



The  
**Revelation**  
of **Jesus Christ**

**7. The Lord's message to the churches - Sardis**

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

Blessed is he who **reads** and those who **hear**  
the words of this prophecy,  
and **keep** those things which are written in it;  
**for the time is near.**

(Revelation 1:3)

# Overview of the first two sections

## Chapter 1

- Introduction
- The first vision – Christ in the midst of the lampstands

## Chapters 2 & 3

- **The Lord's messages to the 7 churches** ←

## Chapters 4 & 5

- All heaven worships God upon His throne
- The Lamb takes the sealed scroll and is worshipped

## Chapters 6 & 7 and 8:1

- The scroll's seven seals are opened



***“Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches...”***

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamum

Thyatira

**Sardis**

Philadelphia

Laodicea



***To the messenger of  
the church in Sardis  
write...***





# Sardis in history

Once the wealthy capital of the Lydian empire under Croesus. Cyrus the Great conquered the “impregnable” city in about 547 BC.

Its wealth was from trade, being situated on important trade routes.

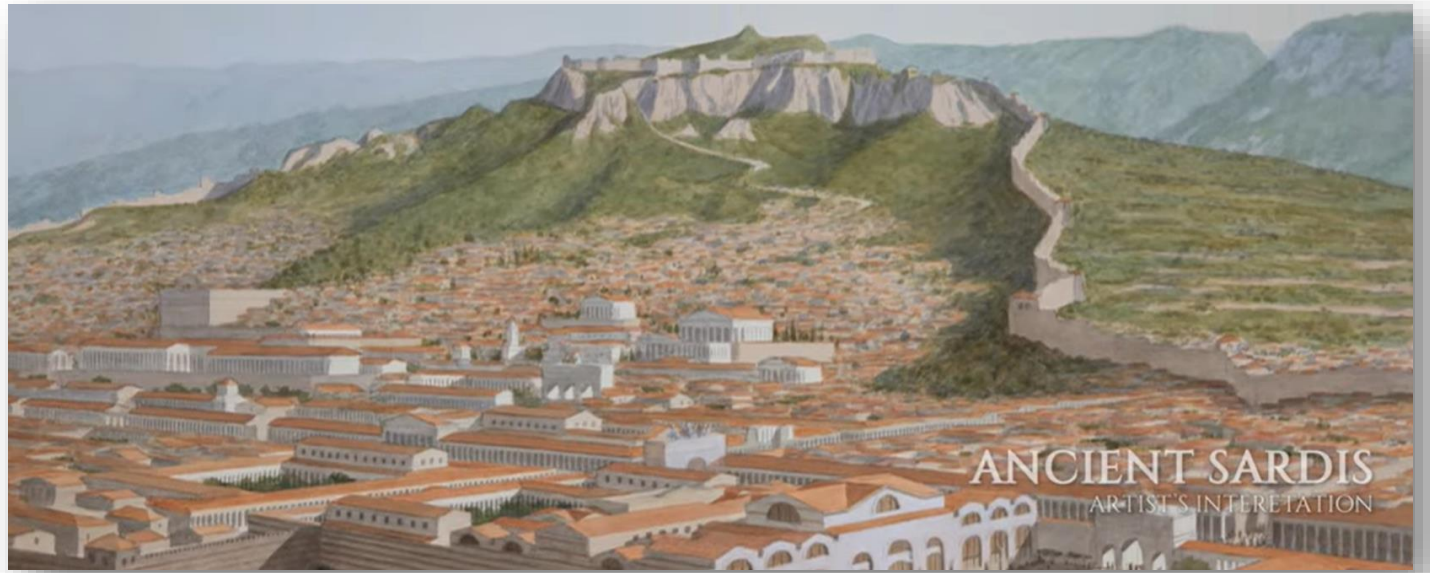




# Sardis in history

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To the messenger of the church in Sardis write:

