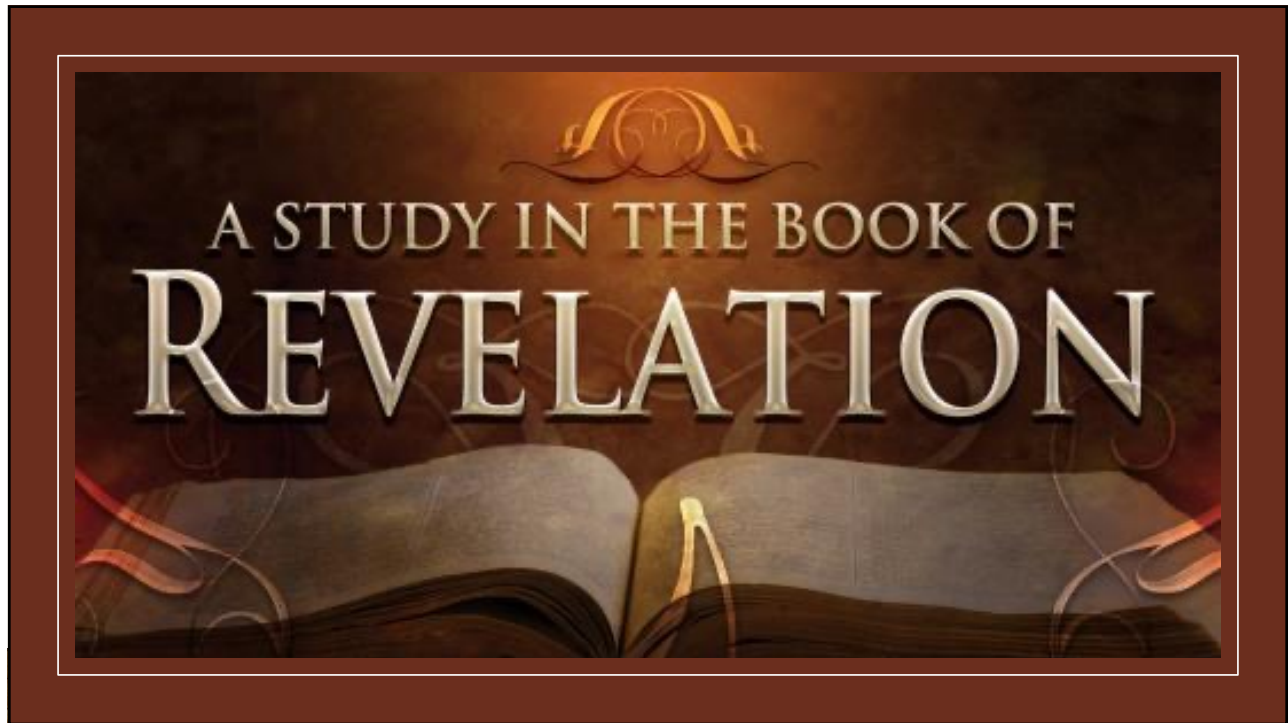
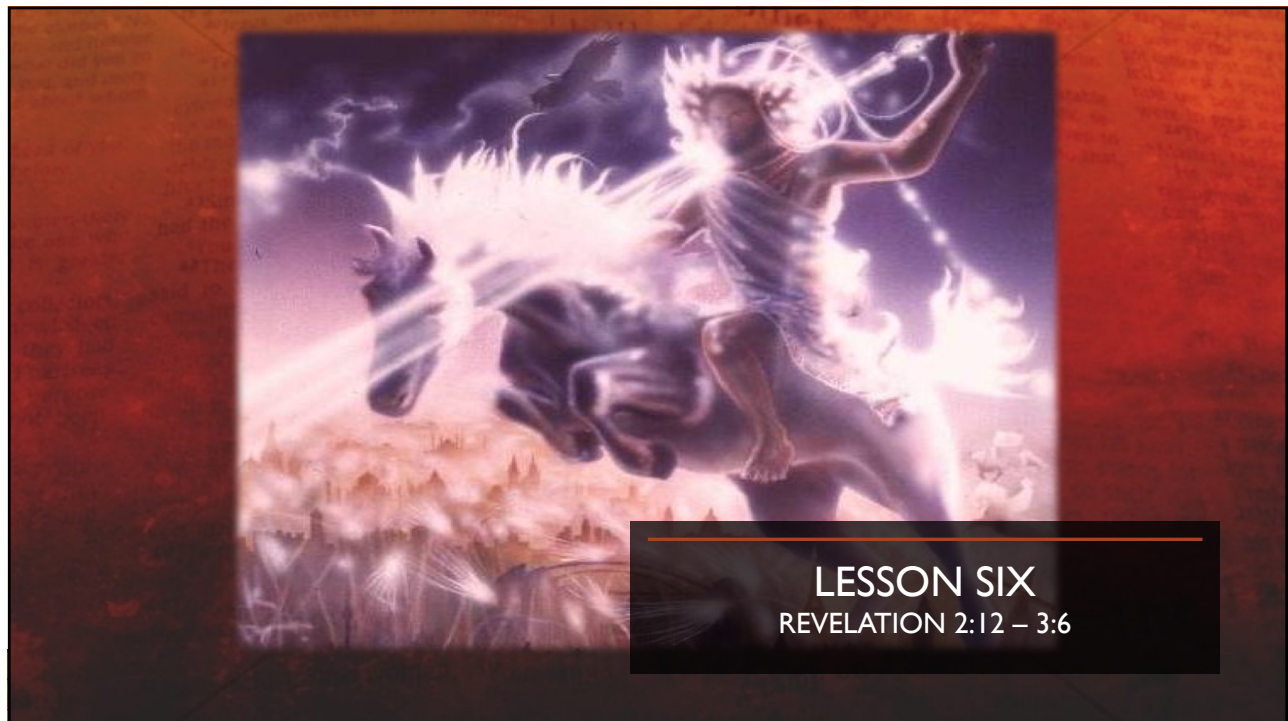




