


WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
Is ABOUT

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BIBLE  
Is ABOUT

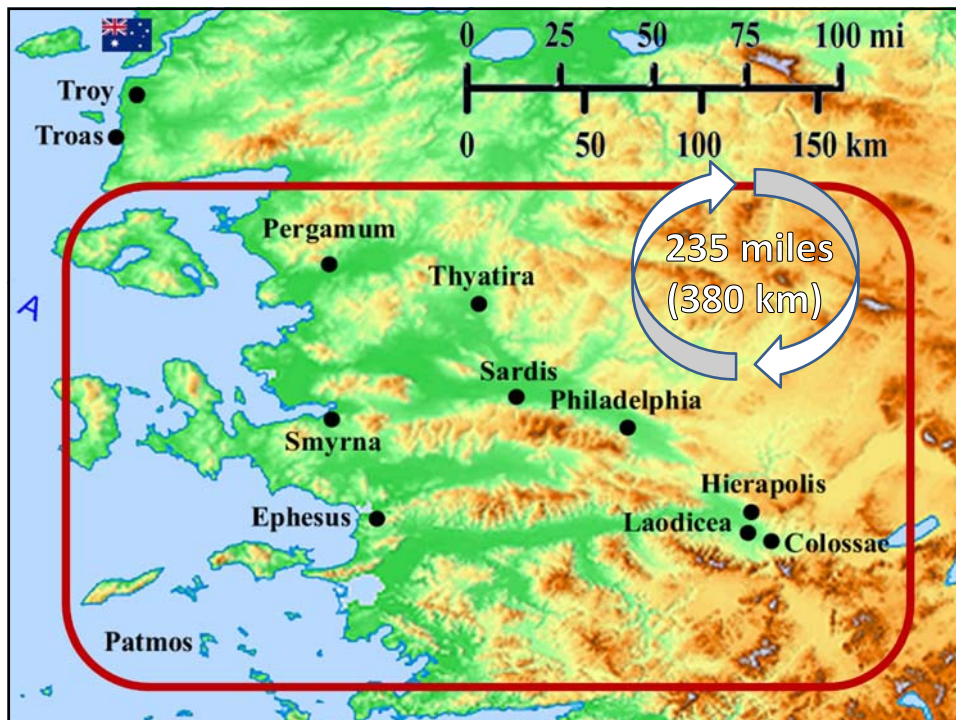
8 SESSION EIGHT

**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 Seven Churches

1. Written to active churches addressing their current physical and spiritual states.
2. Letters meant to be read by all churches.
3. Actual history of each city/region was known and alluded to by Jesus.
4. Prophetic allusions (recurring patterns) for individuals, cities and regions.
5. Some say that each church describes a period of Christian history.
6. Each letter can be applied our own lives (we are the temple of the Holy Spirit).

## Important Observations



-  Salvation doesn't come from church attendance
-  Promises are made to individual overcomers!
-  But overcomers can come from any church

## 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?

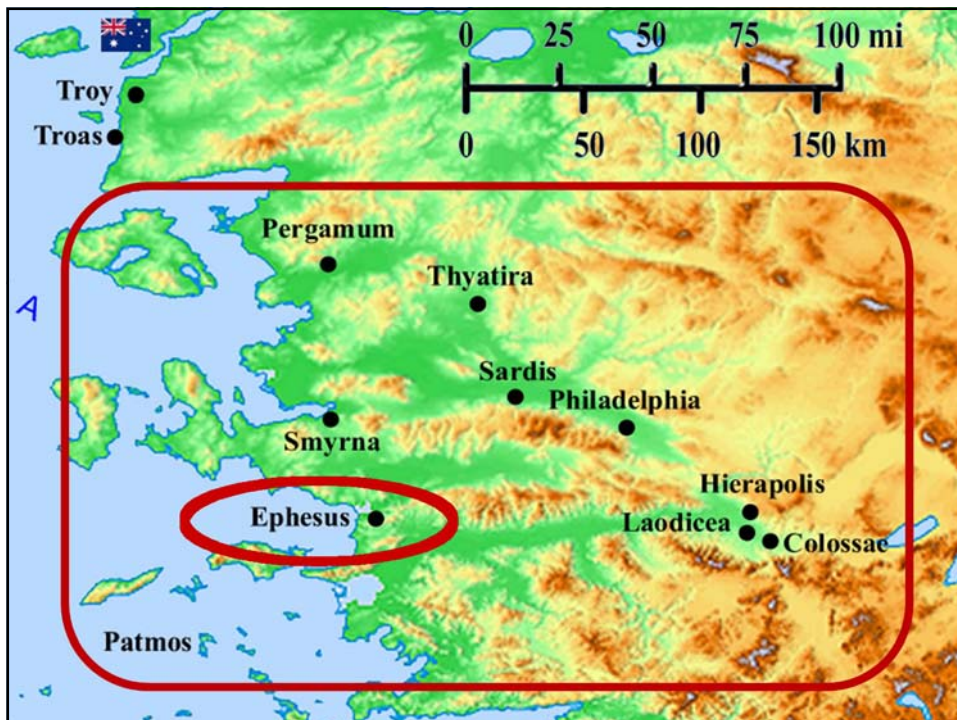
Why not Rome?  
Jerusalem?  
Lystra? Antioch?  
Iconium?  
or many others?

## 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 ..."



	<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)							









**For a certain man  
named Demetrius, a  
silversmith, which made  
silver shrines for Diana,  
brought no small gain  
unto the craftsmen;**

Acts 19:24



**And when they  
heard these  
sayings, they  
were full of  
wrath, and  
cried out,  
saying,  
"Great is Diana  
of the  
Ephesians."**

