# THE CHURCHES OF REVELATION THE DEAD CHURCH SARDIS

# Seven Churches

• EPHESUS: The loveless church 31 AD - 100 AD • SMYRNA: The persecuted church 100 AD - 313 AD Pergamos: The compromising church 313 AD - 538 AD • THYATIRA: The corrupt church 538 AD - 1517 AD

# Mountains of North Italy





Waldensians experienced horrible persecution These people had something that we in the 21<sup>st</sup> century so desperately need....



# A PURPOSE TO LIVE FOR

# "Why the Self is Empty": By Philip Cushman

# "constructed a self that is, fundamentally, a disappointment to itself."

# "Why the Self is Empty": By Philip Cushman

Their beliefs are shallow. Little of real significance matters, and they have nothing worth dying for, so they have little worth living for. The force that drives them is an immediate need for selfgratification that ultimately leaves them empty and unsatisfied.

\*The Waldenses had purpose \*What they believed mattered \*Not willing to compromise integrity \*Core beliefs were part of their DNA \*To deny the beliefs was to deny their integrity

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#### "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write...

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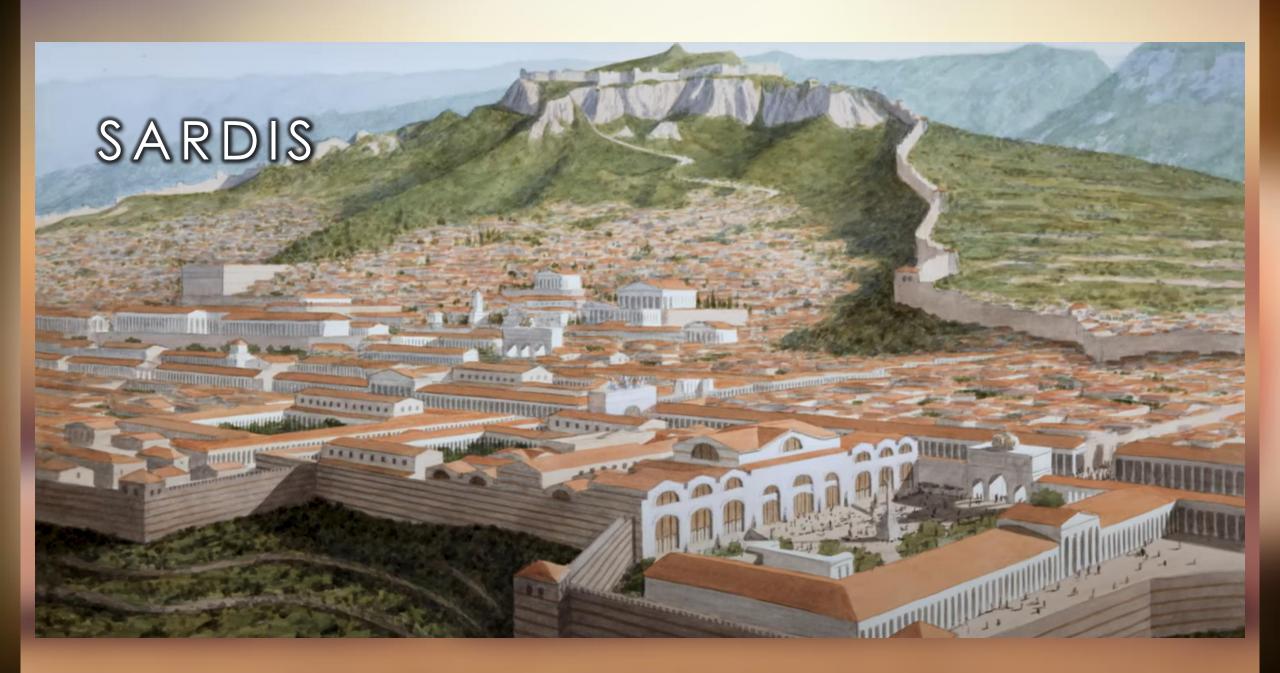
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CYRUS THE GREAT 600 BC - 530 BC

**CROESUS** Reign: 560 BC - 546 BC

# ANTIOCHUS III THE GREAT 241 BC - 187 BC

# "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.

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# 1 Corinthians 10:12

# Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

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#### Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.

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#### SARDIS

\*The dead church \*It purports to be alive, but is largely dead.

\*Became an institution and exists primarily to maintain its power and authority.



 In the days of the apostles when the Christian faith was new, the gospel message gave vitality and an impetus to the mission of the church. The church grew rapidly •BUT, the church began to compromise

# The Dark Ages Church

 Church attempted to be popular... at a cost Allowed false doctrines to come in Substituted ritual for genuine worship and incorporated pagan practices It became contented, lazy, weak until it was on its deathbed spiritually, even if it was rich and powerful



