

“JESUS—OUR KINSMAN REDEEMER”

LESSONS 3 & 4 • by Bishop David W. Kramer • February 22, 2016

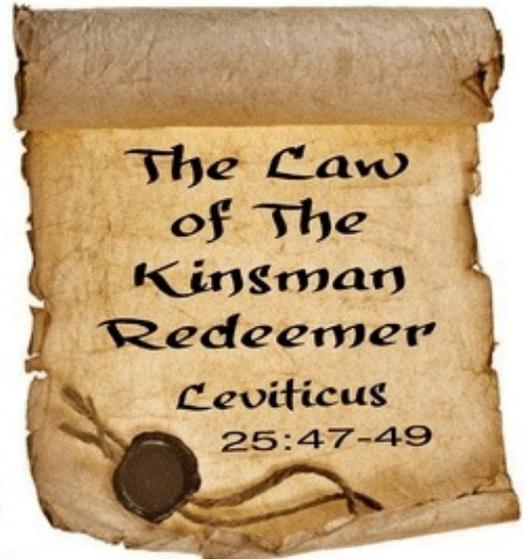
**INTRODUCTION**

When God created mankind in the Garden of Eden, He had a great plan for His beloved creation. First, God created us in His image out of the dust of the earth. Second, He reached down and breathed life into His newly-created being thus making us an eternal vessel. Third, He gave mankind dominion over the world that He had created.

Mankind had it made until we allowed sin to enter the picture. After Adam and Eve disobeyed God—thus imparting a sinful nature to all mankind—they were forced out of the Garden of Eden and separated from a holy God. However, this was not the end of the story.

The Bible clearly tells us that Jesus Christ, the Sacrifice Lamb, was slain from the foundation of the world. In other words, God had already formulated a plan of redemption for His creation before they ever disobeyed Him. This lesson will investigate God’s principle of “The Kinsman Redeemer” that was established in the Old Testament.

What is this principle and how does it apply to us today? Let’s take a look at Holy Scripture and find out.



**1. THE KINSMAN REDEEMER PRINCIPLE.**

**A. It’s important for us to remember that it was God that created this earth—and everything within it—and it is God who is ultimately in control.**

- 1) While we acknowledge that Satan is currently the ruler of this earth, it is only because man sinned against God and subsequently gave his dominion to Satan when he disobeyed. And, it must be noted that Satan’s dominion is temporary. He has a lake of fire in his near future!**
  - a. It is still important to remember that we were created by God for His purpose.
  - b. We were not created by Satan, nor was this world created by Satan, and we are not the property of Satan unless we choose to be.
  
- 2) God did not give up on us because we failed or sinned against Him. In other words, God has always had a plan to redeem us back to Himself.**
  - a. Why? Because we are His creation. We are created in His image. We are His property.
  - b. The word *redeem* means:
    - 1 *make up for the faults or bad aspects of.*
    - 2 *(redeem oneself) make up for one's poor past performance or behavior.*
    - 3 *save from sin, error, or evil.*

- 4 fulfill (a pledge or promise).
- 5 gain or regain possession of in exchange for payment.
- 6 exchange (a coupon) for goods or money.
- 7 repay (a stock, bond, etc.) or clear (a debt).
- 8 archaic buy the freedom of.

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**B. In the Old Testament, God set forth a principle about restoring what was lost. God, in His infinite foreknowledge, knew that Satan's main purpose was to kill, steal, and destroy (John 10:10) what belonged to God and His creation. God made a plan so that mankind could ultimately be restored in the event that he should suffer loss of some kind.**

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**1) Leviticus 25:23-27,47-49,**

[23] "The land shall not be sold permanently, **for the land is Mine**; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.

- Notice that God immediately establishes the fact that the earth belongs to Him.

[24] "And in all the land of your possession you shall grant redemption of the land.

[25] "If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, **and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold.**

[26] "Or if that man has no one to redeem it, but he himself becomes able to redeem it,

[27] "then let him count the years since its sale, and restore the remainder to the man to whom he sold it, that he may return to his possession."

Skip to [47] 'Now if a sojourner or stranger close to you becomes rich, and one of your brethren who dwells by him becomes poor, and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner close to you, or to a member of the stranger's family,

[48] after he is sold he may be redeemed again. One of his brothers may redeem him;

[49] or his uncle or his uncle's son may redeem him; **or anyone who is near of kin to him in his family may redeem him**; or if he is able he may redeem himself."

