

Welcome, as we begin
our study in the book
of Revelation!

Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

Acts 17:11

- ◆ According to Tertullian (in *The Prescription of Heretics*) John was banished (presumably to Patmos) after being plunged into boiling oil in Rome and suffering nothing from it. It is said that all in the audience of Colosseum were converted to Christianity upon witnessing this miracle.
- ◆ It is traditionally believed that John was the youngest of the apostles and survived them. He is said to have lived to an old age, dying at Ephesus sometime after AD 98.

- ◆ Historical evidence to support the fact that John was exiled to Patmos -
 - ◆ Clement of Alexandria refers to the apostle John as returning from the Isle of Patmos.
 - ◆ Eusebius not only affirms John's return from the isle but dates it immediately following the death of Domitian (the creep who exiled him in the first place), which occurred in A.D. 96.

- ◆ Irenaeus adds his confirming word when he states that John lived in Ephesus after returning from Patmos until the reign of Trajan.
- ◆ Domitian was the second Roman emperor after Nero to persecute Christians, and since banishment was one of his favorite forms of punishment, John's exile to Patmos is much more likely under Domitian than Nero. Domitian was assassinated in AD 96
- ◆ Most scholars date the writing of Revelation to around 95 AD.

1 The **revelation** of Jesus Christ,
which God gave him to show to
his servants^[a] the things that
must soon take place. He made
it known by sending his angel to
his servant John,

Revelation 1:1

Revelation of the truth about
Christ, from God, to Christ, to
His angel, to John! So we can
see Him, know Him and
understand Him.

Revelation

gr. **apokalysis**

Strong's g0602
means revelation
or manifestation,
a disclosure
of truth

- ◆ It's all about Jesus! It is about a revelation of Christ!
- ◆ Chapters 1-3, He is the exalted King over His church.
- ◆ Chapters 4-5, We see Jesus in heaven as the glorified Lamb of God.
- ◆ Chapters 6-18, We see Jesus Christ as the judge throughout all the earth as the judgements are poured out on mankind.
- ◆ Chapter 19, We see Jesus Christ as the returning King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- ◆ The book closes with Jesus as the bridegroom taking His bride into the heavenly city.

Many, even Christians, neglect this book. It is the devil who has turned thousands of people away from this portion of God's Word. Why? Do you think the devil desires us to read a book which tells how he himself is to be cast out of heaven, bound in the bottomless pit for a thousand years, and eventually cast into the lake of fire, to "be tormented day and night for ever and ever?" Do you suppose he wants men and women to read a book that tells what his punishment is to be? I think not. As you read in Revelation of his coming doom, you are not surprised that he has persuaded many people not to read the book at all.

Again, there is yet another reason why Satan has persuaded people not to read this last portion of the Bible, and that reason is this: Revelation tells us of the coming glory of that self-humbled One, the Son of God. It is the book which tells us that He will return as King of kings and Lord of lords; and that one day He will take the sceptre in His hand, to rule from sea to sea over a purified and Satan-delivered earth. It is no wonder the devil has tried to persuade people that it is useless to try to understand this book. But God foresaw all this; therefore, He opened its message with a promise of blessing for those who read it. Then read it, my friend; hear it; believe it; and God says your soul will be blessed.

-THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST Louis T. Talbot

1 The **revelation** of Jesus Christ,
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servants^[a] the things that must
soon take place. He made it known
by sending his angel to his servant
John,

Revelation 1:1

“Tachometer” - The word in Greek
indicates the rapid progression of
events once they begin to occur.
The idea is not that the event may
occur soon, but that when it does,
it will be sudden.

soon

gr. **tachos**

Strong's g5034
means a brief
space of time,
quickly, shortly,
speedily

1 The **revelation** of Jesus
Christ, which God gave him to
show to his servants^[a] the
things that must **soon** take
place. He made it known by
sending his angel to his **servant**
John,
Revelation 1:1

John, a bondservant - total
dedication!

servant

gr. **doulos**

Strong's g1401

a slave

- ◆ The scope and plan of the book indicate that its primary intent was to prepare the way for the second coming of Christ.
- ◆ The book has a special relevance for the generation that will be living on earth at that time.

²who bore **witness** to the word
of God and to the testimony of
Jesus Christ, even to all that
he saw.

Revelation 1:2

John testified about what he
saw.

witness

gr. **martyreō**

Strong's g3140
testify, charge,
give (evidence),
bear record,
testimony

I can promise you a blessing!

3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it,

Revelation 1:3a

Reading this book results in a promise of blessing! Blessed is the one who reads and those who hear. This reflects the status of the early church. Copies of scripture were not readily available, so letters were read aloud in the assembly.

Revelation is the “finality” in prophecy until Jesus comes back. There has been no “new revelation” since it was written; and all those who claim to have received new and later “revelations” are impostors and false prophets. There is no place for “additions” or “subtractions” in the Book. It opens with a “blessing” promised to the reader, and ends with a “curse” upon those who “adds to” or “takes away” from it. - Reverend Clarence Larkin

¹⁸I 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, ¹⁹and 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

for the **time** is near.

Revelation 1:3b

Kairos refers to a season rather than an hour. The return of Christ to rapture His church is the next big event on God's calendar! There is nothing on God's calendar that needs to happen prior to the rapture. It can take place without notice at any time!

time

gr. **kairos**

Strong's g2540

means an

occasion,

season, due time

Four Ages in Revelation

<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Years</u>
Chapter 1-3	Church Age	?? Years
Chapter 4-19	Tribulation Age	7 Years
Chapter 20	Kingdom Age	1,000 Years
Chapter 21-22	Eternal Age	Endless

John to the seven (number of completeness) churches
that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was
and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are
before his throne,

Revelation 1:4

John is expressing grace and peace from God the
Father and seven spirits. Many commentators feel that
the seven spirits are seven angels in places of high
privilege before the throne of God with specific
responsibilities for the seven churches. These seven
letters comprise a complete message to every church!

⁵and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness (He witnessed faithfully and it cost Him His life. Jesus fulfilled His role as a prophet - See John 18:37), the firstborn of the dead (His resurrection), and the ruler of kings on earth (from an eternal perspective).

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 1:5-6

A brilliant synopsis of Jesus, as He was down through history, and as He is even today.

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him (the Jewish nation), and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

Revelation 1:7

THE PRESENTATION OF THE KING! A glorious announcement of the second coming of Christ. The use of the present tense depicts a future act that is so certain to be fulfilled it can be spoken of as already happening! When Jesus comes back to establish His Kingdom, ALL will see Him.

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God,
"who is (today) and who was (from eternity past) and
who is to come (in Glory!), the Almighty."

Revelation 1:8

Jesus Christ speaks and declares Himself to be the
beginning (Alpha) and the end (Omega). He is
greater than the process of time!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with
God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

Jesus Christ is the central figure of the Book of
Revelation!

JESUS CHRIST IS THE CENTRAL FIGURE OF
REVELATION 1:1-8. HE IS:

1. The source of revelation (vs. 1).
2. The channel of the Word and the testimony of God (vs. 2)
3. The faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of earth's kings. (vs. 5)
4. The God of grace who loves us, has cleansed our sins, and has made us a kingdom and a priesthood (vs. 5, 6)
5. The coming King whose return will be powerful and glorious (vs. 7)

91, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation
(current suffering, not the tribulation to come) and
the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in
Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of
the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Revelation 1:9

As the longest surviving Apostle, John was well-known to the seven churches, and he felt close to them in their time of persecution. Like them, John was called to patiently endure the hardship of banishment because he was outspoken for Christ!

¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard
behind me a loud voice like a trumpet

Revelation 1:10

It would have been 60 years since John heard the voice
of Jesus, but he would most certainly have
remembered it.

The "Lord's Day" or the "Day of the Lord" (see Joel
2:31, Acts 2:20). Some commentators feel that this is
the Sabbath Day, but others teach that John had
been catapulted into the future day of the Lord as he
received the revelation of the unfolding of the end
times!

“saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”,

Revelation 1:11

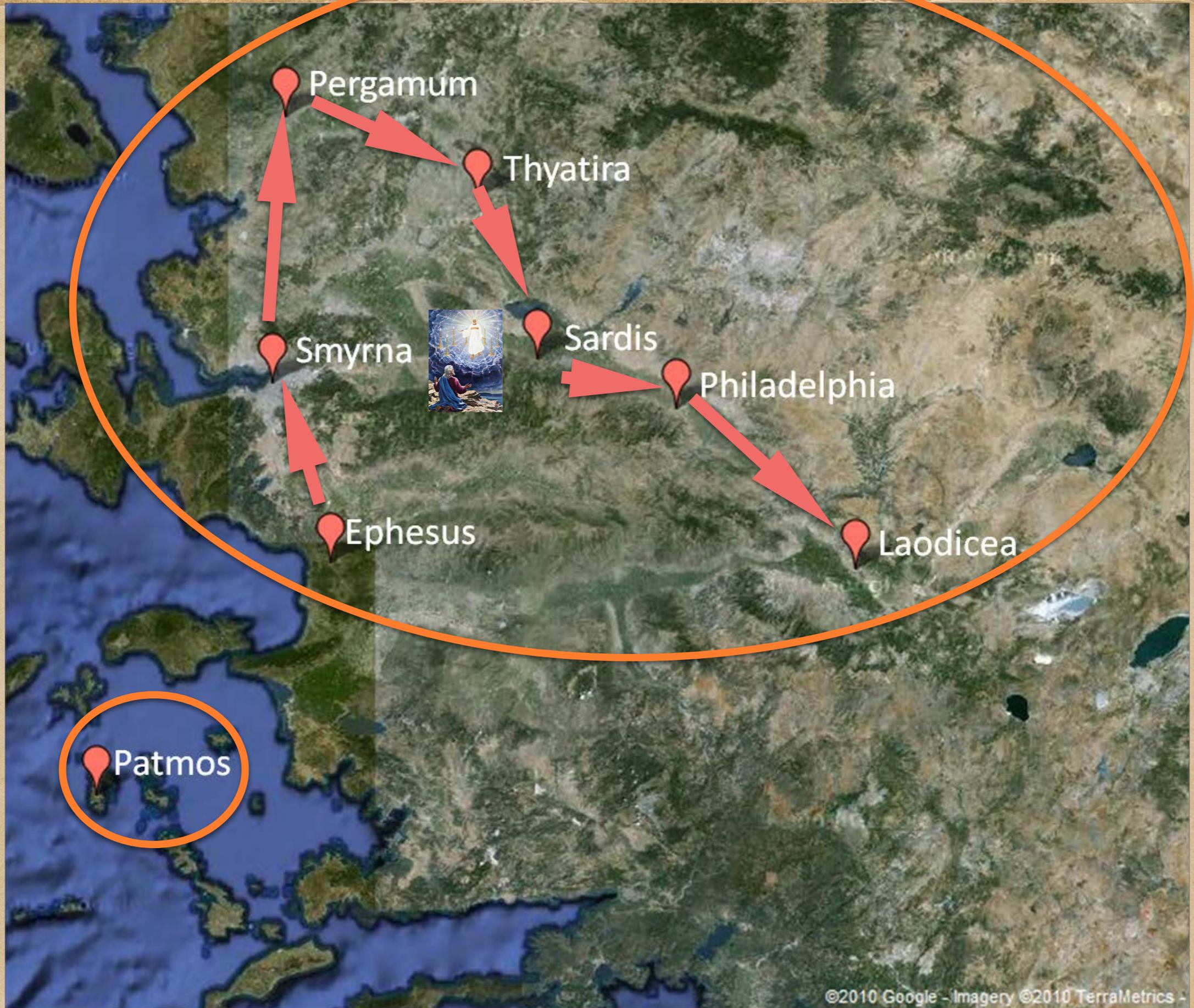
Write it down John. Send it to the seven lamp stands that I am walking among. Send it to the seven - the complete message to the corporate church from the Apostolic church (Ephesus) to the apostate church (Laodicea). Send it so it can be read down through the ages!

- ◆ Because Revelation was addressed to seven different churches, it would be only natural that each of these churches would want its own copy, and thus the circulation of the entire book would be given a good start.
- ◆ The circulation and wide use of the book as Scripture are evident by the beginning of the third century.

¹² Then I turned to see
the voice that was
speaking to me, and on
turning I saw seven
golden lampstands,
Revelation 1:12

The seven golden lamp
stands are explained in
verse 20, the seven
lampstands are the
seven churches.





Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

Patmos



Italia

Roma

Shqipëria

България

Ελλάς

Αθήνα

Patmos Island

Jerusalem →

Libya

Libya

Libya

Libya

Libya

Libya

Libya

Libya

¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe (and the train of his robe filled the temple - Isaiah 6:1) and with a golden sash (symbolic of priest [Exodus 28] and judge) around his chest (not His loins, but His chest. Not an indication of labor, but of STRENGTH!). ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow (Like the Ancient of Days in Daniel 7:9, with God from the beginning! Wisdom!).

Revelation 1:13-14a

Jesus Christ in His Glory, in the midst of the lampstands. In the midst of His church!

His eyes were like a flame of fire (Hebrews 4:13), ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze (speaks of judgement, Exodus 27:1-2), refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters (the voice before which all humans must bow).

Revelation 1:14b-15

¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13

“You shall make the altar of acacia wood, five cubits^[a] long and five cubits broad. The altar shall be square, and its height shall be three cubits. ² And you shall make horns for it on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it, and you shall overlay it with bronze. Exodus 27:1-2

¹⁶In his right hand he held seven stars (right hand represents power and authority, among other things He has power and authority over the messengers [aggelos - pastor]), from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12), and his face was like the sun shining in full strength (Matthew 17:2).

Revelation 1:16

¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, Hebrews 4:12a

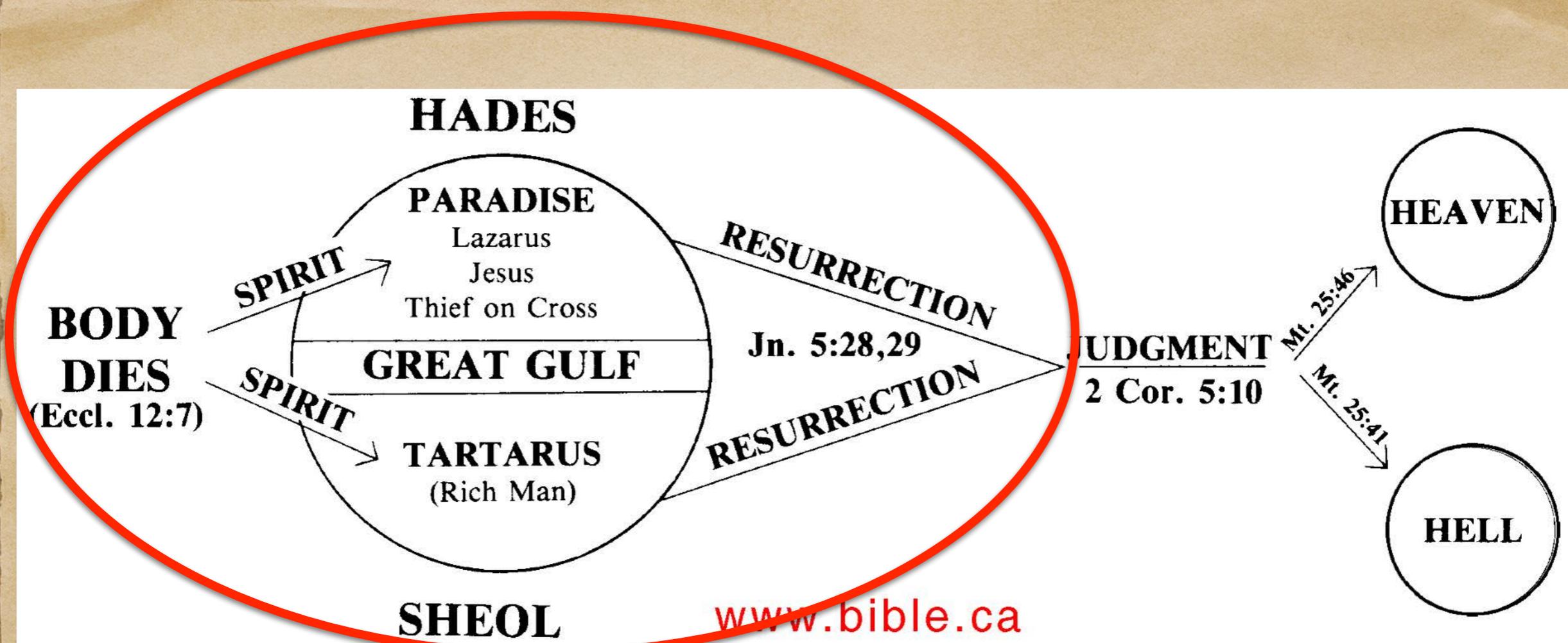
²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. Matthew 17:2

¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead (John walked with Him but now sees Him in glory!). But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not (if you know Him, you need not fear), I am the first and the last (Isaiah 41:4), ¹⁸and the living one (Resurrected). I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades (See next page).

Revelation 1:17-18

I, the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am he.

Isaiah 41:4b



28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

John 5:28-29

Jesus Outlines the Book of Revelation

¹⁹ Write therefore the things that you have seen (Chapter 1), those that are (Chapter 2 and 3) and those that are to take place after this (Chapters 4 through 22). ²⁰ As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels (messengers) of the seven churches, and

Revelation 1:19-20

Many of the problems and evils that exist in the church today are a direct outgrowth of the neglect of Christ's instruction to these seven churches.

