

Sunday School Lesson.....October 6, 2019.....History of the Church
Church of Philadelphia # 5

Bible Readings: Revelation Chapter 2 and 3,

Revelation 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie, behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

The analysis of this verse can best be exposed by the verse being reviewed starting at the end and working backwards to the beginning:

“behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

What is done here is to take the ancient Scriptures regarding the Gentiles "bending before" Israel (Isaiah 60:14) and to state that the reverse is now about to be true. The Jews were once God's chosen people, an honor forfeited by them in their rejection of the Son of God. These words echo the words of the prophets telling of the coming of the Gentiles to do homage to the people of Israel, and of bowing themselves down before the soles of their feet. By the time this part of scripture comes to truth historically is about one hundred twenty-five years (1640 + 125 = 1765). The new world is well established, the colonies have become stronger, richer, and much more blessed of the blessings of God.

Mean while things are souring in Europe (England is struggling financially, France has ceded most of its “new world holdings and territories to England) after the French and Indian Wars. Spain is holding on to its claims of Louisiana to California though it is having trouble establishing colonies in the territory.

England begins to pass a series of tax upon the colonies:

- the Sugar tax of 1764 taxes all sugar imported by the colonies. Today it would be called a tariff.
- The Currency Act of the same year prohibits the colonies from printing, establishing, or having their own currency.
- The Stamp Tax of 1765 was the beginning of the straw that broke the camel's back. It allowed England to tax every piece of paper used by the colonies; ships logs, mail, school books, letters public and private. This was the beginning of time of “rebellion”.

Individual colonies, acting independently from each other, protested, yelled, screamed and starting writing letters. They were ignored. The British needed the funds to maintain the large presence of English military in the colonies. The uproar over the Stamp Act led to its repeal in 1766 but at the same time the English Parliament passed “The Declaratory Act” which in essence gave England total control over all facets of the colonies acts and lives. The momentum was building.

In 1767 the British passed “The Townsend Act” which on the one hand nullified all previous acts passed raising tariffs on the colonies, while on the other hand gave the British full right to any and all land, business, and other possessions held by any colony or colonist. This led to the writing of the “Circular Letter”, a letter published through out the colony (Mass.) by Samuel Adams and James Otis Jr. which was an open protest to the “Townsend Act”.

The “Liberty Pole” was raised in New York in protest of the Townsend Act. A brief skirmish erupted between colonist and Her Majesty’s Troops.

British Parliament banned the “Adams Circular Letter” and ordered Sam Adams arrested. This caused nine colonies to adopt the “Adams Circular Letter” as regular reading material to be posted in taverns and public squares.

What does all of this have to do with verse 9 of Revelation Chapter 3 you ask? God was using the evil of “those who called themselves Jews but were not” to unify His Church in the New World. The word used is “Jews” or in the Greek “*loudaios*” and is today consider a slang word, a put down. In that day it mean “*one who claims to belong to God*”.

Go back to last Sunday’s lesson:

- In England the Church of England claimed to have the “Key” (meaning authority to determine who went and who did not go to heaven) through the Church of England, they “claimed to be *loudaios* (Jews....one that belong to God). They didn’t! They don’t.
- In Europe the Roman Catholics made the same claim. They too claimed to be *loudaios* (Jews belonging to God). They weren’t. They aren’t.
- In Israel the nation of Israel made the same claim. Once the chosen vessel of God they were *loudaios* (Jews that belong to God), by this time in history (1767) they weren’t, they aren’t now; but will be at the end of the rapture.

God declared that “*Jesus, the author of this and every letter to the Churches had ‘the Key of David’, that He and He alone determined who went and who did not go to heaven. He opened the doors to kingdoms and He closed them.*”

He is in the process of opening in the Philadelphia Church Period the “door to a new earthly kingdom”, one that has honored Him, His Word, His Church and thus He will establish a “kingdom” that makes those who say they are “Jews” (*loudaios* – belong to God; but, don’t) to bow down at the feet of the New Home of the Church, the Philadelphia Church.

