

# LAODICEA OR PHILADELPHIA

**A glance through the last day church  
of Christ**

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## preamble

Now, the major issue preoccupying most of us today is the subject of Church Organization, it is on this grounds that I was asked to respond to a question that had arisen (not in my presence, but by phone call). And here is the question?

The Seventh-day Adventist church is the last church, as per Revelation 1:11. Are you people not working against the Bible by trying to organize an 8th church?

I needed to be certain that this was not just an individual's opinion. The entire congregation confirmed their fear and surely attested that they are Seventh-day Adventists. They are Laodicea, the last church.

## THE EIGHTH CHURCH?

### Laodicea or Philadelphia?

Which of these two churches represents the Seventh-day Adventist Church today?

Or could both of these churches represent two different groups within Adventism?

### PHILADELPHIA

**Revelation 3:7-13**, “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; **8** I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou

hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. **9** Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

**Revelation 3:7-11**, “**10** Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. **11** Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. **12** Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out **[Now pay special attention to the rest of this sentence]: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.** **13** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

We know for certain that the seven churches represent the condition of the church from Christ's time on this earth right through to His second advent.

So let's see the timing of the seven churches.

1. Ephesus - 4 BC - 100 AD
2. Smyrna - 100 AD - 313 AD
3. Pergamos - 313 AD - 538 AD
4. Thyatira - 538 AD - 1773 AD
5. Sardis - 1773 AD - 1844 AD
6. PHILADELPHIA -
7. LAODICEA -

## **“Heralding the Historic Biblical Adventist Messages as taught by its Pioneers”**

Because our interest is in the last two churches, we shall not dwell much on the first four. We shall touch a little on the 5th church, just so it's clear what it is before we come back to our interest: the last two churches.

Zechariah 13:8-9

"And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. [9] And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God."

Looking at the Zechariah's prophecy, what are the three parts?

Revelation 1:11 show as the last 3 churches as:

1. SARDIS
2. PHILADELPHIA
3. LAODICEA

But Zechariah is quite clear. The first part and the second part are cut off. Doesn't that leave us with LAODICEA as the last church? The ship that shall sail through?

Let's see the perspective of one of our pioneers:

"In all the land saith the Lord; TWO PARTS therein shall be cut off, and die; but the THIRD shall be left therein. God says he will bring the THIRD PART through the fire, and refine them. They shall call upon him, and he will hear them. He will say IT IS MY PEOPLE; and they shall say the LORD IS MY GOD."

Now, what are these parts? This is Joseph Bates. He continues:

First part, SARDIS, the nominal church or Babylon. Second part, LAODICEA, the nominal Adventist. Third part, PHILADELPHIA, the ONLY TRUE CHURCH OF GOD ON EARTH, for they ask to be translated to the city of God. Revelation 3:12; Hebrews 12:22-24. In the name of Jesus, I exhort you again to flee from the Laodiceans, as from Sodom and Gomorrah. Their teachings are false and delusive; and lead to utter destruction. Death! DEATH!! eternal DEATH!!!\* is on their track. Remember Lot's wife." JOSEPH BATES. Fairhaven, Mass., Nov. 10, 1850 . ARSH November 1850, page 8.15 - {ARSH November 1850, page 8.16}

So we learn that the first two parts are:

1. Sardis - BABYLON
2. Laodicea - The NOMINAL ADVENTIST and
3. Philadelphia - THE ONLY TRUE CHURCH OF GOD ON EARTH,

Was Joseph Bates alone in this view?

## **JAMES WHITE**

- “‘Behold I set before thee an open door.’ This door Christ opens, while He shuts another. **As the Philadelphia church applies to no other period than the time of the termination of the 2300 days, when Christ closed His work for the world in the Holy, and opened the door of the Holiest of all, the conclusion seems irresistible that the open and shut door of Revelation 3:7, 8, refers to the change in the position and work of our great High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary.**”

**{Volume 1 of The Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, July 9, 1851}**

What is the principle requirement in this situation?

- **Proverbs 4:7** “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.”

It means there's something important here, so pay close attention.

