

A Brief History.

Laodicean

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}

To the apostle John on the Isle of Patmos, were opened scenes of deep and thrilling interest in the *experience of the church.* Subjects of vast importance were presented to him in figures and symbols, that those who should turn from error to truth might become intelligent concerning the perils and conflicts before them. The *history of the Christian world* to the very close of time, was revealed to him. With great clearness he saw the position, dangers, conflicts, and final deliverance of the people of God. He records the closing message which is to ripen the harvest of the earth, either as sheaves for the heavenly garner, or as fagots for the fires of the last day. {ST, February 8, 1910 par. 1}

John beheld in vision the redeemed people of God. He saw the triumph of those who had gained the victory over the beast and over his image. He marked the trials which they had endured for the truth's sake. He saw their unyielding firmness in adhering to the commandments of God against the oppressive powers that sought to force them to disobedience. {ST, February 8, 1910 par. 2}

The warning for *the last church* also *must be proclaimed to all who claim to be Christians. The Laodicean message, like a sharp, two-edged sword, must go to all the churches:* "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of My mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." Verses 15-19. It is our work to proclaim this message. Are we putting forth every effort that the churches may be warned? {6T 77.2}

Image to/of the Beast.

Several times during our conversation, in which you become very much in earnest, you repeated the sentence, "O consistency, thou art a jewel!" I repeat the same with decided force to you. You say that Anna's visions place the forming of the image of the beast after probation closes. This is not so. You claim to believe the testimonies; let them set you right on this point. The Lord has shown me clearly that ***the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided.*** Your position is such a jumble of inconsistencies that but few will be deceived. {15MR 15.1}

In Revelation 13 this subject is plainly presented; [Revelation 13:11-17, quoted]. {15MR 15.2}

This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. All who prove their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. Those who ***yield the truth of heavenly origin,*** and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast. **What need will there be of the solemn warning** not to receive the mark of the beast, when all the saints of God are sealed and ticketed for the New Jerusalem? "O consistency, thou art a jewel!" {15MR 15.3}

At the time when the Papacy, robbed of its strength, was forced to desist from persecution, John beheld a new power coming up to echo the dragon's voice, and carry forward the same cruel and blasphemous work. ***This power, the last that is to wage war against the church and the law of God,*** is represented by a beast with lamblike horns. The beasts preceding it had risen from the sea; but this came up out of the earth, representing the peaceful rise of the nation which it symbolized--the United States. {ST, February 8, 1910 par. 5}

Prophecy represents Protestantism as having lamblike horns, but speaking like a dragon. ***Already we are beginning to hear the voice of the dragon.*** There is a satanic force propelling the Sunday movement, but it is concealed. Even the men who are engaged in the work, are themselves blinded to the results which will follow their movement. {7BC 975.5}

The decree enforcing the worship of this day is to go forth to all the world. ***In a limited degree, it has already gone forth.*** In several places the civil power is speaking with the voice of a dragon, just as the heathen king spoke to the Hebrew captives. {7BC 976.8}

Two Servants/Wise and Foolish.

The parable of the ten virgins of Matthew 25 also illustrates the experience of the Adventist people. In Matthew 24, in answer to the question of His disciples concerning the sign of His coming and of the end of the world, Christ had pointed out some of the most important events in the history of the world and of the church *from His first to His second advent; namely, the destruction of Jerusalem, the great tribulation of the church under the pagan and papal persecutions, the darkening of the sun and moon, and the falling of the stars.* After this He spoke of His coming in His kingdom, and related the parable describing *the two classes of servants who look for His appearing.* Chapter 25 opens with the words: "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins." Here is brought to view the church living in the last days, the same that is pointed out in the close of chapter 24. In this parable their experience is illustrated by the incidents of an Eastern marriage.

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him."

Note: Matthew 24 covers the period of time from Christ's 1st advent to His 2nd. So does the 7 Churches of Revelation chapters 2 and 3, and the chapters of 17, 18, and 19. This history consists of pagan and papal Rome, The signs of His coming (not His coming) and the product of the reformation; the good and evil servant—wise and foolish just before His appearance.

Compare Matt. 24, Rev. 16, and Rev. 18.

Matt. 24:48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord *delayeth his coming*; 49 And shall begin to *smite his fellowservants*, and to eat and drink with the drunken; 50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day *when he looketh not for him*, and in an hour that he is not aware of, 51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Rev. 16:4 And the *third angel poured out* his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. 5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

6 For **they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.** 7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.

Rev. 18:3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have **committed fornication with her**, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. 4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. 5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. 6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. . . . 20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; **for God hath avenged you** on her. . . 24 And **in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.**

Note: Smite—a heavy blow or stroke with a weapon or hand. Strong’s 5180. Whom did they smite? “their fellow servants.” And for this reason and the following the Protestant Laodicean “image to/of the beast” church receives her own plague, the 3rd, as the papal church does the 5th.

Rev. 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Note: This 2nd message occurred when the churches rejected the 1st angels of this 3. And with the other 2 swell into the Loud Cry—“cried mightily with a strong voice” of 18:2, when the churches fall further and unite with the state to legislate religious duty.

No light in them.

Rev. 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw **seven golden candlesticks**; 13 And in the midst of the **seven candlesticks** one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. . . . 20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the **seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.**

Note: For each church a Candlestick/lamp. Exo. 25: 31-35*, 37* Candlestick and

lamp are synonymous, the meaning of them represents the work of the Holy Spirit through angels and the faithful to bring light to each successive age. When it is rejected the light goes out for those who are unfaithful.

Rev. 18:23 And the **light of a candle shall shine no more** at all in thee; and the voice of the **bridegroom and of the bride** shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

Matt 25:6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. . 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for **our lamps are gone out**. . 10 And while they went to buy, the **bridegroom** came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Note: Why did they go out? They wearied of watching and waiting for their Lord and setting their eyes on the things of this world esteeming the kings of this world more desirable.

Rev. 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; 15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, **I will spue thee out of my mouth**.

Note: This last Church is **spued** out for lukewarmness. God could not have stated their final fate any kinder than “the light of a candle shall no more shine in thee.” The Lord said by Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the **testimony**: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is **no light in them**.” In Revelation 19:10 we’re told by an Angel “I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is **the spirit of prophecy**.” No offense is more glaring than the human doctrine “there’s more than one meaning to a scripture.” Here is found the reason why Protestant Laodiceans smote/killed their fellow servants the prophets. Protestant Laodiceans gave up the testimony of Jesus/Prophecy that exposes them.