

## **REVELATION: YEARS 6 & 7 —** **PHILADELPHIA & LAODICEA** **10.8.24**

Our proposed outline for the 7 Letters to the 7 Churches is that each applies to one of the 7 final years ... coinciding with the 7 Seals.

So. The Letter to **EPHESUS** is instruction to the saints in Year 1. And so on.

Let's look today at **the Letters to Philadelphia and Laodicea**. My suggestion is that **they are instructions for the saints in Years 6 & 7**.

The **LETTER TO PHILADELPHIA** would represent **Year 6**. And coincide with **the 6<sup>th</sup> Seal**.

### **The SIXTH SEAL:**

- I. Dramatic Cosmic Signs and**
- II. Wrath of The Lamb**

The world is terrified by the arrival of God's wrath with people hiding in the caves and under rocks.

But — **it is great news to the faithful saints in Year 6**.

Let's pick up the story in Matthew 24.

### **Matthew 24:29-31**

29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days **the sun will be darkened**, and **the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven**, and **the powers of the heavens will be shaken**. (*The 6<sup>th</sup> Seal*)

30 **Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven**, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, (*they can see that God's wrath has arrived*) and they will see **the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory**.

31 And **He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**

### **COSMIC SIGNS:**

- THE RETURN OF JESUS
- THE GATHERING OF THE SAINTS
- RESCUED FROM: THE ANTICHRIST ... TRIBULATION ... AND THE WRATH OF THE LAMB

### **Revelation 3:7-12**

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.**

**These saints will be kept from “THE HOUR OF TRIAL”** (some translations say: “HOUR OF TESTING”) — which is coming on the whole world.

If we’ve patiently endured into Year 6 ... **we’ll be “CAUGHT AWAY”** (GREEK: HARPAZO — RAPTURE — AS IN 1 THESSALONIANS 4).

God's Wrath (Trumpets ... Vials) ... won't concern these believers. **Now off to Heaven! In their Resurrection Bodies!**

**The "Hour" of Trial means the time or moment has come for God's wrath to begin.** Not a reference to "duration".

Similar usage in:

#### **Revelation 14:6-7**

6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—

7 saying with a loud voice, "**Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come**"; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

**THE HOUR OF JUDGMENT — talking about the moment — the time.**

#### **Revelation 14:15**

15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "**Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap**, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

**THE TIME** (Hour — ESV ... NASB. GREEK: HORA).

The actual duration is likely to be about a year.

#### **Revelation 3:7-8**

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"**': (*Jesus has the Key of David*)

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.

**THE KEY OF DAVID (So a door?) ... AN OPEN DOOR.**

A door is to go through (or to lock out). **This is an open door — for the faithful Philadelphian saints in Year 6 to enter Heaven.**

Similar to?

#### **Revelation 4:1**

1 After these things I looked, and behold, **a door standing open in heaven**. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.”

An **OPEN DOOR IN HEAVEN.**

**The OPEN DOOR OF REVELATION 3:8 IS PROBABLY ALSO SYMBOLIC OF JESUS HIMSELF.**

**JESUS SAID HE IS THE OPEN DOOR.**

#### **John 10:1-5**

1 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

2 **But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.**

3 **To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.**

4 **And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.**

5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

**JESUS — THE GREAT SHEPHERD — who leads His sheep.**

#### **John 10:7-10**

7 Then Jesus said to them again, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.**

8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

9 **I am the door.** **If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.**

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. **I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**

## **JESUS IS THE DOOR.**

The faithful saints follow **THE SHEPHERD — AND ENTER THROUGH “THE DOOR”**.

But **NOT ALL MANAGE TO ENTER THE DOOR OF REVELATION 3.**

### **Matthew 25:1-5**

1 **“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.** (*Jesus — who is about to come back*)

2 Now **five of them were wise, and five were foolish.**

3 **Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,**

4 **but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.**

5 But while the bridegroom (*Jesus*) was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

All “virgins” are awaiting the Bridegroom — so clearly end-time saints. They were all asleep.

### **Matthew 25:6**

6 “And at midnight a cry was heard: **‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’** (*definitely end-time!*)

**THE TIME OF JESUS’ RETURN.**

### **Matthew 25:7-13**

7 **Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.**

8 And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

9 **But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you;** but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’

10 And while they went to buy, **the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.** (*the bridegroom goes through the door with 5 wise virgins — sounds like the door in Revelation 3.*)

11 “Afterward **the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us!**”

12 **But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’** (*Jesus said sorry — I do not know you!*)

13 “**Watch therefore,** for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

## **THE WISE GO THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR INTO HEAVEN.**

But not all!! Some saints are locked out — the door is no longer open!

Who are these saints? If they don’t go through the open door (“caught up” at Christ’s return at the time of the cosmic signs) — **then they’ll live on into Year 7 — the time of God’s wrath on the whole world.** They’ve missed the “catching away”. **BECAUSE THE FAITHFUL SAINTS WENT THROUGH THE DOOR!**

## **THE TAKE AWAY LESSON IS A WARNING — BE ALERT.**

### **BE WATCHFUL!**

Hence — **THE LETTER TO LAODICEA!**

**The LETTER TO LAODICEA is to those who are left behind to face the 7<sup>th</sup> Year.** They have missed the catching away of the saints in the “Philadelphia Year”.

