**Revelation Chapter 3**

**Acrostic for 7 Churches—“Every Saved Person Truly Seeks a Perfected Life”**

**Isaiah 46:9-10, NKJV, “Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.”**

**Jesus reminded “The Revelation Church”: Ephesus—have devotion, not just doctrine; Smyrna—endure persecution; Pergamos—stand fast against the world; Thyatira—avoid pagan practices; Sardis—be watchful and diligent; Philadelphia—continue missionary outreach; Laodicea—cease compromising.**

**5. The Church of Sardis**

**1. Describe the Church of Sardis, 1570-1750 A.D.—“The Dead Church,” Reformation Church, now formal and liberal, Rev.3:1-6, the Catholic Church was stunted by the reformation church. Martin Luther began translating the Bible, the printing press was developed, and Protestantism was begun. But, it became “dead and formalistic.” Jesus says that they are liberal and dead, formalistic church; Sardis means “Stone.” Read 2 Timothy 3:3-5…..verse about lovers of pleasure, having a form of godliness….an “apostate church.” Early Christian colleges were founded on salvation message, are now liberal and lying. Danger of spiritual deadness. The book of Acts covers 30 years, and the book of Revelation covers 2000 years. Revelation is on four levels: 1. Local, for that time, 2. Admonitory to all churches, 3. Homiletic (personal), 4. Prophetic—lay out the history of the church, from the Pentecost to the Rapture… Shadows of the church periods through history. 1. Name of the church, 2. Title of Christ (from chapter 1), 3. Commendation, 4. Concern, 5. Exhortation, 6. Promise to the overcome, 7. Closing—“He that Hath an ear.” The first three churches have the promises post scripted. Thyatira (Semiramis, Roman Catholic Church) has a strange threat—great tribulation.** 1. **Contemporary**—**LOCAL**--they had a direct message to the local churches of John's day. John was writing to churches that he knew all about. In The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia. Sir William Ramsay said, "The man who wrote these seven letters to the seven churches had been there, and he knew the local conditions." 2. **Composite**—**EACH LETTER APPLIES TO ALL CHURCHES**--each one is a composite picture of the church. There is something that is applicable to all churches in all ages in each message to each individual church. In other words, when you read the message to the church in Pergamum, there is a message for your church and a message for you personally.3. **Chronological**—**CHURCH HISTORY IN ORDER**. The panoramic history of the church is given in these seven letters, from Pentecost to the Parousia, from the Upper Room to the upper air. There are seven distinct periods of church history. Ephesus represents the apostolic church; Laodicea represents the apostate church. This prophetic picture is largely fulfilled and is now church history, which makes these chapters extremely remarkable.**4. PERSONAL—TO EACH PERSON.**.. **404 verses in Rev., with over 800 illusions to O.T. Climax of God’s plan for man.**

