



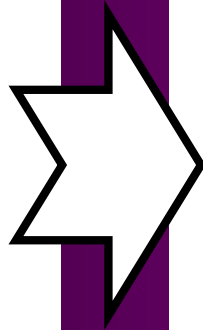
Revelation 2

Christ's Writing Ministry

Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary • BibleStudyDownloads.org

**We have victory when we see that
Jesus rules over...**

**DEATH
(1)**



**CHURCHES
(2-3)**

Outline of Revelation

Revelation 2

If Jesus wrote a letter to **your** church,
what would Jesus say?



Asia Minor in AD 95

345



The 7 Churches (Rev. 2–3)

345



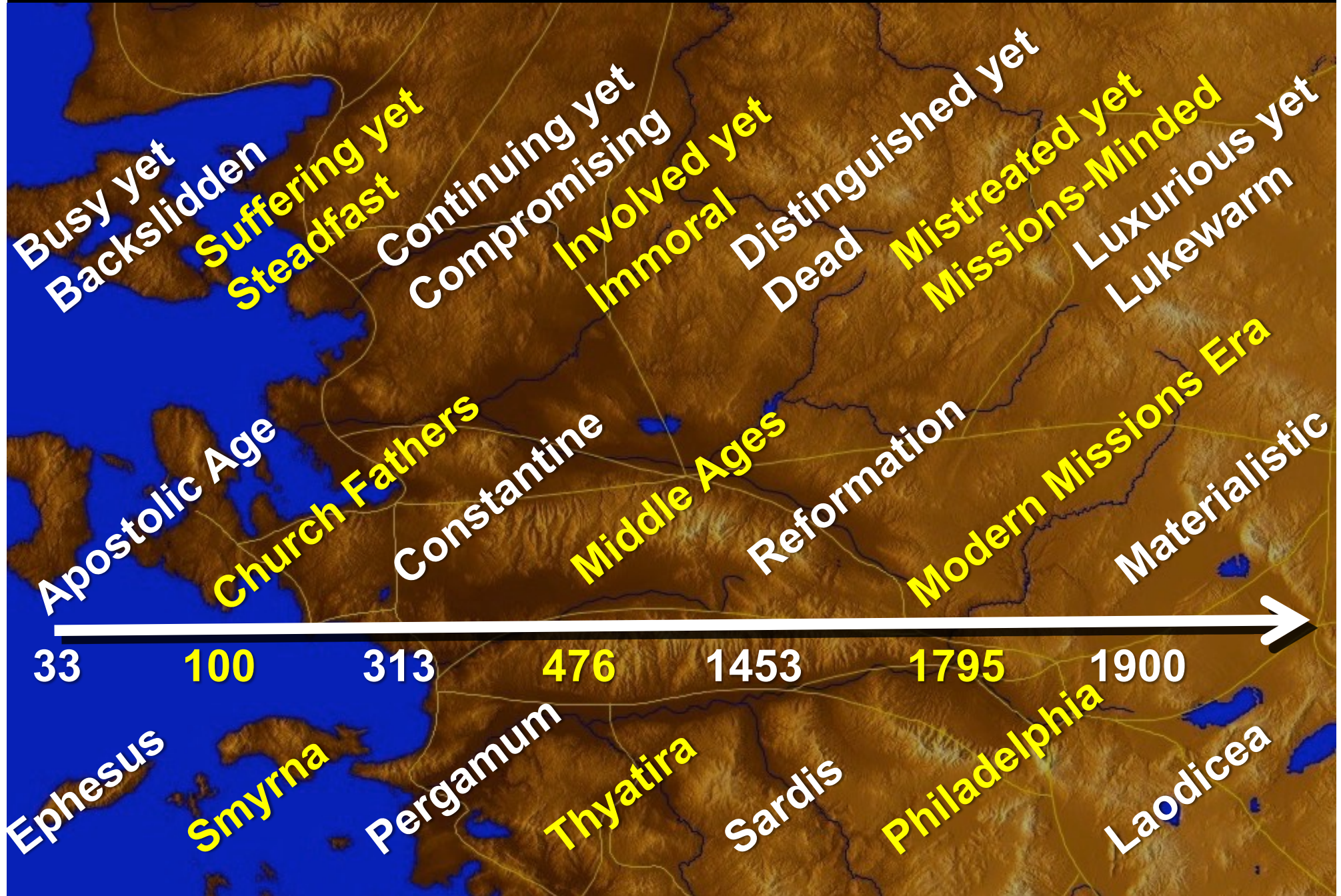
The 7 Churches (Rev. 2–3)

