



“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, II

February 1, 2020

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“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants – things which must shortly take place.” Revelation 1:1 *NKJV*.

shortly can mean *quickly*



Some fulfillments in John's day, and then some along the time line of history, with fulfillment at the end of time.



The *Historicist School* of Bible prophecy comes out of the sequence in Daniel 2.



Message to the Ephesus Church:

- Commendation for being diligent and insightful
- Rebuke for losing “first love.”
- Call to action – Repent
- Reward – Eat from Tree of Life



Message to the Smyrna Church:

- Commendation for patience in persecution, tribulation ten days
- No rebuke
- Call to action – Be faithful unto death
- Reward – A crown of life, victory over second death



Message to the Pergamos Church:

- Commendation for holding fast the name and faith of Jesus
- Rebuke for tolerating those teaching the ideas of Balaam, Nicolaitans
- Call to action – Repent
- Reward – Eat of hidden manna, a new name



Message to the Thyatira Church:

- Commendation for growing in love and service
- Rebuke for tolerating Jezebel's ideas and practices
- Call to action – Hold fast what you have till the end
- Reward – Power over nations, and Morning Star



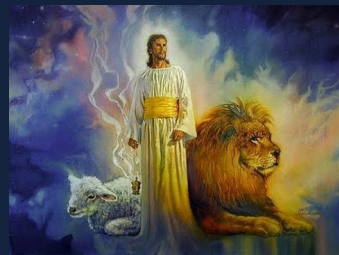
Message to the Sardis Church:

- Commendation for having a few names that have not defiled their garments
- Rebuke for having the reputation of being alive, but actually being dead
- Call to action – Remember, hold fast and repent
- Reward – The few will walk with Jesus in white, and names retained in the Book of Life



Message to the Philadelphia Church:

- Commendation for retaining strength, keeping the word of Jesus and His command to persevere
- No rebuke
- Call to action – Hold fast what you have
- Reward – Made a pillar in God's temple, a new name given



Message to the Laodicea Church:



- Commendation – none!
- Rebuke for being lukewarm, thinking to be rich, but are really wretched, blind and naked
- Call to action – Be zealous and repent, purchase gold, white raiment and eye salve
- Reward – The presence of Jesus now and to sit with Jesus in His kingdom



He who overcomes...

Beware of procrastination. Do not put off the work of forsaking your sins and seeking purity of heart through Jesus. Here is where thousands upon thousands have erred to their eternal loss.



I will not here dwell upon the shortness and uncertainty of life; but there is a terrible danger—a danger not sufficiently understood—in delaying to yield to the pleading voice of God's Holy Spirit, in choosing to live in sin; for such this delay really is.

Sin, however small it maybe esteemed, can be indulged in only at the peril of infinite loss. What we do not overcome, will overcome us and work out our destruction.

Steps to Christ, 33.



Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on the merits of the Saviour. God would send every angel in heaven to the aid of such a one, rather than allow him to be overcome.

Testimonies for the Church, 7:17.

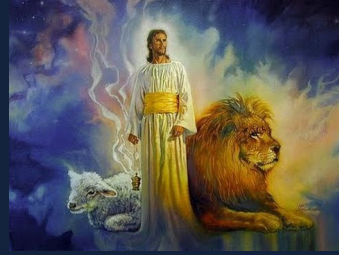


It is not in the power of earth or hell to compel anyone to do evil. Satan attacks us at our weak points, but we need not be overcome. However severe or unexpected the assault, God has provided help for us, and in His strength we may conquer.

Patriarchs and Prophets, 421.



“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God...be glory and majesty...” Jude 24, 25 NKJV.



*Worship Scene in Revelation,
chapters 4 and 5*



“Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense. And they sang a new song, saying:



“You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.” Revelation 5:9, 10 NKJV.



“Now I saw when the Lamb
opened one of the seals...”



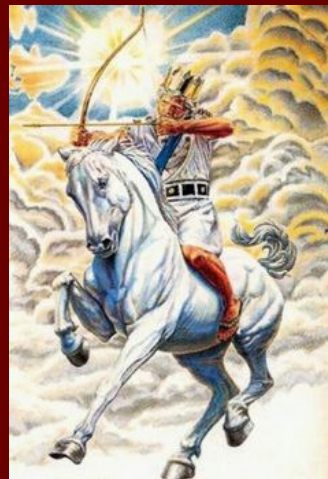
“Now I saw when the Lamb
opened one of the seals...”



