



1



2

KEY THEME

‘Surely I come quickly.’ Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!’

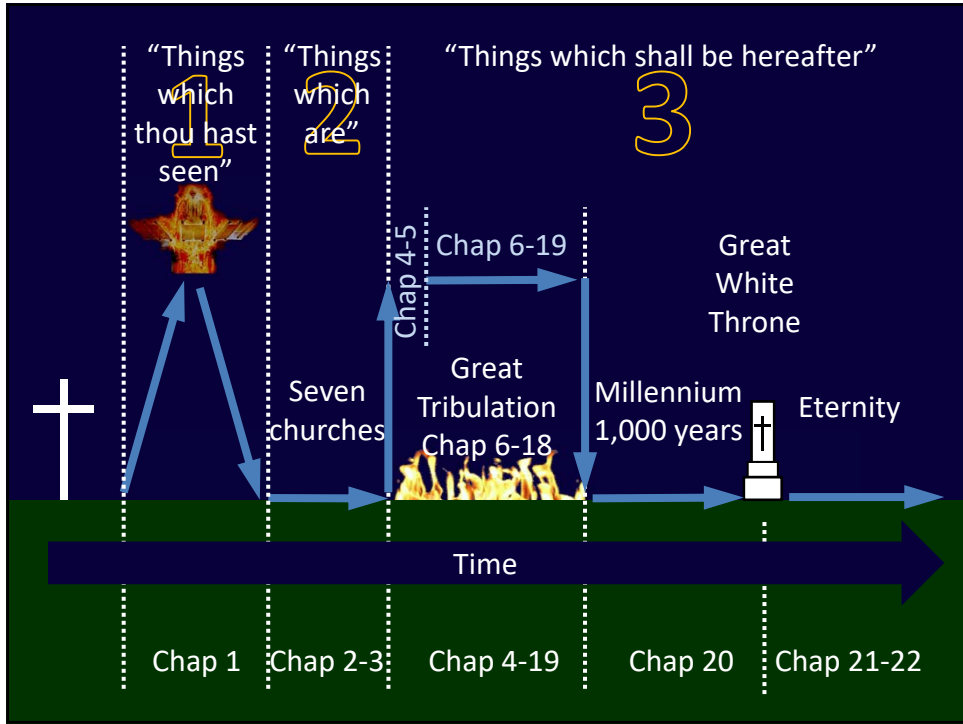
Revelation 22:20b

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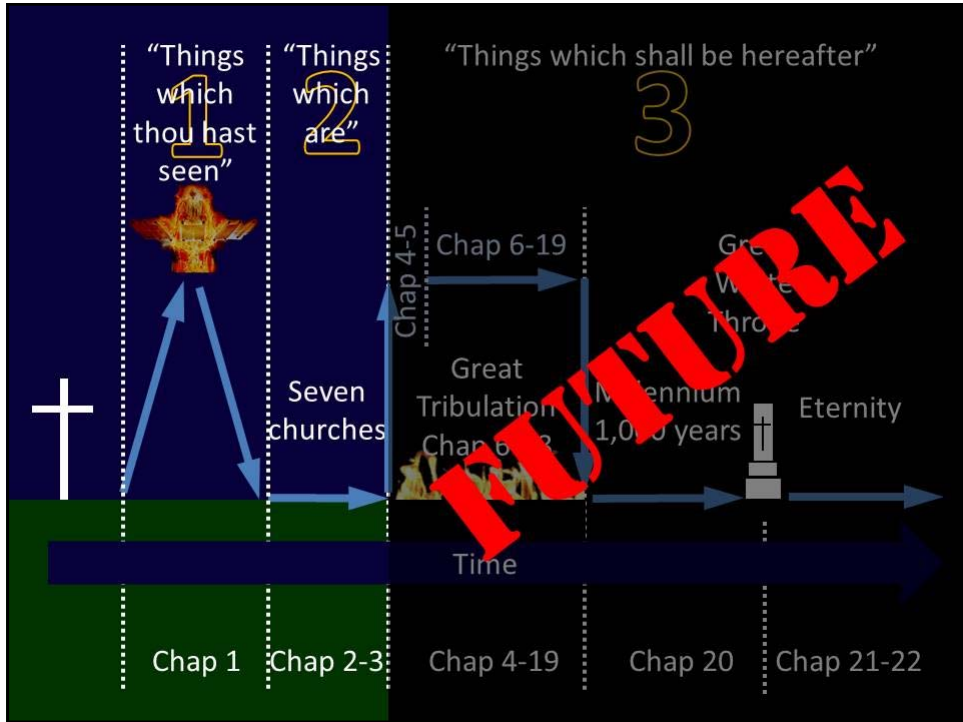
The book of Revelation

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<p style="text-align: center;">THINGS WHICH ARE (Chapters 2-3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The messages to the seven churches, 2-3 	
<p style="text-align: center;">THINGS WHICH SHALL BE HEREAFTER (Chapters 4-22)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throne in heaven, 4-5 • Tribulation on earth, 6-19 • The Kingdom of Christ, 20 • The new heavens and earth 	

