

# **The End Times Church**

Pastor Grant Williams May 13, 2015

Tonight, we are going to look at the End Times Church. The bible prophesied long ago what it would look like at the “Time of the End”. We are going to look at the book of Revelation, written 2,000 years ago about what is happening now.

## **Isaiah 46:9-10 King James Version (KJV)**

*9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,  
10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:*

## **Isaiah 46:9-10 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

*9 [Earnestly] remember the former things, [which I did] of old; for I am God, and there is no one else; I am God, and there is none like Me,  
10 Declaring the end and the result from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure and purpose,*

It was prophesied that in the End Times, something would be taking place in the church and to the church. Right now, there is a shifting taking place in the church or, the body of Christ. His people or His body at large is fulfilling prophesy and you and I need to know what that is - it will prosper us if we act on it.

From Europe to the United States, going to church or being apart of the body of Christ is in sharp decline. Only 4% of the evangelical youth today when they are 22 will be apart of the body of Christ - only 4%.

This is not limited to the people or the attendees of the church:

- o 50 pastors a day are leaving the ministry in our Evangelical churches.
- o Since 1999, on an average, 3,000 churches have been planted annually while 7,000 have closed.
- o 50% of pastors report feeling so discouraged they would leave the ministry if they could find a job tomorrow.
- o 70% of pastors say they have a lower self-image now than when they started the ministry.
- o 70% of pastors feel grossly underpaid.
- o 80% of pastors believe pastoral ministry has negatively affected their families.

There are signs that we are coming to the End Of Time. This isn't about "We are defeated" this is about "It's almost over". This isn't the time to quit and rollover and throw in the towel. The Word said this would happen so don't fall into the same trap. The Word already spoke it so we would avoid doing the same thing.

## **Revelation 1 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

*1 [This is] the revelation of Jesus Christ [His unveiling of the divine mysteries]. God gave it to Him to disclose and make known to His bond servants certain things which must shortly and speedily come to pass in their entirety. And He sent and communicated it through His angel (messenger) to His bond servant John,*

*2 Who has testified to and vouched for all that he saw [in his visions], the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

***3 Blessed (happy, to be envied) is the man who reads aloud [in the assemblies] the word of this prophecy; and blessed (happy, to be envied) are those who hear [it read] and who keep themselves true to the things which are written in it [heeding them and laying them to heart], for the time [for them to be fulfilled] is near.***

*4 John to the seven assemblies (churches) that are in Asia: May grace (God's unmerited favor) be granted to you and spiritual peace (the peace of Christ's kingdom) from Him Who is and Who was and Who is to come, and from the seven Spirits [the sevenfold Holy Spirit] before His throne,*

*5 And from Jesus Christ the faithful and trustworthy Witness, the Firstborn of the dead [first to be brought back to life] and the Prince (Ruler) of the kings of the earth. To Him Who ever loves us and has once [for all] loosed and freed us from our sins by His own blood,*

*6 And formed us into a kingdom (a royal race), priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the power and the majesty and the dominion throughout the ages and forever and ever. Amen (so be it).*

7 Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth shall gaze upon Him and beat their breasts and mourn and lament over Him. Even so [must it be]. Amen (so be it).

8 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, says the Lord God, He Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty (the Ruler of all).

9 I, John, your brother and companion (sharer and participator) with you in the tribulation and kingdom and patient endurance [which are] in Jesus Christ, was on the isle called Patmos, [banished] on account of [my witnessing to] the Word of God and the testimony (the proof, the evidence) for Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit [rapt in His power] on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a great voice like the calling of a war trumpet,

11 Saying, I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last. Write promptly what you see (your vision) in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia—to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.

12 Then I turned to see [whose was] the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,

13 And in the midst of the lampstands [One] like a Son of Man, clothed with a robe which reached to His feet and with a girdle of gold about His breast.

14 His head and His hair were white like white wool, [as white] as snow, and His eyes [flashed] like a flame of fire.

15 His feet glowed like burnished (bright) bronze as it is refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.

*16 In His right hand He held seven stars, and from His mouth there came forth a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full power at midday.*

*17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as if dead. But He laid His right hand on me and said, Do not be afraid! I am the First and the Last,*

*18 And the Ever-living One [I am living in the eternity of the eternities]. I died, but see, I am alive forevermore; and I possess the keys of death and Hades (the realm of the dead).*

*19 Write therefore the things you see, what they are [and signify] and what is to take place hereafter.*

*20 As to the hidden meaning (the mystery) of the seven stars which you saw on My right hand and the seven lampstands of gold: the seven stars are the seven angels (messengers) of the seven assemblies (churches) and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.*

The image of Jesus in verses 13-16 is that of the Levitical priest in the temple. The reason I say this is, the priest offered the sacrifice in the white linen garments. Today, Christ is the high priest of our faith.

**Revelation 1:13 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

*13 And in the midst of the lampstands [One] like a Son of Man, clothed with a robe which reached to His feet and with a girdle of gold about His breast.*

He is standing in front 7 golden candle sticks or lamp stands.