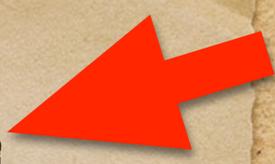
John F. Walvoord

Xerox Effective Management

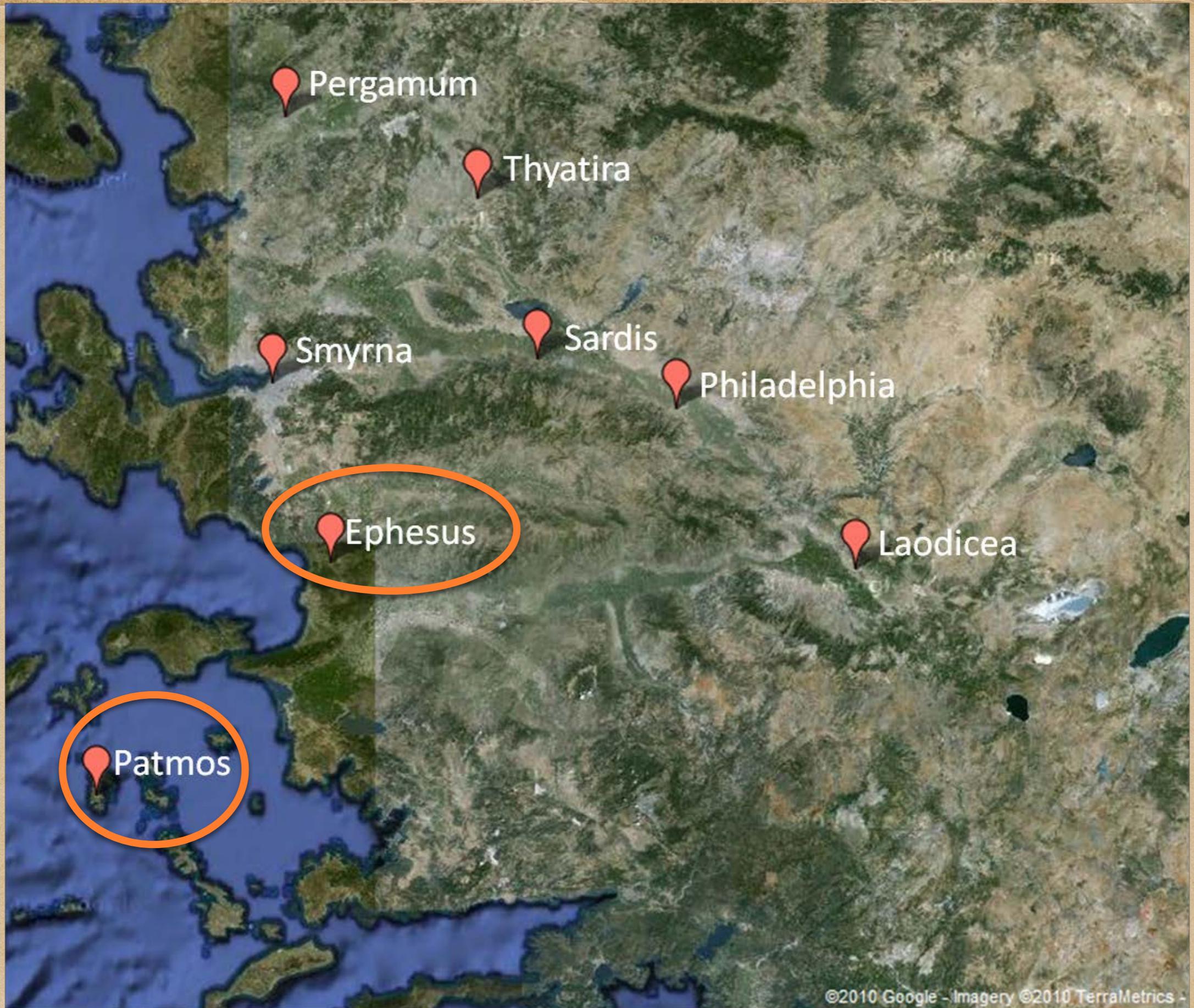
Constructive Criticism

- Commend the right
- Criticize the wrong
- Provide direction for improvement

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Note Well! The Revelation of Jesus to John came a mere 60 years after the death of Jesus, and look what had happened to His churches so soon after His ministry!



Ephesus

Ephesus was an ancient Greek city on the coast of Ionia. The city flourished after it came under the control of the Roman Republic in 129 BC.

The city was famed for the nearby Temple of Artemis (Diana) (completed around 550 BC), one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Among many other monumental buildings are the Library of Celsus, and a theatre capable of holding 25,000 spectators. The Gospel of John may have been written here. The city was the site of several 5th century Christian Councils.

1. A great church was started there and led by and inspired by some of the great early pillars of faith like Paul, Timothy, Apollos and even John himself.
2. Ephesus is the only one of the seven churches mentioned in the book of Acts in the account of the riot stemming from Paul's preaching of the Gospel (Acts 19:28-41).
3. Ephesus was the center of many religions. Caesar worship, mystic arts and the worship of Artemis. Jesus commended them for their rejection of false teachers. Ephesus was the religious and cultural center of the world at the time of John's writing.

“To the angel (could mean the
Pastor) of the church in
Ephesus write: ‘The words of
him who holds the seven stars
in his right hand (sovereign
protection and divine authority!
Reference Revelation 1:20),
who walks (He is actively aware
of the activities of His
churches!) among the seven
golden lampstands.

Revelation 2:1

angel

gr. **aggelos**

Strong's g0032

means a
messenger;
especially an
“angel”; by
implication, a
pastor

The Commendation

²“I know your works, your toil (kopos: weariness) and your patient endurance (it was a busy, dynamic church), and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles (false teachers) and are not, and found them to be false. ³I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.

Revelation 2:2-3

They were patiently enduring for the right reason (for my name's sake) which provided them with the endurance in doing right for which Christ commended them

The Criticism

4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

Revelation 2:4-5

Their problem was not a lack of faith or will. Their problem was that the passion that once had for Jesus had grown cold. They worked hard, abhorred evil, had discernment, had many programs and activities,

BUT LACKED PASSION!!!!

4. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned
the love you had at first.

They didn't lose their first love, they abandoned it
(walked away from it). They lost the correct
motivation. We need to remember when we first fell in
love with Jesus. That honeymoon love. The
Ephesians lost it after only 60 years. We need to
stoke that honeymoon love.

remove your lampstand from its place

The church will lose its testimony! THE LIGHT WILL
BE TAKEN AWAY!

Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Revelation 2:6

The Nicolaitans are the followers of Nicolas who was one of the seven first ordained to the diaconate by the apostles (*See Acts 6:5*). Nicolas went off the rails and began teaching that his followers could lead lives of unrestrained indulgence. They taught that it is a matter of indifference to practice adultery, and to eat things sacrificed to idols.

-Irenaeus, *Adversus haereses* (paraphrased by Dave)

7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

Revelation 2:7

An invitation and a promise! We can all be conquerors! (See 1 John 5:5). Those in the Ephesian church who had overcome the unbelief and sin of the world are promised the right to the tree of life that is in the paradise of God. (See Genesis 3:22 and Revelation 22:2). Those who hate the world's evil deeds and idolatrous worship are given the reward of abiding with Christ in the eternity to come!

The gracious nature of the promise given to the Ephesians is designed to restore and rekindle that love of Christ known in the early days of the church.

This letter to Ephesus reminds us how easily the church's early days of passionate love for Christ can grow cold as the years go by.

Duty and busyness should never replace love!
Remember (the honeymoon), repent (turn) and repeat (do the first works over again (send flowers and write love notes [better yet, read Jesus' love notes])), fall in love with Jesus again!!!

Many commentators feel that, chronologically, the church in Ephesus represents the spiritual state of the early (Apostolic) church from its inception to the close of the first century. The early church was heavily influenced by the Apostles and Apostolic teaching.

The Seven Churches

1. Ephesus - the Orthodox, but lost-love Church
2. Smyrna - the Suffering Church 
3. Pergamum - the Compromising Church
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Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

Patmos

It is important to realize that there was
no criticism leveled on the Church at
Smyrna by Jesus.

Smyrna

- 40 miles north of Ephesus.
- It was once one of the finest cities in Asia because of its planned development, beautiful temples and ideal harbor (where Aristotle Onassis would later run his business. Homer was also born there.)
- The church in Smyrna was probably small. They received the shortest letter. Jesus was sensitive, direct and brief.
- Smyrna is mentioned only here in Scripture, but from other literature it is evident that this city was noted for its wickedness and opposition to the Gospel in the first century.

8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last (Reference Revelation 1:17), who died and came to life.

Revelation 2:8

Christ lived for three years under a daily threat of death. Christ, the suffering one. Christ, the eternal one. The suffering church in Smyrna needed to hear that! Even death could not hold Jesus. Through Him, the church could anticipate ultimate victory. The words were meant to encourage Smyrna in its suffering. (The word Smyrna means "myrrh". Used in embalming. It gives off a beautiful scent only when it is crushed).

9 "I know your tribulation and
your poverty
Revelation 2:9a

Thilipsis speaks to pressure
or pressing down similar to a
grape stone where grapes
were pressed for juice. They
were persecuted for following
Jesus in a thoroughly pagan
society that worshipped
Caesar.

tribulation
gr. thlipsis
Strong's g2347
anguish,
burdened,
persecution,
tribulation,
trouble, a
pressing,
pressing
together

9 "I know your tribulation and
your poverty (ptōcheia)

Revelation 2:9a

The greek word ptōcheia is understood as complete poverty. The total inability to provide for family. They had nothing, and their poverty was due to their faith in Christ. They were disloyal to the worship of Caesar and they were being starved out!

poverty

gr. ptōcheia

Strong's g4432

beggary,

poverty,

indigence, the

condition of one

destitute of

riches and

abundance

Smyrna

- The "Golden Street" in Smyrna was dotted with shrines and temples to various gods -
 - Caesar worship
 - Zeus
 - Aesculapius, Greco-Roman god of medicine
 - Dionysus, the god of the grape harvest, winemaking and wine
 - If you were a laborer, you belonged to a guild. Each guild had its patron god or goddess that you were to worship. Hence, Christians could not work and were therefore in poverty.

(but you are rich) (See James 2:5)

Revelation 2:9b

Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? James 2:5

and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not (See Romans 2:28-29), but are a synagogue of Satan.

