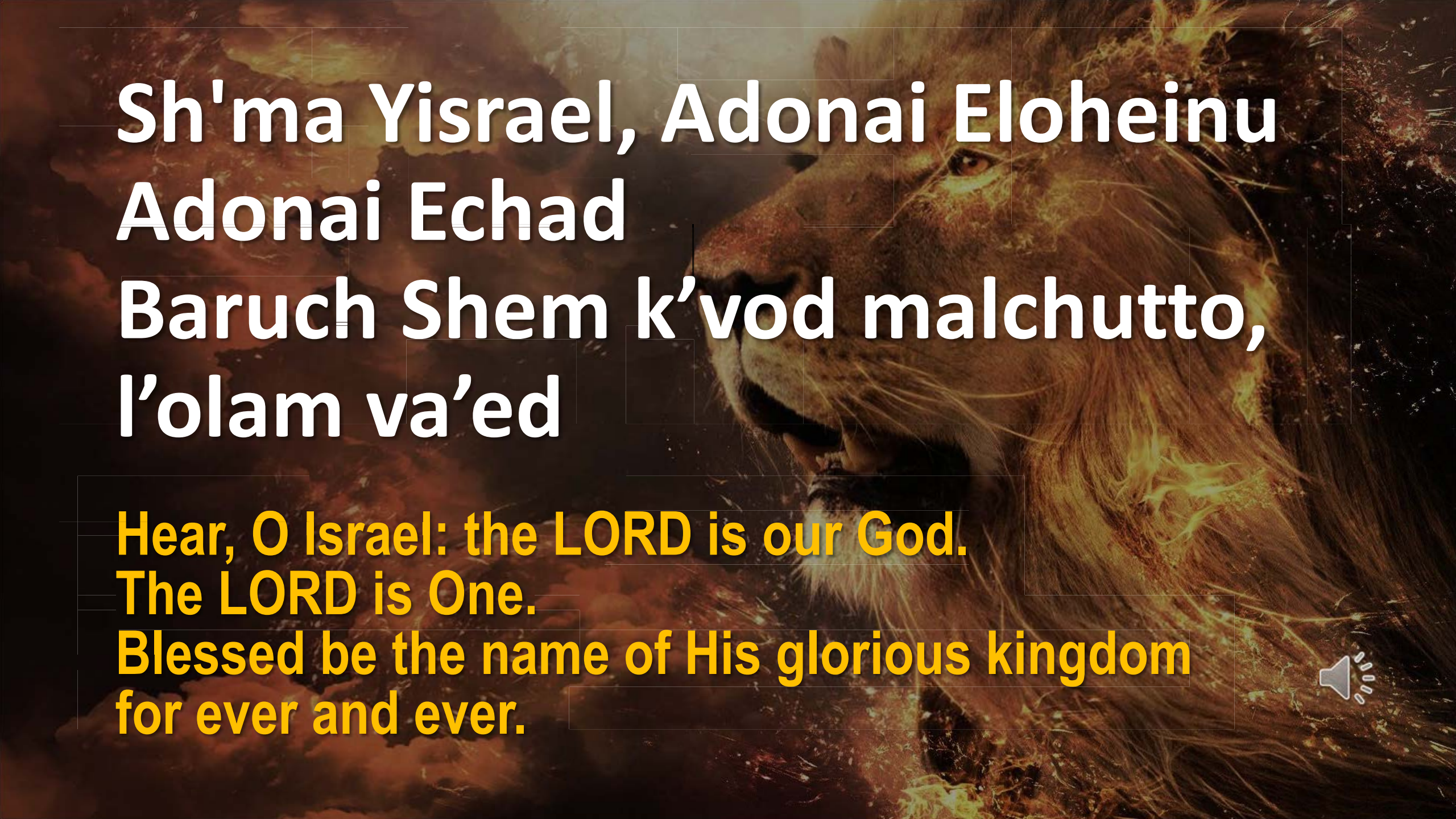


**To him who overcomes I will grant to sit
with Me on My throne, as I also overcame
and sat down with My Father on His
throne.**

Revelation 3:21



**Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu
Adonai Echad
Baruch Shem k'vod malchutto,
l'olam va'ed**

**Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God.
The LORD is One.
Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom
for ever and ever.**



A close-up photograph of a person's hands writing on a scroll with a quill pen. The scene is dimly lit, with a single candle in a holder providing the primary light source, creating a warm, historical atmosphere. The scroll is unrolled, showing several lines of handwritten text in a cursive script. The person's hands are weathered and focused on the task.

Letters to the 7 Churches

Ancient letters with an urgent message for today...