Acts 19:28



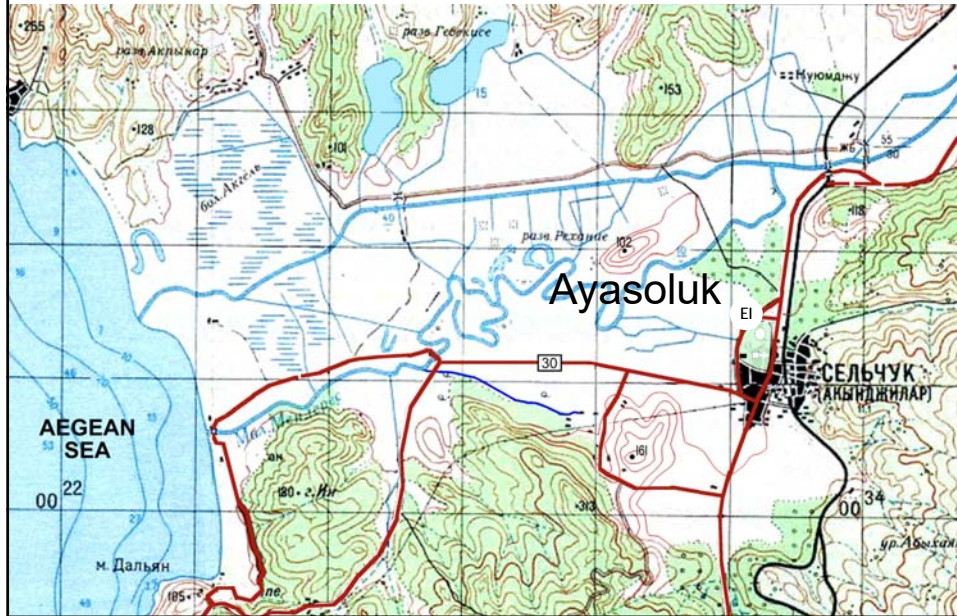




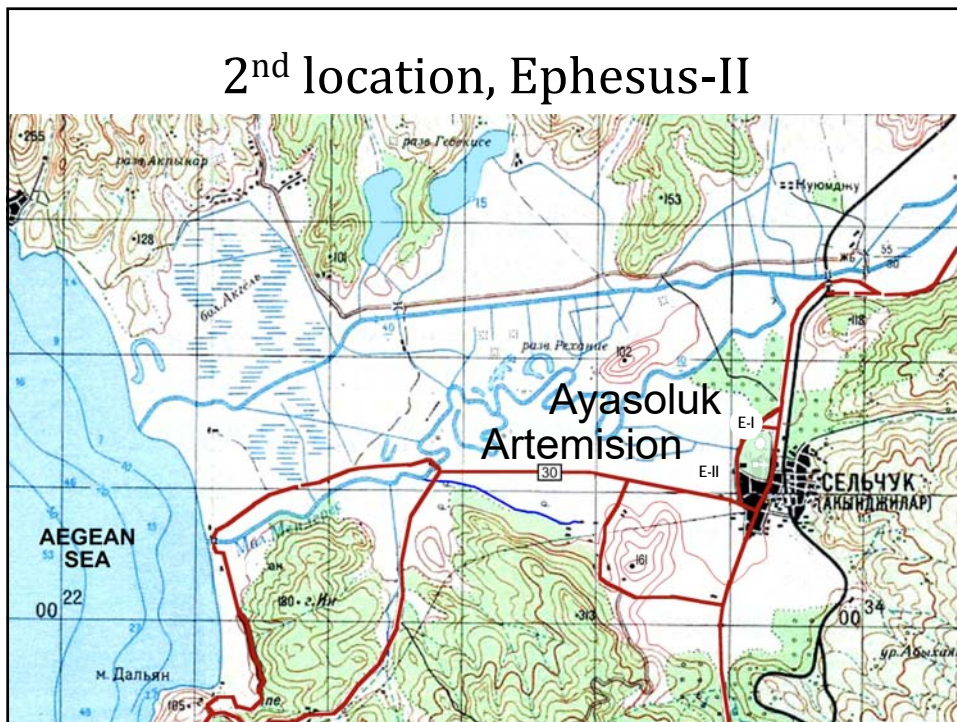




### 1<sup>st</sup> location, Ephesus-I



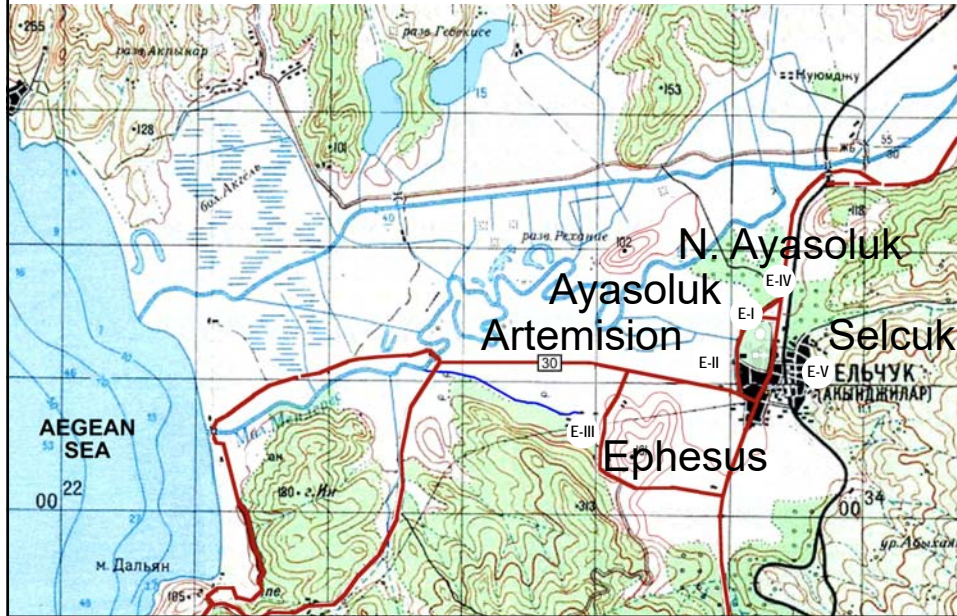
### 2<sup>nd</sup> location, Ephesus-II



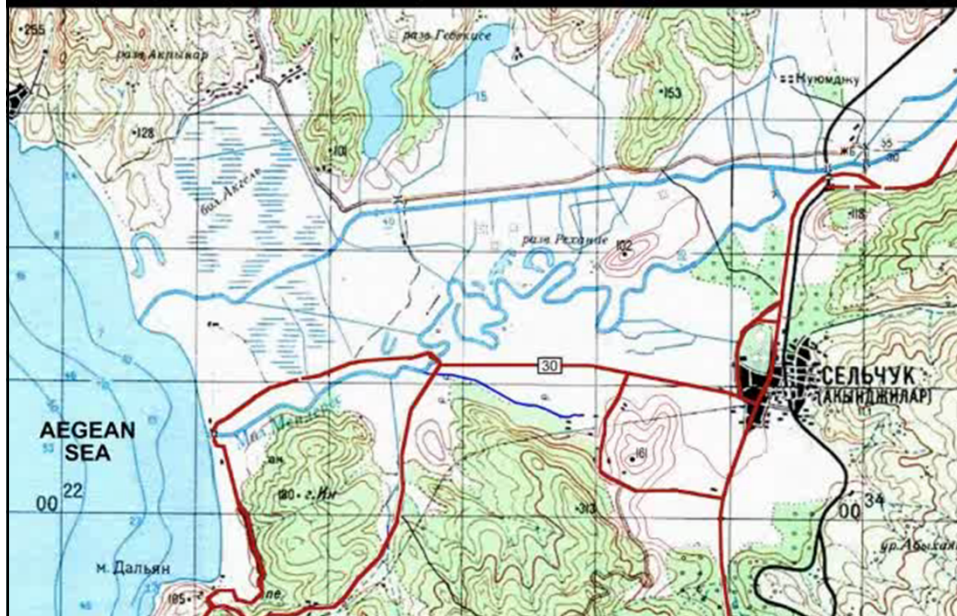


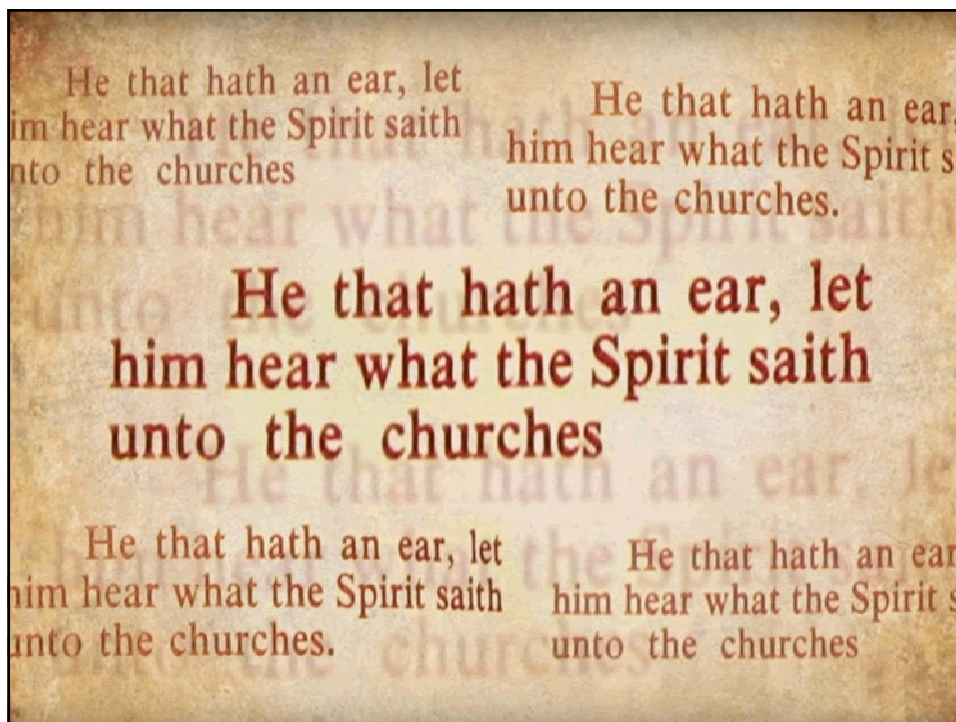


### Current location, Ephesus V

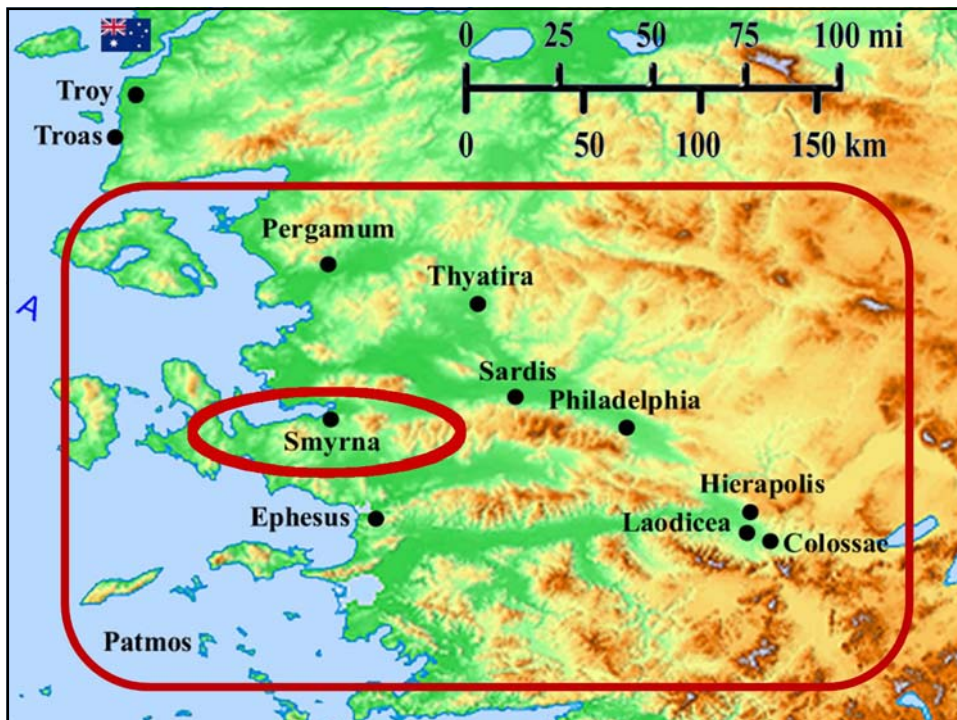


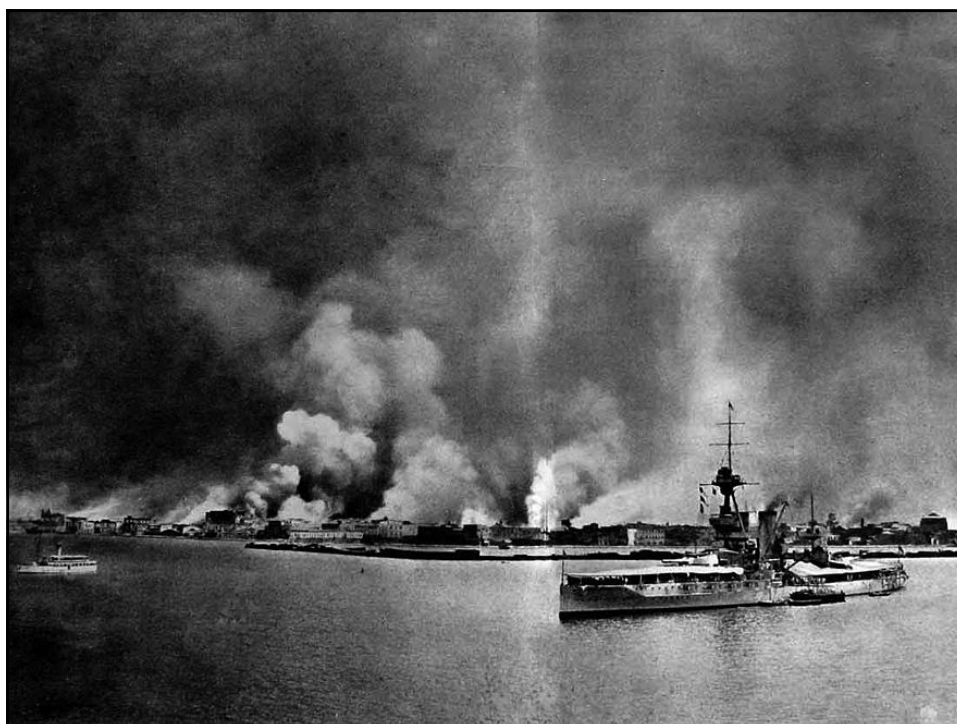
### Topographic Map of the Ephesus Area

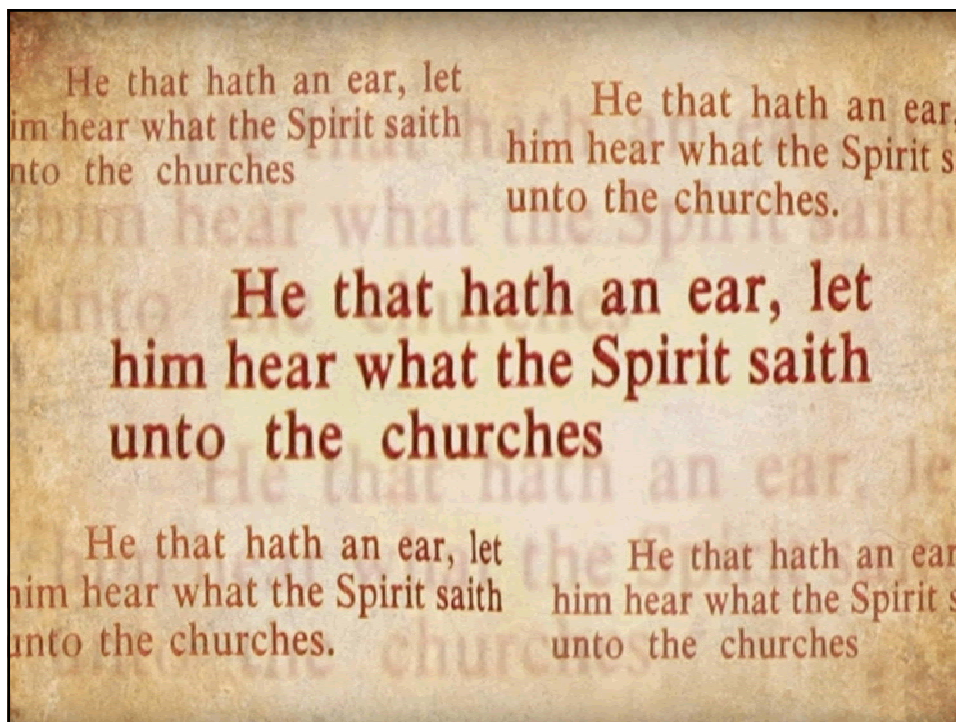




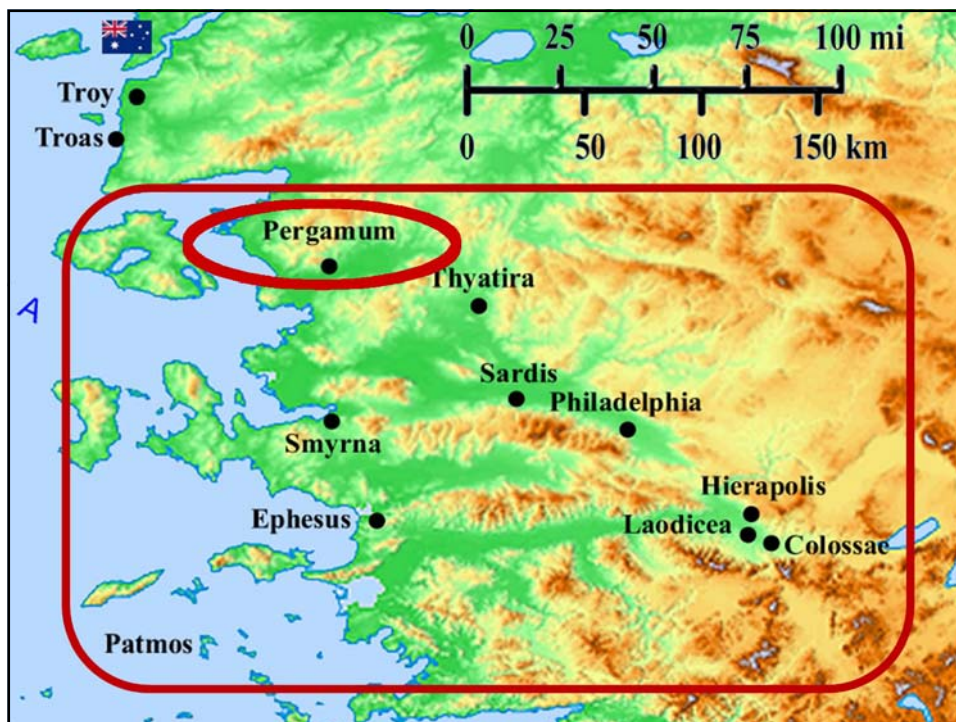
	<i>Ephesus</i>	<i>Smyrna</i>	<i>Pergamos</i>	<i>Thyatira</i>	<i>Sardis</i>	<i>Philadelphia</i>	<i>Laodicea</i>
Name	✓						
Title	✓						
Commendation	✓						
Concern	✓						
Exhortation	✓						
Promise (in text)	-						
Appeal	"He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the churches"						
Promise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







	<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 COMPROMISING (MARRIED) CHURCH

(Revelation 2:12-17)

<sup>12</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write,

‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: <sup>13</sup> “I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne *is*. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas *was* My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

