

Revelation: The Time is Near

## The Sword of My Mouth

Revelation 2:12-17

Remember as we go through the Revelation of Jesus Christ

Rev 1:3 NKJV - 3 Blessed [is] he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time [is] near.

Previously:

- John on Patmos
- Visions of the revealed Jesus Christ in power and glory
- Walking amongst 7 lampstands
- 7 stars in his hands
- Message to the Loveless Church, Ephesus

Rev 2:5 NKJV - 5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.

- Message to the Persecuted Church, Smyrna

Rev 2:5, 10 NKJV - 5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent. ... 10 "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw [some] of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

## Today: The Compromising Church

**Compromise:** an agreement or a settlement of a dispute that is reached by each side making concessions.

The problem is, can light concede to darkness without darkness taking over?

The world today says there is no right and wrong. Because right has given over so much to wrong there is no light anymore and any light is shouted down as intolerant

**Modernity** - seen as a good thing, something to aspire to. I think it's morphed from compromise to now no compromise. Total inclusion without compromise.

Name any modern issue in western society that hasn't had compromise brought in. Name any issue that hasn't stopped seeking more even after compromise (homosexuality, gun control, government control, etc.) Name one thing liberalism has compromised back to conservatism? Nothing. The march is ever left.

Modern "conservatives" are more liberal than their counterparts a half century ago.

Modern “liberals” are straight up communists.

Marriage > divorce > rampant sexual immorality > homosexuality > gay marriage > trans > nobody knows who they are anymore

Christianity > compromise > secularism championed > terror attacks > acceptance of islam > exaltation of islam/christianity denigrated> ....

## Two Current events

### #1 Iran

General killed

This guy was a terror

Iran actively fighting against US assets. They have been for a long time.

Now do we need to go to war against them? I think they are more obvious than perhaps other targets. But those other targets were in the way. We surround them now.

The question is, what’s going on spiritually behind all of this.

End times - Russian, China and Iran aligned (Gog/Magog)

We know they’re currently lining up, over geopolitics, resources, pathway to the middle east/mediterranean

Iran hates Israel - little satan. They hate us, great satan.

**Dan 8:5-10 NKJV - 5 And as I was considering, suddenly a male goat came from the west, across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat [had] a notable horn between his eyes. 6 Then he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing beside the river, and ran at him with furious power. 7 And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand. 8 Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven. 9 And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious [Land]. 10 And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down [some] of the host and [some] of the stars to the ground, and trampled them.**

End times dealing with antichrist. Also possibly talking of Alexander the Great.

Could this be the setup for the final world kingdoms?

Some current players can’t continue to exist in an end times scenario.

By reading more of this, you'll see that the Antichrist's rule is not an uncontested one. It's not a perfect utopia of peace. There are uprisings. There is an assassination attempt and false resurrection. It'd make for quite the movie. I'm looking forward to a front-row seat, on my horse riding back with Jesus.

## #2 Split of Methodists

### **“United Methodist Church Announces Proposal to Split Over Gay Marriage”**

The United Methodist Church announced a proposal Friday to split the denomination over what it called "fundamental differences" regarding its beliefs on same-sex marriage and LGBTQ clergy.

The proposal, signed by 16 church leaders from around the world, will be voted on at the church's 2020 general conference in May. If passed, it would allow for a "traditionalist" denomination to separate from the United Methodist Church, the second largest Protestant denomination in the U.S., with more than 12 million members worldwide.

Currently, ordained pastors are not allowed to perform same-sex marriages, **risking** disciplinary action if they do, and "practicing" LGBTQ people also cannot become ordained pastors, according to the church's book of discipline.

**The new traditionalist denomination, once separate, would open the door for the existing United Methodist Church to repeal the church's ban on same-sex marriages and LGBTQ clergy.**

**"If this actually passes, it will be a great relief,"** says the Rev. Tom Berlin, a pastor at the Floris United Methodist Church in Herndon, Va., who signed the protocol and described himself as representing groups who hold a centrist view in the ideological conflict.