345



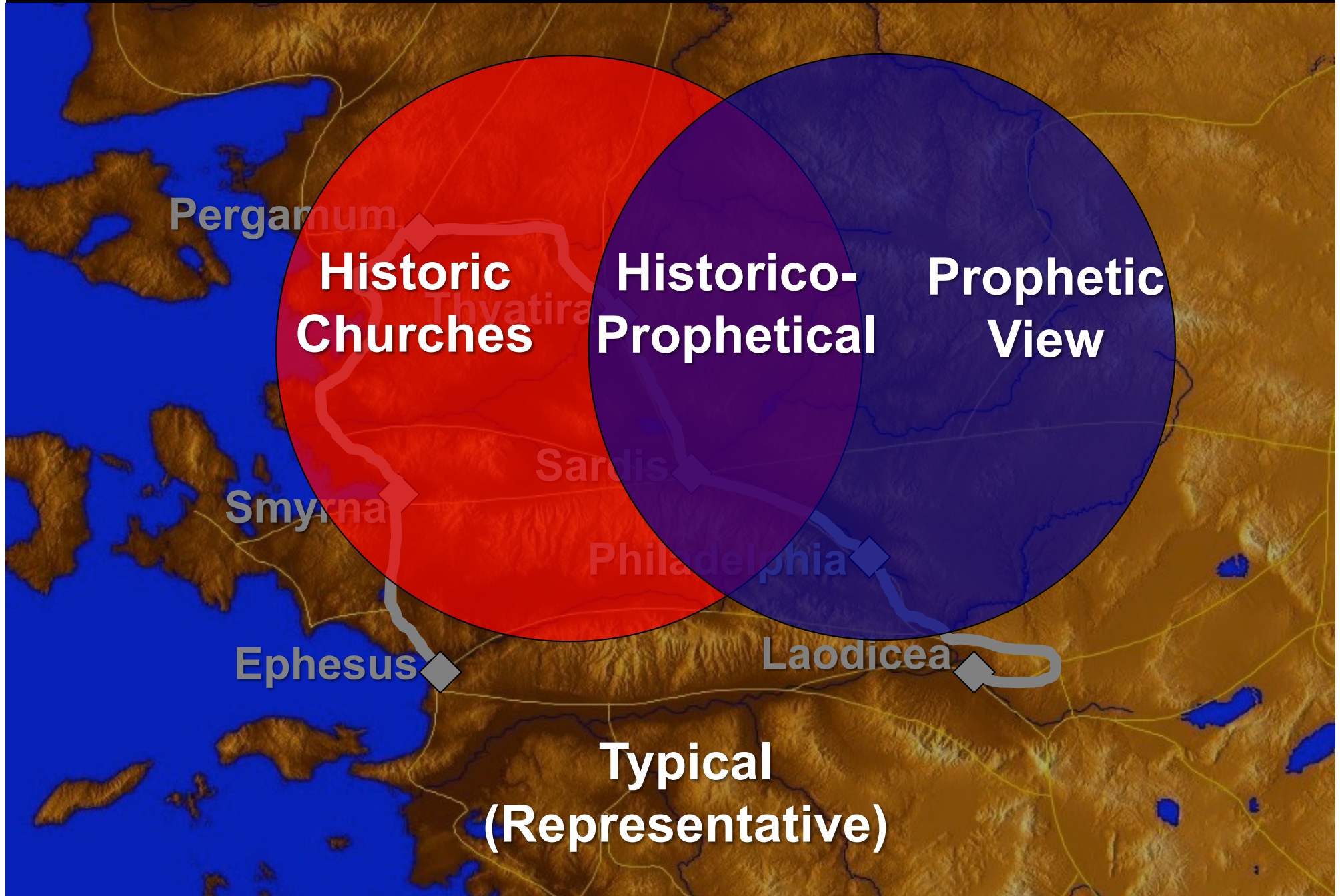
7 Church Stages?