1



2

THE OUTLINE

"Therefore, write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.

~ Revelation 1:19



The Organizing Principle of the Book Itself...

3

INTRODUCTION

- These actual, historical churches in Asia Minor
- Represent the types of churches that exists throughout the church age.
- The message is for all churches today and all believers



Tell Me the Story of Jesus...

4

7-FOLD PATTERN OF THE MESSAGES TO THE CHURCHES

The Structure—with a couple of exceptions

- To the angel of the church in...write
- Jesus (depicted in glory in terms from 1:13-18) says...
- I know...
- But I have this against you...
- Therefore, ...
- Pay attention...
- Promise to the overcomer...

Tell Me the Story of Jesus...

5

7-FOLD PATTERN OF THE MESSAGES TO THE CHURCHES

The Structure—with a couple of exceptions

Event	Passage Wording
Commission	"To the angel of the church in...write..."
Character (of Christ)	"The one who...says this..."
Commendation	"I know your deeds..."
Condemnation	"But I have this against you..."
Correction	"Repent, turn, change..."
Call	"He who has an ear, let him hear..."
Challenge	"To him who overcomes..."

Tell Me the Story of Jesus...

6

7-FOLD PATTERN OF THE MESSAGES TO THE CHURCHES

With a couple of exceptions

Church	Christ	Commendation	Condemnation
Ephesus (2:1)	Walks among the lampstand (2:1)	Toil & perseverance (2:2-3)	Left 1 st love (2:4, 7)
Smyrna (2:8a)	1 st and the last (2:8b)	Tribulation & poverty (2:9-10a)	
Pergamum (2:12a)	Sharp 2-edged sword (2:12b)	Did not deny My faith (2:13)	False doctrine (2:14-15)
Thyatira (2:18a)	Eyes like a flame of fire (2:18b)	Love & ministry (2:19)	False doctrine (2:20-23)
Sardis (3:1a)	7 Spirits of God (3:1b)		Spiritually dead (3:1c)
Philadelphia (3:7a)	Opens & no one will shut (3:7b)	Open door (3:8-10)	
Laodicea (3:14a)	Faithful & true witness (3:14b)		Lukewarm (3:15-17)

Tell Me the Story of Jesus...

