

The Parables and The Churches

Matthew 13 and Revelation 2&3

THE CHURCHES IN REVELATION

- Each letter is like a Report Card.
 - Good,
 - The Bad,
 - Exhortation
- Supports a theme given by the Title of Jesus
- 1, 2, 3 churches the promise to the over-comer is at the end.
- 4,5, 6, 7 – The promise to the overcomer is in the body of the letter.
 - Explicit promise to the 2nd coming of Christ (endure to the end)

They have at least 4 Meanings:

- Local / Immediate / Practical Meaning
- All 7 letters are intended for all churches.
 - There are some of each in every congregation.
- He that has an ear let him hear.
 - If you have an ear – They are for you..
 - The good new / bad news applies to each of us individually
 - Has anyone ever been too busy for the King that we are too busy for the King?
 - Look at the Martyrs of today..
 - We all run the risk of Compromise
 - There is idolatry in almost all churches.. We call them sacred cows. (Music – Pastors)
 - The Love of His appearing.
 - The Lukewarm church at large today.
- Prophetic

13 On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. 2 And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

- *Offer the Kingdom to Israel and they have rejected.. Now Jesus goes out of the house and sat by the sea.. The sea is representative of the Gentiles.*

The Purpose of Parables (Mark 4:10-12; Luke 8:9, 10)

10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

11 He answered and said to them, **"Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given."** 12 For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 13 Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; 15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'

16 But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; 17 for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

- Parables are used sometimes to explain using symbolism or to teach or make a point clear.
 - This is true if you add HOLY SPIRIT.. He illuminates scripture... He leads to all truth.
 - Upper Room – Jesus said that when HS comes He will teach you ALL things.
- Jesus used them to hide the truth after the representatives of the Jewish people attributed his miracles to Satan twice.. (Testimony of 2 witnesses confirms a thing) Matt 9:34 and Matt. 12:24
- The Parables are Public, the interpretation is PRIVATE.

Prophecy and the Parables

34 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, 35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: *"I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world."*

- Chp12 the unpardonable sin.. Jesus does a miracle and they attribute it to Satan. From this point on, Jesus speaks publicly only in parables.
 - 22 Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the [fn5] blind and mute man both spoke and saw. 23 And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" 24 Now when the Pharisees heard *it* they said, "This *fellow* does not cast out demons except by [fn6] Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons." Matt. 12:22-24
 - And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils. Mar. 3:22
 - Then Jesus goes on to describe about a House divided against itself cannot stand.
 - And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This [man] blasphemeth. Matt. 9:3
 - But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils. Matt. 9:34
- What is the secret?
 - What is it that was NOT in the Old Testament that is in the New Testament
 - Eph 3: -- by revelation He made known unto me the mystery... vs.6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs of the same body and of the gospel... Paul carries the privilege of the message of the Church.
 - The Church is privilege... Rapture of the Church.
 - Jesus said no man born of woman is greater than John / Next says he that is least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than John..
 - Luke 16:16 – The Law and Prophets closed with John.
 - After the OT, something was Born in Acts 2 – Church.

So these parables may be not as all encompassing and should contain truths about THE CHURCH.

The following parables have consistency..

- 1) The Sower is the Lord
- 2) The Seed is the Word of God
- 3) The Birds is the ministers of Satan.

The Churches that thought they were in good shape were in bad and those that thought they were in bad shape were doing good..

ALL had MISCONCEPTION... Those that thought they were doing good were doing bad.. and visa versa.

Parable 1 / Church 1

3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a [THE SOWER] sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.

5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. 8 But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

LET'S SKIP TO VS 18.

The Parable of the Sower Explained

(Mark 4:13-20; Luke 8:11-15)

18 "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

EPHESUS: The Loveless Church

"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,

"These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil.

And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

4 Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.

5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent. 6

But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Historically the shortest lasting of all the cities.. Nothing but ruins now. Was the capital of Christianity.

Probably thought they were doing Good but God had something against them that, if not changed, would be cause to take them out. Acts 19 indicated that there was a riot that happened when the trade of silver models of Diana fell off.

