

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

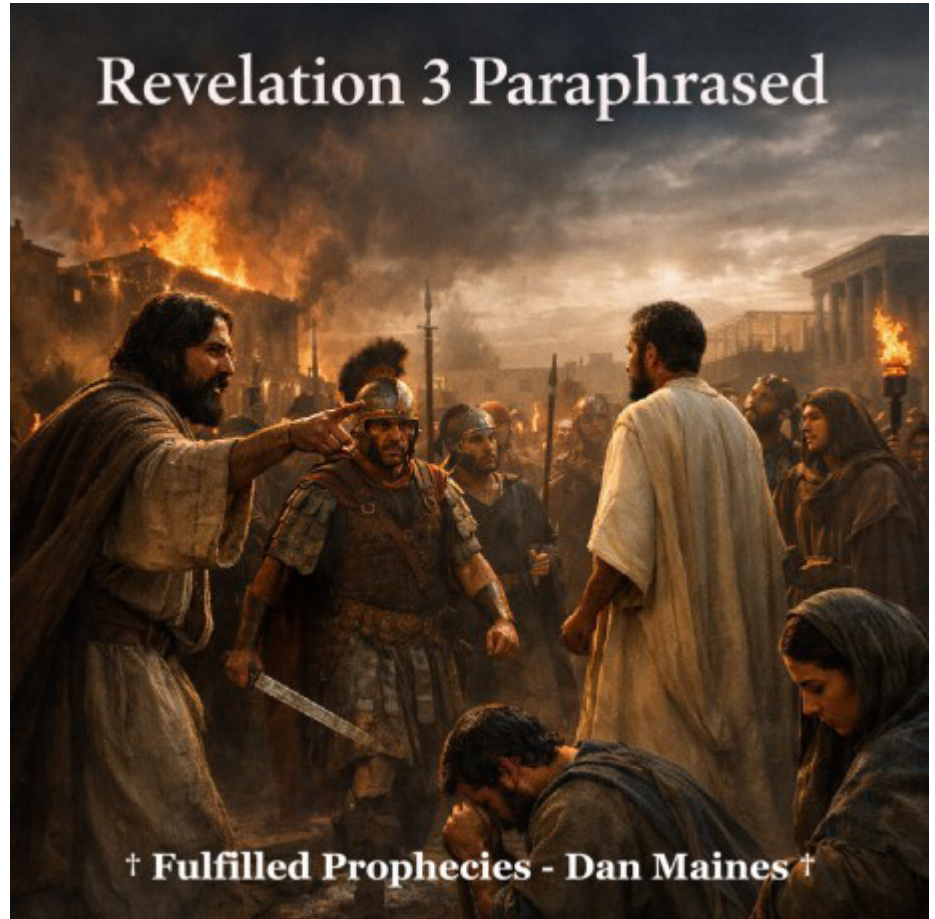
>

[Other](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

Revelation 3 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Revelation 3 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Revelation 3 continues the messages Jesus sent to the remaining churches in Asia. These were real first century congregations living under pressure during the years leading up to the fall of Jerusalem and the persecution under Rome.

† Each message reveals the spiritual condition of those churches, showing faithfulness, compromise, warning, and promise. These warnings were urgent because the time of

judgment was near for that generation (Revelation 1:1, 1:3).

† The Lord was walking among His churches and evaluating them. These letters show that Christ already ruled and judged His people long before modern prophetic systems were invented.

Revelation 3:1

Write this to the messenger of the church in Sardis. The one who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars says this. I know the things you're doing. You have a reputation for being alive, but in reality you're spiritually dead.

† Sardis had a strong outward reputation, but Christ saw their true condition. Religious activity doesn't equal spiritual life (Matthew 23:27).

† The seven spirits represent the fullness of God's Spirit working through Christ among the churches (Isaiah 11:2).

† Jesus alone evaluates the real condition of His people, not their public reputation (1 Samuel 16:7).

Revelation 3:2

Wake up and strengthen what remains before it dies completely, because I haven't found your works complete in the sight of my God.

† The command to wake up shows they were drifting spiritually. Churches can slowly decay if they stop pursuing truth (Hebrews 2:1).

† Their works weren't complete because outward religion had replaced genuine obedience (James 2:17).

