

The Seven Churches of Revelation and the Advent of Veridicanism

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Abstract

The seven churches of Revelation relate to church eras spanning the time between the ascension of Jesus Christ and the advent of the Veridican doctrine. The Veridican doctrine is necessarily the true religion of Christ and is prophesied in Revelation 3:20-22. There will be no church era after the advent of Veridicanism, and the Veridican doctrine is the only way to overcome in preparation as the Elect in Christ for the end times. This paper will make the case for the above as it explains how each era of the seven churches leads consecutively and necessarily to the advent of Veridicanism in 1993.

Stipulations

1. The book of Revelation is provisionally applicable to all those “*who have ears to hear*” the meaning of it throughout all the time since the ascension of Jesus Christ, but it is specifically applicable to the Elect of Christ who are imminently approaching the tribulation.
2. Every verse of Revelation has deep multiple layers of meaning that become increasingly evident as the end of the age approaches; therefore, I will not be discussing everything a verse could possibly mean but will instead focus on the concept of the church ages leading to the advent of Veridicanism.

The Church Era of Ephesus¹

¹Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; ²I know thy works and thy labor, and thy patience, and show thou canst not bear them which are

¹ King James Version 1611, Holy Bible, Revelation 3:1-7

evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: ³And hast borne , and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted. ⁴Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. ⁵Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. ⁶But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Keep in mind that verse 1 clearly indicates this is not a letter to a physical church. It's not a letter to a church at all. It's a letter to an angel of a church, in this case the Church of Ephesus; however, aside from what Jesus says about the church of Ephesus to the angel of that church, conveyed through John, nothing else about its physical-historical existence is relevant. The physical church of Ephesus is long gone, and in fact, the town in Turkey (Asia minor) is now called, Selcuk, and it belongs to the Muslims.

Rather, Rev. 1:20 tells us clearly that a “church” is represented as a candlestick, and it has a star which is the angel of that church.

The mystery of the seven stars thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

For these reasons, we should never think the messages to the churches from Jesus Christ are paper letters sent to physical churches in the first century. Rather, they represent eras of the church age, from the beginning of the Church age (the ascension of Christ) to the end of that age (the start of the tribulation).

A candle is highly applicable as a symbol, both individually for an individual Church *era* and collectively—as seven candles—to represent the entire Church *age* (The number seven, throughout Judeo-Christian scriptures is considered holy and represents completion.) Consider what a candle does: It burns for a time and shines its light, and then it comes to its end and extinguishes. That's why Jesus refers to them as candles.

Ephesus Specifically

The candle of Ephesus represents the Church during what is called the *Apostolic era*. Ephesus is concerned with hammering out doctrine, establishing ecclesiastic authority, and setting the record straight with the authorship of the Gospels. They had worked hard, but in the work, they lost that fiery love for Christ. They began to apply the teachings of Jesus Christ to the world in order to create order and stability such that they could understand it and live their lives according to it. But the passion to give up everything and follow only Christ was waning over the years in which they did not see the return of Jesus.

Jesus' warning to them was that he would remove their candlestick if they did not return to their first love, and this means that their era would come to an end at that point. They did not return to their first love of Jesus Christ; he did remove their candlestick; their time was over, and the next era began.

We can estimate that the Ephesus era ended around the time of the death of St. Paul who was the last apostle, ²probably around A.D. 64.

The Church Era of Smyrna³

⁸And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; ⁹I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. ¹¹He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

As mentioned before, there is a great amount of wisdom from Christ contained in these verses to the angels of the churches. These letters, and the book of Revelation itself, have a provisional applicability to all people who read and understand them throughout all the centuries from the time of Christ until now.

However, in these last days, we examine the Church era of Smyrna to see how it symbolizes the time of Christian persecution from the end of the apostolic era until the beginning of the Pergamos era, leading ultimately to the prophetic advent of Veridicanism.

