

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

**Bereans Adult Bible Fellowship
Placerita Baptist Church**

Place in the Book of Revelation

- I.** What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II.** What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
 - A.** Ephesus (2:1–7)
 - B.** Smyrna (2:8–11)
 - C.** Pergamum (2:12–17)
 - D.** Thyatira (2:18–29)



E. Sardis (3:1–6)

- **Capital of Lydian empire.**

E. Sardis (3:1–6)

- Capital of Lydian empire.
- Gold.



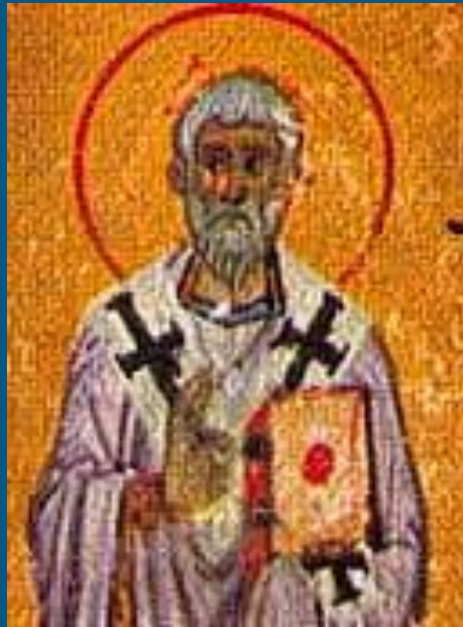
A Christmas Thought

- The wise men brought Jesus gifts of
 - **Gold** (10x in Revelation)
 - Frankincense (1x in Revelation)
 - Myrrh: not mentioned in Revelation, except in the name Smyrna (Greek for “myrrh”).



E. Sardis (3:1–6)

- Capital of Lydian empire.
- Gold.
- **Bishop Melito.**



E. Sardis (3:1–6)

- **Capital of Lydian empire.**
- **Gold.**
- **Bishop Melito.**
- **Acropolis on an imposing hill.**





E. Sardis (3:1–6)

- Capital of Lydian empire.
- Gold.
- Bishop Melito.
- Acropolis on an imposing hill.
- Temple to Artemis/Diana.







E. Sardis (3:1–6)

- Capital of Lydian empire.
- Gold.
- Bishop Melito.
- Acropolis on an imposing hill.
- Temple to Artemis/Diana.
- **5 acre complex for bathhouse and gymnasium.**






E. Sardis (3:1–6)

- Capital of Lydian empire.
- Gold.
- Bishop Melito.
- Acropolis on an imposing hill.
- Temple to Artemis/Diana.
- 5 acre complex for bathhouse and gymnasium.
- Large synagogue.





An aerial photograph of the archaeological site of Sardis, Turkey. The map is overlaid with a red dotted line representing the city's perimeter. A yellow dotted line follows a path through the site. A yellow rectangle highlights a specific area in the upper left. White arrows point to various landmarks. The word 'ACROPOLIS' is written in a stylized font across the lower center of the image.

Gymnasium-Synagogue Complex

Lydian Walls

Roman Walls

Stadium

Theater

Temple of Artemis

OVERVIEW of SARDIS

ACROPOLIS

E. Sardis (3:1–6)

- Capital of Lydian empire.
- Gold.
- Bishop Melito.
- Acropolis on an imposing hill.
- Temple to Artemis/Diana.
- 5 acre complex for bathhouse and gymnasium.
- Large synagogue.
- City of death.

Revelation 3:1–6

- 1 “To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.
- 2 ‘Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

Revelation 3:1–6

- 3 ‘So remember what you have received and heard; and keep *it*, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.
- 4 ‘But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

Revelation 3:1–6

- 5 ‘He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.**
- 6 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’**

E. Sardis (3:1–6)

1. Characterization of Christ (v. 1)

- He possesses power and authority over the seven Spirits of God and over the seven messengers of the churches (see 1:4, 16; 2:1).**

E. Sardis (3:1–6)

2. Commendation from Christ

- He does not commend the church at Sardis for anything.**

E. Sardis (3:1–6)

3. Complaint by Christ (vv. 1b, 2)

- He complains that the church at Sardis holds to a dead orthodoxy.**

2 Timothy 3:5

**. . . holding to
a form of godliness,
although they have denied
its power;
avoid such as these.**

E. Sardis (3:1–6)

3. Complaint by Christ (vv. 1b, 2)

- He complains that the church at Sardis holds to a death orthodoxy.**
- He complains that the church at Sardis has failed to complete their works for Him.**

Question for Discussion

How does

**fail to complete works
for Christ?**

E. Sardis (3:1–6)

4. Counsel from Christ (vv. 2–3a)

He counsels the church at Sardis to

- wake up to spiritual reality.**
- to strengthen what they have left.**
- to remember the teaching they had received.**
- to keep/obey the teaching they had received.**
- to repent of their deadness and failures.**

A Christmas Thought

1 Timothy 3:16—Jesus' incarnation:

By common confession, great is the mystery
of godliness:

He who was revealed in the flesh,
Was vindicated in the Spirit,
Seen of angels,
Proclaimed among the nations,
Believed on in the world,
Taken up in glory.

E. Sardis (3:1–6)

5. Caution by Christ (vv. 2a, 3b)

- He warns the church at Sardis that they are about to die.**
- He warns the church at Sardis that He will come and judge them when they least expect Him.**

E. Sardis (3:1–6)

6. Commitment of Christ (vv. 4–5)

- The worthy few at Sardis will walk with Christ and be dressed in white.**
- The overcomers at Sardis will not be erased from the book of life.**
- Christ will confess the overcomers' names before the Father and His angels.**

Matthew 10:32

**Therefore
everyone who confesses Me
before men,
I will also confess him
before My Father
who is in heaven.**

E. Sardis (3:1–6)

7. Practical Implications

- Carelessness and a lack of urgency can benumb a church's spiritual life.**
- Spiritually immature believers can come to dominate a church and bring it to the point of going out of existence (dying).**
- A lack of knowing and obeying the teachings of the Word of God results in a spiritually sleeping church.**
- Spiritual slumber results in a fleshly and worldly spirit in the church.**

Question for Discussion

What does

**need to do in order to awaken
from spiritual slumber?**

A Christmas Thought

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by,
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.



A Christmas Thought

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together,
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And Peace to men on earth!



A Christmas Thought

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given;
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His Heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.



Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

- He has authority over the Spirit of God.
- He has authority over the leaders of the churches (and over the churches).
- He knows His church's works.
- He knows His church's spiritual condition.
- He calls His church to repent.
- He can come at any time to judge His church.
- He rewards the faithful few even in a dying church.