**Hebrew Definition of**

**REDEEM**

גאל (ga<sup>ˆ</sup>al) gaw-al'

A primitive root, to *redeem* (according to the Oriental law of kinship), that is, *to be the next of kin* (and as such to *buy back* a relative's property, *marry* his widow, etc.): - X in any wise, X at all, avenger, deliver, (do, perform the part of near, next) kinsfolk (-man), purchase, ransom, redeem (-er), revenger.

**Hebrew Definition of**

**REDEMPTION**

גלות (g<sup>e</sup>u<sup>ˆ</sup>lla<sup>ˆ</sup>h)

g<sup>h</sup>eh-ool-law'

Feminine passive participle of H1350; *redemption* (including the right and the object); by implication *relationship*: - *kindred*, *redeem*, *redemption*, *right*.

**2) This law of the kinsman redeemer also applied to people who were sold—or who sold themselves—into slavery.**

- a. While we may think this practice was archaic and does not apply to us today, how many can admit that they sold themselves into slavery with Satan at some point in their lives?
- b. It may have been some sort of addiction that we could not control, it may have been the inability to stop sinning, perhaps a compulsive behavior that we could not stop.
- c. Slavery to Satan and his ways is still very prevalent today. There are still people who have

sold themselves to Satan.

- d. There are still people who need to be redeemed from the bondage of Satan.
- e. Romans 6:16-18, “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that **though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.**”
- f. Before Jesus came and set us free, we were slaves of sin.

**2) From the book “The Apocalyptic Prophecy” by David Cho (pg. 142):**

“If a person bought a piece of land from his neighbor, that land became his possession. However, **if the closest relative of the original owner came and wanted to repurchase the land, the present owner had to accept that claim no matter how much he desired to keep the land.** This law was called “the redemption of the land.”

**3) From an article entitled, “Redemption”, by Pastor Chuck Smith, (www.joshuanet.org):**

“The word redemption has its roots in the Old Testament, where the word could mean buying back of property or freeing a slave by paying the price or amount he owed. **According to Jewish law, a Jew could be sold into slavery for a maximum of six years. The seventh year, called the year of redemption, he must be set free.** If he was to be set free before his

six years were over, his master was compensated for the remaining years in his contract. Redemption also applied to the recovery of land. In the selling of property, there was always a redemption clause written into the deed stating the time and circumstances whereby the property might be redeemed. **The deed was then sealed with seven seals.** The law included a clause that made provision for a family member to step in and redeem the property if the seller was unable to do so himself at the specified period. The idea was to keep the property in the family. The



family member who would fill this role was known in Hebrew as the “goel” [go’el] or kinsman redeemer. If no redeemer, or “goel”, stepped forward at the specified time, the property was then permanently transferred to the new ownership. This law is explained in Leviticus 25.”

**4) From the book “The Apocalyptic Prophecy” by David Cho (pg. 142):**

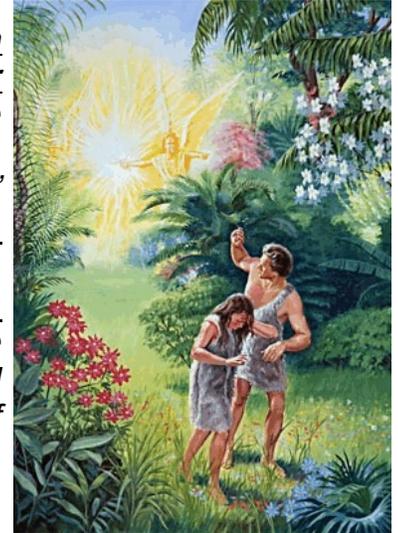
“The contract recording a sale of property was a title deed. After the first article was written, the scroll was rolled and sealed with wax and a stamp. The purpose was to protect the contract from counterfeits. Finally, the sealed original was taken to the temple and kept in its archives. A copy of the contract was laid open on a document inspection stand in the temple. If a kinsman of the original owner read the conditions of such a contract and wanted to buy the land back, he could approach the present owner. **If he produced proof that he was a close relative of the original owner and asked to repurchase the land, the present owner had to cooperate.**”

## 2. THE STORY OF JESUS: OUR KINSMAN REDEEMER.

A. When God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden, He gave dominion of the earth to them.

1) **Genesis 1:26**, “Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth** and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

a. God makes it clear that man had dominion “over all the earth.”



