

MYSTERY OF GOD (WORD) REVEALED

- Let your loins be girded about, and your light burning;
- And yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.
- Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will cometh forth and serve them. (Luke.12:35-37)

MYSTERY OF GOD (WORD) REVEALED

- And he shall come in the **second watch**, or come in the **third watch**, and find them so , blessed are those servants. (Luke.12:38)
- For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven (1)with a shout (2) with a voice of the archangel (3) and with the trump of God) :And the dead in Christ shall rise first;
- Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians.4:16-17)

MYSTERY OF GOD (WORD) REVEALED

- And the Lord said who then is that faithful and wise steward whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?
- Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing .
- Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.
(Luke.12:42-44)

MYSTERY OF GOD REVEALED

- Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,
- Strive to enter in at the strait (narrow) gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.
- When the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are.
(Luke.13:23-25)

THE FIRST PARABLE (MATTHEW.13:3-9)

- Behold, sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up.
- Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth.
- And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

THE FIRST PARABLE (MATTHEW.13:7-8,

- And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:
- But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundred fold, some sixty fold some thirty fold.
- [Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower : When any one heareth the word of the kingdom,Matthew.13:18:23]

REVELATION.2:1-3

- Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; these things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlestick;
- I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:
- And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name 's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted

REVELATION.2:4 -7

- Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.
- Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.
- But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitians, which I also hate
- He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.



The Ephesians Church Age:
The First: Messenger – .
st.Paul

The Time Period:

AD 50 – AD 170 ,

Rev.2:1-7 & Mat.13:18-23

THE MESSENGER TO THE FIRST CHURCH AGE

- The Apostle Paul founded the Ephesians church in the middle of the first century. He was the prophet- messenger to the gentiles. God gave him the full revelation of the word for the gentile church. (Galatians.1:12-19)
- Paul's manner of ministering settle pattern that all future messengers were to aspire to, actually sets the pattern for every true minister of God.

THE MESSENGER TO THE FIRST CHURCH AGE

- Apostle Paul's ministry had a three fold quality :
- 1) This great apostle was absolutely true to the word, never deviating from it no matter what the cost.(Gal.1:8-9, 1Cor.14:36-37, 1Thess.2:13)
- 2) His ministry was in the power of the Spirit, thereby demonstrating the spoken word and written word.(1Cor.2:1-5, Acts.28:7-9,)
- 3) Apostle Paul had the evidence of the fruit of his God given ministry.(2Cor.12:11,1Cor.9:2)

THE MESSENGER TO THE FIRST CHURCH AGE

- Apostle Paul had the means of bringing in multitudes of gentile sheep; he fed them, and he cared for them, until they are brought forth righteous fruit and were prepared to meet the Lord as part of His gentile bride.
- Paul was not governed by a denomination or any form of organized religion. He was absolutely Spirit led. (Galatians.1:1)

THE EPHESIAN CHURCH

- The beautiful city of Ephesus was one of the three greatest cities of Asia at that time. It was often called the third city of Christian faith with Jerusalem first, and Antioch second. A very rich city with the Roman government, but spoke the Greek language.
- The name Ephesus , has a strange compound meaning “Aimed at” and “Relaxed”
- The local church and the attitude of the church through the age had become relaxed and was drifting, backsliding, had left its first love.

THE EPHESIAN CHURCH

- The enemy had , in this first age of the church, sown anti word “seed” which would in future ages (The dark ages) bringing physical death to millions of God’s children.
- Coming to maturity in the seventh and the last age, the fruit of the “seeds” sown in the Ephesus age would bring spiritual death to untold millions of professing Christians.

THE EPHESIAN CHURCH

- The very religion of the city of Ephesus type out perfectly this church age and sets the tenor of the ages to come.
- The Ephesians worshipped the goddess, Diana. Diana was to the Ephesians, what Astarte was to the Syrians; Venus to the Romans and Isis to the Egyptians.
- All the different names for the same goddess who was worship as the “queen of heaven”. This worship originated with Nimrod, and his wife mother Semiramis and their son.

THE EPHESIAN CHURCH

- In this church age worship of the father , mother and the son the trinity began. Mother Semiramis was worshipped as the “queen of heaven”.
- Ahab’s wife Jezeble introduced into the worship of baal and Astarte, the goddess of heaven.
- Hardly a nation escaped this spiritual pollution and it eventually infiltrated the church, establishing the “ worship” of the virgin Mary.
- It is nothing less than the spirit of anti-Christ moving the emphasis away from the Lord Jesus Christ to false gods and goddess of man made religion.

