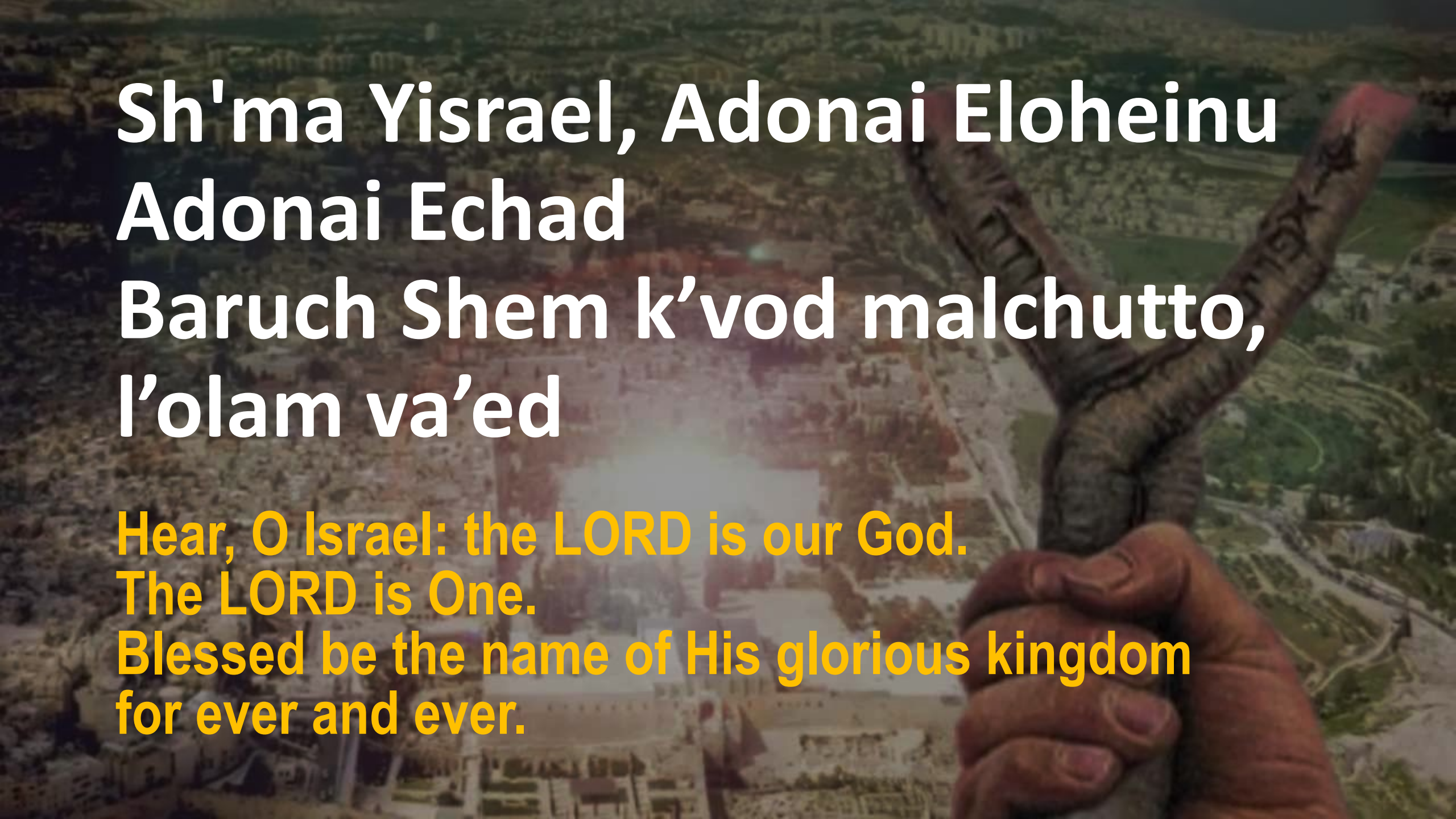




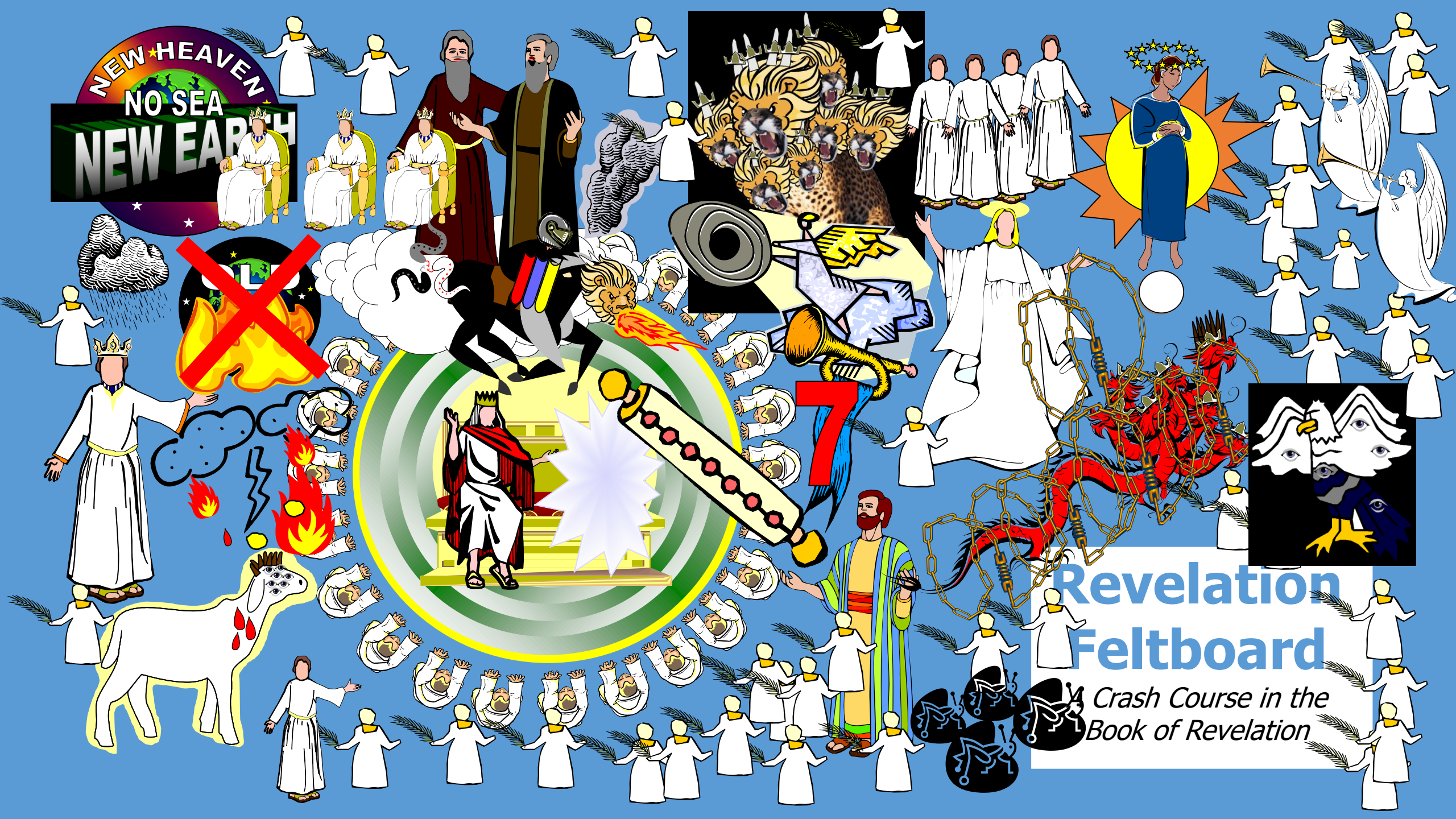
I have put an open door before you, which no one can close.

A hand holding a scroll with Hebrew text against a background of a city. The scroll is held in the foreground, and the city is visible in the background. The text on the scroll is in Hebrew, and the background shows a city with buildings and a river.

**Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu
Adonai Echad
Baruch Shem k'vod malchutto,
l'olam va'ed**

**Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God.
The LORD is One.
Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom
for ever and ever.**

NEW HEAVEN
NO SEA
NEW EARTH



Revelation Feltboard

*Crash Course in the
Book of Revelation*

Questions?



Question: *"Why are both Jesus and Satan referred to as the morning star?"*

Answer: The first reference to the morning star as an individual is in Isaiah 14:12: *"How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!"* (NIV). The KJV and NKJV both translate "morning star" as "Lucifer, son of the morning." It is clear from the rest of the passage that Isaiah is referring to Satan's fall from heaven (Luke 10:18). So in this case, the morning star refers to Satan. In Revelation 22:16, Jesus unmistakably identifies Himself as the morning star. Why are both Jesus and Satan described as the "morning star"?

It is interesting to note that the concept of the “morning star” is not the only concept that is applied to both Jesus and Satan. In Revelation 5:5, Jesus is referred to as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. In 1 Peter 5:8, Satan is compared to a lion, seeking someone to devour. The point is this, both Jesus and Satan, to a certain extent, have similarities to lions. Jesus is similar to a lion in that He is the King, He is royal and majestic. Satan is similar to a lion in that he seeks to devour other creatures. That is where the similarities between Jesus, Satan, and lions end, however. Jesus and Satan are like lions in very different ways.

