
The Book of Revelation: Session 7

Revelation 3:1-13

YouTube: “Verse by Verse Teaching | Revelation 3:1-13 | Gary Hamrick”
(taught on July 8, 2020; 44:13 minutes)

Notes:

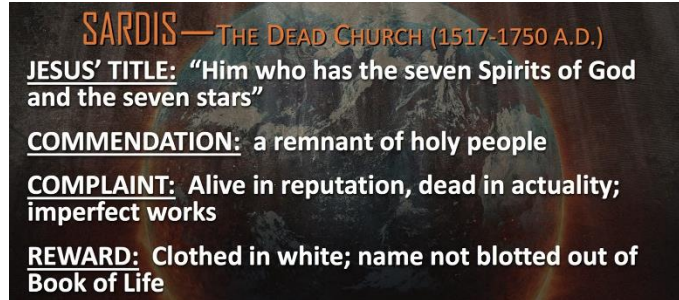
Sardis: (1) manufacturer of garments (2) large necropolis (cemetery)

“Sevenfold Spirit”: Isaiah 11:2

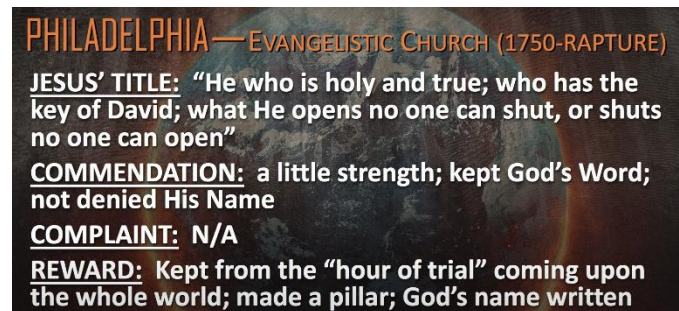
“God has always done great things ... through a small remnant of His people.”

“Activity does not equal vitality. You can be a very busy church, but be very spiritually dead.”

“Jesus is real. He is genuine. Jesus is true in all that He is. He is the real God and the real man. He is the God-Man.”



SARDIS—THE DEAD CHURCH (1517-1750 A.D.)
JESUS' TITLE: “Him who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars”
COMMENDATION: a remnant of holy people
COMPLAINT: Alive in reputation, dead in actuality; imperfect works
REWARD: Clothed in white; name not blotted out of Book of Life



PHILADELPHIA—EVANGELISTIC CHURCH (1750-RAPTURE)
JESUS' TITLE: “He who is holy and true; who has the key of David; what He opens no one can shut, or shuts no one can open”
COMMENDATION: a little strength; kept God's Word; not denied His Name
COMPLAINT: N/A
REWARD: Kept from the “hour of trial” coming upon the whole world; made a pillar; God's name written

“What He opens no one can shut. What He shuts no one can open”: Isaiah 22:22 → Jesus has authority and power, as the rightful heir to the throne of David.

“The time is right for another great awakening. Our world is getting crazier by the minute. ... And we need to be praying for that.”

Questions:

1. Read Revelation 3:1-3. Sardis believed itself to be impregnable, with its steep and well-fortified acropolis towering above the city. Consequently, if an opposing army sought to defeat her, she stationed very few guards on her walls – not a worry in the world. But twice in her history, the enemy found a way into the overconfident, sleepy city and defeated her. Here, Jesus tells, not the city, but the church to “wake up!” Likely, what has happened to this church that is only 3-4 decades old? What does Jesus tell this church to do, besides “wake up”?
2. Read Revelation 3:4-6. John MacArthur explains, “In the ancient world, white garments were worn for festive occasions, such as weddings. True Christians will wear theirs at the marriage supper of the Lamb. White robes were also worn by those celebrating victory in battle. All true Christians are victorious through Christ over Sin, death, and Satan.” Not only this, overcomers will not have their names blotted out from the book of life? What are your thoughts on this non-erasing of names?
3. Read Revelation 3:7-8. What are the implications of Jesus holding the key of David, opening and shutting doors as He wills and pleases?
4. Read Revelation 3:9-10. Pastor Gary indicated that verse 10 is strong evidence for a Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the saints. What are your thoughts on this? From an emotional perspective, what are the potential consequences of being Pre-Trib and Post-Trib, emotions we need to guard against, depending on our perspective?
5. Read Revelation 3:11-13. As you read these three verses, what word or phrase comes to mind for you, communicating how these truths and promises impact you?
6. After hearing Jesus’ words to these two very different churches on two very different trajectories, what is your take home? What is the Spirit saying to you?

Want to dig deeper? Engage with these sermons by John MacArthur, taught in 1992:

- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-11/sardis-the-dead-church>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-12/philadelphia-the-faithful-church-part-1>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-13/philadelphia-the-faithful-church-part-2>