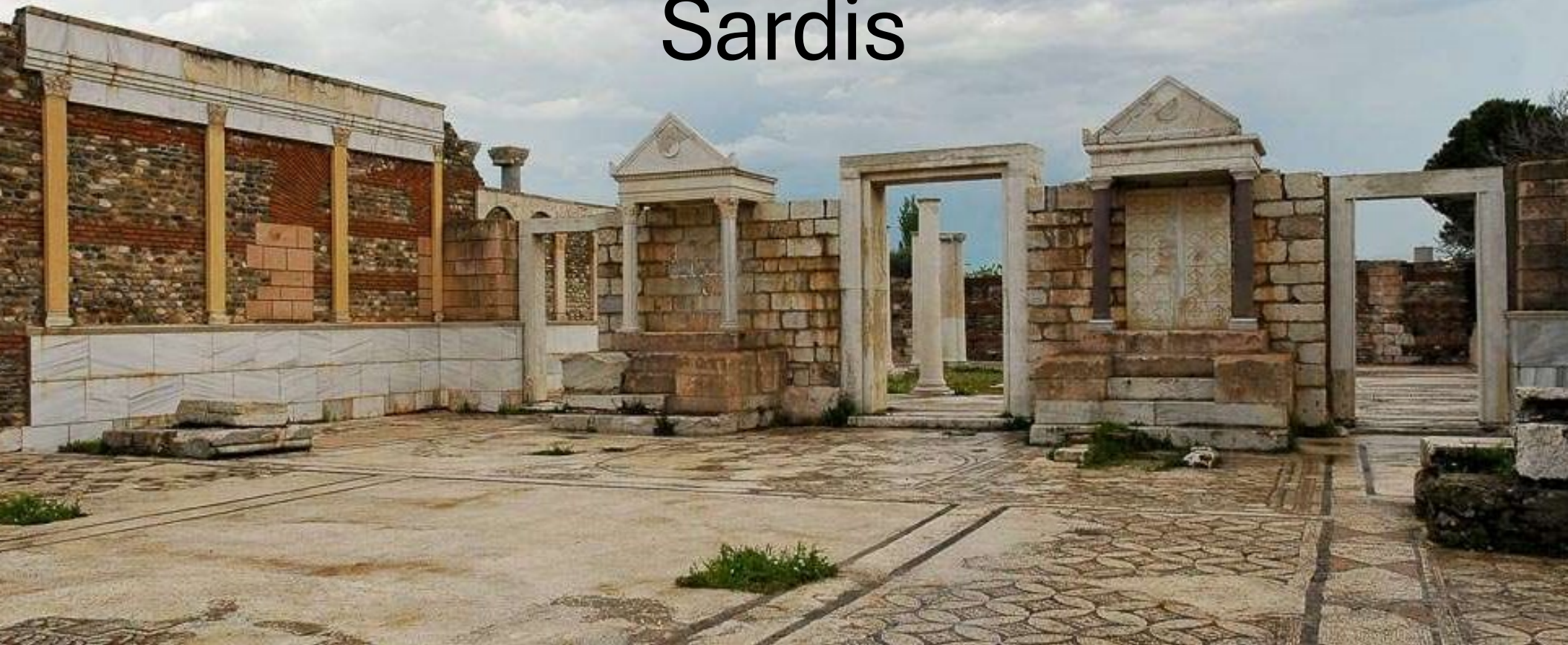


Revelation 3:1-6 Church of Sardis



Revelation 2 and 3 Report card

Name	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodiceans
Title	X	x	X	X			
Commendation	X	x	X	X			
Concerns	X		X	X			
Exhortation	X	x	X	X			
Promise	X	x	x	X			

Revelation 3:1-6 Sardis

- An address to a particular congregation. (Name of the church)
- An introduction of Jesus.
- A statement regarding the condition of the church.
- A verdict from Jesus regarding the condition of the church.
- A command from Jesus to the church.
- A general exhortation to all Christians.
- A promise of reward.

Revelation 3:1 The Church of Sardis

- This letter should really disturb us.
- Local church
 - One of the oldest cities known to man.
 - Sardis was the capital of the Lydian empire and one of the greatest cities of the ancient world.
 - well known for its softness and luxury.
 - It had a well-deserved reputation for apathy and immorality.
 - A hub of all the roads.