The correspondence between the series of the
seven churches and the seven seals

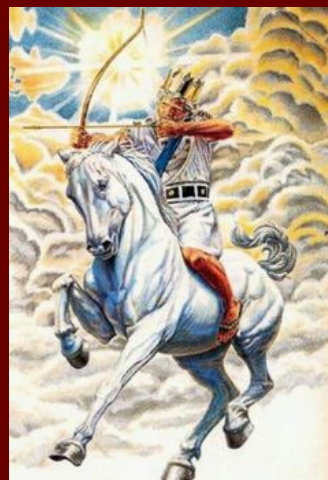
The history – both the “good” and the “bad”
revealed in the Scriptures

“...and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, ‘Come and see.’ And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.” Revelation 6:1, 2 NKJV.



The Mighty Ministry of Outreach by the Early Church, to AD 100

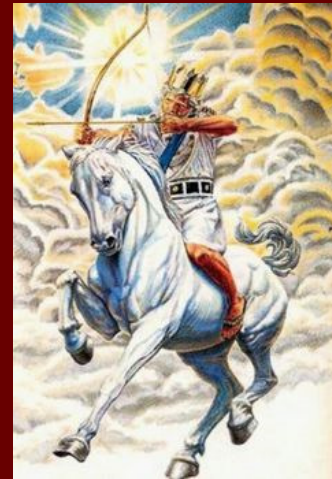
“...if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.” Colossians 1:23 NKJV.



The Mighty Ministry of Outreach by the Early Church, to AD 100

What was the result of the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost? The glad tidings of a risen Saviour were carried to the uttermost parts of the inhabited world.

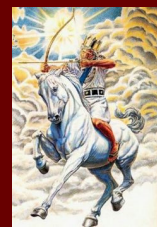
The Acts of the Apostles, 48.



The Message of the First Church, Ephesus, and the Message of the First Seal. Time of Jesus to AD 100.

Intense missionary activity under the first seal

Danger of losing the “first love”



*Period of Terrible Persecution for
the Followers of Christ, AD 100-313*

“When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, ‘Come and see.’ Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another.”



*Period of Terrible Persecution for
the Followers of Christ, AD 100-313*

The history of the early church testified to the fulfillment of the Saviour's words. The powers of earth and hell arrayed themselves against Christ in the person of His followers. Paganism foresaw that should the gospel triumph, her temples and altars would be swept away; therefore she summoned her forces to destroy Christianity.



*Period of Terrible Persecution for
the Followers of Christ, AD 100-313*

The fires of persecution were kindled.
Christians were stripped of their possessions
and driven from their homes...Great numbers
sealed their testimony with their blood...



*Period of Terrible Persecution for
the Followers of Christ, AD 100-313*

These persecutions, beginning under Nero
about the time of the martyrdom of Paul,
continued with greater or less fury for
centuries. Christians were falsely accused
of the most dreadful crimes and declared
to be the cause of great calamities – famine,
pestilence, and earthquake...



*Period of Terrible Persecution for
the Followers of Christ, AD 100-313*

Great numbers were thrown to wild beasts or burned alive in the amphitheaters. Some were crucified; others were covered with the skins of wild animals and thrust into the arena to be torn by dogs. Their punishment was often made the chief entertainment at public fetes...



*Period of Terrible Persecution for
the Followers of Christ, AD 100-313*

Under the fiercest persecution these witnesses for Jesus kept their faith unsullied. Though deprived of every comfort, shut away from the light of the sun, making their home in the dark but friendly bosom of the earth, they uttered no complaint. With words of faith, patience, and hope they encouraged one another to endure privation and distress. The loss of every earthly blessing could not force them to renounce their belief in Christ. *The Great Controversy*, 39-41.



*Period of Terrible Persecution for
the Followers of Christ, AD 100-313*

The Martyrdom of Polycarp, disciple and
successor of the apostle John.



