

## ***The Son of Man's Letters To His Bride (7 letters to 7 Churches)***

### **I. Review**

- a. The first “part” of the Book of Revelation is found in Revelation chapter one; John’s Calling to Prophecy About the End Times. The first “part” of the book of Revelation is important because it lays out the nature of John’s calling and the significance of the message he was called to communicate. Jesus unveiled himself as the glorious son of man to help John to see with clarity “the things which must soon take place” so that he could interpret those “things” clearly for the sake of preparing and equipping the entire body of Christ.
- b. Jesus reveals Himself as the Son of Man, highlighting 52 distinct aspects of His eternal identity in Revelation One (14 Titles, 10 Attributes, 28 Descriptions). As we lay hold of these foundational truths about the Son of Man, we are progressively transformed to be like Him. The Book of Revelation can not just be seen through the lens of Jesus the savior, Jesus the provider, or Jesus the judge, our cultural lens, etc. but through the lens upon which He revealed Himself to John in Revelation One.
- c. Outline of Revelation One – John’s Calling to Prophecy About the End Times
  - i. The Prologue – ***Revelation 1:1-3***
  - ii. The Greeting from John, and Blessing from Jesus – ***Revelation 1:4-6***
  - iii. An Oracle Related To The Second Coming of Jesus – ***Revelation 1:7-8***
  - iv. John’s Vision of His Friend Jesus, the Son of Man, on Patmos – ***Revelation 1:9-20***
    1. Jesus Sets the Stage for the End Time Drama – ***Verses 9-10***
    2. Jesus Commands John To Write Down What He Sees – ***Verse 11***
    3. The Revelation of the Glorious Son of Man – ***Verses 12-16***
    4. John’s Weakness & Jesus’ Glory – ***Verses 17-19***
    5. Jesus Interprets the Symbols – ***Verse 20***

### **II. Part Two: The Son of Man’s Letters To His Bride (7 Letters To Seven Churches) – ***Revelation 2-3*****

- a. In ***Revelation 2-3*** John receives 7 letters from Jesus to give to 7 real historic “citywide churches” in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey), which was a Roman province. At the time John received these letters from Jesus, the city of Jerusalem and the Temple there were already destroyed by the Roman army (70 A.D.) and the Jews had begun being scattered throughout the earth. Some of these Jews may have ended up in these 7 Churches in Asia Minor, but these 7 churches were comprised of mostly gentile believers. This was the beginning of the “time of the Gentiles” (***Luke 21:24***) a time where the Gentile Church would mature and thus provoke Israel and the Jewish people to Jealousy.

***(Romans 11:13-14; 25-27 NASB) “But I [Paul] am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Therefore insofar as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry 14 if somehow I may move my own people to jealousy and save some of them... 25 For I do not want you, brothers and sisters, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; 26 and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written: “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.” 27 “This is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.””***

- b. In Revelation One, John had seen Jesus, the glorious Son of Man, standing in the midst of “7 golden lampstands”, Which Jesus revealed to be the 7 churches in Asia Minor (**Revelation 1:11,20**). These “lampstand churches” we’re cities set on a hill (**Matthew 5:14**) that functioned as influential “revival centers” in the midst of the Roman Empire. The messages Jesus gave to each of these 7 churches had historical relevance (they actually meant something to those 7 churches) but also are relevant for the global church throughout history and today. In His letters to the 7 churches, Jesus gives instructions intended to be instrumental in preparing His Church to function as a bride after His own heart.
- c. In Revelation One Jesus revealed 52 distinct aspects of His eternal identity. In **Revelation 2-3** Jesus unveils another 85 distinct aspects of His eternal Identity (10 titles, 5 attributes, and 70 descriptions listed at the end of these notes). All together, **Revelation 1-3 highlights 137 distinct aspects of Jesus eternal identity that are meant to inspire the Church to know Him**. These 137 aspects of Jesus eternal identity are a small fraction of the eternal glory of Jesus!
- d. The Seven Church of Revelation – Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum (*Pergamos*), Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea.



