

THE LAODICEAN AGE

By: Phillip Hayes

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans . . ."
[Revelation 3:14]

The Apostle John was told by our Lord Jesus to write in a book what he saw and send it to the churches that were in Asia. There were seven churches listed and Jesus gave John a Message for each church.

Many have taught that these seven churches typify seven church ages spanning from the time of Pentecost until now with the Laodicean church representing the age we now live in.

Before we examine the "Laodicean Age" I have found a serious connection that I want you to be aware of that has impacted every church age. That connection is, *"The Mother of Harlots"*.

There is not much argument among serious Protestant Bible Teachers that the Roman Catholic Church is the *"whore that sitteth on many waters"* described in Revelation 17. But it seems that only a few have been given the understanding that this "whore" was a fornicator! And in her acts of fornication she brought forth many illegitimate children. *Daughters!*

And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH".
[Revelations 17:5] Please read all of Revelation

seventeen when you have time.

These "daughters" came out of her. She birthed them. Keep in mind; she is a mother, A MOTHER OF HARLOTS! When these daughters were born they had to resemble their mother in some way as most any natural daughter would resemble her natural mother.

What are some of the characteristics of the Mother of Harlots? She is the visible or carnal perversion of the true church. Just as the bride of Christ is the visible part of the invisible Christ, (we know Him no more after the flesh). The "Whore" is the visible part of the invisible spirit of antichrist, who is an imitator of the real Christ and true church.

The Apostle John said they (the antichrist) went out from us (the true church); (See 1John 2:19). Therefore the antichrist has a semblance of truth but perverted the real gospel just enough to prevent true salvation. The antichrist spirit brought forth a church, *"that denied the power thereof."*

This is what corrupted the Galatian church. *"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ" [Galatians 1:6-7].* They do preach the Gospel, but pervert it! Paul reveals, *"It is another gospel, which is not another"!* It is Christian, but not Christian! This should be a wake up call to all serious born again believers. Especially today as we see such a rise in the influence of Judaism in many Christian churches.

In 1John 4:3 Apostle John said the antichrist spirit was already in the world. In 2Thessalonians 2:7 the Apostle Paul stated very clearly that the "Mystery of Iniquity" was already working in the early church. Therefore, "Mystery Babylon, The Mother of Harlots" of

Revelation is in fact the manifestation of the antichrist spirit which was not only in the world then; it is in the world today.

The publication of Martin Luther's "95 Theses" began what is called the "Protestant Reformation". Since that time, thousands of Christian Organizations and Denominations have been formed. These organizations and denominations although separated from the Roman Catholic Church, as a rule accept and promote many of the doctrines of the Roman Church.

Therefore, if the "Mother of Harlots" described in the book of Revelation is in fact the Roman Catholic Church, it would behoove us to carefully examine "Her" teachings in light of the teaching of Jesus and the Apostles. Is it possible that these organizations and denominations that we are all familiar with are the spiritual daughters of the Great Whore of Revelation?

Remember Jesus said, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which was their teachings." We must beware of all false doctrines including those generated from Catholicism and Judaism!

According to the epistles of Paul and John there were people filled with the spirit of antichrist that came out of the true church in its infancy. Think about this. Could it be that the true church must now come out of the antichrist church system? Is this the command of God to His people today? *"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" [Revelation 18:4].* Is this why Jesus said this to all seven churches of Revelation: *"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches?"* There was a "come out message" to each one!

Two things are obvious: One, not everyone that

claims to be a Christian has an ear to hear the Voice of God. Two, there is something God wants His people to come out of. The Voice of God is speaking; do you hear?

There is no life within "Mystery Babylon", only death! You must come out of any teachings that would identify you with the "Great Whore" of Revelation!

There is no doubt in my mind that Jesus is coming back for a perfect church without spot, wrinkle, blemish or any such thing (Ephesians 5:27; 2Peter 3:14)! And the Bible clearly states that God has predestinated a people to be conformed to the image of the Son of God (Romans 8:29). We know that the writer of Hebrews exhorted the church to *"Go on unto perfection"* (Hebrews 6:1). I believe the scriptures reveal this last church will be more glorious than the first church! Not less!

