

Revelation Chapter 3 Letters to the Churches -- Compilation of prophetic commentaries by Gaetan

Sardis, the “**dead**” church, alive in name only. In Roman times, she was a rich and famous city. Its conversion to Christ, though largely nominal, seems to have made a profound impression on the region.

REV.3:1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things says he that hath the **seven Spirits of God**, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou **hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.**

**** Eph.2:1** And you ***hath he quickened***, who were **dead** in trespasses and sins.

REV.3:2 **be watchful**, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have **not found thy works perfect before God.**

**** 2CH.25:2** and he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, but **not with a perfect heart.**



REV.3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not **watch**, I will come on thee **as a thief**, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

**** 1TH.5:4** *but ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a **thief**. Ye are all the **children of light**, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep, as do others; but let us **watch** and be sober.*

REV.3:4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled **their garments**; and they shall walk with me in **white**: for they are worthy.

Jesus inserts a warning here to you and me and anyone who wants to escape these horrors: "Watch out, I come as a thief! --You'd better be ready for the Rapture, the Resurrection, when I come before all this, if you want to escape all this Hell!" And He says you're to watch and keep your garments. --What garments are these? --That suit, coat and tie you're wearing? --That lovely dress you're wearing? --Of course not! He's talking about the **"robe of righteousness and the garments of Salvation"** (Is.61:10), not natural clothing! He says, **"lest ye be found naked"**. That means lest you be found without His Salvation, without His robes of righteousness, without being saved!



(See also Zech.3:4; Mt.22:10-13; Rev.3:5, 18; 19:8.)

REV.3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in **white raiment**; and **I will not blot out his name out of the book of life**, but **I will confess his name before my Father**, and before his angels.

**** MAT.10:32** *Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him **will I confess also before my Father** which is in heaven.*

QUESTION: Is it saying that those who are not overcomers will have their name blotted out of the book of Life? This verse has troubled me for years. It also talks of overcomers not being hurt of the second death ... the lake of fire. What is "**overcoming**"? Just keeping your faith in Christ as your only hope ... or a process of good works?

ANSWER: *Eph.2:8-9 still stands: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."*

You can't earn or work for your Salvation! It's a free gift that you receive by faith! --So how can you lose it? --You only earn or work for rewards--special added blessings or honors above and beyond your salvation--of which rewards there'll be all kinds of degrees, levels and/or classes! --In fact, this very Scripture promises you'll never be blotted out! You already have overcome Satan through Christ! (*Jn.1:12; 3:16; 5:24, 17:3; Ro.3:23; 6:23; Ti.3:5; He.7:25*)



REV.3:6 He that hath an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit says** unto the churches.

Next is Philadelphia, a humble but faithful church, content to exemplify the life of Jesus in the midst of a pagan and corrupt society. **Lovers of God's Word**, and intent on keeping it. Greatly beloved of the Lord. Not a word of reproof.

REV.3:7 And to the angel of the church in **Philadelphia** write; These things says he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the **key of David**, he that **openeth**, and **no man shutteth**; and **shutteth**, and **no man openeth**;

**** ISA.22:22** *And the key of the **house of David** will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open,*

and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

REV.3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an **open door**, and no man can shut it: for thou **hast a little strength**, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

**** COL.4:3** ...praying also for us, that God would **open unto us a door** of utterance, to speak the **mystery of Christ...**

When I Am Weak, Then I Am Strong

Power perfected in weakness.

**** 2CO.12:10** *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for **when I am weak, then am I strong.***

REV.3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, **which say they are Jews, and are not,** but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

**** ROM.2:28, 29** *for he is **not a Jew, which is one outwardly**; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But **he is a Jew, which is one inwardly**; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter...*

**** ACT.14:2** *but **the unbelieving Jews** stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren. (Act. 13:50; 14:5, 19; 17:5)*





REV.3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, **I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world**, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

**** MAR.13:19** *for in **those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation** which God created unto this time, neither shall be.*

**** DAN.12:1** *And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be **a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time:** and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.*

How will the Lord keep us “from the hour of temptation” -- meaning the period of the great tribulation? Let’s take the example of Israel in the Land of Goshen (Ex.7-11) during the plagues of Egypt at the time of Moses: Israel was protected and was not affected by any of the plagues at all.

There was light in the Land of Goshen, there were no locusts, no diseases, no plagues in Goshen at all. The plagues only affected their persecutors.