THE EPHESIAN CHURCH

- It would take time for the spirit of anti- Christ to mix Pagan ideas and theology with the new born Christian church.
- But already in this first age pagan influence was subtly infiltrating the church of Christ.
- The true believers did recognized the anti- word “deeds” of certain of the brethren, but never realized that those “deeds” would one day become the law of an empire which would hold political and spiritual dominion over the people.

THE PAGAN RELIGION OF EPHESUS (DIANA WORSHIP)

- The priest of Diana were eunuchs - basically a sterile anti Christ priesthood which would be introduced to Christianity by false church, wherein their priest would be forbidden to marry.
- Above and beyond the “ physical sterility” it reflected a spiritually sterile church which had drifted from their love for the word of God, and become unable to reproduce the word in everyday living.

THE PAGAN RELIGION OF EPHESUS

- They became entrenched in a “ form of godliness” satisfies with religious ritual, ceremony and works of a “ dead faith” without Holy Ghost manifestations would be the order of worship.
- A high priest was the overseer of all that pertained to the worship of the goddess Diana. He was a man of political power and public influence, portraying what was already in progress, though not too manifested as yet in this first age.

THE PAGAN RELIGION OF EPHESUS

- The church would soon be given over to human leadership void of divine inspiration they would govern the church by human interpretations of the will of the will of God rather than the revealed word given by the messenger (angel) of the age. Any Holy Ghost move among the people would be branded as fanaticism and persecuted unto death. This was represented by pagan temple slaves who had no choice but obedience to the religious hierarchy.

THE PAGAN RELIGION OF EPHESUS

- All these things spoke of what was to come in greater manifestation in future ages of church. Man made and man appointed clergy, would, political maneuvering and with the state help enslave the laity, making them servants to creeds, dogmas and ritual of a church ran by corrupt leaders, giving their power and glory over to anti – Christ beast spoken of in the book of revelation.

THE PAGAN RELIGION OF EPHESUS

- The message to the each of the seven churches is from none other than our Lord Jesus Christ- one John saw standing in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks
- At the beginning of the message to each of the seven churches the Lord Jesus “ identifies” Himself in His position, His power, His authority, and His glorious attributes, by the word in the word , through the word He clearly identifies Himself in all ages. .

THE MESSAGE TO THE EPHESIAN AGE

- In the right hand of power are seven stars, who, according to revelation 1:20, , are the seven church age messengers being in His “right hand” first signifies His authority and control over His messengers and secondly, it signifies that the very power and authority of God are behind His messengers to every age.

THE MESSEGE TO THE EPHESIAN AGE

- The messengers are represented as “stars” in His right hand. They are “stars” because they reflect light, reflecting not their own light – the revelation of Jesus Christ for the age in which they live.
- As the natural “stars” reflect their light in the night, when darkness covers the earth even so the “star messengers” in right hand of Jesus Christ are ordained to reflect “the light” in the spiritually dark night which falls upon the church.

THE MESSEGE

- These “star messengers” would fulfill in their day the “Great commission” given by Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:19-20.
- They speak and act upon His authority.
- The great commission is three fold.
- 1) Go, 2) Teach, and 3) Baptize.

THE MESSEGE

- The true ministry is there to ‘teach’ the people the word, encouraging them to live up – not with a church creed, but with what God says in His Word.
- The “true servants of God” will always points people to the WORD, not a church, not a ministry, not a sensation.

THE MESSEGE

- Teach not the “ doctrine of the Nicolatians” or the doctrine of Balaam but teach them to “ observe all things, whatsoever our Lord Jesus Christ has commanded in His word.
- Neither the “star messengers” or any other ministry is permitted to “add to” the word or change, subtract or compromise” that which God has written and “ forever settled in heaven”
Psalms .119:89

THE MESSEGE

- It wasn't the Pope, the pastor general overseer or the church who hung upon the cross, gave his blood. It was Jesus Christ. The church didn't Dei for us- it was Lord Jesus Christ the author and the finisher of our faith. We are espoused to Him and not another. We don't belong to the church. We belong to Him. As His word is life to us , the church creeds, dogmas , by laws and constitutions “ make the word , none effect” blinding the people to what the word of God actually teaches and causing them to “worship God in vain. Matthew.15:6-9.