When we read about this church at Laodicea, we find it in the most miserable condition of them all! Why? It seems impossible to believe that Laodicea is the perfect church that Jesus is coming for. If Laodicea is the last church age, where is God's perfect church without spot or blemish?

For the answers let's begin with Revelation Chapter One: *"Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle"* [Revelation 1:11-13] And now verse sixteen: *"And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his*

mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength" [Revelation 1:16]

Alright now, let's go on to the 20th verse of chapter one and we will find out what these seven golden candlesticks and the seven stars are. *The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.*

Notice the seven stars are in His right hand. The right hand always denotes power. Jesus sits on the right hand of power. In other words He is the POWER of God. He said in Matthew 28:18, *"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."* Jesus has all power!

The seven stars are the angels and we know that an angel is either a ministering spirit or a messenger from God.

Please take note that STARS almost always represent ministers. Such as in Jude 12, where he describes the false teachers as wandering stars. And again in Revelation 12 where the woman (true church) had a crown of twelve stars, and this denoted divine apostolic government.

God's ministry is in the right hand of Jesus and they have power. The scripture says to call for the Elders of the church when you are sick. This does not take away any power or gifts from the body but it simply places the government of God in balance in the church. The ministry has authority with God that the layman doesn't have! Now that is a fact.

The stars are in the right hand of Jesus, and the body, the church is represented here as the golden candlesticks. Gold represents, great value, purity,

durability. *"The trying of your faith being much more precious than gold."*

There you have it; the stars are the angel messengers (Ministers) to the churches, (Seven Golden Candlesticks).

Now I am going to make a statement here that I will not have space to elaborate on but if you have our messages on "THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY" you will understand what I am saying.

Please keep in mind the mystery of iniquity, (the spirit of antichrist), was already working in apostolic times. This hindering, lawless force had infected the church in their time. As a matter of fact, it was actually dominated many of the churches. Jude wrote this to the church at large: *Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Contend for the faith?! They had lost that glorious faith that was delivered less than 35 years from the time Jude wrote his epistle! What had happened? How could this be with great men of God around such as: Peter, Paul, James, John and the like?

Remember Paul would write the churches and say in effect, "I can't believe you are so soon removed from Him that called you!" "Who has bewitched you" he would cry. "You've received another Jesus, you've received a perversion of the gospel I preached" he would tell them. Things had gotten out of hand, you can say what you want to, but it is true! Satan was having a

field day with the early church right before the Apostles eyes! Paul was so concerned that when he was leaving some of the disciples and knew that he would not see them again, (for he knew he would soon give his life for the gospel), said these words in sorrow: *"I know that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."* [Acts 20:29]

Another 30 years had transpired when the book of Revelation was written. I can tell you without hesitation, that it had not gotten any better! By this time all the Apostles had been killed with the exception of John, who had been exiled to the island of Patmos.

John was writing to those seven churches in Asia that had given over almost wholly to the antichrist spirit. Now I want to make a point very clear here: There was a separation of the true church and the false church in the Apostles time, but there was problems still among the true seed when Jesus gave His message to the churches of that era. You only have to read what He said to each church to understand that. Remember they were written first to the seven churches which are (present tense) in Asia.

And also please remember that Jesus gave a parable about sowing seed in the earth; then explained that there were two seeds sown. The true seed and the false seed. He called them wheat and tares. He said that He, the Son of Man sowed the wheat and the devil sowed the tares. But now listen what He said concerning these two seeds: *Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.* [Matthew 13:30]

Therefore the two seeds would remain together in the same field (world) until the end time and then the cry

would come, *"Come out of her, my people"* and the time of separation would begin. I believe we are in that time and right at the finishing up of the separation. The "Reapers" are the angels.

This is not to say that there has not been a physical and even doctrinal separation all along, because of the witness that God has always left in the earth. What I am saying is the true seed will always seek truth, holiness and righteousness. They will be different, peculiar, and zealous for the Word of God. And the tares will be at most times worldly, materialistic, careless with their lives and casual concerning the Word. They will not walk in all the truth. They will always make excuses why they don't have to do this or that, etc.