- While speaking of those who have all the characteristics of Philadelphia, along with the three things just mentioned above, Ellen White identifies the church of Philadelphia as the church of the 144,000.
- “The 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united. *[That will be a time when all of God's people will be speaking the same thing]* On their foreheads was written, **God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus' new name.** At our happy, holy state the wicked were enraged, and would rush violently up to lay hands on us to thrust us into prison, when we would stretch forth the hand in the name of the Lord, and they would fall helpless to the ground. Then it was that the synagogue of Satan knew that God had loved us who could wash one another's feet and salute the brethren with a holy kiss, and they ***[the synagogue of Satan]*** worshiped at our feet.” **{Early Writings, page 15}**

**So is fair to identify Philadelphia with the 144,000?**

## PHILADELPHIA ⇔ 144,000?

- The Bible says those in Philadelphia would have God's name written upon them.
- The city of God, which is new Jerusalem written upon them,
- And Jesus' new name written upon them.
- **Early Writings** says these same three things will be written upon the 144,000.
- This is conclusive evidence that those who have the characteristics of those mentioned in the church of Philadelphia and the 144,000 are the same.

## EARLY PIONEERS' POSITION

- “Now just as sure as the Philadelphia church is the true church of the last days, just so sure the 144,000 are sealed, just before the coming of the Lord.” **{The Advent Review September, volume 1, 1850, page 56.10}**

\* The Advent Review Publishing Committee was composed of Hiram Edson, David Arnold, George W. Holt, Samuel W. Rhodes, and James White.

\* These were leading men in the Advent movement early on.

## DOES SISTER WHITE AGREE?

- [Quoting **Revelation 14:1-5**] “This Scripture represents the character of the people of God for these last days.” **(Manuscript Releases, Vol. 18, pg. 28)**

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- “Much excellent labor was bestowed upon the Laodicean church. To them was given the exhortation, ‘be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.’ But the church did not follow up the work begun by God’s messengers. They heard, but they failed to appropriate the truth to themselves, and to carry out the instruction given them. The result that followed is the result always sure to follow the rejection of the Lord’s warnings and entreaties.”

**{Manuscript Releases, Vol. 16, pg. 12}**

## WHAT WERE “THE RESULTS”?

- “Because of this, ***[that is, because “the church did not follow up the work begun by God’s messengers”]*** there exists an inferior piety, by which the church is enfeebled and its usefulness impaired.” **{Manuscript Releases, Vol. 16, pg. 13}**

\* Similar results, not only of Laodicea anciently, but of the church in her day, which was definitely in a Laodicean condition in 1903 when she wrote this.

\* It can't be a coincidence that the church today that claims to be the Laodicean church has had the same labor bestowed, the same exhortation given, and unfortunately with the same results manifesting.

\* It's also interesting that Ellen White nowhere refers to the Laodicean church as the last day church.

\* Only to those with the characteristics of Philadelphia does she designate as the last church.

Is the Laodicea church the Synagogue of Satan?



## LAODICEAN CHURCH ⇔ THE SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN

- It may trouble you to hear this statement to you if you've always been told and believe that the Seventh-day Adventist church is represented by the Laodicean church.
- It is absolutely true that Laodicea and the Synagogue of Satan are one and the same. They will one day worship at the feet of the 144,000.
- Besides this, the Spirit of Prophecy also says the Synagogue of Satan is composed of nominal and/or professed Adventists.

### REVELATION 3:20

- “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.”
- Jesus stands at the door of the Laodicean church and knocks.
- He doesn't say even one good thing about that church,
- And, notice, Jesus is not within the Laodicean church, but stands outside.
- The quote we just read a moment ago from **Early Writings** says those of the Synagogue of Satan will come and worship at the feet of the 144,000, or those that have the characteristics of Philadelphia, the true last day church.
- It also says the Synagogue of Satan will say they are Jews, meaning, they will say they are God's people; they will say they are spiritual Israel or God's last day church, but they are not.

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- It's evident so far that God's true church in these last days is made up of those that fit the mold of the church of Philadelphia and not Laodicea.
- We should also understand, if we have ears to hear, that Laodiceans are never hot or cold, but always lukewarm.
- You can search the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy from beginning to end, but you'll never find a statement referring to Laodicea as anything but lukewarm, and those that are lukewarm are lost.
- It's that plain. Its that simple!
- The moment someone within Laodicea opens the door at Jesus' invitation, they are no longer lukewarm Laodiceans, but become hot Philadelphians.
- That being true, we will now notice that God showed Sister White that those “which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie,” are actually professed Adventists.

