

Revelation 3:1-22 **Letters to Sardis – Philadelphia – Laodiceans**

Sardis

1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write,

"These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars:

"I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.

3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent.

Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

4 You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

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

Philadelphia

7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write,

"These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens":

8 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

9 Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie — indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

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

Laodicea

14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,

'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked —

18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

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

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Sardis (red one) [Revelation 3:1-6]

Sardis is the capital of Lydia a Roman province in Asia, 28 miles NW of Philadelphia.

✠ 'These things says He who has the **seven Spirits of God** and the **seven stars**: [Revelation 3:1]

✧ This is a preview of the seven Spirits of God first before the Throne of God, and then transferred to the Lamb. [Revelation 4:5, 5:6]

✧ **Seven Spirits before His throne** represents the **seven spirits of God**, characteristics of the **Holy Spirit**. [Revelation 1:4-5, 4:5, 5:6, Hebrews 1:14, **Truth** John 16:13, **Holiness** Romans 1:3-4, **Faith** 2 Corinthians 4:13, **Wisdom** Ephesians 1:17, **Power** 2 Timothy 1:7, **Grace** Hebrews 10:29, **Glory** 1 Peter 4:14]

✧ Jesus is shown in possession of the **Seven Spirits of God** (the Holy Spirit) both here and in [Revelation 5:6]

✧ His right hand holding seven stars represents **Christ upholding the stars, which represent the angels or messengers of the seven churches**. [Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 18:35, 63:8, 138:7, 139:10, Revelation 1:16, 2:1]

✧ All are under the authority of Jesus Christ the judge of all.

✠ **I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead**. [Revelation 3:1]

✧ The Church at Sardis has a reputation of being a lively Church, full of activity, but Jesus knows the spiritual state of the Church and declares it dead.

✧ Outward appearance does not reflect the spiritual state of an individual any more than it does that of a Church.

- † **Be watchful**, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. [Revelation 3:2]
 - ✧ There is a glimmer of spiritual life still in the Church that needs to be strengthened before they die altogether.
 - ✧ The works not perfect before God is the lack of spiritual fruit.
- † **Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent.** [Revelation 3:3]
 - ✧ The solution to the problem is to return from the status of a social club, to the original doctrines of the Gospel message they first received.
 - ✧ Guarding doctrinal integrity and applying Gospel teachings in the lives of the believers will produce the fruit of the Spirit needed in their relationship with the Lord.
- † Therefore if you will not **watch**, I will come upon you as a thief, and **you will not know what hour I will come upon you.** [Revelation 3:3]
 - ✧ Those who live for self and are not expecting the Lord to come in judgment to expose and punish those in the Church who live in the flesh and not in the Spirit, will be caught unaware as by a thief in the night.
 - ✧ Those who are **watching** will not be caught by surprise. [1 Thessalonians 5:5-10]
 - ✧ The command to **watch** is emphasized by Jesus in His teachings. [Matthew 24:42, 25:13, Mark 13:32-37, Luke 12:35-46, 21:36, Revelation 16:15]
 - ✧ The Apostles taught the same concept. [Acts 20:29-31, 1 Corinthians 16:13, Ephesians 6:14-18, 2 Timothy 4:1-5, 1 Peter 4:7-11]
- † You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. [Revelation 3:4]
 - ✧ This verse emphasizes the meaning above, and demonstrates that even in Churches which are spiritually dead, God still has a remnant of faithful Saints who make up the silent minority, but are living the lives required by the Gospel message.
 - ✧ Only the truly faithful Saints are worthy to walk in the Kingdom with the Lord.
 - ✧ Others, no matter how great a show they make, are not worthy and will be left behind when the Lord comes to take out His Saints. [Matthew 24:40-42, Luke 17:34-36]
- † **He who overcomes** shall be **clothed in white garments**, and I will **not blot out his name from the Book of Life**; but **I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.** [Revelation 3:5]
 - ✧ Select security and promise for the faithful Saints who overcome the lures of the enemy.
 - ✧ Clothed in white. [Revelation 7:9-17, 19:14]
 - ✧ I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life. [Revelation 20:12]
 - ✧ I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. [Matthew 10:32, Luke 12:8]
- † **He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.** [Revelation 3:6]
 - ✧ The Lord is a gentleman and allows the reader or hearer to choose whether to listen to the teaching or reject it, but He encourages acceptance because the teaching is from the Holy Spirit to the Churches.
 - ✧ The message is to the Saints everywhere and includes the messages to all the Churches.
 - ✧ People are always called to choose to hear God or reject Him, God wants us to make the choice. [Hebrews 3:7, 15, 4:6-7, Psalm 95:8]

Philadelphia (brotherly love) [Revelation 3:7-13]

Philadelphia is a city of Lydia in the Roman province of Asia, 28 miles SE. of Sardis..

