

Book of Revelation, part 27
The Church as Thyatira

I. “I will give him the morning star” (Rev. 2:28).

1. The morning star traditionally a symbol of the dawning day that is coming: Venus, sometimes Mercury.
2. Used when spirit beings were given a new home (Job 38:7).
3. Used?? of Satan before his fall (Is. 14:12; Ez. 28:17).
4. Here used of Christ (Rev. 22:16).
5. Christ will be the literal, physical light of the earth.
 - 1) The sun goes out at the end of the Tribulation (Is. 24:19-20; 60:19-29).
 - 2) All will walk in His light (Rev. 21:22-24; Is. 2:5).
 - 3) Christ become the Light after His marriage to the Church (Eph. 5:32).
 - 4) Christ will give Himself to the Church—Bride and as the Morning Star this indicates that there is more to come—day.

II. The Church at Sardis—*those escaping* (Rev. 3:1-6).

1. Wealthy commercial trade center, 30 miles SE of Thyatira.
2. Prophetically represents the reformation: protestant movement.
3. Rebellion against the dominate economic, political, and religious structure in Europe and Asia Minor—the Roman Catholic Church.
4. Historical background to the Reformation:
 - 1) Little Ice Age about 1200 to 1600 AD.
 - 2) Mostly illiterate population.
 - 3) Gutenberg Press about 1450 AD, vulgate Latin Bible.
 - 4) Black Death, kills about 1/3 of the population in Europe.
 - 5) Sweating sickness, syphilis, immorality, and reaction to that immorality.
 - 6) Martin Luther—95 Theses, 1517 AD.
 - i. Justification by faith in Jesus, not by “charitable acts.”
 - ii. Consubstantiation, the spirit of Christ is present in the Eucharist (cf. text 1 Cor. 11:24).
 - iii. John Calvin, John Knox, Johnathan Edwards, John McCarthy.
 - 7) Reform theology is gaining popularity currently.
 - i. Covenant theology, a philosophy of Biblical history.
 - ii. Lordship salvation.
 - iii. Calvin TULIP, for example “L” for limited atonement (cf. 1 Jn. 2:2).
 - iv. Misrepresent election (cf. 1 Cor. 6:11).

