**The Book of Revelation:**

**Laodicea: The Lukewarm Church**

May 6, 2017

Next Havdalah: June 3 in Room 2D at 5:45 pm with Pastor Olen Griffing.

Revelation 3:14-21 (NKJV)

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. 16So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17Because 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—18I 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. 19As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20Behold, 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. 21To 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.”’”

# The city of Laodicea.

Colossians 2:1 (NKJV) – For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in **Laodicea**, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh.

Colossians 4:12-16 (NKJV) – 12Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. 13For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in **Laodicea**, and those in Hierapolis. 14Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. 15Greet the brethren who are in **Laodicea**, and Nymphas and the church that *is* in his house. 16Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the **Laodiceans**, and that you likewise read the **epistle from Laodicea**.

Colossians 4:16 (TLV) – When this letter has been read among you, make sure that it is also read in Messiah’s community of Laodicea. In turn, you should read my letter coming from Laodicea.

1. **A financial and banking center.** The Jewish community of Laodicea gave 20 pounds of gold every year to Jerusalem.
2. **There was a famous medical school.**

2 Peter 1:5-9 (NKJV) – 5But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, **add** to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9**For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.**

1. **A clothing manufacturing center.**
2. **The city had yucky water.**

# Name of the Church.

Laodicea means justice of the people. This is the *passive* *church*.

# Description of Jesus.

1. **Jesus is the Amen** (Rev. 3:14).

Isaiah 65:16 (NKJV) –

So that he who blesses himself in the earth

Shall bless himself in the God of truth;

And he who swears in the earth

Shall swear by the God of truth;

Because the former troubles are forgotten,

And because they are hidden from My eyes.

1. **Jesus is the faithful and true witness** (Rev. 3:14).

Faithful: *pistos*. True: *alethinos*. Witness: *martus* [English – martyr].

1 John 2:23 (TLV) – No one who denies the Son has the Father; the one who acknowledges the Son also has the Father.

1. **Jesus is also ruler of God's creation** (Rev. 3:14).

John 1:1-3 (NKJV) – 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Colossians 1:15-18 (NKJV) – 15He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

# Commendation to the church.

# Rebuke to the church.

Luke 9:23 (NKJV) – Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

1 Corinthians 15:31 (NIV) – I die every day—I mean that, brothers—just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 19:24 (NKJV) – And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

Luke 8:1-3 (NKJV) – 3and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward, and Susanna, and **many others who provided for Him from their substance**.

# Instructions to the church.

**1. Buy from Him gold refined in the fire.** (Rev. 3:18)

Psalm 19:10 (NKJV) – More to be desired *are they* than gold, Yea, than much fine gold;

**2. Buy from me white clothes to cover your shameful nakedness.** (Rev. 3:18)

White garments are referred to many times in Revelation (3:4-5; 4:4; 6:11; 7:9, 13, 14; 19:8, 14).

**3. Anoint your eyes so that you can see** (Rev. 3:18).

**4. Open the door and let me in** (Rev. 3:20).

# Promise to the church.

1. **We will eat together** (Rev. 3:20).
2. **Greek sacred meals with a *paredos daimon* (assistant demon.)**

Luke 12:35-40 (NKJV) – 35“Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning; 36and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. 37Blessed *are* those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat,* and will come and serve them. 38And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants. 39But 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. 40Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

1. **Hebrew sacred meals.**

Leviticus 7:28-34 (NKJV) – 28Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 29“Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘He who offers the sacrifice of his peace offering to the Lord shall bring his offering to the Lord from the sacrifice of his peace offering. 30His own hands shall bring the offerings made by fire to the Lord. The fat with the breast he shall bring, that the breast may be waved *as* a wave offering before the Lord. 31And the priest shall burn the fat on the altar, but the breast shall be Aaron’s and his sons’. 32Also the right thigh you shall give to the priest *as* a heave offering from the sacrifices of your peace offerings. 33He among the sons of Aaron, who offers the blood of the peace offering and the fat, shall have the right thigh for *his* part. 34For the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the heave offering I have taken from the children of Israel, from the sacrifices of their peace offerings, and I have given them to Aaron the priest and to his sons from the children of Israel by a statute forever.’ ”

Malachi 3:10 (NKJV) Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house,

Deuteronomy 14:28-29 (NKJV) – 28“At the end of *every* third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store *it* up within your gates. 29And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who *are* within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.

Revelation 3:20 (NKJV) – I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

*Dine = Deipneo* (δειπνέω) is used in Luke 22:20 for Passover.

Luke 22:20 (NKJV) – Likewise He also *took* the cup after supper.

1. **We will fellowship together** (Rev. 3:20).
2. **We will rule together** (Rev. 3:21).

# Prophetic Message? – Much of the church when the rapture occurs.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 (NKJV) – 1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the **falling away comes first**, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.