**"What this proposal allows us to do is be a more inclusive United Methodist Church," Berlin says. "It also allows us to put a controversy to rest. The controversy itself has been a stumbling block toward our larger mission."**

...

<https://www.npr.org/2020/01/04/793614135/united-methodist-church-announces-proposal-to-split-over-gay-marriage>

*What's your mission? It obviously isn't holding fast to the word of God...*

**Devo**

**Charles Spurgeon: Morning, January 5**

No sooner is there a good thing in the world, than a division is necessary. Light and darkness have no communion; God has divided them, let us not confound them. Sons of light must not have fellowship with deeds, doctrines, or deceits of darkness. The children of the day must be sober, honest, and bold in their Lord's work, leaving the works of darkness to those who shall dwell in it forever. **Our Churches should by discipline divide the light from the darkness, and we should by our distinct separation from the world do the same. In judgment, in action, in hearing, in teaching, in association, we must discern between the precious and the vile, and maintain the great distinction which the Lord made upon the world's first day. O Lord Jesus, be thou our light throughout the whole of this day, for thy light is the light of men.**

I think the issue for the Methodist church, and all churches, is what is a good thing? Is it the light of the bible or the light of men?

**Mat 6:22-23 NKJV - 22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great [is] that darkness!**

#### **Meaning of the Church Names**

Ephesus: The Desired One

Smyrna: Myrrh; Death

Pergamos: Mixed Marriage

Thyatira: Semiramis (connection with Babylon, Dagon, fish God, Ishtar, even roots of Catholicism)