Revelation 2:9b

²⁸For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from

God. Romans 2:28-29

Ryrie confirms the Jews' hostility toward Christians in Smyrna: "When Polycarp [the bishop/pastor of Smyrna] was martyred in 155 AD, these Jews eagerly assisted by gathering, on the Sabbath, wood and fagots for the fire in which he was burned".

¹⁰Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested,

Revelation 2:10a

Their present persecution was only a taste of the suffering to come.

Jesus doesn't say I know your poverty and you shouldn't have it. Jesus did not promote prosperity theology.

(See Hebrews 11:35-38)

Jesus predicted that the devil would do everything in his power to stamp out the church testimony in Smyrna.

¹⁰Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation.

Revelation 2:10a

Christ predicted the believers would be thrown into prison and would have tribulation for 10 days. This could refer to a church period that Smyrna represents, which would be the persecution the church suffered in the second and third centuries under pagan Rome.

Nero	Paul beheaded
Domitian	John exiled
Trajan	Ignatius burned at the stake
Hadrian	Had a great temple in Pergamum
Marcus Arelius	Polycarp martyred
Severus	
Maximus the Thracian	
Delcius	
Valerian	
Diocletian	His reign was 10 years of misery!

and for ten days you will have tribulation.

Revelation 2:10a

Or, Jesus could simply be saying that Smyrna's time of suffering will be short compared to an eternity with Him.

¹⁷For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

2 Corinthians 4:17

Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown
(Gr: *stephanos*) of life. "He who has an ear, let him
hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one
who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.'

Revelation 2:10b-11a

Even though their lives might be sacrificed, their real
riches could not be touched because they were
heavenly. Faithfulness in death would lead to a crown
of eternal life!

He who has an ear, let him hear! There will be
tribulation!

The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.'

Revelation 2:11b

The second death is the judgment at the great white throne (Rev. 20:11-15). The world in its rejection of Christ can inflict death on believers, but those who die in Christ are not subject to the second death which is eternal suffering in hell.

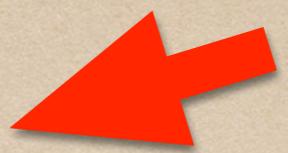
"If you're born once, you die twice. But if you're born twice, you die once."

- attributed to Martin Luther

Many commentators feel that, chronologically, the church in Smyrna represents the church from about 100AD to approximately 314AD, from the death of John to the Edict of Toleration by Constantine. The Edict ended the persecution of Christians all over the Roman Empire.

- The Christians could have added Jesus to the pantheon of worship that was acceptable in Smyrna and just gotten along. Adding one more god to the pantheon would have been perfectly acceptable to those in Smyrna. But, the Christians in Smyrna worshipped Christ as the one true and only God. Therefore, they were persecuted.
- Perhaps the Christian Church is not persecuted in America because it is too open to compromise.

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Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

Patmos

Pergamum

- North of Smyrna and 20 miles from the Mediterranean.
- Wealthy with many temples devoted to idol worship. It was a religious center including temples to Aesculapius (magnificent temple!), Dionysus and the great altar of Zeus.
- Large library of 200,000 volumes.
- Famous for origin of parchment
- Little church of Pergamum was situated in this atmosphere that was completely adverse to Christianity!

Pergamum

- The church at Pergamum tried to appease the world by tolerating certain things within its ranks.
- They had a problem with the right doctrine of Jesus Christ and lewd behavior!
- False doctrine can destroy a church.

¹² "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write:
'The words of him who has the sharp two-edged
sword (Reference Revelation 1:16).

Revelation 2:12

Again, the reference to the two-edged sword. This is a long, spear-like sword referring to the Word of God.

Reference is made to this sword seven times in the Bible. Word not only of promise, but of condemnation and rejection for those who refuse the message of Grace! Pergamum needed reminder of

BOTH!

¹³ “I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

Revelation 2:13

Knowing where they dwell was meant to comfort them. He commends them because they live where Satan's throne is and hold fast to His name, Satan's throne is probably a reference to satanic power in the evil religious character of the city, made plain by the persecution of Antipas (his name means “against all”). We know nothing about him, but he might have stood fast against the forces of evil and paid the price.

¹⁴ But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. ¹⁵ So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

Revelation 2:14-15

We already addressed the Nicolaitans. Balaam told King Balak how to get the Israelites to commit sin by enticing them with sexual immorality and food sacrificed to idols. The Israelites fell into transgression due to these traps and God sent a deadly plague to them as a result.

(See Numbers 31:15-16)

Apparently, intermarriage with non-Christians was an issue in Pergamum as well.

¹⁶ Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war 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 the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'

Revelation 2:16-17

Jesus issues a sharp word and will war against them by revealing the truth of their transgressions!

hidden manna

Israel received manna from heaven as its food in the wilderness, replacing the onions and garlic of Egypt. For the true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, there is the hidden manna, that bread from heaven that the world does not know or see - the present spiritual food of believers as well as a part of their future heritage. This seems to refer to the benefits of fellowship with Christ and the spiritual strength that comes from this fellowship!

a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'

Revelation 2:17

There has been a lot of speculation about the identity and purpose of this stone.

It might refer to a stone of acquittal. In ancient Greece, jury members would cast a white stone to signify an acquittal, whereas a black stone proclaimed the defendant guilty. Jesus may have been indicating a black stone for the compromisers, but a white stone for those that do not compromise.

a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'

Revelation 2:17

One of the better-accepted explanations of the white stone has to do with the high priest's breastplate, which contained twelve stones. Each of these stones had the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel engraved on it (See Exodus 28:21). As he ministered in the temple, the high priest bore the names of God's people into God's presence. In the same way, the "white stone" with the believer's name written on it could be a reference to our standing in God's presence.

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Note Well! The Revelation of Jesus to John came a mere 60 years after the death of Jesus, and look what had happened to His churches so soon after His ministry!



Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

Patmos

- The longest letter goes to the smallest church.
- It was a commercial city with numerous guilds. If you wanted to work you belonged to a guild. Each guild or union had its patron temple and idol you would need to worship.
- It was also famous for purple wool. It was the city of Lydia, a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, from Acts 16:14. Paul's first convert in Europe. Thyatira was the center of expensive garments.

¹⁸ "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write:
'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a
flame of fire (again, see Hebrews 4:13), and whose feet
are like burnished bronze (speaks of judgement, see
Exodus 27:1-2). ¹⁹ "I know your works, your love and
faith and service and patient endurance, and that
your latter works exceed the first.

Revelation 2:18-19

Jesus sees all; their works, their love, their faith, their
service and their patient endurance. And these
attributes are even greater than they were at first.

But! There is more to the story.

²⁰ But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.

Revelation 2:20

There was a cancer in Thyatira and her name was Jezebel. In the Old Testament, Jezebel brought paganism into the Northern Kingdom. Thyatira apparently had everything Christ wanted it to have except holiness. It had allowed sin and evil and immorality into the church and the Lord saw it!

- Ephesus could not bear evil, but it had no love!
- Thyatira had love but tolerated an evil prophetess in their midst! She was a type of the Jezebel in 1 Kings 19. Like the Nicolaitans, it was idolatry coupled with immorality.
- The church at Ephesus hated the works of the Nicolaitans and could not endure them! The church in Pergamum had some who practiced the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. The church in Thyatira TOLERATED it. They tolerated Jezebel!

BEWARE CHURCH!

- Ephesus couldn't stand it! Pergamum had a few that were into it! Thyatira tolerated it!
- That's the way it happens!
 - It starts over here with absolute total rejection of it.
 - Then, we allow it a little bit.
 - And then we just tolerate it!
- Things we would have never tolerated in the past don't even affect our sleep now.
- Jesus is warning them!

²¹I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. ²²Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, ²³and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

Revelation 2:21-23

She was given time to repent but didn't? Sickbed? Gonorrhoea is suspected of arriving at Rome around the 1st century and causing infertility, contributing to population decline. Her children will die in a way that all the churches will know who Jesus is!

²⁴ But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. ²⁵ Only hold fast what you have until I come.

Revelation 2:24-25

Compare this to the Council in Jerusalem Acts 15:28-29.

²⁸ For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things:

²⁹ that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality.

If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well.

DON'T DO WHAT THEY'RE DOING!

²⁶ The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations,
²⁷ and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority 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.'