- Jesus called it the parable of the SOWERS.
- Subject is FRUIT BEARING – NOT SALVATION
 - SOIL 1: By the Wayside and the Birds came. (Jer. 5:27)
 - Sower is the Lord.. The Seed is the Word of God.. Soil is People or our Heart.
 - Birds are ministers of Satan
 - SOIL 2: Stony Ground – No depth of root
 - Good Christian walk for a couple of hours.
 - When the challenges comes, we fail and get discouraged.
 - We then become UNFRUITFUL because we are not well grounded.
 - SOIL 3: Thorny Ground – Worldly Cares..
 - Cares of the world and worries choke out the Word
 - We become UNFRUITFUL.
 - SOIL 4: Good Ground
 - He hears is AND UNDERSTANDS IT..
 - Bears good fruit.. What kind of ground are you? Easy to tell – Look at your fruit..
 - 100 / 60 / 40.. (note: the yield is decending)

POINT:

- Don't fall in the trap of seeing your heart as one or the other.. It is beneficial to see our hearts as having elements of all soils in each of our hearts. We all have times where we show characteristics of each soil..

COMPARISON

- For many reasons, Christians may become UNFRIUTFUL. No depth of teaching, worldly cares, etc.. It is when we get back to loving God and doing those things that He has called us to do that we become fruitful. Just as the church in Ephesus, they were called to return to their first love. Although what they were doing good things, they we not doing them out of love for the King.

Parable 2 / Church 2


<p>The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares 24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 <u>but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.</u></p> <p>26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.</p> <p>27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'</p> <p>28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'</p> <p>29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers,</p> <p>"First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.""</p> <hr/>	<p>SMYRNA: The Suffering Church (Nothing Bad Said About Churches) 8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:</p> <p>9 "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and <u>I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not,</u> but are a synagogue of Satan.</p> <p>10 Do not fear any of those things which <u>you are about to suffer.</u></p> <p>Indeed, the devil is about to throw <i>some</i> of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.</p> <p>11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."</p> <hr/>
<p>The Parable of the Tares Explained (Jesus interprets the Parable) 36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." 37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, <u>but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.</u> 39 <u>The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.</u> 40 <u>Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.</u> 41 <u>The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,</u> 42 <u>and will cast them into the furnace of fire.</u> There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!</p>	<p>Millennial Reign (Promised to David) (Micah 5:2) (Isa 9:6) (Luke 22) Lords Prayer (Pslm 2 & 110) (Rev. 12) "12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before [fn3] God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is <i>the Book of Life</i>. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second [fn4] death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." (Rev. 20:12-15)</p> <p>Two Resurrections: 1) to life 2) to death. Do not view first Resurrection as an event but a category.. Hint: Jesus is a part of the first resurrection.. He was the first fruits. The two witnesses are apart of the 1st resurrection. The Rapture is apart of the 1st Resurrection. (dead in Christ and Living Believers) The 2nd Death is the resurrection of the LOST only to be Judged and cast into the Lake of Fire..</p>

In Both: A MILLINIAL PARABLE

- The Christians are in an environment in which the enemy is seemingly infiltrated.

- Both speak of the end of the age. Revelation 14 – 16 and 17 – 20
- Parable one and two, the enemy is involved.
 - 1 angel proclaims the everlasting Gospel
 - 1 angel announces the fall of Babylon
 - 1 angel announces the destruction of those that follow the beast.
 - The Son of Man comes and harvests the earth
 - 1 angel comes and picks over the grape vine and throws the remaining into the wrath of God.
- Smyrna is the only one of the 7 churches that has had a continuous Christian church in the city.
- If the first characteristic of Christianity is Love, the second is Suffering..
- No promise to escape suffering, but a promise to see them through.

