

## STUDY 2 - "THE THINGS WHICH ARE" - CHAPTERS 2 AND 3



REFERRING PRIMARILY TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES, BUT, UNMISTAKABLY A PROPHETIC FOREVIEW OF THE SUCCESSIVE PERIODS OF CHURCH HISTORY - FROM THE APOSTOLIC DAYS TO THE END OF THIS PRESENT AGE (THE CHURCH AGE - THE AGE OF GRACE - FROM PENTECOST TO THE RAPTURE) - THE RAPTURE

CHURCH OF THE FIRSTBORN, WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN HEAVEN... HEB. 12:22

- TO THE CHURCH  
AT  
**EPHESUS**

REV. 2:1-7
- TO THE CHURCH  
AT  
**SMYRNA**

REV. 2:8-11
- TO THE CHURCH  
AT  
**PERGAMOS**

REV. 2:12-17
- TO THE CHURCH  
AT  
**THYATIRA**

REV. 2:18-29
- TO THE CHURCH  
AT  
**SARDIS**

REV. 3:1-6
- TO THE CHURCH  
AT  
**PHILADELPHIA**

REV. 3:7-13
- TO THE CHURCH  
AT  
**LAODICEA**

REV. 3:14-22



<p><b>EPHESUS</b> Means "Desirable" THE CHURCH AS IT WAS IN THE APOSTOLIC BEGINNING ** WHEN THE LORD HELD THE "STARS" (HIS MINISTERS) IN HIS RIGHT HAND. THE PLACE OF POSSESSION AND AUTHORITY. HE WAS IN THEIR MIDST. THUS THE CHURCH WALKED IN SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD. THIS WAS GOD'S "DESIRABLE" - HE REPROVED THEM, HOWEVER, FOR LEAVING THEIR FIRST LOVE.</p>	<p><b>SMYRNA</b> Means "myrrer" (actually bitter) USED IN THE HOLY INCENSE, TO BE CRUSHED TO GIVE FORTH IT'S FRAGRANCE. FIERCE PERSECUTION HAD IT'S CENTER IN SMYRNA. THE ASSEMBLY WAS CRUSHED UNDER THE STRINGENT IMPERIAL LAWS AGAINST CHRISTIANITY; YET THE FRAGRANCE OF THEIR DEVOTION TRIUMPHED ABOVE THE TWO CENTURIES UNDER THE EMPERORS OF PAGAN ROME.</p>	<p><b>PERGAMOS</b> Meaning "a mixed sacrifice" &amp; "elevation" BEGINNING WITH THE CONVERSION OF CONSTANTINE WHO DECLARED CHRISTIANITY, ONCE CONDEMNED AS HERESY AGAINST THE STATE, NOW TO BE THE STATE RELIGION. BY HIS FAVOR PERSECUTION CEASED AND THE CLERGY EXALTED BY THE ALLIANCE WITH THE WORLD, WHERE, THE LETTER DECLARED, SATAN'S SEAT (THRONE) IS"</p>	<p><b>THYATIRA</b> IN PRESENTING HIMSELF TO THIS ASSEMBLY AS "THE SON OF GOD" FORESEEING THE RAPID RISE OF ROMANISM, OUR LORD WOULD HAVE SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS KNOW THAT HE ALONE IS SUPREME IN THE FINAL AUTHORITY. THAT IN HIS FOREKNOWLEDGE THE JAD CONDITION OF THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA WAS PROPHETIC OF THAT PERIOD OF CHURCH HISTORY TO BE RECORDED AS "THE DARK AGES."</p>	<p><b>SARDIS</b> THE NAME SARDIS, TO THE CHURCH, IMPLIES "ESCAPING ONES" - "THOSE WHO COME OUT." THOUGH THE CHURCH WAS CONSIDERED SPIRITUAL FROM EXTERNAL OBSERVATION, BY ALL SPIRITUAL STANDARDS IT WAS DEAD. IN THE MIDST OF SPIRITUAL DECEPTION THERE WAS A PENNANT OF WORTHY ONES, AS THE NAME IMPLIES. THIS DESCRIPTION IS SEEN TO CULMINATE IN HISTORY, AS THE GREAT REFORMATION.</p>	<p><b>PHILADELPHIA</b> Means "Brotherly Love" CHRIST DECLARED "I HAVE SET BEFORE THEM AN OPEN DOOR." THE FAITHFUL TESTIMONY OF THE ASSEMBLY WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY CHRIST KEEPING OPEN THE DOOR AGAINST ALL OPPOSING FORCES. THIS ASSURANCE MAY BE TRULY PROPHETIC OF THE ERA OF WORLD-WIDE EVANGELISM WHICH FOLLOWED "THE GREAT REFORMATION."</p>	<p><b>LAODICEA</b> MEANS THE RULE OR WILL OF THE PEOPLE. CHRIST ADDRESSED HIMSELF AS THE "AMEN." CONFIRMED ALL THAT HE HAD COMMANDED JOHN TO WRITE. FINDING NOTHING BUT SELF-SATISFACTION AND MATERIAL RICHES, OUR LORD REMINDS THEM OF THEIR SPIRITUAL POVERTY, AND HIS DISAPPOINTMENT, WITH THE CONCEAL "CODE" BECAUSE THOU HAST SAID I WILL BE RICH BUT I AM NOT."</p>
APOSTOLIC	A.D. 160	A.D. 313	THE DARK AGES	A.D. 1517	A.D. 1750	THE LAST DAYS