

Study Outline

END-TIME SIGNS SPEAK -2-



From Laodicea (end) to Ephesus (beginning) First Love

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(Based on the video description and core biblical themes of the teaching)

1. Introduction: The Circle in Time of the Seven Churches

- The end-time church (Laodicea) connects back to the beginning church (Ephesus).
- When the end meets the beginning: a prophetic loop that calls the final generation to return to original purity and passion.
- Key thought: God is bringing His people full circle so they can recover what was lost at the start and along the way.

2. The Environment of Ephesus (the Beginning Church)

- Historical and spiritual setting of the Ephesian church – raised in a city where the Temple of Diana dominated (one of the seven wonders of the world at that time).
- A church known for hard work, doctrinal purity, endurance, and rejection of false apostles and rejecters of evil (Revelation 2:1-3).
- Yet it received the solemn rebuke: “You have left your first love” (Revelation 2:4).

3. The Loud End-Time Sign: “The Love of Many Shall Wax Cold”

- Primary text: Matthew 24:12 – “And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”
- This is presented as one of the clearest, “screeching” signs of the last days.
- Cold love is not merely an individual problem; it is a widespread spiritual climate affecting the church. This is a major sign of the end-times.

4. The Root Cause: Iniquity Abounds

- What is “iniquity”? (Biblical meaning: lawlessness, twistedness, departure from God’s standard, changing the purpose and course of something, twisting that which is straight, perversity.)

- Where iniquity is currently lurking inside the church:
 - Subtle compromise
 - Self-centeredness
 - The love of self
 - Religious activity without heart devotion
 - The twisting of Truth and spiritual principles
- Connection between increasing lawlessness and the cooling of genuine love for God

5. What Is “First Love”?

- The pure, passionate, exclusive love for Jesus that marked our early spiritual walk.
- Characteristics of first love: intensity, priority, delight in His presence, obedience from the heart, undivided affection, willingness to bow to God’s sovereignty.
- How Ephesus (and the end-time church) abandoned it while still maintaining outward works and orthodoxy. Religious works replaced true love.

6. The Call to Return: From the End Back to the Beginning

- Jesus’ threefold remedy to Ephesus (Revelation 2:5):
 1. **Remember** from where you have fallen.
 2. **Repent.**
 3. **Do the first works.**
- Practical application for the Laodicean / end-time generation: recovering first love is the pathway out of lukewarmness. Remember what you had – remember the place from which you have fallen.
- Self-examination: Does my love for Christ still burn with the same intensity as when I first knew Him?

7. Conclusion & Personal Challenge

- The end-time signs are speaking loudly. The coldness of love is one of the most urgent.
- Invitation to honest heart-searching so that the final church age blazes with the fiery passion, zeal, inspiration, and love for the Lord.
- Promise of restoration for those who return to first love.