*Period of Terrible Persecution for
the Followers of Christ, AD 100-313*

The Martyrdom of Polycarp

Roman officials: “What harm is there in
saying, Lord Caesar, and in sacrificing,
with the other ceremonies...and so make
sure of safety?”

Polycarp: “I shall not do as you advise me.”



*Period of Terrible Persecution for
the Followers of Christ, AD 100-313*

The Martyrdom of Polycarp

Roman officials: “Swear by the fortune of Caesar; repent, and say, Away with the Atheists.” (atheists means those who will not worship Rome’s gods.)

Polycarp: Waving his hand toward the crowd in the stadium, “Away with the Atheists.”



*Period of Terrible Persecution for
the Followers of Christ, AD 100-313*

The Martyrdom of Polycarp

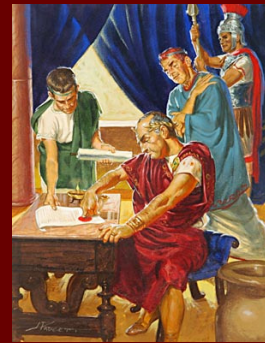
Roman officials: “Swear, and I will set you at liberty, reproach Christ.”

Polycarp: “Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He never did me any injury: how can I blaspheme my King and my Saviour?”

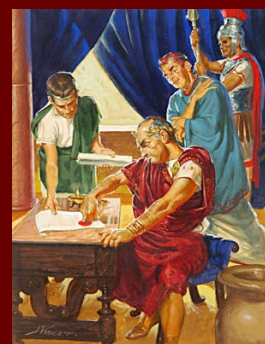


*Period of Terrible Persecution for
the Followers of Christ, AD 100-313*

Constantine and the Edict of Milan
AD 313. Persecution of Christians
by pagan Rome comes to an end.



*Period of Terrible Persecution for
the Followers of Christ, AD 100-313*



*Period of Terrible Persecution for
the Followers of Christ, AD 100-313*

At the Council of Nicea in
AD 325 every Christian leader
present was maimed in some
way!



*The Message of the Second Church, Smyrna,
and the Message of the Second Seal, AD
100 – 313.*

A period of terrible
persecution for believers
in Christ, red horse

Myrrh, crushed
flowers, a crushed
yet beautiful group
of Christians



*Period of Spiritual
Compromise, AD 313 – 538.*

“When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, ‘Come and see.’ So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.



*Period of Spiritual
Compromise,
AD 313 – 538.*

“And I of the four living creatures saying, ‘A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.’” Revelation 6:5, 6.



*Period of Spiritual
Compromise,
AD 313 – 538.*

Satan therefore laid his plans to war more successfully against the government of God by planting his banner in the Christian church. If the followers of Christ could be deceived and led to displease God, then their strength...would fail... The great adversary now endeavored to gain by artifice what he had failed to secure by force.

The Great Controversy, 42.



*Period of Spiritual Compromise,
AD 313 – 538.*



*Period of Spiritual Compromise,
AD 313 – 538.*



Under a cloak of pretended Christianity, Satan was insinuating himself into the church, to corrupt their faith and turn their minds from the word of truth.

*Period of Spiritual Compromise,
AD 313 – 538.*



Most of the Christians at last consented to lower their standard, and a union was formed between Christianity and paganism. Although the worshipers of idols professed to be converted, and united with the church, they still clung to their idolatry, only changing the objects of their worship to images of Jesus, and even of Mary and the saints.

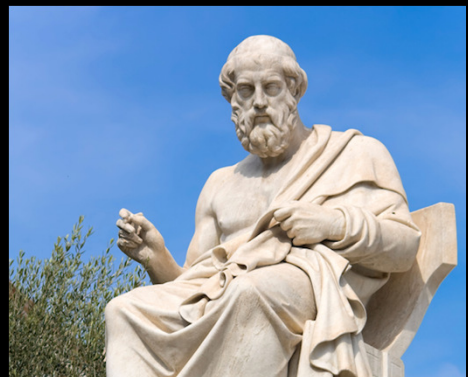
*Period of Spiritual Compromise,
AD 313 – 538.*

The foul leaven of idolatry, thus brought into the church, continued its baleful work. Unsound doctrines, superstitious rites, and idolatrous ceremonies were incorporated into her faith and worship. As the followers of Christ united with idolaters, the Christian religion became corrupted, and the church lost her purity and power. *The Great Controversy, 43.*



*Period of Spiritual Compromise,
AD 313 – 538.*

Idolatry and Greek philosophy
Threats to the Christian faith



*Period of Spiritual Compromise,
AD 313 – 538.*



A quart of wheat for a denarius – expensive!
Three quarts of barley for a denarius – also
expensive!

