

SALVATION IN SYMBOLS & SIGNS

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Corresponds to Program 11

SARDIS - ESCAPING STUDY GUIDE

THE DEAD CHURCH

Revelation 3:1-6 Historical Time Period 1517 to 1798

Jesus is introduced as “He who has the seven Spirits of God” Revelation 3:1. The number 7 represents completeness and perfection (Genesis 2:1-3). The completeness of God’s Spirit resting upon Christ is described in Isaiah 11:1-3:

“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.” (NKJV)

So here the seven spirits are listed:

1. The Spirit of the Lord
2. The Spirit of Wisdom
3. The Spirit of Understanding
4. The Spirit of Counsel
5. The Spirit of Might
6. The Spirit of Knowledge
7. The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord

Jesse was the father of David and Jesus was often referred to prophetically as the Son of David (Matthew 9:27; 15:22). So here Jesus is confirming Himself as the Branch, the Son of David, the one upon whom God’s Spirit rested in complete perfection.

God’s Spirit began to raise up reformers during the latter part of the 1260 year period of papal darkness. In succession, God raised up men like Wycliffe, Huss, Luther, Calvin, and others, who would point out the errors in church teaching and call upon the church to repent. The church resisted the Spirit of God, and many were put to death for their proclamations.

Each reformer gained his own following, and denominations were formed. Each had its own creed, or set of beliefs that it established, and members had to adhere to them. This was the beginning of denominationalism.

This period is known as the Protestant Reformation. Step by step, reformers were raised up to restore forgotten principles from God’s Word.

Unfortunately, as the reformers established followings (churches), each began to slide back into ritualism and cold formalism, and the spirit of evangelism was lost. Jesus addresses this issue:

“Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent” Revelation 3:2-3. (NKJV)

Another question that arises in the message to the church of Sardis is the idea taught by many Christians of “once saved always saved.” Notice what Jesus says to the church in Sardis in His closing words:

“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” Revelation 3:5. (NKJV)

This verse clearly states that believers whose names are in the Book of Life can have their names blotted out of the Book of Life. Is it possible to lose heaven even if after you have gained heaven? The Bible says that it is. Even Lucifer and his host were once saved in heaven. Yet they chose to



...“I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead...” **REVELATION 3:1**

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 3:1-6 THE DEAD CHURCH

Genesis 2:1-3 COMPLETENESS & PERFECTION

Isaiah 11:1-3 THE SEVEN SPIRITS

Ezekiel 28:11-19, Rev. 12:7-9 FALLEN & LOST

Daniel 4; 2 Chron. 33:12-13 HUMBLING & SAVED

disobey God and lost heaven. Lucifer was once in heaven and then cast out. He is not now saved (Ezekiel 28:11-19; Revelation 12:7-9).

At the same time there is good news. It is also possible for someone who is now lost to be saved. Even the most wicked

people of the Bible like Nebuchadnezzar and Manasseh will be saved (Daniel 4; 2 Chronicles 33:12-13).

So once saved not always saved but once lost not always lost. May you not only be once lost but now saved and may you ever choose to remain saved by God's amazing grace. ★

Personal Application

Is it your choice to have your name written and remain in the Book of Life? _____