347



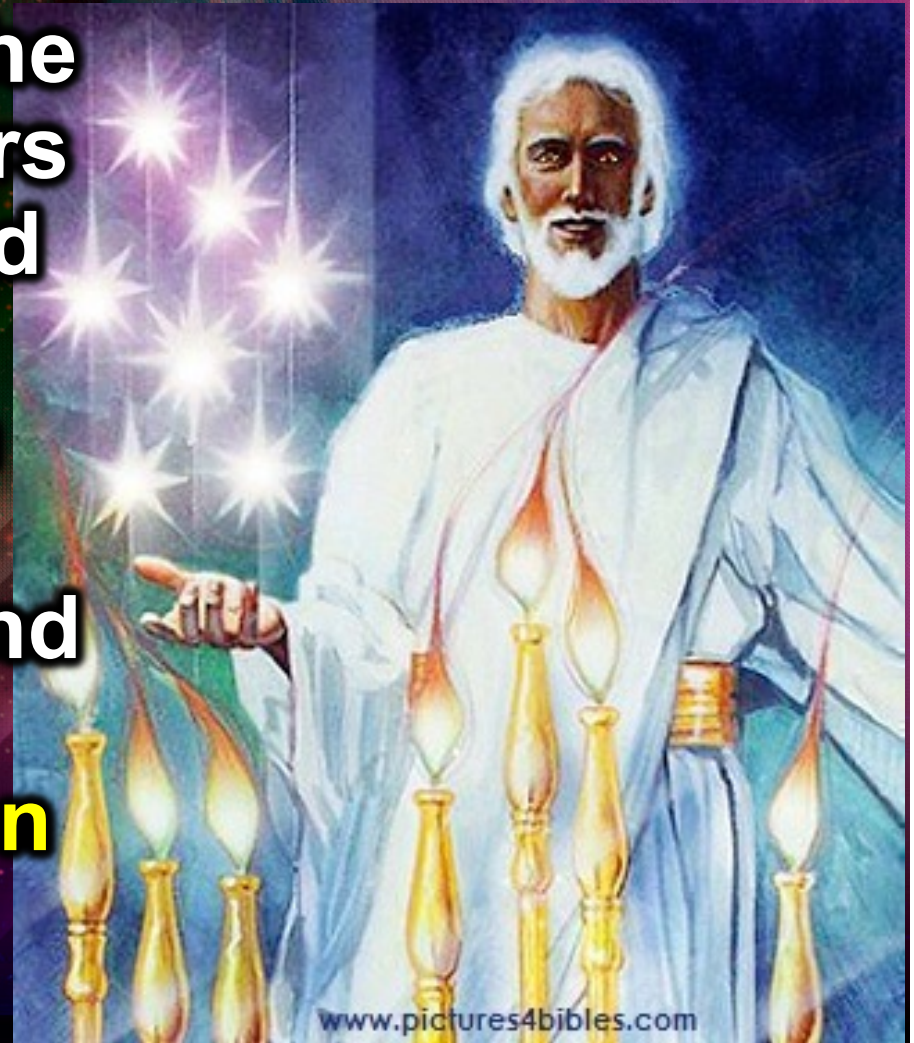
Four Views on Rev. 2–3

345



What are the 7 Stars & 7 Lampstands (1:20 NLT)?