Revelation 2:26-29

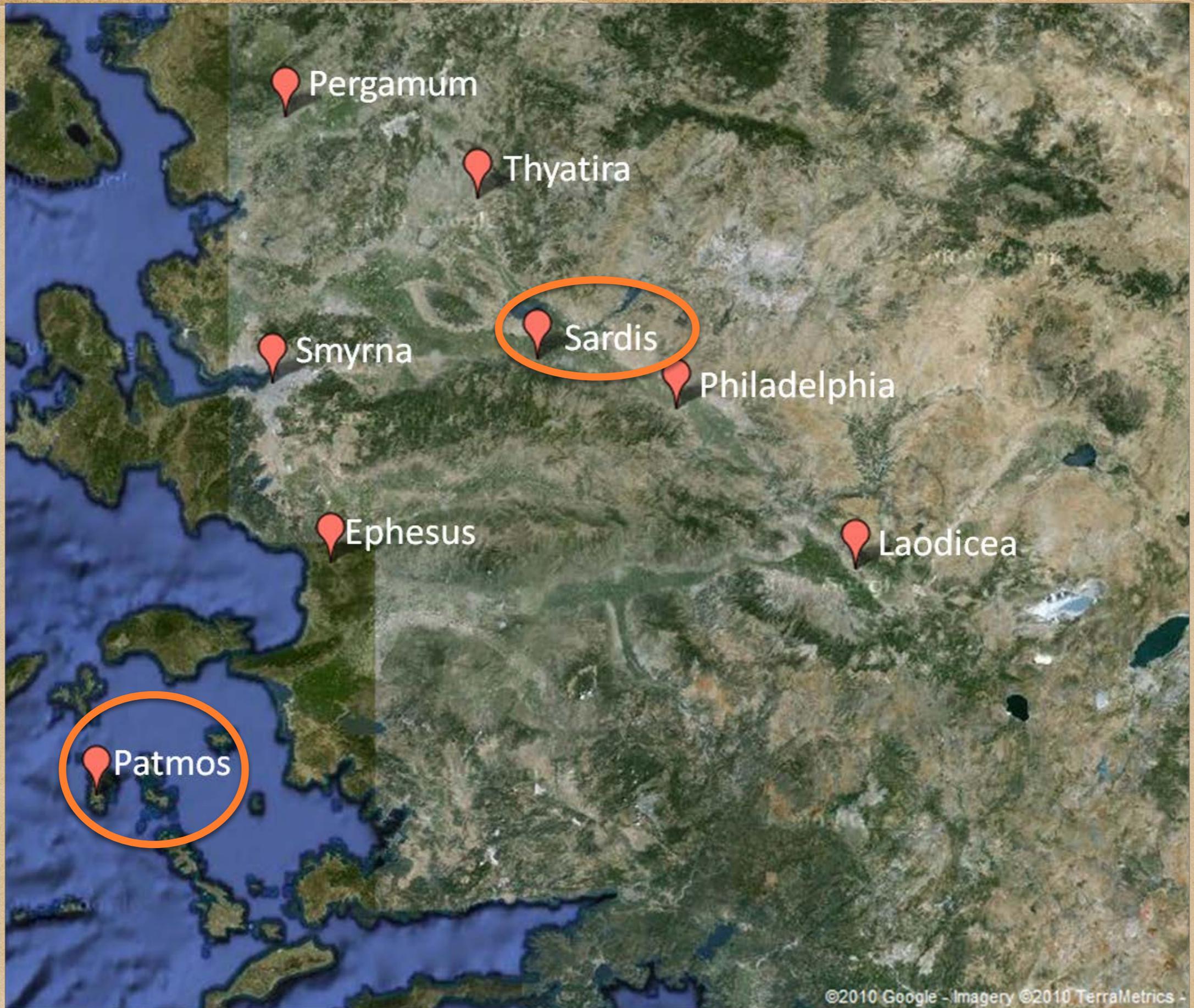
He gives the overcomer the power to rule (in the future) and the promise of the rapture! The morning star is none other than Jesus Christ who will return to rapture his church! (See Revelation 22:16)

Many commentators feel that, chronologically, This period in the history of Thyatira seems to historically correspond to the Dark Ages immediately proceeding the Protestant Reformation. This period lasted from roughly 500 to 1500AD There was corruption in the church!

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Note Well! The Revelation of Jesus to John came a mere 60 years after the death of Jesus, and look what had happened to His churches so soon after His ministry!



Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

Patmos

- Historically one of the great cities of the world.
- Thought to be impenetrable because it was nestled into a spur of a mountain and it was 1500 feet in the air.



- However, conquered by both Cyrus of Persia and Antiochus of Greece!
- In its heyday, it was an important and wealthy city located on the commercial trade route running east and west through the kingdom of Lydia. It was the place where gold and silver coins were first struck.
- Sardis was surrounded by the grossest form of pagan idolatry. Instead of standing out against against its ungodly surroundings, the church at Sardis made peace with the idolatry and had lost its witness.

1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. "I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

Revelation 3:1

Seven Spirits of God refers to the Holy Spirit and all of His perfection. Some expositors teach that, Biblically, seven is the number of perfection! Aligned with the seven stars (messengers to the churches), it means that the Holy Spirit was both with the messengers and strong in the messengers. BOTH JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

ARE PERFECT!

Verdict - DEAD CHURCH!

- The last three churches have a mixture of praise and condemnation. The letter to Sardis is devoid of any commendation such as those Christ spoke to the other churches.

2 Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.

Revelation 3:2

Apparently there were some in the church who still had true love and spirituality. It was tenuous and Christ said it needed to be strengthened before it died.

Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

Revelation 3:3

This warning should have sounded a harsh alarm since the “impenetrable” city had been conquered twice before by “surprise” attacks they had not been prepared for. Christ warned that He would come unexpectedly with devastating suddenness and bring judgment upon them.

⁴ Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. 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.'

Revelation 3:4-6

Those in the Sardis church who conquer by remaining true to Christ are promised they will be clothed in garments of white representing the purity of God's people clothed in the righteousness of Christ!

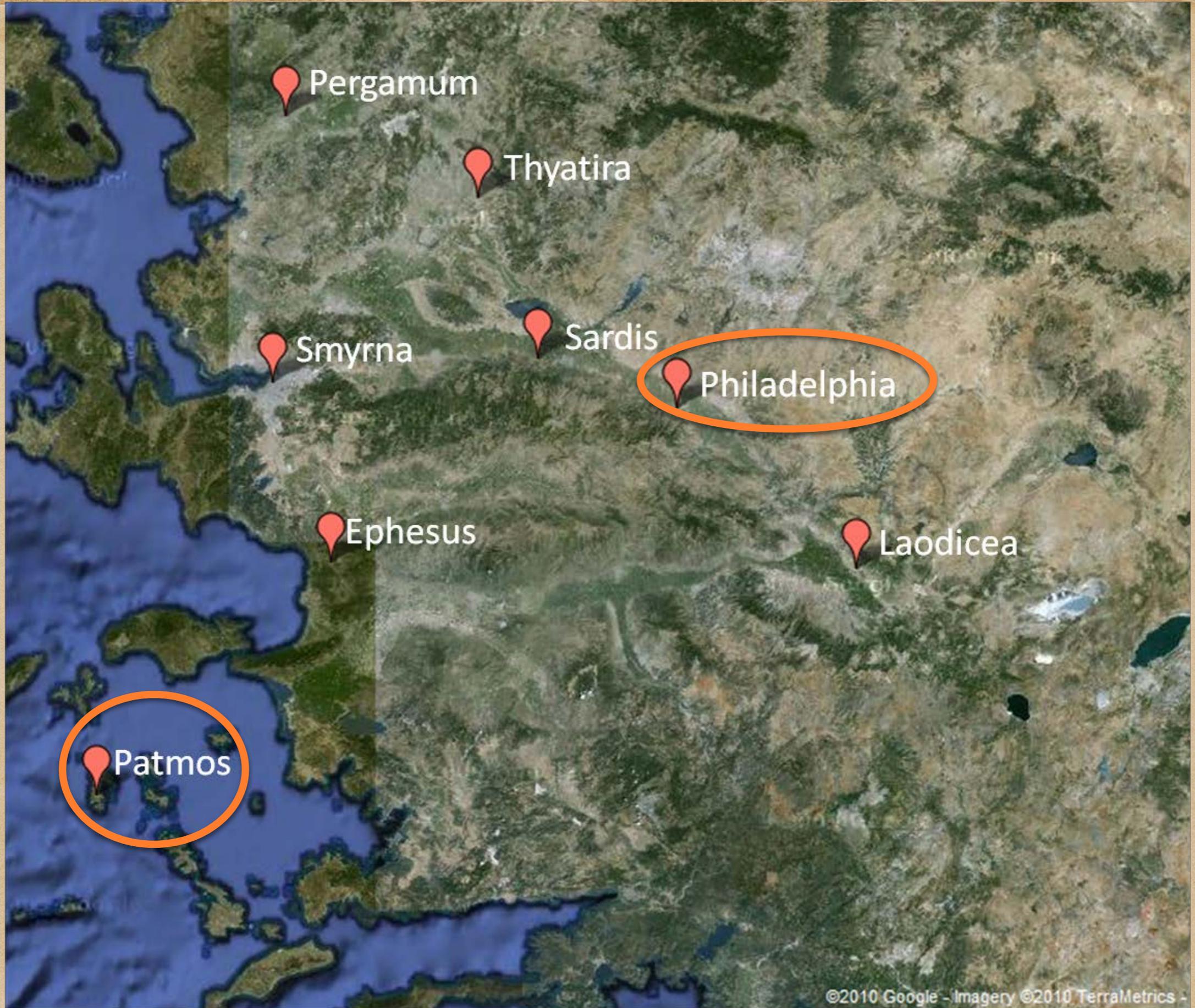
Some consider Sardis picturing the church at the time of the Protestant Reformation. During those years only a small believing remnant took their stand for true biblical revelation and trusted in Christ as Savior.

The characteristics of the Sardis church were remarkably parallel to those of the Roman church that sparked the Reformation.

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Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

Patmos

- Named after a king of Pergamum, Attalus Philadelp^hia, who built the city.
- The name means "brotherly love".
- Philadelp^hia has a long history and several times was almost completely destroyed by earthquakes. The most recent rebuilding was in 17 AD.
- Grapes were one of its principal crops, and in keeping with this, Dionysus was one of the chief objects of pagan worship.
- The message to Philadelp^hia is unusual because it is almost entirely one of praise, somewhat similar to Smyrna, but in contrast to Sardis and Laodicea.