1. **Why is this letter considered “one of the most provocative” of all of the seven letters? This letter has nothing good said about it. Great Gravity**
2. **Who are the seven spirits of God in verse 1? Read Isaiah 11:1-2-- 1. Of the Lord, 2. Of Wisdom, 3. Of Understanding, 4. Of counsel, 5. Of might, 6. Of Knowledge, and 7. Of the fear of the Lord. These show up four times in Revelation: Rev. 1:4, 3:1, 4:5, and 5:6. The seven-fold spirit of the Holy Spirit. Manifestations of the Spirit of God.**
3. **What was the city of Sardis all about? This was one of the oldest cities of the earth, 2000 B.C. Had a legendary King of Midas. Its patron deity was Cybele, whose son, Midas, was the wealthy King of Phyrgia. Early capital of the early kingdom of Lydia. Until 549 B.C., was very important to ancient cities. Intersection or hub to all its roads, commerce, wealthy, gold found in river near to it. Made first coins in the world. Deity, Cybele, who had the son Midas, who could change anything to gold. Key—history—built on the northern slope of Mt. Timolus, on a hill 950 feet above the broad valley of the Hermus River. The patron deity was the goddess Cybele, whose son, MIDAS, was the wealthy king of Phrygia; he was credited by the Greeks with the power to change anything he touched into gold. 1000 feet high on a peninsula, sheer cliffs on three sides, supposedly impregnable. Surrounded by the river Pactolus, like a moat. However, the hill was made of clay. These battles become a proverb, because they felt secure, but were really not, a city of failure, false confidence. Lack of watchfulness and diligence. Totally destroyed.**
4. **Rev. 3:2—what does it mean “be watchful?” Read Matthew 13:32-35, Matthew 25:13, Luke 21: 34-35.**
5. **Rev.3:3--The city was taken like “a thief in the night” by finding a way to scale the cliffs. Rev. 16:15, 2 Peter 3:10. Compare these verses.**
6. **Read I Thess. 5 (read entire chapter)—discuss whether or not Christians will experience Jesus’ “thief in the night” scenario. Who will be caught off guard?**
7. **What does Sardis mean? What is the Sardis stone? Was a precious stone at one time, but now is common. It was the first stone in Aaron’s breastplate, and the sixth stone of New Jerusalem’s 12 Foundations. Also known as Red Carnelian, a variant of Chalcedony. The Hebrew word for this stone is Odem. Ascribed to Reuben of the 12 Tribes, and Philip of the 12 Apostles. A representation of the blood of Christ. Almost unidentifiable today, and that’s the point….an empty meaning. Red Carnelian. Read Rev. 4:1-4, Ex. 28:15-21, Rev. 21:16-20.**
8. **What is Jesus’ name for this church? Isaiah 11:1-2…like a “label,” but you’re dead.**
9. **Why does Jesus call them “dead?” Let that sink in. One of the most serious letters. You have a label, but you are dead. What does Revelation say about “blotting your name out?” Read Rev. 3:5.**
10. **Prophetically….if Thyatira was the Papal Church, was Sardis the Reformation Church? The papacy had become vulnerable because of greed and immorality, sent a wave of reformation throughout the area. No reform happened in the Catholic Church. In the 14th century, John Wycliffe, English reformer, was prominent and whose bold approach was to translate the Bible into English from Latin, and John Huss from Bohemia was executed for distributing Bibles led to the Hussite Wars. 1414, Council of Constance did no real reform; 1516—King and Pope united and put French church under the royal authority. Gutenberg Press, movable metal type, in 1455, Germany, put the Bible in people’s hands. The Gutenberg Bible, 1455, first book printed on this press. “Controlled Access”—keep the Bible in Latin where the average populace could not read the Bible. Renaissance in learning….fueled the 16th century and the Protestant Reformation.**
11. **Read Habakkuk 2:4. “**Behold, his soul which is proud is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.**” This is Martin Luther’s life text. He was born to a coal miner, 1483. Studied to be a lawyer, but then priest, but became disillusioned and nailed his ‘95 thesis’ treatise on the church’s door in Oct. 31, 1517, ‘95 thesis’ to the door at Wittenberg College. Centuries of wars after this of popes trying to maintain control. The Jesuits were the arms of the Pope; anything was justifiable. Massacre of untold million, 70,000 Huguenots massacred in one war. 14th century—eastern church splits with Catholic church; 16th century—Martin Luther, slaughter of masses; Henry the VIII splits with the church to get a divorce; 18th and 19th century—Wesleyans. 1914—Assembly of Gods---DENOMINATION CHURCH. Soft hermeneutics prevailed, not specific to every word, every phrase. Most deny the millennial reign of Christ. Absence of a Biblical devotional life, and absence of a fear of God. Joint declaration between evangelicals and Catholics together.**
12. **There is no commendation, only concerns. List them.**
13. **The symbolism between the “eroding away” of doctrine is similar to the cliffs surrounding Sardis. How does this apply to the Christianity of Sardis? Was conquered again and again, by conquerors climbing up their “invincible in name only” cliffs. False confidence. Betrayed by failing to be watchful.**
14. **Read the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. What should we be “watchful of?” Equate this to Sardis’ condemnation. Read I Peter 5:8, Matthew26:41, Matthew 24:42-43, Mark 13:37. Not the initial reformation, but the traditional denominational church began to get soft on prophecy, truth, and the whole Bible. Accepted allegories. Denies the Millennial reign and Israel. Romans 11.**
15. **What about false teachers? Acts 20:29-31. Jeremiah 17:9 talks about the sin of man.**
16. **In Matthew 7:21-23, how does apply to this “dead church” in Sardis? Does it apply to the church today? Those that think they are saved and are not. Must have a relationship with Him.**
17. **The exhortation, “a few names” in Sardis who have “not defiled their garments.” Is there a remnant left of saved people? Is that the case in each of the seven churches?**
18. **What is the promise to this church? The word “name” is used throughout this book. What is the lesson to all churches—watchfulness and diligence. The historical church—there are very dark days coming. Why is the divorce rate more among Christians? There is a ground swell of home fellowships. There is a silent exodus from regular churches. 52,000 defections each week from today’s church. World Net Daily published a poll that 2/3 of Americans believe that the Bible is true. That’s amazing! They’re leaving established churches…..the birth of the church was in houses until the 3rd century. Book of Acts.**
19. **How has the “body of Christ” failed in this church era? Luther was against lay churches, and believed that lay pastors should be murdered. John Calvin felt the same. JESUS HAD NOTHING GOOD TO SAY ABOUT THIS CHURCH.**
20. **Unfortunately “the denomination church” has soft hermeneutical traditions, denial of the Millennial Reign, denial of Israel’s prophetic destiny, absence of Biblical devotional life, de-emphasis of the Gospel of Christ, and the ordination of homosexuals. Comment.**