**Revelation 1:12 King James Version (KJV)**

*12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;*

**Revelation 1:12 Amplified (AMP)**

*12 Then I turned to see [whose was] the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,*

Jesus in John's vision, is standing in front of seven lamp stands or candlesticks. If this were written in the Hebrew this would mean seven menorahs or seven stands of seven candles but in the greek, which is how it is written, it means seven candles. Either way, it was representing the seven churches that God's Word is going to address and why did John see Jesus addressing them.

John had a link to several of these churches. After the death of the apostle Paul, John become the head of or the bishop over the Christian church. Both Paul and John along with others helped start all those New Testament churches.

Out of all those churches (hundreds at that time) that existed at that time just seven were selected representing a type of church or the characterization of a church that was duplicated in other areas. These churches just happened to be in Asia minor which is southern Turkey.

So why choose seven? This goes back to the cleaning of the menorah. During the time of the temple, every morning the priest would go in to the temple and take golden tweezers and pull the seven wicks off of the menorah.

Then, the priests would take fresh olive oil and fill up the seven cups of the menorah with six eggs of oil.

***Note (6 eggs): back during this time period, they measured by eggs - the whole egg - they could put 6 full eggs in this cup.***

The priest would pull out the wicks, replace the wicks and then pour in the new oil. Now remember, he is in a chamber with no windows and if he snuffs out all the light, he can't see.

They would snuff out five of the candles and leave two lit. So they would clean out the old oil, put in new wicks, but leave two burning.

As you keep reading in the book of Revelation, chapter 2 and 3...Jesus commends two of the churches but rebukes five of them. He even tells one that He is going to pluck their candle stick out.

***Revelation 2:5 King James Version (KJV)***

*5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

So there were two churches commended and five rebuked.

In the lighting of the menorah, five were snuffed out and the other two remained lit and they would take the fire from the other two and light the other five.

I want you to get the imagery or the revelation of this in Revelation chapter 2 and 3. These seven churches are being examined just like the seven candles were examined on the menorah. They were being examined for their light and for their oil. Five come up short and two have great recommendations from Jesus.

They lit the menorah first thing in the morning which represented the beginning of the dawn of a new day - this is key. Jesus, in Revelation 2 and 3 is beginning a new day which is called the “Day Of The Lord”.

**Revelation 1:10 Amplified (AMP)**

*10 I was in the Spirit [rapt in His power] on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a great voice like the calling of a [i]war trumpet,*

He's no talking about the sabbath, that's a different word in the greek, He is talking about the Tribulation, the “Time of the End”.

Let me show you something about the seven churches referenced in Revelation chapter 2 and 3. There is a break down of all 7 churches.

**This is the meaning of the church name:**

1. Ephesus - desirable

Revelation 2:1-7

2. Smyrna - myrrh

Revelation 2:8-11

3. Pergamos - height or elevation

Revelations 2:12-17

4. Thyatira - continual sacrifice

Revelations 2:18-29

5. Sardis - remnant

Revelation 3:1-6

6. Philadelphia - brotherly love

Revelation 3:7-13

7. Laodicea - rights or rule of the people

Revelation 3:14-22

Now, each church is given a command, to repent or a blessing. Remember, five of them are given rebukes and two are given blessings which is represented by the cleaning of the menorah in John's revelation in chapter 1.

**So here is the rebukes and the commendations:**

1. Ephesus - left their first love

Revelation 2:4

2. Smyrna - enduring tribulation and poverty

Revelation 2:9

3. Pergamos - holding to false doctrines

Revelations 2:14-15

4. Thyatira - being seduced by a woman (spirit of Jezebel)

Revelations 2:18-29

5. Sardis - some were about to die spiritually

Revelation 3:2

6. Philadelphia - given an open door and protection

Revelation 3:8-10

7. Laodicea - they were lukewarm and going to be spewed

Revelation 3:15-16

Now, there were blessings (always conditional upon doing your part - obedience) given to the overcomer that is linked to 7,000 years of history. Yes, I said 7,000 because there will be a millennium reign of 1,000 years.

Here's a verse that we studied several months ago...

**Isaiah 46:9-10 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

*9 [Earnestly] remember the former things, [which I did] of old; for I am God, and there is no one else; I am God, and there is none like Me,*

*10 Declaring the end and the result from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure and purpose,*

**This is the progression of the churches throughout history:**

1. Ephesus - eat of the tree of life  
if they overcome they could eat of the tree of life  
Genesis 2:9                      Revelation 2:7

2. Smyrna - won't be hurt by the second death  
After the tree of life you have Adam sin - first death to the world  
Genesis 3:17-23              Revelation 2:11

3. Pergamos - eat from the hidden manna  
40 years - all provision given  
Exodus 16:15      Revelation 2:17

4. Thyatira -given power over the nations  
promise from Joshua to David that they would conquer nations  
Joshua 11:17-23      Revelation 2:26

*Note: What we are doing is going forward in biblical history as it runs parallel with the churches in the order they are given in Revelations.*

5. Sardis - clothed in white raiment  
you will be dressed white and name shall not be take out of book  
Matthew 27:33-50      Revelation 3:2

6. Philadelphia - will be made a pillar in the temple  
eternity rule on the earth - kingdom rulership  
1 Corinthians 15:24      Revelation 3:12

7. Laodicea - will sit with Him on the throne  
This happens in the millennium reign  
Revelation 20:6      Revelation 3:21

So we started with Ephesus, which is the first church and go all the way to Laodicea which is the last church or seventh church. With this, you have a progression or the overcoming imagery which begins with:

1. The garden of Eden
2. The sin that Adam produced which caused death
3. The hidden manna
4. Joshua to David conquering all the nations
5. The time up to the crucifixion
6. The time up to the return of the lord
7. The millennium reign

These are the great truths, the great mysteries of the bible as you study become revelation to you and get you excited about Gods Word. There's more in there - there's more protection, there more correction, there more perfection - it's endless.