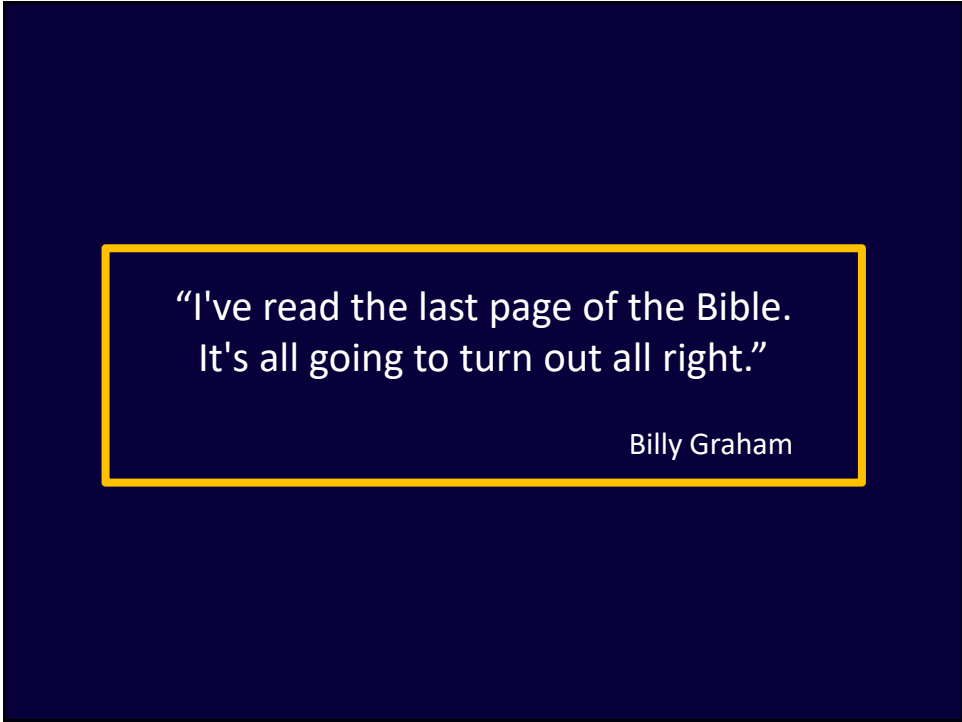
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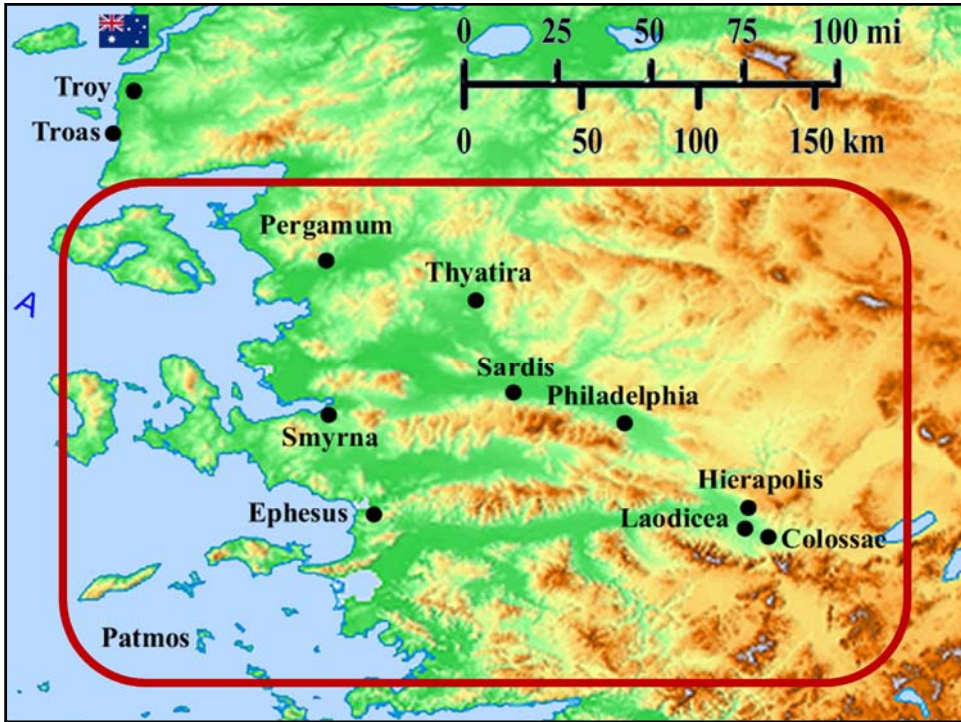
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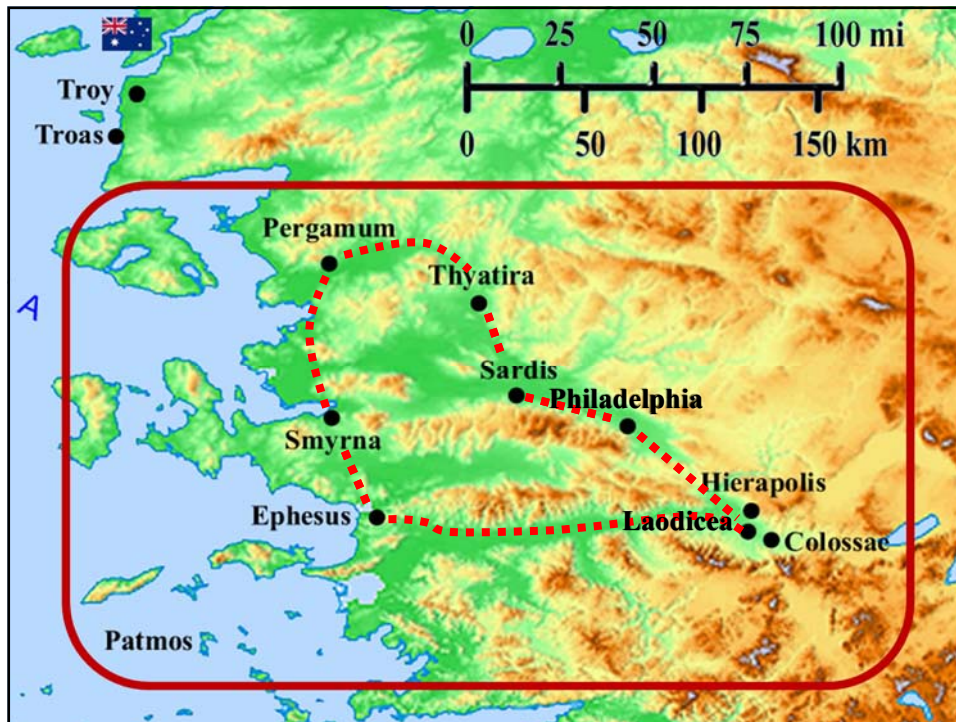
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9



10



11

Why these churches?