Waters Turn to Blood
Exodus 7:14-25



Amphibians (frogs)
Exodus 7:26-8:11



Gnats (Lice)
Exodus 8:12-15



Flies
Exodus 8:16-28



Disease on Livestock
Exodus 9:1-7

The Ten Plagues of Egypt



Unhealable Boils
Exodus 9:8-12



Hail and Fire
Exodus 9:13-35



Locusts
Exodus 10:1-20



Darkness
Exodus 10:21-29



Death of First-Born
Exodus 11:1-12:36

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The thing that Israel was suffering was the persecution of man, not being persecuted by God. The Egyptians were being persecuted by God.

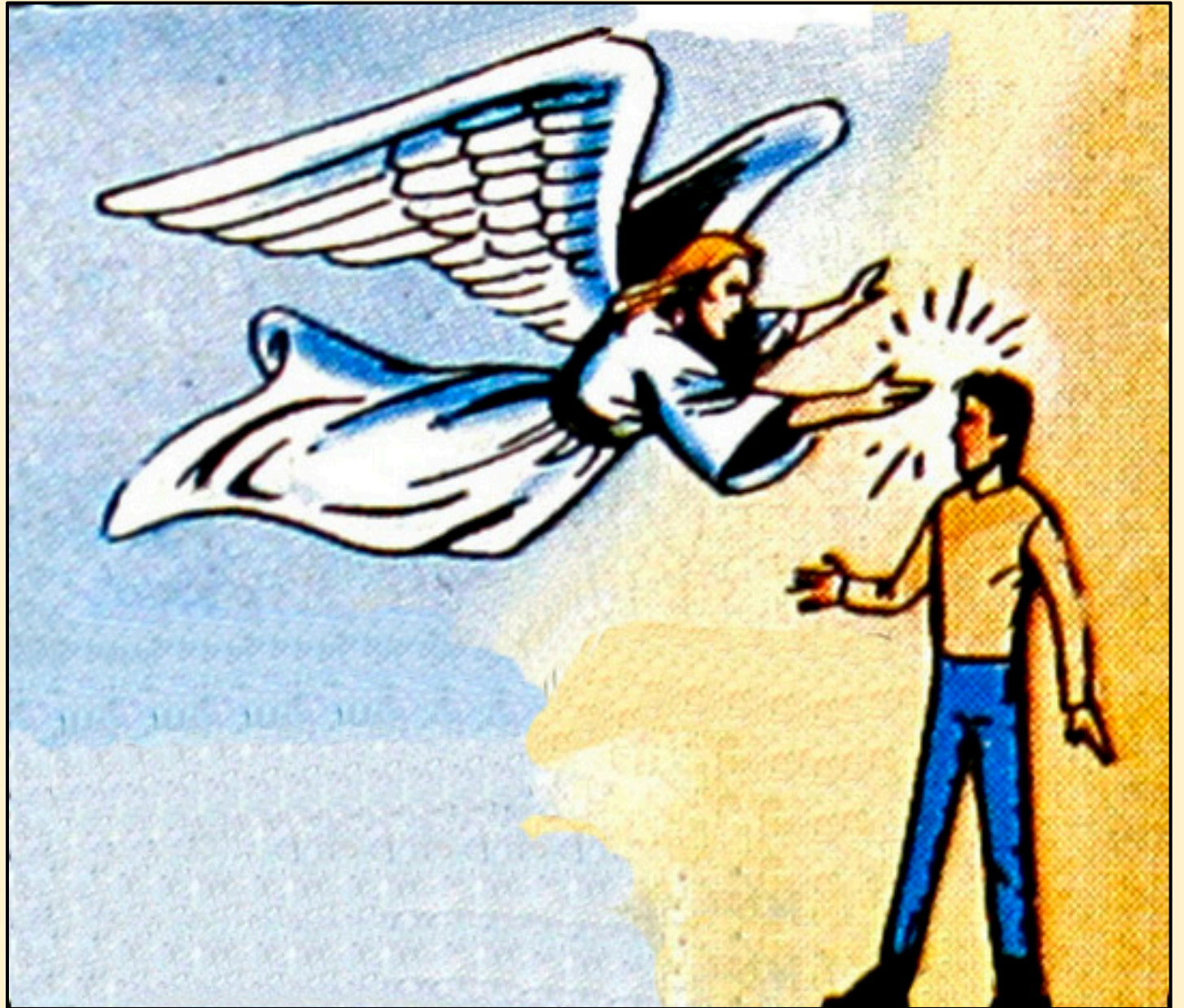
From all the sound of the whole description of the things that are going on during the Tribulation, although the church is being persecuted by the Antichrist government, the Antichrist world is suffering horrible plagues, curses and all kinds of horrors which God's Word definitely says will not touch the people who have the Seal of God in their forehead! (**Rev.7:3**) So we think that's what the escape means when Jesus said that you'll be counted worthy to escape all these things that befall them:

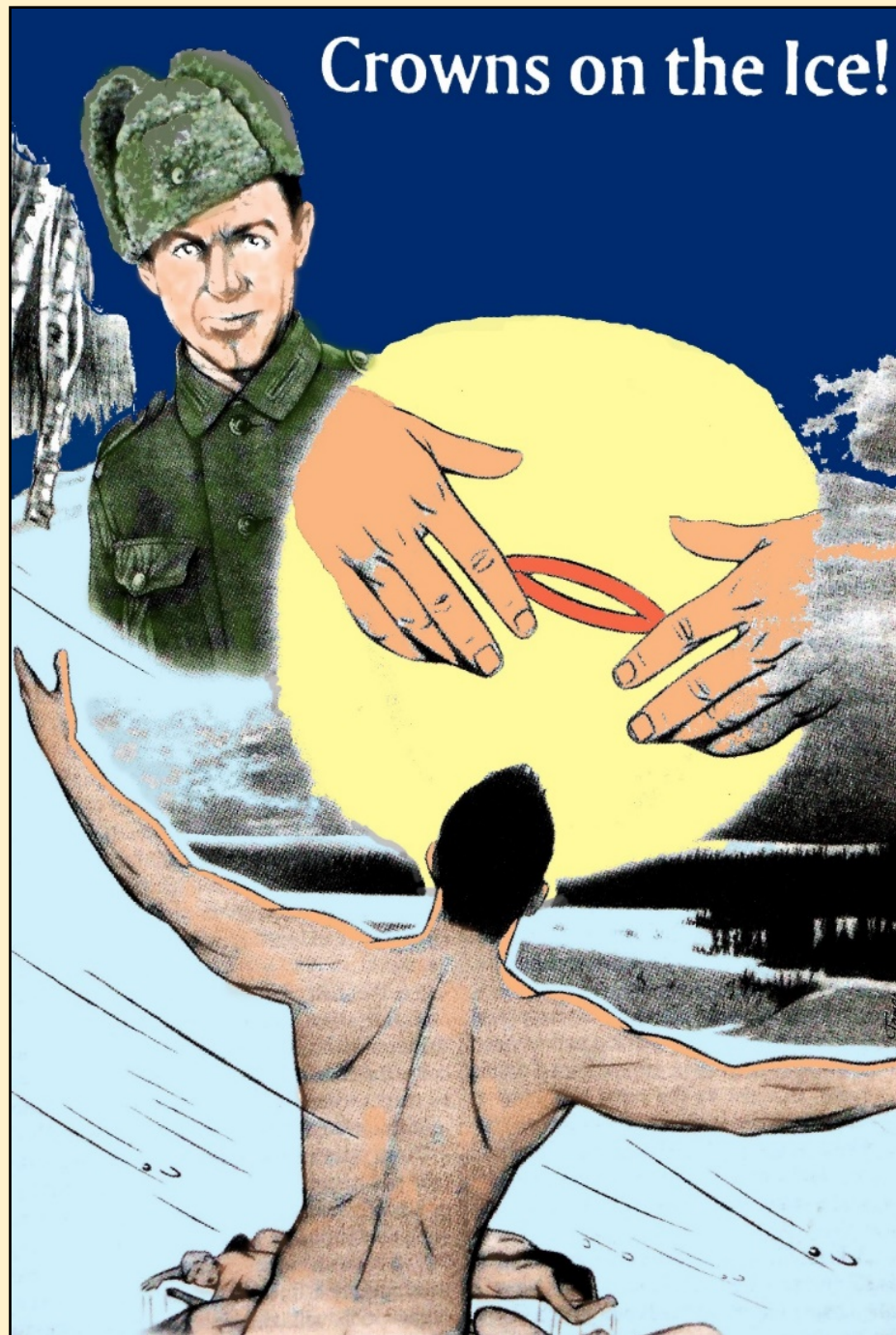
“Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” (Lu.21:36)

We don't think any of those diseases are going to affect us, none of those plagues, none of those horrors described in the Tribulation, none of them! The only thing that we have to suffer is the persecution of the Antichrist and his Mark of the Beast people. We will be suffering their persecution, but God will see to it that they are suffering His retribution. And He says definitely in the opening passage about the horrors of the Tribulation: first wait until we seal the people of God, don't touch them, so that they'll not be touched by all these horrors that God is going to send on the Antichrist system! We will be free of all those horrible things.

**** REV.7:3** *Saying, **hurt not** the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, **till we have sealed** the servants of our God_in their foreheads.*

REV.3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take **thy crown**.





