

1



2

KEY THEME

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

Revelation 22:20b

3

KEY VERSES

¹⁹ “Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;”

¹⁴ “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.”

Revelation 1:19; 17:14

4

Hermeneutics (simplified)

If the plain sense makes sense, seek no other sense.

- Unless the context says otherwise, take each word at its ordinary, usual meaning and don't search for hidden, mysterious meanings.
- Don't reject a meaning that blows your mind for something you prefer. Trust that with time and study understanding will come.

Symbols are always interpreted within Scripture itself.

- Look for the symbol's meaning in the immediate passage.
- If not found, go backwards in the book to find the answer.
- If still not found, go backwards in the Bible to find it.

5

PROMISE

“Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.”

(Revelation 1:3)

6

DANGER

“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.”

(Revelation 22:18-19/ESV)

7

The Divine Outline of the book of Revelation

¹⁹Write the things which thou hast seen,

and the things which are,

and the things which shall be hereafter,

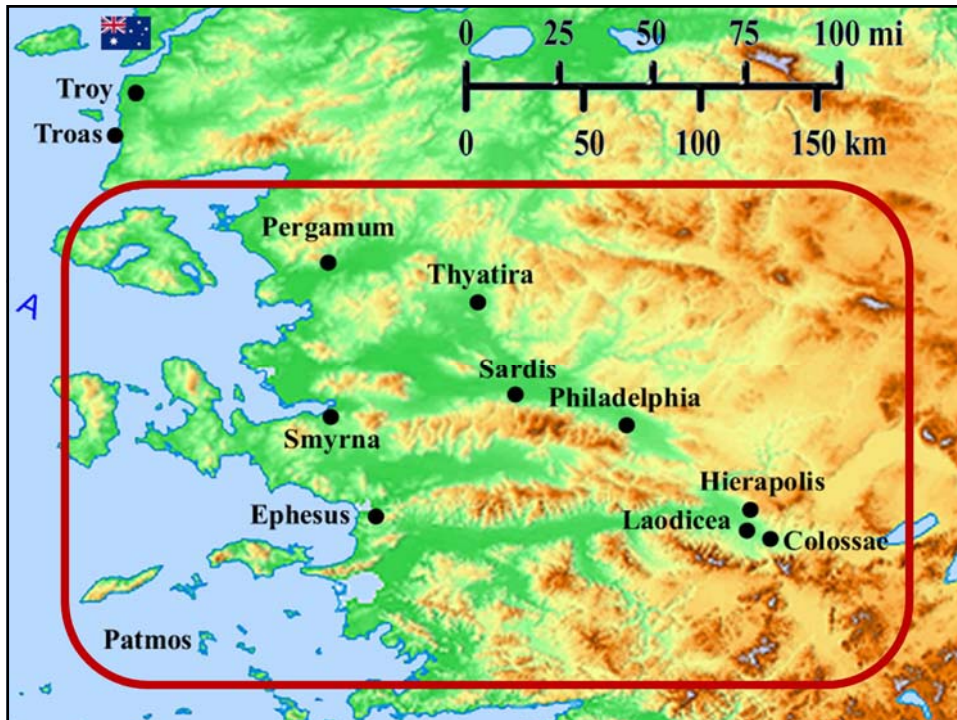
(Revelation 1:19)

8

The book of Revelation

<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">THINGS WHICH THOU HAST SEEN (Chapter 1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John' vision of the exalted Christ, Chapter 1 	
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">THINGS WHICH ARE (Chapters 2-3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The messages to the seven churches, Chapters 2-3 	
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">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 	

9



10

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”)

11

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: “Repent 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”



12

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	✓	✓	✓				

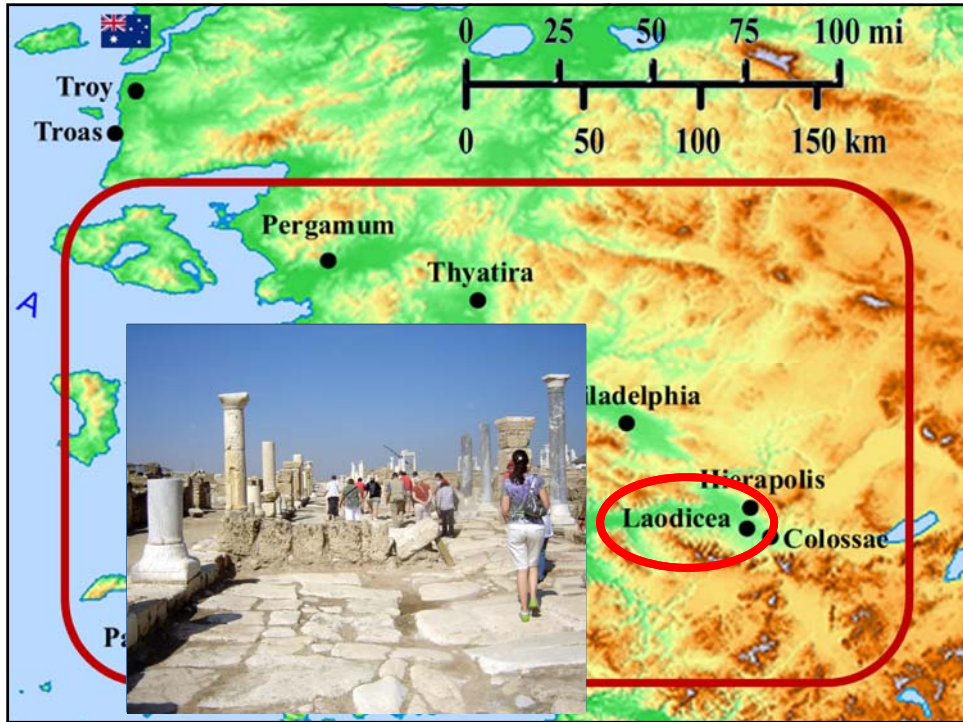
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Καὶ τῷ ἀγγέλῳ τῆς ἐκκλησίας
To the angel of the church in