All the natural eye sees is people professing a belief in Jesus Christ or calling themselves Christians. Most cannot distinguish the difference in the tares and wheat for both profess Christ, and are religious in many ways. Although separated many times by different philosophies and theology but in the same field (the Christian world). But the scripture has said, *"God is not mocked, He knows them that are His."*

Now the Lord gave each church a message and at the end of each message, He would say: *"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."* Don't you find that odd? If everyone in the church He was writing to was His own blood bought, Holy Ghost filled church, they all would already have an ear to hear, wouldn't they? After all Jesus did say, *"My sheep hear my voice and a stranger they will not follow."* Now I hope you can see. I'll say it plainly: within each of these churches, and I don't really mean to imply a "local assembly" by any means. The church is not a building or a gathering place. The church is the body of Christ, the people of God.

The Voice is to the righteous seed that have an ear to hear the Spirit. The others are blinded to the truth. Paul said, *"If our gospel is hid, it is hid to them that are lost!"*

Therefore we conclude that the message is for the true "born again" church and they will respond to His Word.

Now before we read what Jesus said to Laodicea, I want to emphasize that the kingdom of God is like a net that brings in both good and bad. Remember that! Laodicea is part of the kingdom of God just like all the other churches. Within all seven churches are wheat and tares.

Now, I have chosen Laodicea because this church more typifies what we are experiencing right now in the kingdom of God. First we will see the condition, then the rebuke, then an invitation to deliverance; then the reward for those that overcome.

Let's read about the age of Laodicea together and see what the Spirit is revealing to us. We will begin with Revelation chapter three verse fourteen and comment through verse twenty-two: *"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

Look about you! Has there ever been a generation these words describe better than this present generation. Worldly, materialistic, prosperous, proud and boastful.

You don't find many on fire for Jesus. Although religious in appearance, they no longer have a burden for souls. Many have compromised the fundamental

teachings of Jesus and the apostles and have given themselves over to doctrines of devils. The rest have believed the lie that the day of miracles is over. So they have settled into a form of godliness, a mere shadow of what the real Christian church should be.

When no one is saved they blame it on the Lord! I'll tell you what the problem is, folks have gotten too lazy to do anything for God. They won't pray! They won't fast! They won't even be faithful to church twice a week. But don't let any of these (Christians so-called), hear about a ball game, or the fair or circus coming to town. They'll stay up till midnight and spend money like it's going out of style for a little fun. But when you mention missions or the needs of evangelism, they may put a dollar in the offering! You know I'm telling you the truth!

The Lord said they were not cold nor hot, but lukewarm. They are lukewarm because they show a semblance of Christianity. They do show up for church even though they are not faithful. They do give, although hesitantly. They do pray, or at least close their eyes while someone else prays. They appear to be righteous. They have a form of godliness, but deny the power (2Timothy 3:5). Remember the parable of the ten virgins? Five were foolish, five were wise. All ten were virgins, but only five had any oil left!

Jesus said, *"I know thy works"*! He knows my friend, He is not mocked. Luke warm Christians better wake up, for God is about to vomit you right out of His mouth! You make God sick! He is sick at His stomach and He would rather you be cold; back out in the world, rather than be in His kingdom pretending you are relationship with God. Jesus said, *"I would rather you be hot or cold, (either on fire for God or out of His kingdom), but because you are lukewarm, I'll spew you*

out of my mouth!" Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

There is the problem! They say, but what does God say? Many have perverted God's true prosperity and have gotten many Christians in big trouble! When the people of the world look at the churches in America, they think, "How rich, how prosperous!" We've got the largest most beautiful churches, some costing multiplied millions of dollars. Millions of dollars are spent on television broadcasting, equipment and stage settings to show the world how prosperous American churches are. The churches have got singles clubs, amusement centers, gymnasiums, swimming pools, luxury ship cruises, vacation condominiums for the ministers; all manner of pleasures for the young and old. "We're rich," they say!