THE MESSEGE

- As the literal “candlesticks” in the tabernacle in the wilderness are made of pure gold , our righteousness is His righteousness, our attributes are His own glorious attributes our identity is found in Him. What He has we have to manifest.

REVELATION.2:2-3

- “I know thy works , and thy labour, and patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil :and thou has tried them which say they are apostles, are not and hast borne and hast patience, and for my name’s sake has laboured, and hast not fainted.”



• LORD JESUS CHRIST

THE MESSAGE TO THE FIRST CHURCH AGE

- The Lord alone “walketh in the midst of His church”. For He has planted it in His own likeness (the word) , therefore, He would water over it (with His word) and He would watch over it, lest unbelief defile or destroy it .
- Without Christ in the midst of the church she simply a religious society, a club, a meaningless gathering of people. No matter what the good programs and kind efforts are, without Christ in the midst no life.



“Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks”.

(Revelation.2:1)

The one who walketh in the midst of seven golden candlestick is none other than the **Lord Jesus Christ**. At the beginning of the message to each of the Seven Church Ages, the Lord Jesus “**Identifies**” Himself in His position, His power, His authority and His glorious attributes.

He “holdeth the Seven Stars in His right hand.” The right hand signifies the power and authority of God. Being His “right hand” first signifies His authority and control over His messengers, secondly it signifies that very power and authority of God are behind His messengers to every age.

THE STAR MESSENGERS

- The messengers are represented as ‘star” in his right hand . They are “Stars” because they reflect light, reflecting not their own light but His light The Revelation of Jesus Christ for the age in which they live.
- As the natural stars reflect their light in the night, where darkness cover the earth so the “star messenger” in the right hand of Jesus Christ are ordained to reflect “the light” spiritually dark night which falls upon the church.

THE WORKS OF THE FIRST CHURCH AGE

- Jesus knows our works, whether they are good or evil. According to His word or contrary to His word. In each church age He acknowledges the works of the church, acknowledging their suffering and expressing His care and concern for them.
- But He also takes full account of their spiritual attitudes, and behavior. Praising and commending them for their faithfulness and chastising and correcting them for areas wherein they were found to be compromising His word.

THE WORKS OF THE FIRST CHURCH AGE

- In this first age He knows that there is weakness amongst them, but as yet He doest not cry out against it.
- But in love and mercy he encourages the saints in continuing to follow after that which is righteous, and discourages them from giving into the temptation to “go alone” with anti- word teaching.
- Knowing the works of the church in this age Jesus knew that the “seeds” of anti word teaching were already being planted by false apostels.

THE WORKS OF THE FIRST CHUCH AGE

- “ I know thy works, thy labour, and thy patience”
- The word labour, signifies a weariness through oppression. There is an indication of another spirit is at work in the Ephesian age opposing the Spirit of Christ in His church.
- This opposing , anti – Christ spirit would , according to Daniel 7:25 “ speak (great) words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints and thinks to change times and laws”
- These first age saints suffered great persecution. They were being “harassed” “oppressed” by anti-Christ false church.

FALSE APOSTLES OF THE FIRST AGE

- The early church fathers had to deal with “false apostles” who were attempting to “exercise authority” over the people and preach things which didn’t come from the scriptures.
- These false apostles claim to authority and their teaching were “tried” (examined by the word); and they were found to be liars-deceiving the people.

FALSE APOSTLES

- The Apostle John Paul deals with such persons.
- “ I wrote unto the church; But Diotrephes, which loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiving us not, wherefore, if I come , I will remember his deeds, which doeth, prating against us with malicious words; and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receiving the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would , and casteth them out of the church”
(3 John.9-10)

FALSE APOSTLES

- The Apostle Paul deals with such person.
- “But shun profane and vain babblings; for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker; of whom is **Hymenaeus** and **Philetus**; Who **concerning the truth have erred**, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some. Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His.” (1 Timothy.2:16-19)

FALSE APOSTLE

- The seeds of the true church just began to sprout and manifest itself when “tares” also began to make itself known among the “wheat”.
- The “tares” had gained sufficient ground to become an hindrance and source of persecution, and deception to the “wheat” Sons and Daughters of God.
- Liked Cain persecuted and killed Abel, Ishmael persecuted Isaac, Esau also persecuted Jacob who all are the seed of God , even from Genesis to Revelation.