Oil and wine – symbols of Jesus' sacrifice and the
Holy Spirit.

*The Message of the Third Church,
Thyatira, and the Message of the
Third Seal. AD 313-538.*



Black horse, compromise
with the world, spiritual
declension and loss

Corrupt church with
Balaam's teachings
and practices

Period of Spiritual Death, AD 538 – 1517.

“When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, ‘Come and see.’ So I looked, and behold, a pale horse.

And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.”

Revelation 6:7, 8 NKJV.



Period of Spiritual Death, AD 538 – 1517

“Pale” – *chloros*, chlorine

pale, greenish gray!



Period of Spiritual Death, AD 538 – 1517.

To the mass of pagan teachings and practices brought into the church was added the element of force.



Crusades against Islam, AD 1096 – 1291.

Inquisition against Jews and heretics,
AD 1184 – c.1825

Present-day appeals to modern governments
to protect and promote the doctrines of Rome.

Period of Spiritual Death, AD 538 – 1517.

**Inquisition: Untold millions perished
for their resistance to Rome:
Christians, Jews, and others.**



Period of Spiritual Death, AD 538 – 1517.

Popery had become the world's despot. Kings and emperors bowed to the decrees of the Roman pontiff. The destinies of men, both for time and for eternity, seemed under his control. For hundreds of years the doctrines of Rome had been extensively and implicitly received, its rites reverently performed, its festivals generally observed...



Period of Spiritual Death, AD 538 – 1517.

But “the noon of the papacy was the midnight of the world.” – J.A. Wylie, *The History of Protestantism*, b. 1, ch. 4. The Holy Scriptures were almost unknown, not only to the people, but to the priests. Like the Pharisees of old, the papal leaders hated the light which would reveal their sins. God's law, the standard of righteousness, having been removed, they exercised power without limit, and practiced vice without restraint.



Period of Spiritual Death, AD 538 – 1517.

Fraud, avarice, and profligacy prevailed. Men shrank from no crime by which they could gain wealth or position. The palaces of popes and prelates were scenes of the vilest debauchery. Some of the reigning pontiffs were guilty of crimes so revolting that secular rulers endeavored to depose these dignitaries of the church as monsters too vile to be tolerated.



Period of Spiritual Death, AD 538 – 1517.

For centuries Europe had made no progress in learning, arts, or civilization. A moral and intellectual paralysis had fallen upon Christendom.

The Great Controversy, 60.



Period of Spiritual Death, AD 538 – 1517.

The Waldenses sought to keep alive the true Biblical faith and to work as missionaries in the papal lands.



Period of Spiritual Death, AD 538 – 1517.

“Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have till I come.”

Revelation 2:24, 25 NKJV.



Period of Spiritual Death, AD 538 – 1517.

Pale horse, a period of compromise and coercion

Church of Thyatira with the teachings and practices of Jezebel



Period of persecution giving way to the entrance of light and truth, AD 1517 – 1800.

“When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’

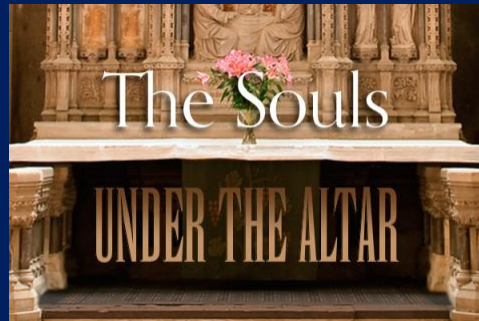
Period of persecution giving way to the entrance of light and truth, AD 1517 – 1800.

“Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.” Revelation 6:9-11 NKJV.

Period of persecution giving way to the entrance of light and truth, AD 1517 – 1800.

Souls under the altar?

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Period of persecution giving way to the entrance of light and truth, AD 1517 – 1800.

