

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 3

Revelation 3:1-13

LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN SARDIS

- **A little history** — Sardis is the home of the famous king

Croesus (“rich as Croesus”). The high city was set on a mountain spur 1500 feet from the valley floor. The mountain itself was composed of crumbly stone. Almost the only way into the city was across a narrow ridge, making the city almost impregnable. In fact, Sardis felt so secure, when Cyrus the Mede came to conquer the city, they didn’t even bother posting guards or lookouts. But a sharp eyed soldier noticed a Sardinian soldier drop his helmet from



the wall and go down and fetch it, and that night the Persians followed that way up the mountain and found the walls and city unguarded and the city asleep. That’s bad enough, but the very same thing happened again a couple hundred years later with Antiochus, one of Alexander the Great’s generals.

¹ “To the angel of the church

in Sardis write:

He who has the seven Spirits

of God and the seven stars,

says this: ‘I know your deeds,

that you have a name that you are

alive, but you are dead. ² ‘Wake up, and

strengthen the things that remain,

which were about to die; for I have not

found your deeds completed in the

sight of My God. ³ ‘So remember what

- How is Jesus describing Himself now?

- What does it mean?

- How would they have gotten a name that they were alive?

- But what was the reality now?

- Why is Jesus telling them to “wake up”?

you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. ⁴ ‘But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ ‘He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. ⁶ ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

- “strengthen the things that _____, which were about to die”
- “I have not found your deeds _____ in the sight of My God”
- What was the solution? Remember...
 - ...what you _____ (as opposed to what?)
 - ..._____ (as opposed to what?)
 - ..._____ it (lessons)
 - ...and _____
- If you don’t _____ up, Jesus would come like a _____
- Was this true of every Christian in Sardis?
 - What does it mean to not soil garments?
- Promises to overcomers...
 - What does it mean to walk in white?
 - What does it mean to have white garments?
 - What is the book of life?
 - What does it mean to have your name there?
 - What does it mean to have Jesus confess our names before the Father and the angels?
- Other churches had problems with false teachers and others had problems from persecution. Sardis had neither; it was simply _____

LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA

- **A little history** — Philadelphia was established in 189 BC by King Eumenes II of Pergamum (197-160 BC), making Philadelphia the youngest of the seven churches. Eumenes II named the city for the love of his brother, who would be his

successor, Attalus II (159-138 BC), whose loyalty earned him the nickname, "Philadelphos", literally meaning "one who loves his brother". One of its apparent purposes was to propagate Greek language and culture further inland to the bordering kingdoms of Phrygia and Mysia. It was also a city of earthquakes, causing quick abandonment of their stone buildings at every tremor.

7 "And to the angel of the church in

Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is

true, who has the key of David, who

opens and no one will shut, and who

shuts and no one opens, says this:

8 'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put

before you an open door which no one

can shut, because you have a little power,

and have kept My word, and have not

denied My name. 9 'Behold, I will cause

those of the synagogue of Satan, who say

that they are Jews and are not, but lie — I

will make them come and bow down at

your feet, and make them know that I

• How does Jesus describe Himself now?

• _____

• _____

• Having the "_____ of _____"

• What does this mean?

• Isa. 22:22 / 2 Kings 18: 18, 26, 37

• Eliakim son of Hilkiah, faithful chief steward of Hezekiah

• What does Jesus know? Lesson?

• What do "open doors" in the Bible refer to?

• 1 Cor. 16:9 / 2 Cor. 2:12 / Col. 4:3

• What do you think this open door is about? (think about the history told above)

• What does "little power" mean?

• Have you ever felt like you had little power?

• Is there any special temptation to conform, when you have "little power"?

• What had the church in Philadelphia done with their "little power"?

• Who or what is the synagogue of Satan?

• How could someone say they are a Jew and are not, but lie?

have loved you. ¹⁰ ‘Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ ‘I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² ‘He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and 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 My new name. ¹³ ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

- What is the apparent meaning of the word “Jew” here?
- What does it mean to bow down at their feet?
- How might Jesus make it clear to them that He (as God) loved them?
- What does it mean to keep “the word of My (Jesus’) perseverance”?
- Why was the church in Philadelphia to be spared the hour of testing that everyone else would experience?
- Lesson?
- To what was Jesus referring, when He says, “I am coming quickly”? (What are the possibilities?)
- To what should they hold fast, so as not to lose their crown of _____ (*stephanos*)?
- How could someone take their crown?
- What does this say to the “once saved, always saved” doctrine?
- Will there ever be a time, when salvation will be permanent?
- What would be rewarding about being compared to a pillar in the temple of God?
- What is meant about having the name of God, the name of the new Jerusalem, and Christ’s own name written on you as a pillar?
- Having a “name written” becomes a common Revelation phrase to signify
 - _____,
 - _____ with,
 - change of _____,
 - and _____.