

Sunday Session 2 Bible Study – September 7, 2014
"Laodicea" – (Revelation 3:14)

Read [Revelation 3:14-22](#), Christ's message to the Church at Laodicea.

Read Revelation 3:14 – *"And to the messenger of the Church in Laodicea write: These things says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the chief ruler of the creation of God."*

Exegesis:

KAI TO AGGELO – And to the angel (transliteration literally means "messenger")

EN LAODIKEIA EKKLESIAS – of the Church of Laodicea.

GRAPHO – Write

HO AMEN HO MARTUS HO PISTOS KAI ALETHINOS – The Amen, the Witness (Martyr) Faithful and True.

HE ARCHE TES KTISEOS TOU THEOU – The Chief Ruler of the Creation of God

LAODICEA

- Last of the 7 churches.
- These churches present the conditions existing throughout the Grace dispensation.
- This is a nauseating Church – should not be.
- The purpose of the local Church is to communicate God's Word.
- The ἄγγελος (messenger) has that responsibility.

LAODICEA – GEOGRAPHICALLY

1. Six cities called Laodicea actually existed in the Ancient World – to distinguish this Laodicea, it is called Laodicea on the Lycus, founded 250 BC by Antiochus of Syria.
2. Laodicea was one of the 3 cities of the Lycus valley – a famous valley in the ancient world – now called Turkey. The other two cities are Colosse and Hierapolis.
3. Laodicea is located about 40 miles east of Ephesus.
4. Laodicea was originally named ISOIPALOS and was changed to Laodicea when Antiochus had a fight with his wife, Lao-de-che; in order to smooth things over, he changed the name of this city – so that there would be a city named after her.
5. In 66 AD the city was completely destroyed.
6. Laodicea was rebuilt by Marcus Aurelius, because of its importance in the highway system of the Roman Empire.

7. It is on the main highway from Miletus to Ephesus, which is the most important section of road in that part of the world.
8. The roads were important to hold the Empire together. In about two days of hard riding, a message could be gotten from one side of the empire to the other.
9. The city became prosperous as a banking center – also famous for race tracks and theaters.
10. Laodicea was famous also in the field of medicine – especially in the curing of eye diseases.
11. There was a famous eye salve discovered, called "kollurion" (see Rev. 2:18) – the Greek word means an eye salve tablet the shape of a small roll of bread.
12. There were a lot of earthquakes – so eventually the city was abandoned.
13. At the time of the writing of Revelation in 96AD, it was a very famous and prosperous city.
14. They had wealth without God's prosperity – Beautiful clothing covering the body – but the soul spiritually naked – advanced medical skill in eye medicine – but blind spiritually.

Summary of Laodicea

CITY OF LAODICEA

What kind of city?

- I. A Center of Trade – Chief city in Phrygia. It was situated in the Lycus Valley, about forty-five miles directly southeast of Philadelphia. It was an important city, because it was located at the crossroads of three main highways.
- II. A Center of Banking – Laodicea became a wealthy banking and financial center. In fact, it was the most famous banking center in that part of the world.
- III. A Center of Fashion – The city developed a certain type of wool that was raven-black, and glossy. Laodicea became famous for the sale of this wool, and it made the city very wealthy. The people became very fashion conscious.
- IV. A Center of Medicine – Revelation 3:18 – "kollurion-eyesalve" was developed here.
- V. A Center of Jewish Population – Interestingly enough, Laodicea had a very large Jewish population. Many Jews migrated there, and many developed businesses that made them very wealthy.

The people of the Church at Laodicea are depicted in this passage, though wealthy and fashion-conscious, as actually wretched, poor, blind and naked spiritually.

Satan is in the business of blinding individuals, and we see how true this is today. So too many of us are also blind and naked spiritually.

Look again at our verse Revelation 3:14 – *"And to the messenger of the Church in Laodicea write: These things says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the chief ruler of the creation of God."*

This emphasizes both what God has done in the past, but also what God is doing now in developing the Royal Family in the Age of Grace – the Body of Christ, later to become the Bride of Christ, is currently in development by our Heavenly Father.