

6. The Philadelphia Church 3:7-13

--it is faithful and has kept His word

--it is troubled by false brethren but has not given in

--its little strength will be implemented for the doors opened by God.

Great opportunities seem to be accompanied by great temptations and despair. The prophetic concept is to keep one's eyes on the Lord and so to be faithful.

--The challenge for this church is to continue in what it is doing.

7. The Laodicean church 3:14-22

--it is lukewarm, hypocritical and defensive

--it is pretentious to its own ruin.

These attitudes are often used to "cover up" poor performances in several areas. Honesty and practicality are two essential marks of a faithful community.

--The challenge is to repent and take from the Lord what is needed for health.

All of these messages are accompanied by special identification of the Lord and the charge..."Him that has an ear..." We can easily draw from them prophetic scenarios to help us understand our own fellowships and to point them in faithfulness to the Lord. That is why the Scripture is given. There are some factors that are more internal and less is definitively known...the time that these things take, etc. But the overall character is rather well defined and if we know it we can better pray for God's help for our own works.

D. A quick note on the religious structure at the end of the age

1. A new god head (Revelation 13)
2. A new representation of truth (2 Thessalonians 2)
3. A new alliance (Revelation 17-18)
4. And what signs point in this direction today?
  - theological indifference
  - inclusive ecumenism
  - societal preoccupation
  - relativism of standards.

E. The Status of the Nation (brief, quick, and probably dry!)

1. Our place in the Biblical world
  - Daniel's image (well, really Nebuchadnezzar's image)
  - The character of our culture
  - The rising and fusing of powers
  - The relevance of Genesis 12