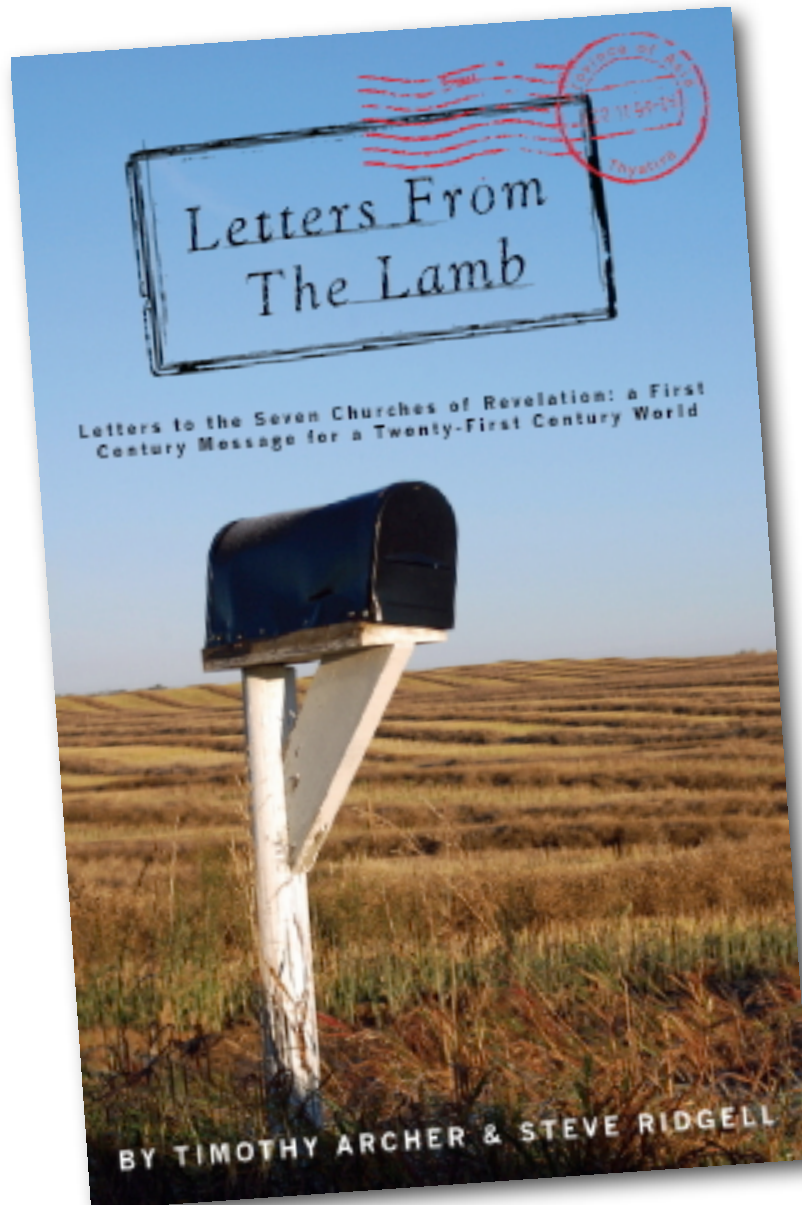


# Letters from the Lamb

by Timothy Archer

Lessons on Revelation 1-5, based on the book



PowerPoint presentations may be viewed here:  
<http://www.slideshare.net/cordobatim/presentations>

# Letters From The Lamb: The Lion, The Lamb and the Throne Room

## The scene:

- ◆ The open \_\_\_\_\_ **DOOR** \_\_\_\_\_ to heaven
- ◆ The \_\_\_\_\_ **THRONE** \_\_\_\_\_ with someone sitting on it
- ◆ The \_\_\_\_\_ **SCROLL** \_\_\_\_\_ in his right hand

## The scroll:

- ◆ Seven \_\_\_\_\_ **SEALS** \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ No one is \_\_\_\_\_ **WORTHY** \_\_\_\_\_

