

REVELATION



Sardis

Revelation 3:1-6

Sardis: Historical Background

- **The Name Meaning**
 - Birthstone
- **The City**
 - Former days better than latter days (i.e. its best days were behind it)
 - 1st City to mint coins
 - Capital City of Lydia
 - Home of Croesus
 - Temple of Artemis the 4th largest in the world
 - Largest Synagogue in Asia Minor
 - The Citadel of Sardis
 - Ideal defensive location



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Sardis: Greeting/Identification

- **Rev. 3:1** And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Revelation 3:1

- **The Seven Stars**

- c.f. Rev. 1:20
- Representatives of the church

- **The Seven Spirits of God**

- c.f. Rev 1:4
- The Seven Lamps of Fire (Rev. 4:5)
- The Seven Eyes of the Lamb (Rev. 5:6)
- The Spirit of God (c.f. Is. 11:2)

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And 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;

Isaiah 11:2

1. The Spirit of the Lord
2. The Spirit of Wisdom
3. The Spirit of Understanding
4. The Spirit of Counsel
5. The Spirit of Might
6. The Spirit of Knowledge
7. The Fear of the Lord

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Since the Seven Stars are the representatives of Christ in the right hand of Jesus, the meaning of this is that...?

- Our High Priest (Jesus Christ) is in control
- Our High Priest (Jesus Christ) can lift up and uplift any church.

The Seven Spirits (i.e. the eyes of the lamb) coming with Jesus means...?

- Our High Priest (Jesus Christ) has an accurate diagnosis.
- Our High Priest (Jesus Christ) is bringing with Him something that this church does not have!
- Our High Priest (Jesus Christ) is bringing with Him an accurate prescription.

Sardis: Condition

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Revelation 3:1

A Form of Godliness but...

- Notice there is no mention of...
 - false teachers to pester them
 - oppositions to persecute them.
 - Yet they are the first letter that begins with no affirmation.
- They are called the living dead! (c.f. 2 Cor 2:9)

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A Form of Godliness but...

- This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

1 Timothy 3:1-5

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Revelation 3:1

A Form of Godliness but...

- Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,⁸ This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.⁹ But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men

Matthew 15:7-9

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Sardis: Problem

- **Rev. 3:2 Be watchful**, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Revelation 3:2

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• Wake Up and Stay Up

- Spiritual negligence is highlighted by their historical civil negligence.



Sardis: Problem

- **Rev. 3:2** Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Revelation 3:2

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• Embers of Hope

- There are a few things that are left, though they too are in danger of death.
- If the follow Christ remembers the flames of faith will rise again.



Sardis: Counsel

- **Rev. 3:3** Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.
- **Rev. 3:4** Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy

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Revelation 3:3-4

The Prescription?

- Watch
- Strengthen
- Remember
- Repent
- Hold Fast



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Revelation 3:3-4

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Lessons in the Prescription?

- Watch
 - Watchful for what?
 - The return of Christ.
- Strengthen
 - Strengthening social likability
 - Weakened spiritual sensibility
- Remember
 - Forgetfulness deteriorates faith
 - Active memory builds faith
 - C.f. 2 Pet. 3:1; Heb 10:32

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Revelation 3:3-4

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Lessons in the Prescription?

- Repent
 - Spiritual lack of self-awareness lead to self reliance
 - Spiritual Self-awareness leads to total dependence
- Hold Fast
 - A slipping scriptural depth leads to shifty faith
 - A securing depth leads to firm foundation