B. When Adam and Eve sinned by obeying Satan rather than God, they transferred their dominion over the earth to Satan.

1) **Genesis 3:23,24**, “Therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. [24] So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.”

2) **Romans 6:16a**, “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, **you are that one’s slaves whom you obey..**”

a. When Adam obeyed Satan’s suggestion to disobey God, he became Satan’s servant and the world came under Satan’s control.

C. In Luke 4 we have the account of Jesus being led into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. Have you ever wondered why Satan tempted Jesus—whom we know is the King of kings and Lord of lords—with ruling the kingdoms of this world? He did so because Satan had dominion over the world thanks to the disobedience of mankind.

1) **Luke 4:5-7**,

[5] “Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

[6] **And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.**

[7] “Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”

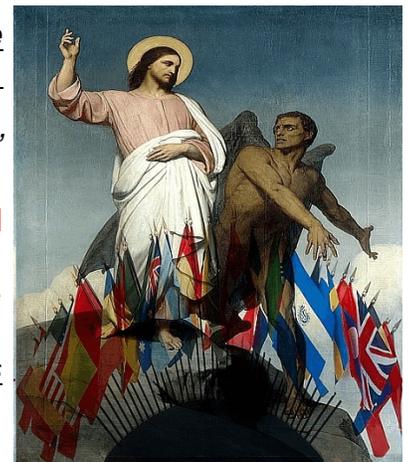
2) **Mankind “delivered” to Satan the dominion over the world when we chose to obey Satan rather than God.**

a. Satan was not lying when he said that he was ruling the earth.

b. II Corinthians 4:4,NLT, “**Satan, who is the god of this world**, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.”

c. Even Jesus acknowledged this fact in John 12:31 when He said, “Now is the judgment of this world; **now the ruler of this world will be cast out.**”

d. Even today people are still handing their dominion over to Satan when they choose to obey him rather than God.



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D. When Jesus came to this earth, His express purpose was to redeem mankind and the world back to God.

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1) **Luke 19:10**, **“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which is lost.”**

2) **Romans 8:22,23**, ***“For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. [23] Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”***

3) **Colossians 1:19-22**,

19 *“For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,*

20 *and by Him **to reconcile all things to Himself**, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.*

21 *And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, **yet now He has reconciled***

22 ***in the body of His flesh through death**, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight.”*

4) **Titus 2:14**, ***“Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”***

5) **Psalm 24:1**, ***“The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.”***

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E. In order for a person to be redeemed, it had to be from someone who was a “kinsman”—in other words—a “relative” of the person who was in bondage.

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1) **For this very reason, Jesus voluntarily lowered Himself a little lower than the angels and took on the form of human flesh. He became one of us.**

a. Hebrews 2:9, ***“But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”***

b. John 1:14, ***“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”***

2) **The scriptures state emphatically that we are “sons” and “heirs” with Christ Jesus. In other words, we are “related”—He is our relative!**

a. Galatians 4:1-7, ***“Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, 2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 **to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.** 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” 7 **Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**”***



### 3. JESUS OUR KINSMAN REDEEMER AND THE LAST DAYS.

A. In the Old Testament we find the story of Ruth, a Gentile woman who later married Boaz, a relative of Jesus Christ. The story of Ruth is a type and shadow of the Last Days' story of Jesus Christ and His Bride.

1) **The book of Ruth begins with the account of Naomi, her husband Elimelech, and her two sons' journey to Moab to escape a time of famine in the land of Israel.**

- a. It's interesting to note that Naomi's husband, Elimelech, was from Bethlehem in Judah (God's Sanctuary according to Psalm 114:2).
- b. After living in Moab for a while, Naomi's husband and two sons died. Naomi was left a widow together with her two Moabitess daughters-in-law.

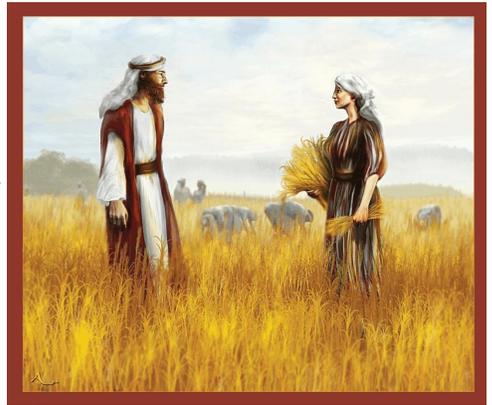
2) **Naomi spent 10 years in Moab—a Gentile land.**

- a. After the death of her sons, Naomi decided to return to Israel because she heard that the famine was over. Ruth, her daughter-in-law, decided to return to Israel as well. Naomi and Ruth returned to Israel during the season of Passover—the time of the barley harvest.