THE MESSEGE TO THE FIRST CHURC AGE

- The children of this world, controlled by devil, hates the children of God who are controlled by the Holy Spirit. **No matter how just and upright a Christian is before the public, and how gracious he is to his fellow man, dong naught but good, let him confess Christ as his savior and stand for all of what the Bible teachers, he will be criticized and condemned.**

THE MESSAGE TO THE FIRST CHURCH AGE

- The very “life” of the true Child of God is a testimony against the forms of godliness, and worldliness of man made religion. Therefore, persecution , separation from family and friends (for His Word sake) are nature and normal part of Christian life.
- The Lord acknowledges how that the saints in this Ephesian age has “endured” and “patiently” dealt with the false apostles all for His Name sake, that Name of the Lord be exalted and not blasphemed. They “labour” to the point of exhaustion, refusing to “faint” in the face of any opposition.

THE LORD REPROVES HIS OWN IN THE FIRST AGE

- Nevertheless I have (somewhat) against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.
(Revelation.2:4)
- The scenario which has oft repeated itself in God's dealing with Israel is now seen in God's dealing with the church.
- In the history of Israel we see revival start with one generation only to see the fires fading into next. In the generation , the fire is reduced to glowing embers, but in the forth fourth there may be no trace whatsoever of that original flame.

THE LORD REPROVES HIS OWN IN THE EPHESIAN AGE

- This process enforces the truth that God has no grand children, only sons and daughters. Salvation is not passed on by natural birth, water baptism, sprinkling, etc.; or personal association with a church, its rituals, dogmas or creeds.
- Salvation is a “personal experience” with the Lord Jesus Christ, Acts 2:38 is the path which if followed by faith in the heart will produce an “experience” with Christ.
- A genuine experience will ALWAYS lead to His “Lordship” (by His word) over your life.

THE LORD REPROVES

- This is what happened to the Ephesian church. They were getting bit formal. Absolute dedication to the Lord and all allegiance to his word was dying out and the people were concerned about what the world thought of them. Rather than what God thought of them.
- That second generation coming out was just like Israel. Wanting to be like other nations and wanting to be “recognized” a real kingdom, Israel demanded a “human” king to rule over them. When they did that, they rejected God as their king- they left their first love.

THE LORD REPROVES

- The church was beginning to do exactly what Israel did. In this first age Christ reproves His own with the words; “Nevertheless I have (somewhat) against thee because thou hast left thy first love”.
- A generation was rising that wanted to be “recognized” by man. Therefore, in this first age the “false apostles influencing the young church to leave its first love”

THE LORD REPROVES

- Church began to submit, little by little to the idea of “organizing” Christianity and placing under a “human-led” church government.
- Once the idea (seed) was sown, it wasn't long before the people began moving their allegiance from the word of God to the organized church and its creed.
- They change manner of dress, their attitudes and their behavior. They got lax,, that is what “Ephesus” means- relaxed - drifting

THE LORD REPROVES

- But already, the church was cooling in its love for her Lord. One little deviation from the word was a step away from Christ. What Israel did the church was also doing.
- “Wherefore the Lord said ,forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me , but have removed their hearts far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precepts of men”. (Isaiah.29:13)
- Regardless of what they said with their mouth, their lives told another story. Jesus said “ And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say” (Luke.6:46)

THE LORD WARNS HIS OWN IN THE FIRST AGE

- The people were still religious but not walking fully in line with the Word of the Lord. There was a tremendous influence in the Ephesian church age, calling them to “add to” that Word or “take from” it .
- This influence was so subtle that many were not able to recognize the deception. Dressed as “reason” and “human understanding” this anti – Christ spirit was gaining a foothold in the church exactly as the Devil gained ground in the garden of Eden.

THE LORD WARNS ...

- “Remember therefore from when thou art fallen, and repent and do the first works or else I will come unto thee quickly and will remove thy candlestick out of this place except thou repent. (JESUS- Rev.2:5)
- The church was commanded to “remember” where and how the church started- on the day of Pentecost; recognized their “fallen” state and “REPENT” for straying from the “Original” fire, power and message of Pentecost, as much as they did.
- And do the “first works” over again. Failure to do as Christ commanded means the “removal of the candlestick (the light) out of it’s place.”

THE LORD WARNS

- The Lord's warning is to entire church age, specially the generation which was witnessing the closing of the Ephesian age.
- Those who failed to Repent and do the first works would be “blotted out” of the ‘Book of Life’ (Revelation.3:5)
- This warning came to pass to the ‘local’ church at Ephesus, the candlestick was removed. By the end of the ‘Age’ the City of Ephesus was in ruins and not one Christian remained in what was now a neglected village.

