

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 10

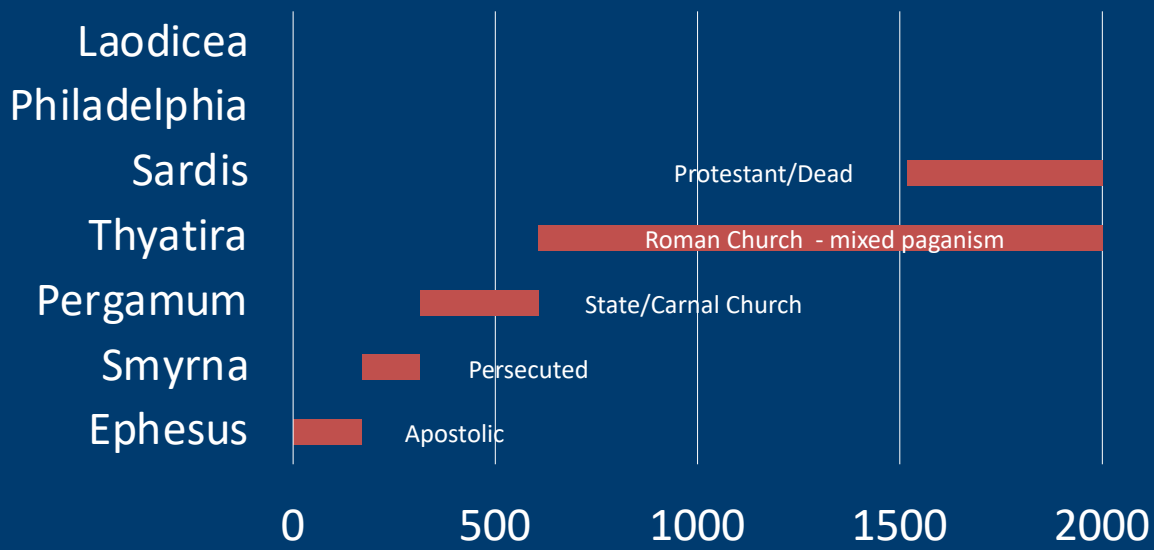
Sardis 2



Revelation 3:1-6 "Does it fit?"