Note that the persecution of the early church began between A.D 54-68. This is known as the Neronian persecution.⁴ Eventually, the persecution of the Christian Church ended with the Roman Emperors Constantine and Licinius issuing the Edict of Milan, thus marking the close of the Smyrna Church era in A.D. 313

² “Although the exact date of his birth is unknown, he was active as a missionary in the 40s and 50s of the 1st century CE. From this it may be inferred that he was born about the same time as Jesus (c. 4 BCE) or a little later. He was converted to faith in Jesus Christ about 33 CE, and he died, probably in Rome, circa 62–64 CE.” Sanders, E.P. "St. Paul the Apostle." Encyclopedia Britannica, online. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Paul-the-Apostle> (Accessed January 15, 2022.)

³ Rev. 2:8-11 KJV

⁴ For a more detailed breakdown of the era of persecution, see the entry in Wikipedia, “Persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire” (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution_of_Christians_in_the_Roman_Empire).

The Church Era of Pergamos⁵

¹²And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; ¹³I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. ¹⁴But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. ¹⁵So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. ¹⁶Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

The era of ⁶Pergamos clearly comes after the era of persecution since Jesus, in v. 13, refers to the persecution of a Christian in the past tense: “...*even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you...*” So, we are dealing with an era after A.D. 380 when the Christian faith became the official Roman religion. This is “Satan’s seat.” This is the Church taking on governmental sanction and authority.

Keep in mind, the world is Satan’s domain—for now.⁷ With the fusion of the world and the Church in this era, the Church is being polluted by pagan doctrines from all over the Empire. This is symbolized by the doctrines of Balaam and Balak⁸, and also we find the second and last reference to the Nicolaitans⁹ in the book of Revelation—and the entire Bible for that matter. The mixing of paganism with Christianity was in large part a compromise between early pagan societies and the proto-orthodox Church that wanted to convert them.

You can still see these pagan influences on Christianity today. As innocent as they may seem, things like the Easter bunny, Easter eggs, Halloween, the Christmas tree, all of these have pagan roots.

⁵ Rev. 2:12-17 KJV

⁶ In the King James Version the word *Pergamos* is used. In other translations of the Bible, *Pergamum* is used. They are synonymous terms for the name of the third church in Revelation.

⁷ “*And the devil, taking him up into a high mountain, showed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it*”. Luke 4:5-6 (KJV)

⁸ See Numbers, chapters 22-25.

⁹ We don’t know for sure who the Nicolaitans were. They are only mentioned twice in the Bible and both times in Revelation (see also Rev. 6:2) but suffice to say that Jesus Christ hates them. So, if a church is corrupted by that influence, it is truly an antichrist church.

The continuing pagan influence on the now official Roman religion found its fruition in the profound corruption of the Church is seen in the next era, the Thyatiran Era.

The Church Era of Thyatira¹⁰

¹⁸And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire and his feet are like fine brass; ¹⁹I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. ²⁰Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. ²¹And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. ²²Behold I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. ²³And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. ²⁴But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. ²⁵But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. ²⁶And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: ²⁷And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. ²⁸And I will give him the morning star. ²⁹He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

The era of the Church of Thyatira is the advent and consolidation of the Roman Catholic Church with its emphasis on the doctrine of Mariology. Everything in this verse can be found to have some symbolic connection to the Catholic Church—good and bad. They were very charitable, and still are. Their idea of salvation is based on works. But they have a doctrine that has nothing at all to do with Jesus Christ—this is what is symbolized by the *fornication* of v.20.

It's hard to determine when Mary-worship began exactly, but the Council of Ephesus in A.D. 431, is when the Church officially stopped referring to Mary as *Christotokos*, "Christ-bearer" and began calling her *Theotokos*, the "Mother of God." In fact, to refer to her as merely the mother of Jesus Christ, became heresy.¹¹

Mariology is a bizarre doctrine given that it has no support from the New Testament for it at all. If anything, Jesus seemed to have a strained relationship with his family and very little to do with his mother during his ministry years. But therein lies a clue: We are not talking about Mary, the mother of Jesus. We are talking about *Jezebel* (v.20) to whom the Catholic Church attaches the name of Mary.