## Only one is worthy

- ◆ The \_\_\_\_\_ **LION** \_\_\_\_\_ of Judah
- ◆ The lion is a \_\_\_\_\_ **LAMB** \_\_\_\_\_ !
- ◆ The lamb has been \_\_\_\_\_ **SLAIN** \_\_\_\_\_

## The message for us

Jesus is worthy because \_\_\_\_\_ **SACRIFICED** \_\_\_\_\_

# Letters From The Lamb: The Lion, The Lamb and the Throne Room

## The scene:

- ◆ The open \_\_\_\_\_ to heaven
- ◆ The \_\_\_\_\_ with someone sitting on it
- ◆ The \_\_\_\_\_ in his right hand

## The scroll:

- ◆ Seven \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ No one is \_\_\_\_\_

## Only one is worthy

- ◆ The \_\_\_\_\_ of Judah
- ◆ The lion is a \_\_\_\_\_ !
- ◆ The lamb has been \_\_\_\_\_

## The message for us

Jesus is worthy because \_\_\_\_\_

## Suggested Interpretations

*throne in heaven with someone sitting on it*— this description reminds us of Old Testament visions of God, like those from Isaiah 6 or Daniel 7.

*jasper... carnelian... rainbow, resembling an emerald* — similar to Ezekiel's description of God (Ezekiel 1:26-28). The God who lives in unapproachable light can't be directly seen.

*twenty-four elders*— doubling of 12, the number of God's people. Probably a combination of the twelve tribes and the twelve apostles.

*seven spirits of God* — probably a reference to seven as perfection and completeness. The Spirit is one, but he is the perfect Spirit, represented by the number seven. Some see a reference to Isaiah 11:2, with the seven "Spirit of" descriptions.

*sea of glass* —the Jews (and Canaanites before them) saw the sea as the source of evil, full of monsters and demons. Evil creatures arise out of the sea in Revelation. This sea exists but is perfectly under control.

*four living creatures* —protectors of God's holiness. Their number varies from passage to passage. Isaiah saw six. Ezekiel saw four. There were two on top of the ark of the covenant.

*scroll* — this scroll is a message from God for his followers, the marching orders for the army of God. If the scroll is not read, God's plan will not unfold.

*Lion of the tribe of Judah* — Jacob described Judah as a lion's cub (Genesis 49:9). The traditional Jewish symbol for Judah was a lion.

*Root of David* — Isaiah 11:10 "Root of Jesse"

# Letters From The Lamb: The Revelation of Jesus Christ

## Prologue:

- 1) Concerning things **THAT WERE TO HAPPEN SOON**
- 2) From **HIM WHO IS, WHO WAS, AND IS TO COME**
- 3) From Jesus, the faithful witness, firstborn from the dead, ruler over all earthly kings

## Jesus' Qualifications:

- 1) Faithful witness: **MARTYR**
- 2) Firstborn from the dead: **HE'S BEEN THERE**
- 3) Ruler over all earthly kings: Jesus is the **TRUE DOMINANT POWER**,  
not Caesar

## John's Right to Speak

- 1) He shares with them in **SUFFERING**, in **THE KINGDOM**, and in  
**PATIENT ENDURANCE**
- 2) He has been a **FAITHFUL WITNESS**

## The Risen Christ

- 1) He is in **THE MIDDLE OF THE LAMPSTANDS**
- 2) He holds the **SEVEN STARS** in his hand.

## The message for us

- 1) **FAITHFULNESS** is more important than happiness
- 2) When the church faces trials, Christ is **THERE**

# Letters From The Lamb: The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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- 1) Concerning things \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) From \_\_\_\_\_
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- 1) He shares with them in \_\_\_\_\_, in \_\_\_\_\_, and in  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) He has been a \_\_\_\_\_

## The Risen Christ

- 1) He is in \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) He holds the \_\_\_\_\_ in his hand.

## The message for us

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ is more important than happiness
- 2) When the church faces trials, Christ is \_\_\_\_\_

## Suggested Interpretations

*Seven golden lampstands* — seven churches of Asia, representing all the churches (7 representing perfection, completeness)

*“like a son of man”* — Daniel 7:13; Jesus often referred to himself as “the son of man.”

*long robe, golden sash around his chest* — Exodus 28:4; 29:5,9. The robe and the sash were worn by the High Priest. Also used by the messenger in Daniel 10:5.