LETTER 7: LAODICEA

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

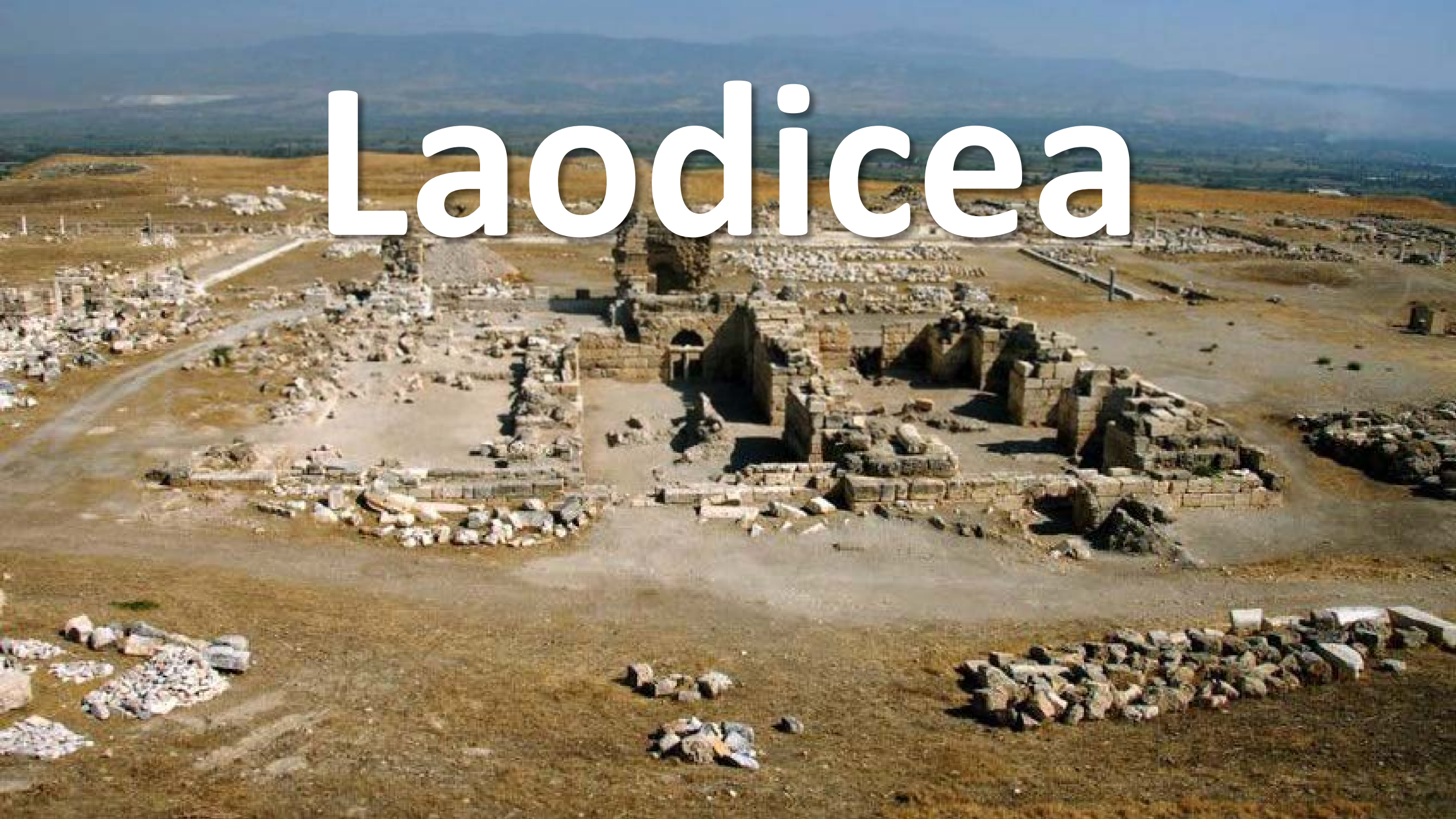
¹⁴ “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵ “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

22 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’ ”

Laodicea



REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

BACKGROUND ON LAODICEA

- Last city in loop of circulating letter to churches of Asia minor.
- Referenced often, more than any other letter in Revelation, because of its "lukewarm" attitude.
- Large and prosperous. Twin city to Hieropolis about 6 miles away, known for its hot springs (*Turkish government attempting to harness these springs today as a source of geothermal energy*).

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

- Laodicea midway between **hot** springs of Hieropolis and **cold** mountain spring waters of Colossae. Brought both to city.
- **Hot and cold separately are therapeutic and refreshing. Together they are lukewarm, putrid and polluted.**



REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

- Founded/named by Antiochus II in 250 BC, after his wife, Laodike.
- Stood on a plateau above Lycus River, controlled trade down river valley to coast.
- 3 very major roads in and out of Laodicea. Because of trade and resources, grew to wealth/prominence during Roman Empire.
- Military outpost and trade center, a Roman “assize” town, with plenty of pomp and circumstance.

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

- Also known for **black wool**, spun from black sheep raised specially here.
- Textile industry manufactured clothing shipped all over world.
- Medical school here, Laodicea also well known for its ear salve made from nard, and its **eye powder** which was mixed as a salve for bad eyes.



REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

- Other distinctive feature was fame as **financial center**. Specialized in money-changing, hand minted own coins centuries before Christian era.
- **Lots of wealth and pride here.**
- Usually offered Jews free citizenship and freedom of worship. (*all about money and trade*)
- Jews here had **great wealth and independence**. Were so influential, known to bring pressure on Roman governors.

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

- Laodicea wealthiest city in Phrygia in Roman times, one of **richest commercial centers of ancient world**.
- So wealthy, after devastating earthquake in 60 AD, refused all financial aid from Rome, insisting on rebuilding city themselves, from their own resources and private citizens. **Too rich and proud to accept anything from anyone.**
- Not a religious center, though had their gods, principally "Men" god of healing, or "Asklepios."
- No real religious persecution. Too busy making money.

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

- Laodicean people put their trust in money, material worth, luxury and physical health. Trusted in things of this world.
- References to all these features seen in letter to this church.
- 30 years before letter written, Paul warned Archippus (*considered the bishop of Laodicea*) to be more diligent in his ministry to these people. Apparently also warned previously. (Col. 2:1, 4:16-17)