It was supposed to have happened in communist Russia during the early days when they were persecuting the Christians so badly. They put this bunch of Christians out on the ice naked to die because they wouldn't renounce their faith. The guards told them if any of them wanted to save themselves, all they had to do was run back to the guards and renounce their faith and they wouldn't have to die. So, they all froze and dropped one by one, till this last fellow finally couldn't take it. He saw all these other people dying and he was left alone, the last one, so he ran screaming across the ice toward the guards and said he couldn't stand it any longer, he'd deny his faith. But suddenly one soldier said, *"Here, quick, take my uniform, take my gun, put them on! I'm going out there to die in your place! I was standing here watching and as each one dropped, I saw a crown placed on his head! But just as the hand was coming down from Heaven to place a crown on your head you ran! So here, take my uniform, my gun! I want to take your place! --I want that crown!"* So praise the Lord! Do you want a crown? There's no crown without a cross, no testimony without a test no triumph without a trial, no victory without a battle, no rose without a thorn! Praise God, that's what you joined the army for--to fight and to win!

**** REV.2:10** ...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a **crown of life**.

Losing your crown does not mean losing your salvation at all! Your salvation is not your crown, salvation is your gift from God! You don't work for that or earn that at all! But your crown is your reward. Somehow or another you could lose some reward of some kind of glory. "They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars," but some shall be raised to everlasting shame and contempt! (Dan.12:2, 3)

REV.3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will **write upon him the name of my God**, and the name of the **city of my God, which is new Jerusalem**, which **cometh down out of heaven** from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

**** REV.14:1** And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having **his Father's name written in their foreheads**.

**** REV.21:2** And I John saw **the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven**, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (see also 1CO.2:9)

REV.3:13 He that hath an ear, **let him hear** what the Spirit saith unto the churches.



REV.3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the **Laodiceans** write; these things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

The **lukewarm** Church, **Laodicea** was a banking center, proud of its wealth and beautified with resplendent temples and theatres. It was noted for its making of rich garments of black glossy wool.

REV.3:15 I know thy works, that thou art **neither cold nor hot**: I would thou wert cold or hot.

REV.3:16 So then because thou art **lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.

When it comes to zeal for Jesus then nothing but extreme will satisfy Him. Like Demas who served with Paul and Barnabas, but then when the battle got hot he went back, and Paul said, "*Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present World*" (2Tim.4:10). The Lord can't stomach people like that! He hates to see people's backs! (Heb.10:38). They make Him sick at His stomach!



He said, "*I wish you were hot or cold*", in other words, I would you were a saved Christian on fire and witnessing, burning for Christ, or a cold, unsaved sinner that never heard the Gospel rather than to be lukewarm! I cannot stand, says Christ, people that try to take a middle position. I wish you were cold, not pretending to be a believer, or else I wish you were boiling hot, not in the middle—neither hot nor cold. I cannot stand it, says the Lord.

REV.3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

**** REV.2:9** I know thy works, and tribulation, **and poverty,** (but thou art rich) ...

**** LUK.12:21** so is he that layeth up treasure for himself, **and is not rich toward God.**

Material possession has its place, but true wealth is from knowing and loving God.