**Now I want to show you the seven church ages in order.**

1. Ephesus - The Apostolic Church  
30 AD - 100 AD
2. Smyrna - The Persecuted Church  
100 AD - 312 AD
3. Pergamos - The Roman Church  
313 AD - 600 AD
4. Thyatira - The Dark Ages  
600 AD - 1517 AD
5. Sardis - The Reformation  
1517 AD - 1700 AD

6. Philadelphia - The Missions Church  
1648 AD - 21st Century

7. Laodicea - The Luke Warm Church  
Current Situation

We are absolutely in this church age the age of Laodicea...we have left Philadelphia and entered Laodicea.

During the age of the Missions Church all throughout the world there were missionaries being sent from Europe and the United States. Now very few are sent - passion and money have dried up.

You have 94% of the world preachers in the United States with 6% of the worlds missionaries and preachers reaching 7 billion people.

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Let's look at what has happened and what the bible said will happen...

Thousands came to christ....

Many people have been witnessed to and the bible said when everyone has heard - it's all done....

Tv, global media can reach many places but it can't take the place of being in a church body like the Word says we are supposed to be.

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To give you some history on the Laodicean church. Their one weakness was their water supply. Water had to be piped into Laodicea. Cold water could come from the abundant supply at Colossae, but by the time it traveled the ten miles from the cold springs, it was luke warm. About six miles away in Heiraplis were hot springs, but that water, too, was lukewarm when it reached Laodicea. Whether they piped in the cold or the hot water, it arrived at Laodicea lukewarm.

When John said they were lukewarm - they have the illustration. But this is what the church in Laodicea said - see if this sounds like the United States church.

**Revelation 3:17 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

*17 For you say, I am rich; I have prospered and grown wealthy, and I am in need of nothing; and you do not realize and understand that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.*

**Revelation 3:17 Good News Translation (GNT)**

*17 You say, 'I am rich and well off; I have all I need.'*

When they said I am rich or we are rich - Laodicea had a famous medical center at that time that produce a salve for the eyes and a salve for the ears. That's why Jesus said in verse 18

**Revelation 3:18 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

*18 Therefore I counsel you to purchase from Me gold refined and tested by fire, that you may be [truly] wealthy, and white clothes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nudity from being seen, and salve to put on your eyes, that you may see.*

Put the salve on your eyes so you may see. When they say we are increased with good or have prospered...

**Revelation 3:17 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

*17 For you say, I am rich; I have prospered and grown wealthy, and I am in need of nothing; and you do not realize and understand that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.*

They were a banking center and a educational center. They had no needs, everyone had jobs, money and health - they were all blessed - blessed themselves.

So, is it wrong to have all your needs met ? well, who's meeting them ?

**Philippians 4:19 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

*19 And my God will liberally supply (fill to the full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

When you get need-less, you get prayer-less. When you spend all your time and set the bar yourself for needs - you have taken God out of the picture. He wants to do exceedingly abundantly...

**Ephesians 3:20 King James Version (KJV)**

*20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

**Ephesians 3:20 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

*20 Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]*—

Usually when people have money, not always but usually when people are at a place to take care of all their needs and physically as well...They try to keep themselves healthy wealthy and wise in the natural first - spending time, fear, anxiousness on all that God said He would do.

As long as you need God and are dependent on Him - you will pray. As long as you look to God and trust Him, you will become dependent upon Him for everything.

The Laodicean church age is trying to teach everyone to be “need free” body, mind, spirit and money. You and I need to be “care free” and not “need free” there is a big difference.

Needs are emotional, spiritual and physical things that you need that can only come from God.

Cares of this world are...

**Mark 4:19 King James Version (KJV)**

*19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.*

We need to be totally dependent on God and not caring about the things of this world. You can't take it with you.

**James 2:5 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

*5 Listen, my beloved brethren: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and in their position as believers and to inherit the kingdom which He has promised to those who love Him?*

The greatest thing you can have is to be rich in faith and not rich in stuff. The more stuff, the more headache. The more stuff, the more cares...

**1 Timothy 6:9-10 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

*9 But those who crave to be rich fall into temptation and a snare and into many foolish (useless, godless) and hurtful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction and miserable perishing.*

*10 For the love of money is a root of all evils; it is through this craving that some have been led astray and have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves through with many acute [mental] pangs.*

If you are rich in faith you can “pray in” anything that you need.