

Jesus Evaluates His Churches, Part 9
LAODICEA – The Peoples’ Choice, Lukewarm, Compromising Church
Revelation 3:14-22 – 04/03/2016
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP
<http://NLFJI.org/MSGs>

LAODICEA – “the people choose” (Today, its archaeological ruins are near the city of Denizli)

It is being **Rebuilt, Today, in Turkey** - For some 3-D Panoramic views → <http://www.zmetro.com/?p=5055>

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 Ephesus **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** --> 2nd 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 (i.e.: “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**” (i.e.: the Plague – Black Death of Europe). a **DEAD church**.
7. **SARDIS** – The **DEAD Church** with a **Worldly Popular/Powerful Name** – she thinks she is alive, but she is **DEAD**
8. **Philadelphia** – The **Jesus-Gospel Church with Open Doors for the Great Commission** → **The Protestants**

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. Open Door for the Gospel Mission . . . → some of Philadelphia become **LAODICEA** – the Lukewarm, Compromising, Worldly “church” (**BABYLONIAN** or **JERUSALEM** Drift?)

Revelation 3:14-22 → [1900's A.D. onward] – The **Worldly, Compromising, Lukewarm Church**

“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.””

1. **‘These things says the AMEN, the FAITHFUL and TRUE WITNESS, the BEGINNING of the CREATION of God (Rev. 3:14) → Christ has to RE-INTRODUCE Himself ...**
 → Why does He introduce Himself like this to the church of LAOCIDEA . . . ?
 - **AMEN** (let it be, so be it – **Christ is the FINAL SAY on Everything**)
 - **Faithful and True Witness** (TRUTH, Faithful Truth, **Absolute Truth**) Faithful / Trustworthy
 - **The Beginning** of (the **Source** of, the **One who Began**) **the Creation of God**
 This church movement has a problem with Absolute Truth, Biblical Truth, and with Creation
 Is Truth **Relative** to this generation of folks? Do they have a hard time with God’s Word being the Baseline of Truth? **Do they question the Bible’s Accuracy regarding Science, History, and Morality?**

2. **“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.**
 Hot or Cold Springs ... when they mix in Laodicea ... it is horribly sour and distasteful
Hot → On-Fire → Ready to be used → Spreads like Fire → Useful, Cleansing, Purifying
Cold → Refreshing → Quenching the Thirst → Life-Giving
Lukewarm → First impressions? Mixtures, Compromise, wishy-washy ... ? Yucky?
Christ’s Reaction says it all → VOMIT ... not very flattering ... how’s that for an evaluation?

3. **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.**
 In their own way of thinking ... they were OK ... Worldly Acceptable ... Happy ... They are Relevant.
 Look at us, we’ve got it all together. All the fancy techniques, lots of money, our leaders have mansions, we have great “Vision” for the future of our ministries.
Gold Refined By the Fire – echoes to Smyrna and Philadelphia ... what they had to go through so that their Faith was Refined by the Fire of Persecution, Trial, and Tribulations of this world because of their Proclamation, Boldness, and Stand for Jesus Christ and God’s Word, the Bible. This is what happens when all you have is Jesus Christ and His Word, the Bible. **Your Faith is more precious, to God, than Gold.**
White Garments – represent God’s Rewards given to His Faithful Servants, who are in Love with Jesus. Clothed in the Righteousness of Christ (not naked, like Adam and Eve were)
Anoint Your Eyes – represents Humility, so that we can see what God wants us to see, based upon His Word by the Holy Spirit (the anointing). We can only come to that place when we are Humble in Christ.
As many as I LOVE, I REBUKE and CHASTEN. THEREFORE, BE ZEALOUS AND REPENT.
 This is Christ’ **last call** to the churches to REPENT - What are the Consequences of this Church NOT Obeying Christ and fully Repenting? This shows that He does LOVE them. Christ is also **Just & Holy.**

4. **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.” → the first Archaeological Item they found was the Door Frame of the church**
 Jesus is on the **OUTSIDE** of the Church Building, **knocking on the Door**, trying to get back in. He is a Gentleman, so He is knocking, NOT Barging IN. He is giving them time to REPENT.
How did Jesus End Up on the OUTSIDE? This tells us a TON about this Church (church movement).
 They are **SO FAR AWAY** from Christ and His Word, He has to **RE-INTRODUCE** Himself as GOD, the Final SAY (AMEN) in everything, as The Creator of all Creation, and as the Very Foundation of TRUTH, Absolute Truth. They think that they are ALL THAT ... super awesome Successful Ministry with 1000’s and Lots of Cash on Hand ... they have Compromised Sound Doctrine so that they did **not Offend Anyone . . .** so that they can fill the Pews.
They Compromised Sound Doctrine to Please the Itching Ears: Read 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4

For more study on your own → go to <http://NLFJI.org/LAO>