HAT THE

2020 SESSION

BUBLE IS ABOUT

The book of Revelation

the revelation

noun rev∙e·la·tion \ rĕv′ə-lā′shən \

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

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

Revelation 1:1-2

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants - things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by his angel to His servant John:

Who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

servant ($\delta o \tilde{u} \lambda o \varsigma$, doulos): devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests.

signified (σημαίνω, sēmainō): to give a sign, to signify, indicate, render into signs; from sema (mark), translated as sign, wonder or miracle in the Bible (e.g., a spiritual code)

revealed to hrist written

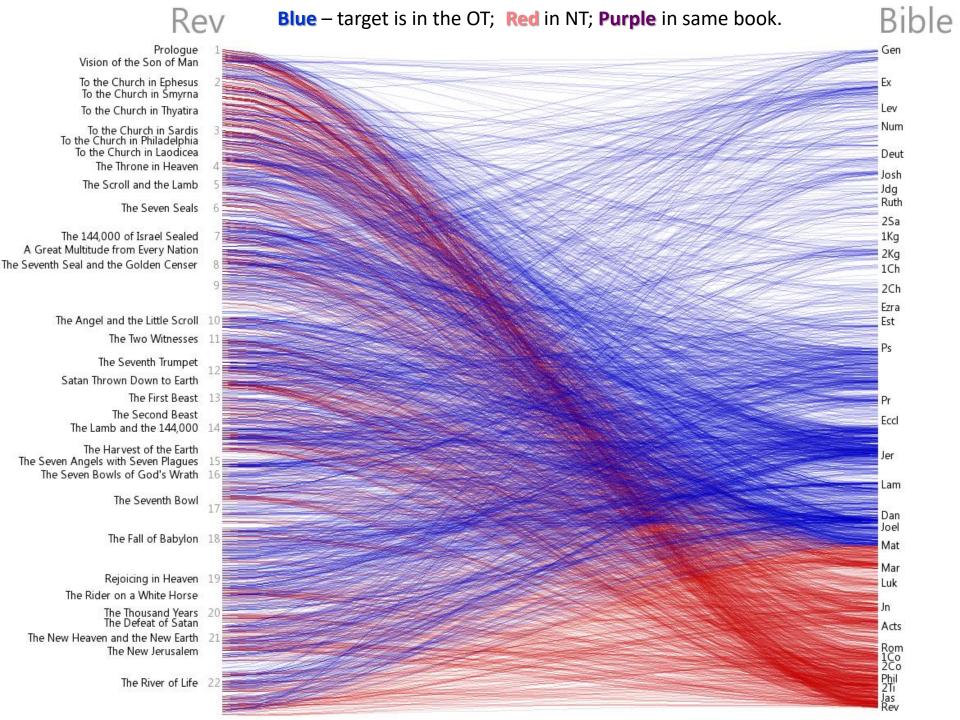
^{*} By Christ, His angel, elders, etc.

Key Points

The book of Revelation is in code

Every code is explained in Scripture

Virtually every book in the Bible is required to interpret the code.



Interpreting the book of Revelation

God means what He says and says what He means.

The Bible is an integrated whole: Every detail is there by design.

(Matthew 5:17,18)

Nothing is trivial: all things are for our learning.

(Romans 15:4)

Use the Bible to interpret the Bible.

A Unique Promise

- ³ 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.
- ⁴ John to the seven churches which 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 1:3-4)

Blessed (μακάριος, *makarios*)-hallowed, consecrated, approved, made happy or prosperous

The Seven Spirits

Isaiah 11:2 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

- 1. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
 - 2. the Spirit of Wisdom,
 - 3. and Understanding,
 - 4. the Spirit of Counsel
 - 5. and Might,
 - 6. the Spirit of Knowledge
 - 7. and of the Fear of the LORD.

- ⁵ And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, and the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,
- ⁶ And has made us kings and priests to His God and Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
 - In Israel, the tribe of Judah was the royal line and the tribe of Levi was the priestly line. No one was both.
 - Some 2,000 years before Christ (Genesis 4:18), Abram met Melchizedek¹ king of Salem² who was both. Abram tithed 10% to and took communion from Melchizedek.
 - Psalm 110 & Hebrews 7 identify Jesus as king and priest.
 - So Melchizedek, Jesus and who else? You and me! (Rev. 1:6.)

⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.



* "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

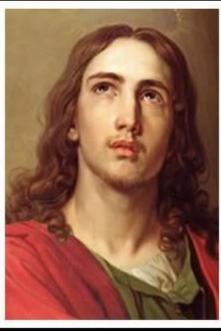
⁹ I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

WANTED BY ROME

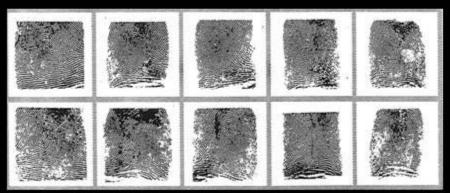
JOHN, SON OF ZEBEDEE

ALIASES: John the Apostle, Ἰωάννης (*Iōannēs*), John the Evangelist, John of Patmos, John the Elder, the Beloved Disciple, unnamed disciple of John the Baptist





(current photograph not available)



DESCRIPTION

AGE: 94 est., born c 006 AD, Bethsaida, Israel (no birth records) reported death c 100 AD, Ephesus, Turkey (grave stone)
HEIGHT: 5'8" WEIGHT: 140-160 lbs EYES: brown HAIR: brown BUILD: medium COMPLEXION: swarthy NATIONALITY: heaven OCCUPATION: fisherman, author, apostle, aged carer, theologian FATHER: Zebedee MOTHER: Salome BROTHER: James KNOWN ASSOCIATES: Jesus Christ, Mary, the "Twelve Apostles"





- ¹⁰ I was **in the Spirit on the Lord's day**, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,
- Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia;

unto Ephesus, and
unto Smyrna, and
unto Pergamos, and
unto Thyatira, and

unto Sardis, and
unto Philadelphia, and
unto Laodicea.



The Risen Christ (Rev. 1:12-17)

- 12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;
- ¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.
- ¹⁴ His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;
- ¹⁵ His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;
- He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.



Similar to Matthew 17:2 (Transfiguration) and Daniel 7 (Ancient of Days).

The Risen Christ (Rev. 1:12-17)

- 12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;
- and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Maclothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chast with a golden band.
- as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;
- ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;
- 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

Hair; head Daniel 7:9

Eyes, Heb 1:13; 4:13; Flame of fire 1 Cor 3:13; Malachi 3:2, etc

Feet, symbol of walk; Brass = judgment

Voice, many waters Ezekiel 1:24; 43:2; Dan 10:6

Right Hand 7 stars, lampstands: in the midst; in His hand

Mouth: two-edged sword Heb 4:12; Eph 6:17; Isa 49:2; Judges unbelievers John 12:48; Earth smitten Isa 11:4; Antichrist consumed 2 Thess 2:8

Countenance, Sun Matt 17

- ¹⁷ And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.
- ¹⁸ I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.
- ¹⁹ "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.
- The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.



The Divine Outline of the book of Revelation

¹⁹Write the things which you have seen,

and the things which are,

and the things which will take place after this.

(Revelation 1:19)

The Divine Outline of the book of Revelation

¹⁹Write the things which you have seen,

The Vision of Christ Chapter 1

and the things which are,

The Seven Churches Chapters 2,3

and the things which will take place after this.

What follows after the Churches .. Chapters 4-22

(Revelation 1:19)



The book of Revelation

THINGS WHICH YOU HAVE SEEN (Chapter 1)

• John' vision of the exalted Christ, Ch. 1

THINGS WHICH ARE (Chapters 2-3)

• The messages to the seven churches, 2-3

THINGS WHICH SHALL BE HEREAFTER

(Chapters 4-22)

- Throne in heaven, 4-5
- Tribulation on earth, 6-9, 10-14, 15-19
- The Kingdom of Christ, 20
- The new heavens and earth, 21-22

²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches:

and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

Who or what are the "Angels"

- Angels (ἄγγελος, aggelos) a messenger, envoy, one
 who is sent, an angel, a messenger from God.
 - Some believe the "angels" are pastors, whose role was to read, pray and preach in the assembly.
 - Some believe the "angels" are guardian angels over each congregation.
 - Some think the "angels" weren't literal beings at all, but the prevailing spirit of each church.
- In any case, notice where the "angels" are in the right hand of Jesus.



Who or what is a "church"?