RUINED AND NEGLECTED EPHESUS







THE DECEPTION OF THIS AGE

- “But this thou, Hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.” (Revelation .2:6)
- There was a heretical group existing “within” and “under” the banner of Christian Church, in the Ephesian age. In His message to the Ephesian age, JESUS acknowledges the Nicolaitan to be an “ identifiable group”
- The Elect seed of God in this age recognized this group, they hated what this group was doing. This “seeds” of the “deeds” of the Nicolaitans would through the ages become a doctrine and the way of the “organized” church.

THE DECEPTION OF THIS AGE

- The “deeds” of the Nicolaitans would indeed mushroom in to a rebellion against the “Absolute Authority” of the word of God. With theses “deeds” man would “inject” his own ideas into how the church should run.
- The very name “Nicolaitan” comes from the two Greek words; ‘NIKO’ which means to conquer; and ‘LAOS’ ,which means the laity.
- These ‘false’ Nicolaitan teachers in the church began to elevate the clergy above the laity. This distinction did not exist in the beginning.

THE DECEPTION OF THIS AGE

- The “clergy order” being set in motion by the Nicolaitan, heard in Ephesian age would later developed into the Papal hierarchy of priests and clergy over the laity. For centuries the Roman Catholic Church “enforced” this doctrine of Nicolaitanism on the people.
- Following the great reformation, all protestant churches also eventually adopted this pattern. This anti scripture separation of clergy from the laity is a great evil in the eyes of the God and He hates it.

PETER WARNS (2.Peter.2:1-3)

- “But there were false prophets also among people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.
- And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.
- And through covetousness (greed) shall they feigned (false) words make merchandise of you.

THE DECEPTION OF THIS AGE

- In this modern age in which we live Nicolaitanism has descended into the shameful prideful spirit of control, manipulation, domination and intimidation and a rebellion of the rightful authority of God in the lives of the believers.
- Nicolaitanism denies the biblical “Priesthood” of the believers by few elevated clergy.

THE LORD WARNS

- A true and genuine ministry is there to “teach” the people the Word, encouraging them to line up not with a church creed, but with what God says in the bible.
- The true servants of God will always point the people to the Word. Jesus said “ man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”
(Matthew.4:4)
- The spirit of Nicolaitans points people to a church ,a group, ministry or a sensation.

THE FINAL EXHORTATION TO THE EPHESUS

- “To him that over cometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is **IN THE MIDST OF THE PARADISE OF GOD.**” (Revelation.2:7)
- The “over comer” is one who engages in a “battle” with opposing forces and “over come” them.
- The “over comers” over come the influence of false teachers, Nicolatanism and man made (Lie- deception) religion.

THE FINAL EXHORTATION TO THE EPHESUS

- “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father **in Spirit and in Truth**: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. (John.4:23)
- They overcame, not by their own strength, but by virtue of the **Word of God** (Revelation), which **abideth in them**. (1John.2:14)
- To over come one must stay with ,not with a church, a creed, a sensation, but stay what God says in His word. (1John.4:4)

THE FINAL EXHORTATION TO THE EPHESUS

- The “tree of life” is mentioned three times in the book of Genesis and three times in the book of Revelation In all six places it is the same tree (law governing life)
- “And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth His fruit in his Season.” (Psalm.1:3)
- “He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son hath not life” (John.5:12)
- Bible states plainly and clearly that the life eternal is in the Lord Jesus Christ (the Son)



Paul

**Greater
Light**

**Ephesus
53 - 170**

A vibrant garden scene featuring a central pond with a stone waterfall. The garden is filled with various plants, including purple and white flowers, green foliage, and several blue butterflies. The background shows a well-maintained lawn and more garden structures.

PROVERBS.25:2

IT IS THE GLORY OF GOD TO
CONCEAL A THING: BUT THE
HONOUR OF KINGS (ROYAL) IS TO
SEARCH OUT THE MATTER.

LUKE.3:17

- “ WHOSE (Jesus) FAN IS IN HIS HAND, AND HE WILL THOROUGHLY PURGE HIS FLOOR, AND WILL GATHER THE WHEAT INTO HIS GARNER ; BUT CHAFF HE WILL BURN WITH FIRE UNQUENCHABLE.”