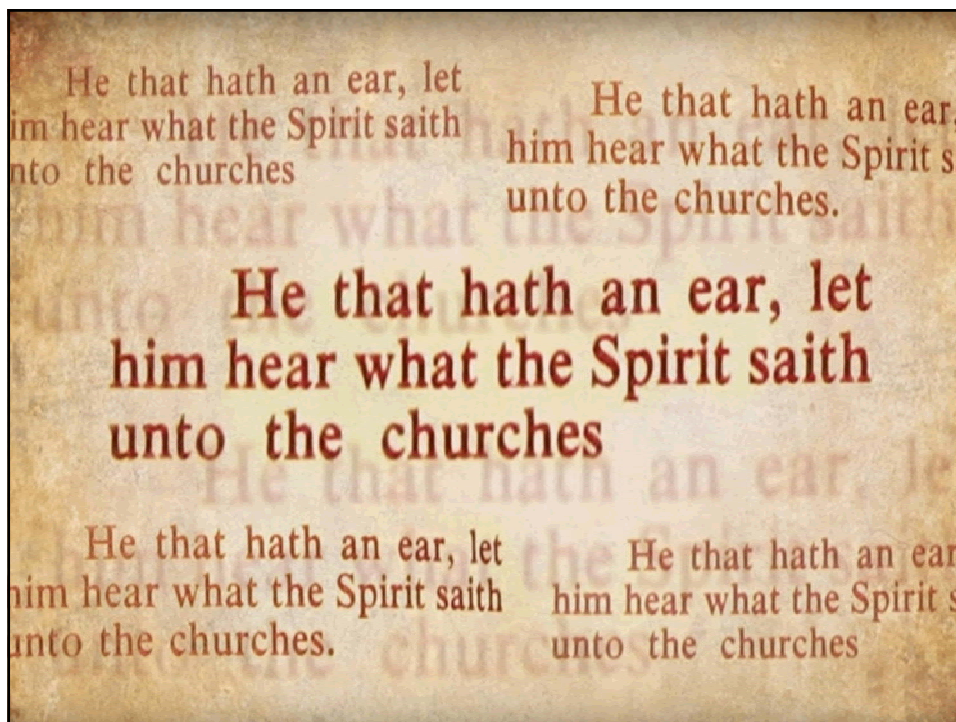
<sup>14</sup> But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

<sup>15</sup> Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

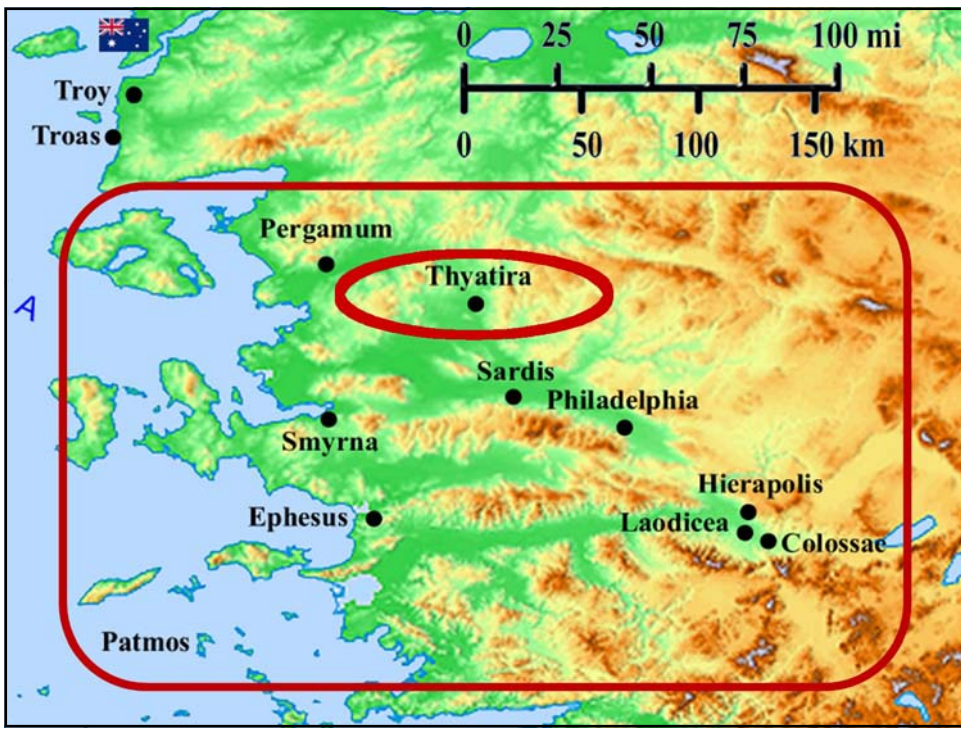
<sup>16</sup> Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

<sup>17</sup> “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives *it*.



	<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 CORRUPTED (MIDDLE) CHURCH

(Revelation 2:18-29)

<sup>18</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write,

‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: <sup>19</sup> “I know your works, love, faith, service, and your patience; and *as* for your works, the last *are* more than the first.

<sup>20</sup> Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and teaches and seduces My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup> And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent, and she does not want to repent of her sexual immorality.

<sup>22</sup> Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.

<sup>23</sup> I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

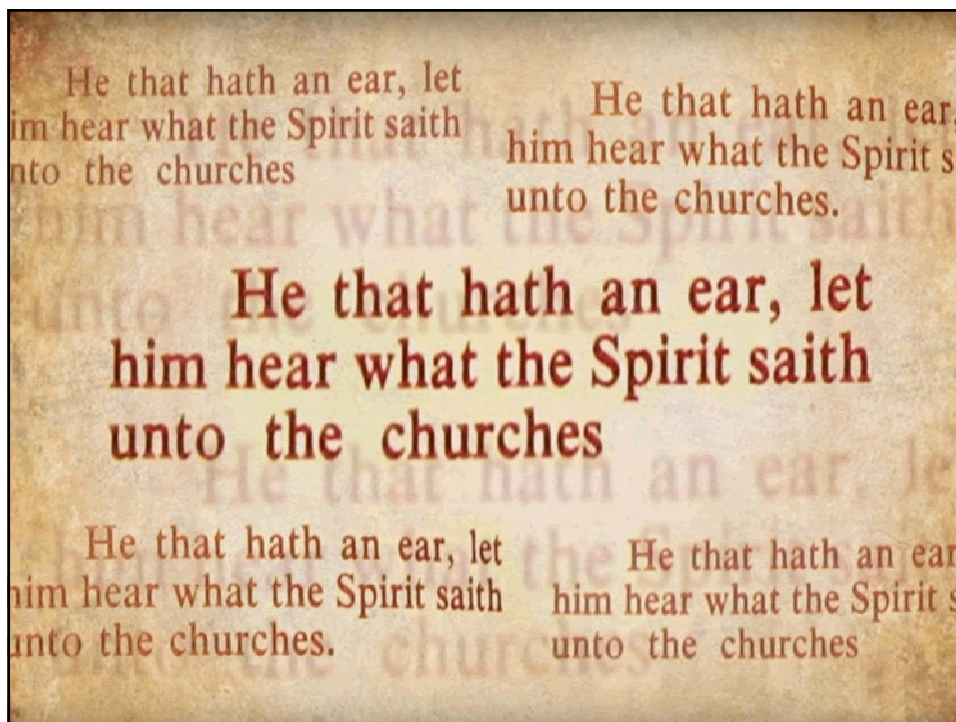
<sup>24</sup> “Now to you I say to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I put on you no other burden. <sup>25</sup> But hold fast what you have till I come.

<sup>26</sup> And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—

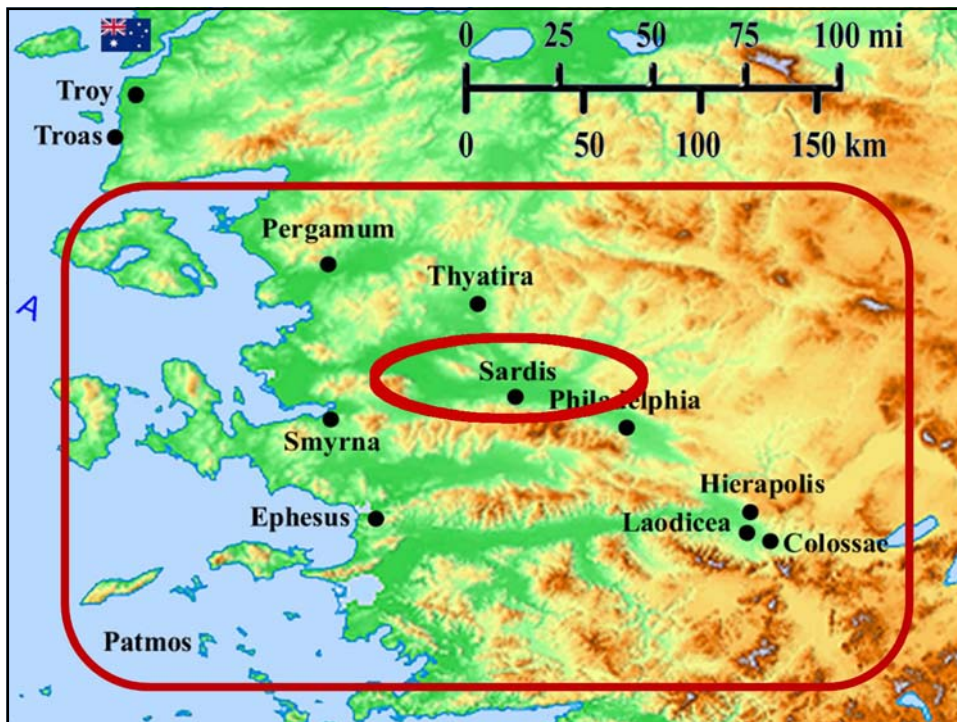
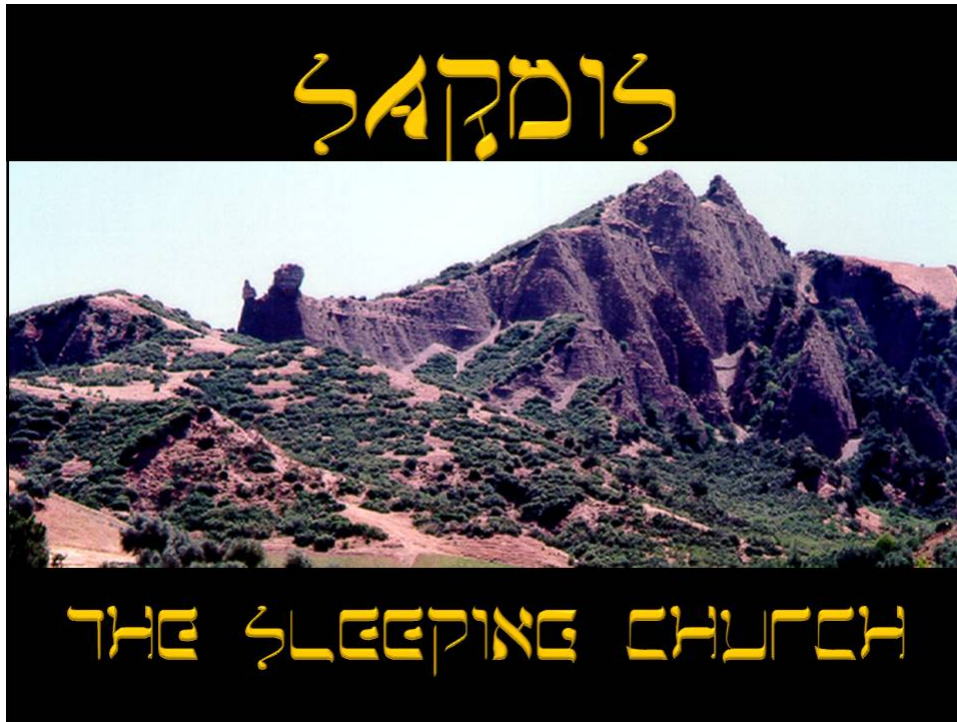
<sup>27</sup> ‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’ —