- "Church" in the 1st Century was not like today. There were no dedicated buildings, altars, professional clergy or competing denominations or religions.
- For much of the time, Christian assembly was unlawful and carried out in homes or even secretly in caves.

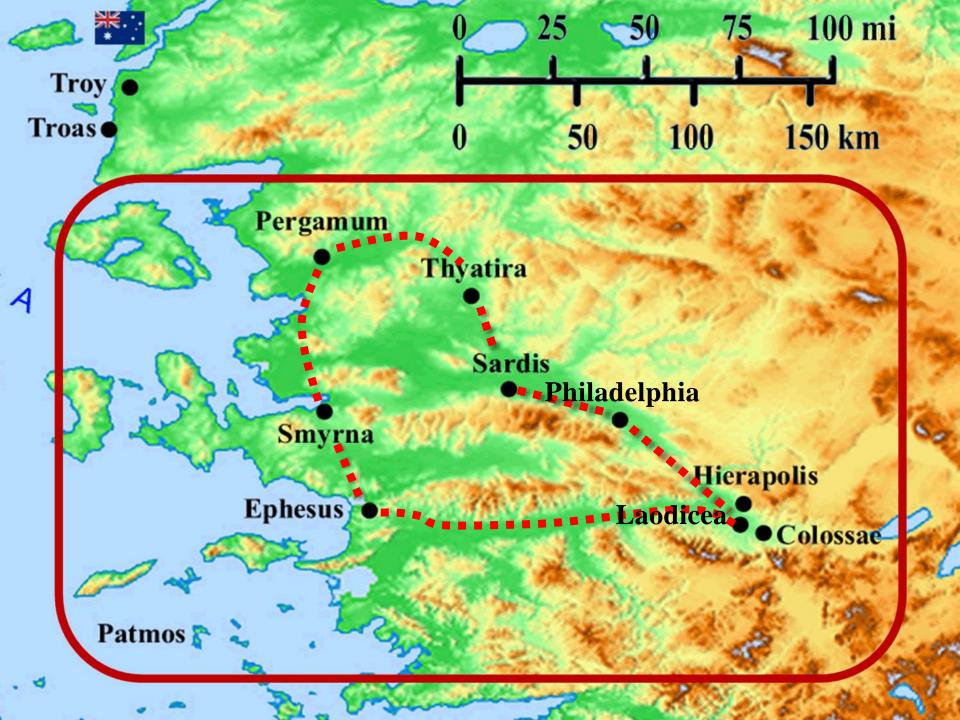


- In fact, the word "church" is a deliberate 17th century mistranslation of the Greek ἐκκλησία (ekklēsia, assembly).
 - As the official religion of the Roman Empire, many pagan temples were "Christianized" into churches. Both Eastern and Western Churches adopted many unbiblical pagan practices over time, and invented still others.
 - Pagan influences moulded leadership into a "sacred priesthood".
 - Most Protestant reformers (former Catholic priests) retained many traditions.
 - Richard Bancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury, stipulated in Rule 3 for the KJV that ecclesiastical words (e.g., church (vice congregation, assembly), apostle (envoy), bishop (overseer), devil (accuser), demon (evil spirit), minister, deacon, preacher) would be kept, even though nonbiblical and inherited from Rome. This reinforced Church of England hierarchy and authority.