The pagan world had (and still has) many female goddesses: Gaia, Venus, Isis, etc. Given that the Church was constantly compromising with pagan societies throughout the Empire, it is little

¹⁰ Rev. 2:18-29 (KJV).

¹¹ Council of Ephesus. (2022, January 14). In Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_Ephesus

wonder that they would *commit adultery* (v.22) with a pagan doctrine that would soften the harsher aspects of Christ's teachings.

This Thyatiran Era is long and lasted from A.D. 431 until it ultimately morphed into the Sardis era.

The Church Era of Sardis¹²

¹And unto the angel of the church of Sardis write; These things saith he that hat the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou has a name that thou livest, and art dead. ²Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. ³Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. ⁴Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. ⁵He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. ⁶He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

The Sardis era represents a time when the Catholic Church had turned into a complete world power—but recall, the world really belongs to Satan at this time.¹³ So, it is a Church that has become dead spiritually and no longer can guide anyone in any truth related to God or Christ.

This is the time of building the Vatican palace and vast cathedrals. It's a time when popes led military campaigns.¹⁴ Even today, the Vatican maintains a military security force. There is little to recognize anything to do with the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. The Bible is available only to educated priests who can read Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

Since the start of the Sardis era coincides with the Church gaining official power in the world, we date it from the start of the Holy Roman Empire in A.D. 800 when the first king was crowned by a pope.¹⁵ It terminates with the Protestant Reformation in the Philadelphian era.

¹² Rev. 3:1-6 (KJV)

¹³ See footnote 7.

¹⁴ "It remains a paradox, some might say a scandalous paradox, that the Catholic Church whose founder exhorted his followers to meekness should, after the fall of the Roman empire, have raised its own armies, waged war against fellow-Catholics and approved, even recommended, the torture of suspected heretics – and, when heretics were obdurate, delivered them to the secular arm of government to be burned at the stake."
Carr, John. *The Pope's Army* (Pen and Sword Military, September 19, 2019) See the full online excerpt at Catholic Herald (online) <https://catholicherald.co.uk/the-popes-who-waged-war/>

¹⁵ The Holy Roman Empire was established in the year 800 under Charlemagne. Later emperors were also crowned by the pope or other Catholic bishops.

The Church Era of Philadelphia¹⁶

⁷And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth, ⁸I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. ⁹Behold, 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. ¹⁰Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. ¹¹Behold I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast that no man take thy crown. ¹²Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. ¹³He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

The Philadelphian era is characterized by the advent of the Protestant Reformation.¹⁷ It is generally thought to have begun on October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther, a Catholic monk and teacher, published his paper entitled, *Disputation on the Power of Indulgences* (aka, The Ninety-Five Theses). It invited criticism and debate about the illicit and abominable practices of the Catholic Church, one of which was to convince the uneducated masses that they could free their relatives from purgatory by giving money to the church (the selling of “indulgences”).

In Revelation 3:8, Christ says to the church that he has set before them an open door which no one will be able to shut. And we see that once the Reformation got started, there was no stopping it. It was aided by the spread of religious documents via the newly invented printing press as well as the publication of the New Testament translated into English by William Tyndale, who was burned at the stake for having done so.¹⁸

We see also that the Philadelphia era is characterized by the Church *keeping the word of Christ*, and in fact, it was the time when the idea of *solo scriptura* (scripture alone) began, or that is that all religious authority stemmed from the Holy Bible only, not from papal decrees or Church traditions.

In this passage, the Catholic Church is called the synagogue of Satan, and this is not an emotional response. The Church had become entirely corrupted by the world, and the world is Satan’s for now, so the Church literally was the synagogue of Satan. Also, it is predicted that the Catholic Church would bow down to the Protestant Church. Jesus says of them: *I will make*

¹⁶ Rev. 3:7-13

¹⁷ The Protestant Reformation. National Geographic (Online).
<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/article/protestant-reformation/>

¹⁸ William Tyndale. (last edited, 20 January 2022). Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Tyndale

them to come and worship before thy feet. And that is exactly what we see happen in the world from then on.