### **Luke 21:34-36**

34 “But **take heed to yourselves,** lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, **and that Day come on you unexpectedly.** (*The Day of Jesus’ return and the start of the Wrath of God*)

35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 **Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.**”

**Those who are worthy at the end-time ESCAPE!** But not all are worthy.

A FREQUENT WARNING FROM JESUS! Let's look at 3 OTHER EXAMPLES:

#### **Matthew 7:21-23**

21 **“Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord,” shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.** *(Someone who practises living right)*

22 Many will say to Me in that day, **‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’** *(don't these look like good Christians. Looks like Laodiceans?)*

23 **And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’**

Not everyone who calls themselves a believer “goes in” to the Kingdom.

#### **YOU MUST BE A “DOER OF THE WORD”!**

Notice Jesus says: **“I NEVER KNEW YOU”**. Compare to: **“I DO NOT KNOW YOU”** — spoken to the Foolish Virgins.

#### **Matthew 13:24-30**

24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: **“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;**

25 **but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.**

26 **But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.**

27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’

28 He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’

29 But he said, ‘**No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.** (*“Tares” —GREEK: Zizania — degenerate ... poisonous wheat*)

30 **Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”** ’ ’ ’

### **Matthew 13:37-43**

37 He answered and said to them: “**He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.**

38 **The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom,** but **the tares are the sons of the wicked one.**

39 **The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age,** and the reapers are the angels.

40 **Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.**

41 **The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,**

42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

### **The Wheat and the Tares**

The Wheat and Tares look similar. They are found side by side. **These are two types of believers** (not believers and “the world”).

**At the Harvest — THE END OF THE AGE — the “TARES” WILL BE CAST AWAY.**

**The Tares appear to be the Laodiceans.**



### **Luke 6:46-49**

46 “But **why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?**

47 **Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like:** *(strong protection from peril and trouble)*

48 **He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock.** And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was **founded on the rock.**

49 **But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation,** against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And **the ruin of that house was great.**”

**Two types of people who come to Jesus and hear Him.** So both appear to be Christians — both look like believers — hearing the Words of Jesus?

But those who don’t “do the Word” — will fall. **The fate of the Laodiceans!** They are in “The Church”. When the storm comes — they fall!

In His earthly ministry ... Jesus warned believers not to be deceived ... or fall asleep — but to watch and be ready. **AVOID DECEPTION!**

**The Letter to Laodicea** (in Year 7) ... deals with those believers who did not heed Jesus’ warnings.

### **Revelation 3:14-15**

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.**

Jesus would prefer HOT (who would have been caught away in Year 6) — or COLD (unconverted ... deserve the wrath). But for believers to experience the wrath is so disappointing.

### **Revelation 3:16-18**

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.**  
(*“Buy gold” — similar to the Foolish Virgins — “buy oil”!*)

### **Revelation 3:19-20**

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.**

There is still hope for some — eternally. **REPENT!** If any one will open their door — Jesus is ready and prepared.

Compare: **the Foolish Virgins KNOCKED ON JESUS' DOOR. NOW JESUS KNOCKS ON THEIR DOOR!**

**Hopefully some will repent of their spiritual nakedness.** But it will be a very difficult time. The Antichrist is still ruling and now God's wrath has arrived along with The Trumpets. **They missed “their catching-away opportunity”.**

### **Revelation 3:21-22**

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.” ’ ’ ”

**Those who overcome are rewarded** — however — they missed the “catching away”.

**I speculate that they may go into the Millennium in their physical bodies?** Though at some point they are eligible to join Jesus on His throne.

The name **LAODICEA** may come from LAOS and DIKE — **“Judgment or justice of the people”**. In a court setting ... judgment comes at the end of a trial.

So **Laodicea could mean “trial of the people”?** They were not kept from the Hour of Trial.

A key participant in a judicial trial is a witness. **Note Revelation 3:14 — Jesus is the “FAITHFUL AND TRUE WITNESS”**. And He will also be the Judge!

The “separation” of Philadelphia and Laodicea is hinted at in:

**Matthew 24:36-44**

36 **“But of that day and hour (*of Jesus coming*) no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.**

37 **But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.**

38 **For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,**

39 **and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. (*“The day” — Deliverance of God’s man — and the destruction of the wicked*)**

40 **Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. (*One taken to be with Jesus — and one left behind*)**

41 **Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. (*One taken to be with Jesus — and one left behind*)**

42 **Watch therefore,** for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

43 **But know this,** that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

44 **Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**

**THE DAY THAT THE SAINTS ARE CAUGHT AWAY IS THE DAY THE WRATH BEGINS.**

**LAODICEAN SAINTS ARE “LEFT” TO IT — LEFT BEHIND.**

In Luke’s account (Luke 17) ... destruction came on Sodom **the very day** that Lot left.

**Luke 17:26-30**

26 And **as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:**

27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until **the day** that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

28 **Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot:** They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;

29 but **on the day** that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

30 Even **so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.**

This is LETTER 7 — so it’s the 7th Seal.

**Revelation 8:1-2, 6**

1 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

2 **And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.**

6 **So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.**

**THE TRUMPETS OF DESTRUCTION START ... BRINGING GOD’S WRATH ON THE WORLD — THE HOUR OF TRIAL.**

Sadly ... the “Laodicean ... lukewarm ... saints” will be right in the middle of it!

**CONCLUSION: THE LETTERS TO THE 7 CHURCHES  
AREN'T JUST HISTORIC — OR INCIDENTAL. THEY  
COINCIDE WITH THE LAST 7 YEARS AND THE 7 SEALS.**

**Revelation Chapters 2 and 3 are at the heart and core of the  
entire Book of Revelation.**

**LIVING LETTERS FOR BRETHREN LIVING IN THE END-TIME.**