### III. 5 Ways To Approach & Apply The 7 Letters

- a. **Historically** – Each letter was written to a specific local church and it had relevant practical application to that church. It’s helpful to observe the historical relevance of each letter because this helps us approach these letters in light of the original cultural context. These scriptures cannot mean something they wouldn’t have meant to these historical churches.
- b. **Universally** – Romans, Galatians, and Philippians were written to actual historical churches yet their messages transcend culture and generation, thus we’ve applied them to the “Universal Church” now and throughout history. Jesus’ 7 letters to these 7 churches should also be applied to the “Universal Church” now and throughout history.
- c. **Individually** – The 7 letters we’re written to apostolic leaders of the churches and were to be disseminated among individual believers. Each letter intends to provoke a wholehearted response in the lives of individual believers despite their age, gender, financial status, cultural setting, etc.
- d. **Corporately** – When local churches, and spiritual families embrace these letters and respond to their contents, not only is there a breakthrough for individuals but for the corporate body. These letters can challenge, exhort, and unify local churches in various places throughout the earth today.

- e. **Eschatologically** – The primary application with the greatest fulfillment is found in the eschatological (*eschatology – study of the end times*) application. These 7 letters prepare the church in the generation of the Lord’s return to prevail in the midst of the unique dynamics at the end of the age.

#### IV. Common Elements Included In The 7 Letters

- a. **The Formal Address** – Each letter begins with the statement **“To the angel [apostolic messenger] of the church in...”**. The Word “angel” in Greek is “*angelos*” meaning, messenger. While I believe that this term can refer to both a “heavenly angel” over the city and a human apostolic leader/messenger in the church, I believe it’s more relevant to the apostolic leader of each church based on **Revelation 1:1** (*Why would God give a message to an [heavenly] angel to give to John, to give back to an [heavenly] angel*).

**(Revelation 1:1 NASB) “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God [The Father] gave Him [Jesus] to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John”**

- b. **Specific Revelation of Jesus** – Each letter then begins by Jesus highlighting a specific aspect of His eternal identity (most of them from Revelation 1) that had special significance for each local church based on what they were experiencing and what Jesus communicated to them in His letter to them. Laying hold of Jesus’ eternal identity strengthens us to be whole-hearted in each season (Pray often **Ephesians 3:16-19** - *Pray to receive the Spirit’s power so that Jesus’ presence would be manifest in us, so we experience the fullness of God*).
- c. **Affirmation & Recognition “I know your deeds...”** – (In most of the 7 letters) Jesus pointed out that He see’s, He knows, and He cares about what they are doing related to their deeds (and other characteristics of each church). Two churches did not receive a corporate affirmation (Sardis, Laodicea), instead He communicated what moves His heart and How He wanted them to process in those things.
- d. **Correction or Rebuke “But I have this against you...”** – Jesus rebuked 3 of the churches because He loved them (**Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:5-11; Revelation 3:19**). It’s important to understand that His rebuke is not rejection; He wants the best for His bride. Jesus highlighted 3 main practices that He was against in these churches: Immorality, idolatry, and passivity. Two churches did not receive a correction, but were admonished to endure and be faithful (Smyrna, Philadelphia).
- e. **Call To Repentance or to Respond** – Jesus called each church to repent or respond to His correction or admonition. There was a necessary action for each church in order to be victorious in the season they were in. There was also an element of “warning”, where Jesus said “if you don’t repent [do these things I’m telling you to do] then there’s a consequence”.
- f. **Overcomers Promise** – To each church, Jesus gives an “overcomers promise” meaning, there’s a promise for the one who responds rightly to His message. The primary fulfillment of these promises takes place in the age to come, however they may also have present partial fulfillments. The idea of “Eternal Rewards” is huge throughout these letters.
- g. **Inclusive Appeal for Wholeheartedness “The One who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches”** – This phrase communicated the importance of the message and it’s invitation with “all with ears to hear” to respond rightly. The messages within these letters would have been passed around to different local churches, thus inviting the hearer (regardless of age, gender, financial status, cultural setting, etc...) to respond rightly.