3) **Naomi sent Ruth to glean in the fields of Boaz—a relative of Naomi's deceased husband.**

- a. Ruth found favor in Boaz's eyes and subsequently he desired to take Ruth as his wife. However, before Boaz could marry Ruth, he had to redeem her (Naomi's) land that had been sold.

- b. Ruth 4:3,4,6,3, *"Then he said to the close relative, **Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech.** 4 And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.'" And he said, "I will redeem it." 5 Then Boaz said, **On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance.** 6 And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it."*



4) **Boaz first redeemed the land that had been sold by Naomi's husband, and then married Ruth.**

- a. Ruth 4:9,10, *"And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi. 10 **Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day.**"*
- b. Ruth, a Gentile woman, was now married to Boaz, a Jewish man and a type of Jesus Christ. God blessed Boaz and Ruth with a son named, Obed, which means *servant of God*.
- c. Ruth was the great (x27) grandmother of Jesus. Matthew 1:1,5,6,16, *"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham...5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, **Boaz begot Obed by Ruth**, Obed begot Jesse, 6 and Jesse begot David the*

king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah... 16 And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, **of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.**"

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**B. Today, the kingdom of God today is anxiously awaiting for the return of Jesus Christ to this earth to be married to His Bride and to rule and reign for 1,000 years.**

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**1) However, before the marriage can take place, the earth must be redeemed back to God by a Kinsman Redeemer.**

- a. While Jesus Christ has redeemed us to God as our Kinsman Redeemer through His sacrifice on the cross of Calvary, He cannot marry His Bride before He redeems the earth—just like in the account of Ruth and Boaz.
- b. Remember that mankind delivered their dominion over the earth to Satan when they chose to obey him rather than God in the Garden of Eden.

**2) How does Jesus redeem the earth? It is through the judgment of God that is poured out during the last 3 ½ years prior to the return of Jesus to this earth that the earth is redeemed to God.**

- a. This judgement of the earth is God's wrath poured out through the plagues outlined in the book of Revelations.
- b. The plagues will be poured out by God's Two Witnesses that stand in the streets of Jerusalem for 1,260 days.
- c. Revelation 11:3,6, "**And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.**" ...6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, **and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.**"

**3) It is Jesus that destroys the Antichrist—the champion of Satan and his kingdom—at the Battle of Armageddon and ends Satan's dominion on this earth.**

- a. II Thessalonians 2:8, "**And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.**"
- b. Revelation 19:11-16,  
11 "Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness **He judges and makes war.**  
12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.  
13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.  
14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.  
15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. **He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**  
16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**"
- c. This is the fulfillment of the first Messianic prophecy given by God in the Garden of Eden some 6,000 years earlier when God promises to bruise the head of the serpent who deceived Adam and Eve and thus all of mankind.
  - a. Genesis 3:15, [God speaking to the serpent/Satan], "**And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head,**

*And you shall bruise His heel.”*

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**C. After the dominion of the earth has been redeemed back to God by Jesus Christ the Son at His 7<sup>th</sup> Trump return to this earth, the marriage of the Lamb takes place.**

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- 1) **Revelation 19:6-8**, “*And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”* 8 *And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*
- a. This passage makes it clear that Jesus is reigning before the marriage of the Lamb to His Bride takes place.

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**4. JESUS OUR KINSMAN REDEEMER.**

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**A. From an article entitled, “Redemption” by Pastor Chuck Smith ([www.joshuanet.org](http://www.joshuanet.org)):**

*“In the fifth chapter of Revelation we see a seven sealed scroll with writing on both sides held in the right hand of God. There is an angel inquiring in a strong voice, “Who is worthy to take this scroll and break the seals?” (Revelation 5:2). When no man is found worthy in heaven or earth or under the sea to take the scroll or even look at it, John begins to sob convulsively. What is the scroll and its significance that John should have such a strong reaction to the unworthiness of any man to take it? It is no doubt the title deed to the earth drawn up almost 6,000 years ago when Adam forfeited it to Satan and sold man into bondage of corruption of sin. If no one redeems it at this time, it remains in Satan’s ownership forever just like the property sold in the time of Ruth and Boaz reverted to its new owner if no “goel” or “redeemer” stepped forward to claim it. One of the elders near him said, “Don’t weep, the Lion of the tribe of Judah has prevailed to take the scroll and to loose the seals” (Revelation 5:5).”*