LAODICEA

Revelation 3:14-22

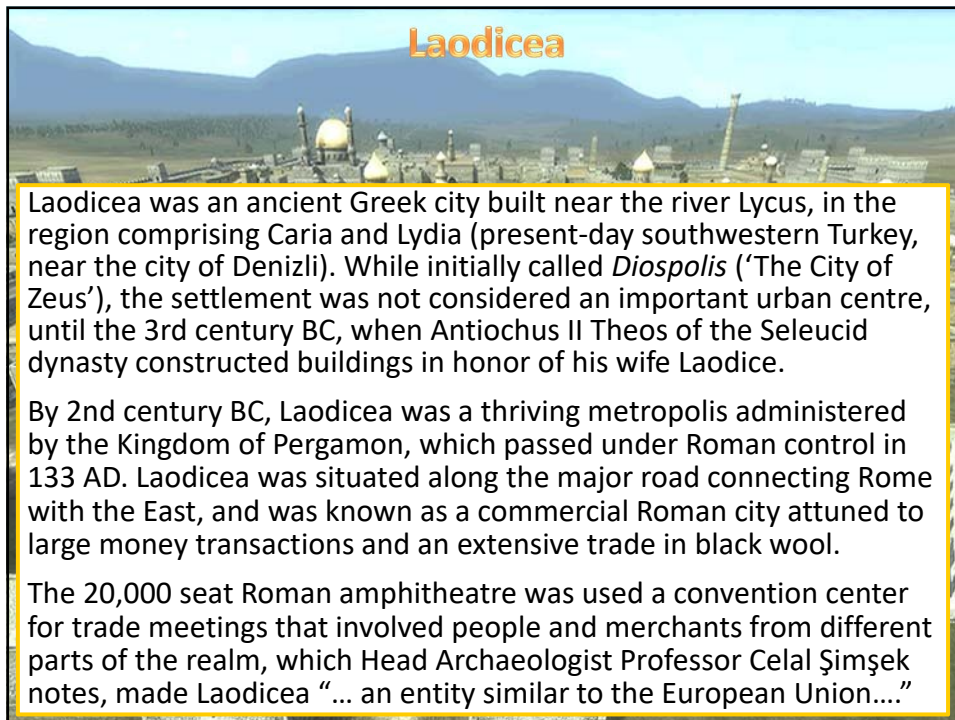
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15



16



17



18



19



20

An early Christian Centre

- A church recently found at Laodicea is believed to be from Fourth century AD. Per Chief Archaeologist Şimşek, this may be the *only* remaining church building from Constantine the Great's era.
- The church's layout is unique in the history of Christian architecture, and its cross-shaped baptistery is one of the best-preserved examples from antiquity.



21



22

The Council of Laodicea – 364 AD

This church is likely where the Council of Laodicea was held!



23



24

Yes, this council's 60 canons included:

- Maintaining order among bishops, clerics and laypeople (canons 3–5, 11–13, 21–27; 40–44, 56–57); enforcing modest behaviour (4, 27, 30, 36, 53–55); adding restrictions during Lent (canons 45, 49–52); regulating approach to heretics (canons 6–10, 31–34, 37), Jews (canons 16, 37–38) and pagans (canon 39); AND...
- Codifying Constantine's sun-god worship by:
 - Outlawing keeping of the Jewish sabbath (Saturday),
 - Changing worship to sun day (canon 29), the Sacred Day of the Sun (*venerabili die Solis*) the day pagan Rome worshipped the sun per "The First Sunday Law of Constantine I" dated 7 March 321 AD, in *Codex Justinianus*, lib. 3, tit. 12, 3.
 - The canon read, "Christians shall not Judaize (keep the Sabbath) and be idle on Saturday (original Sabbath), but shall work on that day, but the Lord's Day (Sunday) they shall especially honor."

25

The council also specified a Biblical canon

- It restricted the readings in church to canonical books of the Old and New Testaments (canon 59), and
- It specified the "authorised" books of the Bible (canon 60) as:
 - The **22 books** of the Hebrew Bible (equating to the **39 books** of today's Christian Bible);
 - The **26 books** of the New Testament (oops, one is **missing**. Which one? Hmm, let me guess....)
 - It also tried to **ADD** the *book of Baruch* and the *epistle of Jeremy*.



DANGER

"I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book."

(Revelation 22:18-19/ESV)

26

HOW SERIOUS WAS CHANGING THE SABBATH FROM SATURDAY TO SUNDAY?



WHILE WE BRIEFLY DISCUSS THE
ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION.

27

The Abomination of Desolation

- In the Olivet discourse (Matt. 24-25, Mk 8, Lk 21), Jesus briefly describes the coming destruction of Jerusalem (70 AD).
- He then describes a “great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be” (Matt. 24:21) that will follow “the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand)” (Matthew 24:15).
- Jesus’ Second Coming will follow the great tribulation.

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What is the abomination of desolation?

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- Jesus' Second Coming will follow the great tribulation.

What is the abomination of desolation?

"Abomination" means something that is disgusting. It is usually associated with idolatry that defiles something holy.

"Desolation" means a condition that renders something totally devastated and uninhabitable.

30

Fortunately (?), this has occurred in history

- Syrian Antiochus IV ruled Palestine from 175-165 BC, gaining his throne through intrigue. He assumed the title "Theos Epiphanes" (god manifest). As prophesied in Daniel 11, he desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem. The Apocrypha 1 and 2 Maccabees describe how in 168 BC he sought to eradicate the Jewish religion, sacrificed a ceremonially unclean pig on the Temple's Altar, and then placed an idol of Zeus (as he saw himself) in the Holy of Holies.



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- Another outrage occurred when Hadrian (r. AD 117-138) built a temple to Jupiter Capitolinus over the ruins and placed his own statue over what had been the Holy of Holies. This caused a second Jewish revolt (AD 132-135) which required six full legions to crush.