V. Jesus' Letter to the Church in Ephesus

*(Revelation 2:1-7 NASB) “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: 2 ‘I know your deeds and your labor and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil people, and you have put those who call themselves apostles to the test, and they are not, and you found them to be false; 3 and you have perseverance and have endured on account of My name, and have not become weary. 4 But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Therefore, remember from where you have fallen, and repent, and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and I will remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. 6 But you have this, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will grant to eat from the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.’”*

- a. **Specific Revelation of Jesus** - “The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands”.
  - i. **Holds the seven stars in His right hand** – He holds His leaders securely in His right hand. We can be confident that He brings security, stability, and support by holding us in His hand.
  - ii. **Walks among the seven golden lampstands** – He is intimately involved in is church. He is not far off but desires to be in the midst all the church is doing. This is a subtle message to the Ephesian church saying, “I want to be involved in what you’re doing again”.
- b. **Affirmation & Recognition** – Jesus recognized their deeds, labor, perseverance, intolerance of evil people, endurance, and steadfastness (*you have not become weary*). Clearly the church in Ephesus was thriving in some areas.
  - i. Jesus also recognized that the Ephesian Church hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans (*as did He*). The Nicolaitans were followers of Nicolas (*Acts 6:5*), a deacon in Jerusalem who fell. 2<sup>nd</sup> century church leaders taught that the Nicolaitans believed a false grace message and indulged in immorality.

*(Jude 4 NASB) “For certain people have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into indecent behavior and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”*

- c. **Correction or Rebuke** – Jesus corrected the Ephesian church for “*leaving their first love*”. In Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, He charged them to “*love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love*” (*Ephesians 6:24*), yet only 30 years later, they had lost heart connection with Jesus.
- d. **Call To Repentance or Respond** – Jesus called them to respond to His rebuke in a 3-fold way: *Remember, Repent, and “Do the Deeds You Did At First”*. They were called to remember “what it was like at first” (simplicity in devotion), and change their priorities in order to do the “first things” again, meaning choosing the good part by sitting at His feet (*Luke 10:42*).
  - i. If they did not respond, the consequence was that God would “*remove their lampstand from its place*”, meaning He would cut off their influence.
- e. **Overcomers Promise** – Jesus will reward those who overcome by allowing them to eat from the tree of life, in the Paradise of God.

VI. Jesus' Letter to the Church in Smyrna

*(Revelation 2:8-11 NASB) “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this: 9 ‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the slander by those who say they are Jews, and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer.*

*Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11 The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.’”*

- a. **Specific Revelation of Jesus** – “The First and the last, who was dead, and has come to life”
  - i. The First and the Last – Jesus is the beginning and the end. He is the source of all things and has all authority. The Church of Smyrna was heavily persecuted so Jesus was reminding them that He is in control of all things despite what they face.
  - ii. Who was dead, and has come to life – Jesus experienced the painful sting of death and could sympathize with what the Church in Smyrna was experiencing (**Hebrews 4:15-16**). However, He also reminded them that He conquered death.
- b. **Affirmation & Recognition** – Jesus saw their tribulation and poverty (*They became poor under persecution*), yet He acknowledged that they were “*spiritually rich*”. He acknowledged the slander from fellow Jews and also those who denied the divinity of Jesus.
- c. **Jesus did not correct the church of Smyrna or call them to repent of anything.**
- d. **Call To Respond** – Jesus told the church of Smyrna that they were about to suffer even more than they currently did. Some would be thrown in to prison to be tested and they would experience a period of tribulation. He exhorted them to “*Be faithful until death*”.
- e. **Overcomers Promise** – Those who are “*faithful until death*” will receive a “*Crown of life*”; speaking of the authority they would receive in the age to come. Jesus also said, the overcomer will not be hurt by the second death.
  - i. Second death – the first death is the death of our natural body, but the second death is related to “being cast into the lake of fire” (**Revelation 20:6**).

## VII. Jesus’ Letter to the Church in Pergamum

*(Revelation 2:12-17 NASB) “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this: 13 ‘I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is; and you hold firmly to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 14 But I have a few things against you, because you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality. 15 So you too, have some who in the same way hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16 Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will wage war against them with the sword of My mouth. 17 The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows except the one who receives it.’”*

- a. **Specific Revelation of Jesus** – “The One who has the sharp two-edged sword”. Jesus revealed himself as the one who wages war against false teaching with the sword in His mouth (His words).
- b. **Affirmation & Recognition** – Jesus recognized that even under persecution and martyrdom, they held firmly to His name and did not deny faith. He called the place they lived the place where “Satan’s throne is”, meaning Satan had a stronghold in that city.
- c. **Correction or Rebuke** – Jesus highlighted that some held to the teaching of Balaam (another false grace message), which was characterized by allowing believers to participate in the pagan temple rituals including feasts and sexual immorality. They also held to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