**6. The Church of Philadelphia**

**1. Describe the Church of Philadelphia, Rev 3:7-13, the great awakening of the 18th century, 1750-1900. the second church that gets no censure, brotherly love, love each other, “friendly faithfulness.” The Missionary Church. Condition is “to love.” Strength is small….but, I can do all things through Christ Jesus, and risen above the world. “Walk the talk.” Not hypocritical. Fired up and keep going! Believe and trust in God; centered on Christ. They will be raptured. Danger of losing your “little strength.” Four churches have something missing…..2 have nothing good, 2 have nothing bad. During the 14th century, Philadelphia stood alone against the Turks, even though twice besieged by Turkish armies. 1379-1390—were finally overcome. Continued to stay true to Christianity.**

**2. What is the prophetic profile of the Philadelphia Church? The last four churches all co-exist until the second coming of Christ. Means “friendly or favorable to”—“friendly toward”—“friendly city, or friendly fellowship.” “Brotherly love”. The youngest of the cities, acquired by Pergamos in 189 B.C. King Eumenes II, King of Pergamos, and his younger brother, Attalus II, were such good friends that they wanted to live close and were on coins together, etc. They became known as “the brothers,” for their mutual loyalty and affection. Loyal, reliable friends. Worshiped Dionysius. The god of wine….this is wine country. Volcano and earthquake, and in 17 A.D., a devasting earthquake, with constant tremors for years afterwards. The pillars shook often. Neo-Ceasarea was the new name given, then Flavia, then back to Philadelphia, now Alla-Seu, in Arabic.**

**3. In verse 7, what are the titles of Christ? “Holy”, read Rev. 6:10, Lev. 11:44, Isaiah 57:15, 6:3. He was holy at His birth—Luke 1:35, at His death—Acts 2:27, in His present priestly office—Heb.7:25. “True”—John 17:3, I John 5:20, Luke 1:75.**

**4. What is the “Key of David”—Isaiah 22:19-25….key of the house of David was given to Eliakim, who became governor under King Hezekiah. Eliakim’s predecessor, Shebna, is deposed and he is made treasure and steward over the house. He wears royal clothing, and the government is committed to him. He wears a key over his shoulder to indicate the power to open and shut, a symbol of his absolute authority to act as the king’s rep. Idiom for the Messiah is “the nail.” Hosea 5:15, see the return of the Messiah. Jesus gives the keys to the kingdom to all of the apostles… Matthew 18:18….not just to Peter…Matthew 16:15-19, I Peter 2:4-6—foundation stone; verse 5 “holy priesthood”—only three that were kings and priests, Melchizedek, Jesus Christ, and the church, Chapter 4. The Key of David is a typology of having Davidic authority to rule and to unlock sealed and secret prophecies. Isaiah 9:6-7—Jesus will rule.**

**5. “I know thy works”—Verse 8-10--what are the commendations for the Philadelphia Church? How many are there? SEVEN…1. I know thy works, 2. I have set before thee an open door, 3. Thou hast a little strength, 4. Kept my word, they were loyal and steadfast, 5. Hast not denied my name, 6. I will make them to come and worship before thy feet…7. I will keep thee from the hour of temptation.**