*white head and hair* — Daniel 7:9, like the Ancient of Days

*eyes like burning fire* — Daniel 10:6; piercing eyes.

*feet like glowing bronze* — Ezekiel 1:7; as opposed to the statue in Daniel with feet of clay.

*voice like the sound of rushing waters* — Ezekiel 43:2, like the sound of the voice of the returning glory of God.

*seven stars* — angels of the churches; heavenly counterpart of the earthly reality.

*double-edged sword* — Isaiah 49:2; Hebrews 4:12. The sword is a symbol of authority (Romans 13:4). Seen literally, it cuts and penetrates.

*face like the sun* — Exodus 34:29-35. The face of one who has been in the presence of God.

*the First and the Last* — Isaiah 44:6; 48:12; Rev. 1:8. Claims this title that refers to God himself.

*keys to death and Hades* — Matthew 16:18-19. Death and the grave could not hold Christ, nor will they hold his followers.

### Some “7s” in Revelation

**churches (1:4,11), spirits (1:4), lampstands (1:12), stars (1:16), seals (5:1), horns and eyes (5:6), trumpets (8:2), thunders (10:3), signs (12:1,3; 13:13-14; 15:1; 16:14; 19:20), crowns (12:3), plagues (15:6), bowls (15:7), hills (17:9), kings (17:10), beatitudes (1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14)**

**“Christ” appears 7 times**

**“Jesus” appears 14 times**

**“Lord” appears 21 times**

# Letters From The Lamb: Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7)

## Ephesus:

Most important city in Asia

Center of worship of goddess Artemis (Diana)

At least four temples of emperor worship

**PAUL** worked longer in Ephesus than in any other city

**TIMOTHY** ministered in Ephesus

Tradition says that **JOHN** lived in Ephesus for many years

## The Risen Christ:

He who holds the **STARS** and walks among the **LAMPSTANDS**

## The Hardworking Church

✦ The Ephesians have **PERSEVERED** through hardships for more than 40 years

✦ They have opposed false **TEACHERS** and false **DOCTRINE**

Acts 20:28-31

Paul's letters to Timothy

## The Forgetful Church

✦ But they have forgotten their **FIRST LOVE** and the **DEEDS THEY DID AT FIRST**

✦ They are about to lose their **LAMPSTAND**, lose their right to be called one of **LORD'S CHURCHES**

## The Hardworking Church

✦ Christians can (and should) hate the **ACTIONS** of those who **ADVOCATE SINFUL BEHAVIOR**

✦ Even while teaching love, Christ does not teach today's **"TOLERANCE"**

## The message for us

1) Good works and correct doctrine do not equal **FAITHFULNESS**

2) There is no substitute for **LOVE**



# Letters From The Lamb: Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7)

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Center of worship of goddess Artemis (Diana)

At least four temples of emperor worship

\_\_\_\_\_ worked longer in Ephesus than in any other city

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Tradition says that \_\_\_\_\_ lived in Ephesus for many years

## The Risen Christ:

He who holds the \_\_\_\_\_ and walks among the \_\_\_\_\_

## The Hardworking Church

◆ The Ephesians have \_\_\_\_\_ through hardships for more than 40 years

◆ They have opposed false \_\_\_\_\_ and false \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 20:28-31

Paul's letters to Timothy

## The Forgetful Church

◆ But they have forgotten their \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_

◆ They are about to lose their \_\_\_\_\_, lose their right to be called one of

\_\_\_\_\_

## The Hardworking Church

◆ Christians can (and should) hate the \_\_\_\_\_ of those who

\_\_\_\_\_

◆ Even while teaching love, Christ does not teach today's \_\_\_\_\_

## The message for us

1) Good works and correct doctrine do not equal \_\_\_\_\_

2) There is no substitute for \_\_\_\_\_

## Suggested Interpretations

*To the angel of the church* — In 1:20, Jesus told John that the seven stars that he held in his hand were the seven angels of the seven churches. Some feel that, since the Greek word literally means messenger, the “angels” are actually the elders or ministers of each congregation. However, it seems better to see this as the common understanding that the Jews had at that time, that earthly realities had heavenly counterparts.

