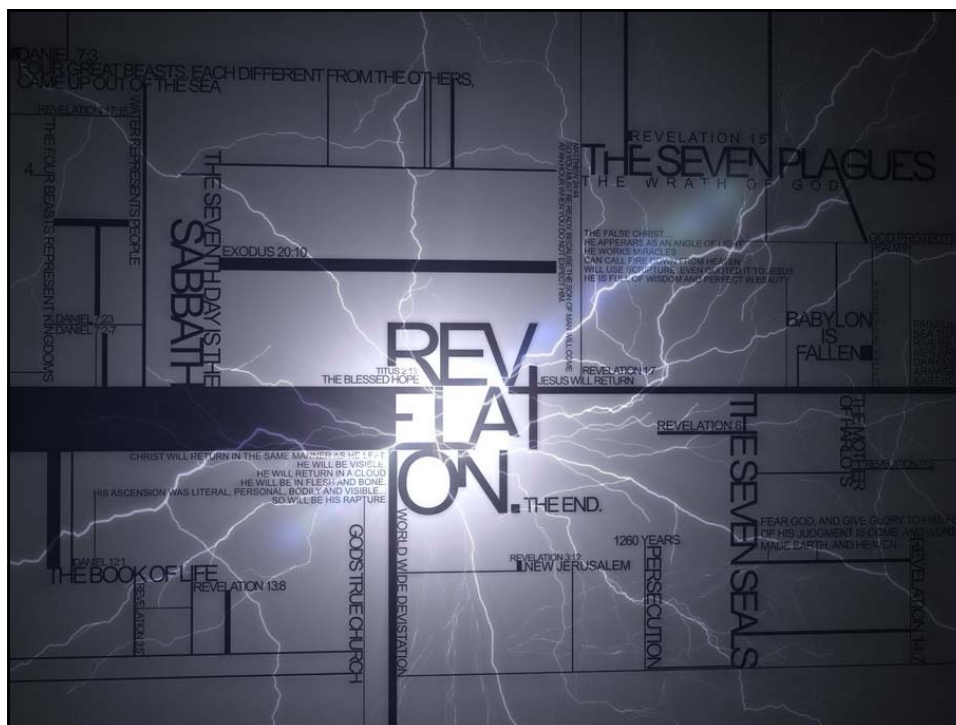


WHAT THE
BIBLE
Is ABOUT

WHAT THE
BIBLE
Is ABOUT

7
SESSION SEVEN

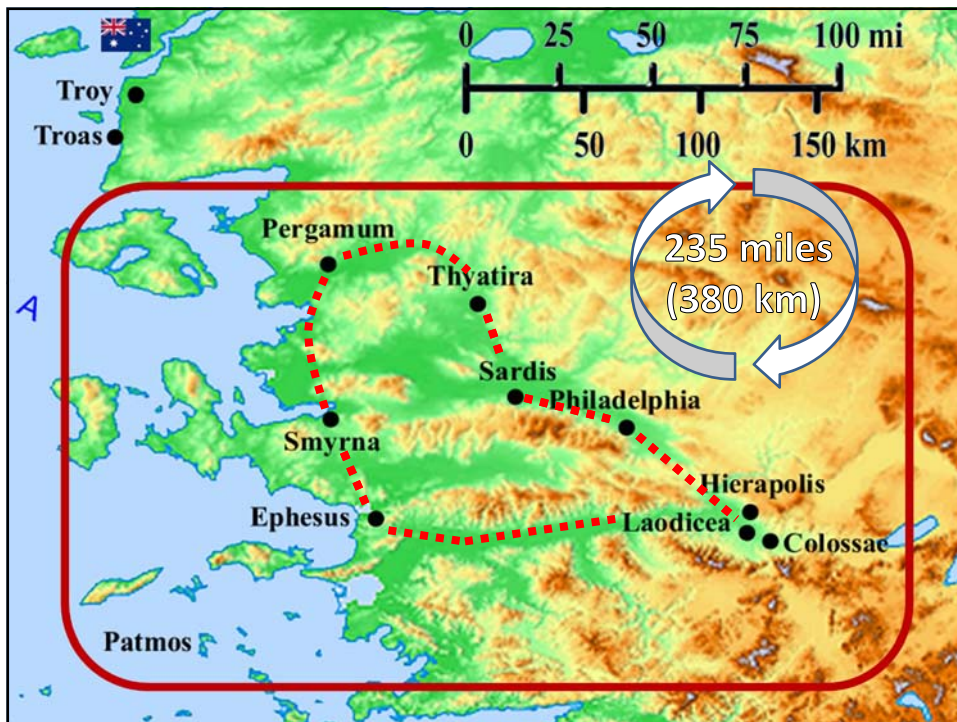


A Unique Promise

THE BOOK OF
REVELATION

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.”
(Revelation 1:3)