7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

'The words of the holy one, the true one,

Revelation 3:7a

Christ is the preeminent Holy One and is qualified to call the Christians in Philadelphia to a life of faith in Him and a corresponding life of holiness. (See 1 Peter 1:15). As the one who is true, Christ is also the Author of Truth in contrast to all error or false doctrine.

15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 1 Peter 1:15

who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

Revelation 3:7b

Christ has the key of David with the absolute authority to open and shut. In Rev 1:8, He has the "keys of death and Hades". In Isaiah 22:22, it is said of Eliakim, son of Hilkiah, that I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. Eliakim had the key to all the treasures of the king, so when he opened a door it was opened. Christ has the key to truth and holiness.

8. "I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but **little power**, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

Revelation 3:8

It is not that the church has a little power and can function to some degree, but that it has a little power within itself, such that the source of its power must ultimately come from the Lord. The Lord's strength is made perfect in weakness (2 Cor 12:9). They believe that the word of God was authoritative and they kept it! They did not deny His name!

Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie— behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you.

Revelation 3:9

It seems that the pesky Jews who always gave Paul a hard time were still at work troubling His churches. Here, the Lord promises that He will humiliate their enemies. He will make them come and worship the Lord Jesus before the feet of the Philadelphians. The Jews will look to the Philadelphians for direction and guidance.

¹⁰ Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you **from** the hour of trial **that is coming on the whole world**, to try those who dwell on the earth. (they will be spared from going through the great tribulation! Yay pre-tribbers!).

Revelation 3:10

From, not through! This doesn't apply only to the church at Philadelphia or its vicinity. It applies to the "**whole world**"! This is a promise to the church at Philadelphia, and churches down through the ages who are faithful to Christ, that they will be kept **from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world** (world-wide tribulation)!

“I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that
no one may seize your crown.

Revelation 3:11

The Lord's coming is compared to an imminent event.
One that will come suddenly without announcement.

The church at Philadelphia is urged to hold fast to
their testimony in order to receive their reward at His
coming. The expression “soon” is to be understood
as something that is sudden and unexpected, not
immediate.

¹² The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and 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 from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

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

Revelation 3:12-13

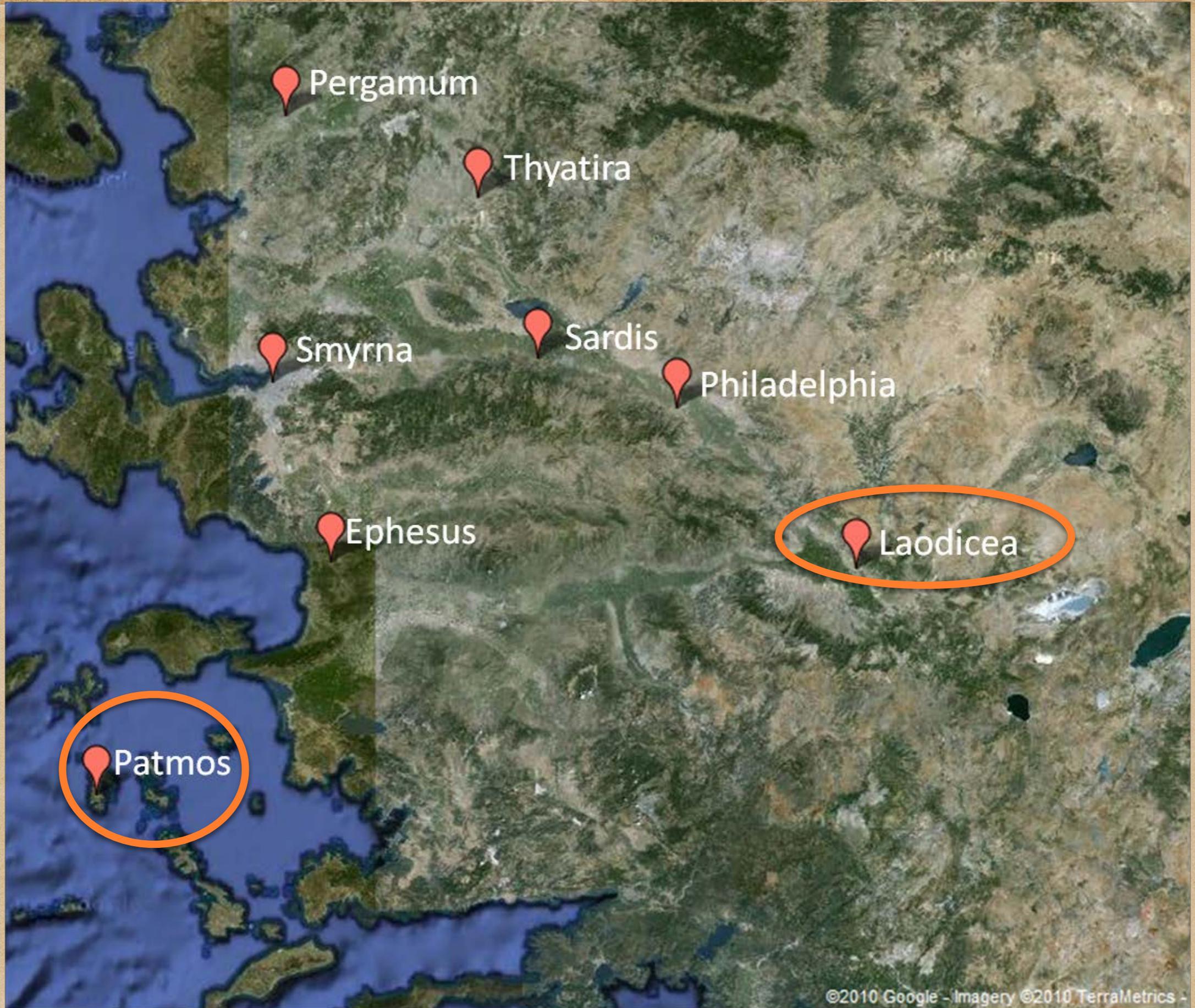
The believers will be permanent, like a pillar in the temple of the New Jerusalem. They will stand when all else has fallen. They will have a permanent residence in the very presence of God!

Some consider the church at Philadelphia to be the revived church, steeped in the evangelistic and missionary movements of the period from 1750AD to 1900AD.

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- Laodicea was a wealthy city and had a profitable business in the production of wool cloth.
- When destroyed by an earthquake about 60 AD, it was able to rebuild without any outside help.
- Its economic sufficiency tended to lull the church to sleep spiritually.
- They were an indifferent church that seemed to deem any activity for the Lord to be unnecessary.
- They had no blessing from the Lord.
- The church actually made the Lord sick.

¹⁴ "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write:
'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness
(see Revelation 1:5),

Revelation 3:14a

Christ is the faithful and true witness in contrast to
the church at Laodicea which was neither.

¹⁴the beginning of God's
creation.

Revelation 3:14b

As “the beginning”, Christ is
not the first of creation but
He is BEFORE all creation.

beginning

gr. arche

Strong's g0746

beginning, origin

¹⁵ “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold,

Revelation 3:15-16a

This church was a compromising church. Indicative of hot spring water piped in aboveground from Hierapolis and cold water piped in from Colossae.

Both were disgustingly tepid upon arrival. A lukewarm Christian is a comfortable, complacent Christian. Worthless as tepid water.

I will spit you out of my mouth.

Revelation 3:16b

This church could not be classified with the worldly who were cold, or totally unconcerned about the things of Christ. And it certainly could not be classified with those who were "on fire" for the Lord.

This intermediate state of being lukewarm is the reason Christ cannot bear their taste in His mouth. There is something about lukewarmness that is utterly obnoxious to God.

¹⁷For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

Revelation 3:17

- ◆ This was a conceited church.
- ◆ There is a huge disconnect between what the church thought they were and what Jesus said they were. Sometimes the Lord sees us much differently than we see ourselves.
- ◆ Smyrna thought they were poor, but they were rich. Laodicea thought they were rich but they were poor.

¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire (the true riches - that which corresponds to the Glory of God), so that you may be rich; and white garments (the righteousness of Jesus, in direct opposition to the glossy black wool they were famous for), that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see (because they lacked spiritual insight, in direct opposition to the "Phrygian powder" eye ointment they exported).

Revelation 3:18

These things could not be bought or sold at the marketplace.

¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous
and repent.

Revelation 3:19

To anyone in the Laodicean church who will listen, Christ warns of the need for repentance. They are lukewarm and Jesus rebukes them, but Jesus loves them. It is evident that Christ has in mind those few in the Laodicean church who are actually born again but whose lives have taken on the same lukewarm characteristics as those around them.

(See Hebrews 12:5-6)

⁵And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”

Hebrews 12:5-6

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 eat with him,
and he with me.

Revelation 3:20



What is missing here?

²⁰Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

In the Middle East, dining is a time of intimate fellowship. Jesus is giving a vision of an eternal feast where intimate fellowship is shared continuously, not just on Sunday.



²⁰ I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20b

From the greek deipneō, the evening meal. In other words,

THE EVENING MEAL WAS
THE LAST MEAL BEFORE
THE DAWN!

eat

gr. deipneō

Strong's g1172
to dine, i.e. take
the principle (or
evening meal),

²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered 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.””