These things says He who has

- the **seven Spirits of God** ← Revelation 1:4, 4:6

and

- the **seven stars...** ← Revelation 1:16

(Revelation 3:1)



# The Lord's judgement

**I know your works...**

Reputation

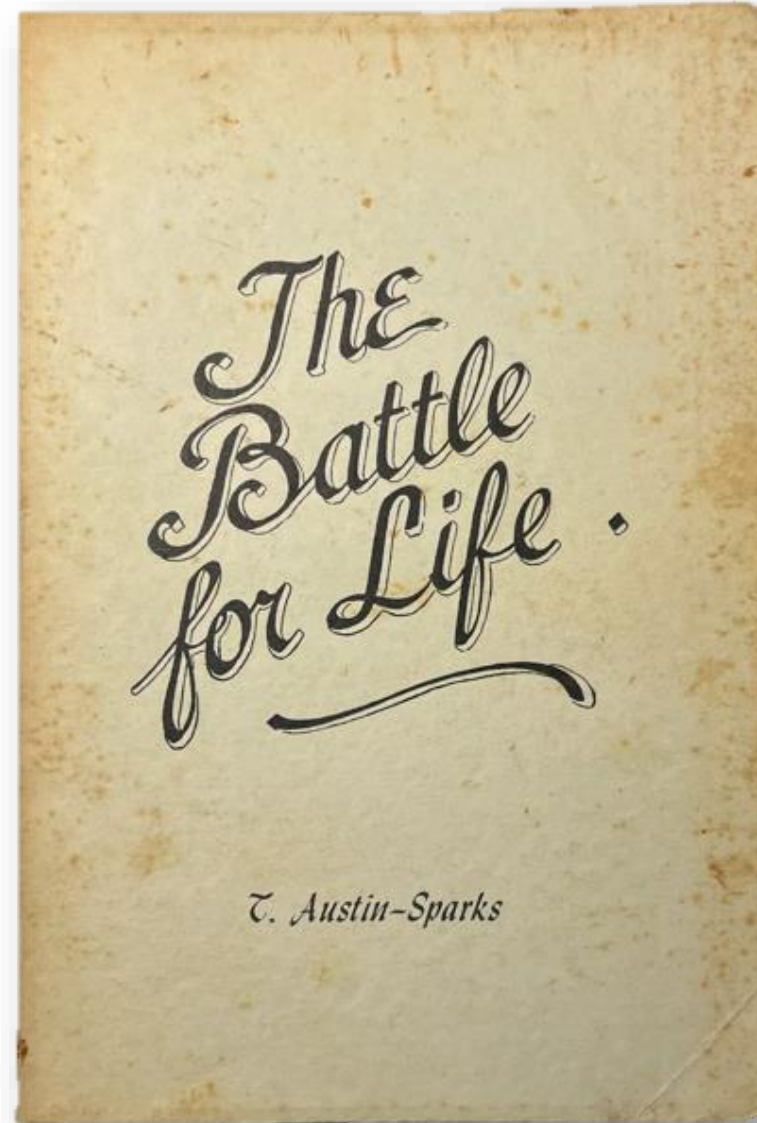
What does  
"alive" mean?

...that you have a name that you are alive,  
**but you are dead.**

(Revelation 3:1)

What does  
"dead" mean?

You have a name that you are alive,  
**but you are dead.**



# Watch!

Be a watcher,  
be always watching

**Be watchful,**  
and strengthen what remains and is about to die  
for I have not found your works complete  
in the sight of My God.

