

Revelation 3:1-6 "Sardis"

"... but you are dead."

Text: Revelation 3:1-6

1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. "I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. 2 Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. 3 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. 4 Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. 5 The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. 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.'

Quote: Commentary, ESV Study Bible, Revelation 3:1-6

"To Sardis. Sardis's capture twice in its history while watchmen neglected their duty became a cautionary tale of misguided complacency and lack of vigilance (see note on vv. 2-3). Although Jesus' rebuke identifies no specific source of attack, this congregation was similarly asleep, at death's door."

Outline

- i. Reminder (John to the seven churches...) v1:4-5a; 12-16
 - Cf: Revelation 4:1-5 "... seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God"

- I. Preamble (The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.) v3:1a
 - A. Cf: Revelation 2:1 "Church of Ephesus"
 - B. "... holds the seven stars in his right and"

- II. Historical Prologue (I know your works. You have the reputation...) v1b; 2b
 - QUESTION:
 - Where does the reputation come from (external observers)?
 - Characteristics of the observer come into play?
 - What attributes could something be displaying that gives an appearance of LIFE? What things are observable that without close examination someone could be fooled?
 - Fake Flowers?
 - Animatronics?
 - CGI in films?
 - ANSWER:
 - Incomplete works by God's standard (*remember this is JESUS speaking... who IS GOD)
 - *[Jhn 8:28 ESV] 28 So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.
 - God's Standard- THE JOB DESCRIPTION
 - [Eph 2:10 ESV] 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- III. Ethical Stipulations (Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die,...) v2a; 3a; 4
 - Wake Up
 - Strengthen what remains
 - What remains?
 - v4 "people who have not spoiled their garments"
 - How do we strengthen (them)?
 - 1. Remember- Received & Heard
 - 2. Keep it
 - 3. Repent (This step is not "last" but the installation of a new mind toward the old sinful practices. The new foundation.)

IV. Sanctions (If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief...) v3b

Special Judgment

temporal and specific to THIS church a depiction of God's judgment in general, that which Jerusalem would experience in AD 70 and every church/nation/people that follows finding themselves near apostasy and unrepentant. Ultimately the final judgment of the evil that remains at the end will experience this consistent judgment (warnings from the pulpits etc met with indifference and continued sinfulness will always meet with the wrath and special judgment of God until the day of ultimate judgment)

Cf: [Rev 16:15 ESV] 15 ("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!") the watchman on duty and alert

Like a thief...

an unknown, unpredictable (no signs preceding), coming

V. Succession Arrangements (The one who conquers...) v5-6

White Garments

Book of Life

Conclusion: "I will confess his name before my Father..."

The contrast between this scene and that of Matthew 7 "Depart from me for I never knew you..."