*Holds the seven stars in his hand* — Domitian had a son who died as an infant. He had a coin made which depicted his son playing with the seven planets. The true deity, however, is Jesus; he holds the seven stars.

*Nicolaitans* — Ancient church history tells us that this was a short-lived sect, somehow connected with Nicolas of Antioch (Acts 6:5). Clement of Alexandria claimed that these people misunderstood a statement by Nicolas that “we must despise the flesh.” Apparently these people taught that matter is evil and only the spirit is good. Teaching that direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit was what mattered, they rejected the traditions of the Apostles. Revelation tells us that they taught idolatry and sexual immorality.

## Warning to the church in Ephesus

Acts 20:29-31

1 Timothy 1:3

1 Timothy 4:1

1 Timothy 6:3-5

1 Timothy 6:20-21

2 Timothy 2:14-17

2 Timothy 3:1-5

2 Timothy 3:12-13

2 Timothy 4:3-4

# Letters From The Lamb: Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11)

## Smyrna:

Most beautiful city in Asia

Competed with Ephesus and Pergamum for title of "first city" of Asia

At least four temples of emperor worship

Destroyed in the year 600 BC; rebuilt around 200 BC

Large colony of JEWS

## The Risen Christ:

The FIRST and the LAST

He who DIED and came to LIFE again

## The Rich Poor Church

✦ The church had already suffered PERSECUTION

✦ They were POOR because of it

✦ Jesus says they are RICH

## Satan's Synagogue

✦ The JEWS were especially hostile to the Christians in Smyrna

✦ They took an active role in the death of POLYCARP

## The Coming Persecution:

✦ The persecution would last a LIMITED time

## The message for us

1) We need to learn about TRUE WEALTH

2) We need to learn about LIFE AND DEATH

# Letters From The Lamb: Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11)

## Smyrna:

Most beautiful city in Asia

Competed with Ephesus and Pergamum for title of "first city" of Asia

At least four temples of emperor worship

Destroyed in the year \_\_\_\_\_; rebuilt around \_\_\_\_\_

Large colony of \_\_\_\_\_

## The Risen Christ:

The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_

He who \_\_\_\_\_ and came to \_\_\_\_\_ again

## The Rich Poor Church

✦ The church had already suffered \_\_\_\_\_

✦ They were \_\_\_\_\_ because of it

✦ Jesus says they are \_\_\_\_\_

## Satan's Synagogue

✦ The \_\_\_\_\_ were especially hostile to the Christians in Smyrna

✦ They took an active role in the death of \_\_\_\_\_

## The Coming Persecution:

✦ The persecution would last a \_\_\_\_\_ time

## The message for us

1) We need to learn about \_\_\_\_\_

2) We need to learn about \_\_\_\_\_

## Suggested Interpretations

*poverty* — could refer to the confiscation of their property during times of persecution (Hebrews 10:34).

*synagogue of Satan* — The Jews loved to call themselves “the assembly of the Lord” (Numbers 16:3, etc.) The word synagogue means assembly, so this phrase emphasizes that they are the exact opposite of what they claim to be.

*ten days* — a week and a half, something incomplete. This time of persecution will be limited.

*crown* — the Greek word used here refers to crowns which were given to winning athletes or conquering generals, etc. They used a different word for a royal crown.

*second death* — this refers to the punishment which follows judgment (Revelation 20:14). This death is eternal.

# Letters From The Lamb: Pergamum (Revelation 2:12-17)

## Pergamum:

\_\_\_\_\_ **CAPITAL** \_\_\_\_\_ of the province of Asia

Center of \_\_\_\_\_ **ROMAN GOVERNMENT** \_\_\_\_\_ and of  
\_\_\_\_\_ **EMPEROR WORSHIP** \_\_\_\_\_

Name means "citadel"; built on a hill 1000 feet above the valley below

## The Risen Christ:

He who has \_\_\_\_\_ **THE SHARP DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD** \_\_\_\_\_

## Satan's Throne

◆ Pergamum was the center of

\_\_\_\_\_ **ROMAN GOVERNMENT IN ASIA** \_\_\_\_\_

◆ The church had already suffered \_\_\_\_\_ **PERSECUTION** \_\_\_\_\_

◆ They had remained \_\_\_\_\_ **FAITHFUL** \_\_\_\_\_, even in the face of martyrdom

## The Compromise:

◆ Some held to teachings that would lead them to \_\_\_\_\_ **IDOLATRY** \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ **IMMORALITY** \_\_\_\_\_

◆ This seemed to be the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ **COMPROMISE** \_\_\_\_\_ with the surrounding culture.