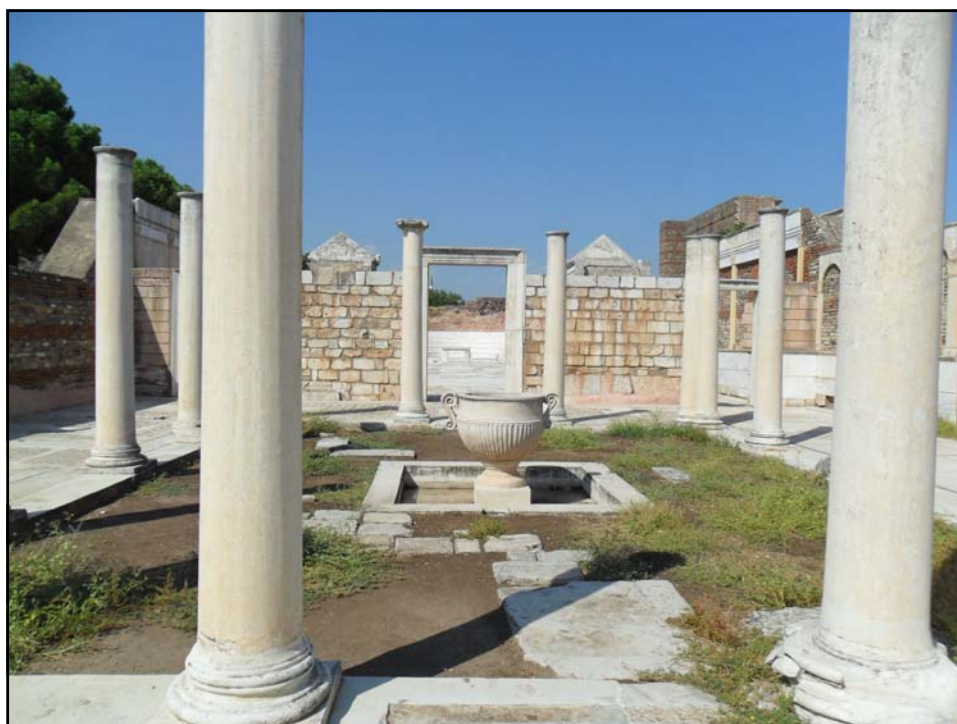
as I also have received from My Father; <sup>28</sup> and I will give him the morning star.

<sup>29</sup> “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)	✓	✓	✓	-			

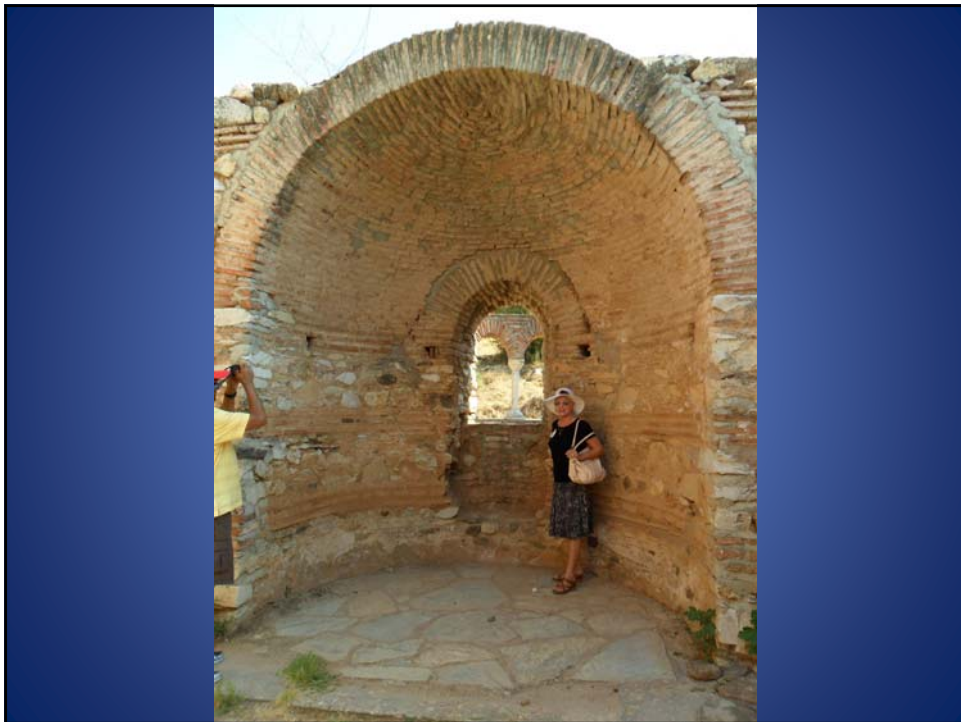
















## THE DEAD CHURCH

(Revelation 3:1-6)

<sup>1</sup>“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write,

‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

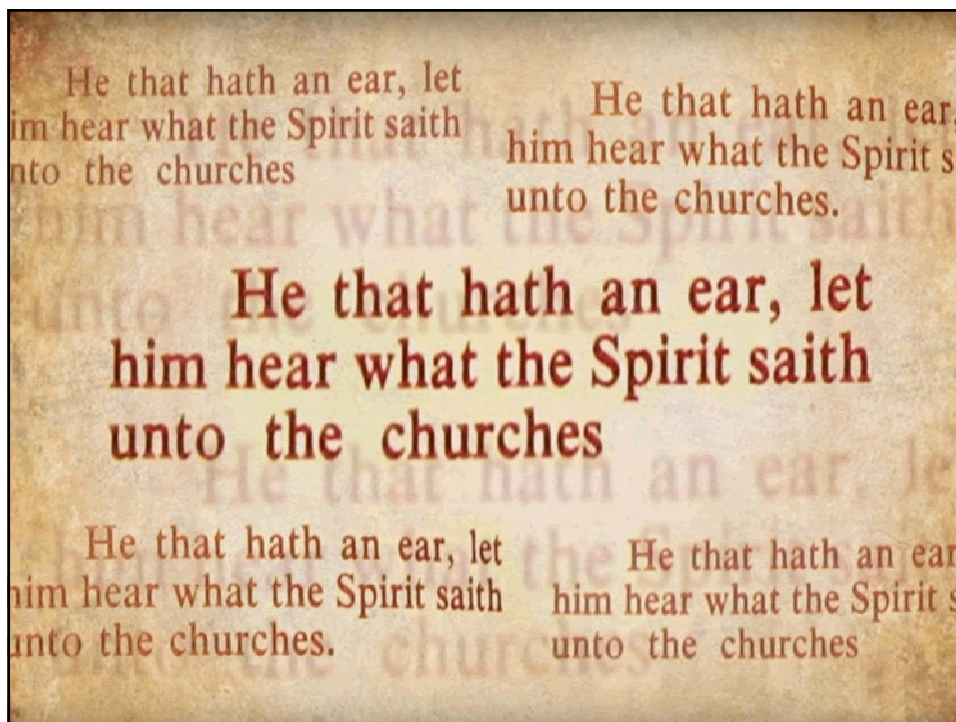
<sup>2</sup> Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before My God.

