

Revelation Study (Part 6)

PHILADELPHIA (A.D. 1880 - 1930) the sixth time period of the Gospel Day

- 6th letter = Revelation 3:7-13

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PHILADELPHIA

- established 189 B.C. by King Attalus II Philadelphus ¹
 - known as "the man who loves his brother"
 - brother (Eumenes II) had succeeded their father as king
 - Eumenes was attacked and believed to be dead
 - Attalus became king & married his brother's widow
 - Eumenes returns: Attalus returns his wife & throne to Eumenes
 - Romans offer to help Attalus overthrow his brother; Attalus refuses
 - known as the city of brotherly love
- 28 miles southeast of Sardis (east = light; south = warmth)
- covered with deep, black, rich soil (suited for growing grapes)
 - this is the first we have heard of this since Ephesus
 - this rich soil represents the first fertile ground for truth since the morning time
- built on the side of the mountain
 - people leaving Babylon & returning to Mount Zion
- earthquake prone
 - massive earthquake destroyed the city in A.D. 17

HOW DID CHRIST APPEAR TO THIS SIXTH-SEAL ERA?

- **Ephesus** - stars (ministry) in Christ's right hand (control)
- **Smyrna** - first and last (unchanging Christ)
- **Pergamos** - sharp sword with two edges (the Word was what they needed to overcome)
- **Thyatira** - eyes like unto a flame of fire (the sword—the Word—would come through the eyes, the ministry; Hebrews 1:7)
- **Sardis** - "*These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God*" (Holy Spirit needed; the Word alone "*killeth*"; 2 Corinthians 3:6)
- **Philadelphia** – "*These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth. I have set before thee an open door: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.*" (Rev. 3:7-8)
 - "**open door**"
 - earthquake opened this door

ERA BEGAN WITH AN EARTHQUAKE

"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake" (Revelation 6:12)

¹ http://www.livius.org/as-at/attalus/attalus_ii.html

- just as literal Sardis was destroyed by an earthquake
- earthquake in Acts 16:25-26
 - Paul & Silas were imprisoned; what did the earthquake cause to happen?
 - foundations were shaken
 - doors were opened
 - bands were loosed
 - in this era God was calling people out of false religion
 - foundations were shaken, doors were opened

"THE KEY OF DAVID"

- **"He that hath the key of David"**
 - *"And the key of the house of David will I lay **upon his shoulder**; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open"* (Isaiah 22:22).
 - What is on Christ's shoulder?
 - *"and the **government** shall be upon his shoulder"* (Isaiah 9:6)
 - the "key of the house of David" shows that Christ has the authority; He is to govern
 - He has been denied His rightful place (previously)
- **"He that is holy, he that is true"** (Greek word is *genuine*)
 - previous era had light on holiness
 - Christ is saying you need holiness & the True (the truth)
 - there were many, many counterfeits
 - Christ is saying "I am the true"
 - false Christs; "another gospel" (2 Corinthians 11:4)
- What was the truth they needed in this era?
 - **"hast not denied my name"**
 - the true name of God's church had been lost sight of since the morning time

WHY IS THE NAME IMPORTANT?

- name establishes ownership, control, origin, also nature & character
 - Revelation 3:12 – *"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name."*
 - the emphasis is on "my God"
 - the message of this era was the truth concerning the name of God's church: the Church of God
 - not the given name (Jesus) or the name of what He came to do (Christ), but the family name
- John 17:11-12 – *"And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through **thine own name** those whom thou hast given me, that they may be **one**, as we are. While I was with them in the world, **I kept them in thy name.**"*
- Ephesians 3:14-15 – *"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named."*
- Revelation 3:12 – *"he shall go out no more"* (in previous eras people stopped walking in

truth and went into sectism, manmade religious systems, but God's people would go out no more – there will be, from now on, a visible Church of God)