- † These things says **He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens** [Revelation 3:7, 14]

- ✧ He Who is Holy is an identification not found in chapter one of revelation, but is a reference to Messiah as prophesied in the Old Testament. [\[Isaiah 22:22\]](#)
- ✧ Jesus is Holy, set apart from sinners to do the Will of God. [\[Hebrews 10:5-7, Psalm 40:6-8, Amos 5:21-23\]](#)
- ✧ This verse identifies Jesus with Yahweh Elohiym and Yahweh Elohey of old, the Holy One. [\[Leviticus 11:45, 19:2, 20:26, 21:8, Revelation 3:7, 14\]](#)
- ✧ Jesus is true. [\[John 1:1-14, 17, 14:6, Revelation 3:14, 19:11\]](#)
- ✧ Keys of David which no one can undo, is a quote of: [\[Isaiah 22:22\]](#)
- ✧ **I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.** [\[Revelation 3:8\]](#)
 - ✧ The Lord has opened to them a door which no one can shut.
 - ✧ His reason, is because they have a little strength, which indicates their stand on the message of the Gospel as originally given to them.
 - ✧ They have obeyed the commandments of Jesus.
 - ✧ They have not denied the name of Jesus.
 - ✧ The Lord helps those who are faithful to His Gospel message.
- ✧ Indeed I will make those of the **synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not**, but lie — indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. [\[Revelation 3:9\]](#)
 - ✧ Gentiles who claim to be Jews are again referred to as the synagogue of Satan. [\[Revelation 2:9, 3:9\]](#)
 - ✧ On the Judgment Day when the Lord separates the saved from the unsaved, they will witness the Saints welcomed into His Kingdom [\[Matthew 25:34\]](#), before they hear for themselves the words, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting Fire prepared for the devil and his angels." [\[Matthew 7:23, 25:41, Luke 13:27\]](#)
 - ✧ At that point the unsaved will fall and worship the Lord in the presence of the saved, and they will know the certainty of the fact that the Lord loves the Saints.
- ✧ **Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.** [\[Revelation 3:10\]](#)
 - ✧ Faithful endurance to the end will result in the escape from the Great Tribulation which has the purpose of testing those who dwell on the earth.
 - ✧ This escape is often referred to as the Rapture of the Church as described in Scripture. [\[1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Zephaniah 2:3, Malachi 3:16-18, Luke 21:36, Romans 5:9, 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:4-9, Revelation 12:5, Matthew 24:30-42, Luke 17:34-36, Mark 13:26-27\]](#)
- ✧ Behold, **I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.** [\[Revelation 3:11\]](#)
 - ✧ The faithful are encouraged to **hold fast** to the original Word of Truth, the Gospel message. [\[Revelation 3:11, Matthew 7:21-23, 10:22, 24:13, Mark 13:13, Luke 6:46, John 8:31, 51, 15:1-6, 9-10, Acts 14:21-22, Romans 11:17-22, 1 Corinthians 15:2, 16:13, Galatians 5:1, Colossians 1:21-23, 1 Timothy 4:16, 2 Timothy 1:13, 2:12, Hebrews 3:6-8, 12-15, 4:1-11, 10:35-39, James 5:19-20, 2 Peter 1:10-11, 2:20-22, 1 John 2:24-25\]](#)
 - ✧ Their reward is in jeopardy of being taken away if believers yield to the deceptive doctrine of false teachers, hence the many warnings in Scriptures. [\[Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 23-24, 48-51, Mark 13:5-6, 21-22, Luke 17:22-24, 21:7-8, 2 Corinthians 11:12-15, Galatians 5:6-7, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, 1 Timothy 4:1-3, 2 Timothy 3:1-9, 13, 4:3-4, 2 Peter 3:3-4, 17, 1 John 4:1-3, Jude 1:17-19, Revelation 13:1-18\]](#)
 - ✧ We must be continually on guard against being deceived and led astray.
 - ✧ **His quick coming** is a reference to the closing of the book. [\[Revelation 22:7, 12, 20\]](#)
 - ✧ Its quickness is described like lightning. [\[Matthew 24:27, Luke 17:24\]](#)

