

The Message to the Church in Sardis

- Unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; these things saith he that hath the Seven Spirits of God, and the Seven Stars. (Revelation.3:1)
- Again, as in the previous four ages, we are seeing ever increasing revelation of the attributes of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- In this age he is introduced as the one with “Seven Spirits of God, and Seven Stars”

The Message

- We already know that according to Revelation.1:20 the “Seven Stars” are Seven Messengers to the seven church ages.
- We also know that Bible teaches that God is a Spirit (John.4:24) but what is meant by “the Seven Spirits of God” ?
- This same phrase is found four times in the book of Revelation.

The Seven Spirits of God

- FIRST- Revelation.1:4
- “from Seven Spirit which are before His throne”
- SECOND – Revelation.3:1
- “ these things saith he that hath the Seven Spirits”
- THIRD – Revelation.4:5
- “ And out of the throne proceedeth lightening and thundering and voices, and there were Seven Lamps of fire burning before the throne , which are the Seven Spirits of God.

The Seven Spirits of God

- FOURTH – Revelation.5:6
- “And I beheld, and lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders , stood a Lamb as it had been slain having Seven horns and Seven eyes, which are the Seven Spiris of God sent forth into all the earth.”

The Message

- In these references the “ Seven Spirit” of God are also referred to as “Seven Lamps of fire”, and the “Seven Horns” and “Seven Eyes” of the Lamb.
- In the Bible Scriptures interprets Scripture. Since John used the old testament symbols in the book of Revelation , the old Testament must be referred to understand further.

The Message

- In Proverbs. 20:27 it is written that “ the Spirit of Man is the “Lamp” of the Lord.
- In John .5:35 John the Baptist was called “ A Burning Light” which should actually be translated as “Burning Lamp”.
- From these two portion of scriptures it is very clear, the “Seven Lamps of fire burning before the throne represented “Seven Men – The Seven Messengers of the Seven Church Ages.

The Message

- To more fully understand the “Seven Horns” and “Seven Eyes” , One needs to refer to the book of Zechariah. 4:10 “For who hath despised **the day of small things?** For they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth.
- It is clear that the word “They” refers to Men. Of course They will be Anointed men, full of Holy Ghost.

The Message

- The Seven Spirit of God refers to the continues ministry of the Holy Spirit of God in the lives of **Seven Men** with whom God through the church ages identifies Himself very closely.
- They are His Eyes, His Lamps, and His Seven Stars giving light through revelation Jesus Christ for their particular age.

The Message

- The Seven Stars actually refers to the One Spirit of God working out the will and the word of God in different generations.
- It's like the Spirit of God on ELIJAH moving to ELISHA, then to JOHN the Baptist. Next the Malachi .4 end time Prophet to the gentiles.
- And finally to the Jews during the tribulation period. It's the same Spirit of God all the time
- Bible says that the Seven Stars or Seven Messengers to the seven ages are in His hand. He is holding them. The right hand signifies power and authority given to them.

The Message

- “I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die. For I have not found thy works perfect before God”
(Revelation.3:1-2)
- All through the ages the Lord has focused on the “works” of each age, praising the true vine and denouncing the false.

The Message

- In all previous ages He would acknowledge and offer a word of “praise” for the endurance, faithfulness, and patience of the true believer.
- But here, in this fifth age we find “hope ”for a few and rebuke and warning for many, including Roman Catholic Church and the budding protestant reformation.

The Message

- At the beginning of the reformation age, we find God's rebuke and condemnation.
- Even so with the budding protestant church of all who, with Luther, Zwingli, Calvin came out of the Roman Church System." With many of them God was not well pleased".
- God was displeased, because of the "spirit and leaven" of the old "religious system were still in some of them.

The Message

- God saw what man could not see, before and after Luther passing this “spirit and leaven” of the old religious system made itself known.
- In spite of Luther’s constant teaching concerning the **Sovereignty of the Local Church** , many other protestant leaders not able to completely get away from the idea of the Bishop, Arch Bishop concept of church government and leadership.