By the time Elizabeth I had finished her reign in 1603 and the King James Bible was completed and published in 1611, the Church of England, the Lutheran Church, and Protestantism in general had won the day and laid hold of the modern world. The pilgrims to the New World of America that established the Massachusetts Bay Colony were Puritans, a kind of fundamentalist protestant spin off from the Church of England. The Catholic Church no longer had world-dominating power, and it no longer crowned the King of England.

Like all the letters to the churches in Revelation, there is a great deal more information contained in this letter to the Church of Philadelphia that is beyond the scope of this one paper. Nevertheless, it is the Philadelphian era of Protestantism that led to the final dispensation of the churches, the Laodicean era.

The Church Era of Laodicea¹⁹

¹⁴And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; ¹⁵I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth. ¹⁷Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: ¹⁸I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. ¹⁹As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

The Laodicean era of the Church represents the spread of what many call the “prosperity Gospel.” In the 1970’s it was called the “health and wealth” or the “name it—claim it” movement. It is more officially called *prosperity theology*,²⁰ and It began around 1945, which is when the Philadelphia era ended, and was headed by many famous American itinerate evangelists and televangelists.

This movement also made use of the rise of Pentecostalism and the expression of the spiritual gifts such as healing, speaking in tongues, being “*slain in the spirit*” (that is, fainting spells that come from a minister laying hands on a person and presumably transferring spiritual power into them). The basic tenets are that one can have riches and possessions in this life, or physical healings, if they will ask for these things and have faith that they have received them. The

¹⁹ Rev. 3:14-19 (KJV)

²⁰ *Prosperity theology*. (last edited, 18 January 2022). Wikipedia.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prosperity_theology

confession of that faith centers on the members willingness to give money to the church. This is known as “*sowing a seed of faith.*”

However, it was the antithesis of the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. By its end in 1993, it had degenerated into evangelist charlatans preaching primarily in foreign countries, especially in Africa.²¹ In the United States, it morphed into massive corporate megachurches that rarely addressed Gospel issues. The megachurches instead focused on prosperity as well as self-help psychology, and self-improvement lifestyles.

The primary motivation of the megachurch is membership and increased tithing and profits. Thus, by the end of the Laodicean era, we find there is little condemnation of classic Judeo-Christian sins the church has previously been steadfast against: fornication, homosexuality, divorce, New Age spirituality, personal extravagance, the exclusiveness of Jesus Christ as savior, certain art expressions such as rock-and-roll music, even abortion became legal in the world’s most fundamental Christian nation, the United States, in 1973. Some even preach that everyone is saved regardless of their faith.

In many megachurches one also finds commercial operations such as bookstores, coffee shops, some sell apparel and offer banking and payday loans.²² Some use secular corporate advertisers to fund special presentations and conferences.

The result of this has been a continuing decrease of the Church’s influence on society. Rather, society has influenced the Christian Church and has brought it to its knees, so to speak. Instead of the Church being the moral authority in society, the government has completely taken over that role. What defines right and wrong at the end of the Laodicean era is simply what is legal or illegal. The Church has little to offer in the way of salvation or moral instruction.

The End of the Laodicean Era

It is important to note the symbolism surrounding the end of the Laodicean era and to make comments about what we find in the world today. We don’t see the utter disappearance of these church movements. There are still Catholics, there are still missionaries, the Church of England and the Lutheran Church still exists, and there is still Christian persecution in some parts of the world. The dispensation of the seven churches of Revelation is that they arise, come to power or prominence, and then secede into the background as another one takes over.