## Repent!:

◆ Jesus threatens the \_\_\_\_\_ **VISITATION** \_\_\_\_\_ of judgment

◆ He will come with words that will \_\_\_\_\_ **CONDEMN** \_\_\_\_\_ them

## The message for us

1) Our \_\_\_\_\_ **CIRCUMSTANCES** \_\_\_\_\_ must not dictate the intensity of our faith.

2) There can be no \_\_\_\_\_ **COMPROMISE** \_\_\_\_\_ between the church and the world.

# Letters From The Lamb: Pergamum (Revelation 2:12-17)

## Pergamum:

\_\_\_\_\_ of the province of Asia

Center of \_\_\_\_\_ and of  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name means "citadel"; built on a hill 1000 feet above the valley below

## The Risen Christ:

He who has \_\_\_\_\_

## Satan's Throne

◆ Pergamum was the center of  
\_\_\_\_\_

◆ The church had already suffered \_\_\_\_\_

◆ They had remained \_\_\_\_\_, even in the face of martyrdom

## The Compromise:

◆ Some held to teachings that would lead them to \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_

◆ This seemed to be the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ with the surrounding culture.

## Repent!:

◆ Jesus threatens the \_\_\_\_\_ of judgment

◆ He will come with words that will \_\_\_\_\_ them

## The message for us

1) Our \_\_\_\_\_ must not dictate the intensity of our faith.

2) There can be no \_\_\_\_\_ between the church and the world.

## Suggested Interpretations

*sword* — the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12). This is confirmed in 1:16, where we see that the sword comes out of Jesus' mouth. Note that the Roman governor, who lived in Pergamum, had "the right of the sword" (see Romans 13:4), meaning that he had the power to put people to death.

*Balaam* — King Balak of Moab hired the pagan prophet Balaam to curse Israel. The Lord hindered Balaam from doing this. So, Balaam advised the Midianite women to seduce the Israelite men into idolatry and fornication (Numbers 25:1-2, 31:16).

*sexual immorality* — this term is often used in the Bible to refer to the worship of other gods. This use appears in Revelation 17:1-5 and 19:7-9. Since this worship often involved sexual acts, the use could be both literal and figurative.

*Nicolaitans* — Ancient church history tells us that this was a short-lived sect, somehow connected with Nicolas of Antioch (Acts 6:5). Clement of Alexandria claimed that these people misunderstood a statement by Nicolas that "we must despise the flesh." Apparently these people taught that matter is evil and only the spirit is good. Teaching that direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit was what mattered, they rejected the traditions of the Apostles. Revelation tells us that they taught idolatry and sexual immorality. [Some ancient writers connected the name Nicolas with Balaam, for the Hebrew words *bala'* and *'am* mean "he has consumed the people," as do the Greek words *nikan* and *laos*.]

*hidden manna* — Jewish tradition said that Jeremiah hid the jar of manna from the ark of the covenant (II Maccabees 2:4-8). This manna would be brought out in the time of the Messiah. Also, the Israelites were eating manna in the time of Balaam.

*white stone* — stones were often used as admission tickets to banquets. The color symbolizes the victory of the Conqueror.

*new name* — could be the name of Christ. Or this could refer to a renaming of those who conquer, like Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel, etc.