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- The building of the Dome of the Rock by the Umayyad Caliph Abd al-Malik ibn Marwan in AD 691 is seen by some as an abomination.

34

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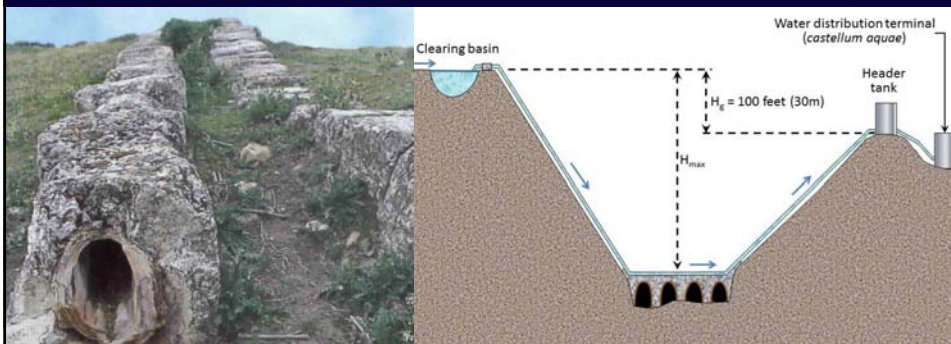
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Jesus' words indicate that yet another "abomination of desolation" will occur **in the future** that will trigger the "great tribulation".

35

It's hard to be a fish out of water

- An aqueduct brought water from the Baspinar spring 6 km away, and possibly from more distant sources.
- Instead of the usual Roman open channel on top of lofty arches, engineers employed an inverted siphon consisting of a double pressurised pipeline, whereby water flowed uphill.

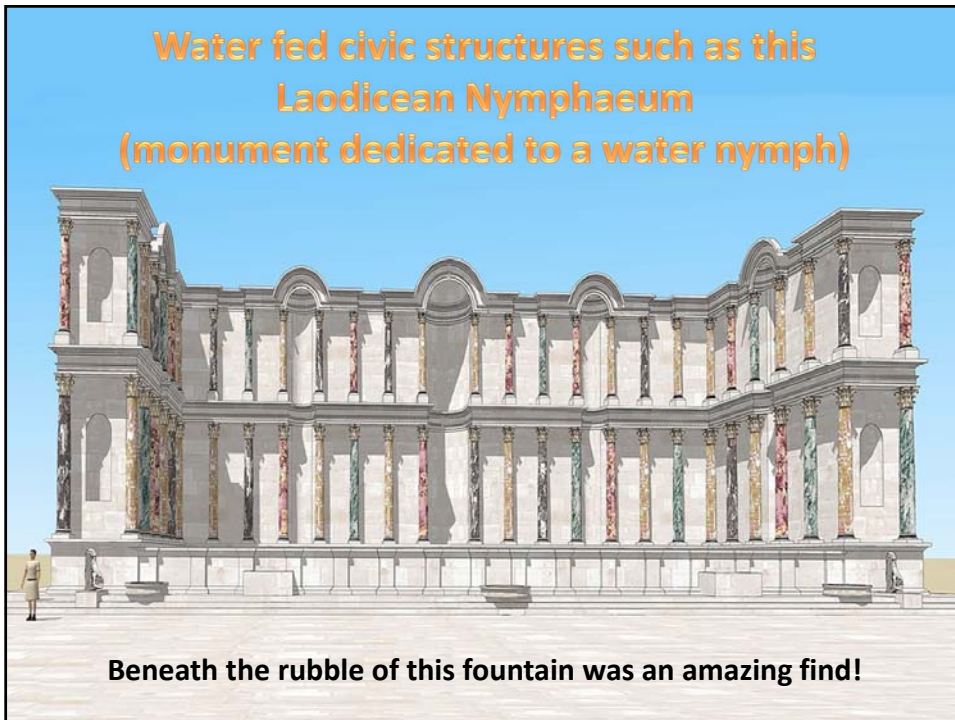


- Water was distributed throughout the wealthy city, but it was heavily mineralised, with many of the pipes are thickly incrustated.

36



37



Beneath the rubble of this fountain was an amazing find!

38

The Emperor Trajan

- In March 2019, an amazing discovery was announced at Laodicea, this 3 metre high grandiose statue of Emperor Trajan (r 98-117) in front of a cowering bound enemy soldier.
- Conclusively dated to 113 AD, this 1,906 year old statue, one of the most unique of its kind in terms of its size and intricacy, was found in 356 pieces, all stuck together.
- The statue commemorates Trajan's gift of 300,000 denarii to construct an improved water transport and distribution system for Laodicea.



39

Laodicea's water rules

Detailed water rules also found were inscribed in marble by Governor Aulus Vicirius Matrialis in 114 AD. A portion reads:

Those who divide the water for his personal use, should pay 5,000 denarius to the empire treasury; it is forbidden to use the city water for free or grant it to private individuals; those who buy the water cannot violate the Vespasian Edict; those who damage water pipes should pay 5,000 denarius; protective roofs should be established for the water depots and water pipes in the city; the governor's office [will] appoint two citizens as curators every year to ensure the safety of the water resource; nobody who has farms close to the water channels can use this water for agriculture.

Fines for pollution, damaging water channels or breaking open sealed water pipes were 12,500 denarius, about AUD 32,000.

40

Why were the Laodiceans called “lukewarm”?

Roman decrees affected Christians at Laodicea. Their response to this persecution—which even limited their ability to buy and sell—is one thing that caused the author of Revelation to call them “lukewarm.”