ἐκκλησία, ekklēsia, assembly

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





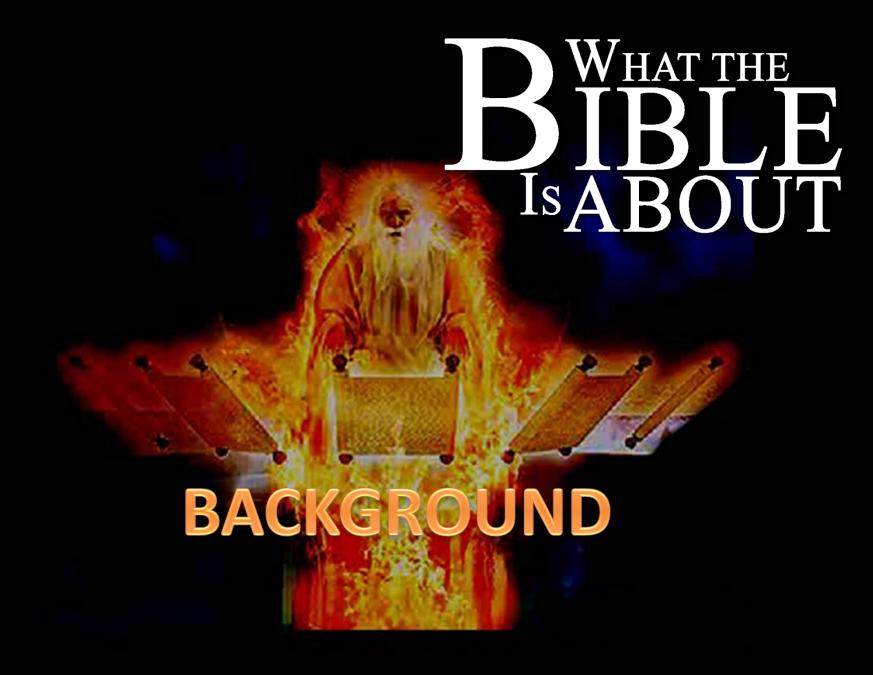
The Seven Churches

- 1. Each city/region had active Christian believers in the day.
- Each letter alludes to known prior history relevant to each city/region.
- 3. Each letter alludes to known current events relevant to each city/region in the 1st Century.
- 4. Each letter contains prophetic allusions to current events, over-horizon events, and future events.
- 5. Each letter was intended to be read by believers in all cities/regions in the day.
- Lessons from each church can be applied to our own lives.
- 7. Each letter can be equated to a period in the history of Western Christianity from the 1st Century to today.

The name of each church is relevant

- Ephesus ("Desired One" or "Darling")
 - Smyrna ("Myrrh", "Suffering" or "Death")
 - Pergamos ("Mixed marriage" or "Serpent")
 - Thyatira* ("Sacrifice" or "Daughter")
 - Sardis ("Escaping" or "Remnant")
 - Philadelphia ("Brotherly love")
 - Laodicea ("Rule of/by the people")

^{*} Formerly named "Semiramis"



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.



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

Historical Interpretation in the Day

Real Cities

Ephesus

("Desired One" or "Darling")

Smyrna

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

Pergamos

("Mixed marriage" or "Serpent")

Thyatira

("Perpetual sacrifice", "Semiramis")

Sardis

("Escaping" or "Remnant")

Philadelphia

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

Laodicea

("Rule/judgement of/by the people")

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.)

Each letter NAILED the specific congregation

- 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/judgement of/by the people")

- Devotion, not just doctrine
- > Endure persecution
- > Stand fast against the world
- > Abandon pagan practices
- > Watchfulness, diligence
- Outreach; faithfulness
- > Prosperous compromise

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

Chiastic Church Correlation

Ephesus

Abandoned first love (Rev 2:4).

Ardour becomes lukewarm Smyrna

Problems with false Jews (Rev 2:9). Crown of life promised (Rev 2:10)

Faithfulness through trials Pergamos

By apostasy (Rev 2:14)

Living faith threatened

Thyatira

Sardis

By formalism (Rev 3:2)