Revelation 3:21-22

The Laodicean church represents the last church in church history. This is the church of our current age and, in most cases, exists in name only. Jesus is standing outside the door. The church in general is lukewarm and does not walk through doors of opportunity. Jesus will say to the Laodicean churches "I chasten and rebuke you". Clarence Larken states that the Laodicean period will continue until the Church of the "new-born" is taken out. We cannot hope for any great change until the Lord returns.

Both Dr. J. Vernon McGee and Dr. David Jeremiah have written that we are actually in the period of the last two churches today. The Laodicean church is the church moving farther and farther from the word of God and deeper and deeper into apostasy. Whereas, the Philadelphia church is the church that is staying in the word of God. The Philadelphia church will be raptured while the Laodicean church has departed from the word of God and will enter into the tribulation.

I've stated that many commentators agree that the seven (number of completeness) churches relate to seven historical periods of church history.

Ephesus	Relates to early Apostolic church from 30AD to 100AD
Smyrna	Relates to heavy persecution of Christians until Constantine from 100AD until 314AD
Pergamum	Period of increased Paganism in the church from 314AD to 590AD
Thyatira	Corresponds to Dark Ages from 500AD to 1500AD
Sardis	Corresponds to Protestant Reformation from 1500 to 1750AD
Philadelphia	Corresponds to revived missionary-oriented church from 1750 to 1900AD
Laodicea	The current age. Apostate Church, 1900 until Rapture.

But there is a pertinent message to each of us found in the message that Christ gives to each church. The messages (and the dangers) are cumulative.

“The delineation of the churches covers the full scope of time in our age and world. There will never be local churches unlike these described in Chapters 2 and 3. The whole of the age of Grace runs under our gaze as we look at the successive steps in the de-generation of the organization and of the Spiritual measures taken by the Lord Jesus to insure that His plan shall triumph” - Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse

<u>Church</u>	<u>Danger</u>
Ephesus	Abandoning the first love (busyness).
Smyrna	The fear of suffering.
Pergamum	Wrong doctrine.
Thyatira	Sexual immorality. The "new" morality.
Sardis	Spiritual deadness.
Philadelphia	Holding fast what they have. Word of Christ
Laodicea	Tolerance and compromise

Christians have lost the moral right to speak
to an increasingly broken world because far
too often we are not the message we speak.

-Ray Vander Laan

Instructions to John

¹⁹ Write therefore the things that you have seen (Chapter 1), those that are (Chapter 2 and 3) and those that are to take place after this (Chapters 4 through 22). Revelation 1:19

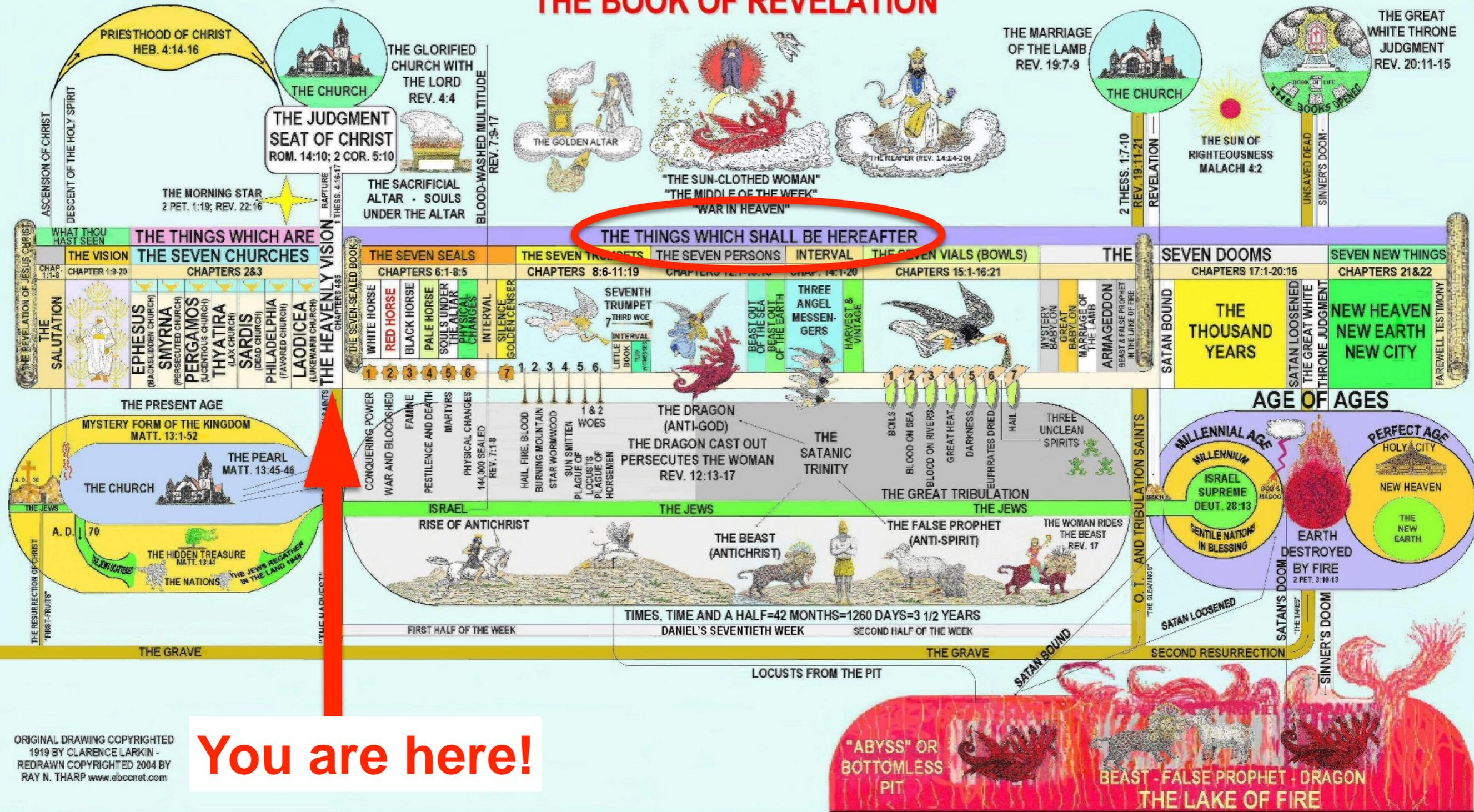
¹ After this (Metà taūta) I looked

Revelation 4:1

Now, we start what John referred to in Chapter 1:9 as **those that are to take place after this!**

Chapter 2 and 3 were about the church age. So now, beginning with Chapter 4, we will know those things that will take place after the church age is gone and over!

THE BOOK OF REVELATION



You are here!

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The scene has now moved from
earth to heaven!

There is no mention of the
church from Chapter 4 through

Chapter 19!

Why?

What happened?

The Ruture!

The church is never in view in the Book of Revelation after Chapter 3, until Chapter 19.

The Holy Spirit has been in the midst of the churches in
Chapters 2 and 3.

²⁹He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to
the churches.' (Rev 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:29, 3:6, 3:13, 3:22)

-But, look at Revelation 4:5-

⁵From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings^[a]
and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning
seven torches of fire, which are the seven Spirits of God.

The Holy Spirit is now in heaven! The Holy Spirit indwells
the believer in Christ. If the Holy Spirit is no longer on
earth, THEN EITHER IS THE BELIEVER!!

• And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. • For the mystery of lawlessness (Antichrist) is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way (restrained by the Holy Spirit until He goes to heaven!). • And then the lawless one will be revealed (in the Tribulation), whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

2 Thessalonians 2:6-8

Whoa Nellie! You think things are bad now, just wait until the Holy Spirit (who lives in the heart of the believer) goes to heaven and stops restraining the lawless one!

Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

Acts 17:11

After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

Revelation 4:1

-Compare-

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command ("Come up here!"), with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.

And the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

2 At once I was in the Spirit (not in the body!), and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.

Revelation 4:2

John has been hearing and writing about “the things that are” on the earth. Now, John has been catapulted, in the Spirit, into heaven as he begins to receive the revelation of the unfolding of the end times!

and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. ³And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian,

Revelation 4:2b-3

John couldn't begin to describe what he saw, so he used illustrations! A Jasper is a clear gem like a huge diamond.

John describes it as a huge, sparkling diamond.

A carnelian stone is a red stone like a ruby and speaks to the blood of Christ. The diamond refers to His glory and the ruby to His sacrifice!

The significance goes beyond the color. Each tribe of Israel had a designated stone, represented on the breastplate of the garment of the high priest. The jasper and carnelian are the first and last of these twelve stones (See Ex 28:17-21). The sardius or carnelian represented Reuben, the first born of Jacob. The jasper represented Benjamin. The youngest of Jacob's sons. These two stones represented the first and the last, and may be regarded as including all the other stones in between; that is, the whole of the covenanted people.



Gemstones in High Priest's Breastplate

Emerald



(Levi)

Rock Crystal



(Naphtali)
Amethyst



(Issachar)
Jasper



(Benjamin)

Peridot



(Simeon)

Lapis Lazuli



(Dan)
Agate



(Asher)
Onyx



(Joseph)

Carnelian



(Reuben)

Carbuncle



(Judah)
Jacinth



(Gad)
Beryl



(Zebulun)

The names Reuben and Benjamin have significance also. The word Reuben means "behold, a son". The word Benjamin means "son of my right hand". In the first place, Christ is the Son of God. Like Reuben, Christ is the first begotten Son. Like Benjamin, Christ is also the "son of my right hand" in relation to God the Father. - Dr. Harry Ironsides

MacArthur sees the significance of this as symbolic of the fact that, although the tribulation will be a time of terrible wrath and judgment, God's covenant relationship with Israel will remain intact.

and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.