Many of the new charismatic churches resemble night clubs with ceilings and walls painted dark, mood lighting and laser lights flickering as the band sounds out the latest contemporary Christian music. They are attempting to manifest the Holy Spirit but fail miserably. You cannot manifest what you do not possess. Their "fruit" is obvious. Their carnal attempts to manufacture a revival by appeasing the flesh will fail miserably. "Come out of her, my people."

I am told this is all done to attract young people, but I am convinced you cannot attract the world with the world! I hope you can see that God has never needed the world to attract people to Him. He convicts and He draws! Jesus made this very clear! *"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day" [John 6:44].* If the Spirit of God is not drawing, these carnal endeavors

are worthless. All they are doing is birthing another carnal impersonation of Christianity. This is Laodicea manifested!

Lord, send a revival that will awaken the people!

You say, you are rich and have need of nothing. "We're ok! We've got the Holy Spirit! Look how God has prospered us! But God says, "You are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked!"

The truth of the matter is prosperity has gotten many so far from God that they cannot hear His Voice. They no longer feel the power of His presence, you no longer prophesy with the anointing you once had. Why would God do that to you? You tell me why? Wake up Laodicea!

You are rich in the wrong things! You have desired the wrong things! You have desired the world and the things of the world. And you knew the Word of God told you plainly, if you loved the world or the things of the world, then the love of the Father is not in you. You have been warned and you didn't take heed! Your desires are perverted! You desire the world, rather than the Spirit.

God Himself has deceived you with a strong delusion because of your love of the world, and because you wouldn't receive the love of the truth. God has sent His delusion throughout the world; master deceivers preaching a perverted prosperity. You got just what you wanted; *"The world."*

Is there any hope? Have we went too far? After all we have made God sick. Our conduct has been so rotten, so awful, that we have actually turned a loving and kind God to an angry God that is about to destroy us all! Will He give this Laodicea Church Age a chance to repent and return to His Truth?

I want you to look at the glorious grace of our God

at work. Listen to our Lord as His Grace begins to gently call out to those that have ears to hear. *"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent".*

Can you believe it?! Our God wants this poor, miserable, blind, naked, lukewarm, sick church to be clothed; to be really rich. He wants to give us eyesalve that we can see. Oh my! What a loving kind Creator and Savior we have!

He is telling us all; He loves us! He loves us enough to send His ministering angels to rebuke, reprove and warn the church of its condition. He didn't have to do it. He could just destroy us all! But thank God, Jesus said that He didn't come to destroy men's lives, but to save men's lives. Thank God there is hope, if we will repent, and let God put us through the trying of our faith. He wants us to be zealous, on fire, going about doing good, healing all that are oppressed of the devil.

Now look where the Lord is at. Look what this miserable, poor, and naked church has done. *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me".*

He is standing at the door knocking! This Laodicea Age has completely shut Him out! Shut out of His own church! Can you see it? Jesus didn't shut the door of Grace, no sir! Laodicea has shut the door of Grace! He remains faithful! He remains the same! Oh glory to Jesus, will you hear? Will you harken to this last call before it is too late? Can't you see that you

have been overcome with riches and the cares of this life? Can't you see that prosperity, money, things, possessions, bigger, better, greater has robbed you of the power of the Spirit? You shut the door on Him! Your sins have found you out! Laodicea must repent and do the first works!

Lukewarm Christian; Jesus is standing with arms outstretched to you. The Word of God says: *"Let everyone that names the name of Christ to depart from iniquity."* You have shut Him out! Will you let Him back into your heart, your mind, your life? Will you just "open the door"? Remember, Jesus Loves You! But He will not spare you if you reject Him. This could very well be your final call! Come back to your first love. Fall in love with Jesus all over again!

If you think the riches of this world is attractive, just look how rich Jesus will make you, if you forsake the world and do His will.

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne". There it is! The ultimate blessing! The greatest of all riches! To be able to sit with Jesus in the Throne of God! What does this mean? It means all power in Heaven and in the earth will be given to those that overcome!

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" [See Revelation 3:14-22].

Can you hear what the Spirit is saying? I fear some will understand what I have said in this message, but because of the abundance of carnal worldly riches, the devil will come and steal it away, and they will become as one that is a hearer of the Word and not a doer.

God have mercy on us all!