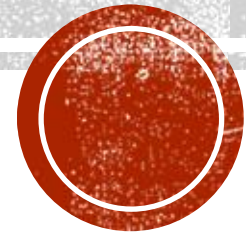


ESCHATOLOGY

WEEK 2

Pastor Scott Kramer



OVERVIEW FOR TONIGHT

Questions from/since Last week

Revelation 2-3: Letters to the Seven Churches

The Rapture of the Church: Various Views

NEXT WEEK: Revelation chapters 4-6



QUESTIONS

1. How should we view the Fear of God and Judgment when it comes to End Times?
2. If we are 'absent from the body and present with the Lord,' what then for unbelievers?
3. Is the devil a singular entity?



REV. 2-3: THE LETTERS

The Seven Churches of Revelation 2-3

- Ephesus
- Smyrna
- Pergamum
- Thyatira
- Sardis
- Philadelphia
- Laodicea

*** We will review various interpretive perspectives at the end.**



THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA MINOR





TURKEY

EPHESUS

REVELATION

- He who Holds the Seven Stars in Right Hand

COMMENDATION

- Good Deeds, Hard Work, Perseverance
- Intolerant of Wickedness
- Discerning towards false doctrine
- Endured Hardship, Steadfast
- Reject the Practices of the Nicolaitans (paganism, sexual immorality)

EXHORTATION

- Forsaken First Love
- Return to your first love and practices
- To the Victorious – rewarded with right to the Tree of Life



SMYRNA

REVELATION

- The First and the Last, who Died and Came to Life

COMMENDATION

- Afflicted and Poor, yet Rich!
- False Jews a synagogue of Satan
- Must prepare for suffering and persecution
- Some will be imprisoned by the devil - to test you!

EXHORTATION

- Be Faithful, receive the victor's crown
- He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death



PERGAMUM

REVELATION

- The One with the Sharp Double-Edged Sword

COMMENDATION

- Faithful under pressure & persecution – remained true
- Where Satan lives? Throne of Satan? Heavy cultic religions, Emperor worship, an altar to Zeus, worship of Asclepius (god of healing, symbol was a serpent!)

EXHORTATION

- Repent of the teachings of Balaam & the Nicolaitans (Carnal Christians)
- Hear what the Spirit says
- Hidden manna, White Stone w/ new name for the victorious



THYATIRA

REVELATION

- The Son of God with eyes like blazing fire and feet like burnished bronze

COMMENDATION

- Your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, doing more now than at first

EXHORTATION

- Stop tolerating false prophetess Jezebel, who teaches them to commit sexual immorality and eat food sacrificed to idols
- Repent or intense suffering awaits
- For those who have NOT held to her teaching or known the 'deep secrets' of Satan:
 - NO other burden for you, just stay the course!
- To the victorious who does my will to the end, you will be given authority over the nations



SARDIS

REVELATION

- He who holds the seven Spirits and the seven stars

COMMENDATION

- You have a few who have not soiled their clothes – they will walk with me, dressed in white, whose name will never be blotted out of the Book of Life

EXHORTATION

- You have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead – Wake Up!!
- Your deeds are unfinished, so hold fast to what you have received and heard



WHAT IS THE SEVENFOLD SPIRIT?

Seven Possible Aspects of the Holy Spirit:

1. Spirit of Truth (John 15:26, 16:13)
2. Spirit of Power (2 Tim. 1:7)
3. Spirit of Love (2 Tim. 1:7)
4. Spirit of Self-Discipline (2 Tim. 1:7)
5. Spirit of Wisdom (Deut.34:9)
6. Spirit of Judgment (Is. 4:4, 19:14)
7. Spirit of Life (Zech. 12:10, Rev.11:11)
8. Consider also **Is. 11:2**. “The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him — the Spirit of **wisdom** and of **understanding**, the Spirit of **counsel** and of **might**, the Spirit of the **knowledge** and **fear of the LORD** — ³and he will **delight** in the fear of the LORD.



PHILADELPHIA

REVELATION

- Him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David
- What he opens, no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

COMMENDATION

- I know your deeds, you have kept my word and have not denied my name.
- Those who claim to be Jews but are not, will acknowledge my love for you.
- As you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will keep you from the hour of trial coming.

EXHORTATION

- Hold on to what you have so that no one will take your crown.
- The victorious will become pillars in the Temple of God
- On them will be written the name of God, the name of the New Jerusalem, and the new name of Christ.



LAODICEA

REVELATION

- The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's Creation

COMMENDATION

- ???

EXHORTATION

- Stop being Lukewarm!!
- You say you are rich, but you are wretched, poor, blind and naked. Buy from me instead!!
- Be earnest and repent – I am waiting for you!
- If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you.
- The victorious will sit with me on my throne.