<sup>3</sup> Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

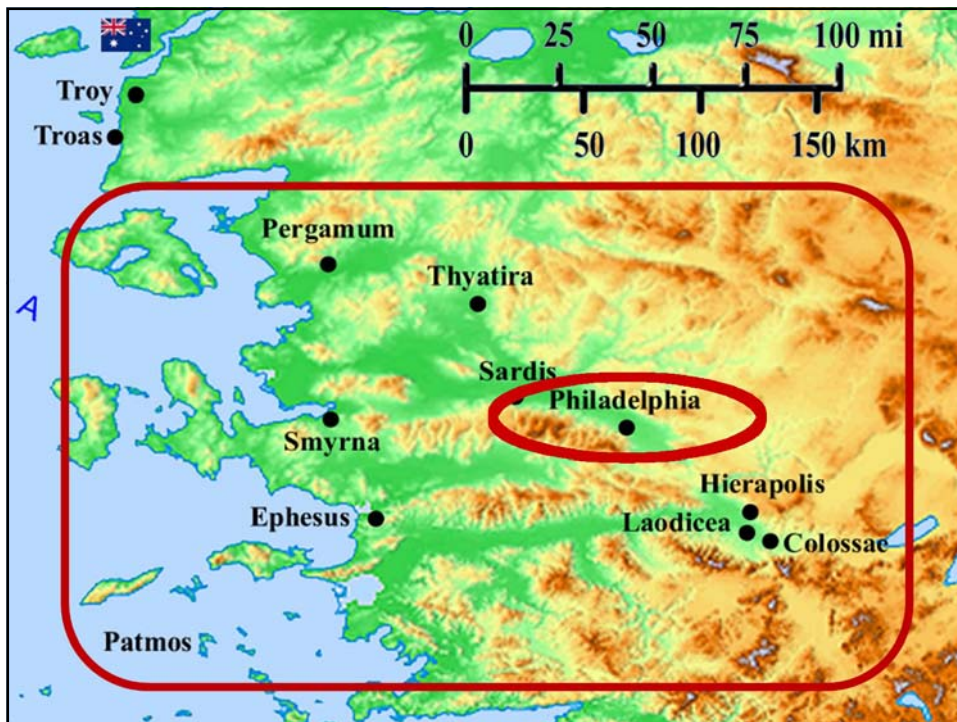
<sup>4</sup> Nevertheless you have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

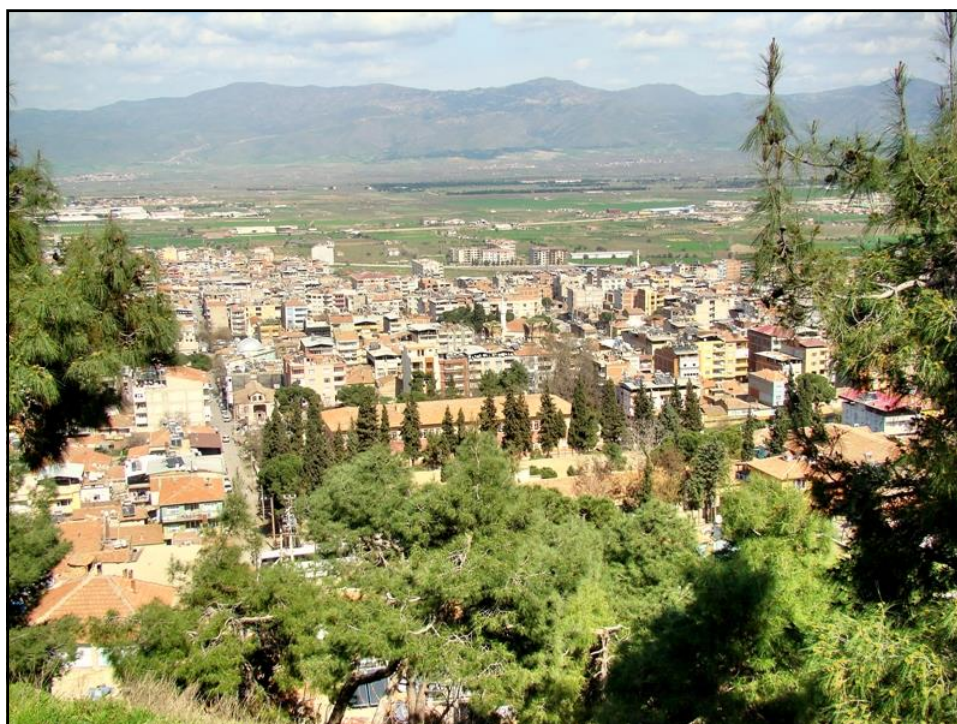
<sup>5</sup> He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

<sup>6</sup> “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)	✓	✓	✓	-	-		











## THE FAITHFUL (MISSIONARY) CHURCH

(Revelation 3:7-13)

<sup>7</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write,

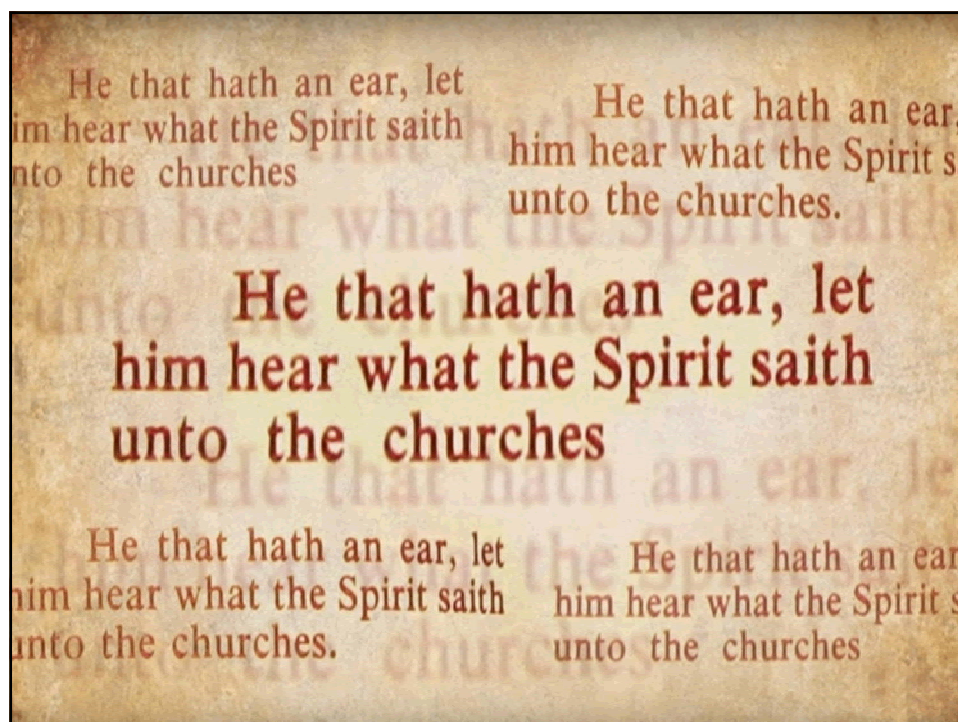
‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”

<sup>8</sup> “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. <sup>9</sup> Indeed I will make *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

<sup>10</sup> Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. <sup>11</sup> Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

<sup>12</sup> He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And *I will write on him* My new name.