Malachi 1:8, 13

Lacking,  
unfinished or  
unacceptable

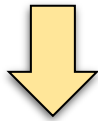
(Revelation 3:2)

# Watch!

## Three pictures that describe the Christian's life



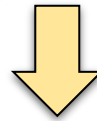
**The Soldier**



**Vigilant**



**The Athlete**



**Careful**



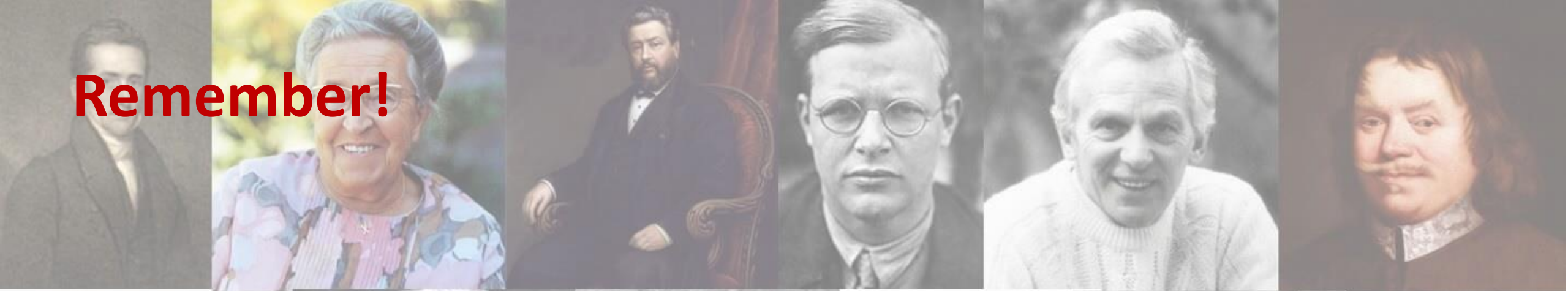
**The Farmer**

**Active**





**Remember!**



**Remember therefore** how you have **received** and **heard...**





**Remember therefore  
how you have received and heard...**

**Son of man,  
can these bones  
live?**

(Ezekiel 37:3)



# Hold fast!

## Remember therefore

how you have received and heard;

**hold fast and repent.**

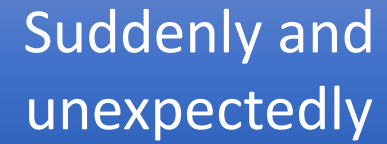
(Revelation 3:3)

Keep what you  
have received  
and heard

Change your  
mind / direction

# Beware!

**If you will not watch,**  
**I will come as a thief,**  
and you will not know  
what hour I will come upon you.  
(Revelation 3:3)



Suddenly and  
unexpectedly



# I will come as a thief...

*If the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have **watched** ...*

*Therefore you also **be ready**, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour **you do not expect**.*

(Matthew 24:43-44)

*That Day ... will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.*

***Watch therefore...***

(See Luke 21:34-36)

***“Behold, I am coming as a thief.***

***Blessed is he who watches...”***

(Revelation 16:15)

The day of the Lord so comes **as a thief in the night.**

(1 Thessalonians 5:2)

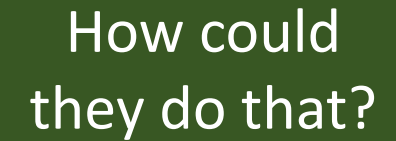
But the day of the Lord will come **as a thief in the night...**

(2 Peter 3:10)

# Just a few...

Yet you have a few names in Sardis who have not **defiled** their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for **they are worthy**.

(Revelation 3:4)



How could they do that?

# A gracious promise...

Conquers

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.

Then the righteous  
will shine forth  
as the sun...  
(Matthew 13:43)

They shall be  
mine...  
(Malachi 3:17)

(Revelation 3:5)

# Pay attention!

*ARE YOU  
LISTENING?*

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

(Revelation 3:6)



The  
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Revelation 3:1-6

## What have we seen in Sardis?

- ✓ The Lord expects **LIFE** in His people

**Therefore:**

- ✓ We must **WATCH** and **not be defiled**

**Which means:**

- ✓ We must **REMEMBER** what we have heard
- ✓ We must **HOLD FAST** to the Word of Life
- ✓ We must keep a **REPENTANT** heart

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what **the Spirit** says to <sup>*all*</sup> **the churches**.