

The Revelation of YAHSHUA to the Churches (pt.6)
(Revelation 3:1-6)
(The Sardis Church- the dead church)

To the angel of the church in Sardis write: “The One Who has the seven spirits of YAHWEH and the seven stars says: I know your works; **you have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead.** Be alert and strengthen what remains, which is about to die, for I have not found your works complete before My God. **Remember therefore what you have received and heard; keep it, and repent.** But if you are not alert, I will come like a thief, and you have no idea at what hour I will come against you”. In her reputation of dead, the church of Sardis was warned by the Lord to wake up and to be alert; otherwise the Lord’s coming will be to her as the “thief’s” in the breaking in of a house. The message here in the phrase, “I will come like a thief”, is a warning to those who are of the dark and of the night and to those who are unprepared for the coming of the Lord, as in the words of Paul: But you, brothers, **are not in the dark, so that this day would overtake you like a thief;** for you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we are not of the night or of the darkness; but since we are of the day, we must be sober and put the armor of faith and love on our chests, and put on a helmet of the hope of salvation; for God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord YAHSHUA MESSIAH (I Thess. 5:4-5, 8-9). So, in other words, Christ will not come to His waiting Bride as a thief; not as a surprise, but as her Savior fulfilling His promise of redemption, for which she has been sealed with the HOLY SPIRIT.

Sardis was located on the banks of the Pactolus River, about 60 miles from Ephesus and Smyrna; in the ancient world it was one of the greatest city; its name means “escaping ones, or those who come out”. Sardis was a dead church in the pretension of being alive; she was found lacking before her God. She was a dead church- Christian only in name, beautiful only in the outside, but dead inside, as in the definition of our Lord YAHSHUA of the Pharisees in Matt. 23:27: Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and every impurity; in the same way, on the outside you seem righteous to people, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. G.B. Caird defines the church of Sardis as “The perfect model of inoffensive Christianity”. In spite of all this she was found with few faithful ones who hadn’t defiled their clothes, reason why she was still standing. YAHSHUA promised them a walk with Him in white; He would never erase their names from the book of life, but He that would acknowledge their names before His Father and before His angels.

The church of Sardis represents the prophetic period in the history of Christendom suggested to be in the Reformation period from about A.D. 1517- A.D.1750. But in the midst of the spiritual darkness of this period there were a few who came out: Luther, Knox, Wycliffe, Zwingli and others. These were great reforms of those days, who had broken religious ties with Rome; to them we are very grateful. Martin Luther, for example, was known to be history of the church’s great reformer, when he rebelled against the Roman Catholic Church and reformed the Protestant Church; he nailed his 95 theses of disagreement to the Wittenberg Church and

among other things that he had done, he was the first to translate the Bible in German. He was indeed a great hero of the faith.

The condition of today's church in her conformism with the world parallels the church of Sardis in her pretension of being alive. Many of today's churches buildings are beautiful and impressive to the eyes and many people are attracted to them in their spiritual ignorance, for the comfort of the soft teachings; Sunday after Sunday their ears are tickled with things they want to hear, although anemic of truth and lacking the nourishment of spiritual solid food. They believe the lies and fall asleep to their tune, for they are to them like a soft lullaby in the ears of a child. They are nurtured with the spiritual decadence of junk foods like the ice creams, sodas and potato chips of life and are entertained with the dessert of the worldly rock music, in the name of faith. This condition positions today's church in the darkness of the knowledge and the understanding of the signs of time and denies her the readiness to meet her Lord. He will be to her as "A Thief in the night", and the words, "I don't know you" will be heard as she will be left behind at the rapture of YAHSHUA 'S Bride.