Revelation 4:3b

Strong's Concordance

iris: a rainbow

Original Word: ἴρις, ἰδος, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: iris

Phonetic Spelling: (ee'-ris)

Short Definition: a rainbow

Definition: a rainbow or halo.

4 Around the throne
were **twenty-four**
thrones, and seated
on the thrones were
twenty-four elders,
clothed in white
garments, with
golden crowns on
their heads.

Revelation 4:4

So who are the 24

elders?



8 the **twenty-four** elders fell down
before the Lamb, each holding a harp,
and golden bowls full of incense,
which are the prayers of the saints.
9 And they sang a new song, saying,
“Worthy are you to take the scroll and
to open its seals,
for You were slain, and **by Your blood**
you ransomed people for God from
every tribe and people and nation,
and you made them a kingdom and
priests to our God and they shall reign
on earth

Revelation 5:8

and seated on the thrones were
twenty-four **elders**
Revelation 4:4b

⁵This is why I left you in Crete, so that
you might put what remained into
order, and appoint **elders** in every
town as I directed you—⁶if anyone is
above reproach, the husband of one
wife,^[a] and his children are believers^[b]
and not open to the charge of
debauchery or insubordination
Titus 1:5

elder

gr. **presbyteros**

Strong's g4245
elder, among the
Christians, those
who presided over
the assemblies (or
churches). The NT
uses the terms
bishop, elders and
presbyters
interchangeably

4. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

Revelation 4:4

“Stephanos” not “diadem”, given to a person who is victorious. Signifies the rewards given to the saints at the Judgment Seat of Christ immediately after they get to heaven. These elders are the church of Jesus Christ.

crowns

gr. **stephanos**

Strong's g4735

the wreath or garland which was given as a prize to victors in public games.

5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings^[a]

and peals of thunder,

Revelation 4:5a

We come before the throne of grace! But this represents a throne of JUDGMENT! The church is already in heaven! The day of grace is over. This is judgment and the picture is the same as when the law was given on Mt.

Sinai.

Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off

Exodus 20:18

⁵ Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

Revelation 8:5

¹⁹ Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings,^[a] peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

Revelation 11:19

JOHN SAW THAT GOD WILL JUDGE THE WORLD FOR THE REJECTION OF HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST!

and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.

Revelation 4:5b-6a

The writer of Hebrews says very plainly that the tabernacle that Moses had built from the plans of God was a model of heaven. See Hebrews 9:23. In the tabernacle was a 7-branched candlestick. In heaven we see seven lamps of fire. In the tabernacle was a bronze bowl with water where the priest would wash. In heaven was a sea of glass. It's solid. There is no need for cleansing anymore.

And around the throne, on each side of the throne,
are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and
behind:

Revelation 4:6b

Who were the four living creatures?

the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight.

Revelation 4:7

1 In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I (Ezekiel) was among the exiles by the Chebar canal, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. 4 As I looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud, with brightness around it, and fire flashing forth continually, and in the midst of the fire, as it were gleaming metal. 5 And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness, 6 but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings.

Ezekiel 1:1; 4-6

¹⁴And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of the cherub, and the second face was a human face, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.¹⁵And the cherubim mounted up.

These were the living creatures that I saw by the Chebar canal. ¹⁶And when the cherubim went, the wheels went beside them. And when the cherubim lifted up their wings to mount up from the earth, the wheels did not turn from beside them.

Ezekiel 10:14-16

Who were the four living creatures? Ezekiel saw them as cherubim!

¹⁵And the cherubim mounted up.
These were the living creatures
that I saw by the Chebar canal.

Ezekiel 10:15

They were angels!

In Chapter 6, we will see how
these four living creatures get
involved in the judgment of the
earth!

cherubim

gr. kerûb

Strong's h3742

An angelic being.

But, the four living creatures also lead worship!!!

• And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy,
is the Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come!”

Revelation 4:8

And the 24 elders join in!

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹ "Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
To receive glory and honor and power;

For You created all things,

And by Your will they exist and were created.

Revelation 4:9-11

And the elders cast down their crowns before the creator
of the universe!

Then I saw in the right hand (the scroll has prominence) of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back (The scroll was totally full! The fact that it was written on the back indicates a title deed), sealed with seven seals.

Revelation 5:1



2 And I saw a mighty angel
proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who
is worthy to open the scroll and
break its seals?"

Revelation 5:2

Michael? Gabriel? This angel is
not identified by name.

mighty

gr. **ischyros**

Strong's g2478

Mighty, strong,

strong man,

powerful, valiant

³And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

Revelation 5:3-4

An exhaustive search was made for someone who had the power and authority to open the scroll. He wept because no one could be found.

5 And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more;
behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah

Revelation 5:5a

Judah is a lion's cub;

from the prey, my son, you have gone up.

He stooped down; he crouched as a lion
and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?

The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
until tribute comes to him;

and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

Genesis 49:9-10

the Root of David,

Revelation 5:5

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

Isaiah 11:1

The Lord says to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand,

until I make your enemies your footstool.” Psalm 110:1

(David hears a conversation between the LORD [YAHWEH] and David's Lord [Adonai, the Messiah], saying Christ would sit at YAHWEH's right hand. Christ both predated and came after David.

Christ was the result of David's
line, yet He was the one who
brought David (and the line) into
existence! He used this paradox
to baffle the Pharisees in Matthew
22:41-46.

has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

Revelation 5:5b

Christ's victory on the cross!

²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. Revelation 3:21

Christ's victory over sin, death and
the grave has earned Him the right
to take the scroll and **BREAK** its
seven seals!

Christ is acting in the role of Kinsman-Redeemer (Goel) in redeeming the earth in the same manner as Boaz acted as Kinsman-Redeemer in the Book of Ruth. Christ would redeem the title deed to earth which was surrendered to Satan when Adam sinned.

There were four requirements for the Kinsman-Redeemer -

1. Must be a Kinsman (Jesus was the second Adam)
2. Must be able to perform
3. Must be willing
4. Must assume all the obligations

And between the throne and the four living creatures
and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as
though it had been slain,

Revelation 5:6a

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of
the world!” John 1:29

Jesus came first in meekness, but will return as a
conquering Lion! Jesus is not depicted in the position
of death, but rather “standing” in a position of LIFE!

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns

Revelation 5:6a

- ◆ Seven horns
 - ◆ Symbol of a King! "As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise," - Daniel 7:24
 - ◆ Symbol of power - Deut 22:17; 1 Kings 22:11; Zech 1:18; Ps 75:4
 - ◆ Also honor - 1 Sam 2:1-10; Ps 89: 17,24; Ps 112:9, 10: 148:14

and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God
sent out into all the earth.

Revelation 5:6b

The seven eyes are “the seven spirits of God” which would be yet another reference to the sevenfold spirits of God which are sent out into all the earth after Jesus’ resurrection.

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

John 16:7

And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.

Revelation 5:7

The scroll was nothing less than the TITLE DEED TO ALL THE EARTH! In that future day, authority over the world will be realized by Christ, an authority He will exercise both in the judgments that precede His second coming and in His reign for 1000 years that will follow His second coming. THE FOCUS IS UPON CHRIST!

⁷⁸And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Revelation 5:8

The “prayers of the saints”? Hmmmm...
“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is
in heaven”

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed **us** to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made **us** unto our God kings and priests: and **we** shall reign on the earth.

Revelation 5:9-10 King James Version

Who are the “us” and “we”?

The Church!

The church is never in view in the Book of Revelation
after Chapter 3.

the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp.....And they sang a new song,

Revelation 5:9

Note! the twenty-four elders sang!

The angels do not sing!

“Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”,

Revelation 5:11-12

The angels speak of the ATTRIBUTES of Jesus.

But, the elders are singing directly to
the Lamb!

“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed
people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our
God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”

While the angels are speaking about
the Lamb.

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”

The Elders represent the church and they have something to sing about. They have been saved, redeemed! Anyone who has gone through that has something to sing about!

The angels know nothing of this. The angels have never been redeemed from sin.

You and I are not angels.

We are redeemed!

So sing!!!!!!

¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped. twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp.....And they sang a new song,

Revelation 5:13-14

All the rest of creation now joins in this chorus of blessing and praise to the one on the throne and to the Lamb.

Climaxing the scene of worship, the four living creatures pronounce their amen, and the twenty-four elders once again fall down and worship. With the awe-inspiring introduction, the groundwork is laid for the unfolding revelation beginning in Chapter 6, when the scene shifts once again from heaven to the earth.

9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

Matthew 24

Revelation 6-7

False Christs (24:4-5)

Rider on the white horse (6:1-2)

Wars, rumors of wars (24:6-7a)

Rider on the red horse (6:3-4)

Famine (24:7b)

Rider on the black horse (6:5-6)

Famines and plagues (24:7b; Luke
21:11)

Rider on the pale horse (6:7-8)

Persecution and martyrdom
(24:9-10)

Martyrs (6:9-11)

Terrors and great cosmic signs
(24:29; Luke 21:11)

Terror (6:12-17)

Worldwide preaching of the gospel
(24:14)

Ministry of the 144,000 (7:1-8)