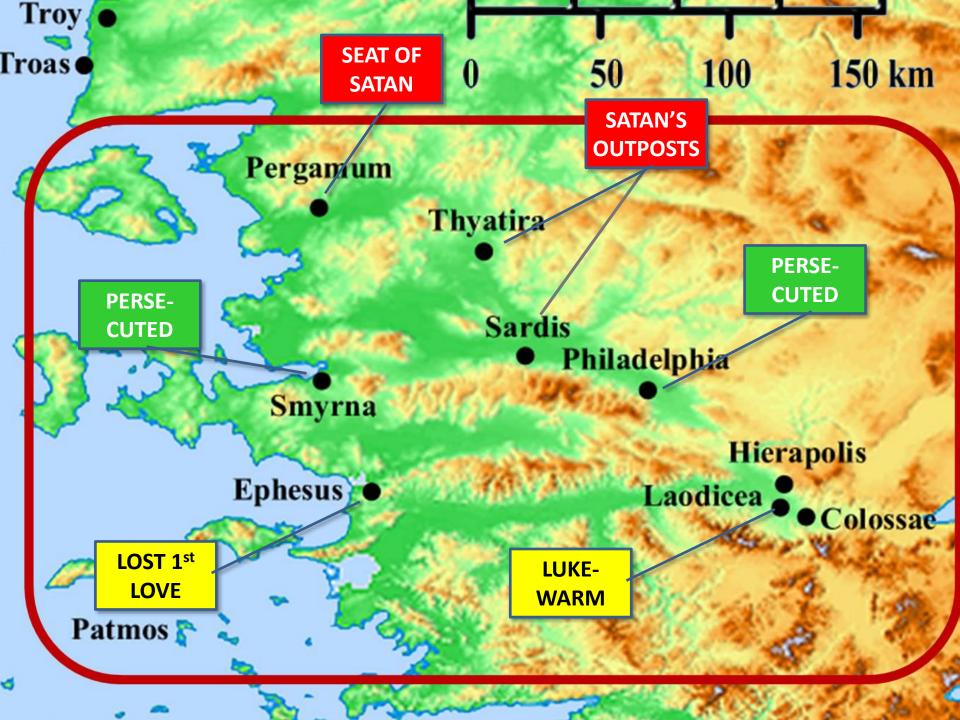
Philadelphia

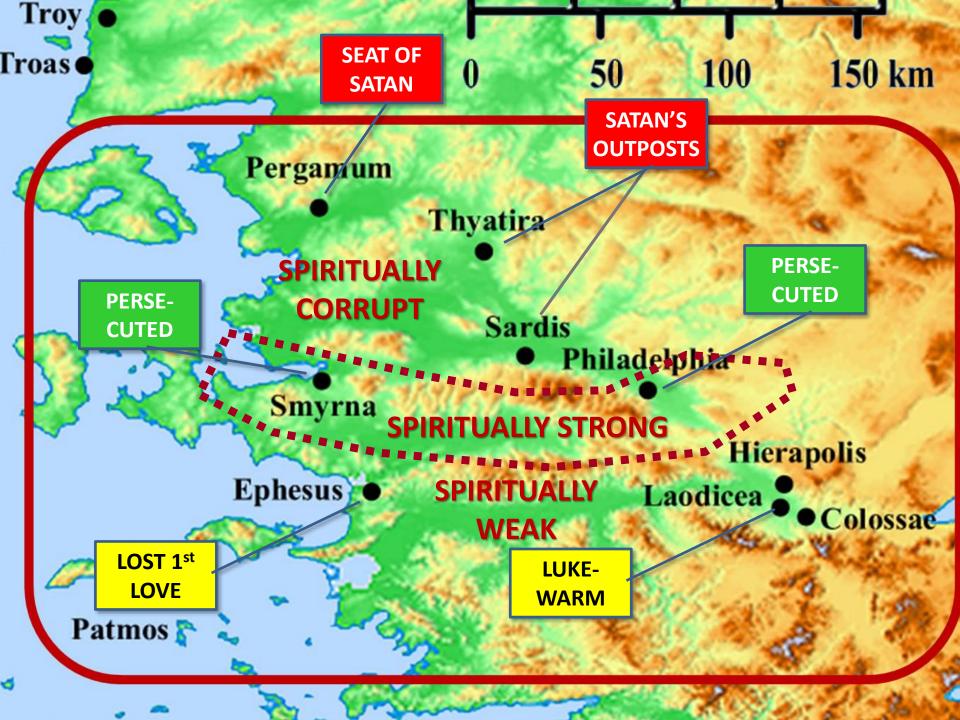
Victory over false Jews (Rev 3:9). Crown of life promised (Rev 3:11)

Laodicea

Neither hot nor cold (Rev 3:15).

Plunged into greatest spiritual darkness in history - into the depths of Satan (Rev 2:24).





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 lergel in Equation to the 10		Tribulation in Covers (10 days) Faithful

Trouble for Israel in Egypt up to the 10 plagues. Passover lamb saved faithful.

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.

Did right in own eyes, married idolatry. Balaam/Balak. Promised hidden manna.

Their own eyes. Balaam/Balak. Manna.

Balaam/Balak. Promised hidden manna

People wanted king. Kingdoms peaked

Parallels Israel becoming kingdom with

W/ Solomon; declined through Jezebel.

Thyatira

Parallels Israel becoming kingdom with imperial papacy. Jezebel.

Cardia (receptor for the paper)

Remnant escape Nebuchadnezzar and remain faithful after AD 606.