The idea of a “bright morning star” is a star that outshines all the others, and Jesus is the One who is called “bright.” Satan was a morning star. Jesus, as God incarnate, the Lord of the universe, is the BRIGHT and morning star. Jesus is the most holy and powerful “light” in all the universe. So, while both Jesus and Satan can be described as “morning stars,” in no sense is this equating Jesus and Satan. Satan is a created being. His light only exists to the extent that God created it. Jesus is the light of the world (John 9:5). Only Jesus’ light is “bright” and self-existent. Satan may be a morning star, but he is only a poor imitation of the one true bright morning star, Jesus Christ, the light of the world.



Revelation 3

"Now pay attention; I am standing at the door and knocking. If any of you hear MY voice and open the door, then I will come in to visit with you and to share a meal at your table, and you will be with Me."

Jesus (Revelation 3:20 the voice)

“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 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 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. ⁶ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’

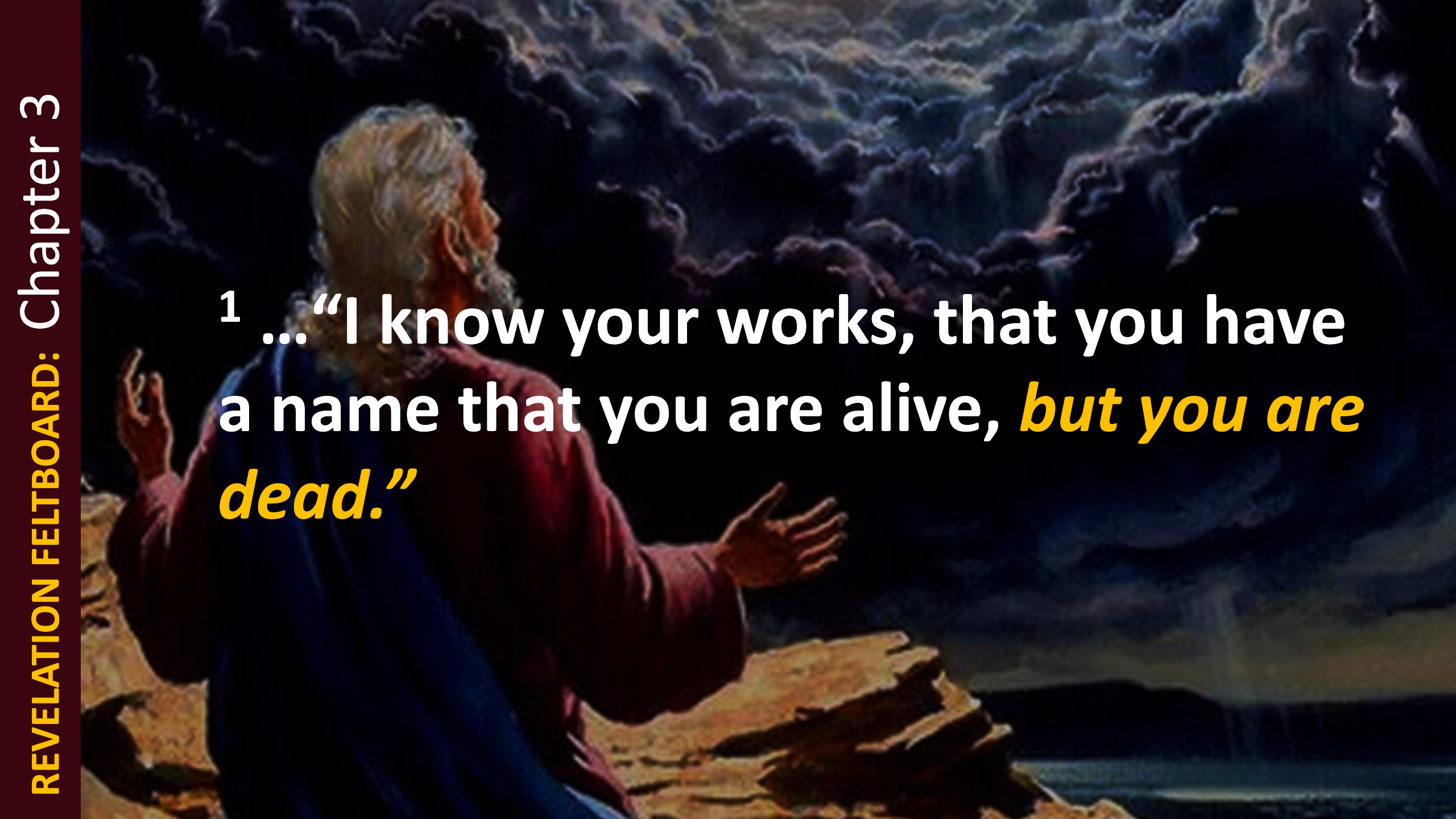
Letter to *ekklesia* at Sardis...

1 “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: ...

- **Sardis** = "that which remains" or "remnant."
- After earthquake devastated, Sardis remained, but remnant of former city. Also true for church here.
- Sardis known as **unwatchful**, "**sleeping**" church; only *remnant of true believers remained*
- **Description/Title:** *"He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars..."* "7 spirits" = Holy Spirit (see also Isaiah 11:2)
- Omniscience = **I SEE ALL!**
- Omnipresence = **I KNOW ALL!**

SARDIS

- Well established, one of oldest in region
- False sense of security
- Cyrus (Persia) takes, others too!
- Huge trading center
- River, rich in gold
- Roman center, pomp and circumstance
- Not too dangerous for believers
- Center of moral decadence, corruption
- Wealth, life easy, **complacency**
- 17 AD earthquake



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

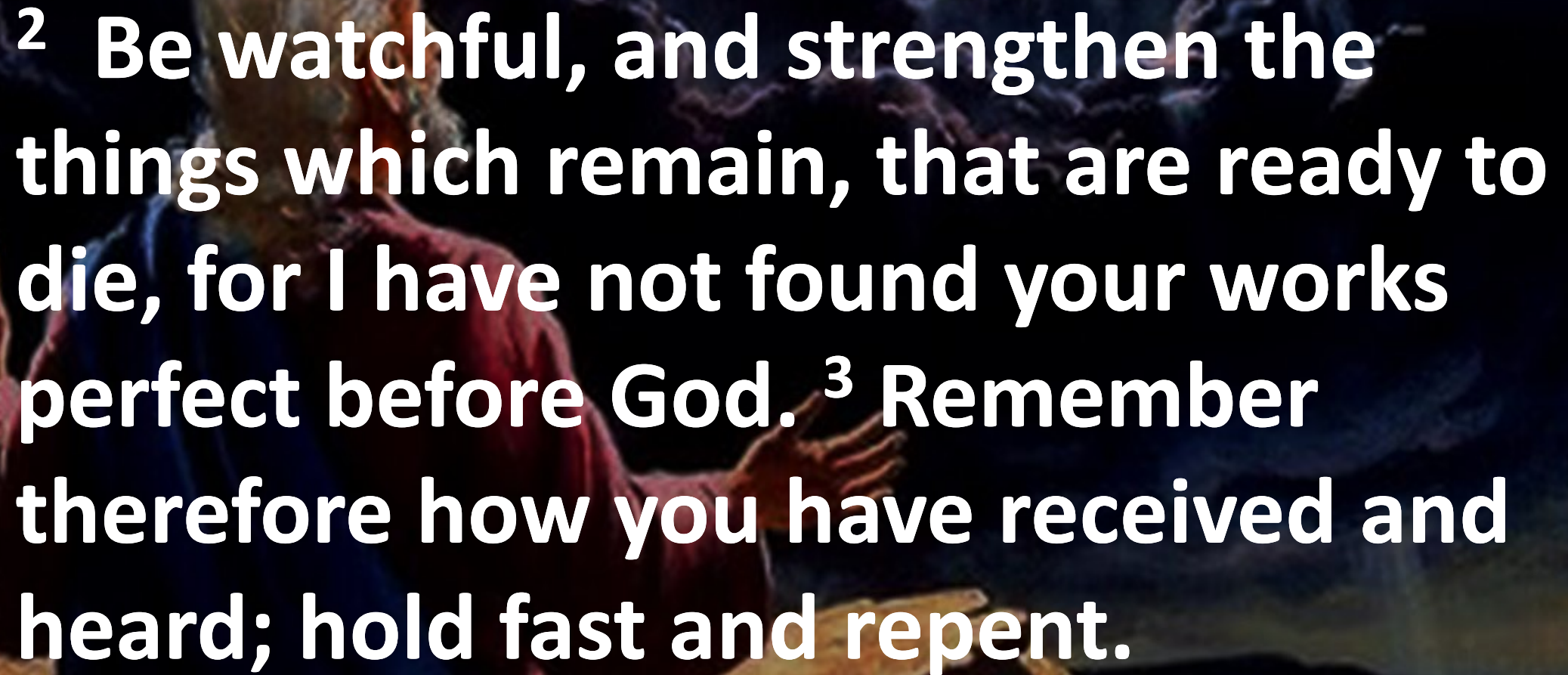
Commendation: *"I know your works,..."* (but none are listed!) **NONE!** *(they are in trouble!)*

Criticism: *"...that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead."* Greek "name" = *onoma* having a reputation, a description. **OUCH!!!**

- **Dead = *nekros*, dead literally and figuratively**
- Sardis city and church = reputation for immorality and loose living.
- Wore label "Christian," **not living faith.** *Sounds painfully familiar today.*

- *Commentators*: use of "name" may imply breaking up of united church into denominations
- Call ourselves by these names (Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Catholic, etc.) rather than Name of Jesus, above all other names.
- Denominations *from lack of watchfulness.* Fragmentation = man's wisdom, not unity through God's wisdom.
- ***"Am I alive, or do I just have a reputation (a name) for being alive?" (Hmmm...?)***