- The difficulties placed upon the Christians of Asia are expressed in detail throughout the Book of Revelation.
- Those who refused to worship the image of the beast (the emperor) were killed.
- Christians could no longer buy or sell unless they had taken the mark of the beast (Revelation 13).
- Pressure upon rich Christians to maintain their wealth was immense. Since much of Laodicea’s wealth depended upon trade, the Christian merchants were in a quandary. Would they cooperate with the imperial cult and maintain their trade associations, or would they forswear Rome and reaffirm their faith in Christ?
- Many Laodicean Christians compromised their faith in such ways that the text reads, “I will vomit you out of my mouth” (Revelation 3:16).



41

The end is nigh

- It IS hard to be a fish when out of water.
- Around 600 AD, a massive earthquake during the reign of Byzantine emperor Phocas (r. 602–610) damaged Laodicea, and many of the people moved near the Baspinar spring, now the 600,000 person city of Denizli.
- Over time, once wealthy and powerful Laodicea was pilfered for building materials, then covered by earth and forgotten.
- Now its glorious past is being slowly uncovered (actually, quite rapidly in archeologically time). Professor Celal Şimşek estimated that 600 years of work is left to recapture full glory.



Christian inscription

42

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.

43

Laodicea, the lukewarm church

- 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.’”



44

Laodicea, the lukewarm church

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

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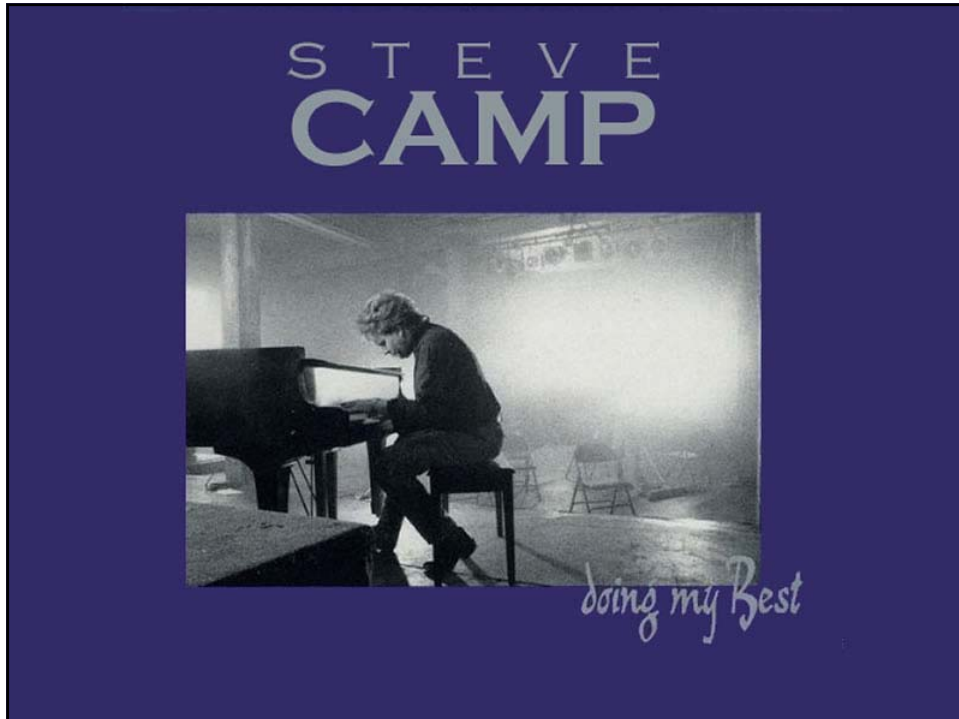
²² "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' ' "

45

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	✓	✓	✓				

46



47



48

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	✓	✓	✓				

49

Four Interpretations

- 1. Historical** interpretation
Seven actual 1st century churches in Asia
- 2. Typical (representative)** interpretation
Seven characteristics of all churches in any age
- 3. Prophetic** interpretation
Each exhibits qualities and conditions predominating in a certain period of Western church history from the first advent of Christ to his second advent. Just as there are types of churches, there are types of church periods.
- 4. Individual** interpretation
Each letter offers relevant guidance for overcomers today.

50

Historical Interpretation

Seven actual 1st century churches in Asia

51



52

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

53

Historical Interpretation in the Day

Real Cities

Ephesus

("Desired One" or "Darling")

Smyrna

("Myrrh", "Suffering" or "Death")

Pergamos

("Mixed marriage" or "Serpent")

Thyatira

("Semiramis" or "Daughter")

Sardis

("Escaping" or "Remnant")

Philadelphia

("Brotherly love", "Church of Love")

Laodicea

("Rule of the people", "Lukewarm")

Real Issues

- The loveless church
(Active and busy, but lost sight of why.)
- The persecuted church
(God sees your plight. Have strength.)
- The compromising church
(Stop your compromise with the world.)
- The corrupt church
(Many good works, but corrupt leaders.)
- The dead church
(Blinded by pride, the enemy is winning.)
- The faithful church
(You persevere through trial; well done.)
- The lukewarm church
(Worldly wealth but spiritually naked.)