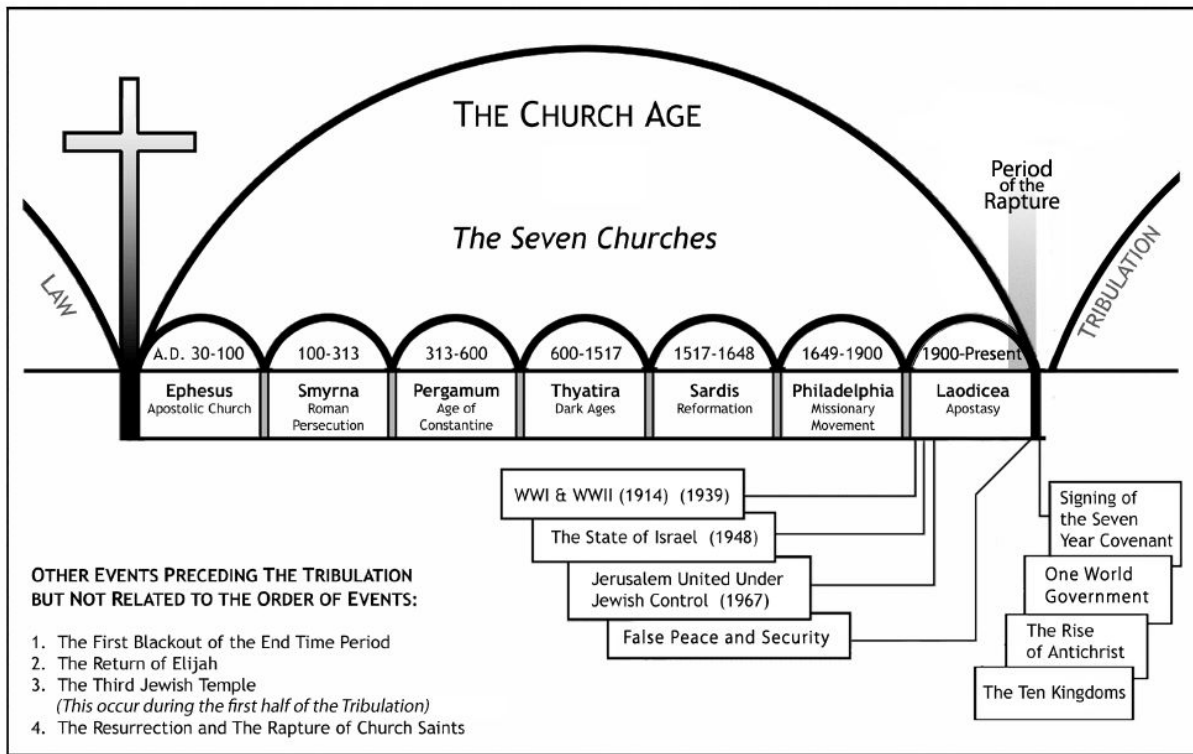
Sardis: Remnant

Philadelphia: Brotherly Love

Laodicea: People Rule

<https://www.khouse.org/articles/1993/32/>

# Church Ages



by Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum

hosted on [www.ltradio.org](http://www.ltradio.org)

Interesting because of the names it puts as the stars over them...



## Revelation 2:12-17

### Pergamos

DG C “Pergamos had been the capital city of the region [Asia Minor, Turkey] for more than three hundred years. The city was a noted center for culture and education, having one of the great libraries of the ancient world, with more than 200,000 volumes.”

Extremely religious - Roman gods and three temples to the Emperor  
Caesar Augustus -first temple

### I'm going to read this because it's especially telling:

“This city was especially known as a center for the worship of the deity known as Asclepius. Represented by a serpent, Asclepius was the god of healing and knowledge. There was a medical school at his temple in Pergamos. Because of the famous temple to the Roman god of healing, sick and diseased people from all over the Roman Empire flocked to Pergamos for relief.

i. “Sufferers were allowed to spend the night in the darkness of the temple. In the temple there were tame snakes. In the night the sufferer might be touched by one of these tame and harmless snakes as it glided over the ground on which he lay. The touch of the snake was held to be the touch of the god himself, and the touch was held to bring health and healing.”  
(Barclay)”

### “Serpent savior”

Exodus, serpents sent because of the immorality of the people  
Who saved them? Killing the serpent and raising it up and looking to it  
Symbolizing Jesus taking sin and dying for us as our sin, crushing the serpent

### What are two things our society holds up in almost untouchable and irrefutable esteem?

Knowledge - science  
Healing - medicine

### Sharp, Two Edged Sword

The Word of God

**Heb 4:11-13 NKJV - 11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. 12 For the word of God [is] living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the**

**heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things [are] naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we [must give] account.**

**He knows our works - “commentary says ‘even if there isn’t much to know’**

Jesus knows what each church is doing. What each believer is doing. He knows the motives. The will. The desires. The real fruit. The real reasons. And what it really looks like. Working to get noticed vs. working to actually get work done

**Where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is  
Satan’s throne!**

**Jesus fully tells us here that Satan is on a throne and it’s on earth and it even has a specific location**

**Modern world** - I think it’s still in the middle east to some degree, looking at all the wars over there, Islam, its spread

The west bowing down to it

Pulling all the world powers towards it

Forcing mass migration out of it to spread the ideology, spirituality and diminish the power of the rest of the world.

Would you want to live near Satan’s throne?

*Kids drawing Mario and Bowser all the time*

*DG C “i. There are many different opinions as to why Pergamos was such a stronghold of Satanic power. Some believe it is because Pergamos was a center of pagan religion, especially of “Asclepios Soter” or “Asclepios Savior.” Some believe it was because Pergamos had a huge throne-like altar dedicated to the Roman god Zeus. Some believe it was because Pergamos was a center for the ancient Babylonian priesthood, but this is tough to prove conclusively. Others believe it was because Pergamos was the political center of the worship-demanding Roman government.”*

**But again, there is a spiritual power at work on earth. We handed over the title deed in the garden. Jesus won the war on the cross. He’s giving time for everyone to decide they want to be on the winning side before coming in and wiping out the remnants of the old kingdom and ushering in the new.**

**And that’s exactly what Satan is doing in the world now...trying to wipe out anything of God’s kingdom to set up his final kingdom on earth. A one-world kingdom. Not just the Nazis. Not just the Huns. Not just Stalin. Not just the old UK. Not with the US. But a global Kingdom. Physical. Spiritual. Slavery to one world power.**

### **Held fast My Name**

Despite their wicked city, despite their own shortcomings and false doctrines, they still believed in Jesus and clung tight to his name. They didn't want Zeus or the snake or Caesar's name on them. They wanted Jesus' name. Even if they didn't quite live up to Jesus' word.