# Letters From The Lamb: Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)

## Thyatira:

Relatively UNIMPORTANT city

Center of INDUSTRY and TRADE GUILD ACTIVITY

## The Risen Christ:

PIERCING eyes and PUNISHING feet

## A Hardworking Church

◆ LOVE and FAITH

◆ SERVICE and PERSEVERANCE

◆ Doing more now than AT FIRST

## That Woman Jezebel:

◆ Reference to Old Testament queen who led the nation TO IDOLATRY

◆ Similar to the SINS of the Nicolaitans

## Promised Punishment:

◆ Jesus threatens PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT for the wrongdoers

◆ Will punish this “prophetess” and all who  
FOLLOW HER TEACHINGS

◆ Wants the churches to realize that Christ KNOWS and Christ  
REPAYS

## The message for us

- 1) There can be no COMPROMISE between the church and the world.
- 2) We must FLEE all forms of immorality

## Letters From The Lamb: Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)

### Thyatira:

Relatively \_\_\_\_\_ city

Center of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

### The Risen Christ:

\_\_\_\_\_ eyes and \_\_\_\_\_ feet

### A Hardworking Church

◆ \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

◆ \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Doing more now than \_\_\_\_\_

### That Woman Jezebel:

◆ Reference to Old Testament queen who led the nation \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Similar to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Nicolaitans

### Promised Punishment:

◆ Jesus threatens \_\_\_\_\_ for the wrongdoers

◆ Will punish this “prophetess” and all who  
\_\_\_\_\_

◆ Wants the churches to realize that Christ \_\_\_\_\_ and Christ  
\_\_\_\_\_

### The message for us

- 1) There can be no \_\_\_\_\_ between the church and the world.
- 2) We must \_\_\_\_\_ all forms of immorality

## Suggested Interpretations

*pure bronze* — it's thought that the guildsmen in Thyatira would have recognized this technical term which appears nowhere else in Greek literature.

*Son of God* — prepares us for the references to Psalm 2, where the Messiah is referred to as God's son.

*Jezebel* — refers to the Sidonian princess who became queen of Israel (I Kings 16:31). She led Israel to practice idolatry and immorality. Here she is a symbol for a false prophetess.

*those who commit adultery with her* — in addition to the reference to sexual immorality, we need to recognize the Bible's frequent use of "adultery" to describe the worship of other gods: Exodus 34:15-16, Deuteronomy 31:16; Hosea chapters 1-3; James 4:4; Revelation chapter 18; etc.

*her children* — probably spiritual children, those who have accepted her teachings.

*Satan's so-called deep secrets* — the Greeks had many "mystery religions," in which the "enlightened ones" came to know secrets that others did not know. A form of this crept into the church in what was called *gnosticism* (*gnosis* in Greek meaning "knowledge"). There seems to have been a form of that here. The teaching was that one needed to know the things of Satan to fully understand the things of God.

The question remains as to whether these people called them the secrets of Satan or whether that is a term which the Son of God uses ironically.

# Letters From The Lamb: Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6)

## Sardis:

\_\_\_\_\_ **GLORIOUS** \_\_\_\_\_ past, \_\_\_\_\_ **MEDIOCRE** \_\_\_\_\_ present

City was a naturally impenetrable \_\_\_\_\_ **FORTRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

Sardis was conquered three times, each time due to \_\_\_\_\_ **A LACK OF VIGILANCE** \_\_\_\_\_

## The Risen Christ:

Has the seven \_\_\_\_\_ **SPIRITS** \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the seven \_\_\_\_\_ **STARS** \_\_\_\_\_

## A Misunderstood Church:

✦ Everyone thought Sardis was \_\_\_\_\_ **DOING WELL** \_\_\_\_\_

✦ Jesus says they are \_\_\_\_\_ **DEAD** \_\_\_\_\_ !

## Five Step Prescription:

✦ \_\_\_\_\_ **WAKE UP** \_\_\_\_\_

✦ \_\_\_\_\_ **STRENGTHEN WHAT REMAINS** \_\_\_\_\_

✦ \_\_\_\_\_ **REMEMBER WHAT YOU RECEIVED** \_\_\_\_\_

✦ \_\_\_\_\_ **OBEY IT** \_\_\_\_\_

✦ \_\_\_\_\_ **REPENT** \_\_\_\_\_

## He Who Conquers:

✦ Will receive \_\_\_\_\_ **WHITE CLOTHES** \_\_\_\_\_

✦ Name will not be \_\_\_\_\_ **ERASED** \_\_\_\_\_ from the Book of Life

✦ Jesus will \_\_\_\_\_ **ACKNOWLEDGE** \_\_\_\_\_ his name before the Father and His angels