Sister White says the following while writing to a one, brother Curtis, with whom she disagreed on some points:

### A Word to the Little Flock, page 12

- **“You think, that those who worship before the saint's feet, (Rev 3:9), will at last be saved. Here I must differ with you; for God shewed me that this class were professed Adventists, who had fallen away, and crucified to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame. And in the hour of temptation, which is yet to come, to show out every one's true character, **they will know that they are forever lost**; and overwhelmed with anguish of spirit, **they will bow at the saint's feet.**”**

\* What is this hour of temptation, which is yet to come, to show out every one's true character?

\* The time of trouble, ushered in by the Sunday Law!

- Those Jews who say they are and are not, are actually professed Adventists, the Synagogue of Satan.
- Here she also refers to **“the hour of temptation”**, otherwise known as the time of trouble, which she says **“is yet to come.”**
- So when she says those who worship at the saint's feet are professed Adventists, she's not referring to the professed Adventists of her day, but to professed Adventists in the last days.
- Those who say they are Jews and are not refers to professed Adventists as opposed to those Adventists that have God's name, His city, and Jesus' new name written on their foreheads.
- Have you ever thought about what it means for nominal Adventists, or professed Adventists, or Laodicean Adventists to come and bow down and worship at the feet of Philadelphian Adventists?
- To bow down and worship at the feet of the 144,000 Philadelphian Adventists is an acknowledgement by Laodicean Adventists that Philadelphian Adventists actually make up **the true church of God**, and that Laodicean Adventists have been wrong all along.
- Bowing down is an admission that Laodicean Adventists were wrong when they persecuted Philadelphian Adventists by suing them in the civil courts over the denominational name and paying a Catholic lawyer the money for doing so.
- Wrong when they said they were being too dramatic by sighing and crying over all the abominations being done in the church.

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- Wrong when they taught salvation in sin.
- Wrong when they celebrated in their worship services instead of afflicting their souls during the great antitypical day of atonement.
- Wrong when they left the blueprint given by inspiration regarding the educational, medical, and ministerial work.
- Wrong when they claimed we shouldn't call the church Babylon.
- Wrong when they claimed the church was going through to the kingdom no matter how deep the apostasy becomes.
- Wrong when they taught that Jesus had an unfallen human nature.
- They were wrong when they taught their ministers to practice neuro-linguistic programming.
- They were wrong when they adopted the Jesuit teaching of spiritual formation;
- Wrong when they gave the Pope a gold medal.
- Wrong when they said perfection of character is not possible in this life.
- Wrong when they allowed the ordination of women as elders and pastors.
- Wrong when they allowed Seventh-**G**ay Adventists (yes that's with a “**G**”) **Seventh-gay Adventists** to not only have membership but leading positions in the church.
- They were wrong when they told Philadelphian Adventists that they apostatized when they left the church when it was they themselves who were apostates.
- But you know what?

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- They were absolutely right when they called themselves the **Laodicean church**.

### Early Writings, page 261

- “I saw that God has honest children among the nominal Adventists and the fallen churches, and before the plagues shall be poured out **[in other words, just before probation closes]**, ministers and people will be called out from these churches **[the nominal Adventist churches and the fallen Sunday churches]** and will gladly receive the truth. Satan knows this; and before the loud cry of the third angel is given, he raises an excitement in these religious bodies, that those who have rejected the truth **may think that God is with them. He hopes to deceive the honest and lead them to think that God is still working for the churches.** But the light will shine, and all who are honest will leave the fallen churches, and **take their stand with the remnant.**”

\* And who are the remnant?

\* The remnant are those that have the characteristics of the church of Philadelphia, the last day church.

- Friends, it's time to get our heads out of the sand and get the oil in our lamps so we can see this as it really is!
- Let me speak plainly so no one misunderstands.
- Today the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists admits - They are the Laodicean church, and with that admission they are acknowledging that they are the Synagogue of Satan without realizing it.

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- Shall we we not take them at their word, now that we have clear understanding of what this means?