**6. In Verse 6, who are the “synagogue of Satan?” Legalism….book of Galatians. False Jews—reconstructionists, these are people that experience “the replacement theory.” That the church has replaced Israel. Amillenialsm and replacement theology; also partly blamed for the holocaust in Germany. Isaiah 61:2, the first part, Jesus read. Isaiah 43:1-5—God loves Israel. However, many Jews are very “anti-Christian.”**

**7. What does “open door” refer to in verse 7? Open doors of the mission field--Read 1 Cor. 16:9, 2 Cor. 2:12, Col. 4:3. Doors of Deliverance—John 10:7-8, Noah’s \*\*\*Ark—Gen.7:4, GOD CLOSED THE DOOR OF THE ARK SEVEN DAYS BEFORE THE FLOOD—very interesting allusion to tribulation period and rapture. The door at the wedding—Matthew 25:1-10. Discuss.**

**8. In Verse 10 is the key of this church. What is “the word of my patience” or “kept my command to persevere?” What is the consequence/promise in this verse? I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world. Are they promised to escape the great tribulation? Should say “the hour of the temptation” or “the time of the tribulation.” Rev. 17:12-14….one hour, kings give authority to beast one hour. Matthew 8:13—that same hour. Matthew 9:22-healed that same hour.**

**9. Verse 10, who are those that “dwell on the earth” or “earth dwellers?” Read Phil. 3:10, Heb. 11:13.**

**10. In verse 10, how much of the world is affected by the great tribulation? Whole earth**

**11. What concerns does Jesus have the Church of Philadelphia? None**

**12. What is the exhortation? Verse 10-11. Hold fast to the crown….Smyrna also has crowns mentioned. They must already have the crown, because He says, “hold fast.” “Let no man rob you”--Esau in Genesis 25:34, lost his place to Jacob, Reuben lost his place to Judah—Gen. 49:4, 8,, Moses lost his place to Joshua, Numbers 20:12, Saul lost his place to David, I Samuel 16:1, 13, Shebna lost his place to Eliakim, Isaiah 22: 15-25. PROMISES THAT THIS CHURCH WILL NOT GO THROUGH THE TRIBULATION. Rev. 3:7. The last four churches have reference to the second coming**

**13. Why “pillar” in verse 12? Pillars were important in earthquake areas. There is a pillar in the temple of God in the new Jerusalem. Rev.15:8. Temple of God in heaven will open at the second coming of Jesus.\*\*\* I Kings 7:15-22, pillars in temple, Jachin and Boaz—Masons are obsessed with this. Why “my God” four times? Jesus used that term on the cross, Matthew 27:46.** **Connection to the Masonic Lodge’s pillars**: Many brothers are of the opinion that Freemasonry began in 1717 in London. However, when viewed in the wider context of the history of the craft this date has very little to do with anything other than the organization of four lodges in London into a Grand Lodge. This concept being copied in various other countries has resulted in some erroneous claims by my fellow Englishmen that early Freemasonry was a wholly English experience. The medieval guild of Masons to which Freemasonry was grafted did have a long history in England to be sure. Even the word Freemason was first coined in England. The Old Charges which were developed in England and which were later incorporated into Freemasonry have long been used as an argument to support the English claims. But they were not the origins of Freemasonry. No brothers, based on my readings, Freemasonry came into being in Scotland sometime between the death of Robert Cochrane in 1482 and the death of  the Stuart King James I in 1625.

**14. Revelation 3:10—re-read. This is one of the strongest prophecies in all of the Bible. What does it promise to the believer?**

**7. The Church of Laodicea**

**1. Describe the Church of Laodicea, Rev. 3; 14-22, 1900-today. lukewarm. Today’s churches. Makes Jesus sick; He will “spew them out.” Shallow and “life is a mess.” Strong rebuke for this church. Will go through the tribulation. Customs and manners; ecumenical movement, new age, and accepts all false religions. Hebrews 6:4-6—apostate, impossible to correct. Sin will be judged. Danger of permanent “lukewarmness.” The book of Acts covers the first 30 years of the church, while the book of Revelation covers over 2000 years of the church. Goes back to 2000 B.C., in 240 B.C., Antiochus II rebuilt the town after his wife Laodice, who later killed him when he divorced her. A trade city; traded clear to China. Earthquake in 62 A.D. that devastated the city. Wealthy citizens, who had need of no help. Prosperous neutrality—like a modern day Switzerland. Principle products—textile manufacturing, a special kind of black sheep’s wool—black wool was their specialty. They had a medical school that was famous for an ointment that was renowned, good for eye problems. Part of a tri-city (Hierapolis), 6 miles away, and had famous hot springs, and the cold-water city of Colossae but by the time it got to Laodicea it was lukewarm; Laodicea was between the two. Could have been founded by Epaphras, and Paul addressed a circular letter, which it may be Ephesians. Colossae and Laodicea were instructed to exchange letters.**