The Message

- Thus, in the Reformation, coming out of the Church of Rome, the protestant church took one step in the right direction.
- But Protestant Church faltered in its steps by not “purging out the old leaven , that they may be now a lump” easily moulded in the masters hand.
- The protestant church failed to realize in spite of Luther’s warnings , that your glorying is not good. “ Know ye not that little leaven leavened the whole lump?” (1Corinthians.5:6-7)

The Message

- Through the Reformation the great truth of “Justification by faith” was established through God’s “Chosen” messenger Martin Luther.
- But grievous wolves entered in among the people , not sparing the flock. (Acts.20:29)
- While still in its infancy the Reformation split up into numerous sects, persecuting each other and establishing denomination after denomination, becoming in structure, spirit and even some doctrines like very thing they came off –The Church of Rome.

The Message

- In the formation of the Roman Catholic Church system the leadership of the Holy Spirit was usurped by human leadership in a human hierarchy.
- The pure word of God was replaced by man made creeds, dogmas, church laws and by laws.
- Worship in the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit were cast aside for a “form of godliness”. Liturgy, literal idol worship (Saints) and pagan feasts; and Mary was made to replace Christ as the intercessor.

The Message

- In our study of the last three ages of the protestant church we will see that the same Nicolaitan spirit which led to the formation of the Roman Catholic system would follow the protestant church.
- We will also see protestant church falling to the influence of same three false spirits.

False Influence

- 1) Nicolaitanism – Bringing the laity into bondage to a priestly order of clergy.
- 2) Baalism – Defiling their separation with worldliness and paganism.
- 3) The Jezebel false prophetess spirit – Privily bringing in damnable heresies (2 Pet.2;1) putting church creed above the truth of the Bible.
- The “spiritual death” seen by our Lord here is seen again in the last age.

The Message

- “Thou hast a name thou livest, and art dead.” (Revelation.3:1)
- When our Lord looked down into the Sardis age He saw spiritual death. In it’s own eyes and in the eye of the people the Roman church were very much “alive”.
- But in the eyes of God it was “dead”. Multitudes were nothing more than pawns of the Roman church.

The Message

- The peasants and kings alike belong, body soul and spirit to the church of Rome..
- In their own eyes many protestant groups were very much “alive” but in the eyes of God they were dead.
- Because they “organized” the word which God gives them a creed around it

The Message

- “Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die.”
(Revelation.3:2)
- Here, in the infancy of the reformation the spirit of man – made religion and denominations was so strong among the protestant ranks that , church is warned to “be watchful and strengthen the things which remain”

The Message

- In the reformation age protestant church is commanded to” be on their guard” and to “take a stand” to strengthen and establish what was left in Sadis, “undefiled” by denominations and man – made organizations.
- Here, our Lord plainly states that what was left of that “revival” were ready to die. Another revival was on it’s way , but for the time being the few faithful ones in Sardis are warned to be “watchful” and continue to walk in the spiritual “light” they had.

The Message

- “For I have not found thy work perfect before God”. (Revelation.3:2)
- It is sad, but true that after Luther’ s passing, another generation of Lutherans arose who did what many of their contemporaries did.
- Make a denomination with a priestly or clergy order similar to that which Luther had brought them out off.
- People were taken back into a denomination captivity. They were no longer free to believe the word as God revealed it, they could only believe what “their” particular church taught.

The Message

- Their work had not come to perfection or complete fulfillment yet. This was the age of the reformation not Restoration.
- The last age, the age of Restoration would bring the perfection and complete fulfillment of all things, climaxing with the Second coming, Resurrection and Rapture
- Luther's message of justification by faith was a beginning, a coming out of darkness into light, pointing to the perfection and complete fulfillment of scriptures in the time of the promised "evening light" (Zechariah.14:7)

The Evening Light

- And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark:
- But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day , nor night: but it shall come to pass , that at evening time it shall be light.
- ZECHARIAH.14:6-7

The Message

- Again We are reminded of the words of our Lord. (John.8:31-32)
- “ If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth , and the truth shall make you”
- In his epistle John shows us the absolute importance and necessity of continuing to walk in the light as God reveals it to us.

The Message

- “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light , we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1John.1:7)
- The blood will only atone for our sins as we continue to walk in the light of His word, as God reveals.
- May the Lord help us to continue to move toward perfection that our works may be found perfect with God exactly according to his word.