THE CHURCH IN SMYRNA (The Second Church Age)

- THE SECOND PARABLE
- Matthew.13:24-26
- “The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But when men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.”

THE SECOND PARABLE

- MATTHEW.13:27-28
- “So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in the field? From whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, **An enemy hath done this.** The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?”

THE SECOND PARABLE

- MATTHEW.13:29-30
- “But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in BUNDLES to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.”

THE SECOND PARABLE

- MATTHEW.13:37-39
- “He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; reapers are the angels (messengers).”

THE SECOND PARABLE

- MATTHEW.13:40-41
- “As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things (scandals) that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. THEN SHALL THE RIGHTEOUS SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN IN THE KINGDOM OF THEIR FATHER. Who hat ears to hear , let him hear.”

THE SMYRNA CHURCH AGE

- REVELATION.2:8-9
- “And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;
- I know thy works, and thy tribulation, and poverty, but thou art rich and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not , but are the synagogue of Satan.

THE SMYRNA CHURCH AGE

- REVELATION.2:10-11
- “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison , that have tribulation ten days be thou faithful unto to death, and I will give thee a crown of life.
- He that hath an ear , let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.



THE SMYRNA CHURCH AGE

TIME PERIOD – 170 AD TO 312 AD

THE MESSENGER – IRENAEUS

THE BIBLE REFERENCE - REV.2:8-11

THE CITY - SMYRNA

THE MESSENGER - IRENAEUS

- Using God's rule, the character and the attributes of the ministry of the Apostle Paul becomes a guideline in choosing all other church age messengers. There are certain attributes of character and ministry which are common to all of God's major messengers.
- Paul's manner of ministering set the pattern that all messengers and ministers of God were to aspire to, though not all would attain to such height in the prophetic realm as did by Paul.

THE MESSENGER - IRENAEUS

- Irenaeus was exalted by the Lord to be the messenger to the second church age. He was the disciple of that great saint and warrior of faith , POLICARP.
- POLICARP was one of truly illustrious saint of all ages when viewed in the light of blameless life.
- In his old age POLICARP was martyred.

THE MESSENGER - IRENAEUS

- IRENAEUS was militant against any form of organization, with “ man over man” controlling the church. His life was one of the great Holy Spirit manifestations glorifying God. And it is no doubt that IRENAEUS sat at the feet of that great man POLICARP and learned Christian graces that flowed from the POLICARP’S consecrated life.

THE MESSENGER - IRENAEUS

- IRENAEUS clearly taught the Word always conforming to its original precepts. (the foundation of Apostles & Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself the chief corner stone.- Eph.2:20) His churches in France known to have the gifts of the Spirit among them. For the saints spoke in tongues prophesied, raised the dead and heal the sick by the prayer of faith.

THE MESSENGER- IRENAEUS

- Recognizing the danger of the “deeds of the Nicolaitians” Irenaeus opposed any organized brotherhood among elders, pastors etc. He stood solidly for a unified, Spirit – filled church – manifesting the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He stood for a Sovereign God working Sovereignly in the power of the Spirit in each local body of believers.
- He was also clear on his understanding of the Godhead. And since he was the disciple of POLICARP, who in turn was disciple of JOHN, we can know for sure he had a perfect teaching.

THE MESSENGER - IRENAEUS

- “All the other expression, likewise, bring out the title of One and the same Being, the Lord of power, the Lord, the Father of all ,God almighty, Most High, Creator, Maker, and such like, these are not the names and titles of a succession of different beings, but One and the Same.”
- **IRENAEUS**
- Vol.1. Page 412, Ante Nicene Fathers.

THE MESSENGER - IRENAEUS

- Irenaeus understood clearly all these “titles” were not referring different “person” but as other titles such as Rose of Sharon, Bright and Morning Star, Fairest of Ten Thousand, etc. All point to One God.
- His manifested Name
- LORD JESUS CHRIST.

THE MESSENGER - IRENAEUS

- The messenger to the Church Age was steadfast in his allegiance to the WORD of GOD. This characteristic, along with his wonderful understanding of scriptures, and manifestation of power of God upon that ministry vindicates him to have been God's choice for the age.
- Irenaeus possesses a balance of fruit, power, and leadership in the Holy Spirit, and the Word. In this age he was one who influenced the age for God by means of a ministry which was solidly based on the word, in the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit.

