

Church of Sardis

Historical Events (1377 – 1517)

1366 - Parliament put an end to English vassalage to Rome (would no longer pay tribute to the papal seat)

1366-67 – Wycliffe's public career began in condemning abuses of papacy and its interference in secular affairs

1376 - Wycliffe began to criticize the clergy for their wealth and corruption and false doctrines. He turned his attention to the scriptures which alone he saw as the rule of truth.

1377 – Pope Gregory issued three bulls against Wycliffe – to the king, the University and to the prelates. Wycliffe was forbidden to teach.

1378-1417 – The “Great Schism” – The election of two rival popes. Wycliffe devoted himself exclusively to doctrinal matters and came out as the Reformer. His followers became known as Lollards.

1384 – Wycliffe died in peace in Lutterworth

1388 – Wycliffe's translation of the Bible into English from Vulgate completed by John Purcey.

1401 – England passed law against Lollards, condemning heretics to be burned

1408 – John Huss (Bohemia) accepted Wycliffe's teachings and openly preached against the church

1409 – Pope Alexander V ordered the destruction of all the “arch-heretic” Wycliffe's writings

1414-1418 – Council of Constance which “healed” the Great Schism, condemned Huss as a heretic and burned him alive, and declared heretics must also forfeit lands and goods upon death,

1428 -- Wycliffe's bones were dug up and burned.

1450 – Pope Nicolas V authorized the Portuguese to “attack, subject and reduce to perpetual slavery the Saracens (Muslims), pagans and other enemies of Christ.”

1453 – The Turks captured Constantinople. This marked the beginning of the Renaissance which had both good and bad effects: literary and artistic revival, paganism revival. The Vatican built during this time.

1514 – The Lateran Council declared that Christendom was no longer plagued by heresies. Everything was quiet, every heretic exterminated.

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Message to the Church of Sardis - Rev. 3:1-6

Message to church of the prevailing conditions and how to overcome them

- I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest and are dead
- Be watchful and strengthen the things that remain that are ready to die
- Works are not perfect
- Remember how thou hast received and heard, hold fast, repent
- Watch or I will come as a thief
- There are a few names in Sardis with undefiled garments
- They shall walk with me in white for they are worthy
- He that overcometh shall be clothed in white raiment
- I will not blot out his name from book of life but will confess his name before the Father and his angels

5th Seal - Rev. 6:9-11

Shows how the prevailing events would affect the church

- Souls of them who were slain for the Word of God and for the testimony they held
- They cried with a loud voice "how long dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"
- White robes given them
- They must rest yet for a little season until their fellow servants should be killed

5th Trumpet - Rev. 9:1-10

Shows how the message affects the surrounding society

5th angel sounded and

- Star fell from heaven to earth (Wycliffe)
- To him given key of the bottomless pit which he opened
- Smoke arose of great furnace
- Sun and air were darkened
- Locusts (pesty truths) came out of smoke (confusion)
- Given power of a scorpion (hurts but does not kill)
- Men shall seek death but do not find it (truths torment)
- Shape of locust like horses (doctrines) prepared to battle
- Crowns like gold on heads (divine)
- Faces of men (God's love)
- Hair as women (church's submission to Christ)
- Teeth like lion (they bite)
- Breastplates of iron (impregnable)
- Wings sounded like chariots of horses running to battle (trouble-causing truths)
- Tails like scorpions with stings & power to hurt 5 months (150 yrs)
- King who was angel of pit named Abaddon (Heb) and Apollyon (Gr-destroyer) Old & New Testaments