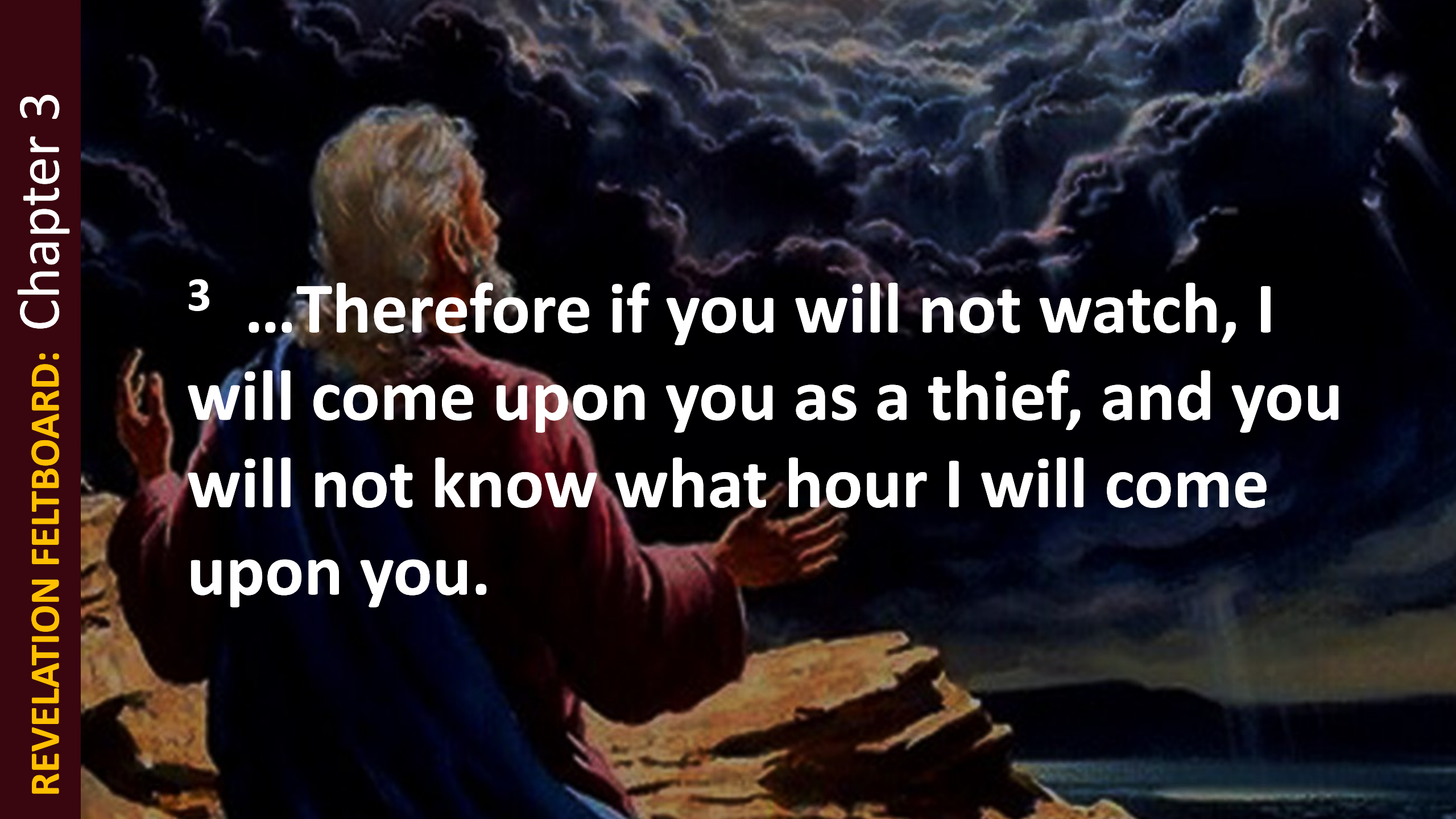


² Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. ³ Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent.

Exhortation

- Command to be watchful slap in the face for complacent believers. (*history of this city*)
- Being lulled to "sleep." "Christians" in **name only**.
- Persian soldier watched and waited for a way to attack - Enemy watching and waiting also.
- Faith dying, almost gone. "Works" inadequate.
- **NOT good deeds!** Living lives that revealed faith.

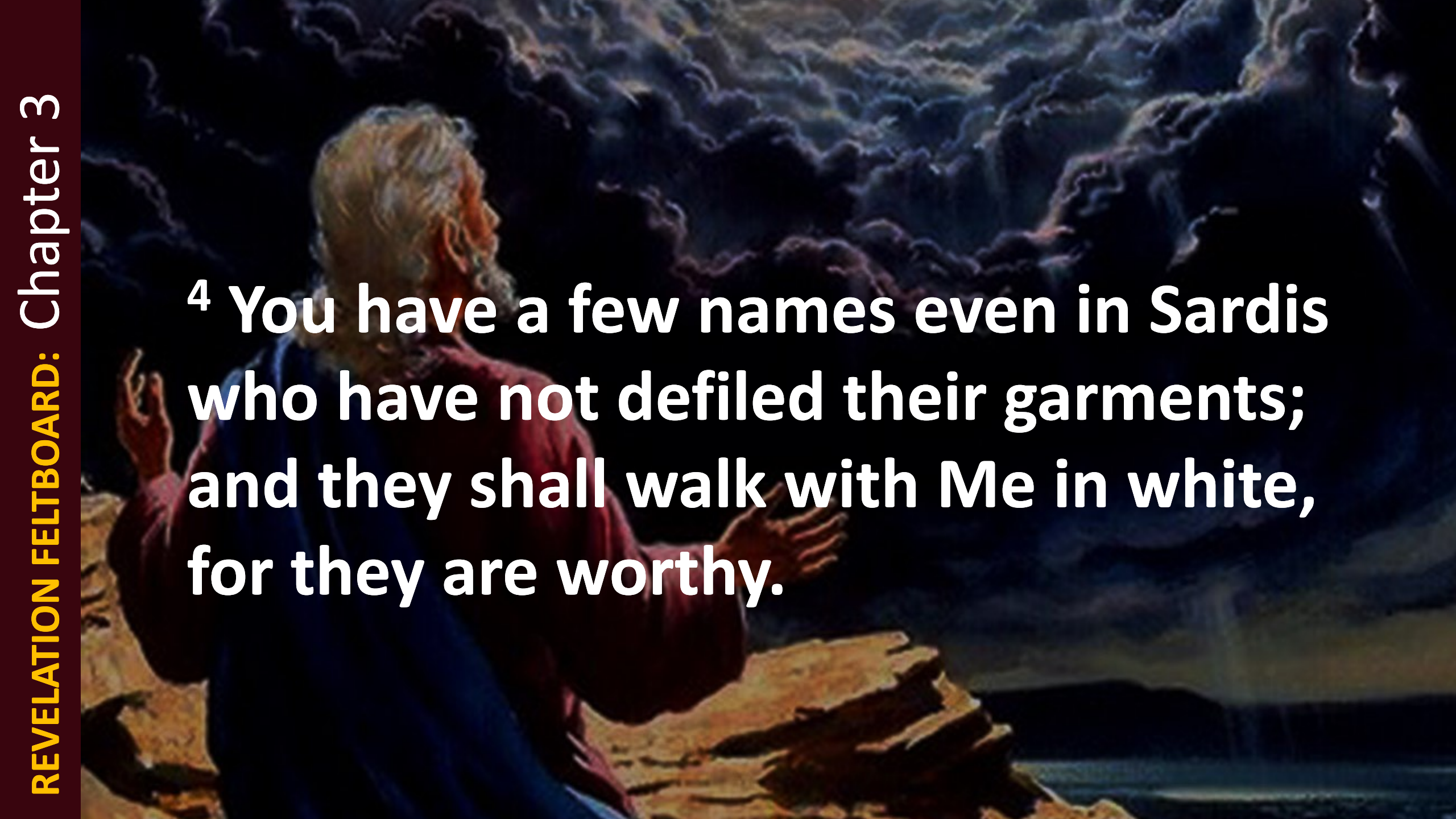
- “What remains” = pun, meaning of city’s name (*remains, remnant, gained after earthquake 17 AD*)
- *“Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent...”* like Ephesus, reminded to remember their first love, hold fast.
- **“Hold fast”** = *continuous action*. Don't let go for minute, keep holding. And keep repenting...
- Unlike Ephesus, had no redeeming qualities. Sunk into **worldly ways** of this city.
- Culture changes, so behaviors change. **God’s Word must change????** *Sounds familiar...*



³ ...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.

- Uses city's reputation of unwatchfulness
- if they don't **wake up and watch** for His coming, **might miss it.**
- *(Notice 2nd coming reference)*





⁴ 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.

- **Some** (few!) in Sardis had not "**defiled**" their **faith**. (*"robes of righteousness" weren't soiled*)
- Beautiful promise... will walk with Jesus!
- Don't misunderstand *"they are worthy."* **NO ONE worthy on our own!** "Worthiness" by faith alone, relying on power of Holy Spirit each day. (*Giving Him control*)
- These "few" maintained their relationship with Him and didn't compromise. Others had not.

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.