For whatever things
 were written before were
written for our learning,
that we through the patience
 and comfort of the Scriptures
might have hope.

Romans 15:4

12

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 ..."



13

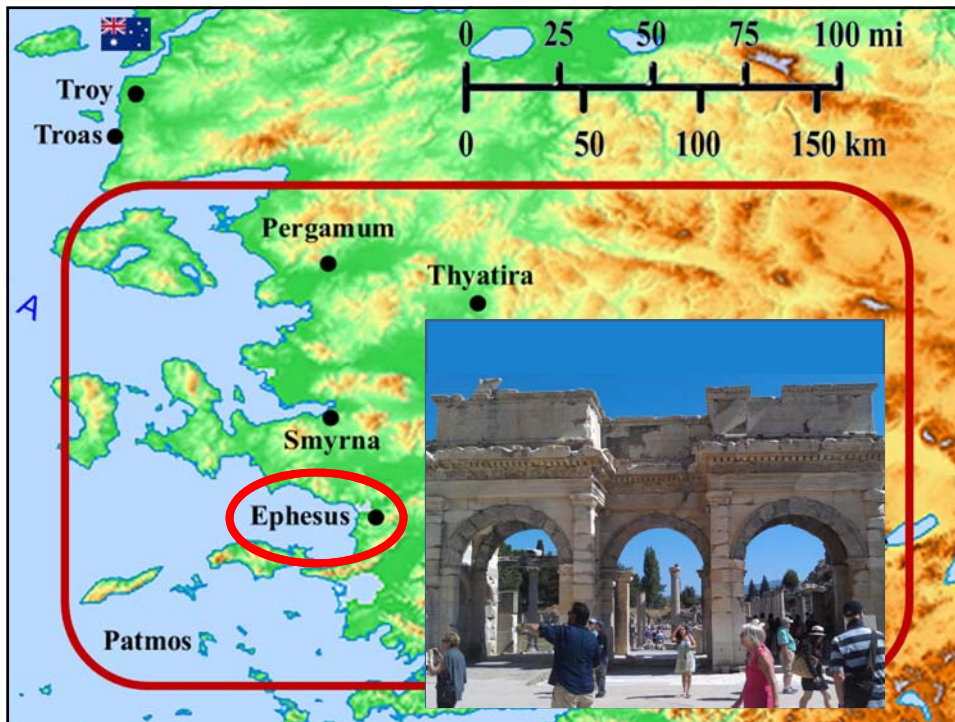
Καὶ τῷ ἀγγέλῳ τῆς ἐκκλησίας

To the angel of the church in

EPHESUS

Revelation 2:1-7

14



15

Ephesus, the loveless church

- 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; ³ and 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.”’

16

Ephesus, the loveless church

Name	✓	1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,
Title	✓	'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:
Commendation	✓	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; ³ and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.
Concern	✓	4 Nevertheless I have <i>this</i> against you, that you have left your first love.
Exhortation	✓	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.
Promise	-	
Appeal	✓	7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
Promise	✓	To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." '

17

Overview of Design

		Ephesus
		Smyrna
		Pergamos
		Thyatira
		Sardis
		Philadelphia
		Laodicea
Name	✓	
Title	✓	
Commendation	✓	
Concern	✓	
Exhortation	✓	
Promise	-	
Appeal	✓	"He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the Churches"
Promise	✓	

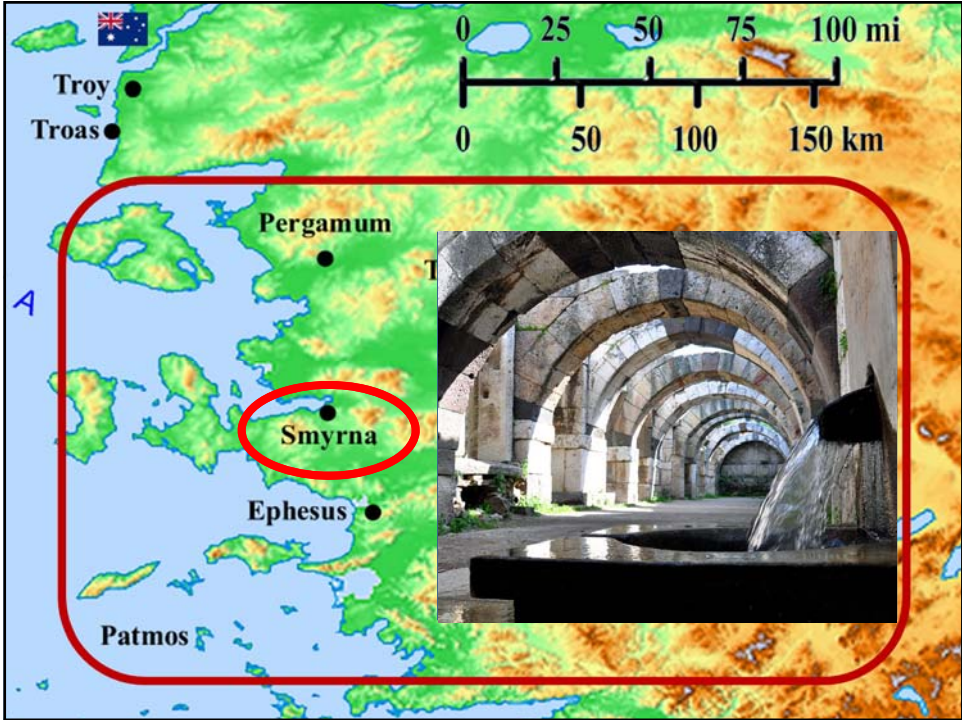
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Καὶ τῷ ἀγγέλῳ τῆς ἐκκλησίας
To the angel of the church in

