

SON OF MAN - PERGAMEAN CHURCH AGE

REVELATION 1:10

» 10 † I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

» 11 † Saying, **I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.**

» 12 † And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

» 13 † **And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.**

REVELATION 1:16

» 16 † And **he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword:**

REVELATION 2:12

» 12 † ¶ And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

» 13 † I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

» 14 † But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

» 15 † So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

» 16 † Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

» 17 † He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

- ANNOUNCEMENT IN HEAVEN – OUT OF THE MIND OF GOD COMES THE LOGOS. (A SEALED UP MESSAGE IS OPENED)

- A MYSTERY IS UNFOLDED TO THE STAR OF THE AGE (MESSENGER PICKS UP THE LOGOS OF GOD)

MATCHING PIECES

- A TRUMPET SOUNDS (MESSAGE IS PROCLAIMED) A CHURCH AGE BEGINS (A DISTINCT AND DECLARED MESSAGE)

- STARTS A SPIRITUAL WAR (TRUE WORD OF GOD VS FALSE DOCTRINE)

- THE MESSENGER IS "LAID AWAY" OR TAKEN OFF THE EARTH.

- PEOPLE ACCEPT OR REJECT - BRINGING A TEMPORARY JUDGEMENT OR PLAGUE (SPIRITUAL DEATH TO THE ONES WHO REJECT "THEIR MESSENGER")

NEXT AGE

- ANNOUNCEMENT IN HEAVEN - OUT OF THE MIND OF GOD COMES THE LOGOS. (A SEALED UP MESSAGE IS OPENED)
- A MYSTERY IS UNFOLDED TO THE STAR OF THE AGE (MESSENGER PICKS UP THE LOGOS OF GOD)

AGE OF PENTECOST – A.D. 30

MESSENGER – HOLY GHOST

THE ALPHA AGE

THE EPHESIAN CHURCH AGE – A.D. 53

Paul founded the church at Ephesus about the middle of the first century. This enables us to set the date of the beginning of the Ephesian Church Age; about 53 A.D.

PAUL DIED AROUND 64-67 AD

THE EPHESIAN AGE ENDED AROUND 170 AD

JOHN 10:1

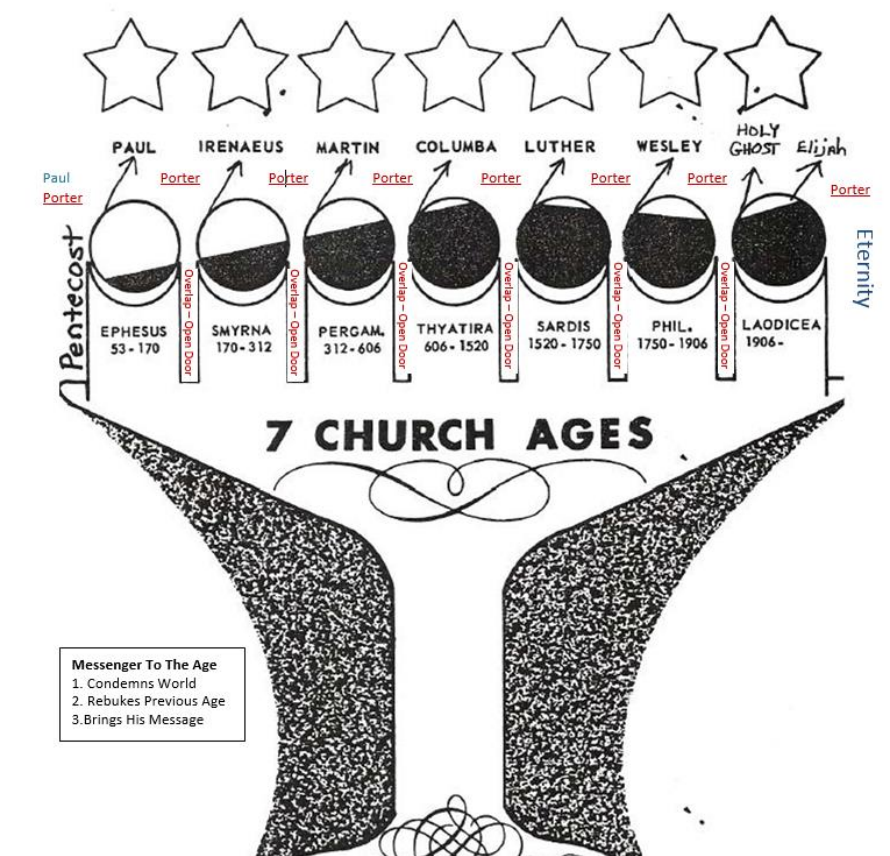
» 1 † ¶ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

» 2 † **But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.**

» 3 † To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

» 4 † And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

» 5 † And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.