Revelation 3:1 The Church of Sardis

- Some believe the first coin was made there.
- 9th and 8th centuries:
 - Midas was the name of a king in Phrygia with whom many myths became associated, as well as two later members of the Phrygian royal house. His father was Gordias, and his mother was Cybele.
 - Was granted by the Greeks with the power that whatever he touched would turn to gold.

Revelation 3:1 The Church of Sardis

- Had high walls with only 1 entrance.
- 950' above the valley of Hermus
- Below was the river Pactoluc which served as a moat.
- **HOWEVER** the cliff was made of clay!
 - Erosion
 - Cracks
- 549 BC the Persians laid siege to the city. Croesus left the cliffs unguarded on three sides.
- After 14 days a way was found to scale the cracks at night and took the city (like a thief in the night)

Revelation 3:1 The Church of Sardis

- After 14 days a way was found to scale the cracks at night and took the city (like a thief in the night)
 - This basically means they thought they were secure but they were not.
- Ramsay, letters to Seven Churches says:
 - Sardis became synonymous with
 - Pretensions unjustified
 - Promise without performance
 - Appearance without reality
 - False confidence that brought ruin
 - Betrayed themselves by lack of watchfulness and diligence.
- This softness, this lack of discipline and dedication, was the doom of **Sardis**

Revelation 3:1 Sardis

- The Sardis stone was once considered a very precious stone that later became common (but we really don't know what this stone is)
- Tie that with
 - Promise without performance
 - Appearance without reality
 - False confidence that brought ruin
 - Betrayed themselves by lack of watchfulness and diligence.



Revelation 3:1 Jesus' Name

- The main point is
 - It has a name BUT no significance.
 - Think, that doesn't live up to the name
- Has the seven Spirits of God (ch 1)
 - Isa 11:1-2 The Holy Spirit
- The seven stars.
- This shows completeness over all things spiritual.

Revelation 3:1 The report

- I know your works
 - You have a name that you are alive
 - Sardis had a name – that is, a *reputation* – of life and vitality.
 - If you looked at the church of Sardis, you would see signs of life and vitality.
 - In the church of Sardis, like the city of Sardis, everything seemed alive and good
 - But you are dead (not ill, not sick, weak in need of a doctor)
 - Despite their reputation of life, Jesus saw them for what they really were..

Revelation 3:1 The report

- A good reputation is no guarantee of true spiritual character.
- A good appearance is no guarantee of true spiritual character.
- Consider this:
- This indicates no struggle, no fight, no persecution. It wasn't that the church at Sardis was *losing* the battle. A **dead** body has *lost* the battle, and the fight seems over.
- Name in the Greek means Onoma= a label or covered by a name

Revelation 3:2 The Praise



Revelation 3:2 The command

- Be watchful
 - Be vigilant (Matt 25 10 Virgins)
 - Watchfulness (Rom 13:11, 1 Cor 16:13)
 - The wiles of the devil (1 Peter 5:8)
 - Temptation (Matt 26:41)
 - His coming
 - False teachers
 - Compromise
 - Being blinded and lulled asleep by Satan, through wordily pleasures, interests, and pursuits.
 - Jesus told them they need to examine and protect
- Pay attention, look for, find
 - Why, to:

Revelation 3:2 The command

- Strengthen the things
 - strengthening what they have.
 - They still had a little it was ready to die.
 - the spiritual condition of the church of Sardis was bad but it wasn't hopeless
 - Jesus was not giving up on them. In its history, the city of Sardis was easily conquered twice before.
 - It wasn't that the attacking armies overwhelmed Sardis, but because overconfidence made them stop being **watchful**.
 - The spiritual state of the church in Sardis was a reflection of the city's historical character.

Revelation 3:2 The command

- Not found your works
 - The *presence* of **works** isn't enough because God requires a particular intent and purpose in all of our **works**. (Appearance without reality)
 - They should be done with a heart as unto the Lord. (there was no substance to the works as an act of worship)
 - Perfect doesn't mean being flawless. Rather, it means being spiritually mature, fully devoted to God, and living in accordance with His will.
- **Psalms 40:6-8**
- Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."