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**B. Jesus Christ is our Kinsman Redeemer in every sense of the word.**

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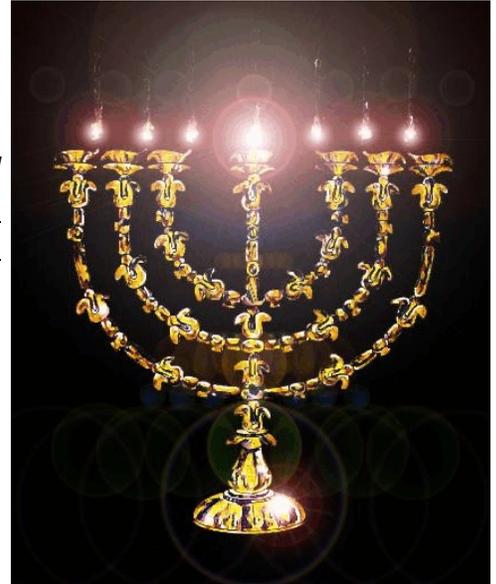
- 1) **First, He redeemed us back to God some 2,000 years ago when He set aside His deity and became flesh. He was victorious over sin, death, and the grave, and He offered Himself on the cross of Calvary as the eternal, sinless sacrifice to atone for the sins of all mankind. By this very act alone, Jesus redeemed us to God.**
- a. In other words, we are no longer sentenced to death, we now have access to eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.
- 2) **Second, upon His return to this earth at the 7<sup>th</sup> Trump, Jesus will destroy the Antichrist and his wicked world domination—thus redeeming the earth—and establish His 1,000 year kingdom together with His followers.**
- a. Zechariah 14:12, “*And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.*”
- 3) **Third, mankind will again share dominion of this world with Jesus who promised His followers that they would rule and reign with Him.**
- a. Revelation 20:6, “*Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*”

**“THE MYSTERY OF THE 7 CHURCHES”**

LESSON FOUR • by Bishop David W. Kramer • March 9, 2016

**INTRODUCTION**

As we continue our foray into the book of Revelation, we immediately find a command from Jesus in the first chapter concerning the 7 churches in Asia (modern-day Turkey). Here’s what Jesus says in Revelation 1:11, “...*“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,”* and, **“What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”**”



With the understanding that the Apostle John received this revelation beginning on the Imperial Day of the Lord, Wednesday, Abib 14, AD 31—the day of Passover when Jesus was crucified for the sins of the world—we then have to realize that Jesus’ message to the 7 churches in Asia was given before the 7 churches even existed. In other words, the words of Jesus were *prophetic* in nature. Once we understand the true meaning of the 7 letters, we can easily accept that they were written for the admonition of the entire kingdom of God—not just 7 congregations that existed thousands of years ago and are now defunct.

Jesus expands upon the 7 churches in Revelation 1:20 says, “*The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.*” Notice the word “mystery” introduced into the subject by Jesus.

The purpose of the letters to the 7 churches was not simply to address issues that arose in those 7 congregations. The purpose of the letters is to give sound instruction and even warnings to the kingdom of God in general of what to do—and what not to do. The letters also reveal the 7 manifestations of the Holy Spirit of God.

What “mystery” is contained in the 7-branch candlestick and the letters written to the 7 churches? Furthermore, how is it relevant to us today? Let’s take a look at Holy Scripture and find out.

**I. THE GOLDEN CANDLESTICK PROGRAM**

**A. When Jesus gave John the initial instruction to write the 7 letters to the churches in Asia, He did so while standing in the midst of a 7-branch candlestick.**

- 1) **Revelation 1:11-13, “Saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.” 12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like**

***the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.”***

- a. The purpose of the 7 letters to the churches was not simply to address issues that would arise in the course of operating a congregation or assembly.
- b. Remember, Jesus used the word “mystery” in Revelation 1:20 to describe what He was about to expound upon.
- c. A “mystery” implies that there is another meaning besides the simplistic or obvious reading of the written word.
- d. So, what was the “mystery” revealed in the 7 letters?

