

The Church of Laodicea

Summary Introduction to Laodicea

- Last of the 7 churches of Asia Minor.
- 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

- I. The letter of Christ to the Church in Laodicea is the last of these seven letters.
- II. The city of Laodicea has been called the "City of Compromise."
- III. The city was founded by Antiochus II (261-246 BC).
- IV. Laodicea had a "Seleucid" foundation. Seleucus was one of the generals of Alexander who took Syria.
- V. Laodicea was situated about 40 miles east and inland from Ephesus on the Lycus River which flows into the Meander River.
- VI. It is located at what is known as the "Gate of Phrygia".
- VII. Out of the oriental east the great camel caravans came down through the Gate of Phrygia and through Laodicea.
- VIII. The road came out of the east, went to Ephesus, to Miletus and also up to what is called *Ismur* today, but was Smyrna in that day.

The Church of Laodicea (Continued)

- IX. Laodicea was in a spectacular place, a great valley. Today its ruins are largely covered up with the growth of what looks like wild oats.
- X. Laodicea means “justice of the people” and was named for Antiochus’ wife *Laodice*, just to make “peace” with her after an argument. There were several cities that bore this name, but this was the most famous of them.
- XI. Between Laodicea and going on up through the Phrygian mountains, there was in this valley a great Anatolian temple of the Phrygian god *Men-Karou*. This was the primitive god of that area, and it’s temple was the very center of all society, administration, trade and religion; there was a great market there where strangers came from everywhere to trade.
- XII. Laodicea a place of great wealth and commerce, and a place of Greek culture, science and literature.
- XIII. Laodicea was also a center of industry, with extensive banking operations. It was also known for manufacture of eye salve and clothing and a special glossy black wool fabric.
- XIV. The city was finally abandoned because of earthquakes. There were multiple evacuations followed by returns to the city because of these, and in the midst of this, the Lord had emphasized that there would come a time we would be departing from this earth, never to come back again.