the revelation

noun | rev·e·la·tion | \ rěv'ə-lā'shən \

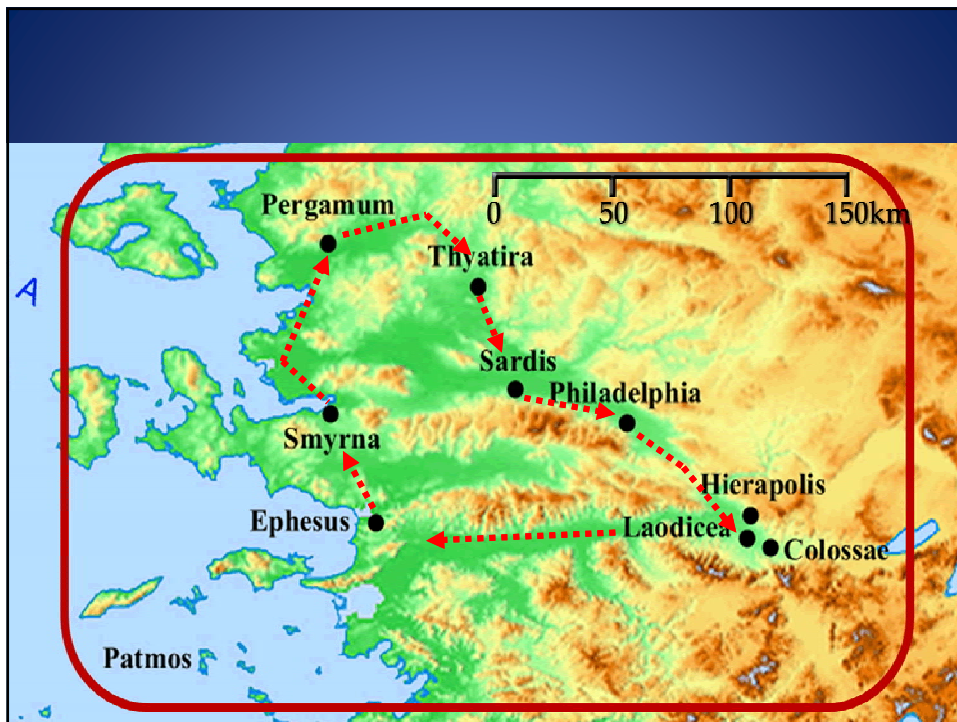
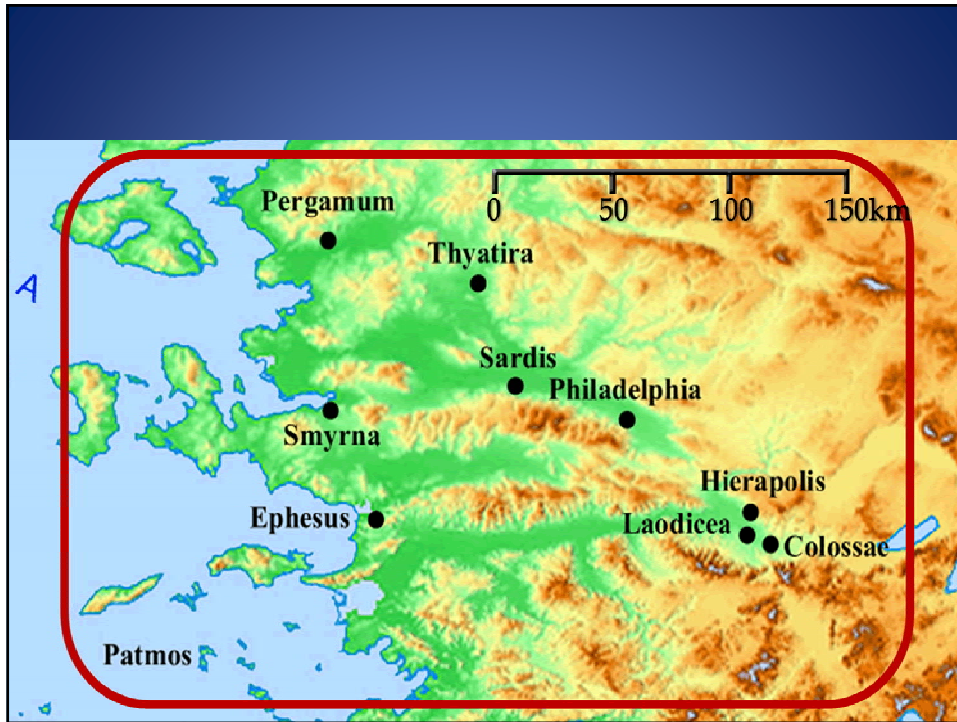
1. a. The act of unveiling, revealing or disclosing.
 - b. Something revealed, especially a dramatic disclosure of something not previously known or realised.
 - c. A sudden insight or idea.
2. *Theology.* A manifestation of divine will or truth.

Middle English *revelacion*, from Old French *revelation*, from Latin *revēlatiō*, *revēlatiōn-*, from *revēlātus*, past participle of *revēlāre*, "to reveal"; originally translated from the Greek noun ἀποκάλυψις, *apokalypsis* (root ἀποκαλύπτω, *apokalypō* (v)) meaning "laying bare, making naked, unveiling, disclose what before was unknown."