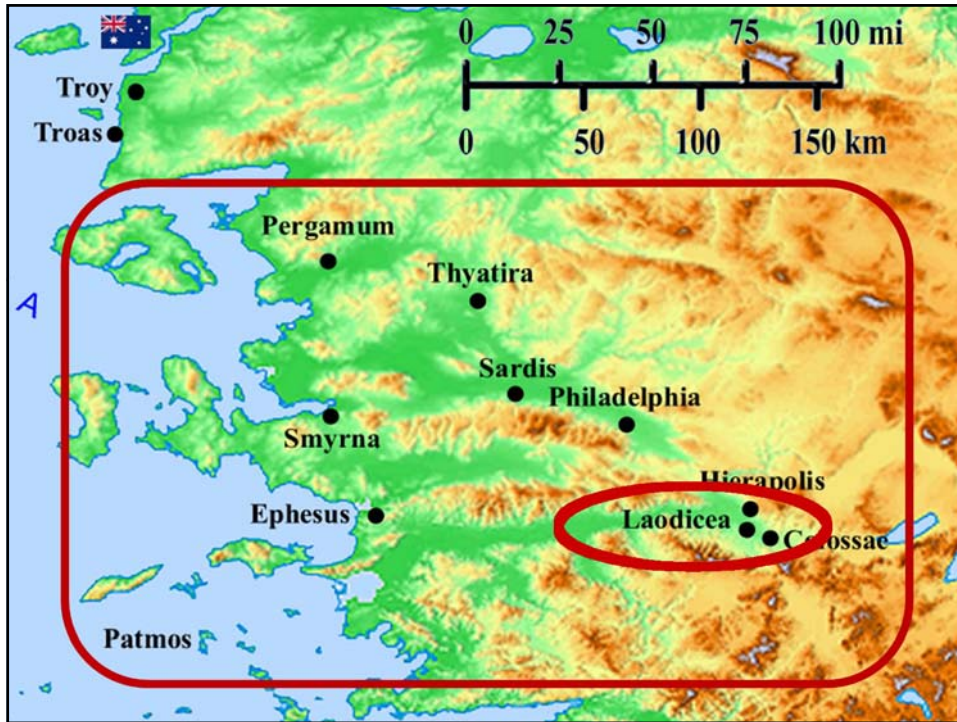
<sup>13</sup> “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”





	<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)	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	





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

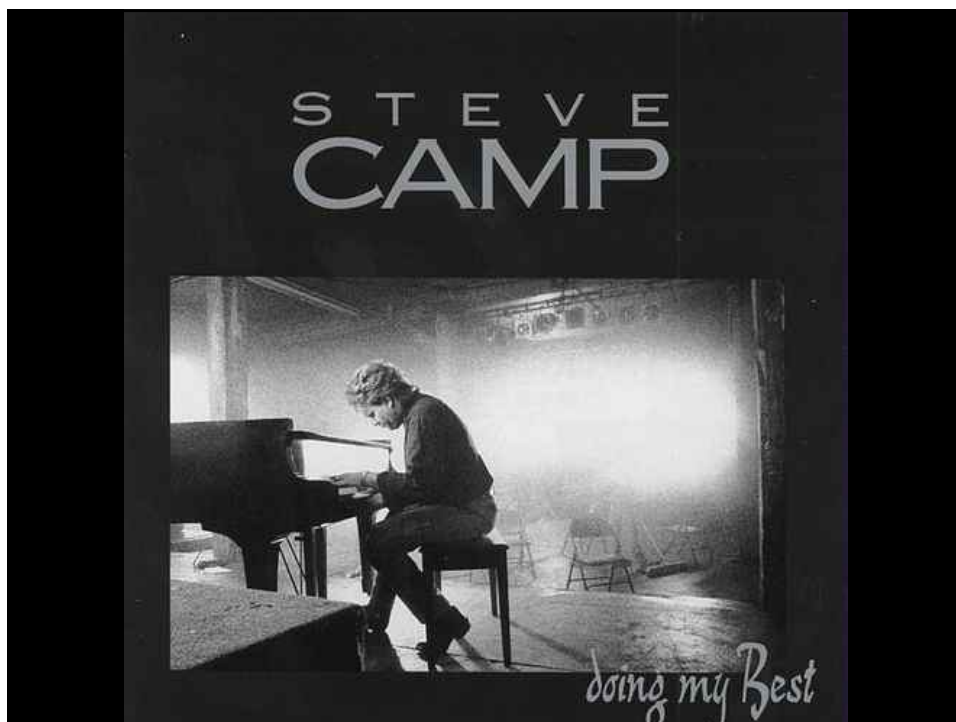
<sup>17</sup> Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' —and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed,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

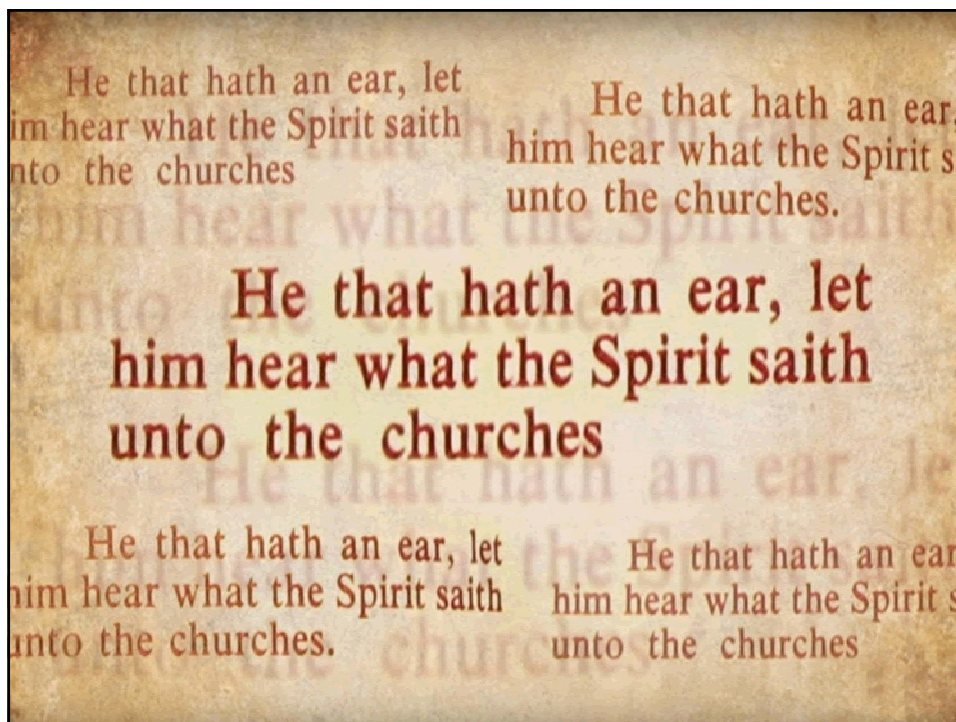
As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

<sup>20</sup> 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.

<sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>22</sup> "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”)
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(“Myrrh”, “Suffering” or “Death”)
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(“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”)

## Each letter applies to YOU AND ME individually

- **Ephesus** ➤ Neglected priorities  
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(“Rule of the people”, Lukewarm”)

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

... but for

**overcomers!**

### Who is an “overcomer”?

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

<sup>5</sup> 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.



## Stop and think!

- How many Revelation “churches” are there?
- How many “Kingdom Parables” are in Matthew 13 (we studied two weeks ago)?
- How many epistles did Paul write?

## The seven Kingdom parables

### Revelation Chapters 2 & 3

- **Ephesus**  
("First", "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", "Church of Love")
- **Laodicea**  
("Rule of the people", "Lukewarm")

### Matthew Chapter 13

- The Sower and the Four Soils  
Matthew 13:3-9
- The Tares and the Wheat  
Matthew 13:24-30
- The Mustard Seed  
Matthew 13:31-32
- The Woman and the Leaven  
Matthew 13:33
- The Treasure in the Field  
Matthew 13:44
- The Pearl of Great Price  
Matthew 13:45-46
- The Dragnet  
Matthew 13:46-50

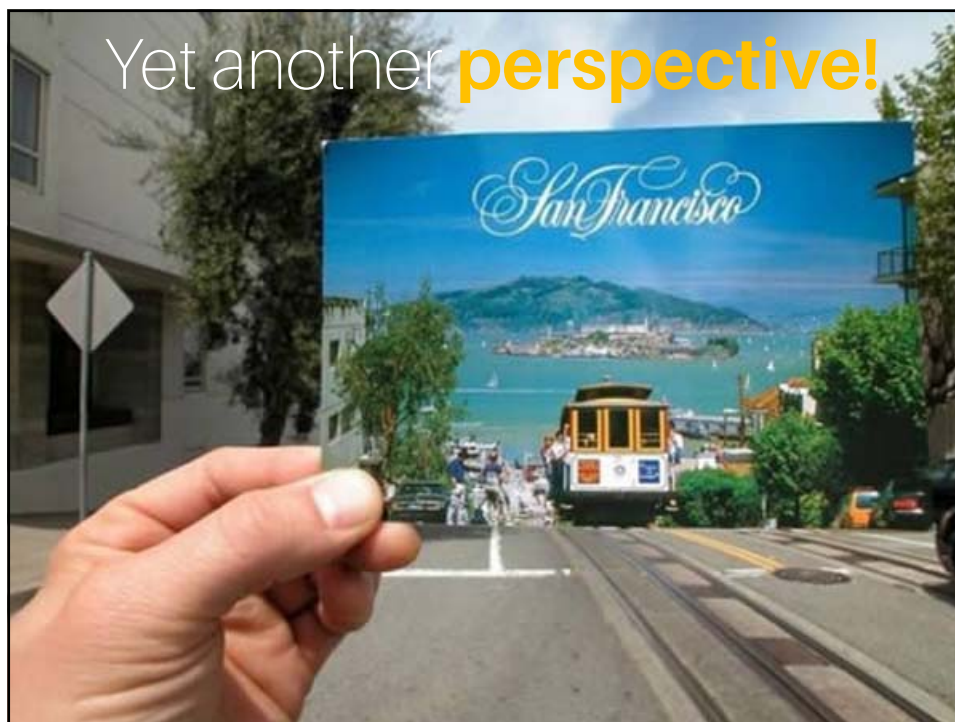
## Revelation 2 & 3 versus Paul's Epistles