- i. Balaam was an Old Testament false prophet who was paid by King Balak to curse Israel but when he opened his mouth He only spoke blessings over Israel. Balaam then advised the King to get the Moabite women to seduce the Israelite men to participate in feasts engaged in idolatry and immorality that would lead to God judging Israel. Israel was then judged and many died under God's righteous judgment.
- d. **Call To Repent & Respond** – Jesus simply called them to repent by stopping engaging in the teachings of Balaam and Nicolai. He warned them that He would quickly wage war against them with the sword in His mount if they did not repent.
- e. **Overcomers Promise** – Those who overcome would receive hidden manna, a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows except the one who receives it.
  - i. **Hidden Manna** – Could be literal manna from heaven, but is also talking about overcomers having a blessing of an increased capacity to delight and feast on the “hidden parts (deep things)” of the Word of God.
  - ii. **White Stone** – White stones were given to honor those who returned from battle. They would receive special privileges be honored among the community (like winning an Olympic medal).
  - iii. **A New Name Written On It That No One Knows** – When Jesus gives someone a name it unveils his/her character in a specific way. The fact that “no one knows the name except the one who receives it” speaks to the uniqueness of the name related to the individual overcomer.

#### VIII. Jesus' Letter to the Church in Thyatira

*(Revelation 2:18-29 NASB) “18 “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and feet like burnished bronze, says this: 19 ‘I know your deeds, and your love and faith, and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. 20 But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her sexual immorality. 22 Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. 23 And I will kill her children with plague, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. 24 But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you. 25 Nevertheless what you have, hold firmly until I come. 26 The one who overcomes, and the one who keeps My deeds until the end, I will give him authority over the nations; 27 and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are shattered, as I also have received authority from My Father; 28 and I will give him the morning star. 29 The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”*

- a. **Specific Revelation of Jesus** – “The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and feet like burnished bronze”
  - i. **Son of God** – Jesus highlighted His deity and authority over any false prophet
  - ii. **Eyes like a flame of fire** – Speaks to the refining nature of Christ. He will refine us in grace or judgment.
  - iii. **Feet like burnished bronze** – A symbol of judgment against sin.
- b. **Affirmation & Recognition** – Thyatira was affirmed in their deeds, love, faith, service, and perseverance. This is the only church that was recognized for both their love and service. Also, their

“deeds of late were great than at first”, meaning there was an increase in the quality and quantity of their ministry.

- c. **Correction or Rebuke** – Jesus corrected Thyatira for tolerating Jezebel, a false prophet (who was apart of the church there) that was leading believers astray to commit sexual immorality and idolatry. Those who tolerated her would participate in gentile feasts where they were actually worshiping demons.
- d. **Call To Repent & Respond** – Jesus begins his call to repentance by saying he gave Jezebel and those who tolerate her time to repent, and if they didn’t repent He would throw her on a bed of sickness and kill her children with plague, and those who tolerate her would be given into great tribulation (*not THE great tribulation*). To those who did not tolerate Jezebel and the “deep things of Satan”, He placed no burden on them and also called them to hold firmly until His appearing.
- e. **Overcomers Promise** – For those that overcome, Jesus promised to given them authority over the nations and then quotes *Psalm 2*, stating that the all authority over the nations belongs to Him. He also said, “I will give him (them) the morning star”. The morning star is Jesus (*Revelation 22:16*). This promise is talking about overcomers receiving increased revelation that leads to deeper relationship with Him.

#### IX. Jesus’ Letter to the Church in Sardis

*(Revelation 3:1-6 NASB) “To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, and yet you are dead. 2 Be constantly alert, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. 3 So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Then if you are not alert, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. 4 But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. 5 The one who overcomes will be clothed the same way, in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. 6 The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”*

- a. **Specific Revelation of Jesus** – “He who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars”
  - i. He who has the seven spirits of God – The all-encompassing ministry of the Holy Spirit. Jesus releases the 7-fold ministry of the Spirit to His people so that they may grow in maturity through fellowship with the Holy Spirit.
  - ii. And the seven stars – Not only does He hold the seven stars (messengers), He “has” them, they are His possession. God doesn’t just hold us in His hand out of obligation, but we BELONG to Him.
- b. **Affirmation & Recognition** – Jesus gave no affirmation for their faithfulness, besides mentioning that there were “few in Sardis who have not soiled their garments”.
- c. **Correction or Rebuke** – Jesus corrected them for having a name that they were alive, but were actually dead.