† This warning shows that Christ disciplines His churches when they begin drifting from faithfulness (Hebrews 12:6).

Revelation 3:3

Remember what you received and heard. Hold on to it and turn back. If you don't wake up, I'll come like a thief, and you won't know the hour when I'll come against you.

† The coming like a thief refers to unexpected judgment, language used throughout the New Testament for the coming judgment upon that generation (Matthew 24:42-44).

† Sardis was warned to return to the original gospel message they had received (Galatians 1:6-8).

† This wasn't talking about thousands of years later, but about a judgment that could come suddenly upon them.

Revelation 3:4

But you still have a few people in Sardis who haven't stained their garments. They'll walk with me in white because they are worthy.

† Even in corrupt churches there are faithful believers who remain pure in faith and conduct (1 Kings 19:18).

† White garments symbolize righteousness and faithfulness before God (Revelation 19:8).

† Jesus always preserves a faithful remnant among His people.

Revelation 3:5

The one who overcomes will be clothed in white garments, and I will never erase his name from the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before His angels.

† Overcoming means remaining faithful during persecution and testing (1 John 5:4).

† The book of life represents those who belong to God's kingdom (Philippians 4:3).

† Jesus promised to acknowledge faithful believers before the Father, fulfilling His words from the Gospels (Matthew 10:32).

Revelation 3:6

Anyone who has ears should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

† This repeated phrase shows that every church was meant to learn from the warnings given to each congregation.

† Spiritual hearing requires humility and obedience (Isaiah 6:9-10).

† The Spirit was actively speaking through Christ's message to guide the early church.

Revelation 3:7

Write this to the messenger of the church in Philadelphia. The holy and true one, who holds the key of David, who opens and no one can shut, and shuts and no one can open, says this.

† The key of David represents Christ's authority over God's kingdom (Isaiah 22:22).

† Jesus alone controls access to the kingdom, not earthly rulers or religious leaders (John 10:9).

† This authority shows that Christ had already been enthroned as the Messianic king.

Revelation 3:8

I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door that no one can shut. You have little strength, yet you kept my word and didn't deny my name.

† The open door refers to opportunity for the gospel and access into God's kingdom (1 Corinthians 16:9).

† Though they had little strength politically or socially, they remained faithful.

† Christ values faithfulness over influence or power.

Revelation 3:9

Look, I will cause those from the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews but are not and are lying, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they'll know that I have loved you.

† The synagogue of Satan refers to unbelieving Jews who opposed the gospel and persecuted believers (John 8:44).

† Their claim to be God's true people was false because they rejected the Messiah.

† God promised that the truth of Christ's followers would eventually be recognized.

Revelation 3:10

Because you kept my command to remain faithful, I will keep you from the hour of testing that is about to come upon the whole inhabited world, to test those who live on the earth.

† The hour of testing refers to the coming tribulation surrounding the Jewish war and the destruction of Jerusalem (Matthew 24:21).

† Faithful believers were preserved because they obeyed Jesus' warnings to flee (Luke 21:20-21).

† The phrase inhabited world referred to the Roman world of that time (Luke 2:1).

Revelation 3:11

I'm coming quickly. Hold firmly to what you have so no one will take your crown.

† The phrase coming quickly again shows the nearness of the events described in Revelation (Revelation 1:1).

† Their crown represents reward for faithful endurance (James 1:12).

† This warning emphasizes perseverance during persecution.

Revelation 3:12

The one who overcomes I'll make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he'll never go out from it again. I'll write on him the name of my God, the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from my God, and my new name.

† Becoming a pillar represents permanent belonging in God's kingdom (Galatians 2:9).

† The new Jerusalem represents the covenant community of believers, not a physical city descending in the future (Hebrews 12:22-23).

† This promise shows the security of those who remain faithful to Christ.

Revelation 3:13

Anyone who has ears should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

† This final reminder again calls believers to pay attention to Christ's message.

† The Spirit speaks through the written word and through Christ's authority.

† Every church generation must listen carefully to these warnings.

Revelation 3:14

Write this to the messenger of the church in Laodicea. The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation, says this.

† Jesus calls Himself the Amen, meaning He is the confirmation and fulfillment of God's promises (2 Corinthians 1:20).

† The faithful and true witness shows that His evaluation is perfectly accurate.

