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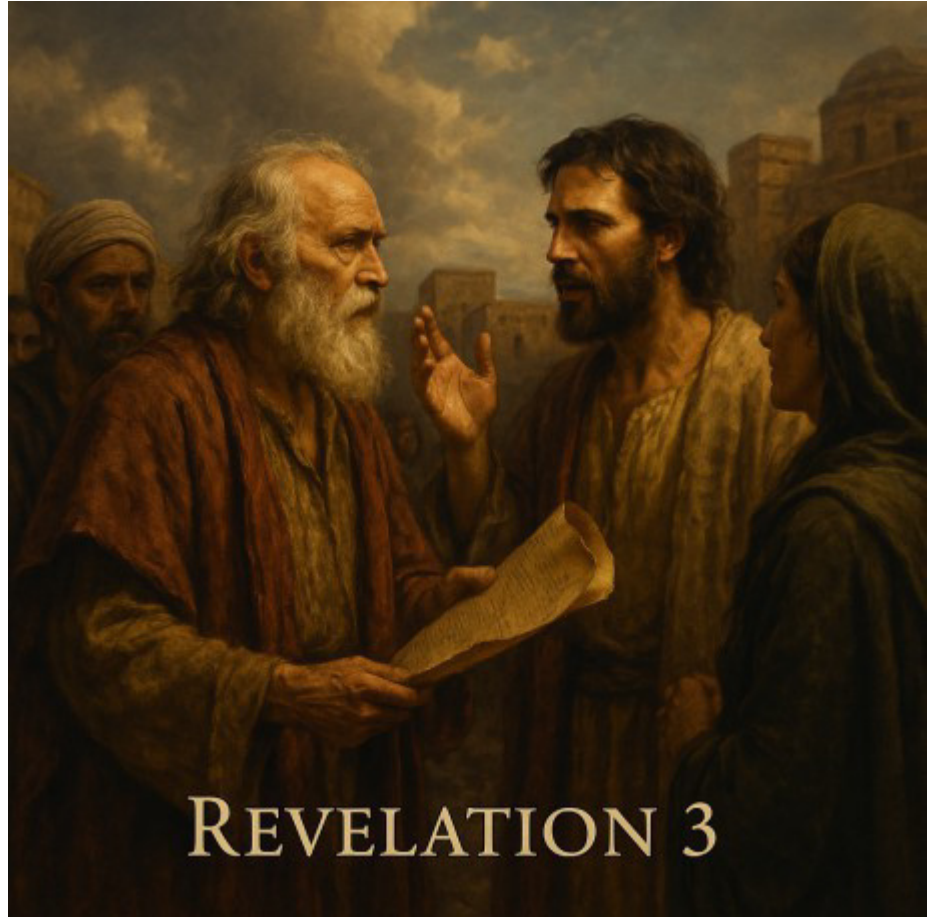
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By Dan Maines

Revelation 3

Revelation 3:1

"To the angel of the church in Sardis write: The One 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, and yet you are dead.'"

† Sardis had a reputation for past glory but was spiritually lifeless. The church had outward appearance without inward reality.

† Strabo (Geography 13.4.5) described Sardis as once glorious

but later decayed, a fitting image for the church.

Revelation 3:2-3

"Be constantly alert, 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. So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Then if you are not alert, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you."

† Christ's warning echoes His teaching in Matthew 24:42-43. The imminent "thief-like" coming was judgment on their complacency.

Revelation 3:4-5

"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. The one who overcomes will be clothed the same way 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."

† A faithful remnant remained. White garments symbolize purity and victory. Assurance belongs to overcomers.

Revelation 3:6

"The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

† Each message applies beyond its original audience, calling all to heed the Spirit.

Revelation 3:7-8

"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: 'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door

which no one can shut, because you have little power, and yet you have kept My word, and have not denied My name."

† Philadelphia, though weak in worldly strength, was faithful. The "key of David" signifies Christ's authority (Isaiah 22:22).

Revelation 3:9

"Behold, I will make 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 before your feet, and make them know that I have loved you."

† Hostile Jews, who rejected Christ, are exposed as false. True Israel is found in those who believe in Jesus.

Revelation 3:10-11

"Because you have kept My word of perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of the testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who live on the earth. I am coming quickly; hold firmly to what you have, so that no one will take your crown."

† The "hour of testing" was near in their day. Christ's promise of protection affirmed His imminent coming.

† The phrase "I am coming quickly" rules out a 2000-year delay.

Revelation 3:12

"The one 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."

† Overcomers become part of God's true temple, fulfilled in the New Jerusalem. This was covenantal language, pointing to the church as God's dwelling.

Revelation 3:13

"The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

† The repeated call shows Christ's words apply to all churches.

Revelation 3:14-15

"To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot.'"

† Laodicea was spiritually lukewarm, neither openly hostile nor zealous. Their compromise disgusted Christ.

† Laodicea was famous for its tepid water supply, described by Strabo (Geography 12.8.18), giving vivid imagery.

Revelation 3:16-17

"So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have no need of anything,' and you do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked."

† Self-sufficiency blinded Laodicea to its true condition. Their wealth masked spiritual poverty.

Revelation 3:18-19

"I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to apply to your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent."

† Christ offered true riches, purity, and vision. Laodicea's famous eye salve (noted by Galen, a physician) is contrasted

with Christ's spiritual healing.

Revelation 3:20

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me."

† Fellowship with Christ is offered personally to individuals. His presence transforms the believer's life.

Revelation 3:21-22

"The one who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne. The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

† Overcomers share in Christ's reign, affirming His already inaugurated kingdom.

How it applies to us today

† Outward appearance without inward life is death.

† Christ opens doors no man can shut, His authority sustains the faithful.

† Wealth and comfort must not blind us to our spiritual need.

† To overcomers belong purity, vision, fellowship, and a share in Christ's throne.

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

Source Index

† Strabo, Geography 13.4.5 – Sardis in decline

† Strabo, Geography 12.8.18 – Laodicea's lukewarm water

† Galen, On the Usefulness of the Parts – Laodicea's eye salve

† Polycarp, Martyrdom of Polycarp – faithfulness under trial

† Chrysostom, Homilies on Revelation – warnings to the

churches

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