ἐκκλησία, *ekklēsia*, assembly

1. From *ek*, "out of," and *klesis*, "a calling" (*kaleo*, "to call"); a body of citizens "gathered" to discuss the affairs of State, Acts 19:39.
2. The "gathering" of Israel, summoned for any definite purpose, or a "gathering" regarded as representative of the whole nation.
3. It has two specific Christian applications:
 - a. to the whole company of redeemed throughout the present era of which Christ said, "I will build My Church," (Mat 16:18) and "the Church which is His Body," (Eph 1:22; 5:23),
 - b. in the singular (Mat 18:17), to a company (congregation) of professed believers, and in the plural, with reference to all believers in a community or district.





The Seven Churches

1. Written to actual active churches.
2. Each church describes a period of Christian history.
3. Apply each church to our own lives (we are the temple of the Holy Spirit)

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1. Written to actual active churches.
2. Each church describes a period of Christian history.
3. Apply each church to our own lives (we are the temple of the Holy Spirit)
4. Actual history of the city/region that was known and alluded to by Jesus.
5. Prophetic allusions to coming events, current events and future events.

The name of each church is relevant

Ephesus (“Desired One” or “Darling”)

Smyrna (“Myrrh”, “Suffering” or “Death”)

Pergamos (“Mixed marriage” or “Serpent”)

Thyatira (“Semiramis” or “Daughter”)

Sardis (“Red Stone” or “Remnant”)

Philadelphia (“Brotherly love”)

Laodicea (“Rule of the people”)

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Why these seven?

Why not Rome?
Jerusalem?
Lystra? Antioch?
Iconium?
or many others?

Seven Parts of Each Letter

1. Name of church: "To the Angel in..."
2. Title of Christ: "These are the words of Him who..."
3. Commendation: "I know your deeds..."
4. Concern: "Yet I hold this against you..."
5. Exhortation: "... or I will come ..."
6. Appeal: "He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."
7. Promise to the overcomer: "To him who overcomes I will ..."

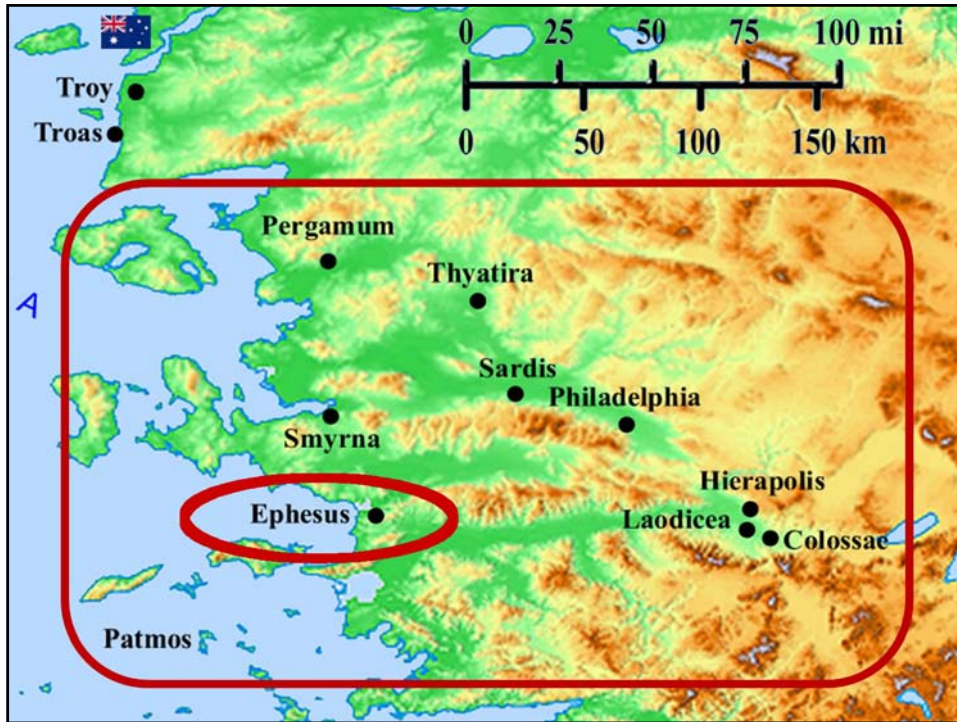
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Name							
Title							
Commendation							
Concern							
Exhortation							
Promise (in text)							
Appeal	"He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the churches"						
Promise (post-script)							









THE LOVELESS CHURCH

(Revelation 2:1-7)