SMYRNA

Revelation 2:8-11

19



20

Smyrna, the persecuted church

- 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.” ’

21

Smyrna, the persecuted church

Name	✓	8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write,
Title	✓	‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:
Commendation	✓	9 “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and <i>I know</i> the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but <i>are</i> a synagogue of Satan.
Concern	✗	10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw <i>some</i> 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.
Exhortation	✓	
Promise	-	11 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
Appeal	✓	
Promise	✓	He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.” ’

22

Overview of Design

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Name	✓	✓					
Title	✓	✓					
Commendation	✓	✓					
Concern	✓	✗					
Exhortation	✓	✓					
Promise	-	-					
Appeal	"He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the Churches"						
Promise	✓	✓					

23

Καὶ τῷ ἀγγέλῳ τῆς ἐκκλησίας

To the angel of the church in

PERGAMUM

Revelation 2:12-17

24



25

Pergamos, the compromising church

- ¹² “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write,
 ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: ¹³ “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.
- ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. ¹⁶ Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.
- ¹⁷ “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*.”

26

Pergamos, the compromising church

Name	✓	12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:
Title	✓	13 "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.
Commendation	✓	14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. 15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.
Concern	✓	16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.
Exhortation	✓	17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
Promise	-	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."
Appeal	✓	
Promise	✓	

27

Overview of Design

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Name	✓	✓	✓				
Title	✓	✓	✓				
Commendation	✓	✓	✓				
Concern	✓	✗	✓				
Exhortation	✓	✓	✓				
Promise	-	-	-				
Appeal	"He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the Churches"						
Promise	✓	✓	✓				

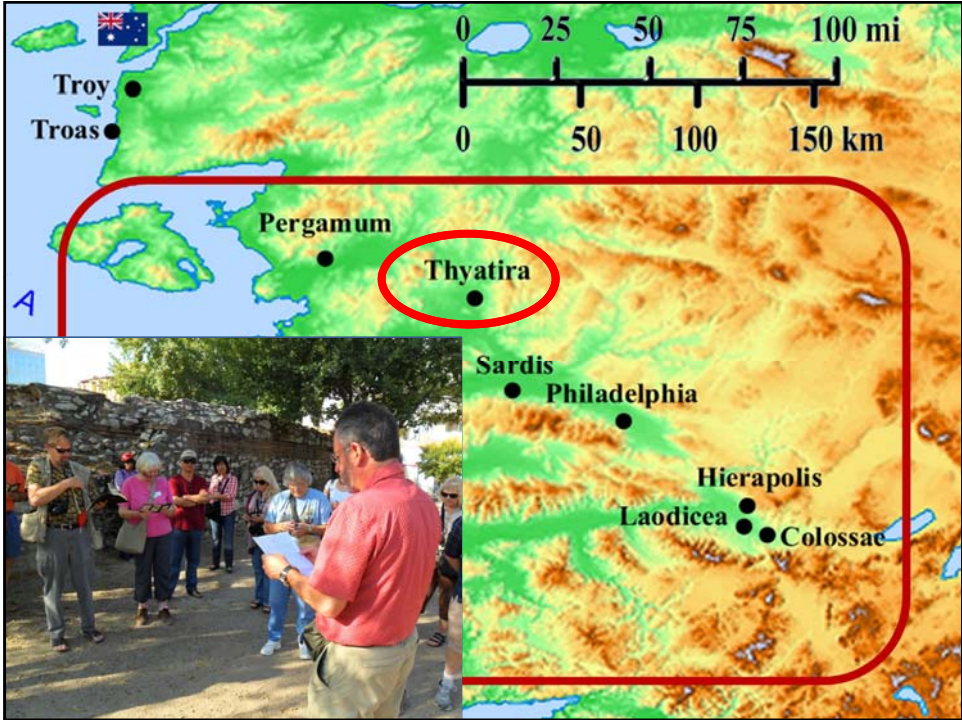
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Καὶ τῷ ἀγγέλῳ τῆς ἐκκλησίας
To the angel of the church in

THYATIRA

Revelation 2:18-29

29



30

Thyatira, the corrupt church

¹⁸ “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: ¹⁹ “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and *as* for your works, the last *are* more than the first.

²⁰ Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. ²¹ And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

²² Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. ²³ 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.

31

Thyatira, the corrupt church

²⁴ “Now to you I say, and 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 will put on you no other burden. ²⁵ But hold fast what you have till I come.

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

²⁷ ‘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; ²⁸ and I will give him the morning star.