6 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Promise:

- **White garments** = righteousness (given by Jesus)
Not soiled! HIS perfection!
- **Living our lives just like the rest of world will defile and soil our robes of righteousness.**
- Even pagans = sacrilege to approach “the gods” in soiled clothing.
- **Lazy Sardis Christians approaching the One True Holy God in soiled robes.**



Zechariah 3

Book of Life:

- Cities kept registers of citizens
- When they died, names "blotted out"
- Book of Life = God's registry of heaven
- He writes every name here (*from birth, maybe even before!*)
- Some blotted out if they reject Him (*second death, separation from God*)
- **“BOOK OF LIFE OF THE LAMB”** (Rev 13:8) subset of Book of Life, believers in Yeshua

- **Our genealogy** = either family of Adam (*leads to death, separation from God*) OR family of Jesus (*Lamb's Book of Life, leads to eternal life with God*)
- **Only way to avoid being blotted out is to believe and live in Jesus our Messiah.**
- Church at Sardis thought to prophetically represent Reformation and start of protestant denominational church, 1517-1750 AD).
- Woke out of spiritual sleep, reminded believers of God's basic truths (*justification by faith alone, inerrancy of Word of God, depravity of man, etc.*)

- **However**, **denominationalism** = truths once again in danger of being lost. God's truth replaced by man's arrogance.
- Sadly, church at Sardis is very much like liberal church of today.
- AS IN EVERY CHURCH EVERYPLACE IN EVERY AGE... a few true believers, a remnant, but church as a whole is sleeping.
- "Reputation" for being alive, ***but they are dead.***

What about us?

- Have we comprised with the world allowed “the times” to “change” God’s Word and expectations?
- Do we know how to test false teachers?
- Do we wear a “Christian” label (reputation) but lead completely different lives?
- Do people think we are “alive in God,” but are we spiritually dead inside?
- **Are we fooling ourselves?**

**DO WE ALSO
NEED TO
REPENT?**

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”’: ⁸ “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, 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 those 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, 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. ¹¹ Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. 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. And I will write on him My new name.

¹³ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." '

Letter to *ekklesia* at Philadelphia...

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”:

- **Philadelphia** = "brotherly love" (Greek)
Appropriate for this "missionary" church
- **Description/Title** *not from original in 1st chapter.*
- "*He who is holy...*" the One who knew no sin, was completely separate from world, yet still human.
- "*He who is true...*" true = *alethinos*, "real and genuine, as opposed to something false"
- "*He who has the key of David...*" keys = supreme authority. David king of Israel, from whom Messiah descended. Authority as King of Kings.

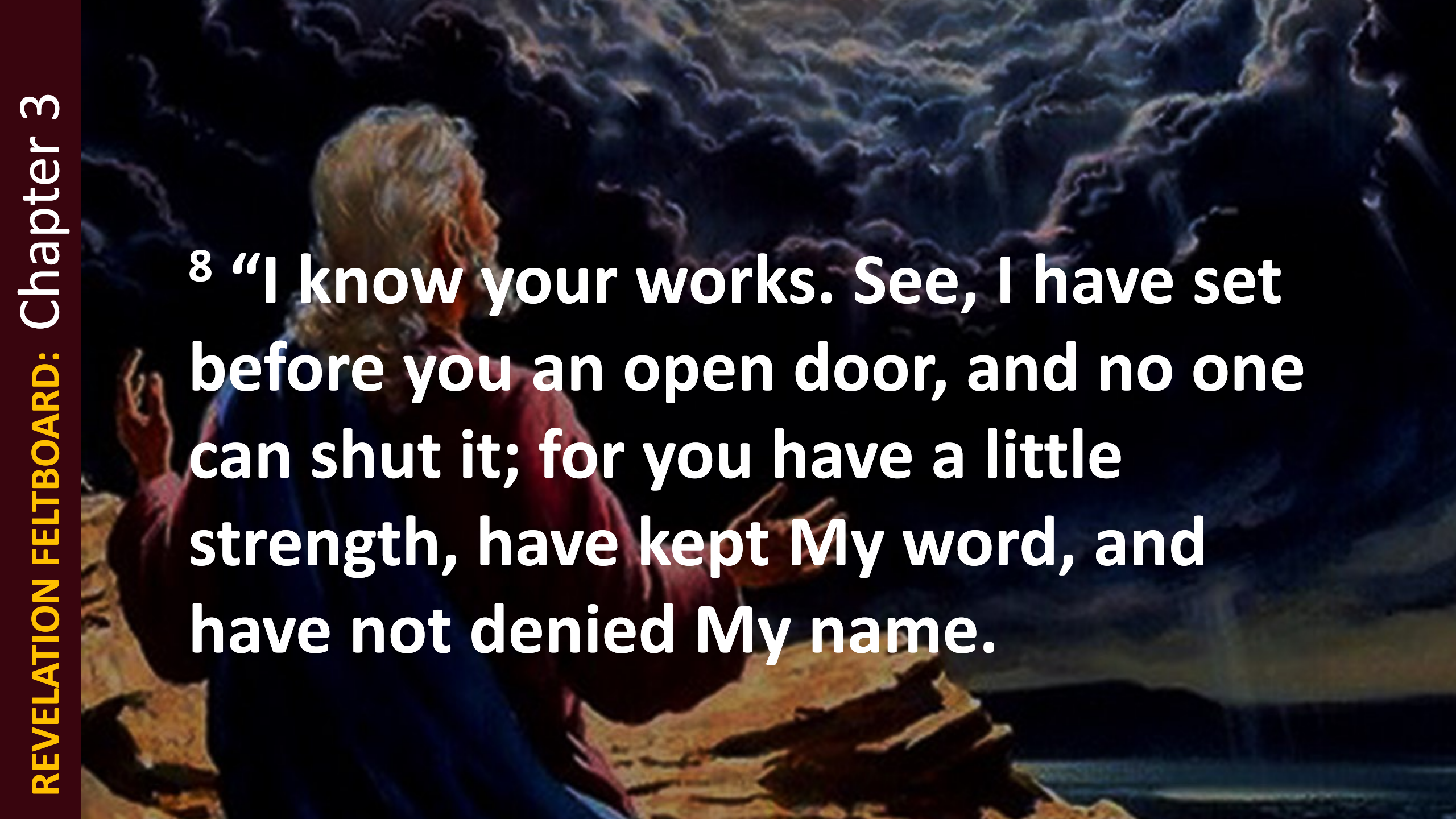
- NOTE: may also reference Janus, **pagan god of doors and hinges** (*yes, a god for everything!*)
- Greek ***cardo*** = **hinge**, later used by Pope and cardinals.
- Instead of god of hinges, we have the God, the Almighty, Supreme Authority of everything, who holds keys (***symbols of authority***) of the kingdom.
- Door to kingdom of God opened by Him and Him alone. **If He opens it, no one can shut it. If He shuts it, no one can open it.** (*or any other door!*)

- Good reminder to a missionary church (and to each of us!) that the kingdom is opened by God, not by the human missionaries. He is the One who commissions and enables the work of the Kingdom.

PHILADELPHIA

- Youngest of 7 cities
- “Gateway to the East”
- Open door policy
- On earthquake fault
- Volcanic, fertile soil
- Rich in hot springs
- Famous for pagan worship (Dionysus, god of wine)
- multiple gods “little Athens”
- Threat of persecution not high
- Synagogue of Satan (religious Jews) here also
- Now Ala-shehir, a Christian town



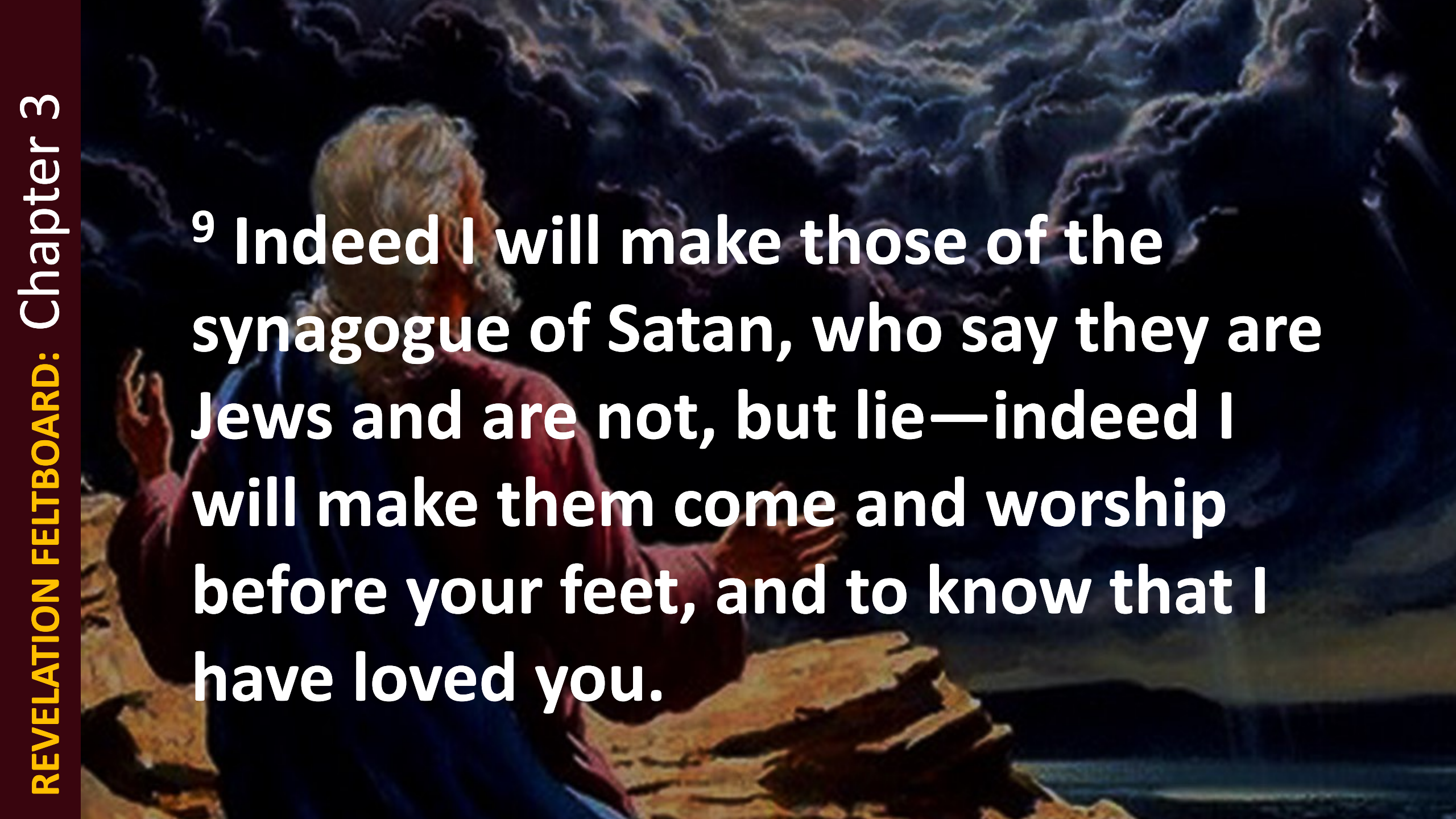


⁸ “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

Commendation: Jesus knows...