**Adventist Review, August 28, 2008, p 5**

- **“Today we hesitate to claim we’re the remnant [*and that’s a good thing, because they’re not*]; but as for Laodicea, that’s us! Us alone!...No other Christian group vies with us for the dubious privilege of being identified with it....claiming exclusive rights to Laodicea is not politically incorrect. So, unchallenged, we’ve become anchored in the view that Seventh-day Adventists are the sole group envisioned in the apocalyptic concept of that term.”**

We have a couple more quotes from an earlier date, which means they’ve had this understanding for a very long time, in fact before most of us were even born.

**Advent Review, November 9, 1939**

- “The last church [**Laodicea**] will not be spewed out; it will not be rejected; it will go through triumphantly.”

**Advent Review, November 30, 1939**

**“The Laodicean Church is the translation church...this is the very church that will be translated into the Kingdom of God.”**

- Could these three previous statements be any more contradictory to the word of God?
- Without a doubt, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is absolutely sure of who they are.

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- They are Laodicea, and they are unchallenged about this.
- And not only that, but we should understand that when anything is written in any of the church's official publications, it's an admission that it is sanctioned by the church.

### Ministry, December, 1948, page 23

- “When the finished product carries the stamp of a standard publishing house, it bears **denominational approval**. It is then **a denominational, not a private, publication**. It has a measure of **authority and dignity** not otherwise possible.”

\* How about inspiration?

\* What does it say?

### Notebook Leaflets, page 99

- “Those who claim to believe the truth do not possess that power that God would bestow upon them if they really believed, and were striving for conformity to His image. **The church is in the Laodicean state. The presence of God is not in her midst.**”

\* So, “The presence of God is not in her midst”?

\* What does that mean for the Laodicean Adventist church?

\* Contrast that with the following:

### Acts of the Apostles, p. 55

- “**To the end of time, the presence of the Spirit is to abide with the true church.**”

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- If the Spirit is not with the Laodicean church, how then can it be God's last day church?
- The presence of God, according to what we just read, will never leave the true church.
- If the Seventh-day Adventist church structure is Laodicea and the presence of God is not in Laodicea, then the only conclusion we can come to is that the General Conference and all its structure churches cannot possibly compose God's true church.
- So then, in what church can we find the “presence of God”?

### The Upward Look, p. 315

- “God has a church. It is not the great cathedral, neither is it the national establishment, neither is it the various denominations; it is the people who love God and keep His commandments. **‘Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them’** (Matt. 18:20). Where Christ is even among the humble few, this is Christ's church, for the **presence** of the High and Holy One who inhabiteth eternity can alone constitute a church.”

### Question

- Do Laodiceans love God and keep His commandments?
- If they did they wouldn't be lukewarm, would they?
- The **“humble few”** who **truly “love God and keep His commandments”** are those that are characterized as Philadelphia Adventists.
- If the presence of God dwells in His true church and His presence alone can constitute a church, that means that since God's presence isn't in Laodicea and that it's not the



true church, then it must therefore be a counterfeit of the true church.

- It must be a church that claims to be the true church, but a church that's being directed by another power.
- How can it be otherwise?

*You'll say that I am possibly catching feelings now.*

*How can I say that Laodiceans do not keep the commandments of God?*

Let's consider the most basic commandment. The very first one.

### **Exodus 20:2-3**

**"I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. [3] Thou shalt have no other gods before me."**

### **What does Amen mean?**

When you are in Laodicea, and you join the rest of the congregation is saying Amen after the priest has made reference to his god, which god have you just "amened" to?

- ✓ If the presence of God dwells in His true church and His presence alone can constitute a church, that means that since God's presence isn't in Laodicea and that it's not the true church, then it must therefore be a counterfeit of the church.
- ✓ It must be a church that claims to be the true church, but a church that's being directed by another power.
- ✓ How can it be otherwise?

What else does the Spirit of Prophecy say about Laodicea and the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

*Manuscript Releases, volume 19, page 176, 1898*

- “If the church of God becomes lukewarm [*that’s Laodicea*], it does not stand in favor with God any more than do the churches that are represented as having fallen and become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and the cage of every unclean and hateful bird [*Isn’t that a description of Babylon in Revelation 18:2?*]. Those who have had opportunities to hear and receive the truth and who have united with the Seventh-day Adventist church, calling themselves the commandment-keeping people of God, and yet possess no more vitality and consecration to God than do the nominal churches, will receive of the plagues of God just as verily as the churches who oppose the law of God.”