*(Titus 1:16 NASB) “They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.”*

- d. **Call To Repent or Respond** – Jesus called them to be alert (lifestyle of prayer), and strengthen the things that remain (remember your vision and go after it with zeal and strategy) that were dying (They

were about to miss out on the fullness of what God had for them). There was still work to be done in Sardis and God called them not to give up, but to complete the work. Jesus then said to “remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent”, He was holding them accountable to His correction.

- i. Jesus also gave a warning to them if they were not alert. He said He would come like a thief and they would miss “His coming”.
  - ii. Come like a thief – To Sardis might of meant “A powerful move of God”. The usage of the Greek word for “come” (*heko*) means to “come upon”.
- e. **Overcomers Promises** – Jesus said that, “those who have not soiled their garments, will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy”. Those who overcome will be clothed the same in way (representing their righteous acts [*Revelation 19:8*]) and will have their names not removed from the book of life. Jesus said that He would even confess their name before the Father and the angles.
- i. Having your name in the book of life and confessed before the father is about more than just salvation. Jesus will record and tell the story of those who persisted, overcame spiritual deadness, and walked in whole-hearted agreement with Him. He will celebrate our faithfulness and make it known to the Father and all of heaven.

#### X. Jesus’ Letter to the Church in Philadelphia

- a. **Specific Revelation of Jesus** – “He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens”
- i. Holy – God is entirely transcendent or entirely set apart and superior to all.
  - ii. True – He is reliable and true to keep all His promises. He’s a man of His Word.
  - iii. He has the key of David – He is the Son of David (*A military term – a superior king with unlimited resources*). The “key of David” is mentioned in *Isaiah 22*, where Eliakim was promoted in governmental leadership. Having the “*key to the house of David*” meant he could open and shut the doors of the royal resources.

*(Isaiah 22:22 NASB) “Then I will put the key of the house of David on his shoulder; when he opens, no one will shut, When he shuts, no one will open.”*

- iv. Opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens – Doors that Jesus opens cannot be shut by anyone, and doors that He shuts cannot be opened by anyone. This is the power of intercession, we cry out to God to open doors and shut others and the demonic can’t overcome Him.
- b. **Affirmation and Recognition** – Jesus acknowledged their deeds and said He opened a door before them, which no one can shut. He did this because, despite their weakness, they stood faithful to His Word and did not deny His name. Under pressure they did not F-O-L-D (*Fear, Offense, Lust, Deception*) to the circumstances around them.
- i. Jesus also mentions that the “synagogue of Satan” would come bow to their feet and He would make them know He loved the Philadelphian church. The Synagogue of Satan was made up of those who said they were Jews but were not. They walked in a spirit of accusation and considered the works of Jesus to be done by evil.
  - ii. Jesus also said because of their perseverance, He would keep them from (protect them in the midst) the hour of testing that was about to come upon them and the whole world.



- c. **Call To Repent Or Respond** – Jesus did not rebuke or correct them for anything, but called them to respond. He said, “I am coming quickly” and admonished them to “hold firmly to what you have so that no one would take their crown”. The crown is symbol for royal authority.
- d. **Overcomers Promise** – Jesus gave the overcomers in the church in Philadelphia a 7-fold promise.
- i. I will make them know that I have loved you (Revelation 3:9) - Jesus will vindicate His people and make known His zealous love for His church (*2 Thessalonians 1*)
  - ii. I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God (Revelation 3:12) – People will receive a permanent place of honor and authority in the millennial temple. Pillars functioned to beautify a building while also bearing its heavy weight. Pillars in the ancient world were set up to honor people.
  - iii. He will not go out from it (Revelation 3:12) – They would never have their position of authority in His temple removed.
  - iv. I will write on him the name of My God (Revelation 3:12) – Meaning we get to receive the reputation of God fully in our lives. We get to receive His love, desire, authority, friendship, etc...
  - v. And the name of the city of My God (Revelation 3:12) – Not only do these overcomers get authority in the temple of God, but also in the New Jerusalem.
  - vi. My new name (Revelation 3:12) – Get an increased revelation of Jesus’ name and nature as He functions as the king of kings in the millennial kingdom.
  - vii. Keep you from the hour of trial (Revelation 3:10) – Despite the end time shaking, and the pressure from the enemy, Jesus promises to keep His people protected in the midst of it all. The only other New Testament usage of this phrase “keep you from” is found in *John 17*. Jesus doesn’t protect the saints by removing them from hard times; rather He demonstrates His authority, power, and loving-kindness in the midst of tribulation.