- Their works – *have been working for Him*
- Their strength – *they have a little*
- Have kept His word
- They have not denied Him
- He opened a door of evangelism for them. No one can shut this door.
- John 10 Jesus refers to Himself as "**the Door.**" He is entrance to Kingdom of God, not only IS the door, but He opens the door.

- *"for you have a little strength"* interpreted as meaning they have *some* "strength" (*dunamis* = power) to do His work here, even though persecuted by Jews.
- *Does not mean they were weak*, had access to His power, He opened door for their work.
- **Commendation:** kept His commands (were true to His Word), and had not denied His name.
- Though hounded by religious Jews, **steadfastly upheld Name above all other names.**

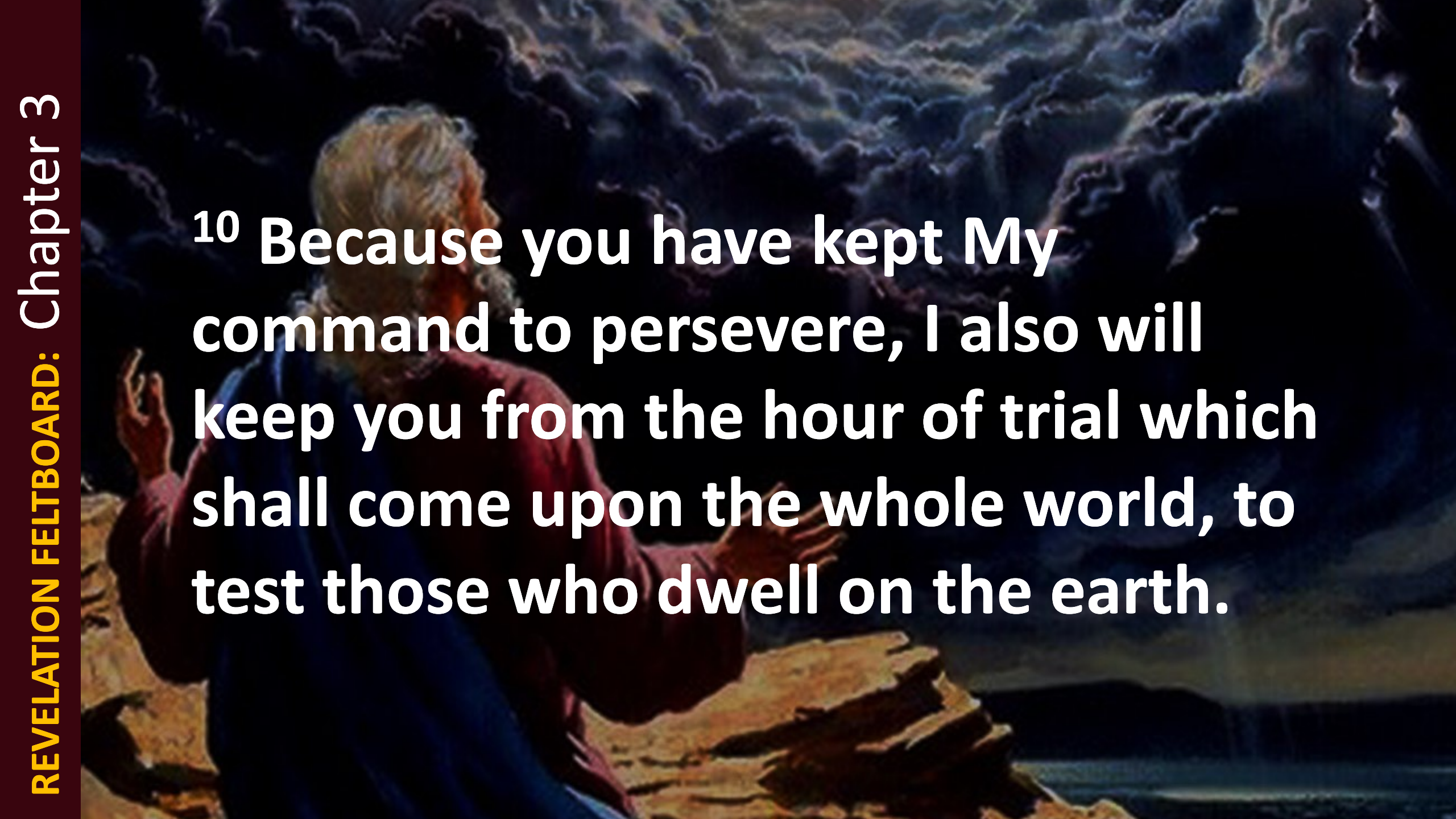


⁹ Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

- **Synagogue of Satan:** reference to those who called themselves Jews, but name only. Hearts hardened, believed were righteous, only ones deserving God's grace.
- Now **persecuted true believers**, after rejecting Messiah.
- No tolerance for this, rightly calls them a group dedicated to their Father, Satan (see John 8).
(also "brood of vipers" in Matthew, *children of serpents*)



- Jesus knew Philadelphia church under persecution but promised something odd (prophecy).
- Jews would come and *"worship before your feet, and...know that I have loved you."*
- Per Ignatius, this indeed happened. Many came to know Jesus, were repentant toward believers for previous persecution.
- Statement here = prophecy literally was fulfilled then, and will be again, as "**they look upon Him whom they pierced.**" (Zechariah 12)



¹⁰ Because you have kept My command to persevere, 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.

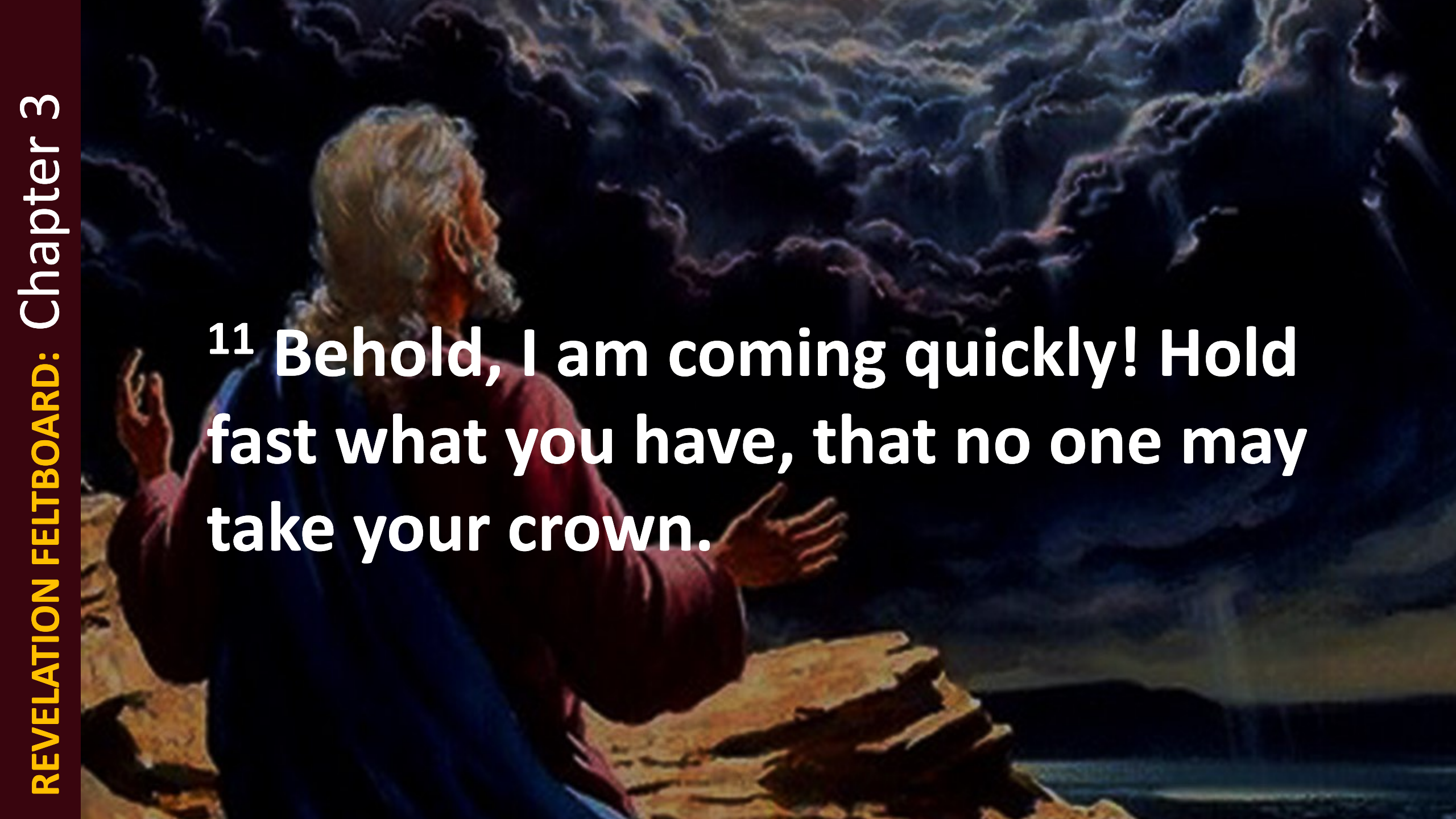
- **Special blessing:** *"I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."*
- The "hour of trial (tribulation)" possibly = 7 year Tribulation period, coming *"upon the whole world to test those who dwell on the earth."*
- May be a **special "pass"** from the Tribulation, meaning the faithful Church will be removed prior to this time.