**2. How does this seventh letter seem to “wrap up” all of the letters to the churches?**

**3. What is the title of Christ in verse 14? Jesus draws on His foundation: “Amen”—Rev. 1:6, 7, 18; Isaiah 65:16, John 14:6, I Cor. 1:18-22; “Faithful and True Witness”—Rev. 1:5, Psalm 89:34-47, Isaiah 55:4, John 18:37; “beginning of the creation of God”—first origin, first cause, ruling authority—Col. 1:15**

**4. What are the commendations? None….”I know thy works”—like the lukewarm water in their town. Read Matthew 7:21-23.**

**5. What are condemnations? Verse 17. What does “I am rich” mean? What does God say about them. List their five real conditions: 1. Wretched, 2. Miserable, 3. Poor, 4. Blind, and 5. Naked. Their perception of themselves was wrong. THE NUMBER FIVE IS ALWAYS INDICATING PART OF A WHOLE. 5 FINGERS, 5 TOES….NOT COMPLETE.**

**6. What is Jesus’ exhortation to the Laodicea church inverses 18-19? Buy gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich.—Psalm 19-7-11, 12:6, I Cor.3:12, and white raiment, that thou may be clothed, and anoint thine eyes with eye salve is the Holy Spirit. Against the black wool that they sold, He wanted them to have white raiment. The Bridegroom offers His white raiment. Not incurable**

**7. Revelation 3:20, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock…….” Sum up this verse. Is it an invitation to the non-believer? This is not an altar-call verse. The knob is on the inside. Jesus never appears after the resurrection without eating. In context, where this verse stands is the final indictment for the Church at Laodicea. He is outside of the church, not inside. He is not in the midst of them. He is trying to reach the individual, in spite of this church.**

**8. What is the promise to the overcomer in verses 21-22? Shall sit with “my father and His throne.” Christ in His throne….David’s throne in the Millennium.**

**Wrap-up on the Revelation letters**

1. **Which three letters have the promise to the overcomers as a postscript?**
2. **Which two letters have no commendations at all?**
3. **Which two letters have no condemnations at all?**
4. **Which church is promised “to go through the tribulation” if they do not change?**
5. **Which church is promised “to escape the tribulation?”**
6. **Do all these letters apply to all churches?**
7. **Which church is the “dead church?”**
8. **Which church is the “persecuted church?”**
9. **Which church is married to the world? Pergamos**
10. **Which church had the woman Jezebel? Thyatira**
11. **Which church is known as the missionary church? Philadelphia**
12. **How many churches hear the word “repent?”**
13. **“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” phrase occurred seven times, once in each letter. However, compare Revelation 13:9, where it says, “If anyone has an ear, let him hear.” Where is the reference to the church? Has the church already been raptured, since it is not mentioned here? Comment.**
14. **Four of the letters refer to Jesus’ Second Coming? Re-read Rev.2:5, Rev.2:16, Rev. 3:3, and Rev. 3:11. Compare.**

