

REVELATION 3:1-6

We now have the 5th Church, Sardis, which means **red** ones (a red stone).

A. Revelation 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.

1. The "seven Spirits" are **special** angels that serve God-Christ.

Revelation 4:5 - And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Revelation 8:2, 6 - And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. Rev. 8:6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

2. The "seven stars" are the 7 angels/messengers of the seven churches (Rev. 1:20). **Remember, the Holy Spirit is co-**equal**, co-**eternal** as the Father-Son and not a possession of Christ. These seven Spirits here are at Christ's command.
3. [I know thy works, that thou hast a name] They had a reputation.
4. [That thou livest, and art dead] These individuals (many) **professed** Salvation but didn't actual **possess** it. They claimed to be alive for God but were **spiritually dead**.
 - a. The Jews here have lots of religious **activity**. **Josephus said that during Christ's earthly ministry, the elders at the Temple each year sacrificed a **million** animals. They had a **non-stop** religious system; yet, as this church, were **spiritually dead**.
 - b. *That's even like today where many churches have [a form of godliness] but they don't have spiritual light or life!

B. Revelation 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.

1. Sardis did have some (remnant) who were believers, whereas most of their works were produced by their own **flesh**. They were busy but not in God's direction-will. Remember, Israel has always had a **mixed** multitude starting with Moses. So here it goes back and forth with believers and unbelievers as He addresses Israelites in the Tribulation.

*There are Jews, and then there are **true** Jews.
2. These Jews are tied to the prophetic program and kingdom gospel. Having the testimony of the 12 Apostles, the Scripture themselves, they should be watching for all the predicted **signs** given them.
 - a. As they are to watch for Christ's return, they also were to strengthen-shore up those things that had been **weakening** (things...ready to die), even their lives.

- b. Their works will have produced certain fruit, but were ready to dry up because the **Spirit** hadn't been their source in doing their works. If they would turn to the Spirit's power, they would be strengthened, have wisdom, and be **energized** to strengthen "the things" ready to die.
3. [for I have not found thy works perfect before God.]
- a. That is the **reason** they and their works were about to die. Remember, Israel's is an entirely **different** method of salvation. Is there any danger of believers in today's dispensation losing their spiritual life because our works are not "perfect"? **No!**
 - b. Notice what James wrote:

(1) James 1:1 - James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

*He didn't write to us Gentiles or Body believers.

(2) James 2:22, 24 - Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? James 2:24 - Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Paul teaches us we are saved by grace through faith in the gospel (DBR). *But God's message to Israel is faith **must** be accompanied by works to prove their faith.

C. Revelation 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.

1. Christ tells us how previously they had [received and heard].
 - a. *But now they were not obeying, nor believing, but only sitting on it and about ready to let it all **slip** through their fingers!
 - b. God's mercy moves to tell them what they needed to do. They needed to [hold fast] get a grip on God and don't let go, then [repent]. They need to change their minds about God's truths and embrace them with their **hearts**.

I Samuel 16:7 - But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

I Kings 8:39, 61 - Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, *even* thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;) I Kings 8:61 Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.
2. [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.]
 - a. Christ says: "If you are not right with me-you will **not** be watching. The result of that will be judgment from the Antichrist's system and from Me. I promise I will **get** you and you won't like it."

- b. To come "as a thief" shows that even though they were warned, some will not be watching for Christ's return and thus will be **surprised** when it happens.

Matthew 24:37-39 - But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Matt. 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, Matt. 24:39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Matthew 24:43-47 - But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Matt. 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Matt. 24:45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Matt. 24:46 Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Matt. 24:47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

- c. Luke 17:34-35 - I tell you, in that night there shall be two *men* in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Luke 17:35 Two *women* shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Where will they be taken?

Luke 17:37 - And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body *is*, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

*Their souls go the **hell**, but their bodies?

Revelation 19:17-18 - And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; Rev. 19:18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all *men*, both free and bond, both small and great.

- d. Hebrews 9:28 - So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

This is a reference to Christ's earthly return at the Tribulation's end. *Thank God for us the Body. We will be received up in glory **before** the thief shall come!