THE LAPOVER

60-1204E THE.PATMOS.VISION_ JEFFERSONVILLE.IN ROJC 69-130 SUNDAY_

« 70 † And every evil... Listen, as we go into the church ages. Every evil that was in that first church, lapped over into the next one. Just kept going

on down until finally it ends up in complete apostasy in the last day. Every evil just keeps lapping over in each church, every little ism that started out. Like in Genesis, the vine, started growing, it weaved its way through the church and comes out in the last days. No wonder the Bible said, "Blessed are they that escape in that day." Yes, sir, that escape all these things.

LAPOVER = GRACE

SMYRNAEAN CHURCH AGE

REVELATION 2:8

» 8 † ¶ And unto the angel of the church **in** Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

» 9 † I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

» 10 † Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

» 11 † He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

SMYRNA – BITTER

COMES FROM THE WORD MYRRH – USED IN ENBALMING THE DEAD.

The word Smyrna means, "bitter," being derived from the word, myrrh. Myrrh was used in embalming the dead. **Thus we have a twofold significance found in the name of this age. It was a bitter age filled with death. The two vines within the framework of the church were drifting further apart with an increased bitterness toward the true vine on the part of the false. Death was not only the seed of the false vine but even in the true vine there was a creeping paralysis and impotence because they had already drifted from the unadulterated truth of the first few years after Pentecost; and no true believer is any stronger and spiritually healthy and alive than his knowledge of and adherence to the pure Word of God,** as seen by multitudes of examples in the Old Testament. Organization was growing apace, confirming and augmenting the death of the membership, for Holy Ghost leadership was deposed and the Word was replaced by creeds, dogmas and man-made ritual.

When Israel entered into unlawful alliances with the world, and formed fellowships by marriage, the day finally came when the world took over and Babylon carried away the people of God into captivity. **Now when they went into captivity they went in having a priesthood, a temple and the Word. But when they came back they had rabbis, a theological order of Pharisees, a synagogue, and the Talmud.** And when Jesus came they were so corrupt that He called them of their father, the devil, and this in spite of the fact they were of Abraham according to the flesh. In this age we see the same thing happening. However, as 'all Israel' is not Israel, but a little group were the true Spiritual Israelites, so there would always be a little group of true Christians, the bride of Christ, until He came for His own.

STARTED AROUND 170 AD TO AD 312

**THE MESSENGER OF SMYRNA - IRENAEUS BORN - 130
AD DIED 202 AD**

Using our God given rule of choosing the messenger for each age, we unhesitatingly declare that Irenaeus was exalted by the Lord to that position. He was the disciple of that great saint and warrior of faith, Polycarp. And it is no doubt as he sat at the feet of that great man he learned the Christian graces that flowed from his consecrated life, for Polycarp was one of the truly illustrious saints of all ages when viewed in the light of a blameless life.

Yet for all this great testimony, this student of John the Revelator was not militant against the Nicolaitane system, for he himself leaned toward organization, not realizing that the desire for fellowship and what appeared like a good plan to foster the work of God was really a trick of the enemy.

With Irenaeus this was not so. He was militant against any form of organization. Also, his life history, wherein he served the Lord, was one of much manifestation in the Holy Spirit; and the Word was taught with unusual clarity and conformity to its original precepts. His churches in France were known to have the gifts of the Spirit among them, for the saints spoke in tongues, prophesied, raised the dead, and healed the sick by the prayer of faith. He saw the danger of any kind of organized brotherhood among the elders, pastors, etc. He stood solidly for a unified, Spirit-filled, gift-manifesting local church. And God honored him for the power of God manifested among the saints.

He was also clear on his understanding of the Godhead. And since he was the disciple of Polycarp, who in turn was the disciple of Saint John, we can know for sure he had as perfect teaching as is possible on this subject.

Thus with his strict adherence to the Word, his wonderful understanding of Scripture, and the attendance of the power of God upon that ministry, he is the right choice for the age. It is altogether unfortunate that the other ages did not have in their messengers such a balance of fruit, power, and leadership in the Holy Spirit and the Word.

"THE GLORY OF GOD IS MAN FULLY ALIVE"

"JESUS, THE INCARNATE WORD, IS A MEETING PLACE BETWEEN GOD AND HUMANITY"

WROTE THE BOOK "AGAINST HERESIES"

DISCIPLE OF POLYCARP WHO WAS A DISCIPLE OF JOHN THE REVELATOR

SET THE 4 GOSPELS AS THE CANON OF SCRIPTURE.

The central point of Irenaeus's [theology](#) is the unity and the goodness of [God](#), in opposition to the Gnostics' theory of God; a number of divine emanations ([Aeons](#)) along with a distinction between the [Monad](#) and the [Demiurge](#). Irenaeus uses the [Logos](#) theology he inherited from [Justin](#)

Martyr. Irenaeus was a student of **Polycarp**, who was said to have been tutored by **John the Apostle**.^[45] (John had used Logos terminology in the **Gospel of John** and the letter of **1 John**). Irenaeus often spoke of the Son and the Spirit as the "hands of God," though he also spoke of the Son as the "Logos."^[51]

» 8 † ¶ And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

DEAD THEN ALIVE?

