

7-8-2026 – HEAVEN – Week 5

Jesus showed John heaven & gave messages to 7 churches in Asia.

One **purpose** of REV is to **encourage believers to live holy lives**.

Jesus is watching. He sees. He knows.

The 7 are representative of all churches; words apply to all believers.

“To the angel of the church. . .” “Angel” means messenger.

Last time: **1 – Ephesus**. Rev. 2:1-7 & **2 – Smyrna**. Rev. 2:8-11

3 – Pergamum (Rev. 2:12-17) Pergamum is now **Bergama**.

Pergamum - center of learning & culture in ancient world; had a magnificent library. Also known as center of pagan worship, w/ temples dedicated to gods such as Zeus, Athena, Asclepius, Dionysus, and more.

- That explains what Jesus says about where they live . . . thrown/Satan.

¹² “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. ¹³ I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

¹⁴ Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

¹⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.”

Message to us – First, praise for faith during persecution.

- But – **don’t hold onto practices** that don’t honor & please God.

- Christianity involves **change . . . God refines us.**
 - We must let go of things incompatible w/honoring God.
 - Let go of old habits. No other idols. Make God a priority.
- **Reward** – the hidden **manna**.
- for holding tight in persecution; living in an evil place but not living in it
 - [Exodus 16:32](#) – The Lord told Moses: “Keep an omer of manna for the generations to come, so that they may see the bread I fed you in the wilderness when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.”
 - Manna was put in a jar in the Ark.
 - **Revelation 11:19** – “Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant.”
 - **The victory to come is heaven & it’s blessings.**
- **Another reward?** (We know from last time a crown) Now, **new name!**
 - A new name marks a significant change or calling; **Abram** became Abraham ([Genesis 17:5](#)); **Jacob** became Israel ([Genesis 32:28](#)).
 - We’ll get a **new name** from Jesus; reflect life in Christ, our triumph, and unique identity in God’s eternal kingdom

4 – Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-28) City now lies in ruins near **Akhisar**.

Thyatira was a thriving commercial city, known for its trade guilds and the production of purple dye.

¹⁸ “To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. ¹⁹ I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

²⁰ Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ **I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling.** ²² So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make

those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. ²³ I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will **repay** each of you according to your deeds.

²⁴ Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do **not** hold to her teaching & have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets, 'I will not impose any other burden on you, ²⁵ except to **hold on** to what you have until I come.'

²⁶ To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— ²⁷ that one 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery'—just as I have received authority from my Father. ²⁸ I will also give that one the morning star. ²⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Message to us – first, praise for service. Faith has grown; persevered.

- But **don't tolerate** false teachings ... **don't follow** others into immorality.
- They **compromised** their faith, likely due to membership in **trade guilds**.
 - Some work environments have bad habits ... Christianity calls us to **change those habits**.
 - **Compromise is the door to living a life that displeases Jesus.**
- **Rewards** - to rule with Jesus in His Kingdom!
 - **Rev. 20** - ⁴ "Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years."
- **Another Reward** – "I will also give that one the **morning star**."
 - **Revelation 22:16** - "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star."
- Jesus is the morning Star. He gives Himself. We'll be present w/ Jesus.

- In ancient times, morning star was seen as herald of a new day; Promise of the morning star is a promise of Christ Himself, His presence, and His kingdom. We'll reign with Christ.

5 – Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6) City has the remains of large Acropolis, etc.

Sardis was a wealthy city, famous for its militarily strategic location, its nearby gold deposits, and a signature method of refining gold and silver that allowed Sardis to mint the highest grade coins in the ancient world. Glory in the past.

3 “To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are **dead**. ² Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds **unfinished** in the sight of my God. ³ **Remember**, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

⁴ Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. ⁶ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Message to us – Alive, but really dead. No spiritual activity.

- Going thru the motions of worship doesn't mean we're alive for Jesus.
- **Matt. 23:27** – “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.”
 - **"white-washed"** - describes hypocrisy, superficial righteousness.
 - Appear clean & pure on the outside but is corrupt on the inside.

- Jesus says they are **unfinished**. No maturity. Stagnant growth.
- **Parable/Seed** – “**Rocky Ground**”... receive w/joy, but no roots.
 - Or “**Among Thorns**” – grows, but choked out w/ worry/wealth
- Jesus again urges to “**strengthen what remains**” – fan the flame!
- “**Remember**” what you **received & heard**.
 - Praise for those few who “have not soiled their clothes.”
 - Most have “soiled garments” – live impure lives.
 - Living a “godly” life is to **live different than most people**.
- **Rewards** – “**dressed in white**” – clothes for the Wedding Supper (19:9)
 - We’ll receive our heavenly garments. Dressed white, **palms**!
 - Palm branches - symbols of victory, triumph, and peace. Often used in celebrations and religious ceremonies.
- **Another Reward** – **name in the book of life**. Jesus will acknowledge us.
 - **Never blot it out**. Your name is written in Heavenly ink. Forever!