

# Revelation 2 - 3

Summary / closing thoughts

1

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# Summary

2

- The book of Revelation
  - Prophetic
  - Has 3 parts (1:19 → past, present, future)
  - The middle part ('present') provides a panoramic view of 2000 years of church history
  - Theme: the public testimony of the church throughout the ages

# Summary

3

1. Ephesus → The early church → declension
2. Smyrna → The suffering church → purified
3. Pergamos → The protected church → become worldly
4. Thyatira → The mighty church → power, riches, bad Doctrine
5. Sardis → A name without life
6. Philadelphia → A bright revival
7. Laodicaea → The final stage: indifference and complacency

## 2 closing thoughts

4

1. The sufficiency of Christ
2. The overcomer

# Sufficiency of Christ - Ephesus

5

[2:1] These things says he that holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lamps:

- General presentation
- Background: danger of lamp being removed
- Christ is in control
- Christ assesses the state of each lamp

# Sufficiency of Christ - Smyrna

6

[2:8] These things says the first and the last, who became dead, and lived

- Christ is outside of time
- Above circumstance
- Before and after the Emperors
- He will have the last word
- He went through death Himself
- If Christians were to suffer and die they would only be following Him
- In the end He lived - raised from among the dead

# Sufficiency of Christ - Pergamos

7

[2:12] These things says he that has the sharp two-edged sword:

- A most solemn presentation of Christ
- Designed to bring about repentance
- The church had succumbed to the temptation of
  - Settling down in the world
  - Being linked up with the world
- Christ exhorts them to repent
- Points to the word of God that needs to have power over their consciences
- It would be better for them to repent than to wait to be judged

# Sufficiency of Christ - Thyatira

8

[2:18] These things says the Son of God, he that has his eyes as a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass:

- He is the Son of God (not only the Son of Mary)
  - Glory belongs to Him, not to Mary
  - He is presented in His dignity
- He sees all (desire for riches and power, perverted doctrine, etc.)
- All this would be judged (fire)
- Brass: glory of God in judgement
  - He would execute the judgement



# Sufficiency of Christ - Sardis

9

[3:1] These things saith he that has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars

- Spirit of God → Power
  - For witness & service
  - For increase in knowledge / enjoyment of Christ
- 7 Spirits: → operations and manifestations of the Spirit
- Christ has the remedy to the lifeless state of Sardis
  - Power is with Christ, not with the princes
- Sardis has fallen into a lifeless state - but Christ still has the 7 stars:
  - service AND oversight come from Him!
  - HE is the Head!

# Sufficiency of Christ - Philadelphia

10

[3:7] These things saith the holy, the true;

- In the first 4 letters: mainly what Christ has
- Here: what He is
  - Appreciation of the personal glory of Christ
  - Examples: publications from that time, like JGB's "The Moral Glory of Christ" or "The Son of God"
- Holy one: can only be enjoyed by those separated from defilement
- The true
  - true vine, bread, witness, etc.

# Sufficiency of Christ - Philadelphia (2)

11

[3:7] ...he that has the key of David, he who opens and no one shall shut, and shuts and no one shall open:

- Key of David
  - Power in administration
  - Philadelphia relies on Him, not on the princes
  - Isa 22:20-24: All depends on Him, and full confidence in Him
  - Christ was discovered as the key for the Scriptures
    - Interpretation of OT types and prophecy
    - Understanding of the dispensations
- Opens: So that the re-discovered truths could be practised

# Sufficiency of Christ - Laodicea

12

[3:14] These things says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God:

- Amen
  - The church testimony ends in complete failure
  - But the purposes of God will come to pass
  - Christ is the confirmation, the Amen
- Faithful and true witness
  - He supplies what the church had lacked
- Beginning of the creation
  - First creation finished with the 1<sup>st</sup> Man
  - New creation starts with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Man: Christ risen
  - Despite all failure of man, God's purposes will come to pass in new creation.

# Overcomers

13

- In every letter, an overcomer is mentioned
- The overcomer is the one who responds to the particular challenges of his time and place
- Every time, there is a special promise for the overcomer
- The reward is perfectly suited to encourage the overcomer of that particular assembly / time
- Conclusion:
  - It is possible to overcome
  - The Lord has a reward suited to our challenge.

# Revelation 4:1

14

After these things I saw, and behold,  
a door opened in heaven,  
and the first voice which I heard as of a trumpet  
speaking with me, saying,  
Come up here,  
and I will shew thee the things which must take  
place after these things.