54

Each letter NAILED the specific congregation

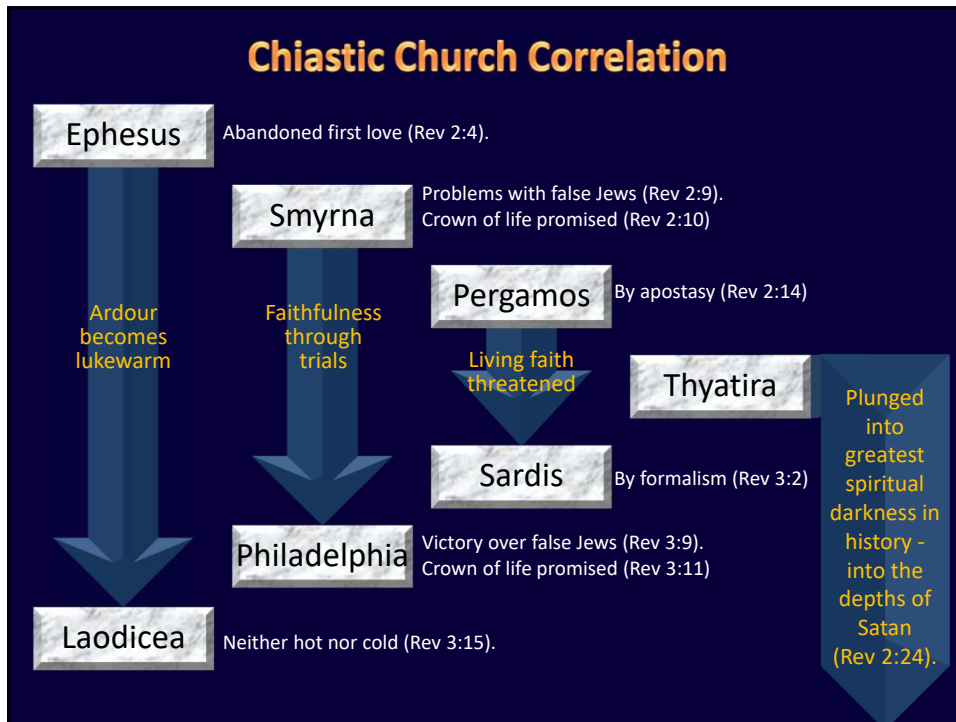
- ✦ **Ephesus**
 ("Desired One" or "Darling")
 - Devotion, not just doctrine
- ✦ **Smyrna**
 ("Myrrh", "Suffering" or "Death")
 - Endure persecution
- ✦ **Pergamos**
 ("Mixed marriage" or "Serpent")
 - Stand fast against the world
- ✦ **Thyatira**
 ("Semiramis" or "Daughter")
 - Abandon pagan practices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

55

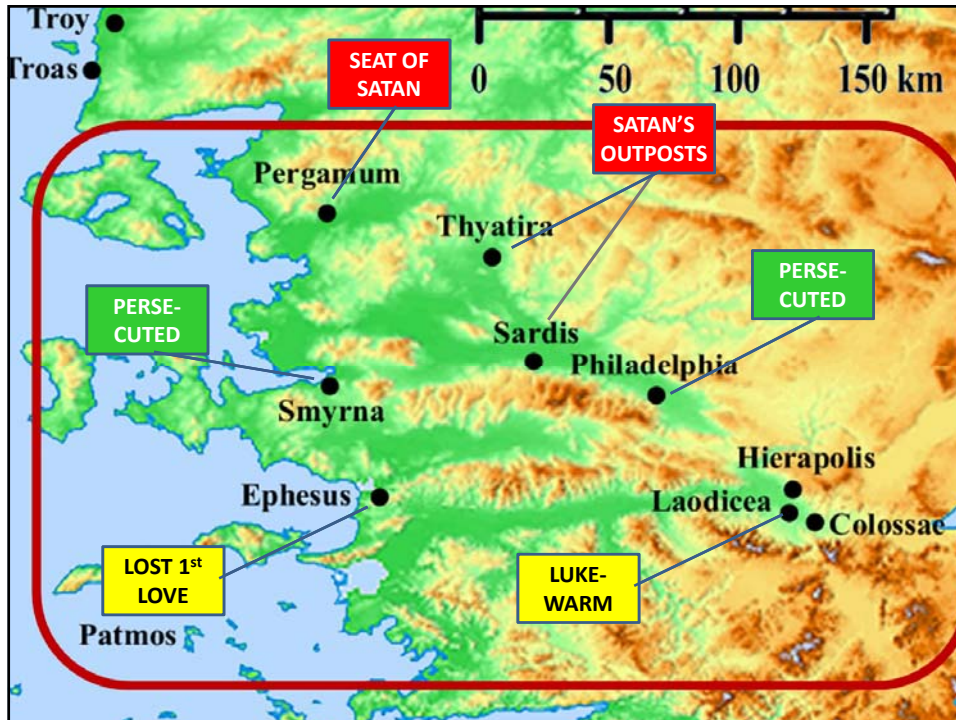
Expectation

✦ Ephesus	Early church		Return
✦ Smyrna	Persecuted church		Remain
✦ Pergamos	Married church		Reclaim
✦ Thyatira	Corrupt church		Remove
✦ Sardis	Dead church		Reborn
✦ Philadelphia	Obedient church		Reward
✦ Laodicea	Apostate church		Repent

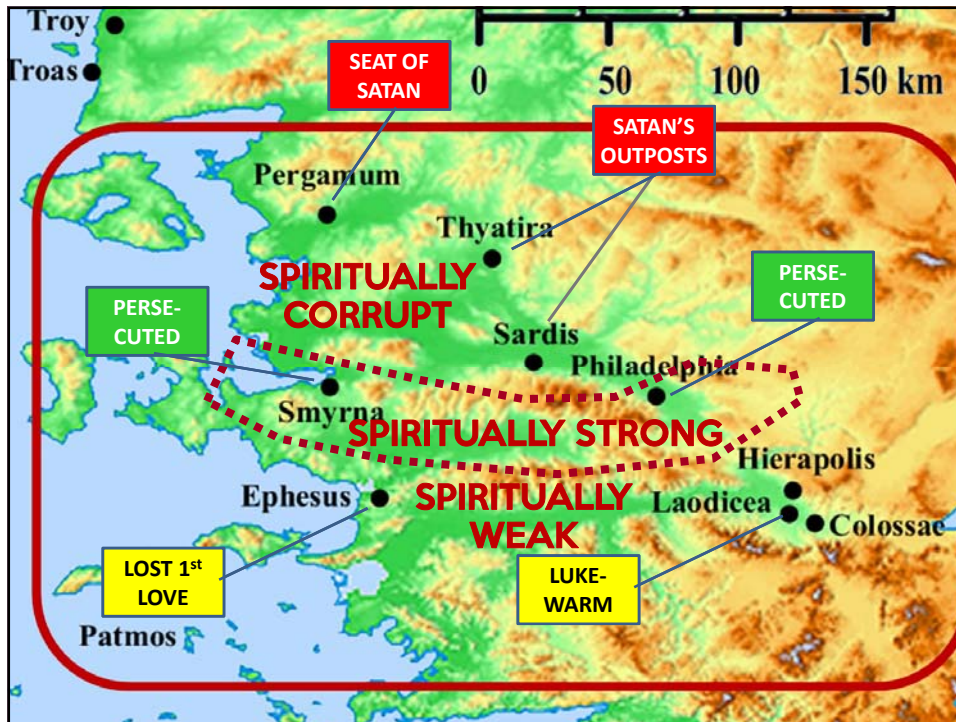
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57