**REVELATION 18:4**

- “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.**”

**Whose plagues?**

- That’s right. Babylon!
- Look, we’ve got to get the idea out of our heads that Laodicean Adventists can hold God hostage by simply denying that the term Babylon doesn’t apply to themselves, but only to the Sunday churches.
- It’s clear from inspiration that it can and does apply to the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference Corporation as well, because it unquestionably fits the mold today, and plainly admits that they are represented by a lukewarm Laodicean church that will, contrary to what they believe, be spewed out of God’s mouth.

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- And spewed out doesn't mean going through to the kingdom of God.

How should we come to proper conclusions about subjects such as we're studying today?

### **Selected Messages, Book 1, page 42**

- “The testimonies themselves will be the key that will explain the messages given, as scripture is explained by scripture.”
- That's exactly what we've been doing here; letting the Testimonies themselves explain their own meaning rather than putting a human construction on them, or trying to convince ourselves that they don't mean what they plainly say.

### **Early Writings, page 96**

- “I was shown that the truth once published now, will stand, for it is the truth for the last days; it will live, and less need be said upon it in future. Numberless words need not be put upon paper to justify what speaks for itself and shines in its clearness. Truth is straight, plain, clear, and stands out boldly in its own defense; **but it is not so with error**. It is so winding and twisting that it needs a multitude of words to explain it in its crooked form.”
- In order to convince us that the Laodicean church is the translation church and that it's not going to be rejected and spewed out, contrary to the plain testimony of Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy, the **Synagogue of Satan** has written many books over the years with winding and twisting words and has used a multitude of words in their preaching to destroy the truth for these last days, that the plain truth has become so obscure to the minds of the great multitudes of

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professed Adventists that it's very difficult for them to discern a straight, plain, clear message any more.

- That's why Jesus says, **“He that has ear to hear, let him hear.”**
- Let's look at this subject from another angle, because God always gives more than one proof when He wants people to take hold of present truth.
- That's one of the reasons why many of the prophecies in the Bible are repeated from several different perspectives, but all teach the same lesson.
- It's also the same way with many of the parables Jesus told, because God wants us to get the point.

## Review and Herald, August 19, 1890

- “The state of the church represented by **the foolish virgins is also spoken of as the Laodicean state.**”

## Question

- According to the parable, do the foolish virgins make it through the open door before it closes?
- **No!** They were part of the procession, but went to someone other than God to purchase their oil.
- The oil the wise virgins had represents the Holy Spirit.
- It therefore means the oil the foolish virgins received represents the wrong spirit.
- A spirit received by the careless who do not follow Christ through the open door (Revelation 3:8).

Let's hold the ten virgins for a while and see what happens to those who do not follow Christ through the open door.

"I saw the Father rise from the throne, [See page 92.] and in a flaming chariot go into the holy of holies within the veil, and sit down. Then Jesus rose up from the throne, and the most of those who were bowed down arose with Him. I did not see one ray of light pass from Jesus to the careless multitude after He arose, and they were left in perfect darkness. Those who arose when Jesus did, kept their eyes fixed on Him as He left the throne and led them out a little way. Then He raised His right arm, and we heard His lovely voice saying, "Wait here; I am going to My Father to receive the kingdom; keep your garments spotless, and in a little while I will return from the wedding and receive you to Myself." Then a cloudy chariot, with wheels like flaming fire, surrounded by angels, came to where Jesus was. He stepped into the chariot and was borne to the holiest, where the Father sat. There I beheld Jesus, a great High Priest, standing before the Father. On the hem of His garment was a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate. Those who rose up with Jesus would send up their faith to Him in the holiest, and pray, "My Father, give us Thy Spirit." Then Jesus would breathe upon them the Holy Ghost. In that breath was light, power, and much love, joy, and peace." {EW 55.1}

I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne; they did not know that Jesus had left it. Satan appeared to be by the throne, trying to carry on the work of God. I saw them look up to the throne, and pray, "Father, give us Thy Spirit." Satan would then breathe upon them an unholy influence; in it there was light and much power, but no sweet love, joy, and peace. Satan's object was to keep them deceived and to draw back and deceive God's children." {EW 56.1}

## **Who's spirit is being imbibed in Laodicea?**

And then an idle thought crosses my mind?