SMYRNA CHURCH AGE

- Christ graciously acknowledges that He is aware of the suffering of His Elect Children in this age. He encourages them to “be faithful unto death”. He then points out the “false ones” who are still very active in the age – identifying them as “the Synagogue of Satan”. They are not proclaiming themselves to be thus – just the opposite – they are professing to be “true believers”

SMYRNA CHURCH AGE

- It almost seems impossible that Church should go quickly from Holy Ghost control to Satanic control, through “false brethren” who bring in damnable heresies (2 Pet. 2:1). To understand this scenario we need only to remember what happened to Israel in it’s exodus. In less than five months Israel went from worshiping JEHOVAH on the shores Red Sea to worshiping “golden calf” in the wilderness.

SMYRNA – THE CITY

(The false church gains ground)

- The city of Smyrna was little north of Ephesus at the mouth of Smyrna Gulf. Because of its very fine harbor it was a commercial center renowned for its exports. It was also distinguished for its schools of rhetoric, philosophy, medicine, science, and fine building. Many Jews lived there, and they were bitterly opposed to Christianity, even more than Romans. In fact, Policarp the first Bishop at Smyrna was martyred by the Jews.

SMYRNA – THE CITY

- The name of the city means “bitter” being derived from the word Myrrh. Myrrh was used in embalming the dead. Thus we have a two fold significance found in the name of this age. It was bitter age filled with death. The two vines within the framework of the church would this age drift further apart with the “false vine” harboring an even increasing bitterness towards the “true vine” . Spiritual death reigned in the false vine , causing them to persecute unto physical death to the remnants of the true vine.
- Thus the admonition of the Lord to His Elected Children in Smyrnaen Age “ BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH AND I WILL GIVE THEE A CROWN.” (Revelation.2:10)

SMYRNA – THE CITY

- Seeing these (little by little) things overtaking the church, was in “bitterness” instead to the heart and soul of the true vine.
- Taking a stand against it would cost them their lives. What transpires in the local smyrna church and in the city was but a reflection of what was to transpire in the Second (Smyranean) Church Age.

SMYRNA – THE CITY

- In this city there were two famous temples. One was the temple erected to the worship of ZEUS (a false god) , and the other was erected to CYBELE (a false goddess).
- And between those two temples was found the most beautiful road of ancient times called “golden street” was an indication of greater influence which paganism would have within the framework of the Christian church – strengthening the false vine but weakening the true vine.

SMYRNA – THE CITY

- Paganism was known to flourish greatly in Rome, in Rome the false vine , riddles with paganism would find its resting place. From these false vine church would spread it's false doctrines around the world.
- The joining the two pagan temples of a god and goddess would (in a latter age) influence the false vine church to introduce “ Mother (Mary) and Son (Jesus) worship. Mary would be elevated to a position co- equalness with Jesus Christ, and was given the title of “ Mother of God”.



Irenaeus



Smyrna

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The message to the Second Church Age - Smyrna

- “And unto the angel of the church of Smyrna write; these things saith the First and the Last, which was dead and is alive” (Revelation.2:8)
- Addressing the messenger to this second age Jesus adds to the revelation of His Deity given to Ephesian age. Now, He declares Himself to be “the First and the Last, which was dead, and is alive;”
- To John in revelation, Jesus affirmed His “absolute Deity” saying “I am Alpha And Omega, saith the Lord which is , and which was , and which is to come, the Almighty...

The message to the Second Church Age - Smyrna

- Lord Jesus Christ is not first, second or third 'Person' – He is the One and Only Person in the Godhead.
- The first Adam took “life” and through disobedience turned it into “death”. Jesus Christ, the Second Adam, through , a sinless birth and absolute obedience to Every Word, takes “death” and turns it into “Eternal life” the First Adam took innocence and turned it into guilt.

The message to the Second Church Age - Smyrna

- On the basis of “Faith” in what He did, Jesus Christ takes “our guilt” and turns it into “innocence” giving us the Power (the Holy Spirit) in our lives to rise above the dominion of the world, the flesh and the devil.
- “Behold, I give unto you power ... over all the power of the enemy” (Luke.10;19) and“ “sin shall not have dominion over you. (Romans.6:14)

The message to the Second Church Age - Smyrna

- Seeing other influence, at work in the church , taking the leadership and authority of “man” over and above the leadership and authority of the Holy Ghost, The Lord Jesus Christ issues these messages to each Church Ages, reaffirming His Deity and His claim to His Elected Church, which He has purchased with His own blood. He warns the false vine, but comforts the true vine