## The message for us

\_\_\_\_\_ **WAKE UP!** \_\_\_\_\_

# Letters From The Lamb: Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6)

## Sardis:

\_\_\_\_\_ past, \_\_\_\_\_ present

City was a naturally impenetrable \_\_\_\_\_

Sardis was conquered three times, each time due to \_\_\_\_\_

## The Risen Christ:

Has the seven \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the seven \_\_\_\_\_

## A Misunderstood Church:

◆ Everyone thought Sardis was \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Jesus says they are \_\_\_\_\_ !

## Five Step Prescription:

◆ \_\_\_\_\_

◆ \_\_\_\_\_

◆ \_\_\_\_\_

◆ \_\_\_\_\_

◆ \_\_\_\_\_

## He Who Conquers:

◆ Will receive \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Name will not be \_\_\_\_\_ from the Book of Life

◆ Jesus will \_\_\_\_\_ his name before the Father and His angels

## The message for us

\_\_\_\_\_

## Suggested Interpretations

*seven spirits* — Isaiah 11:2; seven represents completeness.

*reputation* — literally “name”

*come like a thief* — not only does this recall the way in which Sardis had been conquered, it is also the usual description for the suddenness of the coming of the Lord. This expression speaking of judgment, although found in other contexts in reference to the final judgment (Mat 24:42-44; 1 Thess 5:2; and 2 Pet 3:10), is here a reference to Jesus coming in judgment on the church in Sardis should it fail to repent. If it is necessary for Jesus to come in judgment on Sardis his judgment will have end of the world consequences for Sardis.

*soiled their garments* — been stained by the world.

*worthy* — Elsewhere in Revelation the word worthy is used once of God (4:11), and four times of Jesus (5:2, 4, 9, 12). Jesus was said to be worthy because he had been slain.

*dressed in white* — white is not only the representation of purity, it was also the traditional color of the conqueror. The symbol of being dressed in white robes is found also in Rev 3:18; 4:4; 6:11; 7:9; and 7:13,14. In each case the ones wearing these robes are those who have conquered, wear crowns of gold, who are crying out from the altar and who have been slain because of the word, and who have come out of the great tribulation. In each case those who receive such white clothes have offered themselves as martyrs for their faith.

*book of life* — cities in ancient times maintained a registry of their citizens. The book of life is the registry of the holy city (Rev. 21:27). The names were written there from creation (17:8), but can be blotted out. See also Exodus 32:32-33, Psalm 69:28, Daniel 12:1 and Philippians 4:3

*acknowledge his name* — Christ would recognize this person as his own, just as he promised (Matthew 10:32, Luke 12:8-9)

# Letters From The Lamb: Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13)

## Philadelphia:

UNSTABLE city, built in zone of frequent EARTHQUAKES  
NAME was changed twice (unsuccessfully)

## The Risen Christ:

The HOLY One, the TRUE One

Holds the KEY of David

## A Challenged Church:

- ◆ Church with little STRENGTH
- ◆ An example of PATIENT ENDURANCE

## The Open Door:

- ◆ What Jesus OPENS, no one can SHUT
- ◆ No one can keep Christians from their FINAL DESTINATION
- ◆ No one but THEMSELVES !

## He Who Conquers:

- ◆ Will be a PILLAR in the temple of God
- ◆ Will be MARKED as belonging to God

## The message for us

No one can keep us from the prize that God offers... NO ONE BUT US !

# Letters From The Lamb: Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13)

## Philadelphia:

\_\_\_\_\_ city, built in zone of frequent \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ was changed twice (unsuccessfully)

## The Risen Christ:

The \_\_\_\_\_ One, the \_\_\_\_\_ One

Holds the \_\_\_\_\_ of David

## A Challenged Church:

- ◆ Church with little \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ An example of \_\_\_\_\_

## The Open Door:

- ◆ What Jesus \_\_\_\_\_, no one can \_\_\_\_\_
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## He Who Conquers:

- ◆ Will be a \_\_\_\_\_ in the temple of God
- ◆ Will be \_\_\_\_\_ as belonging to God

## The message for us

No one can keep us from the prize that God offers... \_\_\_\_\_ !