²⁹ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’

32

Thyatira, the corrupt church

Name	✓	18 "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:
Title	✓	19 "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.
Commendation	✓	20 Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. 22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. 23 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.
Concern	✓	
Exhortation	✓	24 "Now to you I say, and 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 will put on you no other burden. 25 But hold fast what you have till I come.
Promise	✓	26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—27 '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; 28 and I will give him the morning star.
Appeal	✓	
Promise	-	29 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

33

Overview of Design

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Name	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Title	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Commendation	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Concern	✓	✗	✓	✓			
Exhortation	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Promise	-	-	-	✓			
Appeal	"He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the Churches"						
Promise	✓	✓	✓	-			

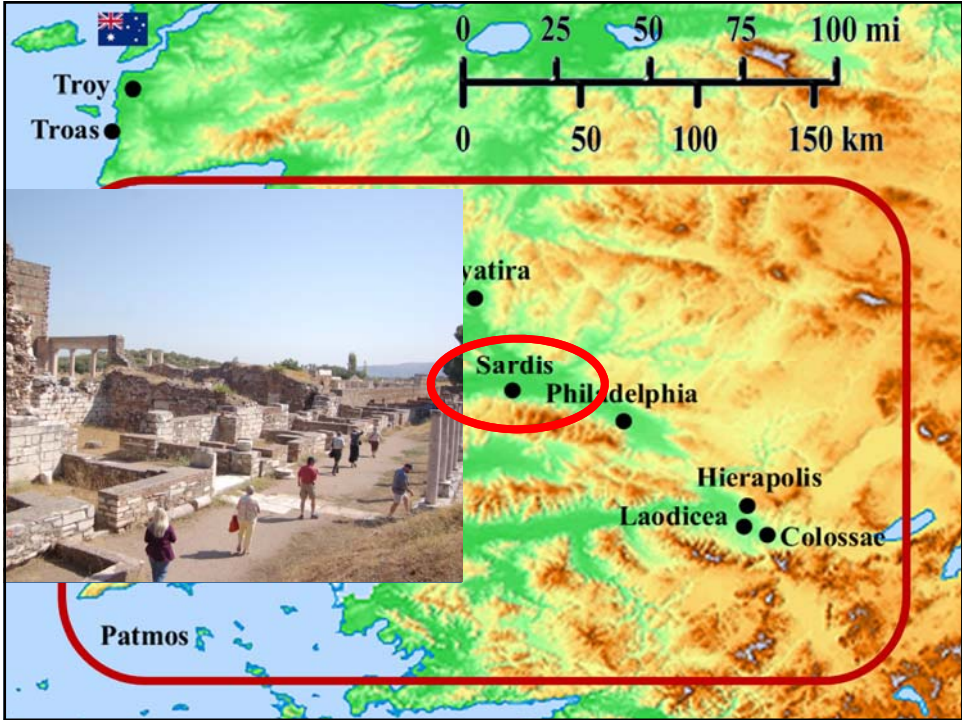
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Καὶ τῷ ἀγγέλῳ τῆς ἐκκλησίας
To the angel of the church in

SARDIS

Revelation 3:1-6

35



36

Sardis, the dead church

- ¹ “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.
- ² Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. ³ 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.
- ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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.
- ⁶ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”’

37

Sardis, the dead church

Name	✓	¹ “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.
Title	✓	² Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.
Commendation	✗	³ 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.
Concern	✓	⁴ 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. ⁵ 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.
Exhortation	✓	⁶ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”’
Promise	-	
Appeal	✓	
Promise	✓	

38

Overview of Design

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Name	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Title	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Commendation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗		
Concern	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓		
Exhortation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Promise	-	-	-	✓	✓		
Appeal	"He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the Churches"						
Promise	✓	✓	✓	-	-		

39

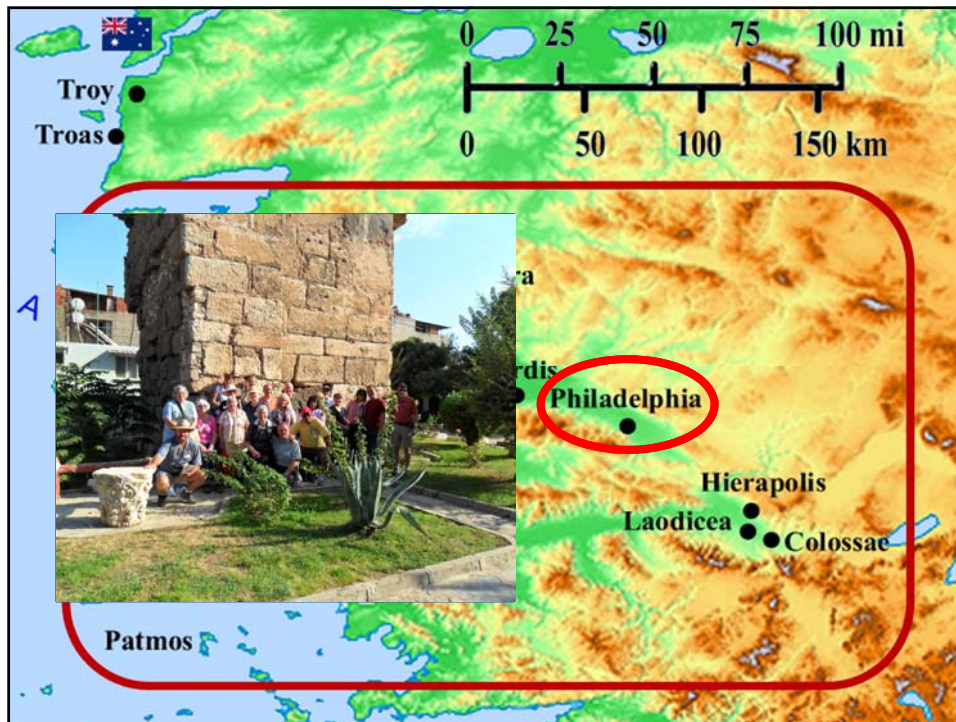
Καὶ τῷ ἀγγέλῳ τῆς ἐκκλησίας

To the angel of the church in

PHILADELPHIA

Revelation 3:7-13

40



41

Philadelphia, the faithful church

- 7 “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”:
- 8 “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.
- 9 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.