Parable 3 / Church 3

<p>The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18, 19)</p> <p>31 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, 32 which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs <u>and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.</u>"</p> 	<p>PERGAMOS: The Compromising Church (Marriage to the World)</p> <p>What Satan could accomplish by persecution, he accomplished by compromise.</p> <p>12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, "These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: 13 "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. 15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, [fn1] which thing I hate. 16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.</p> <p>17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."</p>
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- A normal mustard seed plant grows only a couple of feet tall at the most.
- This one however, grows into a monstrosity.
- So large that the "BIRDS OF THE AIR" feel secure in nesting there.
 - The symbolism of the birds are the ministers of Satan.
- The Lord is saying that the church has grown into something that it should not be to house people it should not house..

The Church of Pergamos was married to the world. They compromised beliefs to the point that false doctrine and idolatry feels COMFORTABLE IN THE CHURCH.

Pergamos has the issue of the Nicholaitans which is the concept of the CLERGY SUPPRESSING THE LAYITY. It was hearsay in the Ephesian Church and he applauded them because they hated it. But in Pergamos, it has become the doctrine. The CLERGY WAS SUPPRESSING AND UNSCRIPTURALLY LORDING OVER THE LAITY.

WHEN WE ARE TALKING ABOUT MINISTERS OF SATAN --- DO NOT OVERLOOK THE PULPITS.

We build infrastructures and buildings and programs all designed to make the world feel AT HOME... We have done a good job.. The world responds with their giving of resources to continue this work...

Parable 4 / Church 4

<p style="text-align: center;">The Parable of the Leaven (<i>Luke 13:20, 21</i>)</p> <p>33 Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three [fn3] measures of meal till it was all leavened."</p> <p>Leaven:</p> <p>Is representative of SIN (Ex 12, 13, 34, Lev. 2, 6, 10, 23, Amos 4, Matthew... and so on..) .. especially in the eyes of a Jewish Rabbi.. (Jesus).. In these parables, he was talking to Jewish disciples.</p> <p>Leaven corrupts by puffing up. Lucifer's pride (Isa 14) Jesus says, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees Paul mentions it 1 Cor 5, Gal 5. Said in a bad way.</p> <p>Three Measures of Meal – Still today seen as a fellowship offering in both (Islam and Christianity) originating from Abraham's meal given in Gen. 18. The Lord and 2 angels. Abraham gives the Lord bread and wine.. (Which was to be unleavened.)</p> <p>So, Here in this parable we have a woman that hides leaven in a fellowship offering..</p> <p>(TO A JEW – THIS WOULD BE UNTHINKABLE)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THYATIRA: The Corrupt Church (Mingling Gospel with Pagan Idolatry)</p> <p>18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:</p> <p>19 "I know your works, love, [fn2] service, faith, and your patience; and <i>as</i> for your works, the last <i>are</i> more than the first.</p> <p>20 Nevertheless I have [fn3] a few things against you, because you allow [fn4] that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, [fn5] to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 And I gave her time to [fn6] repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.</p> <p>22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of [fn7] their deeds. 23 I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.</p> <p>24 "Now to you I say, [fn8] and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I [fn9] will put on you no other burden.</p> <p>25 But hold fast what you have till I come. 26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations--</p> <p>27 <i>'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'</i> [fn10] --</p> <p>as I also have received from My Father; 28 and I will give him the morning star. 29 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."</p>
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- The fourth parable has a woman introducing false doctrine
- The fourth parable has a woman introducing leaven.

<p>The Parable of the Hidden Treasure 44 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.</p> <p>JEWS are the treasure... (JUST AN IDEA) The field is the world... The Lord is the Purchaser...</p> <p>It is for the JEW that the LORD JESUS has purchased the ENTIRE FIELD with HIS OWN BLOOD, for the sake of THOSE THAT WOULD BELIEVE.</p> <p>It's like a grab bag.. You purchase the entire bag – The good and the bad... Then take the good..</p> <p>In REV 5.. Jesus Redeems HIS purchase. He has the invoice in His hand.. WE are the Treasure.. (John 3:16)</p>	<p>SARDIS: The Dead Church (Denominational Church that is Dead) Nothing Good Said This Church</p> <p>3" And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. 2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before [fn1] God. 3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. 4 [fn2] You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. 5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.</p> <p>6 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."</p>
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Malichi 3:16: The book of remembrance.. Jesus paid the price for us to be written in the book of Life.. What do you have to do to be in the book of remembrance... THINK ABOUT HIM.. Every-time you think about the Lord it is recorded.. Spend our life seeing how many times we think about the Lord.