PARALLEL LECTURES: GOODLY PEARL

- The seven parables of Matthew, Chapter 13, parallel each period of the Gospel Day
- Philadelphia = **The Parable of the Goodly Pearl**
 - Matthew 13:45-46 — *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."*
 - one pearl = one church
 - great price = Calvary
 - sold all = must sell out completely

PARALLEL LECTURES: THE SOWER

- Ephesus (morning time) = **The Parable of the Sower**
 - Truth comes in 3 parts
 - Lutheran era = thirtyfold (Matthew 13:8) – light on justification
 - Wesleyan era = sixtyfold – light on holiness
 - Philadelphian ear = hundredfold (full corn in the ear)
 - all the light of the previous eras (sixtyfold)
 - light on unity & true church name (hundredfold)

DANIEL SYDNEY WARNER

- son of a saloon keeper in Wayne County, Ohio
- frail and sickly child
- two years after his conversion, he became a part of the Winebrennarian Church of God
 - (Winebrennar seemed to have light on the "one" church)
- he said in later years that he had more liberty as a minister before he took that step than he had during the years he belonged to the denomination, which after all was but a sect.
 - (define *sect*: A sect is a small religious group that is an offshoot of an established religion or denomination. It holds most beliefs in common with its religion of origin, but has a number of novel concepts which differentiate them from that religion.)
 - Examples: Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Samaritans
- evangelist for about 6 years with the Winebrennarian Church of God; 2 years at a mission post in Nebraska
- December 1877 – Brother Warner consecrated to God to be a holiness evangelist.
- January 1878 – D. S. Warner was expelled from the West Ohio Eldership of the Church of God (Winebrennarian) for teaching entire sanctification.
- "On the 31st of last January the Lord showed me that holiness could never prosper upon sectarian soil encumbered by human creeds and party names, and he gave me a new commission to join holiness and all truth together and build up the apostolic church of the living God. Praise His name! I will obey him."
- January 1880 – Warner has complete charge of a paper called "Herald of Gospel Freedom" (later became *The Gospel Trumpet*)
- D. S. Warner and the saints would go into a town with a buckboard wagon. They would

travel in caravans, and all the singers, the instrument players, and the preacher would ride in the same wagon. When they reached the edge of town, someone would start singing. They would sing all the way through town, and people would ask, "Who are these people?" By the time they got to the end of town, they had many people following them. Then, one of the brethren would take a Bible, stand up on the old buckboard, and start preaching. Often somebody's heart in the audience would be touched, and they would say, "I have a building where you can hold your meeting." That is how congregation after congregation was started.

PROPHECY OF THIS ERA:

- Ezekiel 11:17 – *"Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord God; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel."*
 - Just as literal Israel was scattered in captivity, spiritual Israel was scattered in the dark day (Roman Catholicism) and in the cloudy day (Protestantism)
 - "out of the countries" = countries, nations or denominations
 - "land of Israel" = Mount Zion, the new Jerusalem, the Church of the Living God
- Ezekiel 34:11-13 – *"For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country."*
 - Picture of Christ (Shepherd) seeking His people (flock) out of all the place they were scattered (false religion, spiritual Babylon)
 - "mountains of Israel" = Mount Zion
- Ezekiel 34:23 – *"And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd."*
 - "one shepherd" = David (means "beloved")
 - Jesus is the "son of David" (Matthew 1:1)
 - Jesus is called "my beloved" (Matthew 17:5)

MORE PROPHECIES OF THIS ERA:

- John 10:16 — *"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."*
 - "one fold" = one church: the Church of God
 - "one shepherd" = Jesus
- Jeremiah 31:6 – *"For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the Lord our God."*
 - "a day" = that day, the Gospel Day
 - God is not in Babylon; He wants His people where He's at
 - "go up to Zion" = Mount Zion, the Church of God
- Jeremiah 31:8 – *"Behold, I will bring them from the north country [papalism], and gather them from the coasts of the earth [Protestantism] . . . a great company shall return thither*

[evening time]."