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

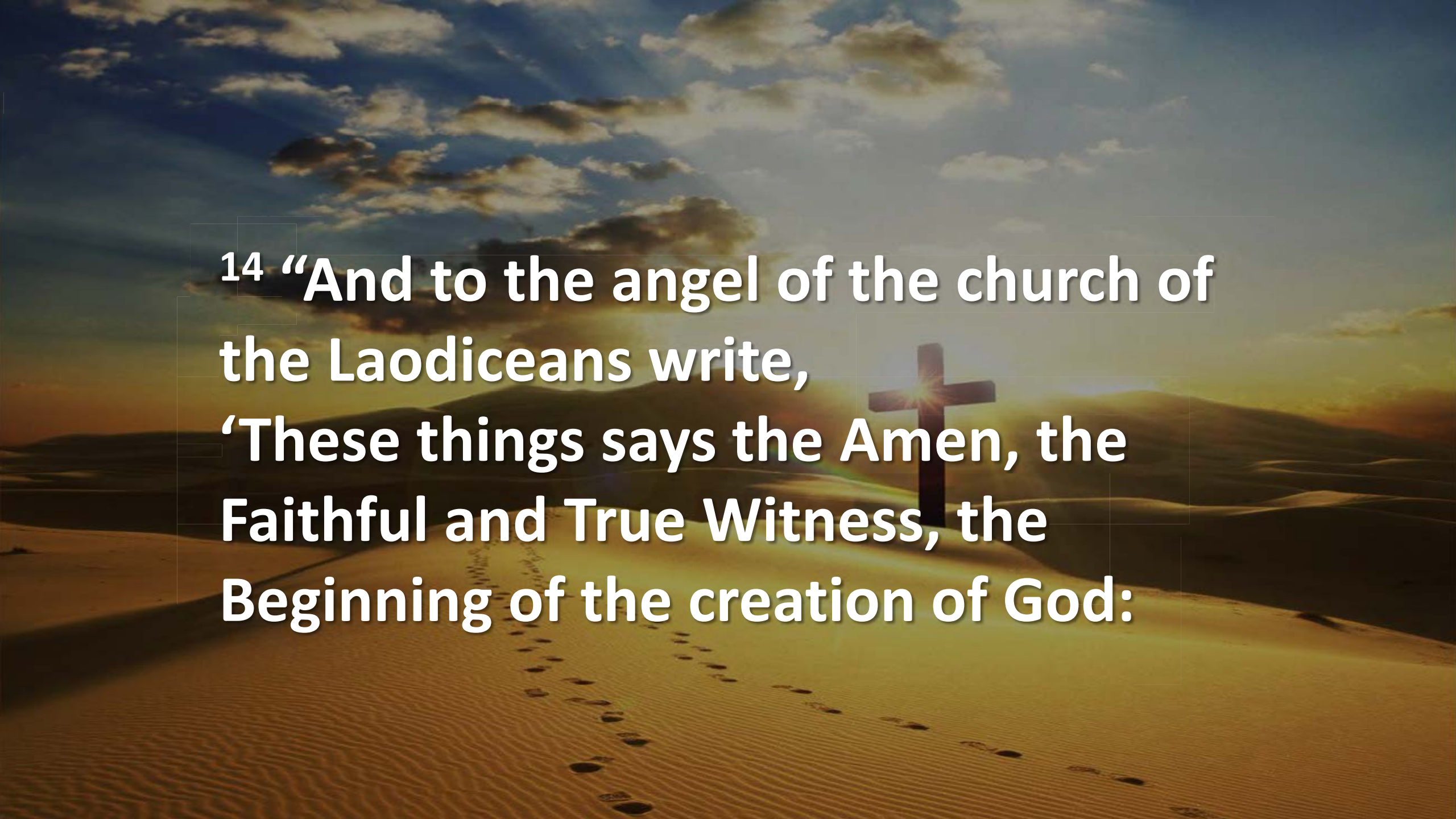
Commentary:

"Laodicea stands as a warning to those who remember intensely that man has a body and forget completely that man has a soul."

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

Laodicea - This word literally means "rule (or justice) of the people." How appropriate for this church, and for this age. **The people were in charge here, not God.**



A desert landscape at sunset. In the foreground, a path of footprints leads across sand dunes towards a wooden cross standing on a dune in the middle ground. The sky is filled with clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

14 “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

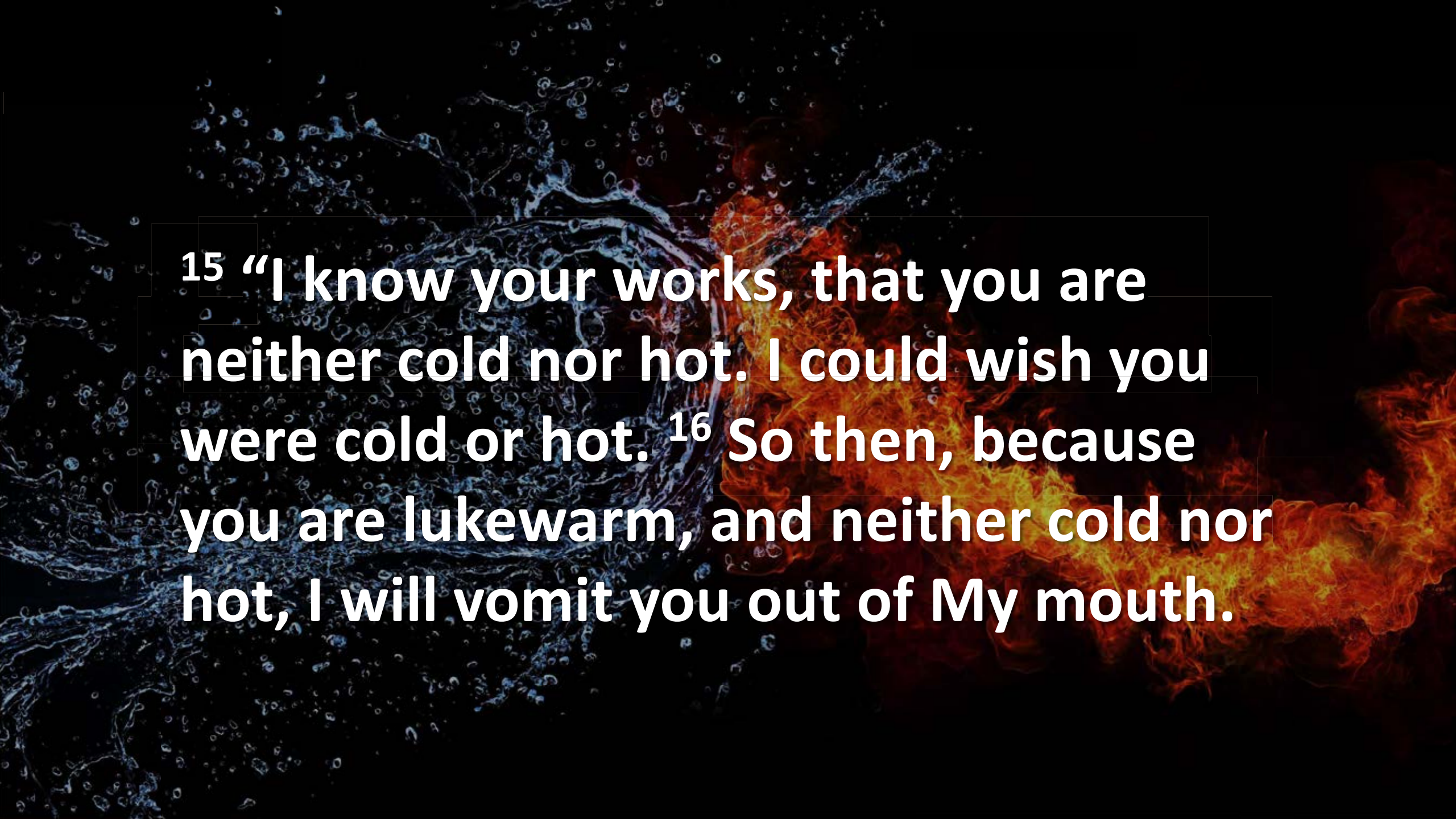
REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