- Others *disagree*, say = Jesus will *not keep them FROM*, but **THROUGH** hour of trial. Will endure it, but God will be with them.
- Main difference between **pre-Tribulation**, **mid-Trib** and **post-Trib** belief.
- Whole world will be tested to determine if they will acknowledge Truth of God, or not.
- **Soul harvest** then greater than any other time as millions come to Him.

- *"Those who dwell on the earth..."* First reference to phrase used 20X in Revelation - **"inhabitants of the earth."**
- Greek implies are identified with earth, associated with it. Have a "permanent" arrangement with earth, instead of "sojourners."
- *"inhabitants of the earth"* = **made earth permanent home. Believers just "passing through" on way home to God.**
- *Throughout scripture, = unbelievers, whose home is earth, not heaven.*





11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

- **Criticism:** None! (*Smyrna and Philadelphia only churches with no criticism*)
- **Exhortation:** Jesus gives them "inside" information - He is coming quickly (Greek = *suddenly*).
- This church awake, *unlike church at Sardis*.
- Told to "**hold fast**" (*Gr. w/great vigor and strength*) don't lose what they have.

HOLD FAST TO
THE ROCK OF
OUR
SALVATION!



- Good reminder - unless we diligently follow Jesus, can fall prey to enemy/worldly temptation
- Like Sardis, could be **caught sleeping** at His return.
- Scriptures filled with examples of those who "lost" things (*Esau, Reuben, Moses, Saul, etc...*) because their faith and obedience flagged.

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. And I will write on him My new name. 13 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." '

- “**Pillar**” = reference to practice of honoring people by putting names on pillars in temples.
- Overcomer will have name written on a pillar in the Temple of God!
- Won't have to "run for the hills" anymore (*falling debris from earthquakes in city*). **Won't flee from God anymore because of sin.**
- Will have God's name written on us = His ownership.
- **We will own all the promises of heaven, and God will own us.**

- **“My new Name”** New names common in scripture. *New names = new character, new creature in Messiah.*
- Some say **“My new Name”** implies Yeshua’s new Name, not ours. Perhaps “Property of King of Kings!”
- Church at Philadelphia a believing, living and telling active church - persecuted but empowered by Jesus.
- Thought to prophetically represent **Missionary Church** era from 1750 - 1900 AD

Notice “My God” statements:

- Temple of MY GOD
- Name of MY GOD
- City of MY GOD
- Heaven from MY GOD
- So what does this mean? ***If Jesus is God, why did He call God "My God?"***
- *We don't seem to have a problem with “My Father” in John!*



- **About “plurality” of our God.** One God, many roles.
- On cross, **quoted Psalm 22** (Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34) Psalm of David, Messianic prophecy (He spoke to fulfill) God the Father turned away from God the Son in moment of His crucifixion.
- As a man, Yeshua voluntarily surrendered His will to His Father (His God), emptied Himself of certain aspects of His deity – **lowered Himself temporarily** (*Hebrews 2:9*).

- Other places in scripture: John 20:17 – *“Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’ ”*
- Revelation 3:2 - *Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before [My] God.*
- Here (Rev 3) again Jesus calls God "My God." It is about His relationship to His Father.

- Yeshua (Jesus) = eternal God Himself incarnate, but still a different person from the Father.
- On earth as a man, **subjected Himself** to the will, guidance, wisdom and direction of God the Father, *His God* ('My God'). *Also model of what we are to do.*
- Other scriptures reference lower status of Jesus to the Father (see *John 14:28, Hebrews 2:9, Phil 2:5-11*)
- Does not imply inferiority, merely function, **difference in roles**, how Godhead works together.

We cannot fully understand this!!

Today...

- inspiration of scriptures denied
- supreme authority of Jesus denounced from seminaries and pulpits,
- Church has embraced false teachers, worldly agenda
- Church asleep or dead

...people representing Philadelphia, at that time, during missionary age, and today ***"keep my Word...and have not denied my name."***

- Letter deviates from others in structure, titles and promises.
- Refers to faithful, true *ekklesia* in all ages?
- Pre-Trib “harpazo?”
- **Can we call ourselves “members of the church at Philadelphia?”**

¹⁴ “And to the angel of the church 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 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, that 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." ' "

Letter to *ekklesia* at Laodicea...

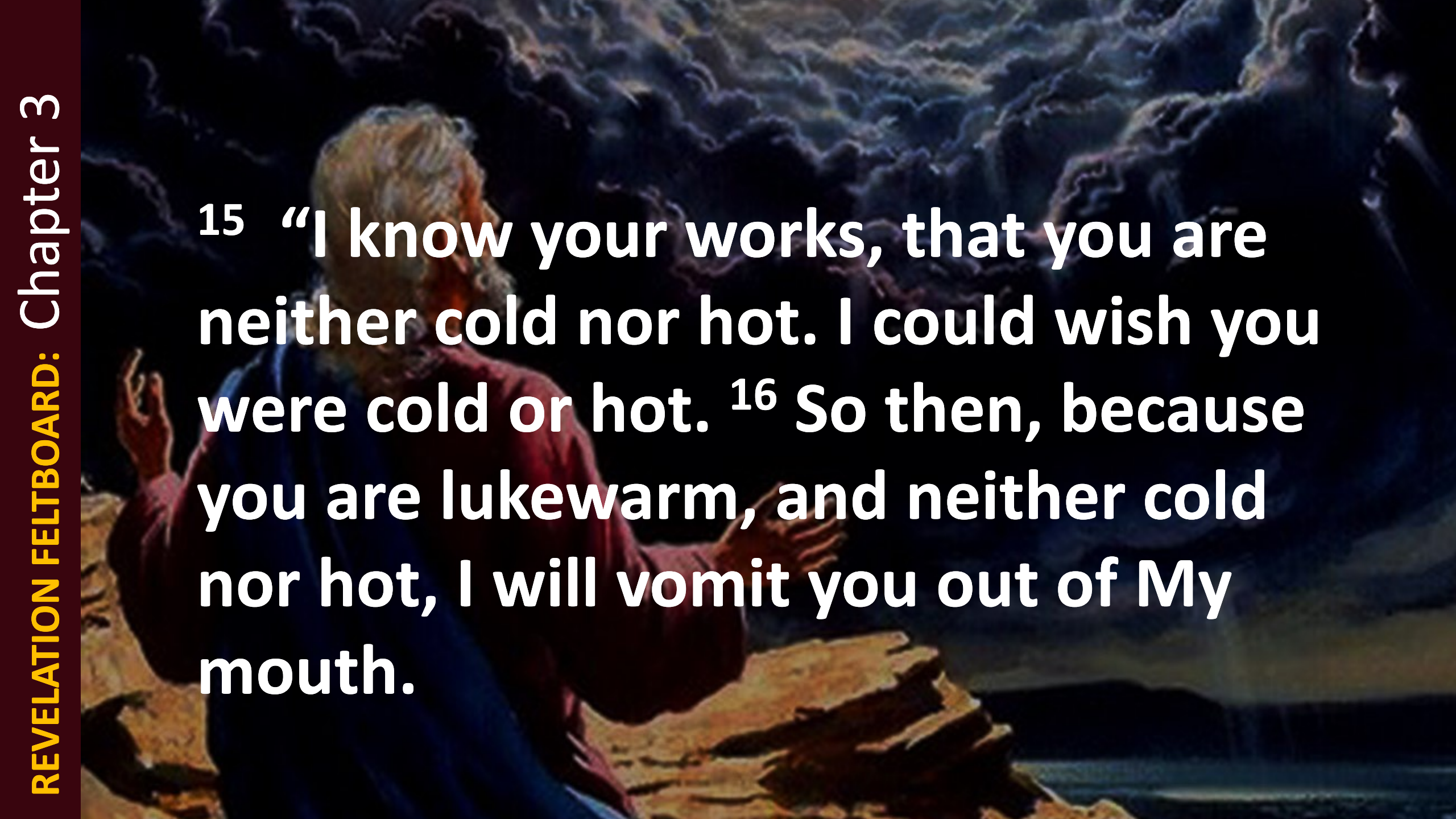
14 “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

- **Laodicea** = "rule (or justice) of the people."
Appropriate for this church, and this age. People in charge here, not God.
- **Description/Title of Jesus:** The "Amen" = so be it. So it is. Faithful and True Witness *opposite of what this church was*. Implied judgment.
- Last church in the circuit, representing probable **last church before second coming** (*this age?*)
- Church of end of times apostate, a false church. *Almost totally there.*

