**These Perilous Times**

**Vol. 16. N0. 5 March 7, 2024**

**(Introduction to Revelation)**

**Part IV**

**Letters to the Seven Churches**

 As previously mentioned in the Jan. 21, 2024, article of TPT the message of Revelation went through a process of five divinely ordered steps to reach God’s people, written by John, while a political prisoner on the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea for his faith.

He received divine intervention from an angel, and was instructed to bear witness, and reveal everything he saw, write it down in a book, and send it to the messengers of the seven churches that are in Asia (Read Rev. 1:1-3, 11). All seven churches mentioned in Revelation were literal churches of the 1st century, and there were many other churches besides them. We may recognize today that many of the same spiritual characteristics that defined those seven churches of apostolic times, parallel many of the same spiritual conditions of God’s church through the chronicles of history and exists in many of the churches of today! Please read the letters John sent to these seven churches to get more insight.

A. The Church in Ephesus: (Rev. 2:1-7 era of the apostles; A.D. 31-100) the name Ephesus

 means - “First, Desirable and Lovely.”

B. The Church in Smyrna: (Rev 2:8-11 era of persecution; historical parallel time period

 A.D. 100 – 313) the name Smyrna means – “Sweet Fragrance, Myrrh.”

C. The Church in Pergamos: (Rev. 2:12-17 era of compromise; historical parallel time

 period A.D. 313 – 538) the name Pergamos means - “High Elevation.”

D. The Church in Thyatira: (Rev. 2:18-28 era of apostasy; historical parallel time period

 A.D. 538 -1500’s) the name Thyatira means – “Perfume of Labor, Sweet Savor of

 Sacrifice."

E. The Church in Sardis: (Rev. 3:1-6 era of reformation; historical parallel time period

 A.D. 1500’s -1790’s.) the name Sardis means – “That Which Remains.”

F. The Church in Philadelphia: (Rev. 3:7-13 era of revival and mission; historical parallel

 time period A.D. 1790’s – 1840’s) the name Philadelphia means – “Brotherly Love.”

G. The Church in Laodicea: Rev. 3:14-24 era of Christianity today; historical parallel

 time period A.D. 1840’s – Christ’s return), the name Laodicea means – “Lukewarm

 Experience.”

**What does this mean for us?**

**Obvious Signs Do Tell The Serason**

Now take a closer look at the five distinct characteristics of each church and the counsel our Lord gave concerning them.

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| **Church** | **Jesus’ Name****Applied to Church** | **Commendation** | **Reproof** | **Counsel** | **Reward to****Overcomers** |
| **Ephesus** | He that hasthe seven stars andwalks in the midst of the seven candlesticks. | Patient, hates deeds of false teachers, did not faint or give up. | Left yourfirst love. | Repent,do yourfirst works.Return to first love. | Eat from thetree of life. |
| **Smyrna** | The first & last. He who was dead and lives. | Rich in faith andgood works. | None. | BeFaithfulunto death. | Receive thecrown oflife. |
| **Pergamos** | He that has the sharptwo-edged sword. | Hold fast toJesus’ name, have not denied the faith. | ToleratedNicolaitanes,compromise,idolatry. | Repent. | Receive hidden manna,receive a new name. |
| **Thyatira** | The Son of God. | For love, faithpatience, and good works. | ToleratedJezebel,idolatry,immorality. | Hold fastwhat youhave. | Power overnations. |
| **Sardis** | He that has the sevenSpirits of God and theSeven stars | A few are not defiled. | Dead works. | Watch,hold fast,repent. | Keep name inthe book oflife. |
| **Philadelphia** | He that is holy and true who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts… He shuts and no one opens. | Kept the word and didn’t deny Jesus | None. | Hold fastto thefaith. | Pillar in thetemple, kept from temptation,God’s name. |
| **Laodicea** | The Amen, the faithful andtrue witness. | None | Lukewarm,Spiritually blind and naked. | Secure,gold tried in the fire. | Sit with Christon His throne. |

