

**Jesus Evaluates His Churches, Part 7**  
**Sardis – The Dead Church that has a NAME**  
**Revelation 3:1-6-- 03/20/2016**  
**NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP**  
<http://NLFJI.org/Teachings>

**Today's Study is on "the church of Sardis"**

**Sardis – "renewal"** (Turkish city of Sart (its previous name was "Sartmahmut" until October 19, 2005))

**REVIEW:**

**Our FOCUS** → Find out what Jesus Christ **Likes & Loves** and what Jesus Christ **Dislikes** and **Hates**  
**FYI:** There are Only 2 Churches in which Jesus Christ does NOT call to Repentance.

1. **Intro** --> The **Symbolic Picture of Jesus Christ** revealed and His Message **Intro** to the 7 Churches
2. Understanding God's **Hatred** regarding anything related to **Idolatry** and **Paganism**, etc.
3. **Ephesus** (Rev. 2:1-7) - **Lost Your First Love - Repent - Regain that First Love**  
Time Period Represents --> **From the Day of Pentecost** (Acts 2) until around **70 A.D. or so**
4. **Smyrna** (Rev. 2:8-11) - **sweet smelling incense, sacrifice** → characterized by **Christian Martyrdom**  
Beginning with the Jewish **Bar Kockba Revolt** - which led to the Persecution of Israel by the Roman Empire.  
Rome viewed "**Christians**" as a new **Jewish Cult**. So, it was under that same category at the beginning.  
Thus, the **Destruction** of the Israeli **Temple** in Jerusalem in **70 A.D.** was the **beginning** of the **seed** of the  
of the **10 waves** of Persecution by the Roman Empire against Christians – it was **LINKED to Israel**.  
Those **10 days of Prison** → represents the **10 Distinct waves of Persecution** by the Roman Empire →  
this is **the KEY that unlocked** the **Mystery** of the 7 Churches → **Each "church" Represents a**  
**Period of Time** within the Church Age. In the case of **Smyrna** → represents → **67 A.D. until around 313 A.D.**
5. **Pergamos** (Rev. 2:12-17) - **BAD MARRIAGE** --> Represents the beginnings of the **Roman Catholic Church ...**  
**313 A.D until around 529 A.D.** (go to <http://NLFJI.org/Per> for more)  
The Pagan Invasion and Integration after **Constantine the First** married the "church" to Rome.  
The **Grand Compromise** based on the "**Doctrines of Balaam**" → **Idolatry and Immorality**  
The **Nicolaitan Model of Leadership** was **Embraced** and Employed (Clergy, Cardinals, Popes)  
→ **Jesus HATES** Idolatry, Immorality and the Nicolaitan Model of church leadership.
6. **Thyatira** (Rev. 2:18-29) – **Royal goddess of Purple** --> 2<sup>nd</sup> Pagan/Idolatrous Phase of the **Roman church ...**  
**Represents** the time period of 529 A.D. to the 1300's A.D. (Dark Ages into the beginnings of the Middle Ages)  
Massive Integration of Paganism and Idolatry ("teachings of **Jezebel**") into the Roman church  
Mariolatry, Praying to the saints, "Christian Calendar" (which is really a Pagan Conglomerate Calendar that was  
"Christianized" by the Roman church), the rise of the **POWER** of Popes/Clergy → Nicolaitans continue.  
Tremendous amounts of much false doctrine assimilated and integrated. This will lead them to a "sickbed" and  
Jesus "striking Jezebel's children to 'death'". This leads us to Sardis, the DEAD church with a Name.

**Each church is connected and/or related to the next and/or to the previous church, as applicable.**

Ephesus becomes Smyrna → Smyrna becomes Pergamos → Pergamos becomes Thyatira  
→ Thyatira becomes Sardis. These are mostly **Direct** and **Progressive** connections and relationships.

**BUT**, this is where the **direct** connections **stop**. Sardis does **NOT** fully become Philadelphia. **YET**, they are related.  
Only, **some** of the "**children**" of **Sardis** become the "**seeds**" of **Philadelphia**, Prophetically and Historically. We  
will see this, next week, more about the "**Philadelphia Connection**".