How many companies does sister white see in this vision?

How many did Christ leave among the careless company to act as intercessors between the careless and God?

## **Back to our virgins**

- Jesus said there were ten virgins waiting for the bridegroom, but how many are ultimately saved?
- Only five.
- Now that doesn't mean that half of those that profess to be Christians will be saved in the end, because we know the majority will be lost.
- So why did Jesus split the two groups in half?
- Well, there isn't any inspired statement to back up this line of thought but let's first consider it:
- Could it be that Jesus wanted us to know that everyone has an equal opportunity to make it to His kingdom?
- Just as all are invited and have the opportunity to make a right choice, so He says five will be saved and five will be lost.
- If we have got this right then it is clear that God is fair, and He wants us to know that we can be in either one of these two groups if we so choose.
- The fact that all ten are said to be virgins suggests that they were all part of a pure church at the beginning, but

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something happened while they waited for the bridegroom, Jesus, to show up.

- A division takes place and the five foolish virgins never make it to the marriage and are represented as Laodiceans.
- They finally do make it to the place they're supposed to be, but when they get there they find that the door is shut, **probation has closed** and Jesus says “**I don't know you**” when they knock at the door.
- Now, there are some who say that because the seven churches represent seven time periods during the Christian era, **which they do**, you would have to have a time machine to travel back to the time represented by the church of Philadelphia, and so they believe we're stuck in the Laodicean time period whether we like it or not, and that's why they're proud to be Laodiceans and think that that church will ultimately be saved. That after all, “**There is no 8<sup>th</sup> church.**”
- Sadly, many honest souls are trapped in the Laodicean GC system and will resist any organization out Laodicea for fear of “**forming an 8<sup>th</sup> church.**”
- But here is the simple truth we overlook, that I invite all to consider:
- There are no statements in the Spirit of Prophecy that would suggest that the time period represented by Philadelphia, and Laodicea for that matter, come to an end, at least not until the Lord comes.
- To the contrary, the Spirit of Prophecy repeatedly refers to the 144,000 Philadelphians as the last day church and that it's that church that will go through to the end and be saved.

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- And those leading men, like James White who we heard from earlier, were very clear that the Philadelphia church is the last day church, and we also read that Ellen White confirms that.
- So if Philadelphia is the last day church, how then can Laodicea also be the last day church?
- Something is not adding up here. Why?
- Because God does not have two churches! He has “**A**” Church as we read earlier.
- There are always two groups, **the saved and the lost**, but not two churches.
- From the beginning God has only had one church, but there have always been two distinct groups that make it to the end.
- However, ultimately each one has a different destination as the ten-virgin parable teaches.
- One is Christ's true church, represented by the **five wise virgins**; those who have the characteristics of the **church of Philadelphia**, and the other five are represented by the **five foolish virgins**; or those who have the characteristics of **Laodicea, the Synagogue of Satan**.
- Ellen White prophesied of these two groups as those who were once one in their profession of Christ, but became separated in the end.

Here, friends, it's up to each one of us individually to “rightly divide the word of truth” so we can determine which one of these two parties we want to be in.

## “A MESSAGE TO THE CHURCHES”

- “In this representation of the prophet **[the prophet Isaiah in chapter 8 verses 11-16]**, we see that Satan is at work **not only**



**with worldlings**, who have not the fear and love of God before them, but also with **those who profess faith in Christ. Here are plainly represented two distinct parties, formed from a company that was once united.** The members of one of these parties are in resistance to the will of God ***[that would be Laodiceans]***. They have taken themselves from the side of **the loyal and true *[or from the side of Philadelphians]***, and are now resisting the warnings of the Spirit of God.”