1

Does it fit? Church Age = Protestant



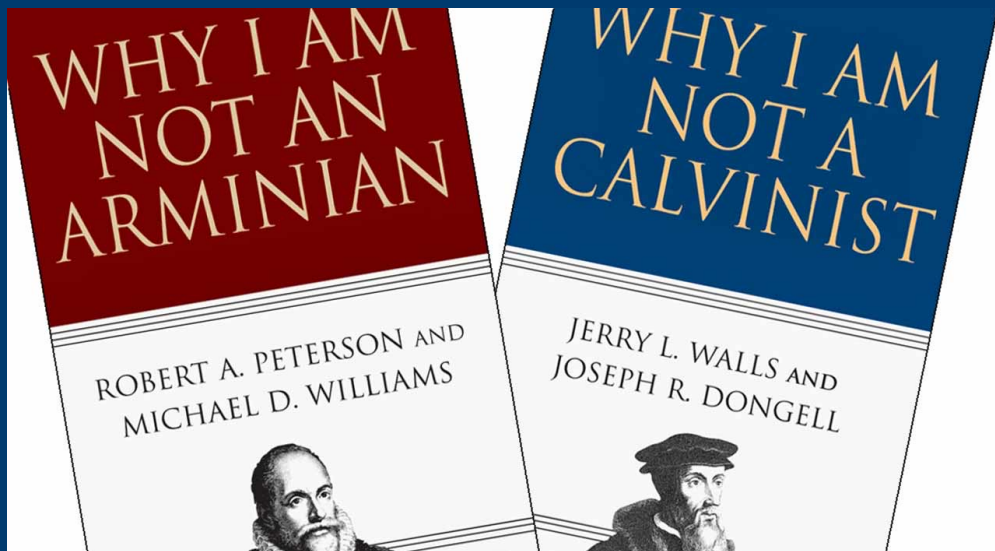
2



Judensau at Wittenberg Parish Church



3



4

- Once I saw this guy on a bridge about to jump. I said, "Don't do it!" He said, "Nobody loves me." I said, "God loves you. Do you believe in God?"
- He said, "Yes." I said, "Are you a Christian or a Jew?" He said, "A Christian." I said, "Me, too!"
- Protestant or Catholic?" He said, "Protestant." I said, "Me, too!"
- What franchise?" He said, "Baptist." I said, "Me, too!"
- Northern Baptist or Southern Baptist?" He said, "Northern Baptist." I said, "Me, too!"
- Northern Conservative Baptist or Northern Liberal Baptist?" He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist." I said, "Me, too!"
- Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region, or Northern Conservative Baptist Eastern Region?" He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region." I said, "Me, too!"
- Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1879, or Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912?" He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912."
- I said, "Die, heretic!" And I pushed him over.



5

Parable: Sardis = Treasure in the Field

Matthew 13	Explanation
<p>Mat 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."</p>	<p>A double sense- We could say Sardis is the treasure for whom Jesus gave up everything. This is true, but we ALL are the treasure for whom Jesus gave everything. There is nothing specific about Sardis or Protestantism in this interpretation.</p> <p>A second meaning is that Jesus is the treasure Sardis had taken and buried so that no one could find it. They had head knowledge, but it didn't manifest into loving God exclusively. The strongest adherents to reformation theology often want to win arguments about this position or that position, instead of realizing that we are all sinners in need of saving.</p>



6

Paul: Romans

- Luther cited Romans frequently - it's the definitive statement on Christian doctrine
- It also mentions "death" 24x and "dead" 16x - more than in any other book of Paul's
 - Used both of Christ's death and the unbeliever's dead state
 - Sardis shows it is possible to call oneself a believer and still be dead
- Romans speaks to a right understanding of our position in Christ, yet many of these were left undone by the Reformers
 - Position of Israel - Romans 9-11
 - Position of Gentiles with respect to Israel -Romans 11
 - Do not judge other believers who may not think exactly as you do - Romans 14
 - Appeal to avoid divisions - Romans 16



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Paul: Romans 8

- Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- Rom 8:28-30 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (29) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (30) And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.
- Rom 8:37-39 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors ("overcomers") through him who loved us. (38) For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



8

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
To	Darling; desired	Myrrh; death	Height, or abnormal marriage	Daughter	Precious stone		
From	Holds 7 stars/ walks among lampstands	First/last dead/alive	Two edge sword	Son of God; eyes of fire; feet of brass	Sevenfold Spirit & Seven Stars		
+	Don't tolerate evil; Persevered; Acts 17:11	Suffering (pressing, tribulation) and insults	Living with Satan yet holding His name	love, trust, service, and perseverance; improving	NONE		
-	Lost love they had at first	N/A	Balaam / Nicolaitans	Jezebel	False reputation; they are dead! Works are incomplete. Repent or He will come like a thief		
+	Hates deeds of people who do things their own way instead of God's	Do not fear suffering; remain faithful	N/A	Hold fast against teaching of deep things of Satan	A few who have not soiled clothes		
Ear	Before promise	Before	Before	After	After		
Promise	Eat from Tree/Life	Not taste 2nd death	Hidden Manna, white stone, new name	Authority over nations; morning star	Dressed in white; name in Book, be acknowledged in Heaven		
Age	Apostolic (70-170)	Persecuted (170-312)	Carnal-political (312-606)	Catholic (606-present)	Protestant (1517 - Present)		
Parable	Four Soils	Wheat/tares	Mustard Seed	Woman/Leaven	Treasure/Field		
Paul	Ephesians	Philippians	Corinthians	Galatians	Romans		

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