DESCRIPTION OF SPEAKER

- “Faithful and True” - In contrast to church that was unfaithful, untrue to The Master. He is faithful and true.
- "Amen" is literally the "so be it." The final word is His.
- Letter last in circuit, references last church of Christian age before Jesus' coming. Church of end of times = apostate church, a false church. **It is well on its way.**

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

- Phrase "*the Beginning of the creation of God*" often misunderstood, does NOT mean Jesus was created.
- *He is not a created being*, already equated Himself with Almighty, the One who has no beginning and no end.
- **These words mean the origin or source of the creation.** Jesus created all things (Colossians 1:16). Greek word "arche" also indicates the highest order, top rank.
- Yeshua is King of Kings, Lord of Lords. He is the **pre-eminent One, the master of the creation.**



15 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

COMMENDATION

None!

Not even some who had not soiled their clothes, like the church in Sardis, only other church with no praise.

Sardis may have gotten a D-, but Laodicea earns an "F."

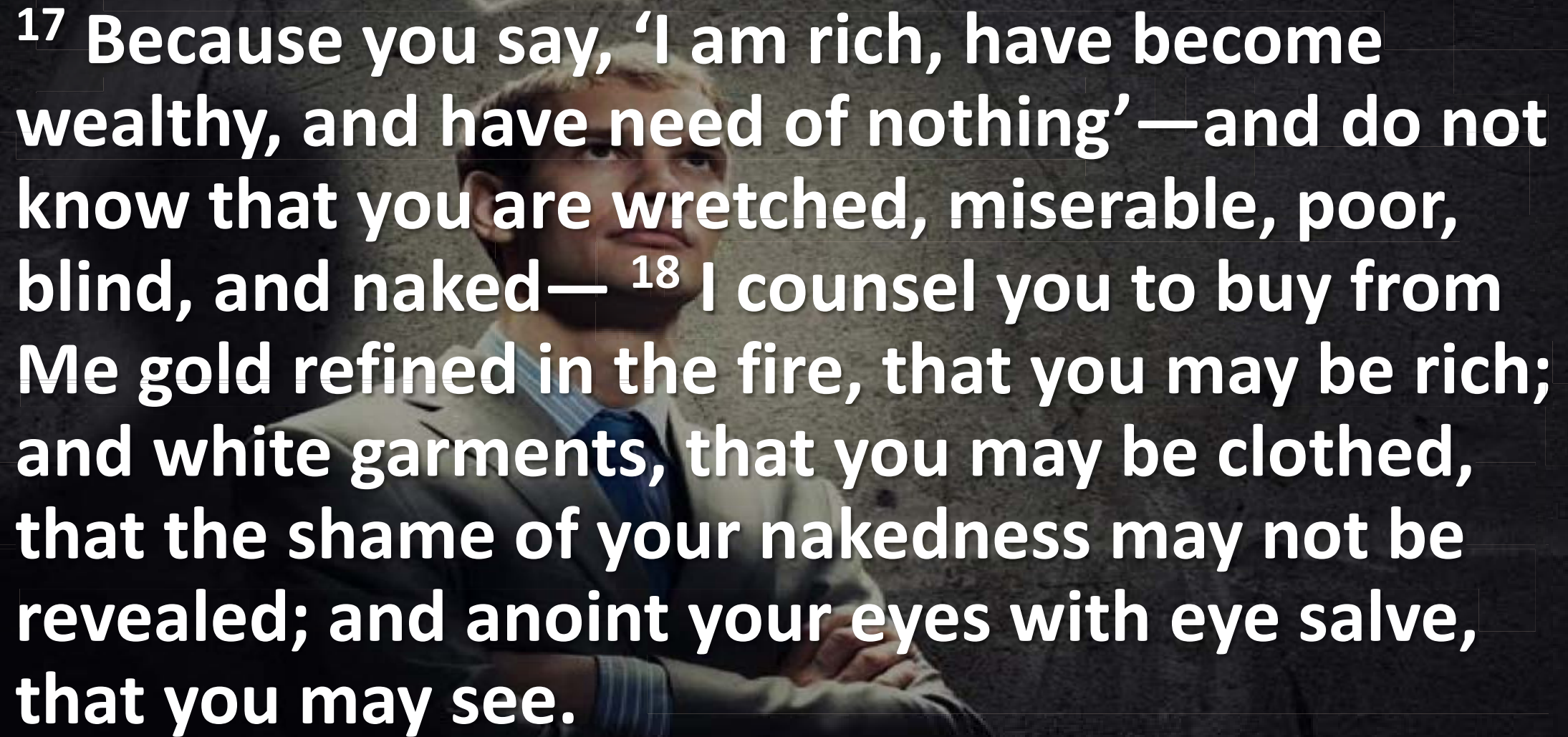
This alone should wake up the church in this age!



REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

CRITICISM

- Jesus might have been disappointed in other churches, but with this group He literally shows disgust.
- Laodiceans understood what was said here. Their **lukewarm water was disgusting - a way to induce vomiting**.
- Yeshua wished instead they were either cold or hot, as either extreme reveals a **useful purpose**. This church disgusted Jesus so much He provides a *very descriptive picture of His rejection*.

A man in a light-colored suit and blue tie is shown from the chest up, looking slightly to the right. A faint, glowing crown is superimposed on his head. The background is dark and textured.