Sardis (meaning "remnant") survive through conquest.

Under Cyrus open door to return to Israel and rebuild Temple. Homeland in Israel. Celphia of trial; Open door. Homeland w/ Jesus.

Spiritual Israel blind to Christ despite John the Baptist. Jerusalem destroyed AD 70.

Spiritual Laodicea blind to Christ ("Stand outside and knock.") Jesus offers grace.

Parallels with the Seven Kingdom Parables

Seed is sown. Some is gobbled up by birds. Some superficial. Some burned off by persecution. Some takes root.	Ephesus	False Apostles (birds) error entered the church and Ephesus lost its first love. Nicolaitans (clergy) are a problem.
Enemy sows tares (false Christians) among the wheat. Persecuted by Rome and Synagogue of Satan.	Smyrna	Tribulation in Smyrna (10 days). Faithful promised not hurt of second death. No criticism.
Abhorrent unnatural growth from a small mustard seed into a huge tree, which provides shelter for birds.	Pergamos	Married the world, compromise, served under Satan's seat, Nicolaitans, apostasy, church-state union (4th-5th century).
Woman (Jezebel?) kneads leaven (sin, hypocrisy, wickedness) into fellowship offering; symbolic of sacrifice not peace.	Thyatira	Apostate satanic doctrine and unending sacrifices; parallels Israel becoming kingdom with imperial papacy; Jezebel.
Treasure (faithful Jewish remnant in the diaspora) hidden in the field (world). Jesus' sacrifice buys the field for them.	Sardis	Sardis (meaning "remnant") survive through conquest; dead church; real remnant are those few remaining faithful.
Oysters not Kosher. Jewish Merchants sell but do not prize pearls. They grow by irritation; must leave shell for value.	Phila- delphia	Small faithful Christian remnant spared severe hour of trial; open door. Promised homeland with Jesus.

Laodicea

Parable of the net where all are caught

and separated afterwards.

Rich in worldly wealth but spiritually poor,

Laodicea blind to Christ ("I stand outside

and knock"). Jesus offers grace.

Summary of the Church Age

book of Acts).

Brief description

Rapid spread during the lives of the apostles (see the

Church Age

Ephesus

AD 30-100

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.

Patterns recur over time

City	Prophetic patterns observed
Ephesus ("Desirable"; "Desired One")	Most desirable tourism site in Asia. Artemis amulets local best seller. First love (Living Water) lost as bay receded (siltified); new attempts to recreate canal.
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" or "Serpent")	Satan's seat now in Berlin inspired Nazi ceremonies. Caduceus (commerce) now used as medical symbol. Plundered by archaeologists; treasures in Berlin.
Thyatira ("Perpetual sacrifice")	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.

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

("Perpetual sacrifice", "Semiramis")

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

Revelation 2 & 3 versus Paul's Epistles

Revelation Chapters 2 & 3

Paul's 7 epistles

- Ephesus ("Desired One" or "Darling")
- Smyrna ("Myrrh", "Suffering" or "Death")
- Pergamos ("Mixed marriage" or "Serpent")
- Thyatira ("Perpetual sacrifice", "Semiramis")
- Sardis ("Escaping" or "Remnant")
- Philadelphia ("Brotherly love", "Church of Love")
- Laodicea ("Rule of the people", Lukewarm")

- 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).

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.

Each letter applies to YOU AND ME individually

- Ephesus Neglected priorities ("Desired One" or "Darling")
- Smyrna
 Satanic opposition
 ("Myrrh", "Suffering" or "Death")
- Thyatira Flee pagan practices; the Word ("Perpetual sacrifice", "Semiramis")
- Philadelphia > Loyal Ambassadorship ("Brotherly love", "Church of Love")

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

("Perpetual sacrifice", "Semiramis")

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

Revelation 2 & 3 versus Paul's Epistles

Revelation Chapters 2 & 3

Paul's 7 epistles

- Ephesus ("Desired One" or "Darling")
- Smyrna ("Myrrh", "Suffering" or "Death")
- Pergamos ("Mixed marriage" or "Serpent")
- Thyatira ("Perpetual sacrifice", "Semiramis")
- Sardis ("Red Stone" or "Remnant")
- Philadelphia ("Brotherly love", "Church of Love")
- Laodicea ("Rule of the people", Lukewarm")

- 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).