- God's people were to come out ("come out of her my people"; Revelation 18:4), but they were also to come in (come in to what?)
- Deuteronomy 6:23 – *"And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he sware unto our fathers."*
 - Ephesians 4:13 – *"come in the unity of the faith"* (what is the faith?)
 - Ephesians 4:5 – *"one Lord, one faith, one baptism"*
 - Ephesians 4:4 – *"one body"*

SIXTH SEAL – Revelation 6:12-17

"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood" (verse 12).

- **Earthquake**
 - The city of Sardis was destroyed by an earthquake, and the Sardian age (1730-1880) was also destroyed by an earthquake.
 - This era began with an earthquake
- The message on unity destroyed the hold false religion had over God's people
- **Review:** 3 earthquakes in Revelation
 - morning-time "an earthquake" (Revelation 8:5)
 - sixth-seal "a great earthquake" (Revelation 6:12)
 - seventh seal "so mighty an earthquake and so great" (Revelation 16:18)
- What does "earthquake" portray spiritually?
 - a shaking time, things that are attached to the earth are broken loose from it
 - What are people attached to? What came up out of the earth?
 - Protestant beast
 - Earthquake broke people loose from this beast of the earth
- **"sun became black"**
 - what does sun symbolize? (New Testament light)
 - the New Testament light that was in them became darkness
- **"black as sackcloth"**
 - sackcloth is associated with mourning over a death
- **"moon became as blood"**
 - moon = Old Testament
 - they became guilty (as Old Testament Jews) of the blood of Jesus
- people of the Wesleyan era were walking in the light, but they refused the truth on unity, and their light became as darkness; spiritual death occurred

ONE ROCK, ONE MOUNTAIN

"And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains" (verse 15).

- When this sixth-seal light comes, people will hide
- One (true) Rock = Jesus Christ
- One Mountain = Mount Zion

- 1 Samuel 2:2 – *"There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God."*
- people are hiding in rocks & mountains (plural)
- all of these people (kings, great men, rich men, chief captains, etc.) had come in contact with the light on unity
 - they are hiding from something (light on unity)
 - what are "the rocks of the mountains" they are hiding in?
 - instead of walking in this light, they hid in the doctrines & creeds of their sectarian organization
 - when exposed to truth they say: "That's not how my church teaches it"; or "that's not what my pastor says"
- **Notice:** Jesus sent "fishermen" after the unsaved (Jeremiah 16:16; Mark 1:17), but He sent "hunters" to find people who were hiding in things that have no Bible basis
 - Jeremiah 16:16 – *"Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks."*
- Isaiah 28:17 – *"Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place."*
 - The only thing that can sweep away lies is hail (solid truth).

SIXTH TRUMPET – Revelation 9:13-21

"And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates" (verses 13-14).

- Old Testament Babylon gives additional insight into the spiritual Babylon of the sixth-trumpet era
 - **"great river Euphrates"** (review the story of Babylon & Belshazzar)
 - Babylon = seat of a world empire; a walled city; virtually impossible to capture; hanging gardens one of the seven wonders of the ancient world
 - River Euphrates ran under the city wall & through the middle of the city
 - Belshazzar held a feast that (historians say) lasted for months (a drunken feast)
 - Daniel 5:4 – *"They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone."*
 - (Sixth Trumpet) Revelation 9:20 – *". . . should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood."*
 - **Parallel:** paganistic worship came down through papalism right into Protestantism; they worship the same false gods
- Euphrates River was the source of life for old Babylon
- "great river Euphrates" – not *"the river of life"* (Revelation 22:2)
 - a river that gave life to spiritual Babylon

THE SIXTH ANGEL

- **Revelation 16:12-14** – *"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the*

dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

- Angel was to pour out his vial (judgment) to show what was in the river Euphrates:
 - "Unclean spirits like frogs"; "spirits of devils"
 - Where did these unclean spirits come from?
 - "Out of the mouth of the dragon" (paganism)
 - "out of the mouth of the beast" (papalism)
 - "out of the mouth of the false prophet" (Protestantism)
- Spirits are no long confined to the religious systems, but they now are able to "hop about"
 - **Note:** this shows the need for vials (judgment preaching)
 - "frogs" can be anywhere
 - frogs like "stagnant" water (water with no movement)
 - River of Life is a flowing river
- It was not until truth (vial) was poured out that the frogs could be seen
 - they were there before (unseen)
 - needed truth to dry up the river they were hiding in
 - today, truth reveals the "frogs" that are otherwise unseen

Two Kings

"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared"

(Revelation 16:12).