*(John 17:15 NASB) “I am not asking You to take them out of the world, but to keep them away from the evil one.”*

XI. Jesus Letter to the Church in Laodicea

*(Revelation 3:14-22 NASB) “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Origin of the creation of God, says this: 15 ‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. 16 So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have no need of anything,” and you do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked, 18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to apply to your eyes so that you may see. 19 Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline; 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 will dine with him, and he with Me. 21 The one who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne. 22 The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

- a. **Specific Revelation of Jesus** – “The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Origin of the creation of God”
  - i. The Amen – The one who is true and will fulfill all He said He will do.

- ii. Faithful and true witness – He is reliable and true in His testimony. Whatever He says is true and accurate even if it exposes areas of compromise in our lives.
  - iii. Origin of the creation of God – Jesus was there “*in the beginning*” (**John 1:1**) and was apart of the creations of God. Jesus, like the Father is “uncreated”, there was never a time He did not exist.
- b. **Affirmation & Recognition** – The Church in Laodicea was not affirmed for their faithfulness.
- c. **Correction or Rebuke** – The Laodicean church was corrected for living in compromise that led them to being a lukewarm (*ineffective and half-hearted*) church. Because they were neither “cold” nor “hot” Jesus said He would vomit them out of His mouth. Jesus called out the false realities that this church was living in. They thought they were rich and wealthy and not in need, but they were really “*wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked*”.
- d. **Call To Repent Or Respond** – Jesus called the church to be zealous and to repent and then gave them 3 ways to respond to His correction.
- i. Buy from Me gold refined in the fire so you may become rich – Believers should invest in relationship with Jesus and thus become spiritually wealthy. When choose the “excellent things” that have been refined in the fire we acquire eternal wealth.
  - ii. Buy from Me white garments so that your nakedness will not be revealed – White garments are “the righteous acts of the saints” (**Revelation 19:8**). We can invest in righteousness in this age and it will transcend to the age to come. Being spiritually naked speaks to the shame of compromise and lack of whole-heartedness.
  - iii. Buy from Me eye salve to apply to eyes so that you may see – Clearly the church was spiritually blind. They thought they were rich, but were spiritually poor. Jesus wanted them to see the way that He sees, and expose their compromise, because He loved them and wanted them to repent.

***(Revelation 3:19 NASB) “Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.”***

- e. **Overcomers Promise** – Jesus promised His intentionality toward the Church and His eagerness to meet His church along with His willingness to fulfill all of our desires.
- i. I stand at the door and knock – Though He can “open all doors” Jesus, patiently knocks on the doors of our hearts and waits for us to let Him in.
  - ii. I will come in to him and will dine with him and he with me – Jesus wants deep fellowship with us, but we have to open up and let Him in. We have to stop our busyness cut off our compromise and give Him space to prepare a table for us.
  - iii. I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne – Fellowship with Jesus leads to positional authority in His Kingdom. We get a place on His throne to rule and reign from if we respond rightly to Him.