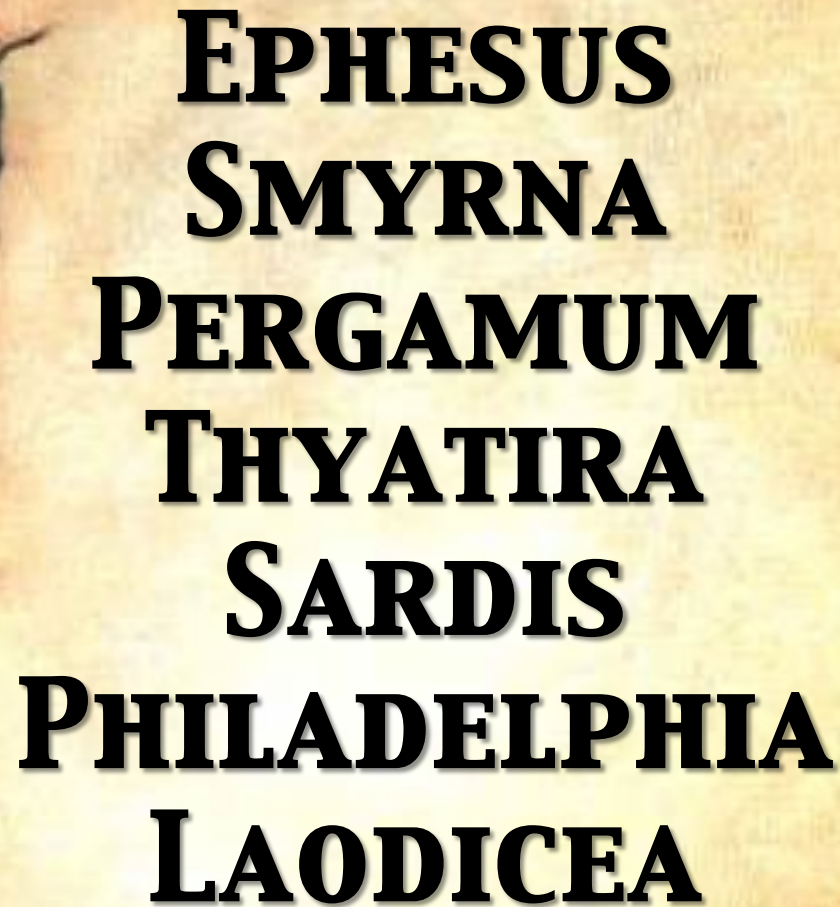
"This is the meaning of the mystery of the seven stars you saw in my right hand and the seven gold lampstands: The seven **stars are the angels** of the seven churches, and the seven **lampstands are the seven churches.**"