**2) The purpose of the 7 letters was to reveal and define the 7 channels or manifestations through which the Holy Spirit of God operates throughout the world.**

- a. There is only one Spirit of God—He is the Holy Spirit. He is a part of the Godhead: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- b. However, He operates in 7 channels. The Bible subsequently refers to these 7 channels/manifestations as 7 spirits.

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**B. The Seven Spirits of God are mentioned in other passages in God’s Word.**

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**1) The Scriptures often say that Jesus is in the midst of these 7 Spirits.**

- a. Revelation 5:6, *“And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, **which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.**”*

**2) Zechariah gives more details concerning the operation of the 7 Spirits of God.**

- a. Zechariah 4:6-10, *“So he answered and said to me: “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: **‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’** Says the Lord of hosts. 7 *‘Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of “Grace, grace to it!”*” 8 *Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying: 9 “The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish it. Then you will know That the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you. 10 For who has despised the day of small things? **For these seven rejoice to see The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel.** They are the eyes of the Lord, Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth.”**

**3) Why are these 7 Spirits of God roaming the earth?**

- a. II Chronicles 16:9a, *“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, **to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him..**”*

**4) Let’s take a look at the 7 letters to the churches and define the 7 Spirits of God that are revealed in them.**

- a. Let’s find out what mysteries are contained in the letters spoken by Jesus and recorded by John.

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**1. THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS • THE SPIRIT OF LOVE**

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**A. REVELATION 2:1-7,**

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- 1 *“To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:*

- 2 *"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;*
- 3 *and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.*
- 4 ***Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.***
- 5 *Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.*
- 6 *But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*
- 7 ***"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."***

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## B. ACCORDING TO HISTORY

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- 1) **Ephesus** – The desirable church that left its first love. Ephesus was the influential capital city of Asia Minor on the Aegean Sea. Ephesus is now known for its huge metropolis of ancient streets, arches and ruins.

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## C. THE SPIRIT OF LOVE

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- 1) **FROM THE MANUAL, V,H,38,**

"More than just a God of love, I John 4:8 reveals to us that *"God is love."* It is for this reason that love is foundational to everything that God does for us. This is expressed in John 3:16, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

Through His actions, Yahweh demonstrated that true love is manifest in the sacrificial giving of one's self for another. This type of love is to be the identifying trademark of true followers of Jesus Christ. John explained this further as he wrote, *"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, because He hath given us of His Spirit"* (I John 4:11-13). A church full of the Spirit will be full of love *"because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us"* (Romans 5:5). It is because of the work of the Holy Ghost that those who have put their faith in Christ can fulfill the great commandments as spoken by Jesus in Matthew 22:37-40, *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."*

The Spirit of Love is revealed as one of the seven manifestations of the Spirit of God in the message of Jesus to the church in Ephesus. It was to this church that Jesus said, *"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love"* (Revelation 2:4). At the center of all that the church does must be a love for God and a love for our fellow man. Without the love of God working in us, we become *"as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."* In other words, we become useless. However, by the empowerment of the Spirit, we are given the capacity to love even as He loves."

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## 2. THE CHURCH AT SMYRNA • THE SPIRIT OF PRESERVATION

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### A. REVELATION 2:8-11,

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- 8 *"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:*
- 9 *"I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.*
- 10 *Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days.*  
***Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.***
- 11 ***"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."***

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## B. ACCORDING TO HISTORY

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- 1) **Smyrna** – The persecuted church that suffered poverty and martyrdom. Smyrna was located north of Ephesus in a powerful trading position on the Aegean Sea known for its harbors, commerce, and marketplaces. The primary ruins of Smyrna are located in the modern Turkish city of Izmir.

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## C. THE SPIRIT OF PRESERVATION

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- 1) **FROM THE MANUAL, V,H,38,**

“God has always been a protector of His people. He is known in the Scriptures as Yahweh-Jireh (the Eternal Provider). King David understood the preserving nature of God and said of Him, *“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want”* (Psalms 23:1). That same shepherd-like quality that is found in God will also be found at work in the church when it is driven by the Spirit of God. The Spirit of Preservation is revealed in Revelation 2:10b when Jesus says to the church in Smyrna, *“...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”* It is part of the work of the Spirit to help us *“endure until the end.”* This is confirmed by Philippians 1:5 which says, *“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”*

It is through the operation of the Spirit of Preservation that we find the Holy Spirit leading and guiding us to give strength and encouragement to one another. This is the message of Hebrews 3:12-14, *“Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end.”* The ability to be able to endure unto the end is a direct result of the work of God’s Spirit in the church. The Apostle Paul knew this and proclaimed, *“...I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it”* (1 Thessalonians 5:23,24).

