

Mal_3:1 "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. (*in voice and deed*) And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.

Mat_3:3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS: 'PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD; MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.'

Rev 3:14-18 READ***

"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:

Rev 3:15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

Rev 3:16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

Rev 3:17 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—

Rev 3:18 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.

Laodicea, which means 'the peoples opinions' or 'the people's rule.' where they lost their first love because they made their opinion greater than Gods command. – THEY LOST THE CAPACITY TO SEE THE ERROR OF THEIR WAY –**Laodicea who lost the “WAY” and went THEIR “WAY” And their hearts became lukewarm to the things of the Lord due to their own self sufficiency they had lost the core of the message which is**

LOVE – CONSECRATION - DEDICATION

“THEY BECAME THE CHURCH THAT HAD POWER WITHOUT CHARACTER”

NEW TESTAMENT JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS THE MESSENGER MAKING THE WAY FOR JESUS CHRIST. JOHN HAD A NAZARITE VOW
Jdgs 13 SAMSON HAD A NAZARITE VOW

both were set apart, both called from the womb both were an answer to prayer both walked in power

ONE HAD CONVICTION - ONE HAD CONTENTION

ONE WALKED IN COUNSEL OF THE SPIRIT – ONE WALKED IN THE COUNSEL OF HIS OWN HEART

One humbled himself and cried LORD I MUST DECREASE THAT YOU MIGHT INCREASE – THE OTHER STRUGGLED WITH HUMILITY, only recorded that Samson prayed twice.

Samson is a typical picture of one

who moves in power but without character

one who was ruled by ones own opinion He is a picture of the Laodicean Church; who forgot the “the reason why He had been called” - and succumbed to his own reasoning Had all the DEMONSTRATION of the externals (strength – recognition) **without the internal conviction to guard his soul....**

HE HAD POWER WITHOUT – HUMILITY AND CONVICTION
VOW OF A NAZARITE WAS UPON HIM - BUT THE VOW NEVER HAD HIM

SO SAMSON STRUGGLED IN HIS WALK – HIS GREATEST STRUGGLE WAS IDENTITY

- Matth4 DEVIL ATTACKS JESUS ON THE MOUNT 2 OF THE 3 TEMPTATION QUESTIONS INVOLVED IDENTITY. DEVIL ATTACKS IDENTITY SO WE BECOME HALF HEARTED IN OUR WALK WHICH CAUSES US TO LOSE VISION AND SURRENDER MORALLY TO STRIP US OF OUR CONSECRATION AND ULTIMATELY OUR STRENGTH TO FULFIL MY DESTINY IN WHAT HE CALLED ME FOR FROM MY MOTHERS WOMB TO FULFIL....

In Numbers 6 and 7 where the Nazarite oath is given and there are four distinctive's in our relationship with the Lord:-

- a) separation. 6:1-12
- b) worship. 6:13-21
- c) blessing. 6:22-27
- d) service. 7:1-89

“STRENGTH WITHOUT CONVICTION LEADS TO SIN”

A LACK OF IDENTITY – CAUSES ME TO SEEK IT OUT FROM ANOTHER OR FROM MY OWN STRENGTH

Job 6:24 "Teach me, and I will hold my tongue; Cause me to understand wherein I have erred.