† **He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God,** and he shall go out no more. [Revelation 3:12, 7:9-16]

I will write on him the **name of My God** and the **name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God.** [Revelation 3:12, 14:1, 21:9-27]

And I will write on him **My new name.** [Revelation 3:12]

† **He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.** [Revelation 3:13]

✧ The Lord is a gentleman and allows the reader or hearer to choose whether to listen to the teaching or reject it, but He encourages acceptance because the teaching is from the Holy Spirit to the Churches.

✧ The message is to the Saints everywhere and includes the messages to all the Churches.

✧ People are always called to choose to hear God or reject Him, God wants us to make the choice. [Hebrews 3:7, 15, 4:6-7, Psalm 95:8]

Laodicea (self rule) [Revelation 3:14-22]

Laodicea is a city of Phrygia, in the Roman province of Asia, 18 miles west of Colossae, 6 miles south of Hierapolis.

† These things says **the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:** [Revelation 3:14]

✧ The **Amen** – Jesus is the final Word of affirmation for all the revelations of God.

✧ **Faithful and True Witness** – The testimony of Jesus is totally reliable.

✧ **Beginning of the Creation of God** – All things that were made were made by Christ, so Jesus was the One who started the work of Creation and holds preeminence over it all.

[John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:15-18]

† **I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16** So then, **because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.** [Revelation 3:15-16]

✧ This is a typical condition of the great majority of people who call themselves Christian.

✧ Far too often, Christianity is a form of social gathering, rather than a deep-hearted relationship with God generating true worship of our Lord and Savior.

† **Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.** [Revelation 3:17]

✧ The people are so caught up in their social standing that they lack discernment of the heart of God, and how God views their attitude and behavior.

✧ The cares and riches of this life have made them unfruitful toward God. [Matthew 13:22, Mark 4:18-19, Luke 8:14, 21:34]

† I counsel you to **buy from Me gold** refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and **white garments**, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and **anoint your eyes** with eye salve, that you may see. [Revelation 3:18]

✧ The solution to the problem is to turn to God whole heartedly with diligent search for discernment through His revealed Word.

✧ To find the heart of God by study of His Word will open the eyes of your mind to discern the life Jesus has called us to, and restore fruitfulness in the heart of the believer. [2 Timothy 2:15]

✧ The Holy Spirit stands ready to assist us when we set our minds to search for truth. [John 16:13-15]

✧ As a result you will be rich toward God and worthy of His white garments of righteousness. [Revelation 3:5, 18]

✧ The eyes of your understanding will be enlightened to discernment of the hope of His calling and the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the Saints, the greatness of His power toward us. [Ephesians 1:18-23]

- ✧ This is a mental choice that is required of us to make.
- ✧ Only the treasures of Heaven can truly make us rich, clothed, and give us sight. [Matthew 6:19-21, 13:44, Luke 12:33-34, Colossians 2:2-4]
- ✠ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. [Revelation 3:19]
 - ✧ The rebuke from Jesus is evidence of His love,
 - ✧ The call is to become zealous (enthusiastic) and repent. It is our choice to make.
- ✠ **Behold, I stand at the door and knock.** If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. [Revelation 3:20]
 - ✧ The Lord is here and eager to fellowship with His people, but we must respond to His calling and invite Him in.
- ✠ **To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne,** as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. [Revelation 3:21]
 - ✧ Christ is inviting us to reign with Him in the Kingdom age. [Revelation 20:6, 2 Timothy 2:11-12]
- ✠ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. [Revelation 3:22]
 - ✧ The Lord is a gentleman and allows the reader or hearer to choose whether to listen to the teaching or reject it, but He encourages acceptance because the teaching is from the Holy Spirit to the Churches.
 - ✧ The message is to the Saints everywhere and includes the messages to all the Churches.
 - ✧ People are always called to choose to hear God or reject Him, God wants us to make the choice. [Hebrews 3:7, 15, 4:6-7, Psalm 95:8]