



Revelation 3:1-6

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*Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?
The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel
together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us
break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us."*

*He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in
derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in
His deep displeasure: "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion." -
Psalm 2:1-6 (NKJV)*

Class notes, info & Directory posted to www.SJCalvaryBerean.com or scan the QR code



- i. Some stats re the UNIQUENESS of our current temporary home God created for us:
 - a. The Sun's distance from Earth is 400 times the Moon's distance from the Earth
 - b. The Sun's diameter is 400 times larger than the Moon's diameter
 - c. This ratio provides a less than 1% deviation & a very unique platform to observe from
 - d. This unique ratio is calculated to occur only 1 in 10^{37} planets
 - e. Photographs of a 1919 solar eclipse proved Einstein's theory of general relativity
 - f. God has designed a very special 'observation platform' for us to explore His universe
 - ii. **Understanding The Times:** Jan Markell interviews author & Podcast host Carl Teichrib. There are shadows of a one-world religion today in Burning Man, Paganicon, and Parliament of World Religions. Jan and Carl have attended one or all and report how desperate people are trying to be "as gods" while looking inward. This is the new global spirituality. Also discussed:
 - a. What are 'Transformational events'? How are these events creeping into the Church? What are "Earth Religions"? How Paganism is becoming mainstreamed; How the church is losing members to neopaganism.
 - b. **OliveTreeViews:** <https://bit.ly/31WMM0s> **YouTube:** <https://tinyurl.com/577788zk>
 - iii. **Amir Tsarfati Weekly Newsletter** - Newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/353scnem>
 - iv. **Curtis Bowers Weekly Agenda:** "The Depopulation Cult is Alive & Well": <https://tinyurl.com/2bfp7mb5>
 - v. **God continues to unfold Biblical Prophecy & fulfill HIS plan:** <https://tinyurl.com/42xfyfht>
- II. **A Reading of Revelation 3 a Study of The Church at Sardis**
- a. **The Church of Sardis**
 - i. Known for its softness & luxury. It had a well-deserved reputation for apathy and immorality.
 - ii. Home to a large, stately temple to the 'mother goddess', Cybele (Sy-bell)
 - iii. Cybele was honored and worshipped with all kinds of sexual immorality and impurity.
 - iv. Money & a loose moral environment made Sardis soft & pleasure loving.
 - v. "The great characteristic of Sardis was that, even on pagan lips, Sardis was a name of contempt. Its people were notoriously loose-living, notoriously pleasure-and luxury loving. Sardis was a city of the decadence." (Barclay's Bible Commentary)
 - vi. **How Jesus described Himself to the Church of Sardis:**
 - a. "... He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars"
 - b. Jesus described Himself as the **Master** of every spiritual power & authority.
 - c. **Seven** is the number of **completeness** in the Bible. Jesus holds the fullness of the Spirit of God, and the fullness of the church.
 - d. "... the seven Spirits of God": Jesus has the **fullness of the Holy Spirit in Himself**, and thus **He has the Holy Spirit in fullness to give to the Church.**
 - e. "... the seven stars": Jesus also has the fullness of the church in His hand.
 - f. **seven stars** are the churches (Rev 1:20)
 - vii. when Jesus speaks to the "*angels of the seven churches*", He not speaking to one individual, **but to the entire church through that individual.**
 - viii. What did Jesus know about the Church at Sardis?
 - a. "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive"

- b. What a church *is* and what a church *does* is never hidden from Jesus.
 - c. The church at Sardis had “**a name**” (*reputation*) of life and vitality. If you looked at the church of Sardis, you would see signs of life and vitality.
 - d. “We are not to get the impression that Sardis was a defunct affair with the building a wreck, the members scattered, the pastor ready to resign. It was a busy church with meetings every night, committees galore, wheels within wheels, promotion and publicity, something going on all the time. It had a reputation of being a live, wide-awake, going concern.” (Vance Havner, “The Vance Havner Quote Book”)
- ix. What did Jesus have against the Church at Sardis
- a. “**But you are dead**”: shows that a good reputation is no guarantee of true spiritual character. Despite their good appearance, **Jesus saw them as dead**.
 - b. Dead Things have **no struggle, no fight, no persecution**. The church at Sardis wasn’t *losing* the battle, it was dead, so it had **lost the battle!**
 - c. Jesus didn’t encourage the Christians in Sardis to stand strong against persecution or false doctrine, probably because there simply *wasn’t* a significant danger of these things in Sardis. Being dead, the church in Sardis presented no significant threat to Satan’s domain, so it wasn’t even worth attacking.
 - d. The problem with Sardis, was not that their problem was scandalous wickedness, but that of “a decent death”. Their image said “alive,” but in substance, action, and deed, **they were dead**.
 - e. **Individually and corporately (congregationally), we need to be ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN OUR FATHER’S WORK!!!**
 - f. **Our deeds don’t save us, but they attest to the Spirit Who lives in us!**
 - g. “*The church of Sardis was at peace – but it was the peace of the dead.*” (Barclay’s Bible Commentary)
- x. What Jesus wants the Church at Sardis to do:
- a. “**Be constantly alert (watchful) ...**”: This first instruction from Jesus told them they need to **examine and protect**, strengthening what they have.
 - b. “**... the things that remain...**” tells us that though the spiritual condition of the church of Sardis was bad, it wasn’t hopeless. Spiritually, there were **things that remain** that could be strengthened.
 - c. Jesus hadn’t given up on them, and though it was late (“**which were about to die**”) it wasn’t **too late**.
 - d. “**For I have not found your works completed (perfect) in the sight of my God**”: shows their **works** hadn’t measured up to God’s standard. The **presence of works** isn’t enough because God requires a particular **intent and purpose in all of our works**. They should be done with a heart and in a manner that show them to be **perfect before God**.
 - e. What does coming “**like a thief**” look like? He could **come** in the sense bringing immediate judgment. Or, He could **come** as His coming at the rapture of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). In either case, He can come suddenly & unannounced, so they must **be alert**.
- xi. **Vs. 5 – Whoa there! Can we lose our salvation?**
- a. “Blot out his name from the Book of Life”: Does this mean that someone can lose their salvation? That someone is saved one day – their name is in the Book of Life – and another day, they have fallen away and their name has been blotted out from the Book of Life?
 - b. We need to first see the context here in [Rev 3:5](#). The focus is *assurance*, so we should not think that names are being constantly erased and then rewritten.
 - c. There is a Book of Life, and it will be opened and referenced on the Day of Judgement. This means that the Book of Life is *real*, and will be *read*.
 - d. There is a Book of Life, & 5 references to people being blotted out of the book.
 - i. [Exodus 32:32](#) [Exodus 32:33](#) [Psalm 69:28](#) [Revelation 3:5](#) [Revelation 22:19](#)
 - e. See the life of Charles Templeton ... he walked away from his faith, Jesus didn’t walk away from him!
 - f. In the genealogies of the Bible there are two books mentioned.
 - g. · *The book of the generation of Adam* ([Gen 5:1](#)) & *The book of the generation of Jesus Christ* ([Mat 1:1](#)).
 - h. Being born of Adam doesn’t guarantee that our name is written in the Book of Life. **Being born again – born of Jesus Christ** – gives us that assurance!
 - i. “**But I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels**” This is an amazing promise. It simply makes sense that we should be willing to confess the name of Jesus, but it is amazing that He would not be ashamed to confess us! It is important for us to accept Jesus. But it is far more important to know if Jesus accepts us.