<p>The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.</p> <p>Pearls were a GENTILE adornment. Oysters are not kosher..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jews traded in them but saw them of no value because they are not kosher.• The Merchant is the Lord• The Pearls are you and I (Gentiles)• One pearl One Church..<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Also one sinner – Christ would have come• The Lord emptied Heaven for our Purchase• The LORD is doing the Buying• WE are what was purchased.• The Philadelphia Church has nothing bad said about it.• The Church will be spotless in the eyes of the Lord because of the Blood of the Lamb that was shed for it..	<p>PHILADELPHIA: The Faithful Church (Nothing Bad Said About It) (Removed from the Time of the Great Trib) 7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, "These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": [fn3] 8 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, [fn4] and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 9 Indeed I will make <i>those</i> of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie--indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. 10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, <u>I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.</u> 11 [fn5] <u>Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.</u> 12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. <u>And I will write on him My new name.</u> 13 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.""</p>
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Jesus is making a point about Gentiles.

- A pearl is produced by a living organism,
- It is a response to an irritant,
- And grows by accretion,
- And is removed from its place of growth to become an item of adornment
- And it is found in the sea.. - Gentiles

The Six Letter is to Philadelphia... The ONLY church promised to be delivered from the HOUR OF TRIAL..

<p>The Parable of the Dragnet 47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, 48 which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, 50 and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."</p>	<p>LAODICEANS: The Lukewarm Church (Rich worldly church that is in Big Trouble) (Christ is outside knocking to get in) 14 "And to the angel of the church [fn6] of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither [fn7] cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'--and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-- 18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, <i>that</i> the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."'"</p>
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P1 / C1	Sower – spreading of the gospel.	Apostolic beginnings
P2 / C2	Tares – People who look like believers but are not.	Smyrna is full of people who say they are Jews but are not.
P3 / C3	Mustard seed that became a house of the world.	Pergamos married the world.
P4 / C4	Introduction of Leaven into the lump...	Thyatira intros Jezebel – false doctrine.. Corruption
P5 / C5	A hidden treasure in a field..	Sardis – Few treasures in Sardis
P6 / C6	The Pearl of Great Price	Philadelphia – promised to be removed from the hour of tribulation.
P7 / C7	The dragnet.. the last gathering.. separating the good from the bad.	Laodicia is luke warm.. No good found..

We should not be surprised to realize that the same guy is behind both series of SEVEN. (Jesus)
Isaiah 4:1 – Speaks of seven woman pleading to be called by His NAME..

SUMMARY

51 [fn5] Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes, [fn6] Lord." 52 Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed [fn7] concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure *things* new and old."

The New Testament consists of 21 epistles (28 if you count the 7 letters to the churches) 13 letters ascribed to Paul (Plus the book of Hebrews) 3 are doubles – 1 & 2 Cor. 1 & 2 Timothy and 1 & 2 Thessalonians /// Which yields – 10 ADDRESSEES -- 3 ARE PASTORS – 2 to Timothy and 1 to Titus. This Leaves SEVEN TO CHURCHES.

Paul writes to

- 1) EPHESUS EPHESIANS,
- 2) SMYRNA – PHILLIPIANS deals with joy in suffering) –
- 3)PERGAMOS – CORINTHIANS were worldly just as Pergamos.
- 4) THYATIRA – GALATIANS is a call out of religious practices and away from false doctrine.
- 5) SARDIS – ROMANS gives us
- 6) PHILADELPHIA – THESSALONIANS main topic is the Rapture of the Church.
- 7) LAODICIA – Colossians they were instructed to exchange letters with Laodicia..