42

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

¹² 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.

¹³ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."'

43

Philadelphia, the faithful church

Name	✓
Title	✓
Commendation	✓
Concern	✗
Exhortation	✓
Promise	-
Appeal	✓
Promise	✓

⁷ "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":

⁸ "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. ⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

¹² 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.

¹³ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."'

44

Overview of Design

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Name	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Title	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commendation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Concern	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Exhortation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Promise	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
Appeal	"He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the Churches"						
Promise	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-

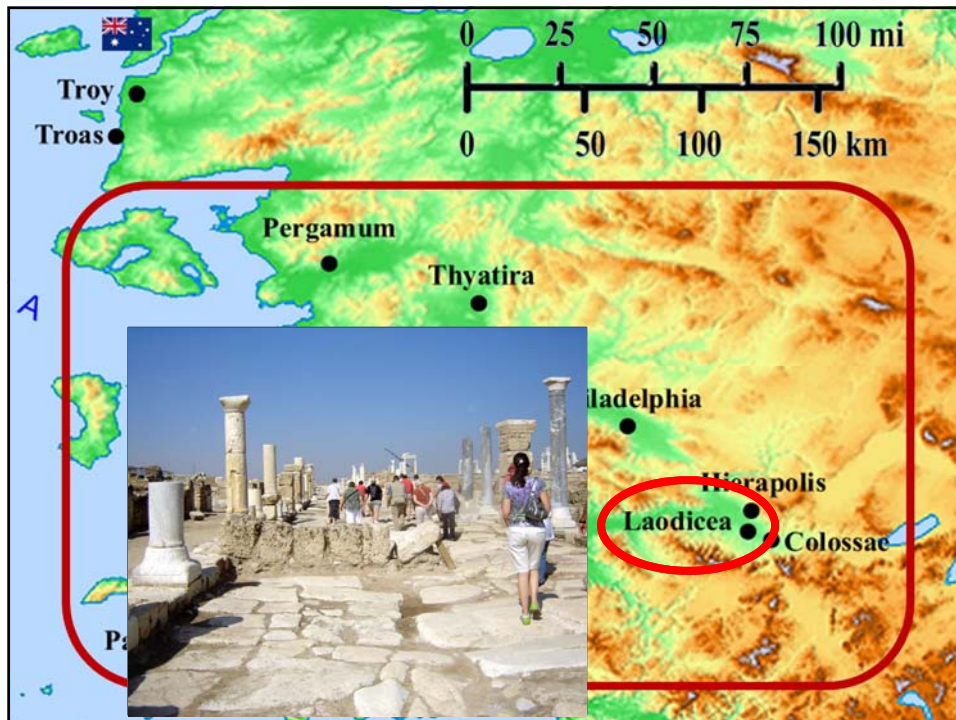
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Καὶ τῷ ἀγγέλῳ τῆς ἐκκλησίας
To the angel of the church in

LAODICEA

Revelation 3:14-22

46



47

Laodicea, the lukewarm church

- ¹⁴ “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 cold nor hot, 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.” ’ ”

48

Laodicea, the lukewarm church

Name	✓
Title	✓
Commendation	✗
Concern	✓
Exhortation	✓
Promise	-
Appeal	✓
Promise	✓

¹⁴ "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 cold nor hot, 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 ... 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." ' ' "

49

Overview of Design

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Name	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Title	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commendation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Concern	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Exhortation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Promise	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
Appeal	"He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the Churches"						
Promise	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-

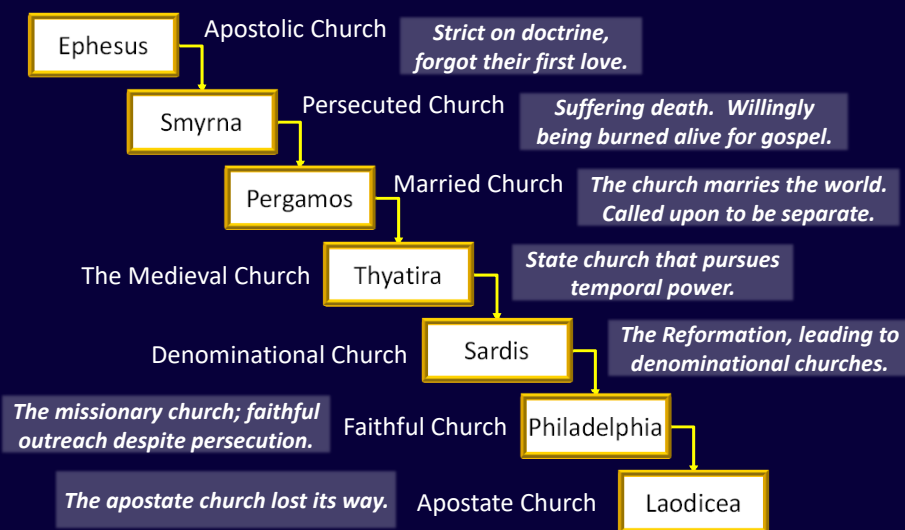
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Summary

- Ephesus**
(“Desired One” or “Darling”) ➤ The loveless church
(Active and busy, but lost sight of why.)
- Smyrna**
(“Myrrh”, “Suffering” or “Death”) ➤ The persecuted church
(God sees your plight. Have strength.)
- Pergamos**
(“Mixed marriage” or “Serpent”) ➤ The compromising church
(Stop your compromise with the world.)
- Thyatira**
(“Semiramis” or “Daughter”) ➤ The corrupt church
(Many good works, but corrupt leaders.)
- Sardis**
(“Red Stone” or “Remnant”) ➤ The dead church
(Blinded by pride, the enemy is winning.)
- Philadelphia**
(“Brotherly love”, “Church of Love”) ➤ The faithful church
(You persevere through trial; well done.)
- Laodicea**
(“Rule of the people”, Lukewarm”) ➤ The lukewarm church
(Worldly wealthy but spiritually naked.)