- **"kings of the east"** – two kings were Cyrus and Darius from the east
 - east = light AND east = wisdom ("wise men from the east"; Matthew 2:1)
 - light = God's Word AND wisdom = Holy Spirit
 - 1 Corinthians 12:8 – *"For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit"*
 - two kings = type of the Word and the Spirit (two governors of the church)
- Why did Cyrus & Darius represent the Word & the Spirit? Look at the literal.
 - Israel had been in Babylonian captivity for many, many years
 - God heard their cry
 - God moved on Cyrus' & Darius' hearts to allow the people to return to Jerusalem & rebuild the temple
 - **Spiritual:** God's people were in Babylonian bondage, crying out to God
 - Fifth seal: people were under the altar (Christ) crying out for judgment (light or truth) against the sectarian conditions
 - God heard the cry of His people & the sixth seal was opened
 - This is a fulfillment or an antitype of the type
 - **Antitype** = something that is identified with an earlier symbol or type, such as a figure in the New Testament who has a counterpart in the Old Testament
 - Old Testament lamb was a type of Christ (the antitype)
 - Types aren't perfect: examples Moses & David were types of Christ (but sinned)

(2) large stars = a fallen ministry

(3) white horse & rider = God's people (Christ's body) coming out of established religion

(4) three frogs = unclean spirits (paganism, papalism, Protestantism) going out of the organization & can be found everywhere

THE GOSPEL DAY IN TYPE – FIRST EXAMPLE:

- Israel fighting the Philistines with sin in their midst (**Hophni & Phinehas**)
 - morning-time apostasy
- **Ichabod**, which means "the glory is departed," was born
 - child of apostasy (Dark Ages)
- Ark was taken by the Philistines & placed with their god **Dagon**
 - Roman Catholicism
 - reminder: symbol of Dagon (fish god) is incorporated into this organization
- Ark came back to Israel but was brought to **Abinadab's house**
 - not the true "resting place"
 - 1st half of Protestantism – Lutheran era (justification)
 - only brought the people part of the way back to full light
- Ark was taken to **Obededom's house**
 - 2nd half of Protestantism – Wesleyan era (sanctification)
- **Ark brought to Zion & King David built a tabernacle**
 - 1st half of the evening time (Philadelphian era)
- **Solomon built a temple** (permanent, lasting structure)
 - 2nd half of the evening time (Laodicean era)
 - the Ark was brought to its final resting place
 - full light has been/is being restored in this last era of the Gospel day

THE GOSPEL DAY IN TYPE – SECOND EXAMPLE:

- **David** = a type of Christ
 - he brought the ark (presence of God) to Jerusalem
- **Solomon** = built a tabernacle
 - type of the glory of the morning-time church
- **Solomon's heart turned away**
 - type of the morning-time apostasy
- **Ungodly kings reigned**
 - a type of popery (ungodly popes)
- **Israel went into captivity**
 - type of the cloudy day of sectism (Protestantism)
- **Zerubbabel's temple** (Cyrus & Darius allowed Israelites to return & rebuild)
 - type of the 1st half of the evening-time Church of God: Philadelphian Era
 - holiness is the "law of the house" (Ezekiel 43:12)
- **Rebuilding the city**
 - type of the 2nd half of the evening time: Laodicean Era
 - restoring the truths of the morning-time church
 - When the Israelites were ready to return to Jerusalem, some of the men had married Babylonian wives and had taken their wife's name instead of keeping their father's

name. Taking on the Babylonian names of their wives gave them a little more prestige, authority, and power. It made their captivity a little easier. So, as they attempted to return to Jerusalem, they had to get the genealogies out and make sure all were Jews, because only Jews could go back. If their names were not found, they could not go (Ezra 2:62).