¹“To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,

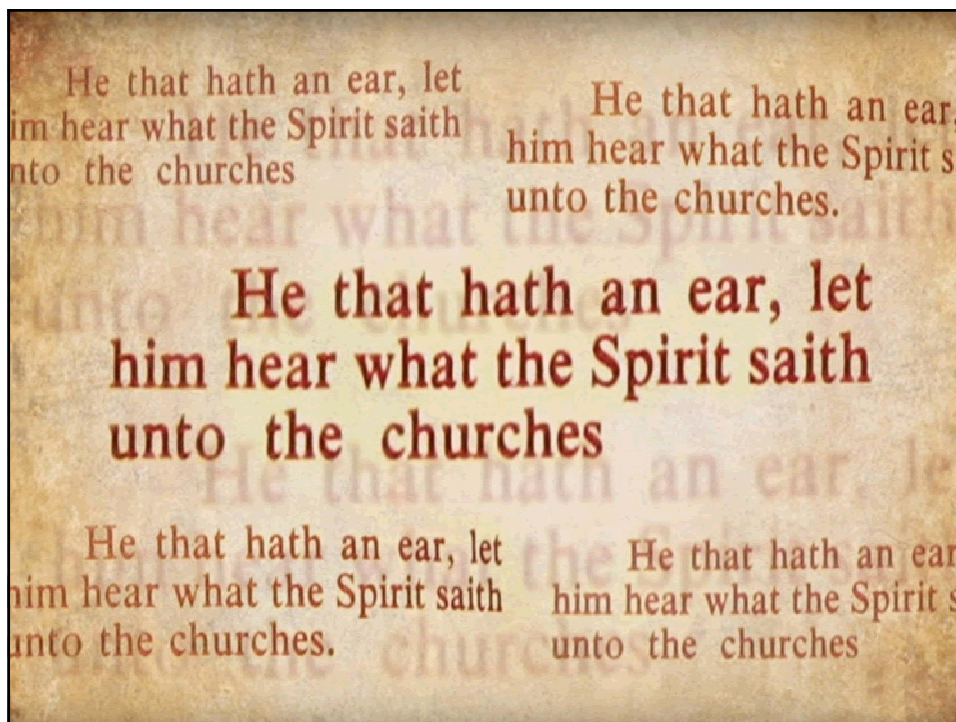
‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: ²“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; ³and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.

⁴ Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.

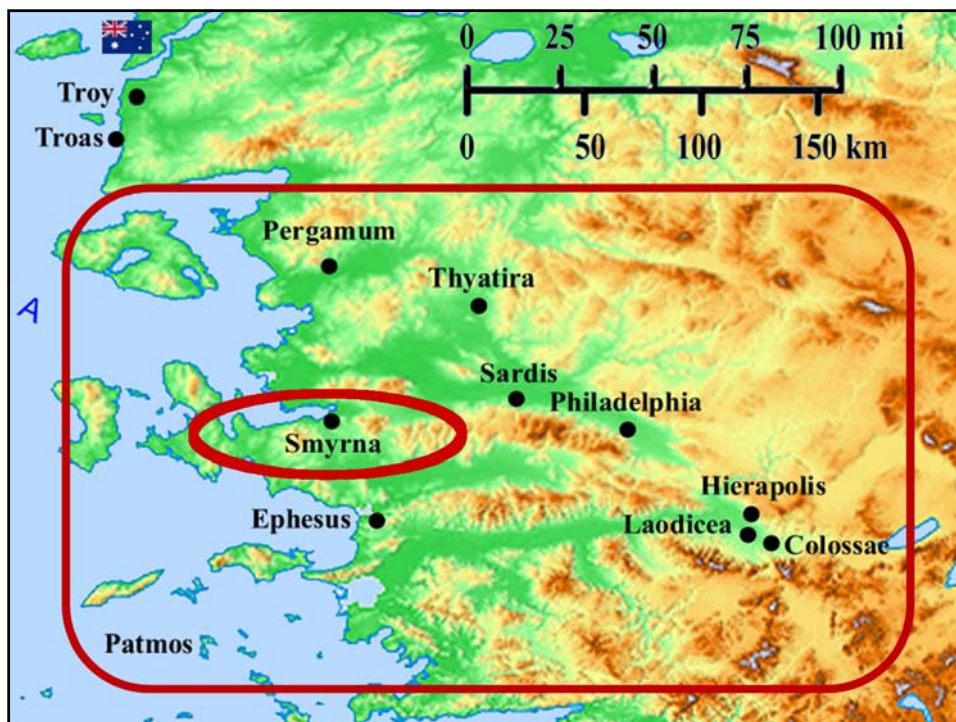
⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

⁶ But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

⁷ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”



	<i>Ephesus</i>	<i>Smyrna</i>	<i>Pergamos</i>	<i>Thyatira</i>	<i>Sardis</i>	<i>Philadelphia</i>	<i>Laodicea</i>
Name	✓						
Title	✓						
Commendation	✓						
Concern	✓						
Exhortation	✓						
Promise (in text)	-						
Appeal	"He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the churches"						
Promise (post-script)	✓						









THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

(Revelation 2:8-11)

⁸ “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write,

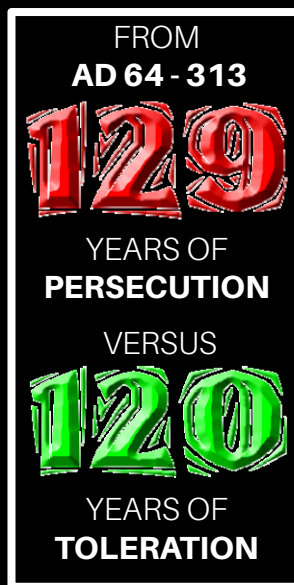
‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: ⁹ “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and *I know* the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan.