17 Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— **18** I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

EXHORTATION

- Uses renown of city to chastise it. They believed they were wealthy, successful, in need of nothing, but He says they are **wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked!**
- Yikes! What a huge slap in the face for this church. And for today's "church," which has forgotten completely who they are (*supposed to be*).

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

These wealthy “Christians” needed, and were commanded to “buy” from Him:

- **His gold** (*refined - always indicates purification by trial*) to be truly (*spiritually*) rich
- **His WHITE garments** (*robes of the redeemed, righteousness*) instead of those they were known for (*black, sinful*) to cover their spiritual nakedness
- **His medical salve** (*from the Great Physician*) to heal their spiritual blindness (and ears too!)

A man with short brown hair, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, is kneeling on a wooden floor. He is leaning forward with his head bowed and hands clasped in prayer. The background is a dark, textured wall. The lighting is soft, highlighting the man's face and the texture of the floor.

19 “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

- Although disgusted with this church, **He also loves them** (*indicates not all hope is lost!*), and will “rebuke and chasten” them, just as a parent would discipline a wayward child.
- He tells them be zealous (*as opposed to lukewarm*), restore their **passion (first love!)**, and repent of this lazy and lukewarm (apathetic) attitude toward Him.
- This Church **needs all the exhortations** in all of the letters to other churches needing chastening. They exhibit the problems of all those other churches...

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

EPHESUS: Left their first love

PERGAMOS: Corrupted pure faith with ways of world, tolerated false teaching

THYATIRA: Compromised their faith

SARDIS: Complacent, unaware, not watching, almost dead spiritually

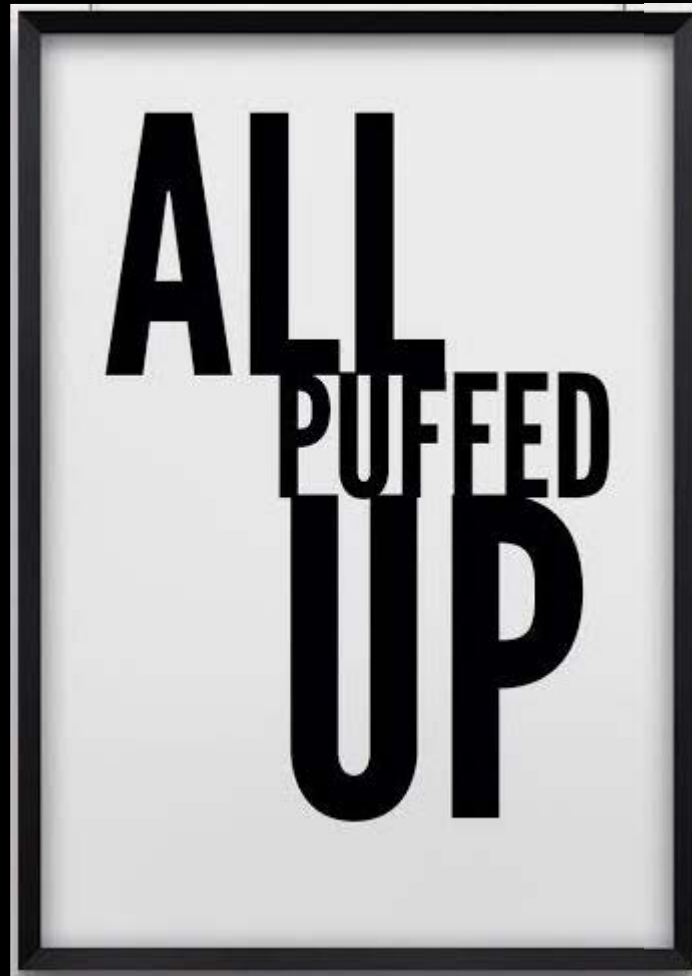
= LAODICEA: wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

These churches,
and this one in
particular, all
seemed to have
the wrong image
of themselves as
a church, and as
believers.

Do WE?

ARE WE.....?