With the close of the Laodicean era, we come to the beginning of end times, which is not the topic of this paper, so I will not expound on it at this time. Nevertheless, the Laodicean church was the last Judeo-Christian era. There will be no others, and the classic Christian church will

²¹ Mbewe, Conrad. *Prosperity Teaching Has Replaced True Gospel in Africa*. (June 25, 2015). The Gospel Coalition (online) <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/prosperity-teaching-has-replaced-true-gospel-in-africa/>

²² Connelly, Christopher. *This Dallas Church Acquired A Bank To Offer An Alternative To Payday Loans*. (April 6, 2021). Texas Standard (online) <https://www.texasstandard.org/stories/this-dallas-church-acquired-a-bank-to-offer-an-alternative-to-payday-loans/>

become increasingly superfluous and increasingly unrecognizable as having anything to do with Jesus Christ or the Gospel of his life and teachings.

Also, keep in mind that none of the Church eras repented. Christ offered redemption and rewards to them if they repented of their ways, but they did not. It is for this reason that they have ultimately come and gone. What is left is what the rest of Revelation describes.

The final symbolism to the end of the Church age came in 1993 with the destruction of the Branch Davidians at Mount Carmel in Waco, Texas. Here we saw the United States government running over a church of Christian separatists with tanks. Injecting the buildings with CS gas and causing the compound to burn in a massive fire that was broadcast on every news channel all over the world.

There was even published footage of government police firing machine guns into the compound as it burned.²³ Seventy-six Branch Davidians, including twenty-five children, two pregnant women, and David Koresh himself perished. Even after a great deal of evidence that the government had caused this tragedy, the U.S. Senate declared it to be the fault of the Branch Davidians, and society has largely accepted that as truth.

The Branch Davidian event represents the symbolic sign of the end of the Church age. That is the moment when the world government overcame the Church. Interestingly, and this may figure into later analysis of the timing of events in the end times by other theologians, we now have an exact date of the end of the Church age; it is April 19, 1993.

The Advent of Veridicanism²⁴

²⁰Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. ²¹To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. ²²He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

V.20 is a clear departure from the letter to the Laodicean church. It differs in theme and implied audience. Rather than a church, he is clearly speaking to individuals.

This passage is interesting in that when I founded Veridicanism in April of 1993, I had no idea it was part of Revelation. I had heard v. 20 before, but never v. 21-22. I was not a student of Revelation then, but the events in Waco with the Branch Davidians caused me to look at Christianity in a new light.

²³ *Waco documentary indicates agents fired at trapped cult members.* (Apr 24, 1997). Desert News (online) <https://www.deseret.com/1999/11/4/19473798/waco-documentary-indicates-agents-fired-at-trapped-cult-members>

²⁴ Rev. 3:20-22

I was not a member of a Church, though I had extensive experience with multiple churches in my youth and as I grew up. That said, in 1993, I would not have considered myself a practicing Christian. As I watched the Branch Davidian compound burn, it hit me very hard that we had entered the end times talked about to me by various preachers throughout my childhood.

I began to read the Gospels, but I was not a member of a church, and I was far removed from that influence. I was twenty-eight at that time, and as I read the Gospel of John, I had a sudden revelation that Jesus was the Truth. I don't mean that I thought he was telling the truth; I mean that I perceived him as the Truth itself.

With that in mind, I tried to find a church I could attend, but I was not successful. None of the churches I tried seemed to understand Jesus Christ the way I felt I did, and it frustrated me to the point where I decided I would make my own belief, my own religion. I called it Veridicanism. Veridical (true), the suffix -an (follower), the suffix -ism (a doctrine). Thus, Veridicanism was my neologism that meant one who follows that which is true. And for me, that was Jesus Christ.

That Veridicanism lead to two beliefs I could never shake or compromise. It has also positioned me as a heretic to every Christian I have ever presented it to:

1. We must follow only Jesus Christ. We must follow only the life and teachings of Jesus Christ as we read them in the Gospels. Thus, our canon of scripture must only be the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.²⁵
2. We must become Christ—just as Jesus was Christ, we must become in substance what he was in substance. That was what consuming his body and blood meant; that was what rebirth meant.

As of the time of this writing, I have never encountered presently nor at any time in Church history a cult, sect, denomination, or religion that has ever espoused those two tenets. I have polled hundreds of Christians online. I have studied Church history in depth, but no such sect has ever existed. And that makes no sense.

