

Journey Through the Bible: Revelation

Session 7: The Church of Pride, Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6)

Disclaimer: Acts 17:11

The Apocalypse (Unveiling-*SINGULAR*)

- (1:19) Christ’s Instruction and Outline for the Book
- “Have Seen” Risen Christ (Ch. 1)
- **“That Which Is” The Seven Churches** (Ch. 2-3)
- “Hereafter” The Conquest (Ch. 4-22)

Promised Blessing to the Reader (1:3)

Letters to the Churches of Asia (Ch.’s 2-3):

Application:

- Local Churches with Local Church Problems
- Personal Challenges Within the Church
- Open Letters So that Every Church Can Learn
- Prophetic Insight into the Church Age

Areas of Meaning:

- The Name of the Church
- The Title Christ Chooses for Himself
- Commendation
- Concern
- Instruction
- Promise to the Overcomer
- Prophetic: History of the Church*

History of Sardis:

Σάρδεις – “Sardis” Lit. The Red Ones

- Ref. Sardis Stone or Sardonyx (Carnelian)
- Used on the Breastplate of the High Priest of Israel
- Used in Carving (Royal Seals)
- Formerly Precious Gem Now Common

Former Capital of the Lydian Empire (1200 BC)

- Founded Before 2000 BC
- City Renowned for Great Wealth and Trade
- Gold Mining & Red dyed Textiles
- Golden Lydian Stater (1st Minted Coin)

“The One Who Has the Seven Spirits and the Seven Stars...”

- 7-Fold Ministry of the Holy Spirit (Isa. 11:2-3)
- Source of Strength and Connectivity with God
- Empowerment for Ministry
- Seven Angles of the Churches in Roman Asia
 - “Messenger”
- Emphasis on Divine Authority and Mission
- Communion, Devotion, Discipleship, Worship
 - “Go and Make Disciples...”

Concern:

- “I Know Your Works...”
 - Worship, Discipleship, Missions, Evangelism
- “You Have a Reputation” (Lit. “Name”)
 - Alive: Active and “Among the Living”
 - Alt. “These things are said about you...”
- “You are Dead.”
 - The Quality has Declined (Coasting)
 - Emphasizing the Wrong Works
 - No Longer Working for God (Worldliness)
 - No Longer Devoted to God (Apathy/Tolerance)
 - The Church isn’t a Priority

Instruction:

- “Be Alert and Strengthen...”
- Remain Diligent in Matters of the Faith:
- Remember Your Accountability to Christ
- Be Watchful Against Temptation and Sin
- Be Diligent Against False Teachers
- Look For His Return

Instruction: “Your Works are Not Complete...”

πληρῶω – PIE’ro: Lit. Crammed

- Finished
- Duty Fulfilled
- Perfect
- “Ready to be presented...”

C. F. Mat. 7:21-23

Promise to the Overcomer:

- "There are a few..."
- A Faithful Remnant
- "not defiled..."
- Participated in Sin (Commission/Omission)
Ref. James 4:17
- "Walk in white because they are worthy."

ἀξιος – Axios: Lit. Due Reward

- Deserving
- Having Value
- (Worthy) Found to Be Suitable
"Have Been Made Worthy"
- Walk with Christ in White Raiment
 - Found Innocent (Without Spot or Blemish)
 - Declared Righteous Before God
- Name Written in the Book of Life
 - Cannot Be Removed
- Name Declared Before God and the Angels

Prophetic:

Church Prior to the Reformation

- Distracted by Politics and Money
- Disregarded Doctrine, Devotion, and Evangelism
- Monastic Orders Corrupted
- Grace Either Ignored or "Sold"

For Session 8:

- Read Rev. 3:7-13 (x2)
- Look for distinctives in this church.
- How important is a church that welcomes?
- How important is a church that loves (members & visitors)?
- Reflect on Personal Experiences.
- Journal and Discuss in Groups.