Revelation 3:3 The command

- The fear of the Lord comes from your devotional time!
 - You grow in Him in your private time with the Lord.
 - You have left your first love.
 - Look at the downward progression of the church.
 - Remember the 3rd commandment (taking the name of the Lord, being His ambassador.)
- Remember
 - How you received and heard
- Hold Fast
- Repent

Revelation 3:3

- I will come upon you like a thief
- Matt 7:21
 - Did works but did not know the Lord
 - Those who think they are saved but they are not
 - How do you know, the evidence of the faith.
 - Being a doer
 - Action (faith without works is dead)
 - Abraham was faith by faith. (He acted upon God's call)

Revelation 3:4 Exhortation to all

- There are a few “names”
- Walk with me in white
- For they are worthy.

Revelation 3:5 Promise

- Overcomer
- White garment
 - Defiled garments is a reference to Pagan worship.
 - Walk with me (devotion with God)
 - Tie that life comes from devotion with God, death is absence from God.
- He shall be clothed
 - Note the difference, The person does not keep the garment clean, but God gives them a white one.

Revelation 3:5 Promise

- Blot out his “name”
- The overcomers were assured of their heavenly citizenship.
- In the ancient world, death or a criminal conviction could **blot out** the name of an ancient citizen from the city’s book of the living, which was the city register.
- Does this mean that someone can lose their salvation? That someone is saved one day – their name is in **the Book of Life** – and another day, they have fallen away and their name has been blotted out **from the Book of Life**?

Revelation 3:5 Promise

- There is a **Book of Life**, and there are five different references to people being blotted out of the book. This means that the *idea of being blotted out of the Book of Life should be taken seriously*. Perhaps it is only a symbol, and that person's name was never there to begin with. Even if that is the case, *the Lord still wants us to take it seriously*, because there are some who *by every human appearance* are saved, yet will not be in heaven.
- (Exodus 32:32)
- (Exodus 32:33)
- (Psalm 69:28)
- (Revelation 3:5)
- (Revelation 22:19)

Revelation 3:5-6 Promise

- The focus is *assurance*, so we should not think that names are being constantly erased and then rewritten
- He who has an ear.

Revelation 3:1-6 Levels of application

Personal

- Again, we ask where is our devotion?
- Are we Christian in name only?
- Are we watchful and Diligent?