ADAM (US) WAS ALIVE THEN DIED

WHOEVER THIS IS, TOOK DEATH AND TURNED IT INTO LIFE (JESUS)

» 9 † I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

« 116-2 † **SMYRNAEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.4**

The mere association of kindhearted people with the true believer might well bring death in return for their kindness.

Now the Lord God Almighty says, "I KNOW." There He is walking in the midst of His people. **There He is, the Chief Shepherd of the flock. But does He hold back the persecution? Does He stem the tribulation? No, He does not.** He simply says, "I KNOW your tribulation--I am not at all unmindful of your suffering." **What a stumbling block this is to so many people.** Like Israel they wonder if God really loves them. How can God be just and loving if He stands by and watches His people suffer?

You see, they could not figure out God's love. They thought that love meant no suffering. They thought that love meant a baby with parental care. But God said that His love was "elective" love. The proof of His love is ELECTION--that no matter what happened, His love was proven truly by the fact they were chosen unto salvation (because God hath chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth). **He may commit you to death as He did Paul. He may commit you to suffering as He did Job. That is His prerogative. He is sovereign. But it is all with a purpose. If He did not have a purpose, then He would be the author of frustration and not of peace. His**

purpose is that after we have suffered awhile we would be made perfect, be established, strengthened and settled.

« 117-1 † SMYRNAEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.4

Why does He stand by? The reason is in Romans 8:17-18,

"And if children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together.

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Unless we suffer with Him we cannot reign with Him. You have to suffer to reign. The reason for this is that character simply is never made without suffering. Character is a VICTORY, not a gift. A man without character can't reign because power apart from character is Satanic. But power with character is fit to rule. And since He wants us to share even His throne on the same basis that He overcame and is set down in His Father's throne, then we have to overcome to sit with Him. And the little temporary suffering we go through now is not worthy to be compared to the tremendous glory that will be revealed in us when He comes. Oh, what treasures are laid up for those who are willing to enter into His kingdom through much tribulation.

"Think it not strange concerning the fiery trials that are to try you."

That is what Peter said. Is it strange that God wants us to develop a Christ-like character that comes through suffering? No sir. And we all have trials. We are all tried and chastened as sons. Not one but goes through that. The church that is not suffering, and is not being tried, hasn't got it--it isn't of God.

Heb. 12:6,

"For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

Now this special condition in Smyrna must be applied to every age. There is no age free from it. There is no true believer free from it. This is of God. This is the will of God. It is needful. We need the Lord to teach us the truth that we are to suffer and be Christ-like in doing it. "Love suffereth long and is kind."

PERGAMOS MEANS "THOROUGHLY MARRIED"

REVELATION 2:12

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» 13 † I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

» 14 † But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

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» 16 † Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

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- AGE LASTED FROM 312 TO 606 (COUNCIL IN NICEA 325)

- MESSENGER WAS SAINT MARTIN 315-399

COAT

FIRE

TREE

DESTROYED IDOLS

» 13 † I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, **even where Satan's seat is**: and **thou holdest fast my name**, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, **where Satan dwelleth**.

» 14 † But I have a few things against thee, **because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.**

» 15 † **So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.**

2 DOCTRINES GOD HATES

† Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and **will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.**

191-3 † PERGAMEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.5

Thus by the time of this third church age **we have two churches bearing the same name but with a bitter difference between them. One has departed from the truth, married idols and has no life in her.** She has hybridized herself and the signs of death, (not life), follow in her wake. **She is powerful with many members. She is favored by the world. The other is a little persecuted group. But she follows the Word, and the signs follow her. The sick are healed and the dead are raised. She is alive with the Life and Word of God. She loves not her life, but holds to His Name and His faith even unto death.**

And so the terrible persecution of official Rome fell upon the true believers **until Constantine** arose and granted freedom of religious worship. There seems to be two reasons why this freedom was granted. In the first place various good emperors had not allowed persecution, but as they passed on, they were

followed by those who killed Christians. It was so senseless that it finally came to public heed that the Christians ought to be left alone. The second and best noted reason is that Constantine had a very difficult battle ahead of him in taking over the control of the empire. One night in a dream he saw a white cross appear before him. He felt that this was an omen unto him that if the Christians prayed for a victory for him, he would win the battle. He promised freedom for them in the event that he was victorious. He was victorious and the freedom of worship was granted in the edict of Nantes 312 A.D.

But this freedom from persecution and death was not as magnanimous as it first appeared. Constantine was now the patron. As a patron his interest was somewhat more than that of an observer, for he decided that the church needed his help in her affairs. He had seen them disagreeing over various matters, one of which involved Arius, Bishop of Alexander, who taught his adherents that Jesus was not truly God but a lesser being, having been created by God. The Western Church held the opposite view, believing that Jesus was the very essence of God and as they said 'co-equal with the Father.' With such matters, along with the intrusion of pagan ceremony into worship, the emperor called for the Nicene Council in 325 with the thought that he would bring all groups together where they could iron out their differences, and come to a common understanding, and all be one. Isn't it peculiar that though this started with Constantine it didn't die but is very much alive today as the "World Council of Churches"? And where he failed to truly achieve it, it will be achieved in this day through the ecumenical move.