John Milton, 1608-1674.

On the Late Massacre in Piedmont
 Avenge, O Lord, thy slaughter'd saints, whose bones
 Lie scatter'd on the Alpine mountains cold,
 Ev'n them who kept thy truth so pure of old,
 When all our fathers worshipp'd stocks and stones;
 Forget not: in thy book record their groans

*Period of persecution giving way to the entrance
of light and truth, AD 1517 – 1800.*

Who were thy sheep and in their ancient fold
 Slain by the bloody Piemontese that roll'd
 Mother with infant down the rocks. Their moans
 The vales redoubl'd to the hills, and they
 To Heav'n.

*Period of persecution giving way to the entrance of
light and truth, AD 1517 – 1800.*

Their martyr'd blood and ashes sow
 O'er all th' Italian fields where still doth sway
 The triple tyrant; that from these may grow
 A hundred-fold, who having learnt thy way
 Early may fly the Babylonian woe.

Period of persecution giving way to the entrance of light and truth, AD 1517 – 1800.

Reformers called “Half-way Men” by the Anabaptists, because the Reformers refused to leave Rome’s teachings completely.



Period of persecution giving way to the entrance of light and truth, AD 1517 – 1800.

Fifth seal, persecution of the dark ages comes to an end, light of the Gospel begins to shine

Sardis Church, having a name that it is alive, but in reality is dead.

Period of the Awakening of the Teaching of the Return of Jesus, Missionary Work, AD 1800 – Present.

“I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

Period of the Awakening of the Teaching of the Return of Jesus, Missionary Work, AD 1800 – Present.

“Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth...hid themselves in the caves...and said... ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!’” Revelation 6:12-17 NKJV.

Period of the Awakening of the Teaching of the Return of Jesus, Missionary Work, AD 1800 – Present.

Lisbon earthquake, 1755

Dark Day, May, 1780

Falling of the stars, 1833

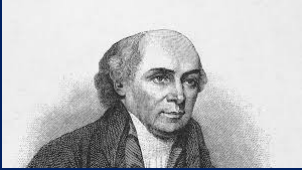
Period of the Awakening of the Teaching of the Return of Jesus, Missionary Work, AD 1800 – Present.

Period of the sixth seal corresponds to the fifth and sixth messages to the churches – Philadelphia and Laodicea.

Philadelphia – a church of brotherly love, new outreach to the lost; a revival of interest in the Bible.

Laodicea – a lukewarm church, but also a time to prepare for the return of Jesus!

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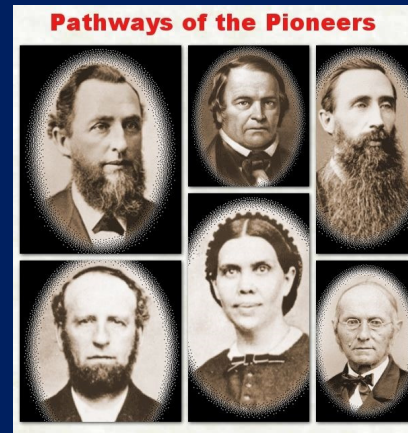


*Period of the Awakening of the Teaching of the
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Present.*



Period of the Awakening of the Teaching of the Return of Jesus, Missionary Work, AD 1800 – Present.

The great Advent Awakening,
Recovery of Bible teachings
not yet grasped by Reformers:
Sabbath, God's Law, Man's
Nature and Condition in
Death, the Return of Jesus,
the Gift of Prophecy



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“Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God...” Revelation 3:11, 12 NKJV.

“I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments...and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.” Revelation 3:18 NKJV.

Period of the Awakening of the Teaching of the Return of Jesus, Missionary Work, AD 1800 – Present.

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Revelation 7 – An Interlude Between the Sixth and the Seventh Seals.

The Sealing Work of God – The Sealing of the 144,000.

Opening of the Seventh Seal, Revelation 8:1

“When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half a hour.”

“To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” Revelation 2:7.

“He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.” Revelation 2:11.

“To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.” Revelation 2:17.

“And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations...as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star.”

Revelation 2:26-28.

“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”

Revelation 3:5.

“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.” Revelation 3:12.

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Revelation 3:19-22 *NKJV*.