

The Revelation of
Yeshua The Messiah To Yochanan (John)
Study Notes
Laodicea PT. 1

Revelation 3:14-22 (NASB) - “¹⁴To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Origin of the creation of God, says this:

¹⁵ ‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have no need of anything,” and you do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked, ¹⁸ I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to apply to your eyes so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline; 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 will dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ The one who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne. ²² The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”

Laodicea-(Greek)-laos-people, *dike*-judgment-Judgement of the People.

Key: This was the Apostate Church.

Apostate-rejection of Christ or the faith; rebellion or abandon.

- In order to abandon something, you have to have it first. This church **knew** Jesus but left Him.

This was also the church of identity confusion. They **chose** another identity.

- **2 Peter 2:21-22 (AMP)** – “²¹For it would have been better for them not to have [personally] known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to have turned back from the holy commandment

[verbally] handed on to them. ²²The thing spoken of in the true proverb has happened to them, ‘The dog returns to his own vomit,’ and, ‘A sow is washed only to wallow [again] in the mire.’ [Prov 26:11]”

This is the current church age.

Founded: This city was founded by Antiochus II Theos and named after his wife Laodice I.



Note: This city was forty miles from Philadelphia and one hundred miles east of Ephesus.

- This was a banking city.
- Extreme wealth and opulence.
- Known throughout the world for its Medical School.
- Produced an eye salve known as Phrygian Powder.

Architecture:

- A city with 2 theaters.
- A stadium that seats 60,000 people.
- Made of mostly marble.

Two Theaters



Stadium

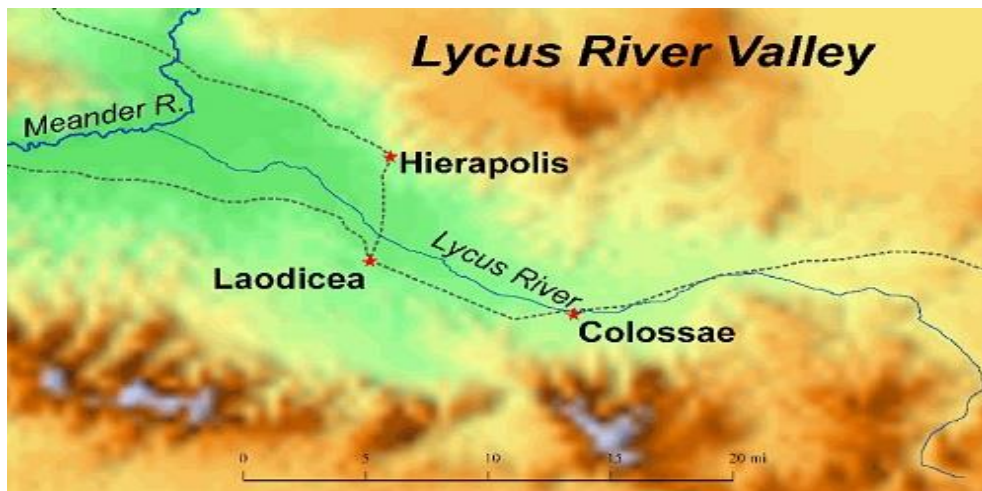


Note: This church was bated into apostacy due to **choosing** to serve another master.

“There is a reason why I compared the two masters. (Matthew 6:24)” – God vs. Money.

- The money **itself** is not bad, but it’s the **love** of money.
- Laodicea was in a city so opulent that it became a **distraction**.

Note: This city was famous for the aqueducts that brought water in from its neighbors due to their **lack of water**.



Hierapolis: 11 miles to the North- “Hot Springs”.



Colossae: 10 miles to the Southeast- “Cold Springs”.



Key: The aqueduct system was causing the water to travel for such a long distance that by the time the water would reach Laodicea, it would have been full of minerals and lukewarm; not even fit for drinking. It was disgusting to the point of causing one to vomit. Many theologians believe they would have had to get water from other sources as well.

- Jesus was speaking to them in a way that they were familiar with!



Note: With all that this city possessed; it is Church was severely lacking.

- **Ephesus**- Hard Work/Patient Endurance/Reject evil/Perseverance.
- **Smyrna**- Endurance through suffering and poverty, yet they are rich.
- **Pergamum**- Loyalty to Christ/Refused to deny Christ.
- **Thyatira**- Deeds, love, faithful service/Constant Improvement.
- **Sardis**- Faithful, even though only a few.
- **Philadelphia**- Faithful to the Word/True to the Name of Jesus/Beautiful Example.
- **Laodicea**- Nothing.

Understanding: Lukewarm speaks to this Church's spiritual condition.

"**neither cold nor hot, tepid,**" late 14c., from **warm** (adj.) + **luke** (adj.) "tepid" (c. 1200), a word of uncertain origin.

- Jesus drew a line: "Either you're **all in** with me, or you're **all out** with me" - There was nothing nice about it!
 - **Please note:** He **WILL** help you get there by Holy Spirit's power if **you** make the choice to be all in!

The figurative sense of "**lacking in zeal**":

- A Church uncommitted.
- A Church with a “take it or leave it” attitude.
- A Church going through the motions.
- A Church that thinks they are saved but are not.
- A Church naturally rich, but spiritually poor.

THE BLACK SHEEP



“Black Sheep” – someone who is marginalized or treated differently; a scapegoat for a family’s dysfunctional patterns; the one who is operating in those dysfunctional patterns.

Note: Laodicea cornered the market with this single commodity. They produced an incredibly soft and glossy black wool that was prized by the wealthy all over the world. It came from a particular strain of sheep with a quality of beautiful black wool that could not be matched.

- Wearing this black wool was a statement of wealth.
- The Laodiceans exclusively wore black.
- This black wool produced tremendous wealth.
- The Laodiceans walked in immense pride over this.
- The black wool was such a staple of who they were that it became their identity.

Key: In 60 AD, an earthquake destroyed the city. When the Roman Empire offered to help them rebuild, the Laodiceans refused.

- They had no need for outside assistance.
- They wanted to prove their self-sufficiency.
- No one was going to ever get credit for what they did alone.
- Their identity was their wealth, their image, and their brand - they refused to let anyone take it from them.

Note: This posture was in the Church as well, and it eventually led to their destruction.

When you identify with anything but Jesus Christ, He is outside. He is not participating in that. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He shares His glory with **NO ONE** and **NOTHING!** “If you reject Me, I will reject you before My Father”. This earth is passing away. Only what you do for Christ is going to last.

The End