¹⁰ Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

¹¹ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.

Ten waves of Christian persecution

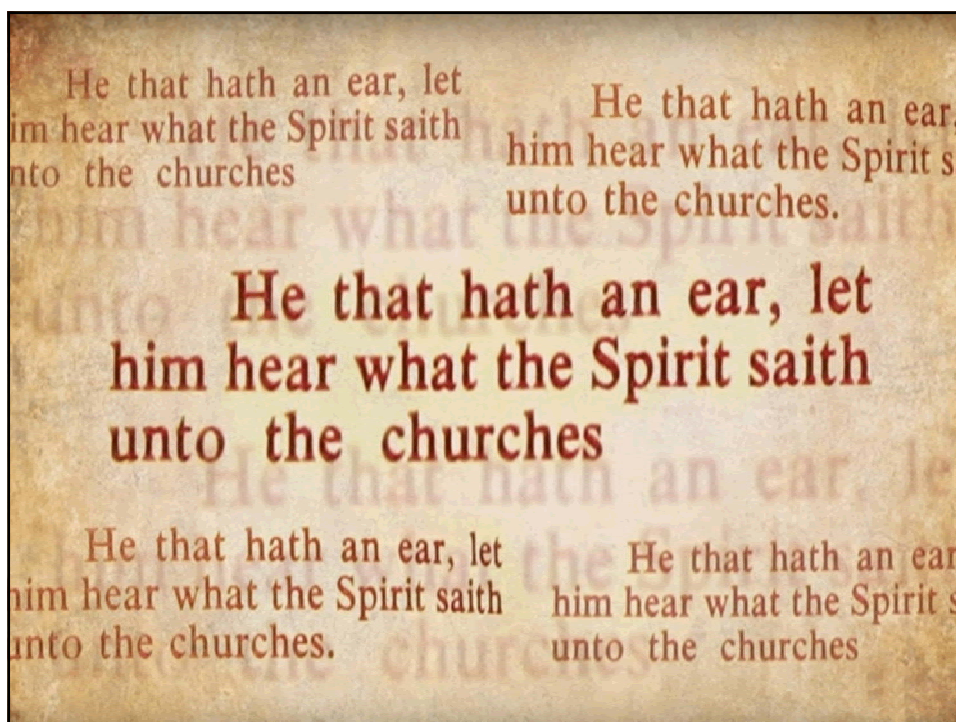
1. Nero (64-68)
2. Domitian (81-96)
3. Trajan (112-117)
4. Marcus Aurelius (161-180)
5. Septimus Severus (202-210)
6. Decius (250-251)
7. Valerian (257-59)
8. Maximinus the Thracian (235-38)
9. Aurelian (270–275)
10. Diocletian and Galerius (303-313)





Ten years of the Great Persecution

- **Diocletian (285-312) called for general persecution on 24 February 303.**
- **Persecution continued under:**
 - Maximian (285-310)
 - Galerius (293-311)
 - Constantius Chlorus (295-305)
 - Severus II (306-307)
 - Maxentius (306-311)
 - Maximinus (310-313)
- **Constantine I and Licinius signed the Edict of Milan on 313.**