• Churches

- Same as above

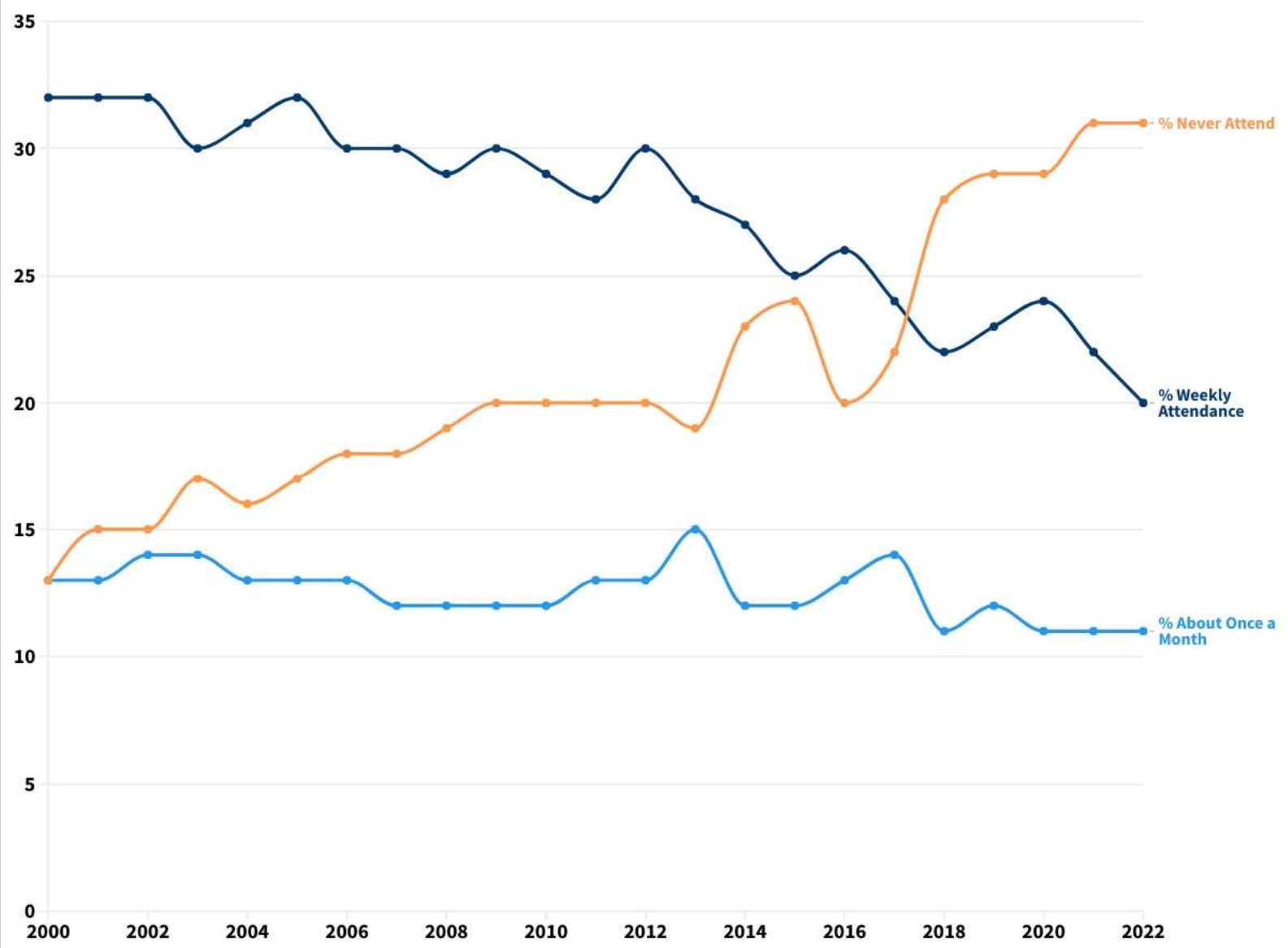
• Prophetic

- Where are we?
- Divorce rate?

Revelation 3:1-6 Levels of application

Prophetic

- Where are we?
- Divorce rate?
- 3500 new churches are planted every week
 - 150 close each week
 - While the average U.S. congregations gathers in a building that seats around 200, only 65 attend the median church each week.
- Key Statistics:
- **20%** of Americans attend church every week (**Gallup**)
- **41%** of Americans are in monthly church attendance or more (**Gallup**)
- **57%** of Americans are seldom or never in religious service attendance (**Gallup**)
- Regular church attendance has steadily declined since the turn of the century (**Gallup** and **Pew Research Center**)



Pastors leaving the ministry.

- The percentage of pastors who have contemplated abandoning their church roles rose from 38% in the fall of 2021 to 42% as of March 2022.
- Why
- 3 most: Stress, loneliness and political division
- False accusation.
- Lack of support in the ministry.
- Lack of financial support.
- Unrealistic exaptiations.
- Constant attacks.

History: The Reformation

- The **Reformation**, also known as the **Protestant Reformation** and the **European Reformation**, was a major theological movement in Western Christianity in 16th-century Europe that posed a religious and political challenge to the papacy and the authority of the Catholic Church.
- A lot of this, if you remember come from the invention of the press and the Gutenberg Bible
- Which helped Luther, because the people could read for themselves and could show the authority comes from the Bible and not the church. (This battle still happens today!)

The Denominational Church

- They tend to be soft with their hermeneutical traditions.
 - Study of interpretations.
 - Hard= this is what the word of God says/ means
 - Soft= this is what we think it might mean, but you can interpret however you want. (easy on the ears, don't want to offend anyone.)
 - Denial millennial reign (revelation)
 - Denial of Israel
 - Absence of a devotional life.

The Denominational Church

- False labeling of being “Christian”
 - Knowledge of God comes from reading the word. Fear comes from your devotional life.
 - A softness towards sin
 - De-emphasis of the gospel of Christ
 - Acceptance of homosexual and even the ordination.
- The denominational church started to decline in the 60’s and is now declining at a much ore rapid pace.
 - Non-denominational churches are seeing an increase.

Revelation 2 and 3 Report card

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Revelation 2 and 3 Timeline

	Apostolic church Try to distract	The Persecuted Church Try to crush	The Compromised Church Try to mix	The perverted church (mid-evil) Baal worship in the church.	The denominational church The dead church	
Ephesus	→→→→→→→→→→					
Smyrna		→→→→→→→→→→				
Pergamos			→→→→→→→→→→			
Thyatira				→→→→→→→→→→		
Sardis					→→→→→→→→→→	
Philadelphia						
Laodiceans						