

Sunday Session 1 – June 1, 2014
The Church Goes to Heaven – Revelation 2:26

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA MINOR (Revelation 2 and 3):

Revelation 2:

- Ephesus – Verses 1-7
- Smyrna – Verses 8-11
- Pergamum – Verses 12-17
- Thyatira – Verses 18-29

Revelation 3:

- Sardis – Verses 1-6
- Philadelphia – Verses 7-13
- Laodicea – Verses 14-22

Read Revelation 2:18-29.

Literal Translation of Revelation 2:26: *"And the one overcoming, and the one keeping my works until the end, I will give authority over the nations."*

NIKO is the present active participle, nominative masculine singular of NIKAO, the *conquering one, the overcoming one*.

ACHRI TELOS means *until the end*, meaning to our last breath.

"I will give authority over the nations" is a reference to the responsibility we will share in the Millennium to rule with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Note the timeline illustration from the Church Bulletin, emphasizing the Church Age.

RAPTURE – (END-TIME CHRONOLOGY)

1. There are no prophetic events that have to precede the rapture; it can happen at any moment (I Thessalonians 5:2)
2. The rapture is the next major event, which happens prior to a terrible 7-year period of time.
3. Jesus calls the second half of these 7 years the "Great Tribulation" (Matthew 24:21) directly preceding His second coming.
4. The rapture occurs before the 7-year tribulation because the Antichrist cannot appear until that which "restrains" him is "taken out of the way" (II Thessalonians 2:7).
5. The restrainer in the world today is the power of the Holy Spirit who indwells the Church.
6. When the Church is removed, the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way, and the Antichrist is revealed.

THE CHURCH GOES TO HEAVEN – Session I

- I. The Lord is preparing a place for his children, and will descend from the Father's house (John 14:1-3; I Thess. 4:16).
- II. At the Rapture Jesus Christ will take us to Himself (John 14:3).
- III. The bodies of the believers who have passed away will be resurrected at the time of the departure of living believers (I Thess. 4:14, 15).
- IV. The Lord descends with a loud command, suddenly, to receive His own (I Cor. 15:52; I Thess. 4:16).
- V. Believers will hear the voice of the archangel (I Thess. 4:16).
- VI. The last trumpet of God for the Church will be heard. This *is not* the 7th trumpet of judgment upon the world as described in Rev. 11:15.
- VII. The corruptible ashes of the dead bodies of those who died in the Lord will be made incorruptible and joined together with their spirits (I Thess. 4:16, 17).
- VIII. The remaining believers will be changed, made incorruptible (I Cor. 15:51, 53).
- IX. All believers will be caught up (*raptured*) together (I Thess. 4:17).
- X. The living and dead believers will be caught up in the clouds to have a great reunion (I Thess. 4:17).
- XI. This meeting will be in the air (I Thess. 4:17).
- XII. The Father will then take the believers to the Father's house ("that where I am, there shall you be also" –John 14:1).
- XIII. Always to be with the Lord, according to I Thess. 4:17.
- XIV. The Lord will then evaluate believers revealed in Rom. 14:10, 2 Cor. 5:10 and described in detail in I Cor. 3:11-15.
- XV. Christ will meet His bride, the church and the marriage supper will take place known as the marriage of the Lamb. When the Church is raptured the world will suffer God's wrath called "the tribulation" (Matt. 24:21).

Our Lord Jesus Christ was given a *body*, technically called the *bride of Christ*, which is the Church; at the time of the "Rapture" He comes to claim her, and the Church Goes to Heaven.