He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches

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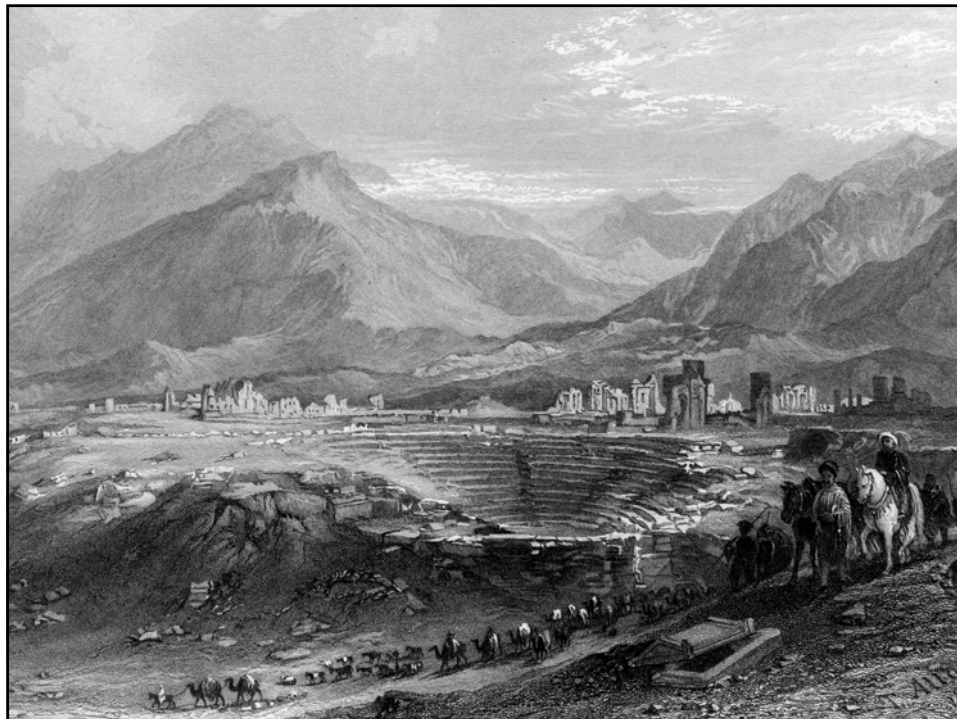
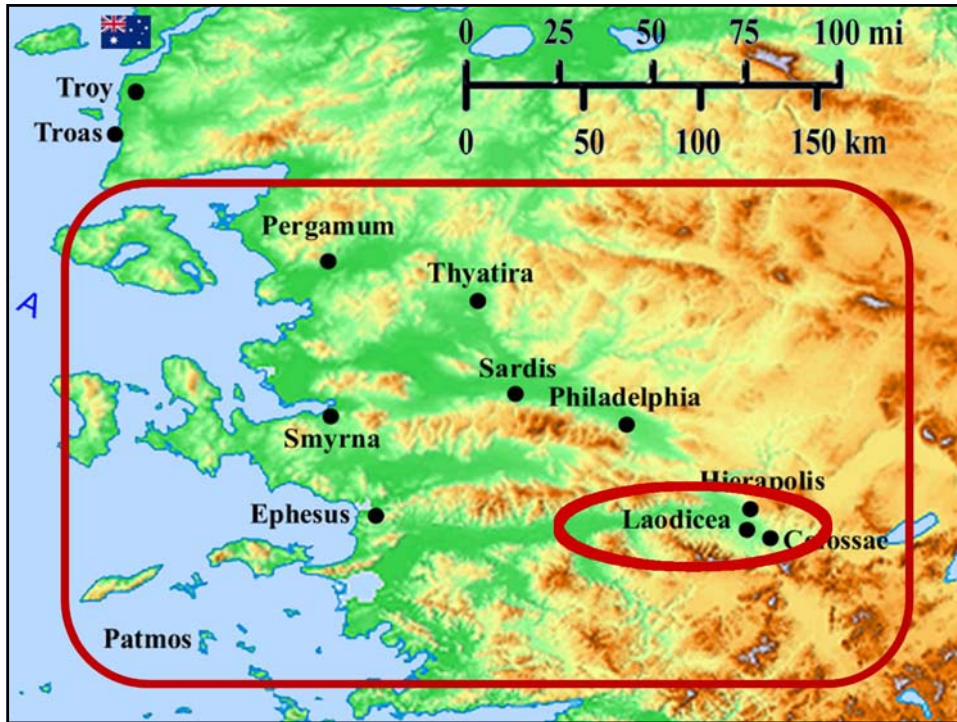
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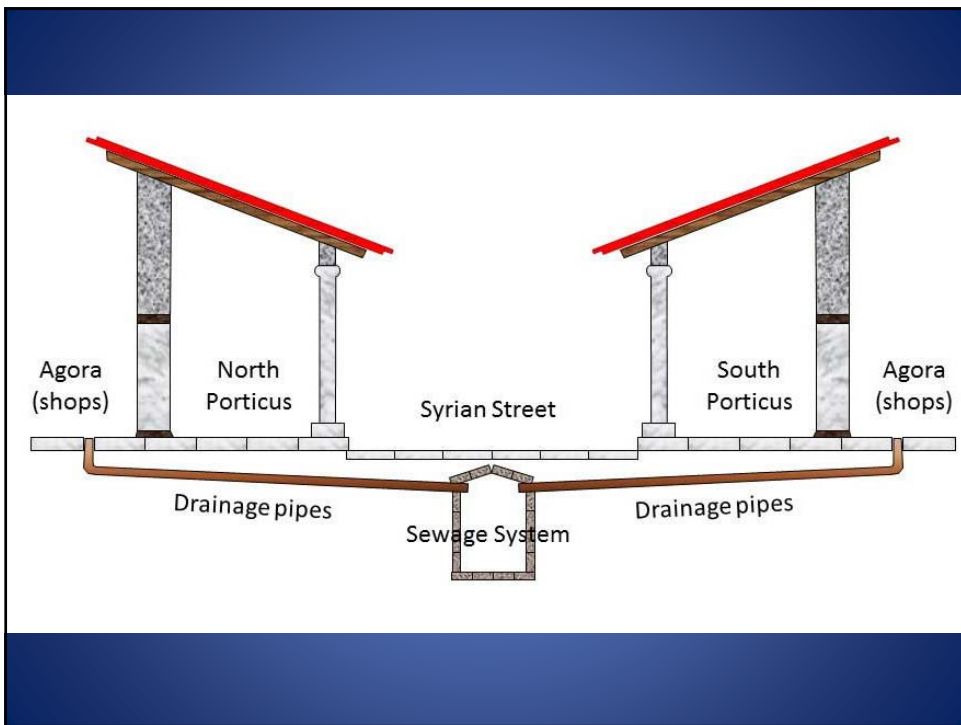
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Name	✓	✓					
Title	✓	✓					
Commendation	✓	✓					
Concern	✓	-					
Exhortation	✓	✓					
Promise (in text)	-	-					
Appeal	"He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the churches"						
Promise (post-script)	✓	✓					