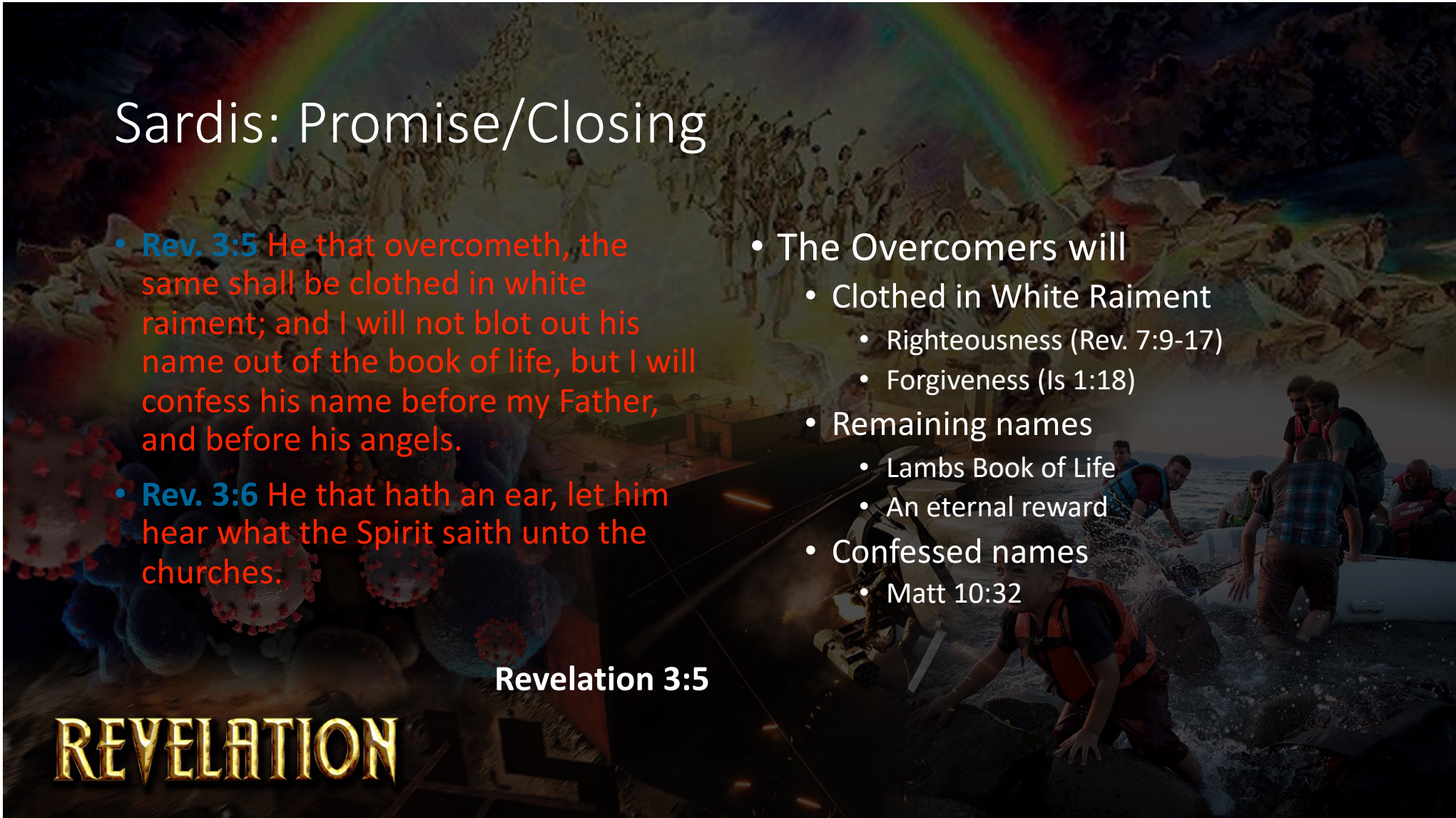
Sardis: Promise/Closing

- **Rev. 3:5** He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.
- **Rev. 3:6** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:5

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- The Overcomers will
 - Clothed in White Raiment
 - Righteousness (Rev. 7:9-17)
 - Forgiveness (Is 1:18)
 - Remaining names
 - Lambs Book of Life
 - An eternal reward
 - Confessed names
 - Matt 10:32



Sardis: Historical Application

AD 1798 - 1844

- Counter Reformation
- Council of Trent (AD 1545 – 1563)
 - Tradition and Scripture
 - Society of Jesus
 - Preterist
 - Futurist

- During this period, the vibrant generation of the Reformers who had awakened the church passed away. Their successors became more and more involved in fervent doctrinal polemics and controversies, gradually degenerating into lifeless formalism and spiritual lethargy. Toward the end of this period, under the impact of the rising tide of philosophical rationalism and secularism, the saving grace of the gospel and commitment to Christ waned, giving place to rationalism and theological arguments. The church of this period, although appearing to be alive, was in reality spiritually lifeless.

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Stefanovic, Ranko. Revelation of Jesus Christ: Commentary on the Book of Revelation . Andrews University Press. Kindle Edition.