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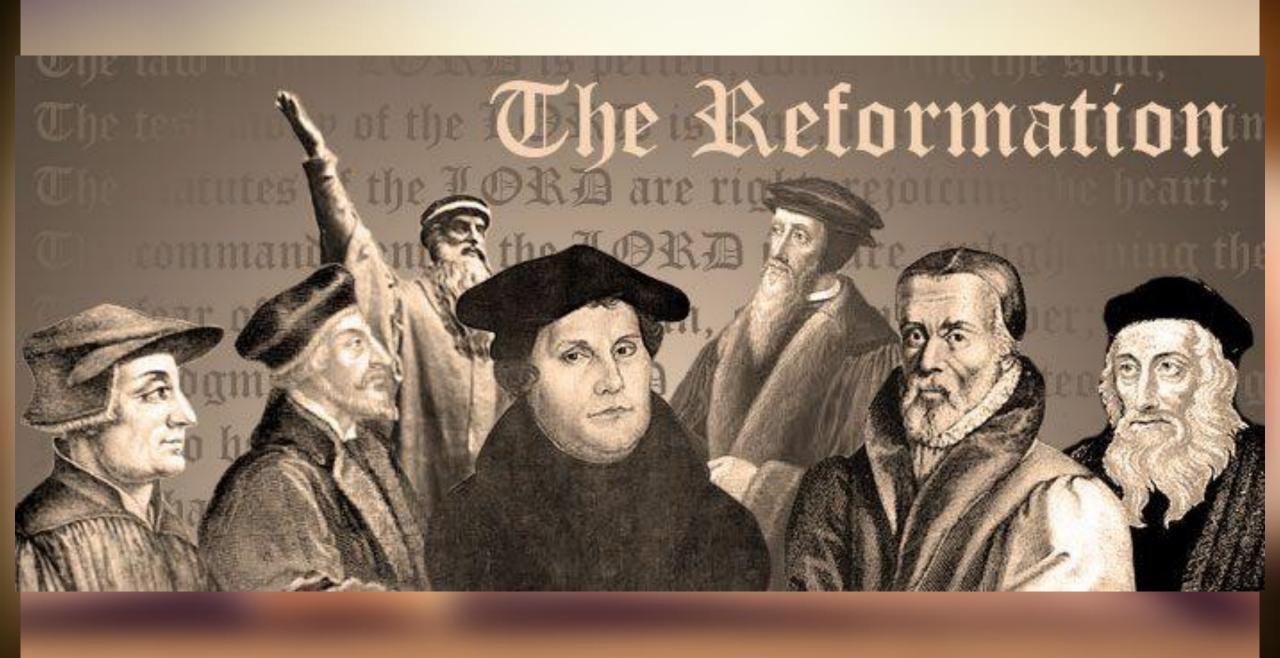
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Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

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## 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.

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# "Here I stand, I can do no other."

Martin Luther

# 2 Timothy 3:5

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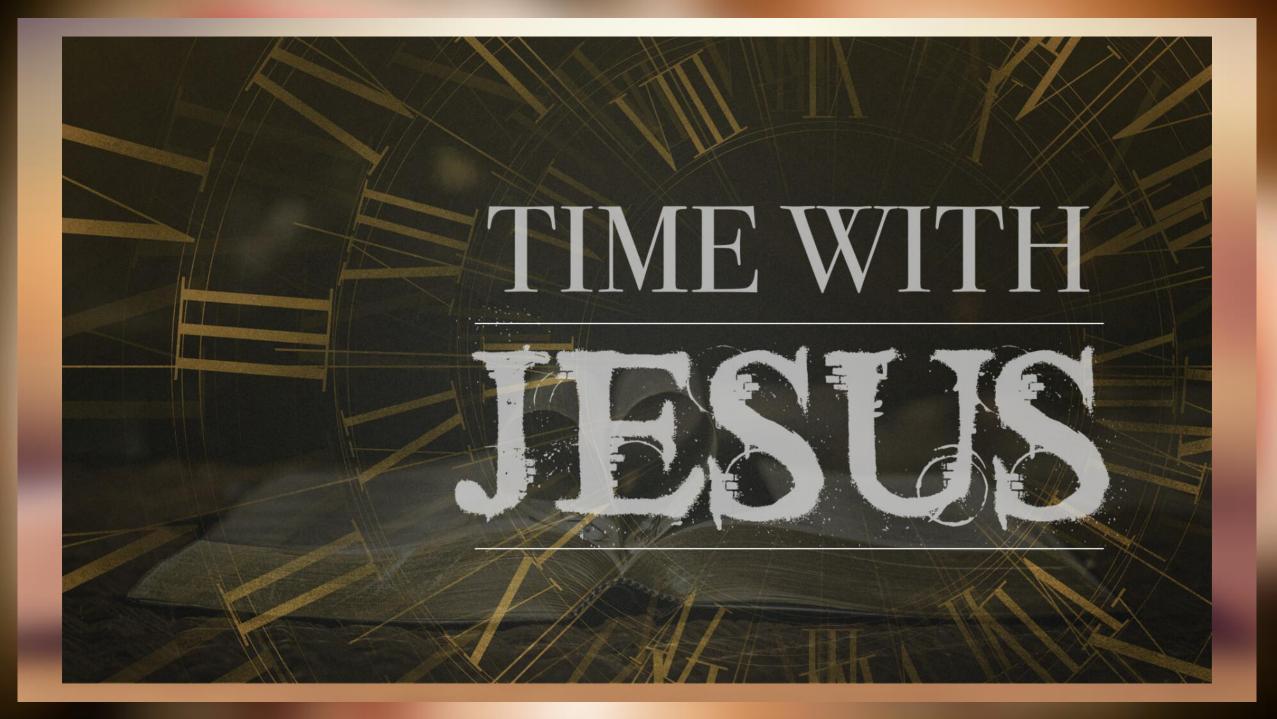
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Stand faithful with Jesus and have your name written in the Book of Life



#### "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

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