## Suggested Interpretations

*key of David* — In Isaiah 22:22, the key of authority over Jerusalem was given to Eliakim, with the promise that what he closed would be closed and what he opened would be opened.

*those who live on earth* — In Revelation, this phrase generally refers to the worldly ones, those who are not members of the kingdom of heaven, those who live in opposition to God.

*pillar in the temple of my God* — here is another reminder that Revelation is not to be interpreted in a literal way, since Revelation 21:22 says that there will be no temple in the new Jerusalem. John knows that the new city and new temple will be composed of the lives of the saved.

*never again will he leave it* — a promise of stability and permanence to a people who knew what it was to live in an unstable city.

*I will write on him the name* — writing the name on indicates possession.

*my new name* — Jesus' name as conqueror. The world knew him as Jesus; they would come to know him as Lord.

# Letters From The Lamb: Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22)

## Laodicea:

\_\_\_\_\_ **PROUD** \_\_\_\_\_ city, refused imperial help after the earthquake in 60 A.D.

Militarily weak, her leaders were skilled in \_\_\_\_\_ **DIPLOMACY** \_\_\_\_\_

International \_\_\_\_\_ **BANKING** \_\_\_\_\_ center

Famous for \_\_\_\_\_ **WOOL PRODUCTS** \_\_\_\_\_ (outer garments)

Major medical center ( \_\_\_\_\_ **EYE** \_\_\_\_\_ medication)

## The Risen Christ:

The \_\_\_\_\_ **AMEN** \_\_\_\_\_

The \_\_\_\_\_ **FAITHFUL** \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ **TRUE** \_\_\_\_\_ Witness

The \_\_\_\_\_ **RULER** \_\_\_\_\_ of God's creation

## A Complacent Church

◆ Jesus says \_\_\_\_\_ **NOTHING GOOD** \_\_\_\_\_ about this church!

◆ They are neither \_\_\_\_\_ **HOT** \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_ **COLD** \_\_\_\_\_

◆ They are confident of their \_\_\_\_\_ **SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING** \_\_\_\_\_, but Christ knows otherwise

## Jesus Can Supply:

◆ To a \_\_\_\_\_ **RICH** \_\_\_\_\_ city, Jesus says "Come to me for wealth"

◆ To a city famous for \_\_\_\_\_ **CLOTHING** \_\_\_\_\_, He says, "Buy clothes from me"

◆ To a city famous for \_\_\_\_\_ **EYE TREATMENTS** \_\_\_\_\_, He says, "Buy salve from me"

## The message for us

We need to take our \_\_\_\_\_ **SPIRITUAL TEMPERATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

We must look to God for \_\_\_\_\_ **ALL OUR NEEDS** \_\_\_\_\_

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The \_\_\_\_\_

The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Witness

The \_\_\_\_\_ of God's creation

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◆ Jesus says \_\_\_\_\_ about this church!

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## The message for us

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We must look to God for \_\_\_\_\_

## Suggested Interpretations

*ruler of God's creation* — literally “the first of creation,” the idea being first in rank or importance.

*spit you out of my mouth* — literally “vomit” or “spew.”

*gold refined in the fire* — the Bible often compares the testing of one's faith to the refining of gold; Peter says faith is more valuable (I Peter 1:7).

*white clothes* — here again, the clothes of purity, the clothes of the victor.

*I stand at the door and knock* — here we have one of the most misused verses in the Bible. Evangelicals often use this verse to teach the concept of “receiving Jesus” to be saved. Yet this verse is not talking about how a new Christian receives Jesus. It is being written to Christians who have fallen away and need to get Jesus back into their lives. Not only does this verse not teach the evangelical concept of “receiving Jesus,” it speaks against the concept of “once saved, always saved.” Jesus is outside of the hearts of these Christians; if they do not let him back in, they will be lost.

*I will come in and eat with him* — the concept of the “messianic banquet” was common in Judaism (Isaiah 25:6). The New Testament refers to this theme several times (Luke 13:28-30, Luke 14:15, Revelation 19:9, 17-21).