

# \*Seven Letters to Seven Churches-B

Eschatology: Study of God Developing People in His Image  
Dr. Leon L. Sanders

- \* Means: Ruled by Women
- \* Only a few stones mark the location of this "city" so despised by God
- \* The "Three Tiered Steps" to destruction



## \*Thyatira

- \* Jezebel (Where is the prince?) in Old Testament (1 & 2 Kings)
  - \* Phoenician princess married to Ahab, King of Israel, influenced Ahab to abandon God which they had already done by substituting their own religion to keep people from going to Jerusalem
  - \* Introduced gnostic deities into Israel to blot out God; opposed by Elijah, eaten by dogs

## \*Jezebel Allowed

- \* Gnosticism relies on three major pillars (Re 1:18-32)
  - \* Changing truth of God for "truth" of Satan
  - \* Physical immorality - This "empowers" the lost and separates believers from Christ (1Co 6:15-19)
  - \* Spiritual immorality - Prevents realization of salvation and spiritual maturity to the saved
- \* This combination brings one to *know* the *depths* of Satan's, and one's, total depravity

## \* Jezebel Teaches in Church

- \* The prophetess of Satan who is allowed inside the church to destroy the gospel with her own *truth* that promotes Satan's lie: to be as gods
  - \* This is the Antichrist, the spiritual guide to the "true" god, just like Jesus and Buddha showed
- \* Hold fast to Christ to receive the "Morning Star" who heals, whom all believers receive

## \* Jezebel Prophetess

- \* Means: Come out or a Remnant
- \* This church no longer teaches Jesus' Gospel
- \* Dead philosophy devoid of even Gnostic spirituality - Atheist Church



## \* Sardis

- \*This is the Church that believes itself to be alive but in Christ's eyes - this church is dead
- \*This church has rejected the true gospel; thus, rejected the true Christ ("Formal" religions)
- \*There are a few people in the church who are saved, they need to come out before they too are overwhelmed by the "dead" religion

## \*Dead Church

- \*Those who do not forsake:
  - \* True Gospel
  - \* True Word - Christ and the Bible
- \* Receive white garments indicative of salvation
- \* Name that is written in the Book of Life
- \* Christ identifies with each believer before the Father

## \*Book of Life

- \* Means: Love of Brothers
- \* Only other church Christ does not criticize
- \* Church of true Jews persecuted by their brothers, the Judaizers



## \*Philadelphia

- \*This is the second church that Christ has identified as struggling with the Judaizers
- \*Synagogue of Satan - Jews who are NOT Jews in Christ's eyes
- \*The Judaizers cannot stop the true Gospel (Open door that cannot be shut)
- \*They will acknowledge the Savior they rejected

## \*Synagogue of Satan

- \*True Jews who accept(ed) Christ (Christians during the dispensation of First Fruits) of whom Jesus is the "first Jew" of the Jews
- \*The Judaizers who rejected (killed) Christ and who persecuted the Christians will bow to Him acknowledging Him as Lord, the true Jews as His people, and themselves as truly lost (Ph 2:9-11)

## \*Tale of Two Brothers

- \*This mirrors the Old/New Testament even into the prophetic portions of Revelation
- \*Woman who gave birth to Christ compared to
- \*Harlot of Babylon (Jerusalem) who aligned with Satan, until he no longer needed her and destroyed her
- \*Abel-Cain; Isaac-Ishmael; Jacob-Esau; Saul-Paul

## \*Tale of Two "Jews"

- \*Those who remain faithful
  - \*Pillar in God's Temple, never to leave it
  - \*Will be marked with God's name, saved (Yahweh)
  - \*Will be identified with the New Jerusalem (Sarah) (Ga 4:21-31)
  - \*Will be marked with Christ's "new" name - Lord (new to them)

## \*Cries Out to True Jews

- \* Means: People Decide
- \* Tyranny of the Majority does not lead to Heaven
- \* The Broad road of oblivion filled with sincere and insincere people looking to be gods marching to Hell



## \*Laodicea

### They Believed

- \* They were Rich
- \* They were Wealthy
- \* They needed Nothing

### They Were

- \* Wretched
- \* Miserable
- \* Poor
- \* Blind
- \* Naked

## \*Deceived, Lazy Believers

**Jesus' Response**

- \* Rebuke - Confront with the truth from His word
- \* Chasten - Confront with the consequences of one's error to return them to the narrow pathway to Heaven

**Believer's Response**

- \* Zealous for Jesus - Zeal for Christ's presence in your life consumes you, reforms you
- \* Repent - Return to the true gospel, inviting testing and tribulation that yields hope

**\*Curing Lukewarmness**

- \*This church has moved Jesus outside, is in danger of having no gospel, no truth
  - \* Christ is calling this church (believers) back
  - \* He did not reject them - They rejected Him
- \*Those who cling to Christ will share Christ's throne, have a meaningful place now and in His Kingdom (eternity future)

**\*Sitting on Christ's Throne**

**\* What Do The Churches Mean?**



- \* Jesus, through John, was warning the churches then, and through time, of the ongoing battle that will culminate in the Great Tribulation (near view) and the end of all ages (far view)
- \* This struggle has been occurring since Satan's fall and throughout this material creation AEB our own voluntary fall and ongoing love of sin

**\* Guides our Understanding**

- \* Gnosticism brings together "knowledge" from:
    - \* All cultures
    - \* All religions
    - \* All philosophies
- Unity Thru Diversity**
- \* Gnosticism combines political/government power with this knowledge to form a "perfect" society guiding man to his true "perfectionism"

**\* Gnosticism Uniting Man As One**

- \* Judaizers (Synagogue of Satan) are the vanguard (Tip of the Spear) against:
  - \* Christ
  - \* His Churches
  - \* His People - Christians
- \* True Jews will follow Messiah to salvation

**\* Judaizers in the Forefront**

- \* True believers will always be:
  - \* Persecuted
  - \* Weak in the flesh
  - \* Poor in the riches of the world
- \* True believers will only persevere in the strength of Christ, only in the truth of His word

## \* True Believers a Remnant

- \* This view is the only view that correlates with
  - \* Book of Revelation - Sets the tone between God's truth (Gospel) and Satan's lie (Gnosticism)
  - \* Bible - The shows this struggle beginning to end
    - \* Gospel and Gnosticism runs throughout the Bible
    - \* God's "people" who reject God become the worst enemies of the gospel (Judaizers, Carnal "Christians")
    - \* Believers preserve only in Christ (narrow path)

## \* Relevant to Entire Book



## \* Which Believer Are You?