

Accurately Handling the Word of Truth

Notes for Revelation 2 and 3

- A. We will compare Scripture with Scripture
- B. We will carefully follow the TREND LINE from Ephesus to Laodicea, mostly through the five churches who receive warnings from Jesus.
 - A. Scriptural study of subjects in Revelation 2 and 3
 - 1. **Balaam:** Numbers 25:1-3; 31:8-16. 2 Peter 2:1-16; Jude. Readings from Encyclopedias (see also *Nicolaitans*).
 - 2. **Jezebel:** 1 Kings 16, 21; 2 Kings 9. Readings from Encyclopedias
 - 3. **Eating foods sacrificed to idols, and committing adultery and fornication:** Numbers 25:1-3; Acts 15:1-29; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; 8; 10:1-33.
 - 4. **Coming like a thief:** Matthew 24:37-44; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4; 2 Peter 3:10.
 - B. Trends in Revelation 2 and 3
 - 1. The **lampstand** is not on the scene after the church in Ephesus. When the Lord addresses the angel of the church in Sardis, He has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars – but not the seven lampstands. The seven Spirits is referring to the Holy Spirit in relation with Christ governing the earth, not in relation to indwelling the Church. See Isaiah 11:2 and Revelation 5:6.
 - 2. To Ephesus, Smyrna, and Pergamum, “**he that has an ear**” is addressed to the whole assembly; while after Jezebel is admitted as a prophetess (Thyatira), “he that has an ear comes still more privately, at the end of the letter, after the overcomer has been singled out. The call to hear is issued after the remnant has been addressed, because only real saints will truly give ear to the Lord by His spirit. This is especially the case, with particular difficulty, when deadness holds most of the professors of Christianity.

3. As things proceed from Ephesus to Pergamum to Thyatira, the influence and damage of the false teachers gets greater:
 - Ephesus – does not tolerate false apostles and hates the deeds of the Nicolaitans
 - Pergamum – there are some – a minority - who hold the false teachings of Balaam and the Nicolaitans. Balaam tried to corrupt God’s people from the outside.
 - Thyatira - the false prophetess is teaching the assembly! She has great influence over the leadership of the assembly, and leads much of the congregation astray, having convinced them to live according to the false teaching. Jezebel married Israel’s king and took over the reins of power. Jezebel corrupted nearly all of God’s people from the inside.
 - Note: Balaam, the Nicolaitans, and Jezebel stand for the same common apostasy: eating things sacrificed to idols and committing acts of immorality.

4. The last four churches look toward the end - that is, to the closing of church testimony to give way to the kingdom.
 - Impenitent Thyatira is threatened with *tribulation*
 - Sardis, with *Christ’s coming as a thief* (after the true Church has been raptured)
 - Philadelphia, faithful though weak, has the *promise of the Rapture*, to escape all the trouble of the terrible hour that is coming
 - Laodicea is *spewed out as lukewarm, irrecoverable* -ending the history of the Church as Christ’s earthly witness.

5. There is a clear progression in the Old Testament references that corresponds to Old Testament history, particularly concerning the nation of Israel. From Paradise – to the wilderness [Balaam, manna] - to the Promised Land [Jezebel, David, and the Temple]

6. Our Lord's words of correction to the churches reflect an increasing imminence of His return:

Ephesus	Rev 2:5 or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place	
Smyrna	{none}	
Pergamum	Rev 2:16 or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them	
Thyatira	Rev 2:25 hold fast until I come.	
Sardis	Rev 3:3 I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.	
Philadelphia	Rev 3:11 ' I am coming quickly;	
Laodicea	Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock;	

7. The warnings get more severe as you move from Ephesus to Laodicea.
8. The promises to the over comer have increasing honor attached to them.
9. There is increasing apostasy in the “problem” churches – the remnant gets smaller and smaller.
- The remnant of believers:

Ephesus	Most or all the assembly	
Pergamum	The majority (“them” is the minority)	
Thyatira	A significant minority – “the rest”	
Sardis	A small minority - “a few”	
Laodicea	None or a handful – “if anyone”	

10. The relationship between Christ and the assembly gets more and more distant. In Ephesus He is walking amidst the lampstands, while in Laodicea he is completely outside trying to just get in.

Seven Churches Chart - <http://www.revelationbibleprophecy.org>

Name	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Period	31 A.D to 100 A.D.	100 to 313 A.D.	313 to 538 A.D.	538 to 1798 A.D.	1798 to 1833 A.D.	1833 to 1844 A.D.	1844 to end of time
Meaning	First or Desirable	Myrrh or Sweet Smelling Savour	Height or Elevation	Savour of Labour or Sacrifice of Contrition	Song of Joy or That Which Remains	Brotherly Love	A Just People or A People Being Judged
Description of Christ	Holds 7 stars and walks among the candlesticks	First and Last died and came to life	Has a sharp sword with two edges	Son of God Flaming eyes Bronze feet	Has the 7 Spirits of God and the 7 Stars	Holy and True Key of David Opens and Shuts	Amen, True Witness, Beginning of Creation
Christ Knows	Works, Toil and Endurance	Works, Tribulation, Poverty, Coming Trouble	Works, Dwell where Satan is	Works, Love, Faith, Service, Patience	Works	Works	Works, False claims, True condition
Praise	Not weary Test Teachers Hate Nicolaitans	You are rich	Hold fast My name Did not deny faith	Later works exceed first works	A few are worthy	Kept my words Did not deny name Endured	
Rebuke	Abandoned first love		Some Balamites and Nicolaitans	Tolerates Jezebel Won't repent	Works imperfect Seems alive but dead		Lukewarm, Poor, Blind and Naked
Counsel	Repent, remember Return to first love & first works	Don't fear be faithful unto death	Repent	Repent, Hold Fast	Repent, Remember, Awake and Strengthen!	Hold fast	Repent, Buy of me, Open the door
Warning	I will remove candlestick		I will make war	Sickbed, Great Tribulation, Death	I will come as a thief		I will spew thee out of my mouth
Promise to Overcomer	Eat from Tree of Life	Crown of Life	Eat Hidden Manna, White stone with new name	Rod to rule the nations, Give him the Morning star	White garments, Walk with me, Not blot out name, Confess name	Pillar in temple, Name of God, Name of city, New name	Sup with me, Sit with me in my throne
Summary	PURE	BLOODY	CORRUPT	DEATH	LACK OF FAITH	LOVE	LUKEWARM