7

7-FOLD PATTERN OF THE MESSAGES TO THE CHURCHES

With a couple of exceptions

Church	Call "He who has an ear..."	Challenge
Ephesus (2:1)	2:7a	2:7b—Eat of the tree of life
Smyrna (2:8a)	2:11a	2:11b—Not hurt by 2 nd death
Pergamum (2:12a)	2:17a	2:17b--Hidden manna; white stone; new name
Church	Challenge	Call "He who has an ear..."
Thyatira (2:18a)	2:26-28—Rule w/ Christ; morning star	2:29
Sardis (3:1a)	3:4-5—Clothed in white	3:6
Philadelphia (3:7a)	3:12—Pillar in temple of God	3:13
Laodicea (3:14a)	3:21—Rule w/ Christ	3:22

Tell Me the Story of Jesus...

8

THE CHURCHES—STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, PROMISES (1-2)

- Ephesus
 - Commended for their labor, patience, fidelity, and endurance.
 - Condemned for having left their first love.
- Smyrna
 - No hint of compromise.
 - Suffered tremendous persecution.
 - Leaders willing to lay down their lives for Christ and the gospel.
 - Fearless and faithful.

9

THE CHURCHES—STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, PROMISES (3-5)

- Pergamum (2:12-17)
 - The Political Church
 - The Compromising Church
- Thyatira
 - The Corrupt Church
 - The Morally Impure Church
- Sardis
 - The Powerless Church
 - The Dead Church

10

PERGAMUM (2:12-17)

THE POLITICAL & COMPROMISING CHURCH

Character	Commendation	Condemnation	Correction
- Sharp 2-edged sword (2:12) - Ultimate wielder of power & judgment - He will use His power against His enemies, especially in the church	- Pagan influences yet did not deny Christ (2:13) - Satan's throne present - HQ of satanic opposition & false religions	- Tolerated false teachers (2:14-15) - Balaam – Sexual immorality - Nicolaitans – Teaching Christians to violate conscience (1 Cor. 8)	- Repent (2:16) - Failure to repent = enemies of Christ

11

PERGAMUM (2:12-17)

THE POLITICAL & COMPROMISING CHURCH

- Three things vital for any effective church:
 - (1) Love for the truth
 - Cannot tolerate doctrinal error (false teaching) under the excuse that we must love everybody
 - Truth must be our final authority
 - (2) Desire for holiness
 - Cannot win others for Jesus with a worldly Christianity
 - Godly believers who practice what they preach
 - (3) Willingness to repent
 - Repent of sin
 - Repent of compromise

12

THYATIRA (2:18-29)

THE CORRUPT & MORALLY IMPURE CHURCH

Character	Commendation	Condemnation	Correction
- Son of God (2:18) - Eyes like a flame of fire - Feet of burnished bronze (He sees & knows all) (He judges all)	- Love & faith & service & perseverance - Love & faith – motives - Service & perseverance = deeds - Similar to Ephesus but here love is present - Love for Christ & others = service - Faith in Christ = perseverance - Faith & love growing stronger	- Compromise to get along (2:20) - Sexual immorality - Idolatry (Jezebel influence the OT Jews into idolatry & immorality)	- Judgment for Jezebel (2:21) - Judgment for her followers unless they repent (2:22-23)

13

THYATIRA (2:18-29)

THE CORRUPT & MORALLY IMPURE CHURCH

- Longest of the 7 letters to the smallest of the 7 cities
- Commit to endurance (2:24-25)
- Three groups in Thyatira:
 - (1) Those who commit adultery with her (falling into some degree of compromise) – REPENT!
 - (2) Her (Jezebel) children (her followers) – Strike dead
 - (3) The rest of you (2:24-25)
 - Faithful believers
 - No additional requirements
 - Hold fast until Jesus comes

14

SARDIS (3:1-6)

THE POWERLESS & DEAD CHURCH

Character	Commendation	Condemnation	Correction
- Seven Spirits of God - Seven stars (3:1a)	NONE	- You think you are something when you're not (3:1b) - Reputation - faulty - Some think lively but Jesus knows differently	- Wake up (3:2-4) - Strengthen - Remember - Obey - Repent

15

SARDIS (3:1-6)