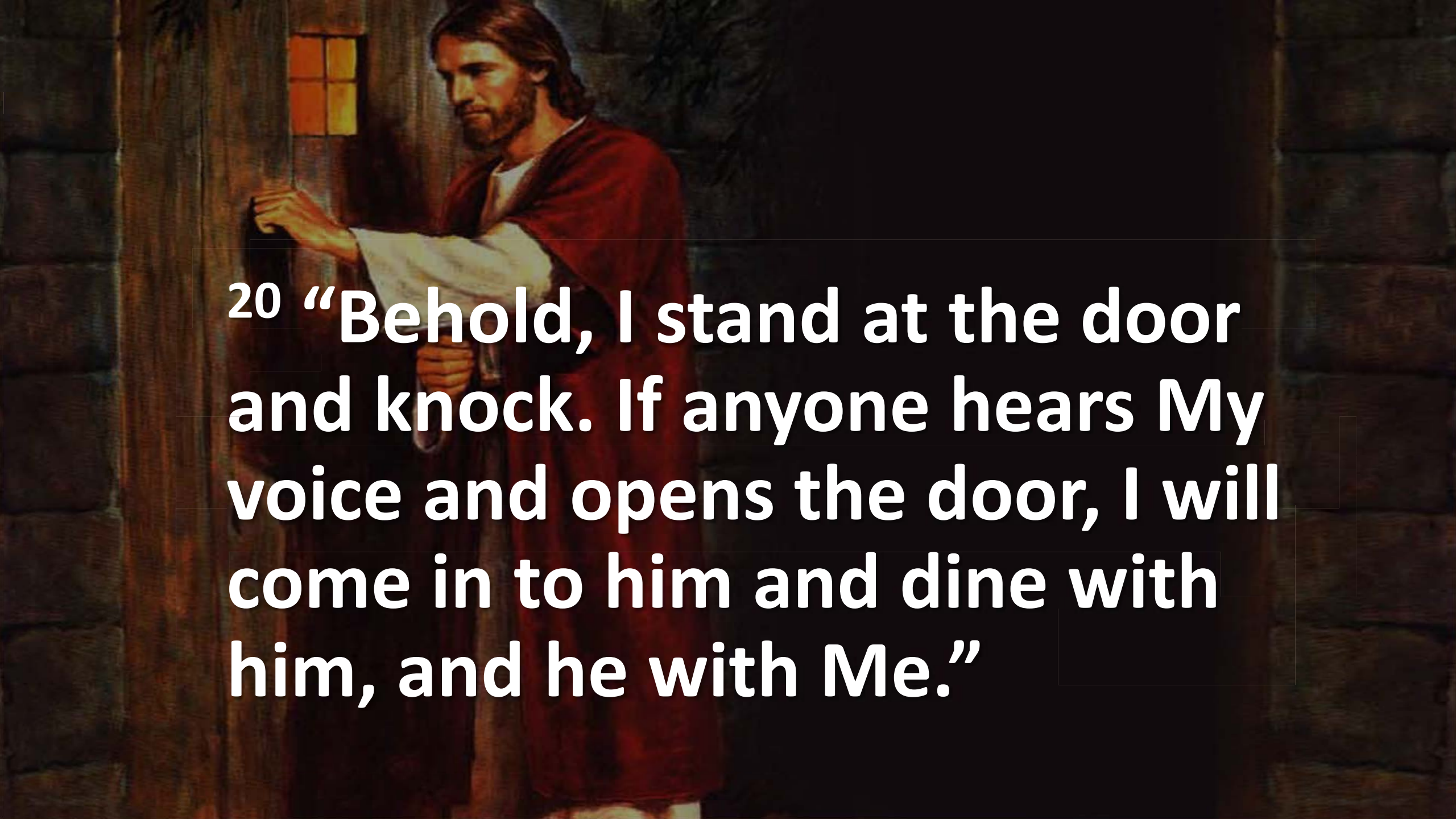


REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

DEUTERONOMY 4:24

For the LORD
your God is a
consuming
fire, a jealous
God.

- Our God is a “jealous God,” demanding our complete love and loyalty.
- Should be voluntary, **our greatest desire**. They forgot this, and even forgot Him.
- Relationship had grown lukewarm. **Disgusting to Him**.

A painting of Jesus standing at a wooden door in a stone wall. He is wearing a red robe over a white tunic and has a halo. He is looking down at the door handle with his right hand on it. A small window with a yellow light is visible above the door.

20 “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

- Yeshua is not on the inside with them!
- These “believers” had apparently sent Jesus “outside.” He is giving them another chance. He is knocking now at their door.
- Notice now Jesus appeals to "anyone," not just the corporate church.
- An open invitation to ANY individual who will answer the knock at the door of his or her heart.

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

- In these times, dining with someone was also a way to *repair relationships*. Still chance for anyone who will respond to Him.
- Conditions at end of the age will **force true believers to leave apostate church** of the end times.
- Jesus knocks at door of individual hearts and calls them out of the world, even if that “world” is the apostate church.

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA



- Mid 1800s William Holman Hunt painted "Light of the World."
- Jesus standing outside door overgrown with weeds, not used in quite a while.



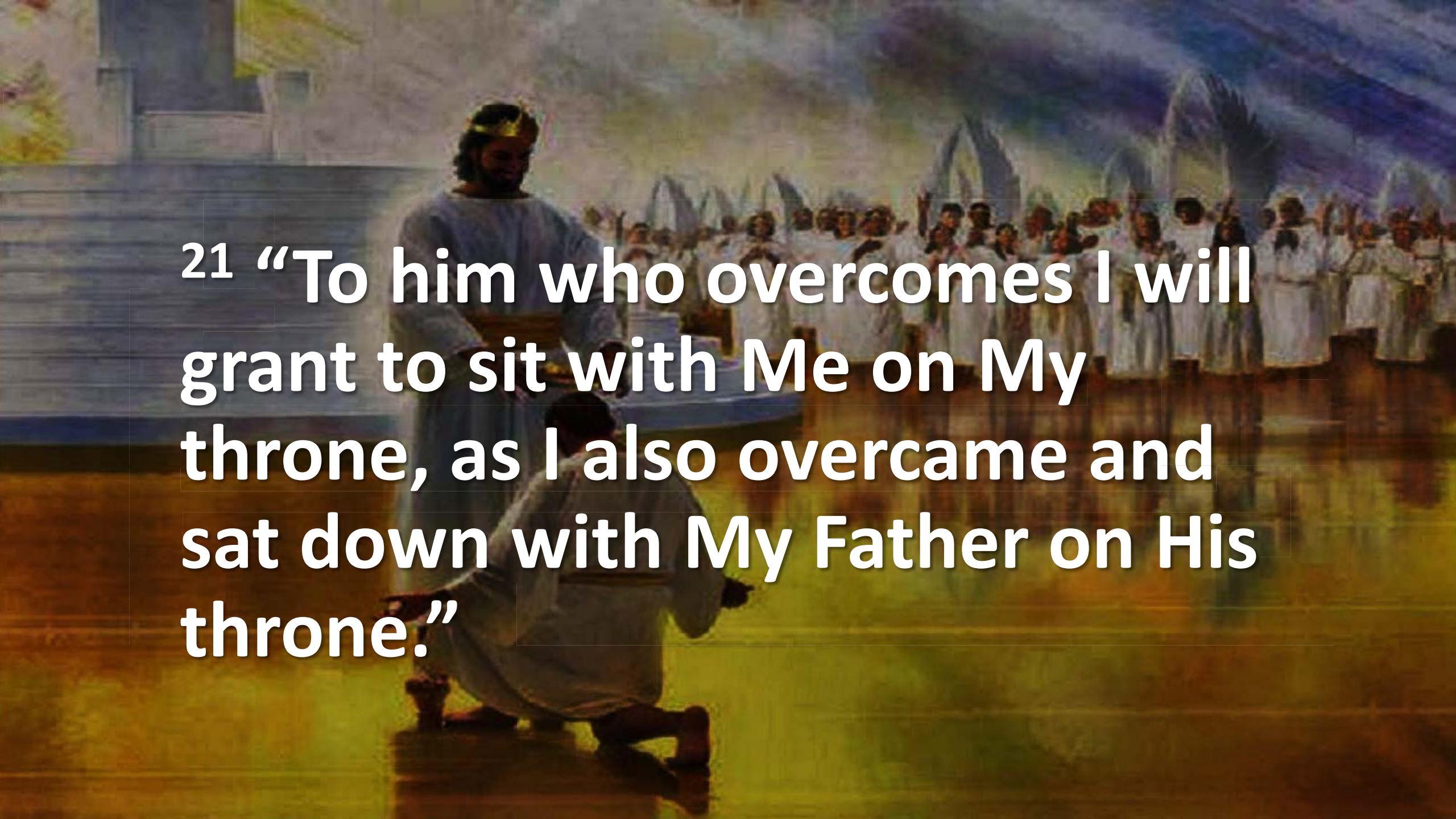
Most of us are familiar with Sallman's painting of "Jesus at the Door"