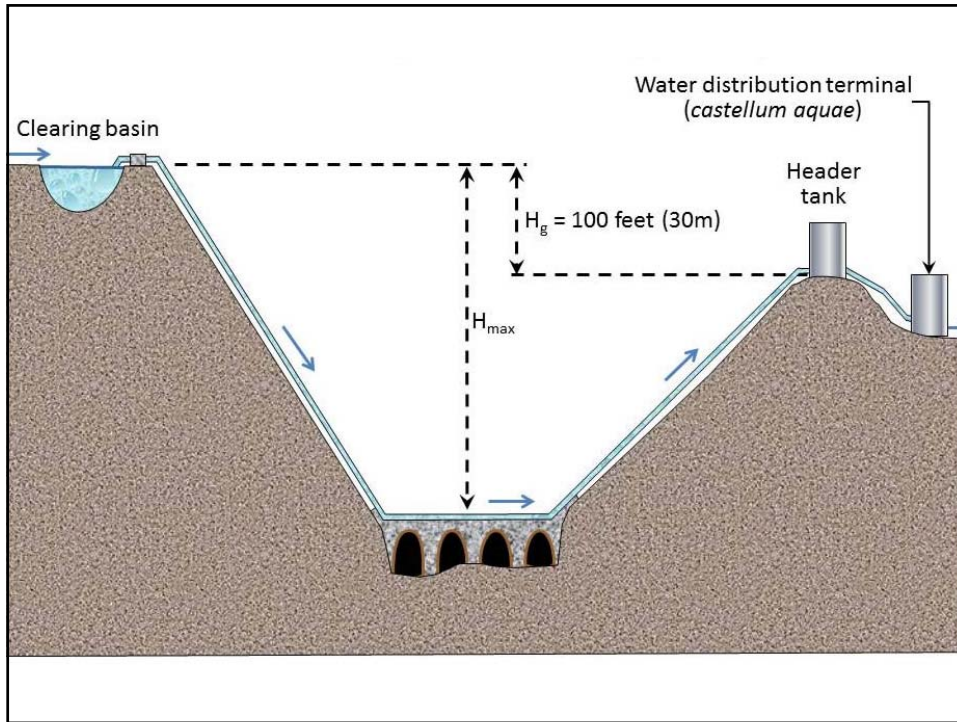


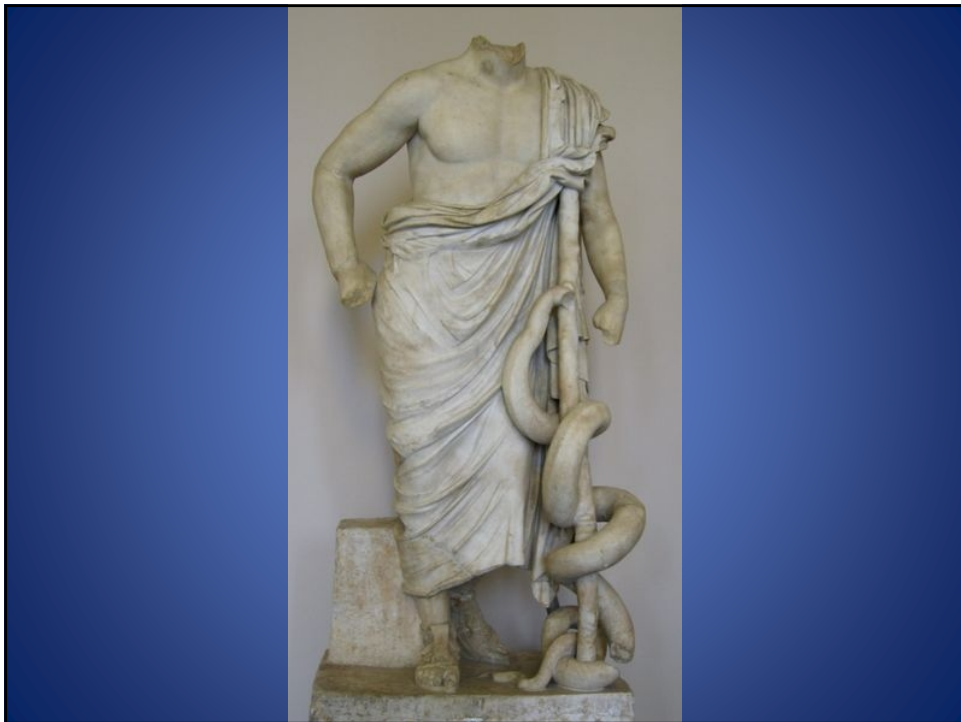












THE LUKEWARM CHURCH

(Revelation 3:14-22)

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: ¹⁵ "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