58



59

Historical Parallels with the Old Testament		
Adam affection for Eve superseded his first love (God); expelled from Eden.	Ephesus	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.	Smyrna	Tribulation in Smyrna (10 days). Faithful promised not hurt of second death.
From Exodus through Judges, did right in their own eyes. Balaam/Balak. Manna.	Pergamos	Did right in own eyes, married idolatry. Balaam/Balak. Promised hidden manna.
People wanted king. Kingdoms peaked w/ Solomon; declined through Jezebel.	Thyatira	Parallels Israel becoming kingdom with imperial papacy. Jezebel.
Remnant escape Nebuchadnezzar and remain faithful after AD 606.	Sardis	Sardis (meaning "remnant") survive through conquest.
Under Cyrus open door to return to Israel and rebuild Temple. Homeland in Israel.	Philadelphia	Small faithful remnant spared severe hour of trial; Open door. Homeland w/ Jesus.
Spiritual Israel blind to Christ despite John the Baptist. Jerusalem destroyed AD 70.	Laodicea	Spiritual Laodicea blind to Christ ("Stand outside and knock.") Jesus offers grace.

60

Representative (Type) Interpretation

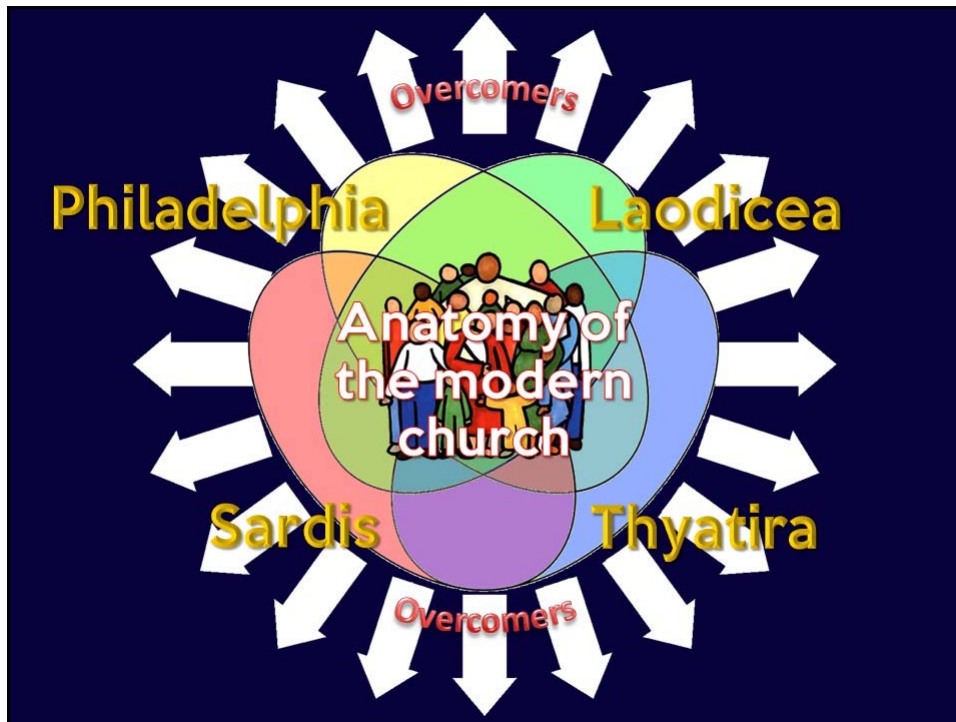
The seven churches demonstrate seven characteristics representative of all churches in any age

61

Each Letter Applies to All Churches

Ephesus ("Desired One" or "Darling")	➤ Devotion, not just doctrine
Smyrna ("Myrrh", "Suffering" or "Death")	➤ Endure persecution
Pergamos ("Mixed marriage" or "Serpent")	➤ Stand fast against the world
Thyatira ("Semiramis" or "Daughter")	➤ Abandon pagan practices
Sardis ("Escaping" or "Remnant")	➤ Watchfulness, diligence
Philadelphia ("Brotherly love", "Church of Love")	➤ Missionary outreach
Laodicea ("Rule of the people", "Lukewarm")	➤ Prosperous compromise

62



63

Prophetic Interpretation

The order the churches are presented is **not random**. It parallels the general development of the Western church.

Each church exhibits qualities and conditions that predominated during a specific period of Western church history from the first advent of Christ to his second advent.

64

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Name	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Title	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commendation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Concern	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Exhortation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Promise	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
Appeal	"He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the Churches"						
Promise	✓	✓	✓				

65

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 ("Escaping" or "Remnant")

Philadelphia ("Brotherly love")

Laodicea ("Rule of the people")

66

The name of each church is relevant

Ephesus (“Desired One” or “Longing”)
 Smyrna (“Myrrh” “Sweet Death”)
 Pergamos (“Mixed” “Bread” “Fruit”)
 Thyatira (“Semiramis” “Whore”)
 Sardis (“Escaping” “Life”)
 Philadelphia (“Brotherly Love”)
 Laodicea (“Rule of the people”)

Why these seven?

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

67

Two Options ... or Three?