† The beginning of creation means the origin and ruler over creation, not that He was created (Colossians 1:16).

Revelation 3:15

I know your works, you're neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either cold or hot.

† Laodicea was spiritually indifferent, neither fully rejecting Christ nor fully devoted.

† Lukewarm faith represents compromise and complacency.

† Christ calls His people to wholehearted devotion (Matthew 22:37).

Revelation 3:16

Because you're lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I'm about to spit you out of my mouth.

† This strong image shows Christ's rejection of empty religion.

† Lukewarm faith dishonors the gospel because it shows no real transformation.

† Jesus demands genuine commitment from His followers.

Revelation 3:17

Because you say I'm rich and have become wealthy and need nothing, yet you don't realize you're miserable, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.

† Laodicea was a wealthy city, which made the church confident in material success.

† Spiritual poverty can exist even where material wealth is

abundant (Luke 12:15).

† Christ exposes the true condition of self-satisfied religion.

Revelation 3:18

I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire so you'll become rich, white garments so you'll be clothed and your shame won't be exposed, and eye salve to anoint your eyes so you'll see.

† Gold refined by fire represents genuine faith tested through trials (1 Peter 1:7).

† White garments symbolize righteousness that comes through Christ.

† Eye salve refers to spiritual understanding given through God's truth.

Revelation 3:19

Those I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.

† Christ's rebuke is evidence of His love, not rejection (Hebrews 12:6).

† Repentance is always the path back to restoration.

† God corrects His people to bring them back into faithful obedience.

Revelation 3:20

Look, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I'll come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

† This isn't a salvation invitation to unbelievers but a call to a compromised church to restore fellowship with Christ.

† Shared meals symbolized covenant fellowship in the ancient world (Luke 22:20).

† Jesus was calling the Laodicean church to renew their relationship with Him.

Revelation 3:21

The one who overcomes I'll grant to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on His throne.

† Believers share in Christ's kingdom authority through union with Him (Ephesians 2:6).

† Jesus had already been enthroned at the right hand of God (Acts 2:33).

† This promise shows the victory believers share through Christ.

Revelation 3:22

Anyone who has ears should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

† The final call again emphasizes the importance of listening to Christ's message.

† Every church throughout history must hear and apply these warnings.

† Spiritual obedience begins with attentive hearing.

Historical References

† Irenaeus noted that the letters to the churches revealed the real spiritual condition of early Christian congregations during the apostolic era.

† Eusebius recorded that persecution and internal compromise were common challenges faced by first century churches.

† Tertullian wrote that Christ continually examined and corrected His churches to keep them faithful.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Christ still evaluates the spiritual condition of His people today. Outward reputation doesn't replace genuine faithfulness.

† Churches must guard against spiritual complacency, compromise, and pride.

† Faithfulness during trials remains the mark of true discipleship.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Was Revelation written about events thousands of years later?

A: No. Revelation repeatedly says the events were near and about to happen (Revelation 1:1, 1:3, 22:6).

Q: What does overcoming mean in Revelation?

A: Overcoming means remaining faithful to Christ through persecution and trials (1 John 5:4).

Q: Why were the churches warned about coming judgment?

A: Because the crisis of the Jewish war and the destruction of Jerusalem was approaching their generation (Matthew 24:34).

Q: What did Jesus mean when He said He would come like a thief in Revelation 3:3?

A: It referred to sudden judgment that would come unexpectedly upon that generation. Jesus used the same language when speaking about the destruction that was coming upon Jerusalem (Matthew 24:42-44; Luke 21:34-36).

Q: What is the book of life mentioned in Revelation 3:5?

A: The book of life represents those who belong to God's kingdom and have received life through Christ. Scripture describes faithful believers as being written in this book (Philippians 4:3; Daniel 12:1).

Q: What is the new Jerusalem mentioned in Revelation 3:12?
A: The new Jerusalem represents the covenant community of believers, the dwelling place of God among His people. It is described as the heavenly city believers had already come to through Christ (Hebrews 12:22-23; Revelation 21:2).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

Source Index

† Revelation 3; Matthew 24:34; Luke 21:20-21; Hebrews 12:22-23; Acts 2:33; 1 Peter 1:7; 1 John 5:4

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies; Eusebius, Church History; Tertullian, Apology

[Share on Facebook](#)

Links

Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.