Now before we go to far let me say that someone is wondering if “I” am condemning the three entities above (Church of England, Roman Catholics, and Israel). I am not! The Word of God condemns anyone, any nation, any religion, any living creature that rejects Jesus as the Living Son of the Most High God. God rejects any

doctrine that places any ritual, any religion, any act, any monarch, any living creature on the same pedestal with the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore let the chips fall as they fall. Peter was not “Christ incarnate”, the present white smoke Papal ruler isn’t either.

On March 5, 1770, a large crowd gathered around a group of British soldiers. The crowd grew threatening, throwing snowballs, rocks, and debris at them. One soldier was clubbed and fell. There was no order to fire, but the soldiers fired into the crowd anyway. They hit 11 people; three civilians died at the scene of the shooting, and two died after the incident. The event quickly came to be called the Boston Massacre. The soldiers were tried and acquitted (defended by John Adams), but the widespread descriptions soon began to turn colonial sentiment against the British. This, in turn, began a downward spiral in the relationship between Britain and the Province of Massachusetts.

A new ministry under Lord North came to power in 1770, and the British Parliament withdrew all taxes except the tax on tea, giving up its efforts to raise revenue while maintaining the right to tax. This temporarily resolved the crisis, and the boycott of British goods largely ceased, with only the more radical patriots such as Samuel Adams continuing to agitate.

In 1772, it became known that the Crown intended to pay fixed salaries to the governors and judges in Massachusetts, which had been paid by local authorities. This would reduce the influence of colonial representatives over their government. Samuel Adams in Boston set about creating new Committees of Correspondence, which linked Patriots in all 13 colonies and eventually provided the framework for a rebel government. Virginia, the largest colony, set up its Committee of Correspondence in early 1773, on which Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson served.

Meanwhile, the British Parliament passed the Tea Act to lower the price of taxed tea exported to the colonies in order to help the East India Company undersell smuggled Dutch tea. Special consignees were appointed to sell the tea in order to bypass colonial merchants. The act was opposed by those who resisted the taxes and also by smugglers who stood to lose business. In most instances, the consignees were forced to resign and the tea was turned back, but Massachusetts’ governor, (a governor for Britain) Governor Hutchinson refused to allow Boston merchants to make their own choice of from whom to buy tea. A town meeting in Boston determined that the tea would not be landed, and ignored a demand from the governor to disperse. On December 16, 1773, a group of men, led by Samuel Adams and dressed to evoke the appearance of American Indians, boarded the ships of the British East India Company and dumped £10,000 worth of tea from their holds (approximately \$636,000 in 2019 dollars) into Boston Harbor. Decades later, this event became known as the Boston Tea Party and remains a significant part of American patriotic lore that started the movement that would end with “*those who*

said they were Jew <Ioudaios....those belonging to God, but didn't) to bow down at the feet of the Gentile led Church birthed in the New World.

The British government responded by passing several Acts which came to be known as the Intolerable Acts, which further darkened colonial opinion towards the British. They consisted of four laws enacted by the British parliament. The first was the Massachusetts Government Act which altered the Massachusetts charter and restricted town meetings. The second act was the Administration of Justice Act which ordered that all British soldiers to be tried were to be arraigned in Britain, not in the colonies. The third Act was the Boston Port Act, which closed the port of Boston until the British had been compensated for the tea lost in the Boston Tea Party. The fourth Act was the Quartering Act of 1774, which allowed royal governors to house British troops in the homes of citizens without requiring permission of the owner of the homes. It was governmental take over off private property (not unlike the threaten repeat now being espoused over guns, not unlike the law of *eminent domain* which was passed in the United States of America in 1879 and would be one of the dying signs of The Church of Philadelphia and the birth of the Church of Laodicea.)

The fuse was lit. The Church of Philadelphia (the Period known as) was soon to set itself at liberty and begin the march to bring those who called themselves "Jews" (i.e. belong to God, but did not) to worship at the feet of the New World that was becoming a New Nation.