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

The Apostolic Church

Ephesus

↓

The Persecuted Church

Smyrna

↓

The Married Church

Pergamos

↓

The Medieval Church

Thyatira

↓

The Denominational Church

Sardis

↓

The Missionary Church

Philadelphia

↓

The Apostate Church

Laodicea

GROUP A Promises are Post-scripted

GROUP B Promises are In the body

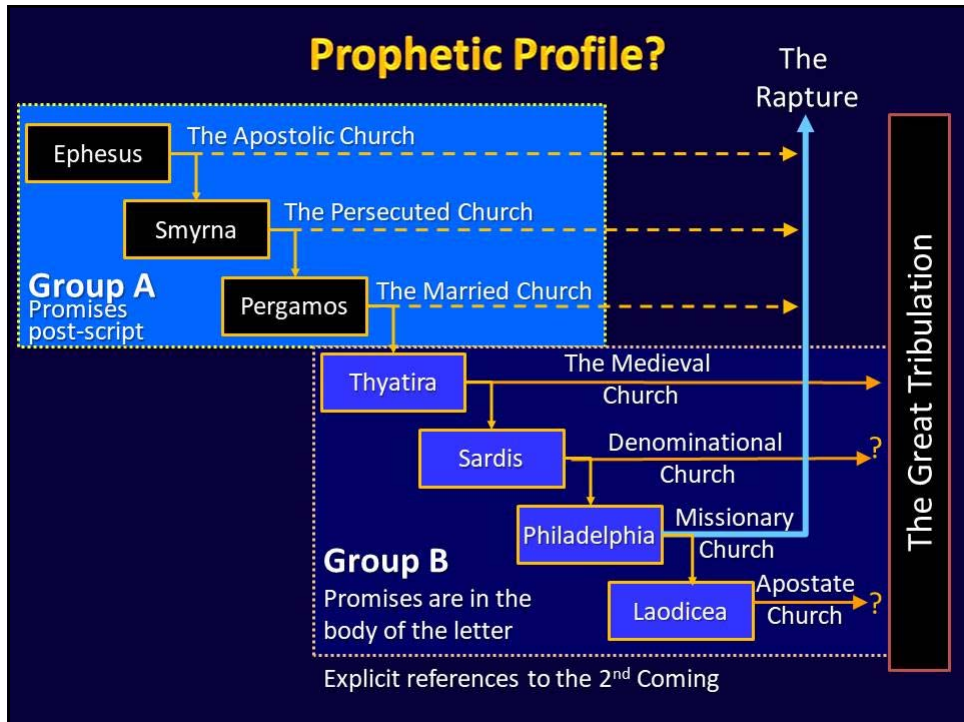
The Great Tribulation

3. Might both be true?

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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 predominant traits in the chronological history of professing Christendom in the West, a history of moral deterioration, apostasy and progressive decline.

The Church Age						
AD 30-100	100-313	313-600	600-1517	1517-1648	1648-1900	1900-Present
Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
First, desirable, darling	Myrrh, suffering, death	Mixed marriage	Daughter, incense, Semiramis	Remnant, Escaping	Brotherly love	Rule/justice of the people
Apostolic Church	Persecuted Church	Married Church	Medieval Church	Reformation Church	Missionary Church	Apostate Church

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Summary of the Church Age

Church Age	Brief description
Ephesus AD 30-100	Rapid spread during the lives of the apostles (see the book of Acts).
Smyrna 100-313	Pagan persecution of the underground church until Constantine as Emperor issued the Edict of Milan.
Pergamos 313-600	Marriage of the church to the State (Roman Empire), mixing residual paganism and Christianity.
Thyatira 600-1517	The medieval rule of the Roman Catholic Church as a queen, living deliciously with the kings of the earth.
Sardis 1517-1648	Reformation and the Catholic Counter-reformation and ongoing destruction of the Protestant movement.
Philadelphia 1648-1900	Rapid spread worldwide through missionary zeal and outreach.
Laodicea 1900- ?	Apostasy and the decline of the nominal lukewarm modern (Western) church.

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**PROPHECY
IS
PATTERN**

73

**WHAT
IS
PROPHECY?**

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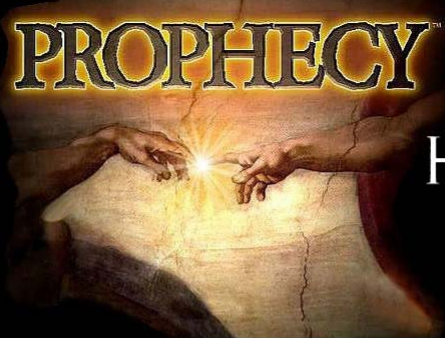
Surely the Lord GOD **does nothing**,
unless **He reveals His secret** to
His servants the prophets.

Amos 3:7 NKJV

*It is the glory of God to **conceal**
a thing; but the honour of kings is
to search out a matter.*

Proverb 25:2 KJV

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<p>GREEK CULTURE</p>	<p>HEBREW CULTURE</p>
<p>Prediction</p>	<p>Pattern</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • προφητεία, <i>prophēteia</i>, G4394, "the gift of communicating and enforcing revealed truth" • <i>prophētēs</i>, G4396 "an interpreter or forth-teller (predictor) of the divine will" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • נְבוּאָה, <i>nevuah</i>, H5016, "a pattern or prediction (spoken or written)" • נָבִיא, <i>navi</i>, H5030, literally means "spokesperson"; he speaks to the people as a mouthpiece of God, and to God on behalf of the people.
<p>100% prediction</p>	<p>80% prediction, 20% pattern</p>