51

The Seven Churches



52

Important  **Observations**

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

53

Who is "the Overcomer"

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

1 John 5:4,5

- **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.

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55

Overview of Design

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Name	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Title	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commendation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Concern	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Exhortation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Promise	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
Appeal	"He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the Churches"						
Promise	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-

56

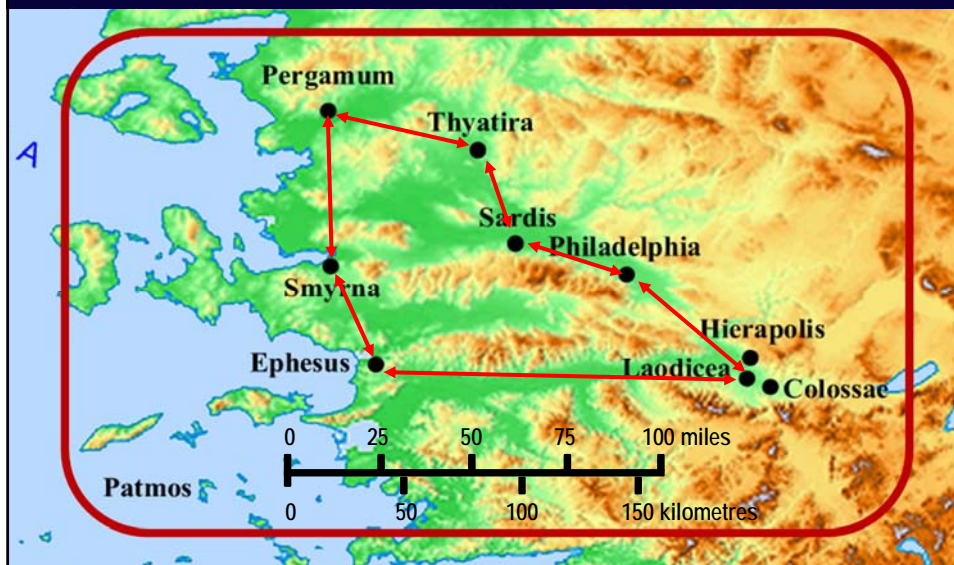
The Seven Churches

1. Each was written to an actual active *ekklesia* in the day.
2. Each letter alludes to relevant known past history of the city/region.
3. The messages given to them assess the spiritual condition of each church with appropriate compliments and directions for corrective action.
4. Each letter contains prophetic allusions to current events, over-horizon events, and future events.
5. The seven churches represent all churches then and now.
6. Some suggest that the seven in the order given represent seven successive eras in the history of the Christian Church.
7. Lessons from each church can be applied to individuals.

57

Two Options ... or Three?

1. Churches separated by space (geography)



58

Two Options ... or Three?

1. Churches separated by space (geography)
2. Churches separated by time (dispensationalism)

Some suggest that these seven churches foreshadow seven historic periods in the history of the Western Church, a saga of moral deterioration, apostasy and progressive decline.

The Church Age

0 AD 500 1000 1500 2000

The Apostolic Church **Ephesus** (AD 30-100)
The Persecuted Church **Smyrna** (100-313)
The Married Church **Pergamos** (313-600)
The Medieval Church **Thyatira** (600-1517)
The Reformation Church **Sardis** (1517-1648)
The Faithful Church **Philadelphia** (1649-1900)
The Lukewarm Church **Laodicea** (1900 – present)

59

Two Options ... or Three?

1. Churches separated by space (geography)
2. Churches separated by time (dispensationalism)

Some suggest that these seven churches foreshadow seven historic periods in the history of the Western Church, a saga of moral deterioration, apostasy and progressive decline.

