gen. 17:5; 32:28.

He that receiveth it -

Isa. 62:4;65:15;

.Gen. 17:15.

62:12.

Matt. 16:18; 11:27.

Amos 9:12.

Rev.3:9; 21:1,5;14:1.

### The Fourth Promise - Rev.2:26-28.

He that overcometh and keepeth My works.  
(Obedience to the end is again the price  
of blessing.)

Power over the Nations.

Psa. 2:9.

Rev. 12:5.

Rev. 19:15.

He shall rule them.

Psa. 110:2; Pro. 8:16; Jer. 30:9.

Isa. 14:1-3; 32:1; 40:10; 42:4; 49:8,9;  
52:7;54:17; 55:3,5; 56:7; 57:13,14;  
59:20,21; 60:1,3,5,13; 61:4; 62:10-  
12; 66:1,10.

Jer. 1:10; 3:17,22; 21:12; 24:6; 30:18;  
31:31,33; 33:6.

Eze. 37:12-14,24,25; Dan.2:34,44; 7:27

Amos. 9:11,12,14,15; Mic. 3:1; 4:1-7;  
5:2; Zep. 3:8,9.

Zec. 4:6; 6:13; 8:3,20-23; 12:10; 14:4.

Mal. 3:18; 4:6. - Rev. 2:27.

## Appendix

With a rod of iron.

Mic. 7:16,17.

Job.29:8-12;40:

Psa. 72:9.

10-12.

Isa. 49:23.

As also I have received.

Luk. 22:29.

1 Cor. 15:1.

Heb. 11:10, 39, 40.

The Morning Star

Isa. 14:12.

Dan. 12:3.

Num. 24:17.

Matt.2:2; 13:43.

Luk. 10:18,20.

2 Pet. 1:19.

Rev. 22:16.

The Earthly phase of the Kingdom, together with the Saints who compose its earthly rulers, ends here. The Spiritual phase of the Kingdom is covered in the last three promises.

### The Fifth Promise—Rev. 3:4,5.

Thou hast a few.

(Few hearing the Gospel have accepted it.)

1 Cor. 8:6-8.

Did not defile their garments.

Jude 23.

Gal. 3:27.

Eph. 4:23, 24.

Rev. 7:9; 6:11;

7:13, 14.

## Appendix

In white raiment.

Matt. 17:2; 28:3; Mar. 9:3.  
Luk. 9:29.

Worthy.

Matt. 10:37. Luk. 10:26.

Shall be arrayed.

2 Chron. 5:12.

In white garments.

(White represents the effulgence of Divine light.)

Matt. 13:43. Psa. 104:2.  
Dan. 12:3.

In no wise blot out his name.

Jon. 6:37,39. Rev. 20:15.

From the Book of Life.

Ex. 32:32. Ezra 2:62.  
Neh. 7:64. Psa. 69:28.  
Isa. 4:3,4; 48:19. Ezek. 13:9.  
Dan. 12:1. Luk. 10:20.  
Phil. 4:3. Heb. 12:23.  
Rev. 13:8; 17:8; 20:12; 21:27.

I will confess his name.

Ezek. 44:9-14,17,18 Matt. 10:32.  
Mrk. 8:38. Luk. 12:8  
Rev. 19:14; 3:5.

## Appendix.

### The Sixth Promise.-Rev.3:12.

He that overcometh - (See Rev. 2:26)  
I will make a pillar.

This conveys the idea of permanency. Names may be blotted out. Candlesticks may be removed. Saul lost his crown to David. - 1 Sam. 16:1. - Judas was called to be an Apostle but lost his place to another. -- Acts 1:20-25: - Jews lost favor. Gentiles took their place. - Rom. 11:11-12.-

A pillar is a permanent part of a building. It is like a Priest. A consecrated Priest can never take back his consecration. He always remains a Priest though he may never become High Priest. Unfaithfulness meant death.

1 Pet. 2:5

Gal. 2:9.

Isa. 22:23.

Jer. 1:18.

1 Ki. 7:15,21.

Jer. 52:20.

The two pillars, Jachin and Boaz

1 Ki. 7:21.

Rev. 3:7,13.

In the Temple of my God.

Lu. 1:9.

Rev. 11:1,2; 21:22.

Jon. 2:19-21.

1 Cor. 3:16,17.

Eph. 2:19-22.

Rev. 21:10,22.

Rev.22:4.

Go no more out from thence.

Matt. 25:10.

Jno. 8:35; 10:28,29.

Write upon him the name of my God.

Rev. 7:3; 9:4; 14:1; 22:4; 1:6.

Name of the City.

(Jehovah - Shammah, - The Lord is there.)

## Appendix.

Eze. 48:35; Rev. 21:11,23; Phil.3:20.  
(Jehovah-Tsidkenu, - The Lord our Right-  
ness)

Jer. 23:6

Jer. 33:16.

The New Jerusalem, -

Isa. 48:2

Rev. 21:2,10; 22:5.

Gal. 4:26.

Heb. 12:26.

Which cometh down out of Heaven.

Rev. 21:2.

Mine new name.

Rev.19:12,13,16; 1 Cor.3:16; 6:19; 1 Pet.  
2:5.

### The Seventh Promise Rev.3:21,-

He that overcometh, to him will I give.-

Ex. 28:36-38.

1 Pet. 1:2.

1 Pet. 2:9.

Matt. 20:23.

Mrk. 10:40.

Jon. 17-22-24.

1 Cor. 6:2,3.

Eph. 1:4-11.

Heb. 8:3.

Rev. 22:5.

As I also overcame, -

Psa. 2:9.

Jon. 5:22,27.

Jon. 16:33.

Heb. 3:1,2.

Rev. 4:2,9.

Rev. 5:5.

## Appendix.

With My Father in His Throne, -

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 Pet. 1:10-12. | Matt. 19:28. |
| Mrk. 16:19.     | Rom. 8:29.   |
| Heb. 12:2.      | Heb. 1:8.    |
| Rev. 5:10.      | Rev. 7:17.   |
| Rev. 20:4-6.    | Rev. 22:1.   |
| Rev. 3:21.      | Isa. 55:8,9. |
| Isa. 64:4.      | 1 Cor. 2:9.  |

The last promise of our Lord to the Church, as recorded in Rev. 3:21 seems to be much more than was offered the twelve in Matt. 19:28.

### "WE ARE GOD'S CO-WORKERS"

1 Co 3:6-9, Diaglott.

What then is Apollos, and what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed; and to each as the Lord gave. I planted, Apollos watered; but God caused it to grow. So that neither the planter is anything, nor the waterer, but God who caused it to grow. now the planter and the waterer are one; and each will receive his proper reward, according to his labor. For we are God's Co-Workers; you are God's field; you are God's building.

Oh what a happy joy our day  
When the world is free from sin,  
And hear again the Angels say  
"Peace on earth, good will to men."

C. H. Gilson.



The world is now facing a time of chaos, a time of trouble such as was not since there was a nation. (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21) Beyond this condition will come the Hope of the World which we have been picturing. Those who use the Scriptural help we have been giving will receive a great blessing. Those who do not, will be less fortunate. This is the last of our present series, and we wish to thank each one of our readers personally, for your kind attention. May our Father in Heaven reward you according to your love and zeal through Jesus our Messiah.