- D. Revelation 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.

1. There's a **small** remnant who will have maintained their faith, their testimony, and hadn't allowed the majority of their synagogue's congregation deadness to affect them. Also, they had not let the Antichrist's religious and governmental systems to **deflect** them from serving the Word-God!
2. Christ says to these little in number faithful ones that He will truly **honor** them because they are worthy of blessings.

This is described in:

Revelation 16:15 - Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed *is* he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Revelation 19:7, 9 - Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. Rev. 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

E.

Revelation 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.

1. Not having their name blotted out of the Book of Life is only for the **over**comer.

*Note: This is not the Body believer. We have been Raptured **up** before the Tribulation (here in verse 5) and it's **im**possible for us according to (Romans 8:1, 28-30, 35-39). We will be in Heaven!

2. Here in Revelation 3, the overcomer is **se**cure!

I John 5:4 - For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

** If they continue watching for Him, endure patiently, maintain a heart of faith, they will overcome. Their **works** will be an expression of their faith.

3. Their reward will be **God** confessing their name before the glory of the kingdom:

Matthew 10:32 - [Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.]

When Christ returns (Rev. 19) to defeat His enemies, to set up His Kingdom, a book will be opened. The overcomer's, endurer's **names are written in this book and Christ will confess they are His! He identifies them before the **pre**sence of the Father and His angels. They then go into the Kingdom.

Matthew 25:31-34 - When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: Matt. 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats: Matt. 25:33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matt. 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

4. The ones who deny Him, their names are **not** there!

Mark 8:38 - Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

- a. **Do you now see if you try to put this Kingdom stuff on us the Body, it only leads to **confusion**!

- b. The way we demonstrate that we are saved today, is we absolutely, totally refuse to trust in any of our works to merit or gain favor with God in regards to our salvation. We are completely opposite of Israel's program here in Revelation.
5. There are two main reasons "the Book of Life" is a problem to most.
- a. They don't understand the dispensational setting where this verse fits and who it's talking to (Israel in the Tribulation).
 - b. They don't understand what the Book of Life is. Tradition-commentaries say it's a book that has everybody's name who's living or have lived. When you were born, your name was placed in this book. When you die and if an unbeliever, your name is taken out-blotted out, meaning that you are going to hell. If a believer, your name remains in this book meaning you have eternal life. **Or some believe when saved, your name is put into the Book of Life. Then if you do something terrible or you don't maintain a certain level of living, your name is blotted out and you lose your salvation.
 - c. So what is the Book of Life? To explain the Book of Life could get complicated because of covenants and eternal life records. So I'll just given a simple possible answer I heard from Joel Finck that has merit (short version).

- (1) Psalms 139:16 - Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

The Israelite was written in "the Book of Life" when conception happens. Here it is David.

- (2) Exodus 32:30-32 - And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin. Ex. 32:31 And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Ex. 32:32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.

Moses prayed-interceded-said: "Lord, if it's a choice between them or me, blot me out of the book that you have written."

God said:



Exodus 32:33 - And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

- (3) Also:

Deuteronomy 29:20 - The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven.

Psalms 69:27-28 - Add iniquity unto their iniquity: and let them not come into thy righteousness. Psa. 69:28 Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.

- (4) Israel has a difference with life under a covenant. As long as he confesses Christ before men (Luke 12:8-12), is faithful to the covenant, continues in faith, that child's name is never blotted out of "the Book of Life."

*But under the dispensation of grace, not under covenants, when we believe in Christ and His work, we are not in "the Book of Life," but we are in Christ. Being in Christ's body is a position from which we can never be blotted out! It's better!