**Matthew 13 in comparison to the Revelation Churches**

1. **Verses 3-9 Sower and the Four Soils; 10-17 Why parables?; 18-23 Sower and Four Soils Explained.**
2. **Verse 24-30 Tares and Wheat**
3. **Verse 31-32 Mustard Seed**
4. **Verse 33 Woman and Leaven; 34-35 Why Parables continued?; 36-43 Tares and Wheat explained.**
5. **Verse 44 Treasure in the Field**
6. **Verse 45-46 Pearl of Great Price**
7. **Verse 46-50 Dragnet**
8. **Explanation—Why Parables—Matthew 13:10-17—it is not given them to others; it is to make sure the Pharisees don’t. Disciples should understand, others not. Parables are packaging to give preference to those guided by the Holy Spirit. Refers to Isaiah. Vs. 24-25—Jesus spoke of parables from Matthew 12 on…that it might be fulfilled that He would utter things that had been “kept secret from the foundation of the world”—Matthew 13: 34-35. These things were not found in O.T.—Paul in Eph. 3:4-6, told about the church—that Gentiles were allowed in, fellow-heirs and of the same body.**
9. **Parable of the Sower of the Four Soils (Ephesus) (Book of Ephesians)—1. Fell by the way and birds came, wicked one catches away seed by the birds (wicked, Satan) 2. Stony places with no deep earth, no root ( no root and when tribulation comes, they fail) 3. Fell among thorns and choked (care of the world and riches take it away)4. Fell on good ground and brought fruit some 100, some 60, some 40……ears to hear**
10. **Tares and the Wheat (Smyrna) (Book of Philippians)—joy through suffering. tares are weeds that are black and poisonous. Enemy has sown the seeds. Both grow together until the harvest. Son of man is sower, reaper is the angels, and tares are the evil ones. He that hath ears to hear.**
11. **Mustard Seed (Pergamos) (Corinthians)—worldly church; one verse jewel without explanation. Birds come and lodge in the branches. These are really bushes, tree or weed. Becomes big and grotesque. Birds are wicked. Don’t overlook the pulpits.**
12. **The Woman and the Leaven (Thyatira) (Galatians)—Remember, Jews understood leaven to be “sin.” It corrupts by “puffing up.” Woman makes the meal, and hid it in three measures of meal. Three measures of meal is a symbol of the fellowship offering, in reference to the angels that visited Abraham….this is not good.**
13. **Treasure in the Field (Sardis) (Romans)—man who buys the field (world), gave all he had to buy it….Jesus Christ.**
14. **Pearl of Great Price (Philadelphia) (Thessalonians)—oysters are not kosher. Jews do not prize pearls. So, this is the case that is drawing on a Gentile idiom. Pearl is unique in that it is a response to an irritation, and then it is removed. Idiom of the church.**
15. **Dragnet (Laodicea) (Colossians)—bad cast away….like the end of the world. Wailing and gnashing of teeth**
16. **Paul’s Epistles—Paul wrote seven churches, as well. Do they correlate or parallel with Jesus’ seven letters in Revelation?**

**Assignment for next week:  Read Revelation 4 and 5, seven times. and the Book of Ruth. Read I and II Thessalonians and I Corinthians 15. Discover: Who are the 24 elders? Lampstands? What is the rapture? When do you think the rapture will occur?**

**Luke 21:12, “But before all these…” Luke talks about the things that happen before the cluster of signs….. The fall of Jerusalem, 70 A.D.**

**Matthew 24: 8-9, “All these are the beginning of sorrows…then shall they…” Matthew talks about the signs that happen after the signs…..tribulation, abomination of desolation, etc. He is Jewish.**

**Nuggets for today: Job (the oldest book of the Bible) 38:31 tells us , “Can you bind the beautiful Pleiades?” (famous, “Seven Sisters”). Only recently have scientists come to realize that the stars that make up Pleiades are the gravitational center of the Milky Way. …..and….in the next verse Job is asked, “Can you guide Arcturus?” We now know that Arcturus is the fastest star in the heavens, traveling at a phenomenal 125,000 miles per second. Can you imagine trying to guide that? Arcturus has, in fact, become known as the “Runaway Star.” God obviously knows everything.**

**Proverbs 25:2, “It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.”**

**Review the “Signs of His Coming”--Grouping of Signs**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Matthew** | **Luke** | **Revelation** |
| **False Christ’s** | **24:4-5** | **21:4** | **6:1-2** |
| **Wars** | **24:6** | **21:9-10** | **6:3-4** |
| **Famines** | **24:7a** | **21:11** | **6:5-6** |
| **Death** | **24:7b-8** | **21:12** | **6:7-8** |
| **Martyrs** | **24:9** | **21:24** | **6:9-11** |
| **Global Chaos** | **24:10-13** | **21:25** | **6:13-17** |

**Read, read, read and pray!**

**Thought you should know--**Before the Common Era

When I was a kid, I was always taught to refer to years using BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini / year of our Lord). However, I somewhat regularly hear people referring to years as in the CE (Common Era) or BCE (**Before the Common Era**).

**Promises:**   
[**Ephesians 2:10**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ephesians-2-10/) - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.  
  
[**2 Peter 1:4**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/2-Peter-1-4/) - Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.  
  
[**2 Corinthians 1:20**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/2-Corinthians-1-20/) - For all the promises of God in him [are] yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.