### **Selected Messages, Book 2, page 66**

- **“The message to the Laodiceans is applicable to Seventh-day Adventists who have had great light and have not walked in the light. *[They would be “resisting the warnings of the Spirit of God” as the previous statement says]* It is those who have made great profession, but have not kept in step with their Leader, that will be spewed out of His mouth unless they repent.”**
- According to this statement, Laodiceans are not walking in the light and have not kept in step with Jesus and they’re going to be lost unless they repent.
- But if they repent and begin walking in the light and keep in step with the Saviour they will not remain lukewarm.
- They will then have the characteristics of Philadelphia.
- They will have left the ranks of the foolish because they have joined the wise.

But how can you keep in step with Jesus when you continue eating from Jezebel's table?

1 Kings 18:19

Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the

prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table."

How do you expect divine protection you wilfully invite yourself to Jezebel's table?

There is heavenly manner that is sealed up, cannot be seen nor tasted from the table of Jezebel.

"The different parties of professed Advent believers have each a little truth, but God has given all these truths to His children who are being prepared for the day of God. He has also given them truths that none of these parties know, neither will they understand. Things which are sealed up to them, the Lord has opened to those who will see and are ready to understand. If God has any new light to communicate, He will let His chosen and beloved understand it, without their going to have their minds enlightened by hearing those who are in darkness and error." {EW 124.2}

I was shown the necessity of those who believe that we are having the last message of mercy, being separate from those who are daily imbibing new errors. I saw that neither young nor old should attend their meetings; for it is wrong to thus encourage them while they teach error that is a deadly poison to the soul and teach for doctrines the commandments of men. The influence of such gatherings is not good. If God has delivered us from such darkness and error, we should stand fast in the liberty wherewith He has set us free and rejoice in the truth. God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us, and we are left to the buffetings of the enemy, to be darkened and weakened by him

and the power of his evil angels; and the light around us becomes contaminated with the darkness." {EW 124.3}

"I saw that we have no time to throw away in listening to fables. Our minds should not be thus diverted, but should be occupied with the present truth, and seeking wisdom that we may obtain a more thorough knowledge of our position, that with meekness we may be able to give a reason of our hope from the Scriptures. While false doctrines and dangerous errors are pressed upon the mind, it cannot be dwelling upon the truth which is to fit and prepare the house of Israel to stand in the day of the Lord." {EW 125.1}

### **Question**

- **As an Adventist, where do you fit in?**
- **What church are you a member of?**
- **As the church of Philadelphia represents the 144,000 and we're supposed to strive to be among that number, and the church of Laodicea represents the Synagogue of Satan, which we should escape from, that question shouldn't be too hard to figure out.**
- **Soon human probation will close and those who are Laodicean Adventists, believing that God is with them, when in fact He isn't, will bow down and worship at the feet of the 144,000 Philadelphian Adventists who truly have the presence of the High and Holy One in their midst.**
- **Will you find yourself bowing at the feet of the 144,000, or will you be standing before those who bow?**
- **The choice is yours, and may I suggest that if you find yourself in the wrong crowd that you choose to escape Laodicea today and become part of the Philadelphia church by**

**opening the door of your heart and allowing Jesus to enter before it's too late.**

- **The invitation is open right now, but no one can tell how much longer it will last.**
- **May the Holy Spirit give you the conviction and the strength to do what you know is right while probation lingers.**

"Arise! ye that are heartily in the truth, and in unison with the present order and work of God, and heed faithfully the counsel of the faithful and true Witness, and give a testimony that shall ring in the ears of the lukewarm, the self-righteous and the insubordinate ones, and clear your garments from the blood of all men! Characters are rapidly developing here, as God brings every work into judgment with every secret thing. No hiding nor covering up wrongs now! No half-way work any longer! "He that being often reproved hardeneth his neck shall suddenly be destroyed and that without remedy." Proverbs 29:1. "And it shall come to pass that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts shall be cut off and die." Zechariah 13:8. Mark this: it is a final work; not only cut off, but shall die. Now read 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12, and then turn to Revelation 3:15, 16, and remember that God's threatenings are as sure as his promises, and those who have no eyes to see it, and make a mighty effort to escape it, will soon feel it when it is too late. But the work does not stop here. The humble, patient, persevering ones are destined to finish up the great work of the Third Angel's Message, gather in every scattered jewel, conquer every foe, and wear the victor's palm on the sea of glass." {ARSH August 5, 1858, page 96.18}