- *"the Beginning of the creation of God"* often misunderstood, *if you don't know original words.* **Does NOT mean Jesus was created.**
- **Not a created being. Already equated Himself with the Almighty, the One who has no beginning and no end.**
- **Words mean origin or source of creation. Jesus created all things (Colossians 1:16). Greek (*arche*) also = highest order, top rank. Jesus is King of Kings, Lord of Lords. **He is the pre-eminent One, master and originator of creation.****

LAODICEA

- Last city in loop
- Large, prosperous
- Hieropolis 6 mi. away known for hot springs
- Mountain spring cold waters at Colossae
- Laodicea half way – lukewarm water
- Huge trading center
- Medical school, (ear salve, eye powder)
- Financial center
- Free citizenship
- Everything about \$\$
- Wealthiest city in Roman times
- Not a religious center
- World and wealth



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 cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

- **Commendation:** None! (*not even some who had not soiled their clothes, like church in Sardis, only other church with no praise*) That alone should wake up the church in this age.
- **Criticism: lukewarm!**
- Jesus was disappointed in other churches, informed them to get things right. **With this church He shows disgust.**
- Laodiceans well understood what was said here.
- Two water sources met to provide lukewarm water (*hotsprings and cold mountain springs*)

Spiritual Passion



On fire for
Jesus



Pretender
(NO passion)



Reject
Jesus

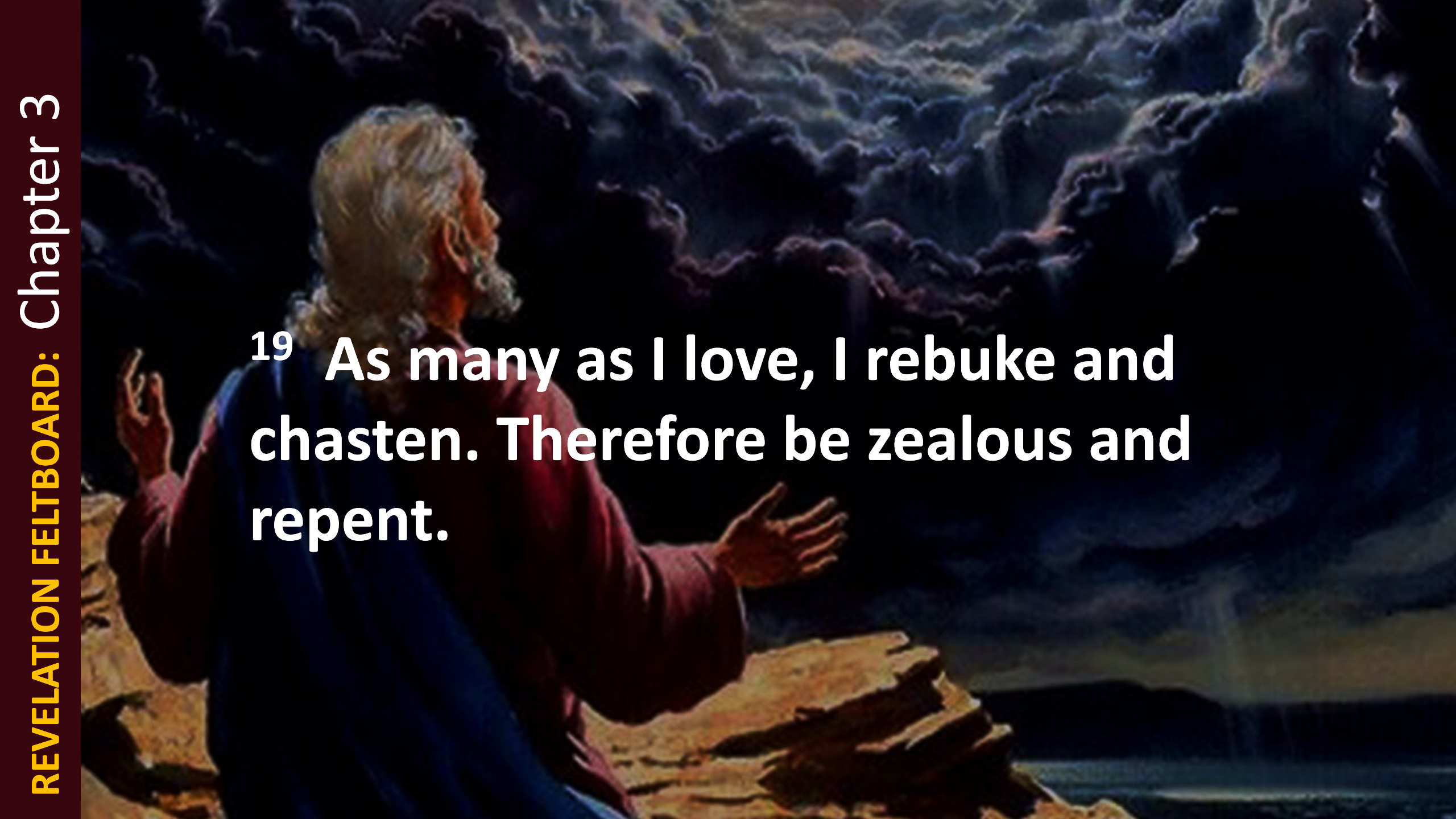
- Lukewarm water is disgusting (*even today this used to induce vomiting*).
- Wished they were either cold or hot - **either extreme shows passion**.
- Church disgusted Jesus so much He gives a very descriptive picture of his rejection.
- Laodicea represents church in latter days, from about 1900 onward.
- **Why would church of today** (*if we are in the end times*) **disgust Jesus?**

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, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

- Jesus uses renown of city to chastise church.
- *“Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’...”* 60 AD devastating earthquake, **refused aid** from Rome, insisted on rebuilding themselves, own resources. Too rich, too proud to accept anything from anyone.
- *Believed* they were wealthy, but He says they are **wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked!** **Slap in the face!** (*Meant to be*)

- **Wake up church!** Wealthy believers there:
 - needed His gold (*refined - always indicates purification by trial*) to be “rich”
 - needed His WHITE garments (*robes of redeemed, righteousness*) instead of what known for (*black, sinful*) to cover spiritual nakedness
 - needed His medical salve (*from Great Physician*) to heal spiritual blindness





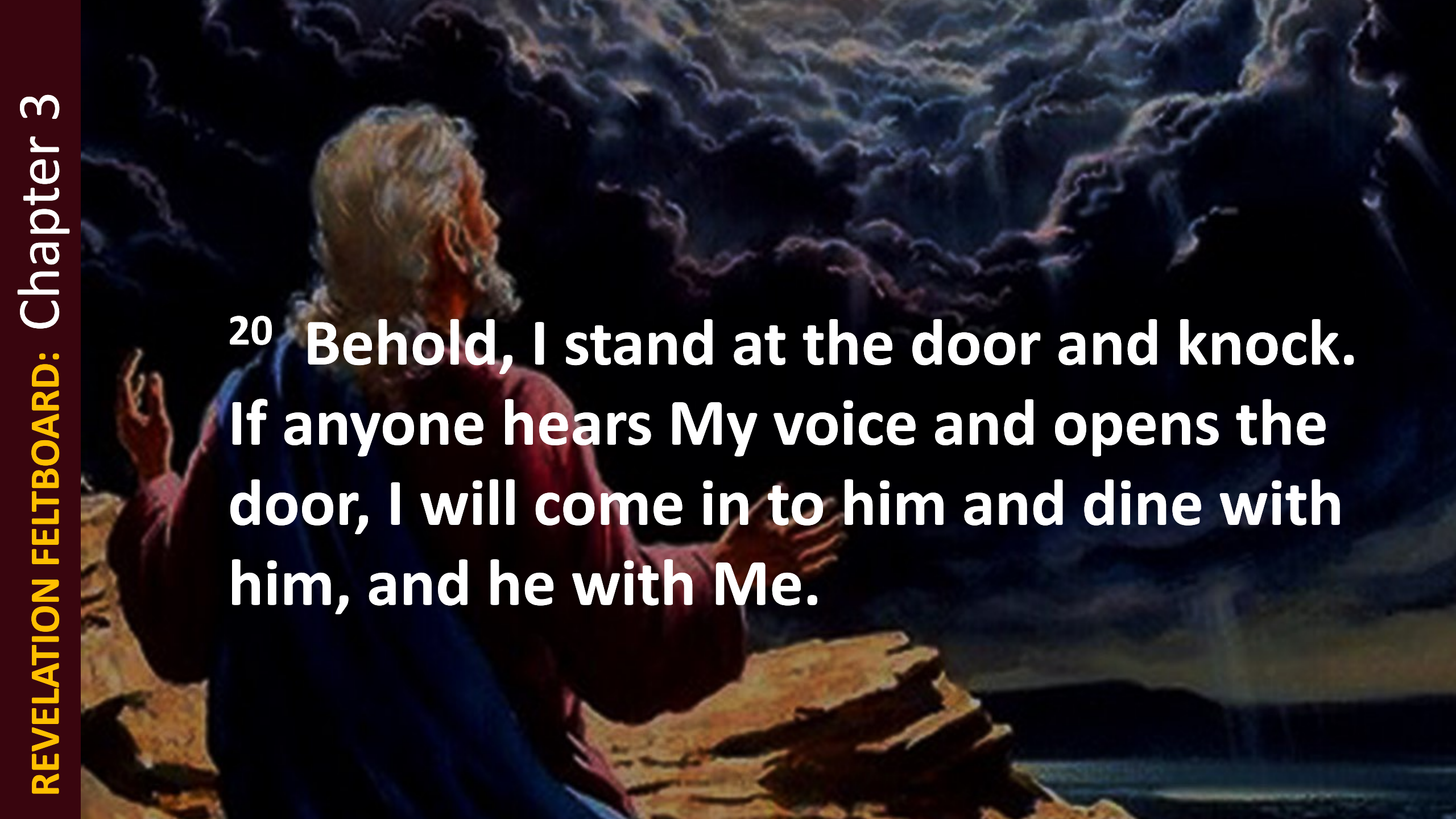
19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

- *Although disgusted with this bunch, Yeshua also indicates He loves them*
- *Because He loves them, He will rebuke and discipline (like parent)*

Exhortation:

- **be zealous, restore passion**
- repent of lazy, lukewarm attitude about Him
- Our God is a jealous God, demanding our complete love and loyalty. Should be voluntary, **our greatest desire.**

Church at Laodicea forgot this, even forgot Him. Lukewarm pretenders.