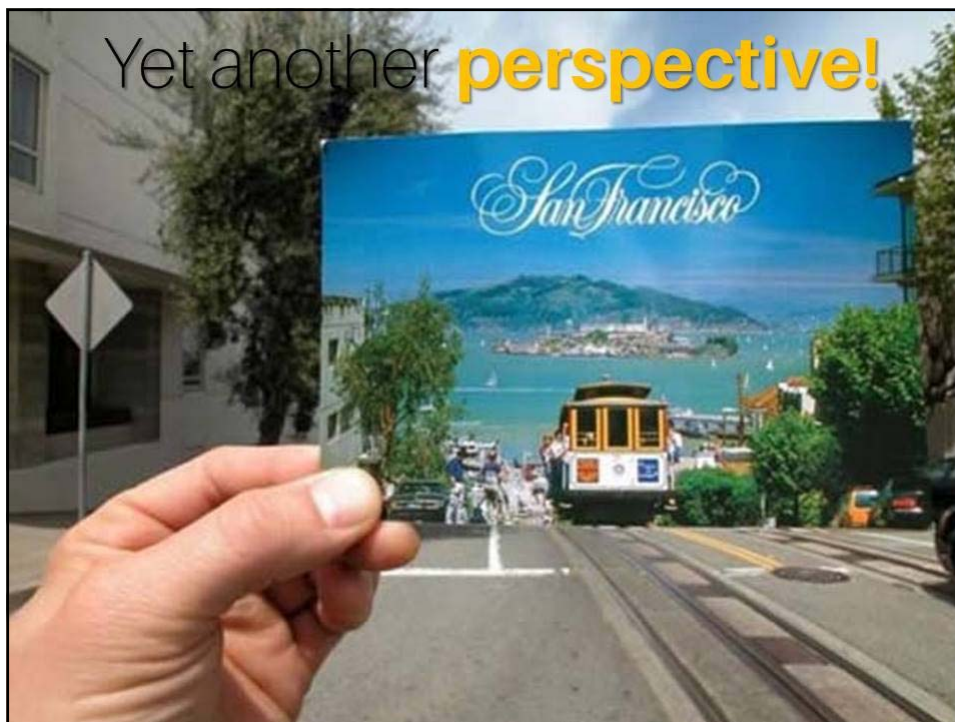
The Church Age

	AD 30-100	100-325	325-606	606-1517	1517-1648	1649-1900	1900-Present
	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
	First, desirable, darling	Myrrh, suffering, death	Above all, mixed marriage	Daughter, incense, Semiramis	Remnant, red stone	Brotherly love	Rule/justice of the people
	Apostolic Church	Persecuted Church	Married Church	Medieval Church	Reformation Church	Faithful Church	Lukewarm Church

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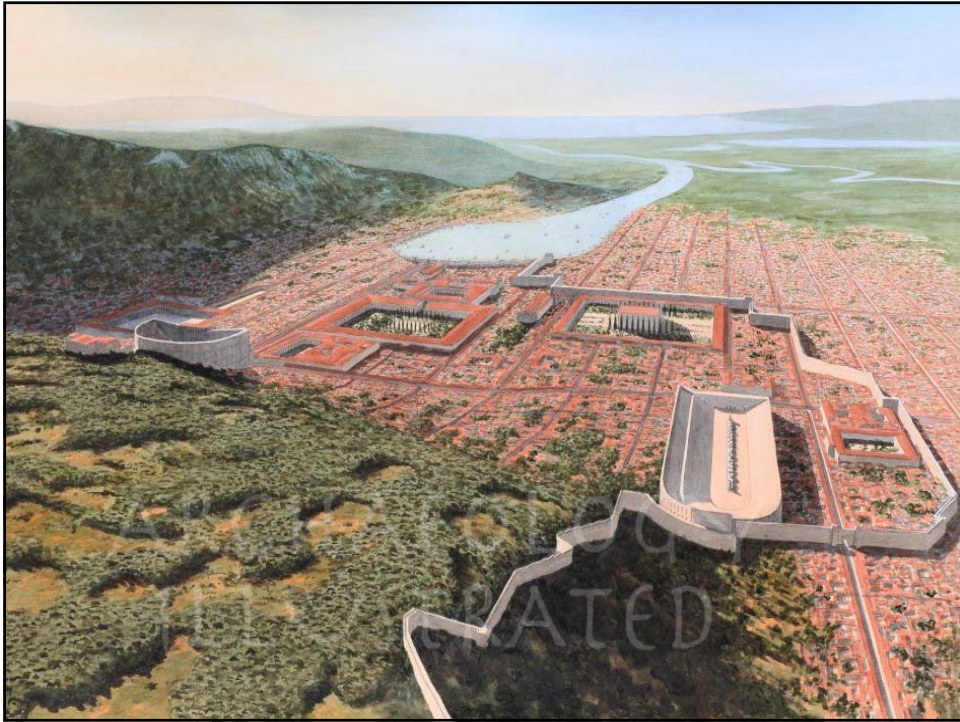
NEXT WEEK

Καὶ τῷ ἀγγέλῳ τῆς ἐκκλησίας
To the angel of the church in

EPHESUS

Revelation 2:1-7

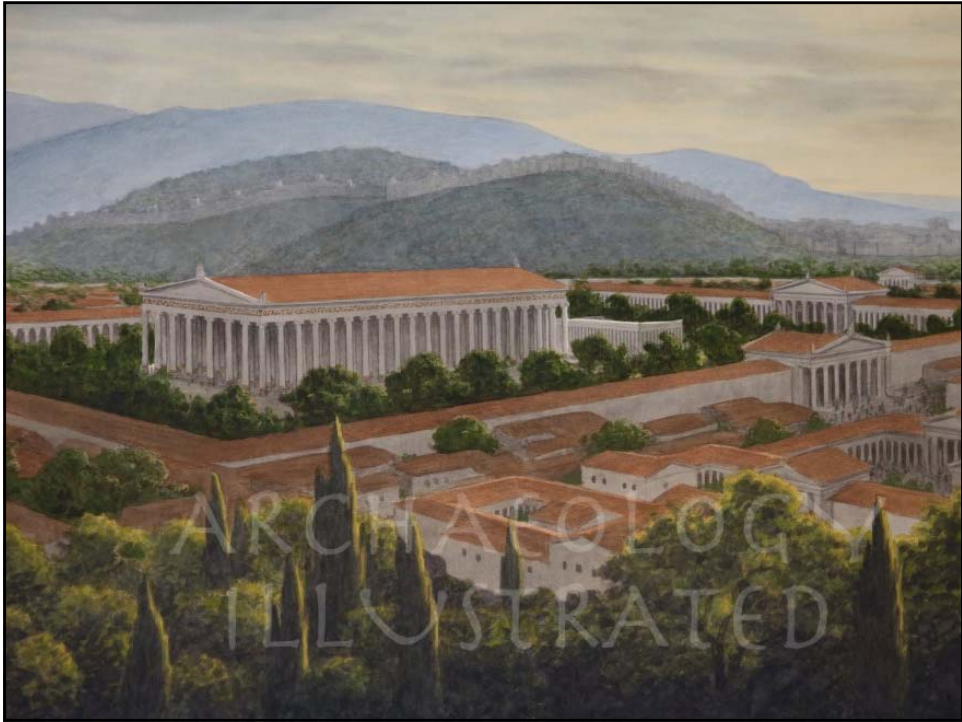
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