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## 3. THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS • THE SPIRIT OF MARKING

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### A. REVELATION 2:12-17,

- 12 *“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:*
- 13 *‘I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.*
- 14 *But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.*
- 15 *Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.*
- 16 *Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.*
- 17 *“**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.** To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. **And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”**”*

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## B. ACCORDING TO HISTORY

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- 1) **Pergamum** – The worldly church that mixed doctrines and needed to repent. Pergamum is located on the plains and foothills along the Caicus River in Western Turkey. It was considered a major city in Asia Minor since the 3rd century BC, and became a Greek and Roman hub for temple worship.

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## C. THE SPIRIT OF MARKING

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### 1) FROM THE MANUAL, V,H,38,

“Another unique quality of the Spirit of God is the Spirit of Marking. Jesus said to the church in Pergamos, “*To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it*” (Revelation 2:17). Through this work of the Spirit, things that would other wise go unnoticed or be quickly forgotten are clearly marked in such a way as to reveal the reality of God and His Word. This is stated clearly by Paul in Romans 1:20, “*For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*”

It has always been God’s plan to make Himself known to mankind. Through the Spirit of Marking, the invisible God and His work among men is made known. This principle is seen in everything that God has made. Psalms 19:1-3 expresses this: “*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.*”

It is through the Spirit of Marking that the church is able to identify times and places that are significant in spiritual history and mark them much like the Lord had Joshua do when the Children of Israel crossed the Jordan River. Joshua 4:9 says, “*And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day.*” It is also by this work of the Spirit that the church is able to identify and mark the fulfillment of prophecy.”

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## 4. THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA • THE SPIRIT OF TEACHING

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### A. REVELATION 2:18-29,

- 18 “*And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, ‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:*
- 19 “*I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.*
- 20 *Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, **to teach and seduce My servants** to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.*
- 21 *And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.*
- 22 *Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.*
- 23 *I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.”*
- 24 “*Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.*
- 25 *But hold fast what you have till I come.*
- 26 *And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—*
- 27 *‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’—as I also have received from My Father;*
- 28 *and I will give him the morning star.*
- 29 “**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**”

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### B. ACCORDING TO HISTORY

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- 1) **Thyatira** – The false church that followed a seductive prophetess. Thyatira is located in western Asia Minor about 42 miles inland from the Aegean Sea. The ancient city was known for its textiles and dyeing trade, and is now known as the Turkish city of Akhisar.

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## C. THE SPIRIT OF TEACHING

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### 1) FROM THE MANUAL, V,H,38,

"It is the work of the Holy Spirit to lead and guide believers into all truth. Jesus said in John 14:26, *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."* In order to fulfill the Great Commission as given by Jesus to go into all the world and teach all nations, it is also imperative that the church have the Spirit of Teaching at work as revealed in the message of Jesus to the church in Thyatira.

Jesus reveals the importance of teaching when He says, *"Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach"* (Revelation 2:20). Proper teaching is essential in the work of establishing God's people in the truth of God's Word. It is for this reason that among the five-fold gifted ministry is the gift of teacher. Without the Spirit of Teaching at work, the church would be *"tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine."*

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## 5. THE CHURCH AT SARDIS • THE SPIRIT OF PERFECTION

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### A. REVELATION 3:1-6,

- 1 *"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: 'I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.*
- 2 ***Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.***
- 3 *Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.*
- 4 *You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.*
- 5 *He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but 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."***

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### B. ACCORDING TO HISTORY

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- 1) **Sardis** – The "dead" church that fell asleep. Sardis is located on the banks of the Pactolus River in western Asia Minor, 60 miles inland from Ephesus and Smyrna. Popular ruins include the decadent temples and bath house complexes.

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### C. THE SPIRIT OF PERFECTION

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#### 1) FROM THE MANUAL, V,H,38,

"Jesus said in Matthew 5:48, *"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."* Jesus did not give instructions to the church that would be impossible to attain unto. The word *perfection* in the Scriptures is translated from Greek words that mean *to complete* [teleios] and *to fit thoroughly or to adjust* [katartizo]. These meanings indicate that perfection is an adjusting process toward the completion of our Christian experience. This thought is summed up in Proverbs 4:18, *"But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."* As we follow Jesus and behold the glory of the Lord, we are *"changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord"* (II Corinthians 3:18b). In the message of Jesus to the church at Sardis is revealed the Spirit of Perfection. Jesus tells them to, *"Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God."* God's church will be continually moving on to perfection.