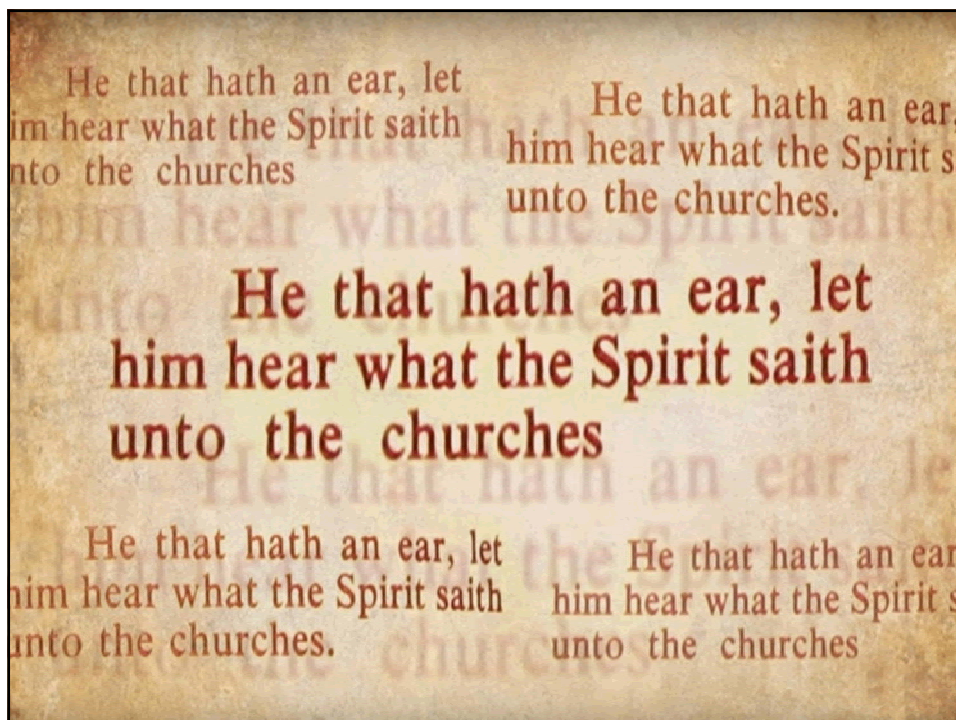
¹⁷ Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. ¹⁹

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

²¹ To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

²² "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.



	<i>Ephesus</i>	<i>Smyrna</i>	<i>Pergamos</i>	<i>Thyatira</i>	<i>Sardis</i>	<i>Philadelphia</i>	<i>Laodicea</i>
Name	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Title	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commendation	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Concern	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
Exhortation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Promise (in text)	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
Appeal	"He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the churches"						
Promise (post-script)	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-

Jesus' report cards to ALL congregations

Each was surprised by its report!

Those thinking they **were** doing well, **weren't**.

Those thinking they **weren't** doing well, **were**.

Why?

The reports are through **God's eyes**, not Man's!

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD."

Isaiah 55:8

Each letter NAILED the specific congregation

- **Ephesus** ➤ Devotion, not just doctrine
(“Desired One” or “Darling”)
- **Smyrna** ➤ Endure persecution
(“Myrrh”, “Suffering” or “Death”)
- **Pergamos** ➤ Stand fast against the world
(“Mixed marriage” or “Serpent”)
- **Thyatira** ➤ Abandon pagan practices
(“Semiramis” or “Daughter”)
- **Sardis** ➤ Watchfulness, diligence
(“Red Stone” or “Remnant”)
- **Philadelphia** ➤ Outreach; faithfulness
(“Brotherly love”, “Church of Love”)
- **Laodicea** ➤ Prosperous compromise
(“Rule of the people”, Lukewarm”)

Each letter applies to ALL congregations

- **Ephesus** ➤ Devotion, not just doctrine
(“Desired One” or “Darling”)
- **Smyrna** ➤ Endure persecution
(“Myrrh”, “Suffering” or “Death”)
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(“Brotherly love”, “Church of Love”)
- **Laodicea** ➤ Prosperous compromise
(“Rule of the people”, Lukewarm”)

Each letter applies to YOU AND ME individually

- **Ephesus** ➤ Neglected priorities
(“Desired One” or “Darling”)
- **Smyrna** ➤ Satanic opposition
(“Myrrh”, “Suffering” or “Death”)
- **Pergamos** ➤ Worldly compromise
(“Mixed marriage” or “Serpent”)
- **Thyatira** ➤ Flee pagan practices; the Word
(“Semiramis” or “Daughter”)
- **Sardis** ➤ Watchfulness, diligence
(“Red Stone” or “Remnant”)
- **Philadelphia** ➤ Loyal Ambassadorship
(“Brotherly love”, “Church of Love”)
- **Laodicea** ➤ Repent and be committed to Jesus
(“Rule of the people”, Lukewarm”)

Rewards are **not** for
congregations,
religions, churches,
or denominations...

... but for

overcomers!

Who is an “overcomer”?

⁴ For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

⁵ Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

(1 John 5:4,5)

Promises to the Overcomer

- **Ephesus** Eat of the Tree of Life
- **Smyrna** Not hurt of second death
- **Pergamos** Manna, Stone, Name.
- **Thyatira** Power over nations.
- **Sardis** Walk with Him in white; name not blotted out.
- **Philadelphia** Pillar in Temple, name of God, name of His city, new name.
- **Laodicea** Sit with Him on His throne.