

THE REVELATION
OF
JESUS CHRIST

Lesson 9

REVELATION 3

1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write



Wealthy city

Textile manufacturing

Dye industry

Jewelry trade.

Pagan city

Mystery cults, secret religious societies

TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS (Diana)



An aerial photograph showing the archaeological ruins of the Church of Sardis and the Temple of Artemis in Turkey. The Church of Sardis, a large basilica with a prominent apse, is the central focus. To its left is a semi-circular theater. In the foreground, the ruins of the Temple of Artemis are visible, including several standing columns. The site is surrounded by a mix of green fields, olive groves, and a small town with red-roofed houses in the background. A paved road runs along the left side of the ruins. The sky is clear and blue.

ORIGINAL SIGHT OF THE CHURCH
OF SARDIS

TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS
(Diana)

CHURCH OF EPHESUS

"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, `These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands.

CHURCH OF SMYRNA

`These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life.

CHURCH OF PERGAMOS

These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword.

CHURCH OF THYATIRA

These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass.

CHURCH OF SARDIS

1 "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.

UNMIXED MESSAGE. NO COMMENDATION

(rebuke and censor)

People of Sardis:

IDOLATERS

Mother goddess Cybele of the Phrygians

Fertility, nature, wildlife, animals, mountains

Symbols: mountains, lions, hawks.

Diana (Artemis) is a Greek goddess who incorporated

Elements of Cybele's worship in her role as a fertility
goddess

Change in address to the church in Sardis:

No commendation

Words of condemnation

1 "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.

REVELATION 1

4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

THE HOLY SPIRIT BEFORE THE THRONE

REVELATION 3

1 "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.

THE HOLY SPIRIT RESTING UPON CHRIST

ISAIAH 11

2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

3 His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;

4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And
decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike
the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of
His lips He shall slay the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And
faithfulness the belt of His waist.

The Spirit of the Lord
coming and
resting upon Christ

MARK 1

10 And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.

REVELATION 5

6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, **having (holding)** seven horns (perfect power) and seven eyes (perfect vision), which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

SEVEN SPIRITS

Qualities to insure the righteous judgement of the wicked

SEVEN STARS

REVELATION 1

20 "The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

THE SEVEN STARS

Seven church leaders

Responsible to no human representative

DIRECT ACCOUNT TO THE LORD HIMSELF

REVELATION 3

1 "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 (see) your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead (nekros).

"CONSIDERED A SPIRITUAL CHURCH"

Effective ministry and good testimony

DEAD:

More concerned with forms

Systems

Material things

than...

LOVE FOR JESUS

INDICTMENT:

2 "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect (complete, not fulfilled) before God.

WARNING

3 "Remember therefore how 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.

There were some who still had true spiritual life

“Be watchful, and strengthen (make stable, firm) the things
which remain”

3 "Remember therefore how 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.

SARDIS

High above the valley of Hermus

Surrounded by deep cliffs

(impossible to climb)

1500 ft.







VALLEY OF HERMUS

549 BC

King Cyrus of Persia

14 day siege

Scaled the cliffs under the cover of darkness

Used camels to disrupt the Lydian cavalry

(The impregnable Sardis)

The impregnable Sardis

Guards became careless in their duties

Did not watch

Surrounded by high cliffs on three sides

EXPOSED ON ONE SIDE

The impregnable Sardis
Guards became careless in their duties
Did not watch

CLIFFS OF CLAY

Rains made openings
Careless soldier dropped helmet
At night, enemies attacked and conquered exposed
areas

214 BC

Antiochus the Great

Conquered the city by the same method

Strategic alliance with king Achaeus

City of Sardis on the valley

Citadel was on the mountain

(strongest place on the world)

Be watchfull, vigilant

Strengthen the things which remain

REMEMBER

The truth they had received and heard

(learn from the past)

Hold fast and do not turn away

WARNING:

3 "Remember therefore how 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.

UNEXPECTED

SUDDEN

IRREVOCABLE

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.

OVERCOME:

“nikao”

Conquer, carry off the victory

PREVAIL

JOHN 16

33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will¹ have tribulation; but be of good cheer, **I have overcome the world.**"

ROMANS 12

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1 JOHN 2

14 I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.

1 JOHN 5

4 For whatever is born of God **overcomes the world**. And this is **the victory that has overcome the world**-- our faith.

5 Who is he who **overcomes the world**, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 JOHN 5

5 Who is he who **overcomes the world**, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

REVELATION 12

11 "And they **overcame him** by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

REVELATION 17

14 "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will **overcome them**, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

REVELATION 21

7 "He who **overcomes** shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

6 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to
the churches."

WORD TO A GODLY REMNANT

Overcomers

Clothed in white raiment

EXPRESSION OF SERVICE AND CHARACTER

PURITY

ACCEPTANCE BEFORE GOD

REVELATION 7

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

REVELATION 7

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

REVELATION 19

7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

WHITE ROBES

“Not defiled”

WORTHY TO WALK WITH CHRIST

5 "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out (wash away, erase, wiped out) his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

SIGNS FROM SARDIS

1. Is the church more concerned with boosting its own image than God's?
2. Does the church leave Christ's agenda "unfinished" to pursue their own?
3. Are the messages from the pulpit human-centered or truth-centered?

4. Does the church encourage repentance?

5. Are church gatherings marked by an atmosphere of spiritual lethargy?

THE CHURCH AFTER REFORMATION

Denominations

Religious wars

Divisions