The Apostle Paul expands upon this in Philippians 3:12, *"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus."* It is the Holy Spirit working through the five fold gifted ministry that will bring this perfection into reality in the church.

Ephesians 4:11-13 states, *"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists;*

and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.” Jesus, as the Lamb through which the Seven Spirits of God are manifest, gave His life for the church “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:26,27).

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## 6. THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA • THE SPIRIT OF PUBLISHING

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### A. REVELATION 3:7-13,

- 7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”:
- 8 **“I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.**
- 9 Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.
- 10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.
- 11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.
- 12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.
- 13 **“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”**

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### B. ACCORDING TO HISTORY

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- 1) **Philadelphia** – The church of brotherly love that endures patiently. Philadelphia is located on the Cogamis River in western Asia Minor, about 80 miles east of Smyrna. Philadelphia was known for its variety of temples and worship centers.
- 2) **Martin Luther** – Luther was a Roman Catholic priest who was used of God to start the process of bringing the church out of the Dark Ages. In the early 1500s, Luther began to recognize the unbiblical teachings and practices of the Catholic Church. Luther, being led by God, began to teach against these ungodly practices such as the sale of indulgences, paying for relatives to be released from purgatory, salvation based on works, etc.

Luther subsequently translated the New Testament from Latin to German which made the Gospel accessible to the common man for the first time ever. Although the Roman Catholic church made aggressive attempts to stamp out Luther’s “rebellion”—including the massacre of thousands of followers—the newly-accessible Gospel made its way across Germany and subsequently Europe. Luther’s example alone shows the power of the written (published) Word of God. God’s Word cannot be stopped!

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### C. THE SPIRIT OF PUBLISHING

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#### 1) **MANUAL, V,H,38,**

“The Spirit of Publishing is the manifestation of the Spirit which specializes in communication. It is revealed in the message of Jesus to the church in Philadelphia in which He tells them, “I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it” (Revelation 3:8). The word *publish* in the Scriptures means to *cause to hear*. This is what is meant in Mark 13:10 when Jesus says, “And the gospel must first be published among all nations.” In this context it is easy to see that at any time that we are proclaiming the

Word of God, whether by voice, printed matter, or telecommunications, we are using the Spirit of Publishing. All of these means are tools that the Lord has given as a way to open doors for the proclaiming of the Gospel and the expansion of the church. Psalms 68:11 says, *"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it."*

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## 7. THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA • THE SPIRIT OF EVANGELISM

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### A. REVELATION 3:14-22,

- 14 *"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:*
- 15 *"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.*
- 16 ***So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.***
- 17 *Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—*
- 18 *I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.*
- 19 *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.*
- 20 *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*
- 21 *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*
- 22 ***"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."***

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### B. ACCORDING TO HISTORY

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- 1) **Laodicea** – The "lukewarm" church with a faith that's neither hot nor cold. Laodicea is located in the Lycus River Valley of western Asia Minor, a primary trade route between the cultures of the West and East. Laodicea was known as a primary hub for the Roman aqueduct system.

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### C. THE SPIRIT OF EVANGELISM

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1) **FROM THE MANUAL, V,H,38,**

"Finally, the seventh manifestation of the Spirit, the Spirit of Evangelism, is revealed in the message of Jesus to the church of the Laodiceans in which He tells them, *"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot"* (Revelation 3:15). This work of the Spirit is two-fold in that it both stirs the believer to be enthusiastic in their own relationship with God while it also stirs the believer to maintain a burden for the souls of those who are lost that they might win them to Christ.

An important part of the work of evangelism is the stirring up of the memory of God's people to the truths of the Scriptures and the operation of the Holy Spirit. Peter wrote, *"...beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour"* (II Peter 3:1,2). Through the operation of the Spirit of Evangelism, God's people will be *"a peculiar people, zealous of good works."*

Revelation 1:4 states, *"John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne."* It must be very important for us to understand the message of the Seven Spirits of God because John describes this message as coming from before the throne of God. It is through the work of the Seven Spirits of God that the church will accomplish all that it has been called to do as the candlestick light of God in the earth. God's church will follow Jesus Christ who is, *"a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth"* (Revelation 5:6b). Without Jesus, we can do nothing, but with Him, we can do all things. God's church will be built *"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts"* (Zechariah 4:6b).