- (5) What about? (Only time Paul mentions it)

Philippians 4:3 - And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

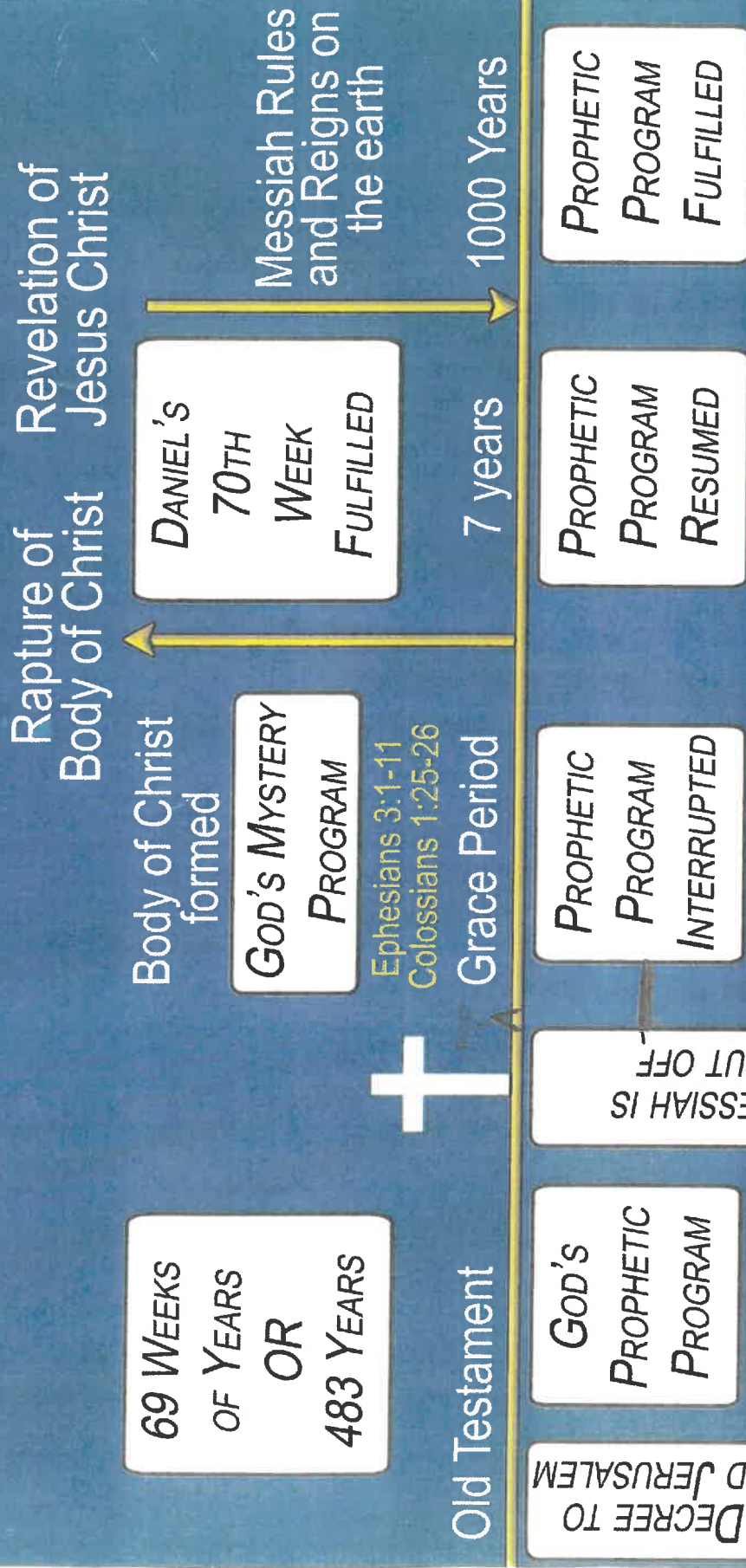
[with fellowlabourers]

*Paul is talking about Kingdom saints here. During the transition from Israel's program to the Body of Christ program, you had believers from both programs living on earth at the same time. Since Israel's program was being delayed-set aside longer than what the Jews had expected, some Jews helped Paul as his ministry was exciting because God was in it!

Colossians 4:11 - And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.

F. Revelation 3:6 - He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS (DANIEL 9:24-27)



70 weeks are determined on Daniel's people (Israel) and the holy city (Jerusalem).