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.

- Notice **appeal to ANYONE**, not church as whole
- *“Is there anyone in Laodicea (or anywhere?) who will hear me and answer???”*
- **open invitation** to any individual who will answer knock at door of heart.
- True believers **forced to leave apostate** (*fallen away*) church of end times.
- Jesus **calls them out** (*ecclesia!*) of the “church” into His fellowship.

EKKLESIA: Once
called *out of the
world*, now
called
out of
the
church
because
the *world*
is in the church.

called **Out** of
darkness
into light



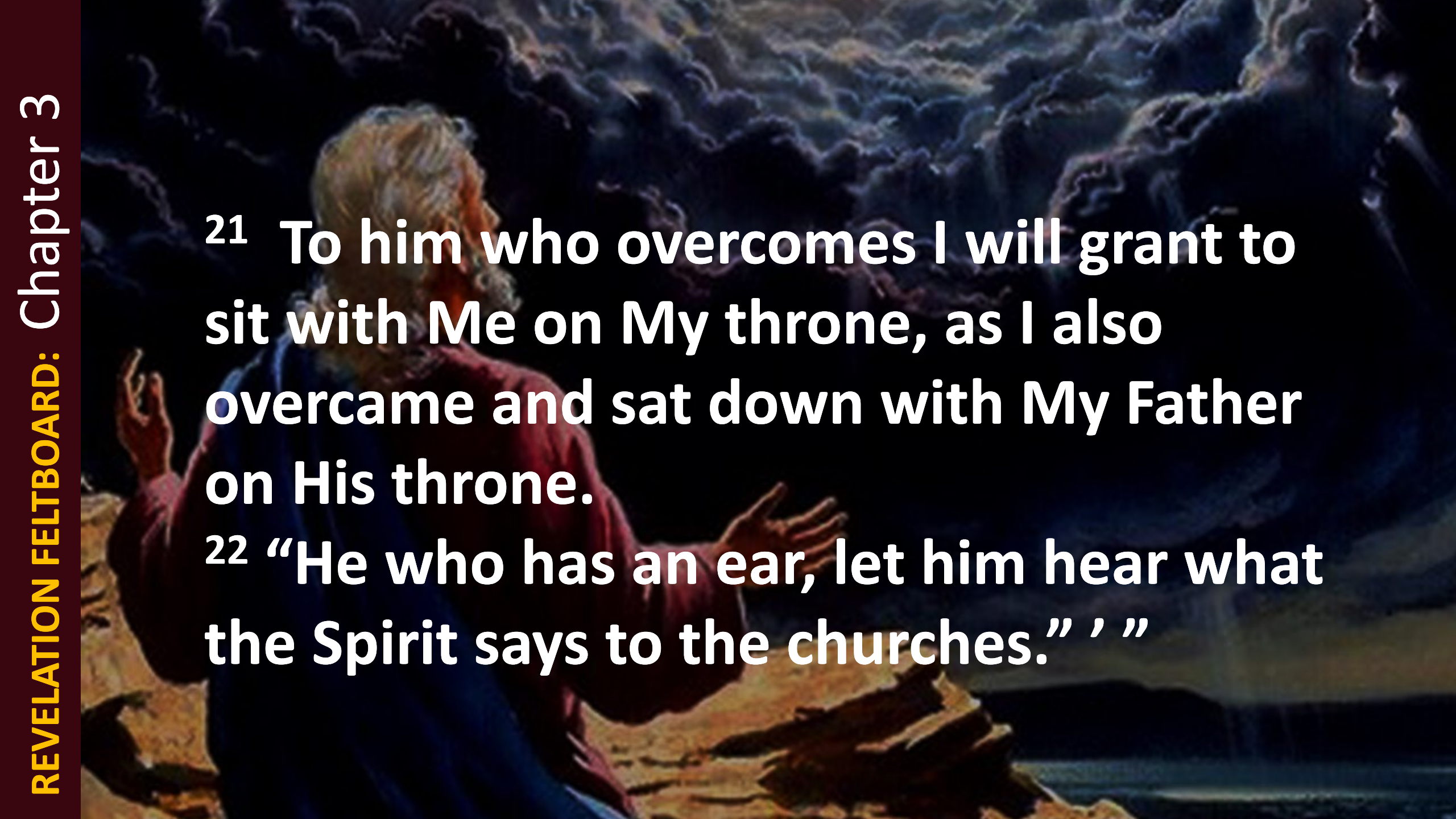


- Mid 1800s William Holman Hunt's "**Light of the World.**"
- Jesus outside door overgrown with weeds, not used in awhile.
- Someone noted no handle on door. Hunt replied, "*This door is a picture of the human heart, the only handle is on the inside.*"

- Jesus won't kick door down.
Up to us to open.
- To "dine" with Jesus = share main **fellowship** meal.
- God's desire throughout scripture = **fellowship with us.**
- (*What Tabernacle and Temple all about, whole point of our redemption...*)



*Most familiar with
Sallman's painting*



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.” ’ ”

Promise:

- Can be seen as indication of **hope for individuals**, even in apostate church.
- Right to sit with Jesus on His throne. *Beyond comprehension!*
- Looks forward to **Millennial Kingdom**, when we rule with Him.
- Thankfully, **in redeemed state**, not subject to corruption of rulers today!
- Jesus already on throne with His Father. We will follow Him there.

SIGNS OF LAODICEA TODAY...

- Scripture no longer ultimate authority for Christian faith. Emergents teach we cannot know "truth" of Word of God, so *rely on thoughts of man*.
- Gospel of Yeshua **replaced by humanistic ideas** promoting church growth and "**social gospel**" (*make world a better place, feed hungry, environmental, etc*).
- Almost no teaching about need for atonement, shed blood of Jesus, or forgiveness of sins.
- **Emphasis on building kingdom of God "now"** (*Dominion theology*) - less warning about imminent return of Messiah and coming judgment.

SIGNS OF LAODICEA TODAY...

- Idea that Jesus will rule and reign in literal millennial period **considered unbiblical and heretical.**
- Emergent church's "eschatology" claims we are near a golden age when God will recreate everything, and us, we will help Him by making world a better place.
- Belief Jesus will not judge when He comes again. Teachings on "signs of times" and Bible's prophecies regarding those times *considered false.*
- Revelation does not refer to future, but instead has been fulfilled in past (1st century) or just allegorical.

SIGNS OF LAODICEA TODAY...

- Idea church has replaced Israel. Israel has no prophetic significance. (*A LIE!!! replacement theology*)
- **“Experiential” mystical form of Christianity promoted** - way to reach younger generation.
- Christianity needs to be **“reinvented”** to provide meaning for latest generation.
- "ancient-future" or "vintage Christianity" - to take church forward need to go back in history, find out what experiences effective for people to embrace Christianity (*icons and mystical rituals, relies on mysticism*).

ERRRR!!!

SIGNS OF LAODICEA TODAY...

- Images, sensual experiences key to “experiencing,” knowing God. (*icons, candles, incense, liturgy, labyrinths, prayer stations, contemplative prayer, experiencing sacraments, particularly Eucharist*).
- emphasis on **ecumenism**, unity with Roman Church, ultimately all religions, leading to one world religion.
- Suggest many ways to God. “God is in everything” - **New Age teaching**. “*All paths lead to god, the divine within*” prevalent in emergent church.

SIGNS OF SARDIS AND LAODICEA TODAY...

- Members who question/resist changes reprimanded, usually asked to leave.
- Over age 50? Your opinion doesn't matter. See ya!

ENDANGERED SPECIES



Engraved in stone, cathedral in Lübeck, Germany

Ye call me Master and obey me not,
Ye call me Light and seek me not,
Ye call me Way and walk me not,
Ye call me Life and desire me not,
Ye call me wise and follow me not,
Ye call me fair and love me not,
Ye call me eternal and seek me not,
Ye call me gracious and trust me not,
Ye call me noble and serve me not,
Ye call me mighty and honor me not,
Ye call me just and fear me not,
If I condemn ye, blame me not.

**Epitome of Churches at
Sardis and Laodicea**

**First Church problem:
Lack of passion**

**Last Church problem:
Lack of passion**

**MY Problem:
Lack of passion**

Passion Definition:

**“strongly and barely controllable emotion,”
“intense, driving, or overmastering feeling or conviction”**

Is this how I feel about God?

***Yevarekh-kha Adonai
veyishmerekha***

May the LORD bless you and keep you

***Ya'er Adonai panav elekha
vihunneka***

May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

***Yissa Adonai panav elekha
viyasev lekha shalom.***

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