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

- Someone noted no handle on door. Hunt replied, ***"This door is a picture of the human heart, the only handle is on the inside."***
- Jesus won't kick the door down. Up to us to open it.
- To "dine" with Jesus is to share main fellowship meal of the day.
- God's desire throughout scripture to fellowship with us. Why we were created! Why there has been a place for His Presence with us since the garden...

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

- In the **garden**: Man walked with God in person
- In the **wilderness**: God dwelled with Israel in the cloud by day and pillar of fire by night
- In the **Promised Land**: God dwelled/Israel in Tabernacle
- In **Jerusalem**: God dwelled with Israel in the Temple
- **When Jesus walked the earth**: God dwelled with man as the “glory in the tent” (Shekinah)
- **When the Holy Spirit came**: He made temples out of us.
- In the **Millennial Kingdom**: Jesus will dwell among mankind in His Temple in Jerusalem
- In the **Eternal Kingdom**, the Father and the Lamb will dwell with redeemed mankind for all eternity.



21 “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

PROMISE

- Promise = indication there is **hope for individuals**, even in this apostate church.
- Overcomer granted right to sit with Jesus on His throne. Looks forward to **Millennial Kingdom**, when we will rule with Him.
- Jesus has already taken His throne with His Father, and we will follow Him there.
- Thankfully we will do so in our **redeemed state**, not subject to political corruption of rulers today!

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

SIGNS OF LAODICEA TODAY...

- Scripture no longer ultimate authority for Christian faith. Emergent leaders teach we cannot know the "truth" of the Word of God, so rely on thoughts of man.
- Gospel of Yeshua Ha'Mashiach replaced by humanistic methods promoting church growth and **"social gospel"** (*make world a better place, feed hungry, environmental concerns, etc*).
- Almost no teaching about need for atonement, blood of Jesus, or forgiveness of sins in order to enter heaven.

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

SIGNS OF LAODICEA TODAY...

- More and more emphasis on building kingdom of God “now” (*Dominion theology*) and less on warnings of Scripture about imminent return of Messiah and coming judgment.
- Teaching that Jesus will rule and reign in a literal millennial period considered unbiblical and heretical.

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

SIGNS OF LAODICEA TODAY...

- Emergent church's "eschatology" claims we are being drawn into a golden age when God will recreate everything and us, and we will help Him do this by making the world a better place.
- Jesus will not judge when He comes again. The teachings on "signs of the times" and the Bible's prophecies regarding those times are considered false.

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

SIGNS OF LAODICEA TODAY...

- Teaching that Revelation does not refer to the future, but instead has been already fulfilled in past (1st century) or is just allegorical.
- Teaching that church has taken the place of Israel and Israel has no prophetic significance is embraced. (replacement theology)

**SATAN'S
Great
LIE**

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

SIGNS OF LAODICEA TODAY...

- An "experiential" mystical form of Christianity promoted as way to reach the postmodern generation.
- Idea that Christianity needs to be reinvented in order to provide meaning for this generation.
- Idea called "ancient-future" or "vintage Christianity" claiming that in order to take church forward, must go back in church history and find what experiences were effective to get people to embrace Christianity (*such as icons and mystical rituals, relies on mysticism*).

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

SIGNS OF LAODICEA TODAY...

- Authority of Word of God undermined, while images and sensual experiences are promoted as key to “experiencing” and knowing God.
- Including icons, candles, incense, liturgy, labyrinths, prayer stations, contemplative prayer, experiencing the sacraments, particularly sacrament of the Eucharist.
- Strong emphasis on **ecumenism**, unity with Roman Catholic Church, and ultimately all religions, leading to one world religion. (*Revelation 17 – Harlot*)

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

SIGNS OF LAODICEA TODAY...

- Suggest there are many ways to God.
- Some even say "God is in everything" - a **New Age teaching**.
- The New Age "all paths lead to god, the divine within" is prevalent in the emergent church, or will be in those who are still claiming to be "Christian."
- The pagan gods of ancient days have returned.

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

SIGNS OF LAODICEA TODAY...

- Members of churches who question or resist changes are reprimanded and usually asked to leave.
- If you are over age 50, your opinion will not even matter.