Summary Chart

	CHURCH	DATE (APPROX.)	MEANING OF NAME	COMPLAINT	COMPLIMENT	PROMISED REWARD
1	EPHESUS	A.D. 31–100	Desirable, Lovely	Lost first love	Hate deeds of Nicolaitans	Tree of Life
2	SMYRNA	A.D. 100–313	Sweet fragrance, Myrrh	None	Rich in good works	Crown of Life, Escape second death
3	PERGAMOS	A.D. 313–538	Height, Elevation, “By marriage”	Tolerance of Baalism, idolatry, and immorality	Not denied Christ’s name or faith	Hidden manna, White stone, New name
4	THYATIRA	A.D. 538–1500s	Perfume of labor, Sweet savor of sacrifice	Tolerance of “Jezebel,” idolatry, and immorality	Good works, love faith, and patience	Power over the nations
5	SARDIS	A.D. 1500s–1790s	Those escaping or remaining	Dead works	A few are not defiled	White raiment, Book of Life
6	PHILADELPHIA	A.D. 1790s–1840s	Brotherly love	Little strength	Kept Christ’s Word; Not denied Him	Kept from the hour of trial, Pillar in temple, Name of God
7	LAODICEA	A.D. 1840s– Second Coming	Judging of the people or a just people	Lukewarm experience, Spiritually poor, blind, and naked	None	Sit with Christ on His throne, Sup with Christ

IMMEDIATE INTERPRETATION

The Seven Churches – these were direct and immediate words spoken to the actual churches of Asia Minor, and nothing more



METAPHORICAL INTERPRETATION

The Seven Churches – represent any churches of any age that have these characteristics

- Ephesus – the strong church
- Smyrna – the rich, but poor church
- Pergamum – the faltering church
- Thyatira – the apostate church
- Sardis – the dying church
- Philadelphia – the weak church
- Laodicea – the lukewarm church



HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION

The Seven Churches

- Ephesus – Apostolic Church (30-100)
- Smyrna – Persecuted Church (100-313)
- Pergamum – State Church (313-519)
- Thyatira – Papal Church (590-1517)
- Sardis – Reformed Church (1517-1730)
- Philadelphia – Missionary Church (1730-1900)
- Laodicea – Apostate Church (1900 - ?)



THE RAPTURE



DESCRIBING THE RAPTURE

Primary Truths the Scriptures teach:

1. The Return of Christ will resemble the Ascension of Christ. (Acts 1:11)
2. The Rapture of the Church will be a worldwide event. (Matt. 24:30)
3. The Rapture will happen unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. (Matt. 24:36, 25:13)
 - Though as mentioned last week, it may follow 'birth pains' on the earth.
 - Frequency and Intensity



DESCRIBING THE RAPTURE

4. The Rapture will consist of the following events:
 - The Lord's Command (1 Thess. 4:16)
 - The Voice of the Archangel (1 Thess. 4:16)
 - The Trumpet call of God (1 Thess. 4:16)
 - The Dead in Christ will Rise (1 Thess. 4:17)
 - Those Alive in Christ will Rise (1 Thess. 4:17)
 - All will meet Christ in the Air. (1 Thess. 4:17)
 - It will happen in an instant. (1 Cor. 15:52)
 - Angels will participate in gathering the elect. (Matt. 24:33)



DESCRIBING THE RAPTURE

5. The Rapture transition will initiate believers to receive their glorified (immortal) bodies. (1 Cor. 15:52-54)
 - The Body we receive will be imperishable. (1 Cor. 15:52)
 - Our glorified body will be like Christ's. (Phil. 3:21)
6. The Rapture initiates our being with the Lord forever. (1 Thess. 4:17)
7. Jesus is returning after having prepared a place for us. (John 14:3)
8. The departure of millions of believers implies the simultaneous removal of the restraining power over evil. (2 Thess. 2:7)
 - **Rapture:** Jesus appears in the air to gather the saints.
 - **Second Coming:** Jesus returns with the armies of heaven to wage war against Antichrist, literally coming to earth. (will cover in Rev. 19).

NOTE: SK Theory



DESCRIBING THE RAPTURE

9. **I believe the Rapture will occur *before* the 7-Year Tribulation.** (1 Thess. 5:9, Is. 26:19-21)
- The Surprise element implies a Pre-Trib Rapture. (Matt. 24:36)
 - **Isaiah 26:19-21** suggests we will avoid wrath. **READ** together
 - The Elders of Rev. 4 already have their crowns.
 - Rev. 19 indicates that the saints are already with Christ.
 - Who is Rev. 3:10 written to? *“I will keep you from the hour of trial...” ‘out of’*
 - 2 Thess. 2:7 implies the removal of the Church before the Tribulation. **READ**
 - **1 Thess. 1:10.** *“who rescues us from the coming wrath.”*
 - **1 Thess. 5:9.** *“For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
 - Also noteworthy that the Church is not mentioned between Rev. 4 – 18.

HOWEVER – I am puzzled by one passage with this view:

- **1 Cor. 15:52.** *“at the last trumpet...”*. - is this the same as Trumpet #7 in Rev. 8, or is it just a dramatic title Paul uses?



SUMMARY

What should we learn?

- “**Whoever** has ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”
- Jesus is giving warnings to His Church before revealing what lies ahead.
- The Scripture gives certain clarity describing a Rapture Event, while simultaneously omitting it’s time stamp!
- **NOTE:** I have a few charts that I’ll be emailing you tomorrow. Just too much to print. But you’ll have it electronically. 😊

Questions?

