

Salvation

Seeing Jesus in Revelation (and Hearing His Voice)



Scriptures & Questions

1. How does the message in Ephesians 1:3-14 & 2:1-10 relate to messages Jesus gave the Seven Churches in Revelation 2 – 3?
2. Who initiated the plan of salvation? Why is this important?

Ephesians 1:3-14 (CSB): *Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. ⁵ He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he lavished on us in the Beloved One.*

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ He made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he purposed in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the right time – to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in him.

¹¹ In him we have also received an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will, ¹² so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory.

¹³ In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. ¹⁴ The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.

(Ephesians 1:3-14, CSB)

Ephesians 2:1-10 (CSB): *And you were dead in your trespasses and sins² in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient.³ We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also.⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us,⁵ made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!⁶ He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus,⁷ so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift –⁹ not from works, so that no one can boast.¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do. (Ephesians 2:1-10, CSB)*

Assignment

Next Sabbath we will continue our series on the book of Revelation titled *Finding Jesus in Revelation (and Hearing His Voice)* with a message titled *History*.

The Seven Churches of **Revelation 2 – 3** have long been seen as representing the various periods of the Christian Church from the time of Christ down to our present time. As such, it shows the hand of Jesus in the history of His Church as well as its ups and downs.

From this view, it is clear we are in the time of the last church, Laodicea. This can be both exciting and frightening. Here is a breakdown of the approximate times of each church.

- **Ephesus:** *The Apostolic Church* (from Christ to about A.D. 100)
 - **Smyrna:** *The Persecuted Church* (100 – 313)
 - **Pergamum:** *The Compromising, Exalted Church* (313 – 538)
 - **Thyatira:** *The Church in the Wilderness* ending in the *Reformation* (538 – mid 1600s)
 - **Sardis:** *The Dead, Post Reformation Church* (mid 1600s – mid 1700s)
 - **Philadelphia:** *The Faithful, Judgement Hour Church* (mid 1700s – mid 1800s)
 - **Laodicea:** *The Lukewarm, End-Time Church* (mid 1800s – Jesus' Coming)
- This week spend some time with **Revelation 2 – 3**. Especially focus on the characteristics of each church as they relate to the periods of history noted above.
 - What do you find comforting about this?

- Is there anything about this that makes you uncomfortable? Why do you think that is?
- Are there things you see in these messages that make them especially fit into the time periods they are said to represent?
- Is there anything in these messages that appear to be building up to the climax of Jesus' coming?
- What is the consistent problem and solution that follows the churches from beginning to end?
- What is the most important message you see for yourself here?
- How will this affect the way you live your life? Why?