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Patterns recur over time	
City	Prophetic patterns observed
Ephesus ("Desirable")	Considered "most desirable" ancient site in Asia. Artemis statues/amulets still best seller in shops. First love (Living Water) lost as bay receded (siltified).
Smyrna ("Myrrh", "Suffering")	Long-lost ruins found underneath Muslim cemetery. Site of 1922 Christian (Armenian, Greek) genocide. Arab Spring has ethnically cleansed Middle East.
Pergamos ("Mixed marriage")	Satan's seat now in Berlin inspired Nazi ceremonies. Caduceus (commerce) now used as medical symbol. Plundered by archaeologists; treasures in Berlin.
Thyatira ("Semiramis" or "Daughter")	Subsumed under town; no interest in excavation. No evidence of Christian presence; ruins of spruiked basilica are actually of secular city hall/guild hall.
Sardis ("Escaping" or "Remnant")	Appearance w/o substance; impregnable citadel built on clay, now eroded; fell numerous times thru sloth. Integration of wealthy synagogue with gym/baths.
Philadelphia ("Brotherly love")	Indefensible, but final Christian city in Asia; never fell. Main evidence are three pillars of 6 th century basilica. Only site with current chapel (nuns tending roses).
Laodicea ("Rule of the people")	Moved to well rather than stay with calcified water. Excavations say, "We need nothing" re govt funding. Aspires to be greater tourist site than Ephesus.

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Individual Interpretation

Each letter offers relevant guidance to individual Christian overcomers in every age including today and tomorrow.

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

... but for

overcomers!

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Who is an "overcomer"?

⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world - our faith.

⁵ Who is he that overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

(1 John 5:4,5)

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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.

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Important  **Observations**

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

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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
(“Escaping” or “Remnant”)
- **Philadelphia** ➤ Loyal Ambassadorship
(“Brotherly love”, “Church of Love”)
- **Laodicea** ➤ Repent and be committed to Jesus
(“Rule of the people”, Lukewarm”)





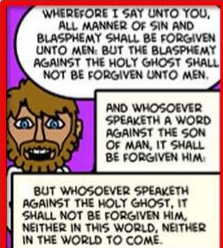

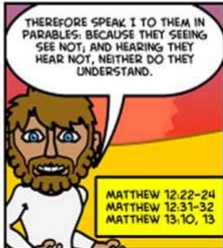
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Jesus only spoke in parables after Matthew 12

'THE UNPARDONABLE SIN' BY RAY SARLIN

<p>THEN WAS BROUGHT UNTO HIM ONE POSSESSED WITH A DEVIL, BLIND, AND DUMB:</p>  <p>GRRR.</p>	<p>AND HE HEALED HIM, INSO MUCH THAT THE BLIND AND DUMB BOTH SPAKE AND SAW.</p> 	<p>AND ALL THE PEOPLE WERE AMAZED, AND SAID,</p> <p>IS NOT THIS THE SON OF DAVID?</p>  <p>PRAISE THE LORD!</p>	<p>JESUS DID MIRACLES BY THE POWER OF GOD, YET PHARISEES ATTRIBUTED IT TO BEEZLEBUB.</p>  <p>THIS FELLOW DOETH NOT CAST OUT DEVILS, BUT BY BEEZLEBUB THE PRINCE OF THE DEVILS.</p>
<p>WHEREFORE I SAY UNTO YOU, ALL MANNER OF SIN AND BLASPHEMY SHALL BE FORGIVEN UNTO MEN, BUT THE BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY GHOST SHALL NOT BE FORGIVEN UNTO MEN.</p>  <p>AND WHOSOEVER SPEAKETH A WORD AGAINST THE SON OF MAN, IT SHALL BE FORGIVEN HIM:</p> <p>BUT WHOSOEVER SPEAKETH AGAINST THE HOLY GHOST, IT SHALL NOT BE FORGIVEN HIM, NEITHER IN THIS WORLD, NEITHER IN THE WORLD TO COME.</p> <p>Matthew 12:31-32</p>	<p>AND THE DISCIPLES CAME, AND SAID UNTO HIM,</p>  <p>WHY SPEAKEST THOU UNTO THEM IN PARABLES?</p>	<p>THEREFORE SPEAK I TO THEM IN PARABLES, BECAUSE THEY SEEING SEE NOT, AND HEARING THEY HEAR NOT, NEITHER DO THEY UNDERSTAND.</p>  <p>MATTHEW 12:22-24 MATTHEW 12:31-32 MATTHEW 13:10, 13</p>	<p>PARABLES SERVE THE DUAL PURPOSE OF REVEALING AND CONCEALING; PRESENTING "THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM" TO THOSE WHO KNOW AND RELISH THEM. BUT TO THOSE WHO ARE INSENSIBLE TO SPIRITUAL THINGS OR SEE THEM AS MERE ALLEGORY, PARABLES ARE BUT TEMPORARY ENTERTAINMENT, IF THAT.</p>

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Matthew Chapter 13

THE KINGDOM PARABLES

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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**
("Escaping" 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

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Revelation 2 & 3 versus Paul's Epistles

Revelation Chapters 2 & 3	Paul's 7 epistles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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”) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ephesians (keep self & church holy) ➤ Philippians (joy through suffering) ➤ Corinthians (marriage to world) ➤ Galatians (religious externalism) ➤ Romans (Paul’s definitive doctrine) ➤ Thessalonians (raptured Church) ➤ Colossians (A few km from Laodicea; instructed to trade letters with Laodicea; Greek phrases unique to these letters).

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Horatory Architecture of the Seven Letters

<p>Ephesus (2:1-7)</p> <p>Praise (vv. 2-3) Criticism (vv. 4-5) Praise (v. 6)</p>		<p>Sardis (3:1-6)</p> <p>Criticism (vv. 1-3) Praise (v. 4)</p>
<p>Smyrna (2:8-11)</p> <p>Praise (v. 9)</p>	<p>Thyatira (2:18-29)</p> <p>Praise (v. 19) Criticism (vv. 20-23) Praise (v. 24)</p>	<p>Philadelphia (3:7-13)</p> <p>Praise (vv. 8, 10)</p>
<p>Pergamum (2:12-17)</p> <p>Praise (v. 13) Criticism (vv. 14-15)</p>		<p>Laodicea (3:14-22)</p> <p>Criticism (vv. 15-18)</p>

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