- People in sectarianism have laid aside the Father's name for the many names of the harlot daughters (Revelation 17:5).
 - If you have been in spiritual Babylon, to enter God's church you are going to have to lay aside that sectarian name, just as the Jews had to leave their Babylonian wives behind and take back their father's name before they returned to Jerusalem (Ezra 10:10-19).

THE END OF THE SIXTH SEAL ERA:

"For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt" (Revelation 9:19).

- **"power in their mouth"**
 - what comes out of the mouth? (the message)
 - beginning of this era, they had great power in the message
 - power changed to the tail (by the end of the movement)
- **"like unto serpents"**
 - whom did Jesus call "serpents" in Matthew 23:33?
 - Look at verse 29: "scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites"
 - people with religious spirits (sectarian)
 - at the end of the sixth-seal era, people became sectarian in spirit & practices
 - this movement is known as the Anderson Movement
 - serpent is a picture of paganism (Revelation 12:3)
 - this movement reverted back, just as previous movements
- **"and had heads"** – there is only to be one Head of the church (Christ)
 - Anderson has many heads in their organization (just as sectarianism does), such as general assembly, ministerial counsels, general offices, etc.
- **Writings of C. W. Naylor:**
 - author of: *The Church's Jubilee, Thy Children Are Gathering Home, I'll Never Go Back, Are You Adorning the Doctrine?, Be an Overcomer, God's Way Is Best* (many more)
 - "I knew D. S. Warner personally. I knew D. S. Warner and loved him with reverential affection. . . . He was a poet, a dreamer, and an idealist, and a perfectionist. He was not a logical thinker. In hundreds of instances, he misinterpreted and misapplied texts. We've been compelled to reject a very large portion of his [interpretation of Scriptures] because it has proved to be unsound. . . . Brother Warner had an extreme view of unity. He advocated a type of unity that never existed and can never exist in this world. We have seen the necessity of modifying his teachings, to make them conform more nearly to the possibility. . . . The text 'at evening time it shall be light' (Zechariah 14:7) has no reference whatsoever to our day, thrashing Babylon never was God's plan. I'm glad that most of us have stopped that sort of preaching."²

² *The Teaching of D.S. Warner and His Associates* by C.W. Naylor

- The centennial issue (1980) of the magazine that was then called *Vital Christianity* says: "When C. E. Brown came on the scene as editor and chief in the early 1930s, another very important transition occurred. Brown did some re-interpreting of the significance of the Movement that helped many to see the Movement in the light of the sweep of church history. He also brought a new measure of democracy and scholarship to the editorial office."
 - thus, the time delineation of 1930 on our Revelation Chart
- **Isaiah 11:11** – "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left"
 - The ministry quit preaching the message of separation – "Come out of her my people."
 - God had to gather the remnant of His people
- **Revelation 8:1** – "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour."

Ministers who would not go along with these changes were not used. They were branded as old-fashioned and division makers.

W. F. Chappell from Kentucky was one of the old pioneer preachers. He was straightlaced but loved by many. He came to the Winchester State Camp Meeting in Kentucky, and the people kept pressuring the brethren in charge, asking, "When is Brother Chappell going to preach?" However, the ministers were afraid to turn W. F. Chappell loose because he would burn them up. The pressure became so great that finally, toward the end of the camp meeting, they called on W. F. Chappell to pray. He began to pray, and two hours and fifteen minutes later, he said, "Amen." By then, the altars and the front seats were lined with people; people were bowing in prayer all over the tabernacle. Every preacher in the building was gone. In prayer, W. F. Chappell still preached a message.