### Revelation Chapters 2 & 3

- **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”, “Church of Love”)
- **Laodicea**  
(“Rule of the people”, “Lukewarm”)

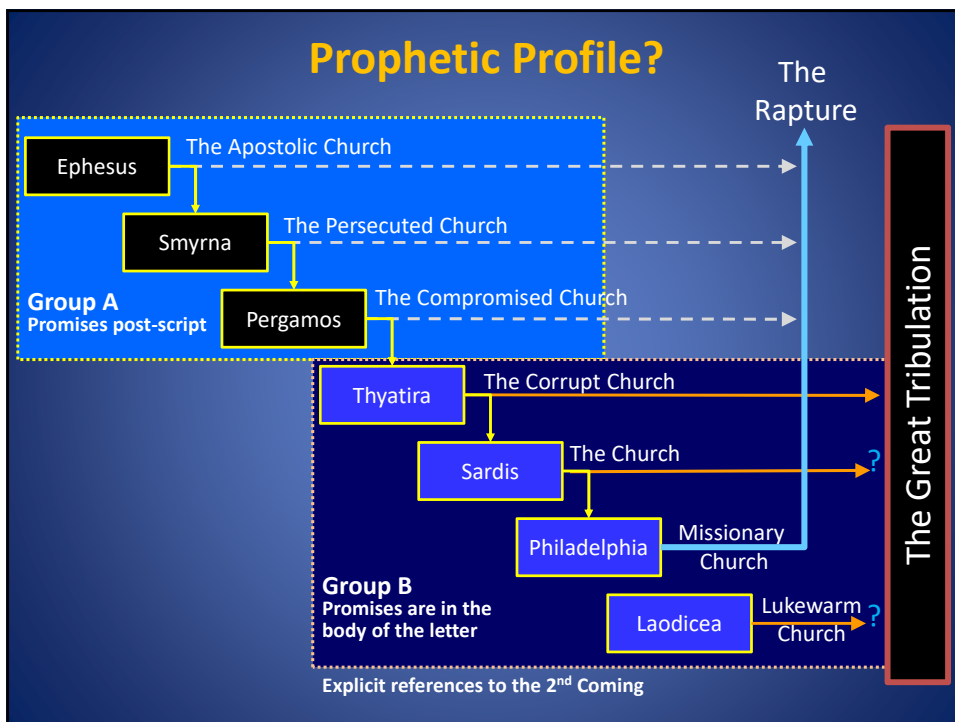
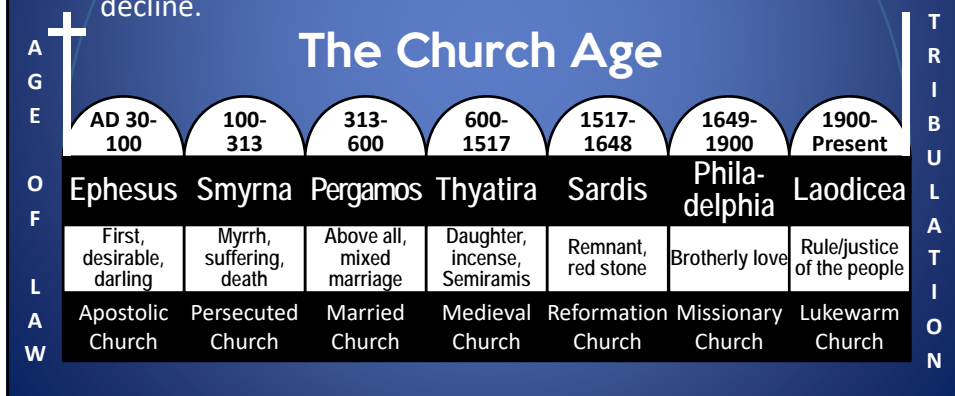
### Paul's 7 epistles

- Ephesians
- Philippians (joy through suffering)
- Corinthians (marriage to the world)
- Galatians (religious externalism)
- Romans (Paul's definitive doctrine)
- Thessalonians (the raptured Church)
- Colossians (A few km away from Laodicea; instructed to trade letters with Laodicea; Greek phrases unique to these letters).



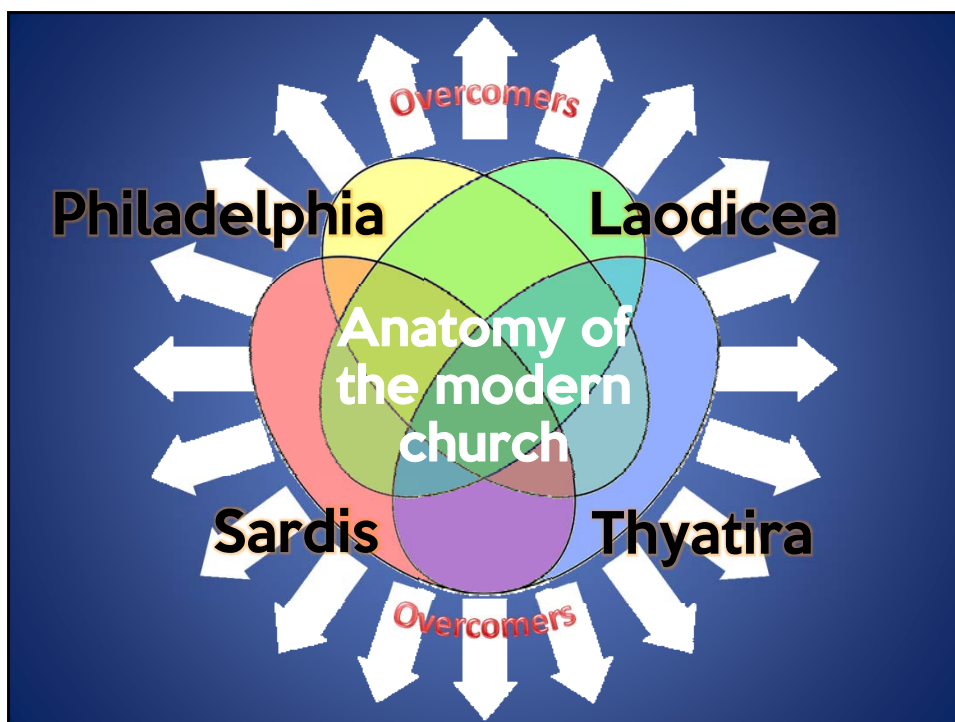
## Is Rev 2 & 3 prophetic of the church age?

- Many conservative scholars suggest that these seven churches foreshadow seven different periods in the history of the Church.
- The seven historic periods represent the successive chronological history of professing Christendom in the West. It is a history of moral deterioration, apostasy and progressive decline.



## Summary of the Church Age

Church Age	Brief description
<b>Ephesus</b>	the period during the lives of the apostles
<b>Smyrna</b>	the pagan persecution until Constantine became Emperor of Rome and the Edict of Milan
<b>Pergamos</b>	marriage of the Christian church to the State. A transition during which the papacy rose to power
<b>Thyatira</b>	the medieval rule of the apostate church as a queen, living deliciously with the kings of the earth
<b>Sardis</b>	the Catholic Counter-reformation and ongoing destruction of the Protestant movement
<b>Philadelphia</b>	the growing missionary outreach (e.g., Asia, Africa)
<b>Laodicea</b>	the nominal (lukewarm) modern (Western) church



<b>Old Testament vs 7 churches</b>		
Adam affection for Eve superseded his first love (God); expelled from Eden.	<b>Ephesus</b>	As with Adam, Ephesus lost its first love. Overcomers will be restored to Eden.
Trouble for Israel in Egypt up to the 10 plagues. Passover lamb saved faithful.	<b>Smyrna</b>	Tribulation in Smyrna (10 days). Faithful promised not hurt of second death.
From Exodus through Judges, did right in their own eyes. Balaam/Balac. Manna.	<b>Pergamos</b>	Did right in own eyes, married idolatry. Balaam/Balac. Promised hidden manna.
People wanted king. Kingdoms peaked w/ Solomon; declined through Jezebel.	<b>Thyatira</b>	Parallels Israel becoming kingdom with imperial papacy. Jezebel.
Remnant escape Nebuchadnezzar and remain faithful after AD 606.	<b>Sardis</b>	Sardis (meaning "remnant") survive through conquest.
Under Cyrus open door to return to Israel and rebuild Temple. Homeland in Israel.	<b>Philadelphia</b>	Small faithful remnant spared severe hour of trial; Open door. Homeland w/ Jesus.
Spiritual Israel blind to Christ despite John the Baptist. Jerusalem destroyed AD70.	<b>Laodicea</b>	Spiritual Laodicea blind to Christ ("Stand outside and knock.") Jesus offers grace.

**PROPHECY  
IS  
PATTERN**