It is too logical of an idea to have not existed. We have had the Gospels since the latter part of the first century. With all the negative aspects of the seven church eras, someone, at some time, would have started a religion that followed only Jesus Christ and *his* teachings.

Instead, every denomination follows the Old Testament and the letters of the New Testament and makes them all equal. The teachings of Paul are made equal to the teachings of the Son of God incarnate, Jesus Christ, but that should not be. That makes no sense if we are truly followers of Jesus Christ—and him only.

²⁵ Later, I would add the Gospel of Thomas, the book of Revelation, and the Veridican Gospel of Jesus Christ to that canon, but that still keeps with the idea of following only the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Even if the idea of following only the Gospels is heretical, or wrong, or both, someone would have thought of it. Someone would have tried it. No one did. And yet, as I have discovered, the doctrine I call Veridicanism naturally follows the seven churches of Revelation.

V.20 indicates that if a person will open themselves up to Christ, he will come into him and share substance with him. This is the concept of the person merging with the substance of Christ, that they become one entity, not separate. And we are shown that this is what it means to “overcome.” We overcome the world when we ourselves become the substance of Christ. V.21 goes on to say that if we overcome with Christ, we will sit with him in his throne. Two people can’t occupy the same space—unless they become one person. And we certainly couldn’t sit in the throne of Christ as our mere selves. We could only do that as Christ.

Jesus goes on to say that he has sat in the throne of God when he overcame. And, of course, we know that he overcame the world when he willingly followed the command of His father and allowed the world to crucify him.

He is telling us that we will become one with him, and he is one with God. And we know that this is the perfect unity he always wanted.²⁶ We become his substance by eating his spiritual flesh and drinking his spiritual blood, and that’s what it means to put our faith in him. And that’s what’s required to overcome.

Conclusion

Veridicanism is the only religion of its kind. There has never been anything like it in Christendom before it was formed in 1993. It is the true religion of Jesus Christ because it is the only one that fulfills what Christ wanted from us, which is to overcome the world, and the only way to overcome is to become one with him.

The doctrine of Veridicanism is spelled out clearly at the end of the eras of Christendom, thus its advent is predicted in the book of Revelation. This is backed up by the fact that it is entirely original in Christianity, and we have arrived at the end of the Laodicean era—which is the last church.

Veridicanism is a doctrine, not a Church. It is for individuals, not for congregations. The Veridican Church of the Divine in Christ, which is the only Veridican Church as of the time of this writing, is simply a way of presenting the doctrine to the world. It is a seminary, a publisher, a management tool for the dissemination of information. It is not a new era. Rather it is the final message Christ offers before we enter Chapter 4 of Revelation, which is the beginning of the tribulation.

²⁶ *“I have given them the glory You gave Me, so that they may be one as We are one—I in them and You in Me—that they may be perfectly united, so that the world may know that You sent Me and have loved them just as You have loved Me. Father, I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I am, that they may see the glory You gave Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”* John 17:22-24 (KJV)

I contend that Veridicanism is the doctrine of Christ necessary for the end-times. This is why it has never been revealed until now. But now, it will metaphorically separate the sheep from the goats. Now, there is no other way to survive what will come unless one overcomes. And one can only overcome by becoming Christ and following only the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

The Church Age ended in 1993. Veridicanism was born at that same time and has developed over those years. It is now the message to be preached to every nation, and this is now the only time in history when such a feat is possible.²⁷

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²⁷ Computers and the Internet make it possible for a single person to simultaneously deliver a message to every nation on earth. Ironically, the World Wide Web and easy access to it by individuals began in April 1993. *“Twenty-five years ago today, the World Wide Web announced that it was for everybody. On April 30, 1993, the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) put the web into the public domain a decision that has fundamentally altered the past quarter-century.”* Grossman, David. *On This Day 25 Years Ago, the Web Became Public Domain.* (Apr 30, 2018). Popular Mechanics (online)
<https://www.popularmechanics.com/culture/web/a20104417/www-public-domain/>