XII. 85 Distinct Aspects of Jesus’ Eternal Identity in ***Revelation 2-3***

- a. ***Titles (10): First (Rev. 2:8); Last (Rev. 2:8); He Who was Dead and Came to Life (Rev. 2:8); Son of God (Rev. 2:18); Holy (Rev. 3:7); True (Rev. 3:7); Amen (Rev. 3:14); Faithful Witness (Rev. 3:14); True Witness (Rev. 3:14); Beginning of the Creation of God (Rev. 3:14).***
- b. ***Attributes (5): Right Hand (Rev. 2:1); Mouth (Rev. 2:16; 3:16); Eyes (Rev. 2:18); Feet (Rev 2:18); Voice (Rev. 3:20).***

- c. ***Descriptions (70): He commissions to write (Rev. 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14); He holds the seven stars in His right hand (Rev. 2:1; 3:1); He walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands (Rev. 2:1); He knows all works, both good and bad (Rev. 2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15); He affirms faithfulness (Rev. 2:2-3, 6, 9, 13, 15, 19; 3:4, 8, 10); His name (Rev. 2:3, 13; 3:8); He corrects compromise (Rev. 2:4, 14-15, 20; 3:2, 15); He encourages wholeheartedness (Rev. 2:5, 10, 16, 25; 3:2-3, 11, 18-19); He judges the unrepentant (Rev. 2:5, 16, 22-23; 3:3, 16); He hates certain deeds and doctrines (Rev. 2:6, 15); He gives eternal rewards to overcomers according to their works (Rev. 2:7, 10-11, 17, 23, 26-28; 3:4-5, 9, 12, 18, 20-21); He gives access to the Tree of Life (Rev. 2:7); He knows all words (Rev. 2:2, 9, 20; 3:17); He knows all liars (Rev. 2:2; 3:9); He knows all future events and their purpose (Rev. 2:10; 3:10); He gives crowns (Rev. 2:10; 3:11); He protects from death (Rev. 2:10); He has a sharp two-edged sword (Rev. 2:12, 16); He knows where we dwell (Rev. 2:13); He knows everything about Satan's kingdom (Rev. 2:10, 13, 14-15, 20-22, 24; 3:9); His faith (Rev. 2:13); His faithful martyrs (Rev. 2:13); He gives manna (Rev. 2:17); He gives white stones (Rev. 2:17); He gives new names (Rev. 2:17); His eyes are like a flame of fire (Rev. 2:18); His feet are like fine brass (Rev. 2:18); His servants (Rev. 2:20); He gives time to repent (Rev. 2:21-22); He searches the minds and hearts (Rev. 2:23); His works (Rev. 2:26); He gives authority (Rev. 2:26-27); He received authority (Rev. 2:27); His Father (Rev. 2:27; 3:5, 21); He gives the morning star (Rev. 2:28); He has the seven Spirits of God (Rev. 3:1); He comes as a thief upon the unprepared (Rev. 3:3); His eyes are upon the righteous (Rev. 3:4); He walks with those who are worthy (Rev. 3:4); He gives white garments (Rev. 3:5); The Book of Life is His (Rev. 3:5); He confesses the names of overcomers before His Father and His angels (Rev. 3:5); He has the Key of David (Rev. 3:7); He opens and no one shuts and no one opens (Rev. 3:7-8); His decrees are irreversible (Rev. 3:8); His word (Rev. 3:8); His sovereign decrees are absolute (Rev. 3:9); He loves the saints (Rev. 3:9; 19); His command (Rev. 3:10); He gives supernatural protection (Rev. 3:10); He is coming quickly (Rev. 3:11); He gives position and authority in God's temple (Rev. 3:12); His God (Rev. 3:12); He writes God's name on overcomers (Rev. 3:12); He writes the City of God on overcomers (Rev. 3:12); He writes His name on overcomers (Rev. 3:12); His new name (Rev. 3:12); He has unmet desires (Rev. 3:15); Compromise in His people causes Him to vomit (Rev. 3:16); He knows the true state of His people (Rev. 3:17); His counsel (Rev. 3:18); He "sells" refined gold, white garments and eye salve (Rev. 3:18); He rebukes and chastens those whom He loves (Rev. 3:19); He stands patiently at the door and knocks (Rev. 3:20); His invitation is to anyone (Rev. 3:20); He indwells His people (Rev. 3:20); He dines and communes with His people (Rev. 3:20); He grants overcomers to sit upon His throne (Rev. 3:21); He is an Overcomer (Rev. 3:21); He sits with His Father on His throne (Rev. 3:21).***

### **Question For Discussion**

1. What was something that stuck out to you in this teaching?
2. How does this teaching mobilize you to pray? *(1 Peter 4:7 NASB) "The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer"*
3. Did this teaching bring clarity to a thought or question you had related to the end times?