**ENDANGERED
SPECIES**



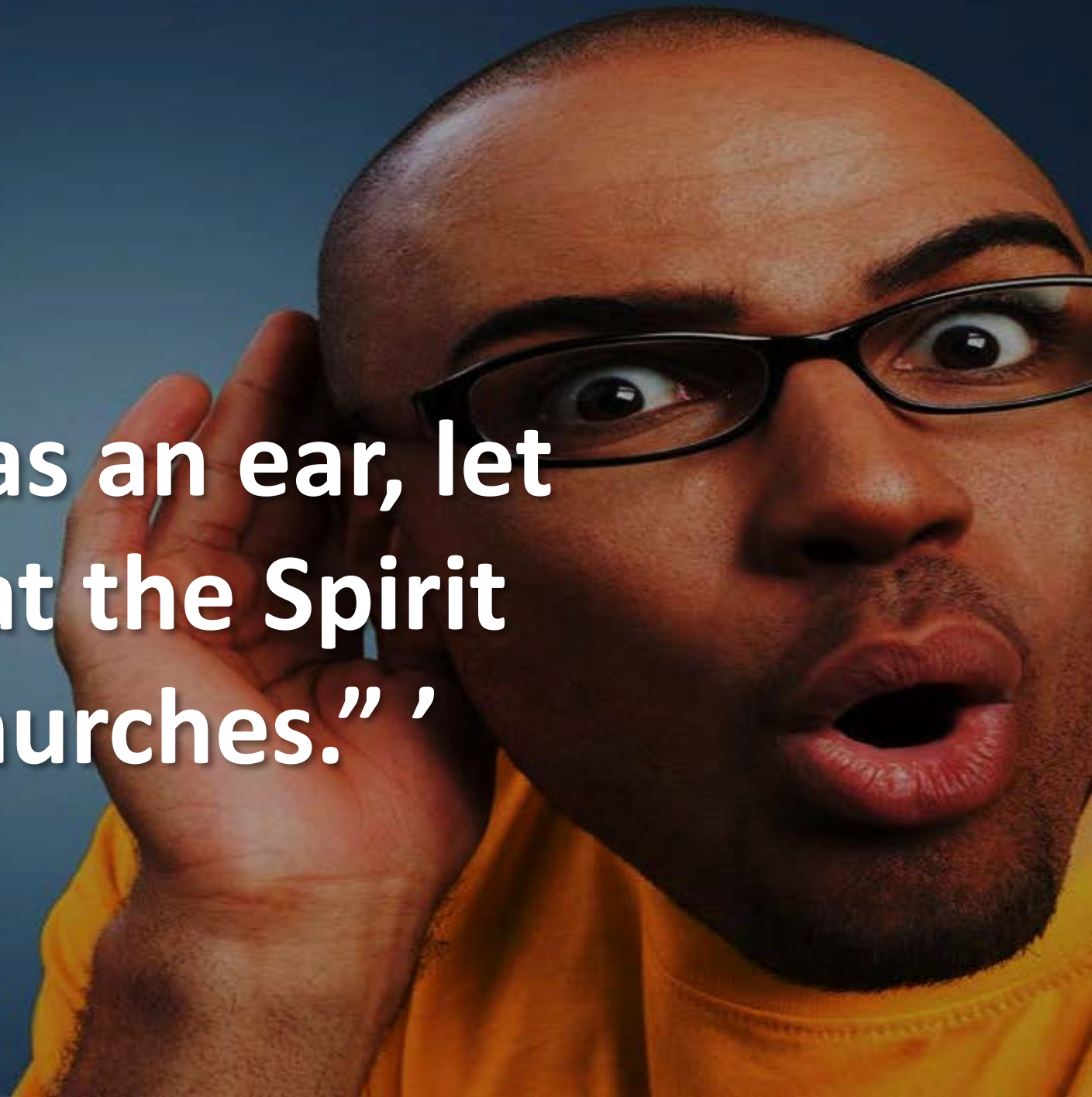
REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

Inscription engraved in stone on a cathedral in Lübeck, Germany = good reminder to “Church” today:

Ye call me Master and obey me not,
Ye call me Light and seek me not,
Ye call me Way and walk me not,
Ye call me Life and desire me not,
Ye call me wise and follow me not,
Ye call me fair and love me not,
Ye call me eternal and seek me not,
Ye call me gracious and trust me not,
Ye call me noble and serve me not,
Ye call me mighty and honour me not,
Ye call me just and fear me not,
If I condemn ye, blame me not.



**13 “He who has an ear, let
him hear what the Spirit
says to the churches.” ’**



REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

- By including this directive, the same as other churches, Jesus is indicating there is still time.
- The “church” may be finished, but each individual may always approach the throne in repentance and receive restoration and forgiveness.
- What must they do? **Be ZEALOUS and REPENT.**
- In other words, go back to Ephesus! The passion and dedication of the first century church of eye witnesses.

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

- We are also eye witnesses. Maybe not to the person of Jesus our Messiah (*yet!*), but most definitely to His work in and for us.
- May He give us the same passion and love for Jesus of those early disciples who saw Him rise *with their own eyes!*
- **We are in that group** Jesus referenced when He responded to Thomas: “...*because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*”

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

Oh dear Jesus may we truly and
passionately BELIEVE!!

And love and live accordingly...

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

Symbolic Age	Apostate Church of Last Days 1900-present +
Speaker	<i>“the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God.”</i>
Praise	NONE!
Problem	Neither hot nor cold - lukewarm. Say they are rich, need nothing, but He says <u>they are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.</u>
Counsel Or Warning	Will <u>vomit you out of my mouth!</u> <i>Buy from Me gold refined in fire (that you may be rich) white garments (that you may be clothed), anoint your eyes with eye salve (that you may see) As many as I love I rebuke and chasten. Be zealous and repent. Open door to Him!</i>
Promise	Will sit with Me on My throne. (co-ruling Millennial kingdom)
Nutshell	Lukewarm, pride, more concerned about material wealth than spiritual wealth

REVELATION Chapter 3 LAODICEA

- Church at Philadelphia thought to prophetically represent the **FINAL END TIMES CHURCH, 1900 - ...? AD**

REAL TIME CHURCHES/PLACES AT TIME REVELATION WRITTEN						
EPHESUS	SMYRNA	PERGAMOS	THAYATIRA	SARDIS	PHILADELPHIA	LAODICEA
THESE REAL TIME CHURCHES ALSO <u>PROPHETICALLY</u> REPRESENT VARIOUS AGES OF THE CHURCH THROUGH TODAY						
30-100 AD	100-312 AD	313 – 590 AD	590–1600 AD	1600–1750 AD	1750-1900 AD	1900 - today
APOSTOLIC CHURCH (age of Apostles)	PERSECUTED CHURCH (age of Martyrs)	STATE CHURCH (Constantine to 1 st Pope)	ESTABLISHED CHURCH (1 st pope to Reformation)	REFORMATION (+ start of Protestant denominations)	MISSIONARY CHURCH (age of worldwide missions)	LAST DAYS APOSTATE CHURCH

PASSION

APOSTACY

Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha

May the LORD bless you and keep you

Ya'er Adonai panav elekha vihunneka

May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

***Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyase
lekha shalom.***

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