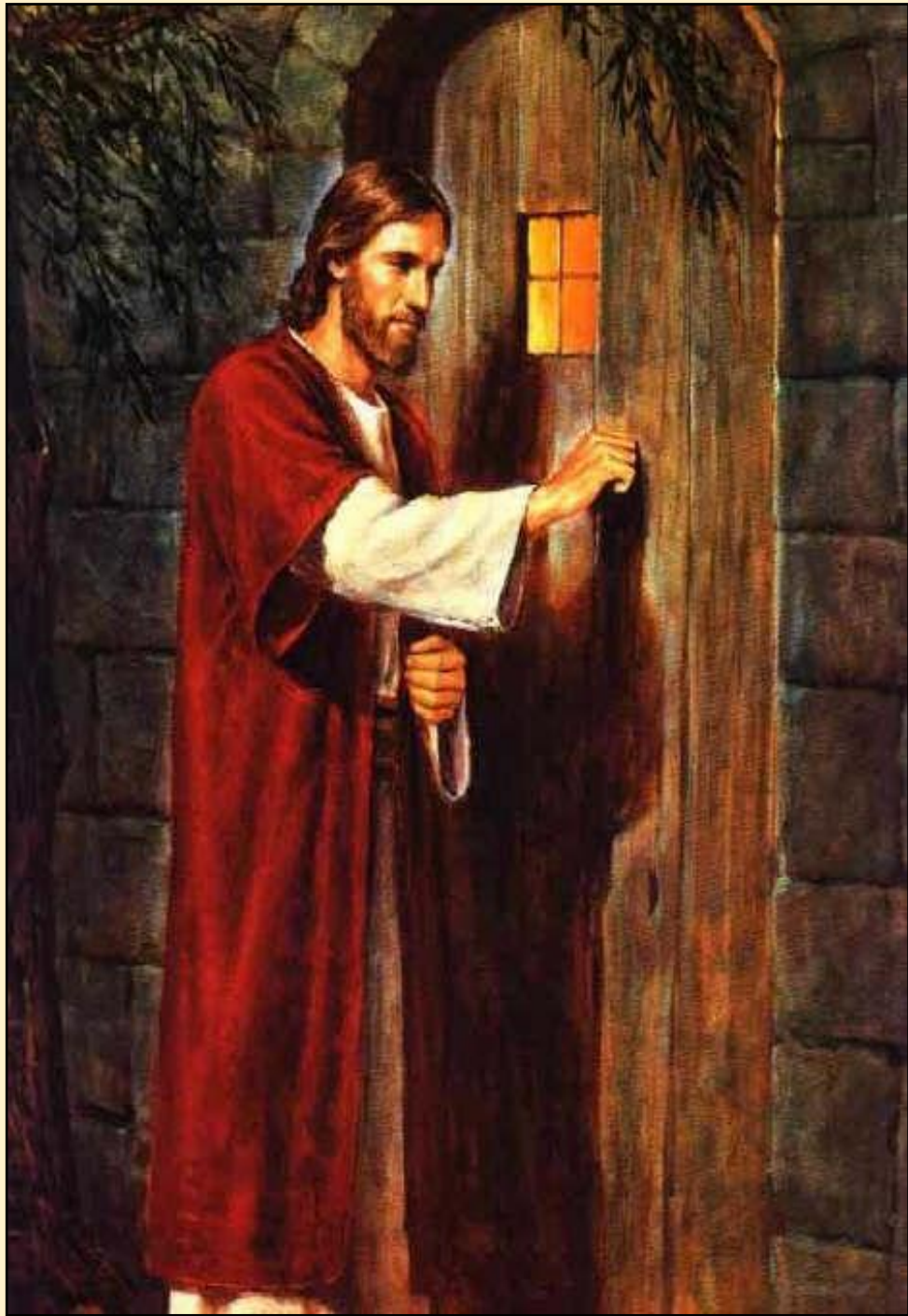
*chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For **whom the LORD loveth he correcteth**; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.*

REV.3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me **gold tried in the fire**, that thou **mayest be rich**; and **white raiment**, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.

God tests our faith to see if it is real 'gold' faith and we'll still believe and obey Him no matter what happens! Real gold--no matter how hot the test or how long it lasts--will still come out gold--even finer gold! Because the fire burns all the dross and the impurities away! --If it doesn't go through the fire, it's not faith. If it doesn't come out as pure gold, it's not faith! Because real faith stands the test whatever it may be!

REV.3:19 as many **as I love, I rebuke and chasten**: be zealous therefore, and repent.

**** PRO.3:11, 12** *My son, despise not the*



REV.3:20 Behold, **I stand at the door, and knock:** if any man hear my voice, and open the door, **I will come in to him,** and will sup with him, and he with me.

Salvation is so powerful, but God will not force it on you. His Love is all-powerful, but He won't make you receive it. Jesus knocks at the door; He doesn't kick it in! He could break it down or pulverize it with one look, but He refuses to force His way into your heart. He simply asks to come in and you have to invite Him. That is the limitation He has set and the condition He requires. You have to let Him come in, but if you won't invite Him willingly, He won't force His way in.

So please take Him now! He wants to save you, but He can't do it unless you want Him to. You have to ask Him to come in. Gentle Jesus stands there, meek and mild, in loving patience, perhaps has been for years, waiting at your heart's door.

REV.3:21 to him that overcometh will I grant **to sit with me in my throne**, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.



**** MAT.19:28** *And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, **in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne** of his glory, **ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones**, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

Jesus has sat down with His Father on His Father's throne and we're going to sit down with Jesus on His throne when His Kingdom comes! It means we're going to have thrones of power like Jesus! Anywhere in the World all through history there have been thrones and who was it that sat on them? —Emperors, kings and Caesars. God is the King of everything and He's got a very mighty throne, and Jesus has sat down with Him on His throne, meaning He shares that power! The throne is a symbol of power, and He has sat down on the right hand of the Father on His throne, the right hand usually meaning the powerful hand with most people

REV.3:22 He that hath an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit saith** unto the churches.

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