The Message

- “Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast , and repent. If therefore thou shall not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will. (Revelation.3:3)
- The truth of God had given to the Sardis age and all ages is given as a permanent deposit – not to be changed or altered in any way.

The Message

- It is given , not to debated, made in a creed, organized or denominated. It is given to be believed and obeyed – to be the Lord of our lives.
- The saints in Sadis had been given the basic truth of the whole Gospel. “ The Just shall live birth.” “salvation is of the Lord”

The Message

- The truth preached to the elect in this age, cast aside the doctrine of Rome and set at naught all papal authority.
- In no uncertain terms the Lord plainly showed them the truth that the church does not save. They understood the last supper, They had the light on water baptism
- They had enough illumination completely overhaul the old system, or start out fresh and let God lead them, line upon line precept upon precept, they received the truth.

The Message

- The Elect in Sardis were told to Remember how they had received and heard the truth.
- Remember the spiritual bondage and corruption they were in and remember how God brought them out of it.
- By His grace He delivered them. It did not come by church creed the will and the intellectual learning of a theologian, or a seminary.
- But by spiritual revelation it was revealed to the heart of a Messenger and the hearts of those who heard and recognized His Message.

The Message

- God had by – pass the established organized church and caused HIS WORD to be MADE FLESH in simple every day people - even babes such as would learn the way of God.
- HOLD FAST REPENT AND OBEY HIM.
- Its one thing to “recognized” what God does and speak, but another thing to “hold fast” , maintain your zeal and enthusiasm for it.
- Its still another thing to allow revealed Word to bring you to “repentance”, immediately changing your mind and with genuine humility acknowledge your error.

The Message

- “If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief.” (Rev.3:3)
- A warning from the Lord to the Saints of Sardis – If they fail to watch and be on their guard against error He said that He would come as a thief.
- No doubt to do as He warned in the Ephesian age in Revelation 2:5 “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen , and do the first works; or else, I will come unto thee quickly and remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”

The Message

- We find that two of the twelve original tribes of Israel lost their position among the tribes.
- The tribes of Dan and Ephraim were cut off because of idolatry. From the time that Ephraim and Dan joined themselves to idols, they died. Those tribes have no more recognition.
- Note in the Bible particularly the punishment for idolatry was that the name that tribe was to be “Blotted out fro under heaven”
(Deuteronomy 29:20)

The Message

- In Ezekiel. 48:1-23,29 all twelve tribes are mentioned.
- But in Revelation 7:4-8 John make reference to the 144000 elect seed of the tribes of Israel who are sealed during the time of great tribulation. The tribes of Dan and Ephraim are replace by Joseph and Levi.
- Here in the Sardis age our Lord is warning the Saints in that He would come as a thief and “remove their candle stick” and the light they had would become darkness. (Matthew.6:23)

The Message

- “I will come on thee as a thief and thou shalt not know what hour I will come unto thee”
(Revelation.3:3)
- Always as a thief He come – exact timing is not announced. But sufficient warnings are given, to keep the people on their toes, in preparation for His arrival.
- Unfortunately, only very few indeed heed those warnings which the majority are like those in the Scriptures who live under the self – induced impression that “My Lord delayeth His coming”
(Luke>12:45-48)

The Message

- But the true Seed of God, continually walking in the light of the Word, not fainting nor growing weary in well doing.
- They remain in their toes, watchful standing for righteousness lest that day overtake them as a thief.
- “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. But ye are not in darkness that the day should overtake you as thief.” (1Thessalonians.5:2 & 4)

The Message

- The Bible exhorts all Saints of all ages to prayerful, watchful and be sober , (Matthew. 26:41, Mark.14:38,Luke.21:36, Colossians.4:2,1Thessalonians.5-8, 1Peter.4:7)
- “Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about , seeing whom he may devour” (1 Peter.5:8-9)

The Message

- Why does God demand such vigilance?
The ANSWER is in Hebrews.9:28
- “UNTO THEM THAT LOOK FOR HIM
SHALL HE APPEAR THE SECOND TIME
WITHOUT SIN UNTO SALVATION.