

Study 2: Revelation & the final movement

We start this study in Revelation 2 & 3. In these two chapters we find the seven lampstands which are in the heavenly sanctuary. Each of these lampstands represents a **church period in history**.

Revelation 1:20 "The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the **seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches**.

The seven churches are: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

"The names of the **seven churches are symbolic of the church in different periods of the Christian Era**. The number **7 indicates completeness**, and is symbolic of the fact that the messages **extend to the end of time**, while the symbols used reveal the condition of the church at different periods in the history of the world." {AA 585.3}

This statement tells us that there will be **not another movement** after the 7th church of Laodicea. These churches extend to the **END OF TIME**. Why is this important? Let's see what Bible expositors say about what time periods these 7 churches refer to:

Ephesus:	31 – 100AD
Smyrna:	100 – 313AD
Pergamos:	313 – 538AD
Thyatira:	538 – 1517AD
Sardis:	1517 – 1755AD
Philadelphia:	1755 – 1833AD
Laodicea:	1844 to the END OF TIME, when time is no longer

The Laodicean church, which started in 1844, will last until time is no more - meaning when Jesus comes. In 1844 the judgment started and the name Laodicea means: "people's judgment" or "a people adjudged." This investigative judgment will continue until probation closes for the world.

Laodicea is a lukewarm church, but Christ has the remedy for this church - gold refined in the fire, white garments, and the eye salve (Rev 3:18). The solution isn't new doctrine but rather more refined faith (gold), a spotless character (white garments), and spiritual discernment (eye salve) to detect sin.

"Again and again has the voice from heaven addressed you. Will you obey this voice? Will you heed the counsel of the True Witness, to seek the gold tried in the fire, the white raiment, and the eye-salve? The gold is **faith and love**, the white raiment is the **righteousness of Christ**, the eye-salve is that **spiritual discernment** which will enable you to see the wiles of Satan and shun them, **to detect sin** and abhor it, to see truth and obey it." {RH, November 18, 1909 par. 26}

It is interesting that Jesus received 7 attributes from the Holy Spirit when He was baptized:

Isaiah 11:2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom¹ and understanding², The Spirit of counsel³ and might⁴, The Spirit of knowledge⁵ and of the fear⁶ of the LORD.

The seventh attribute is mentioned in verse 4 and Isaiah 4:4:

Isaiah 11:4 But with righteousness He shall **judge** the poor

Isaiah 4:4 When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the blood of Jerusalem from her midst, by the **spirit of judgment**⁷ and by the spirit of burning

The seventh attribute was the **Spirit of judgment**. The oil in the lamp stands refer to the Holy Spirit (Zech 4), so the 7 attributes of the Holy Spirit apply to each of the 7 churches. The church of Laodicea refers to the people being judged and the 7th and final attribute of the Spirit is judgment.

Therefore the Laodicean church is the final movement. There will be **no other church or movement after this church**. In our next study we will find out which church this is by studying Revelation 12.

In Revelation 12 we find the history of God's bride or church. In Revelation 12:1-5 we find the Old and New Testament history of the church. This woman has 12 stars on her forehead, and she is pregnant. The 12 stars represent the 12 tribes of Israel, as the number 12 denotes leadership. Jesus came from the tribe of Juda. Therefore the woman being pregnant represents the Old Testament church made up of the 12 tribes.

She then gives birth and the New Testament church starts under the leadership of the 12 disciples. In verse 5 Jesus is caught up to heaven. The woman flees to the wilderness for 1260 years (Rev 12:6, 14), this is the same time period as the rule of the Antichrist as explained in Daniel 7 and Revelation 13. While in the wilderness this woman is helped by the earth (Rev 12:16). What does the earth represent? It represents a sparsely populated area, as the waters represented a multitude of people (Rev 17:5). In Revelation 13 we find the second beast coming out of the earth (Rev 13:11), which represents the USA. During the dark ages of Papal persecution the pilgrims fled to the USA and there the Christian church went forward. The USA is based on two very important principles, religious freedom and civil freedom. Therefore the Bible is correct in saying that the "earth" or the USA, helped the woman.

Why is this important? The woman was in the wilderness for 1260 years, or, can we say, in hiding. Then after the 1260 years the woman started her public work again and she had 2 very important characteristics: She would keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus, after 1798! And that would make the devil angry (Rev 12:17). The people in this time period are also called "**the remnant.**" We can conclude that the final church of Laodicea is the same remnant of Revelation 12:17. If we study the characteristics of this woman we can look for the movement in this world that started around 1844 and has the same characteristics as this woman.

In our next study we will look at those characteristics.

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