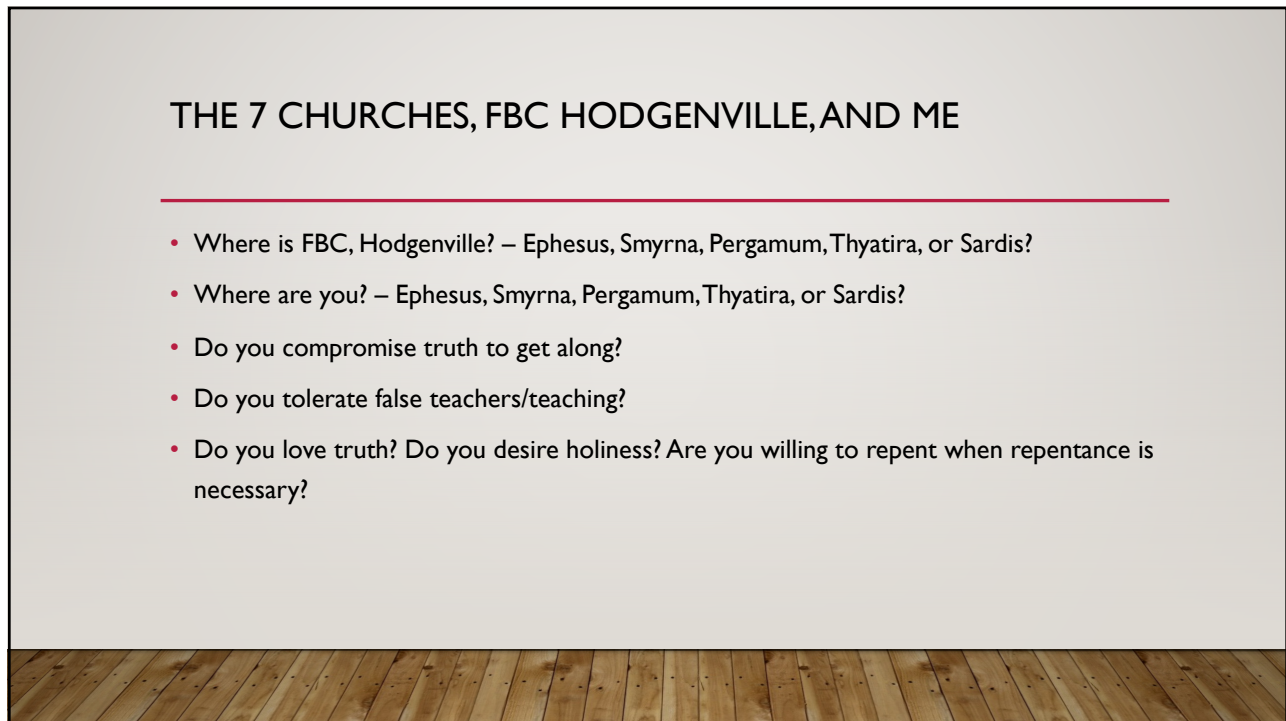
THE POWERLESS & DEAD CHURCH

- How to escape the spiritual graveyard? "Strengthen the things that remain" (3:2)
 - (1) Remember how you were first converted to Christ. Get back to the basics!
 - (2) Keep the truth. Truth (Jesus) is the only anchor for your soul
 - (3) Repent of your apathy. Be vigilant and diligent about your walk with God

16



17



18

THE 7 CHURCHES, FBC HODGENVILLE, AND ME

- Each of these letters contains promises to the overcomer.
- What is an overcomer?

Church	Call "He who has an ear..."	Challenge
Pergamum (2:12a)	2:17a	2:17b--Hidden manna; white stone; new name
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19

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Tell Me the Story of Jesus...

20

7 SIGNS WE ARE LIVING NEAR THE END OF THE LAST DAYS (*On the edge of Daniel's 70th Week*)

- Aliya—Israel's Return to the Land & Jewish Immigration to the Israel (Ex. 36:8-12, 24; 37:12; Jer. 16:15)
- Alignment of Nations (Ps. 83; Ez. 38-39; Dan 2; 7; 9; 11, Rev. 13)
- Anticipation for Peace (Dan. 9:27; Is. 28:14, 18; 1 Thess. 5:3)
- Arrangements for the 3rd Temple (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 11:1-2)
- Argument over Jerusalem (Zech. 12:2-3; Ez. 35:10)
- Apostasy in the Church (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Thess. 2:3; 2 Tim. 3:1-9; 1 John 2:19)
- All-Inclusive Globalism & a Global Economy/Currency (Dan. 2; 7:1-28; 8:1-27; Rev. 13)

21

BE A BEREAN

"Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."

~ Acts 17:11



22



LESSON SEVEN

REVELATION 2-3

Philadelphia & Laodicea

23



24