



GRACE
BREVARD

To Enjoy and Express the Freeing Radical Love of Jesus

BrevardChurch.org



LAODICEA
PERGAMUM



SARDIS
SMYRNA



**THE
LETTERS
OF REVELATION
EMPIRES AT WAR**

REVELATION 3:1-6

SARDIS

"SAY MY NAME"

OCTOBER 30

⁵ The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.



The Sardis
Culture



The Sardis
Church



The Sardis
Connection



Turkey

Rev
3:1-6

GALATIA

PERGAMUM

THYATIRA

SMYRNA

SARDIS

PHILADELPHIA

EPHESUS

LAODICEA

PATMOS

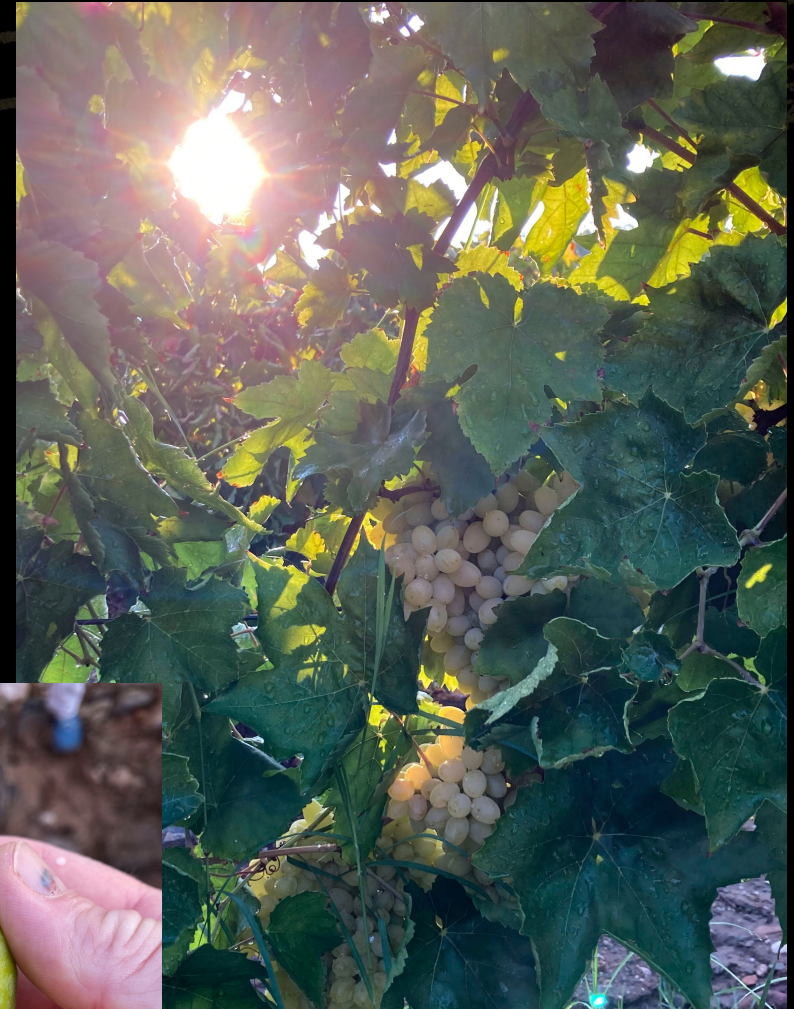
GREECE

Istanbul

GREECE

Israel

The Sardis Culture



Temple to Artemis

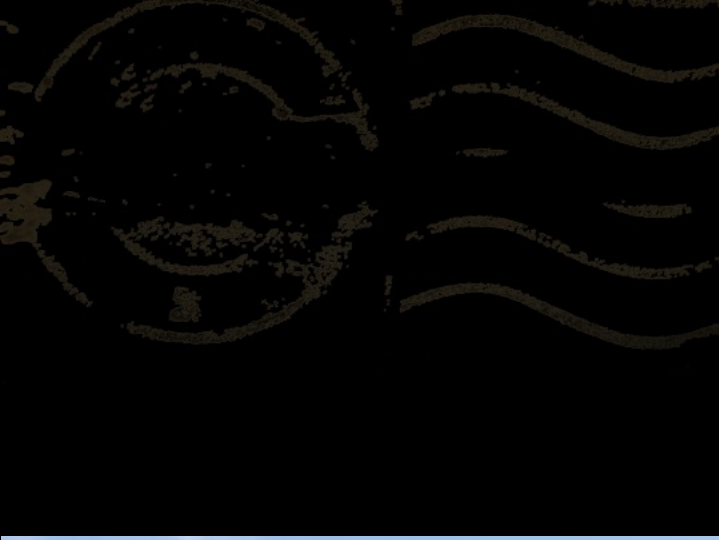
78 columns

58 ft tall and 6 ft in diam.



Earthquake destroyed it in 499 BCE
It was rebuilt, but never finished







547^{BC}
Cyrus and Great
and King Croesus

213^{BC}
Antiochus III
and "King" Achaeus



The Sardis Church

¹ “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write:
‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.’

Seven = Complete, Full, Finished

Seven Spirits = Holy Spirit

Seven Stars = Completed Church

The Sardis Church



The Sardis Church

² Wake up (“be watchful”), and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works **complete** in the sight of my God.



Galatians 3:3

Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

“I know your works.
You have the *reputation*
 (“*name*”) of being alive,
but you are dead.

⁴ Yet you have still a few names in
Sardis, people who have not
soiled their garments...

Outside ≠ Inside



“A perfect model of inoffensive Christianity”

- Caird

“It was a busy church with meetings every night, committees galore, wheels within wheels, promotion and publicity, something going on all the time. It had a reputation of being alive.”

- Havner

The Sardis Connection

You have the *reputation* (“*name*”) of being alive, but you are dead.

“I don’t go to church because church is full of _____”

If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief,
and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.



1 Thessalonians 5:2

For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, ***“There is peace and security,”*** then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief,
and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.



Luke 12

¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

What's my Sardis?

² Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die,
for I have not found your works **complete** in the sight of my God.



Metrics for a
Healthy Church?

Metrics for a
Healthy Christian?

Ephesians 3:19
... and to know the love of Christ that
surpasses knowledge, that you may be **filled**
with all the **fullness** of God.

Romans 13:8
...love each other, for the one who loves
another has **fulfilled** the law.

⁵ ***The one who conquers*** will be clothed thus in white garments,
and I will never blot his name out of the book of life.
I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

5 The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments,
and I will never blot his name out of the book of life.
I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

Revelation 19:13

He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

⁵ The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments,
and I will never blot his name out of the book of life.

I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

Philippians 2

⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the *name that is
above every name*, ¹⁰ so that at the name
of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven
and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and
every tongue *confess* that Jesus Christ is
Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Matthew 10

³² So everyone who
acknowledges me
before men, I also will
acknowledge before my
Father who is in heaven,

⁵ The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments,
*and I will never blot his name out of **the book of life**.*
I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

Necropolis



Tombs

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and I will never blot his name out of the book of life.
I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

Damnatio Memoriae

Emperor Domitian's name erased from history/memory



⁵ The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments,
and I will never blot his name out of the book of life.
I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

John 10

²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

John 9

³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.

Romans 6

⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

³ Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent.

Remember

Keep

Repent

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober-minded; be **watchful**. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Benediction

A 4000 years old tradition of giving a corporate blessing over God's people.

Ephesians 3

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.