For this week, we will look at **Sardis**.

**Revelation 3:1-6** → [1300's A.D. to the Present (from Middle Ages through even unto Today)]

Jesus said, "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 what 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."'

1. **“These things says Him who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars” (Rev. 3:1) →**  
→ This displays His Omnipresence and His Power over the Universe and the churches.

2. **Jesus immediately begins the Indictment/Judgment against them –**

“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**.”

Jesus lays out His condemnation against them and calls them to **Repentance**.

They are filled with **PRIDE** and **ARROGANCE** – **“I have a Name for Myself”** ... echoes of the Tower of Babel / Babylon (Genesis 11). The Direct Connection to **Babylon** in Pergamos (i.e.: Balaam) and Thyatira (i.e.: Jezebel). **Now**, we see the **FRUIT / RESULT** of this church having been so long into Paganistic Idolatry. The Fruit is always **DEATH**. They thought that they had a **NAME** – a **Worldly Recognized Name**

...

“... when you think of Christianity, you think of ME ...” that was their thinking

But, to God, they are **DEAD**. This is the **DIRECT Result** of “Jezebel” and her children being thrown onto a **“sickbed”** and having her children **“stricken with death”** by Jesus – see Rev. 2:22-23.

**FACTs of HISTORY:** In **1347** the **“Black Death”** or the **“Plague”** hit **Roman Catholic Europe** and millions were killed (“I will strike her children to death” Rev. 2:22-23). There is **NO COINCIDENCE**, here. **SARDIS** is **characterized by DEATH**. Having this Time Period start out with the **“Black Death”** or the **“Plague”** is **NO ACCIDENT of History**.

The **FRUIT of Rebellion** against God as seen in **Paganistic Idolatry** always brings Poverty, Tyranny, Injustice, Disease, Sickness, and Death (spiritually and physically). Think of some of the nations of Africa and of Asia. In those regions we find Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Shintoism, Confucianism, Taoism, Animism, and Atheism. These all have left a **wake of destruction**: wide spread poverty, Tyranny, lack of basic individual God-given rights, disease, sicknesses, epidemics, famines, injustice, and massive killings.

3. **Warning and REMEDY? – Remember, REPENT Go Back to the Beginning - Revelation 3:2-3 ...**

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 what 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**.

a. Jesus was seeking to Catch them before they were fully dead with no recovery (**ready to die**)

b. They were focused on “works” – Jesus is NOT. Their Works were Rejected before God

c. There were some things that they could do and had to do for their full recovery:

i. be watchful and strengthen what they have (i.e.: faith in Sound Doctrine, faith in Christ, simply)

ii. Remember what they received and heard, **Hold FAST** to that (i.e. The Word of God)

iii. **REPENT**: turn back, reject the paganism, false doctrines, pagan traditions, etc. that they elevated above God’s Word (just see the two points above)

d. The actual repentance by some, leads to the next church → Philadelphia → Protestant Reformation

e. Those that did not Repent, remains as **SARDIS**, to this day → The Roman Catholic church

→ “if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know the hour ...”

**This hints at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ ... not the Rapture – they missed out of the Rapture and were going to face Judgment at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ.**

4. **You have few names ... → Rev. 3:4 - 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.**

During this time period – especially during the 1200’s thru the 1600’s there were a **few** who only read the Word of the God. They only followed God, in Christ Jesus, according to the Word of God, **alone**.

They rejected the Pagan-rooted, man-made traditions and doctrines and **HELD FAST** to the Bible.

These folks became the **“seed”** for the Protestant Reformation, typified and exemplified in

“Philadelphia”. Persecuted Minority → The **Inquisition** → massive persecutions → **PROTESTANT Revolution**. These saints were NOT ashamed of Christ nor His Word ... “ ... I will confess his [their] name(s) before My Father and before His Angels...” (Rev. 3:5 – see also Matt. 10:27-33 & Mark 8:35-38)