



A Study of Revelation

The Seven Churches of Asia: Revelation 1-3

January 11, 2015

The message to the church at Sardis: Revelation 3:1-6

1. What Sardis was like (ISBE):

- a. "Sardis was moreover one of the oldest and most important cities of Asia Minor, and until 549 BC, the capital of the kingdom of Lydia. It stood on the northern slope of Mt. Tmolus; its acropolis occupied one of the spurs of the mountain. At the base flowed the river Pactolus which served as a moat, rendering the city practically impregnable. Through the failure to watch, however, the acropolis had been scaled in 549 BC by a Median soldier, and in 218 by a Cretan."
- b. "In 17 AD, when Sardis was destroyed by an earthquake, the Roman emperor Tiberius remitted the taxes of the people and rebuilt the city, and in his honor the citizens of that and of neighboring towns erected a large monument, but Sardis never recovered its former importance."
- c. "The ancient city was noted for its fruits and wool, and for its temple of the goddess Cybele, whose worship resembled that of Diana of Ephesus. Its wealth was also partly due to the gold which was found in the sand of the river Pactolus, and it was here that gold and silver coins were first struck."
- d. "From time immemorial the mountains have been the haunts of robbers; very likely it was so when Rev was written, 'I will come upon thee as a thief.'"

2. There are no other biblical references to Sardis outside of Revelation.

3. Revelation 3:1-6

- a. How is Jesus described in the message to this church? _____

- b. Jesus knew their _____.
- c. They had a name that they were _____ but in reality they were _____.
- d. Consider how reputation may not be the reality.
- e. They were to be _____ and _____ the things that remain. Why? _____

- f. THINK! What does the word "perfect" mean in verse 2? _____

- g. They were to remember how they had _____ and _____, then hold _____ and _____.
- h. It was their choice whether to watch or not. What is the consequence of not watching? _____
- i. What was true of the few names in Sardis?
i. They have not _____ their garments.
ii. They shall walk with Jesus in _____.
iii. They are _____.
- j. If they overcome:
i. They shall be clothed in _____ garments.
ii. Jesus will not _____ out their name from the _____ of _____.
iii. Jesus will confess their name before His _____ and the _____.
- k. Who is to hear this message? _____