And for that, Jesus commends them.

**Phi 2:9-11 NKJV - 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

### **Antipas martyred for the faith commended by Jesus**

Faithful witness...Jesus is called that

No mention of him in history, just this. I'll take this over any history book, newspaper article or blog post

Stephen, Jesus stands up and welcomes him to heaven

In this dark city, evil city, a Christian was murdered for his faith.

We're getting close to that here in the mainstream. We're on the path to it.

That's the sacrifice satan loves most, Christians killed. I think even more than babies.

**Despite a martyr being in their midst and their holding fast to Jesus' name  
There was no excusing their other beliefs and behavior**

### **Doctrine of Balaam**

Numbers

Couldn't curse Israel directly, committed wickedness, immorality to please a pagan king

The culture was highly immoral

Roman culture, prostitution as a part of idol worship, NAMBLA

**It had crept into the church.**



**1Co 5:1-8 NKJV - 1 It is actually reported [that there is] sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles--that a man has his father's wife! 2 And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. 3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 6 Your glorying [is] not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened [bread] of sincerity and truth.**

**Nicolaitans again, except this church has people who hold on to their teaching proud authority and a hierarchical separatism, sexual immorality**

As we read earlier, not only does the modern church have immorality in it, it also approves of it, marries it, and ordains it.

**Repent, or i will fight against them with the sword of my mouth**

JESUS WILL FIGHT AGAINST THE SO-NAMED CHURCH WITH THE SWORD

His word. What can correct a believer? The word. What can correct a church? The word.

What will destroy a believer? Not submitting to the Word. What will destroy the church, not obeying the word.

**Does the church really want to fight Jesus at his Word? HE IS THE WORD.**

Yet look at our modern church as a whole...does it not fight against the word with every chance it gets? Trying to deny it. Trying to stretch it. Picking and choosing what to believe and what's right. Trying to change it.

We are more concerned about what the world's word is. What the word of the day is. What their word about us is. Than what God's word is, says, does and teaches us to be.

We are to be like little Words walking around.

**Col 4:6 NKJV - 6 [Let] your speech always [be] with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.**

**He says THEM. Almost as if those in the church who aren't corrupted or are listening and hearing need to get those who aren't listening and aren't hearing out.**

**“Traditionalist” methodist. I hope they’re the ones listening. The others, well, Jesus said he will come quickly to fight against you if you don’t repent.**

**Rev 19:21 NKJV - 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.**

### **Hidden manna - manna, bread of life**

Exodus, manna, Jesus is the bread of life

They’re not eating his word, the bread of life

So he promises if they repent, he will give them the hidden manna

The bible has hidden manna in it.

The world reads it and doesn’t eat, spits it out

But when you and I as believers read it, The Holy Spirit shows us things others have missed, even in simple reading. And it’s a hidden manna. Good food. Feeds our inner person. Feeds our souls.

What a feast in heaven.

### **White stone, new name written**

All things new, new creation - religion doesn’t make a new creation

I’ve always loved this verse. I don’t want to be a part of the compromising church, but I do want a stone.

In some ways I think we’ll each get one.

2Co 5:17 NKJV - 17 Therefore, if anyone [is] in Christ, [he is] a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Your old name was who you were. What you were given at birth.

Might even be a good name. *My kid’s names and meanings.*

You might even have a good name on earth or you might not. Your reputation.

Love/Pet names.

But in heaven, God has a special name for you. Because he knows your works. He knows how you truly repented. He knows who he really created you to be, and your special name with him is exactly that. Something so intimate it’s only between you and him and it’s engraved in the most precious stone.

*Read last two verses again*