**Christ has
authority
over all
churches**



**So Jesus
wrote 7
churches
(Rev 2–3)**



**EPHESUS
SMYRNA
PERGAMUM
THYATIRA
SARDIS
PHILADELPHIA
LAODICEA**

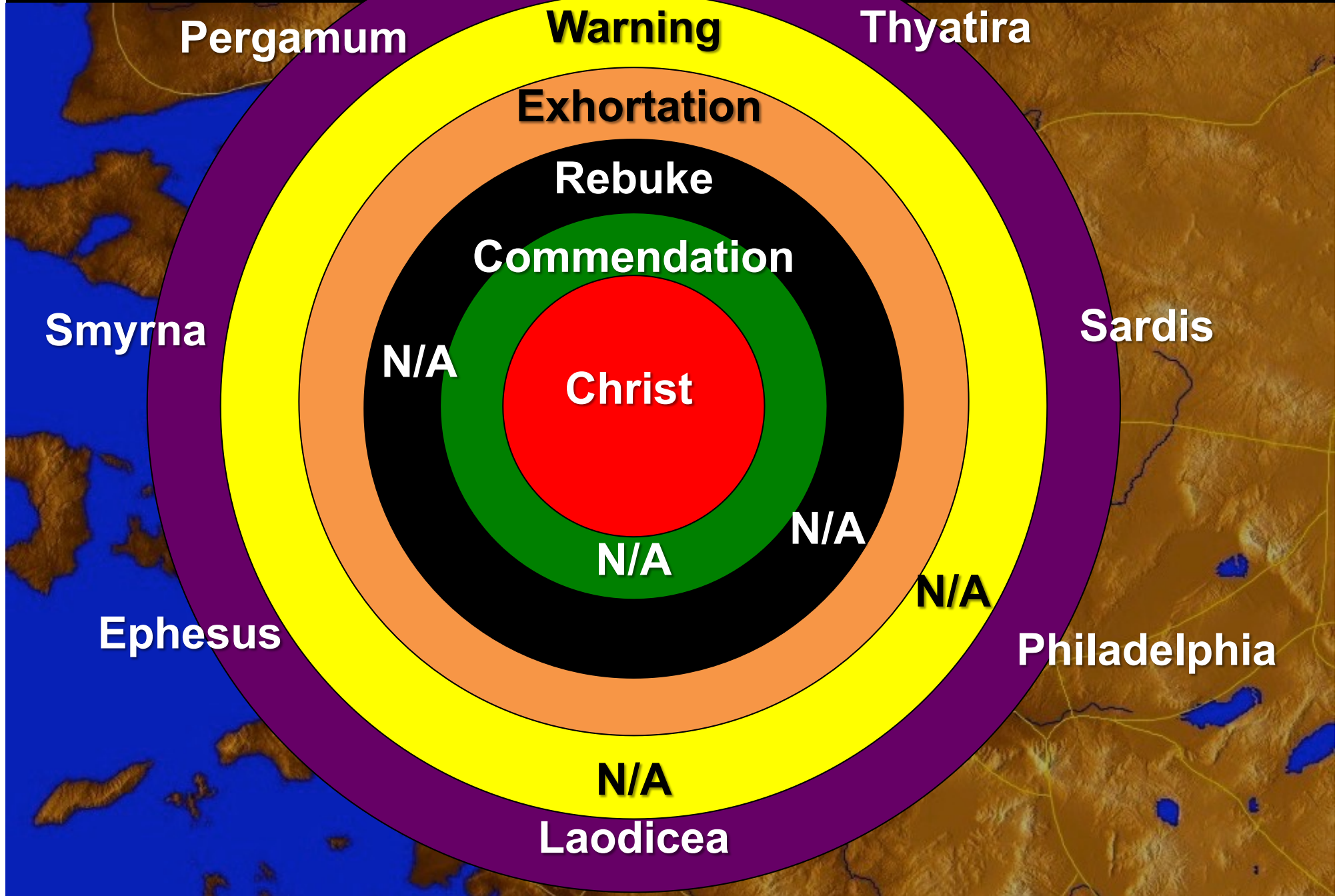
Sovereignty of Christ in Future Victory


318, 324 M

Revelation

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sovereignty in His Person | | | Sovereignty over Churches | Sovereignty in End-Time Events | | | | |
| Chapter 1 | | | Chapters 2–3 | Chapters 4–22 | | | | |
| "What you have seen" (1:19a) | | | "What is now" (1:19b) | "What will take place later" (1:19c) | | | | |
| Past | | | Present | Future | | | | |
| Christ Unveiled | | | Churches Unveiled | Consummation Unveiled | | | | |
| God on Earth | | | God's Ambassadors on Earth | Hell on Earth to Heaven on Earth | | | | |
| The Judge | | | The Assignments | The Judgments & Rewards | | | | |
| Subject 1:1-3 | Worship of Trinity 1:4-8 | Glorified Christ 1:9-20 | Seven Churches of Asia: Ephesus Smyrna Pergamum Thyatira Sardis Philadelphia Laodicea | Tribulation 4:1–19:10 | Second Coming 19:11-21 | Millennium 20 | Eternal State 21:1–22:5 | Closing: Imminency 22:6-21 |

The 7 Churches (Rev. 2–3)



The background of the slide is a photograph of the ancient ruins of Ephesus, Turkey. The scene shows a hillside covered in dry, yellowish-brown grass and some green shrubs. In the foreground and middle ground, there are several stone structures, including walls and columns, some of which appear to be in various stages of ruin or partially buried. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The text is overlaid on this image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Ephesus
Busy But Backslidden
Revelation 2:1-7



Ephesus was the capital of Asia

Learning to Love Again

Revelation 2:1-7

Lewis Winkler

Crossroads International Church

BibleStudyDownloads.org

The Seven Churches of Revelation

Learning to Love Again



Introduction:

- **What is true love?**
- **What comes to your mind when you hear the phrase, “first love”?**
- **What happens when our first loves dies?**
- **How can we learn to love again?**

Opening Explanation (1):

■ To the Church at Ephesus



Ephesus:

- **At that time it was the most important city in western Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey).**

Ephesus

Cayster River

Ephesus City Layout

Temple of
Diana
(Artemis)

Koressos
Gate

Gymnasium

Stadium

Mt. Pion

Canal

Harbor

Baths

Gymnasium

Theater

Hill of
Astyages

Gate

Acadian Avenue

Byzantine
Walls

Fort

Agora

Temple of
Serapis

Prytaneum

Gymnasium

Library of
Celsus

Palace

Odeon

Gate

Palace

Magnesia
Gate

Mt. Koressos



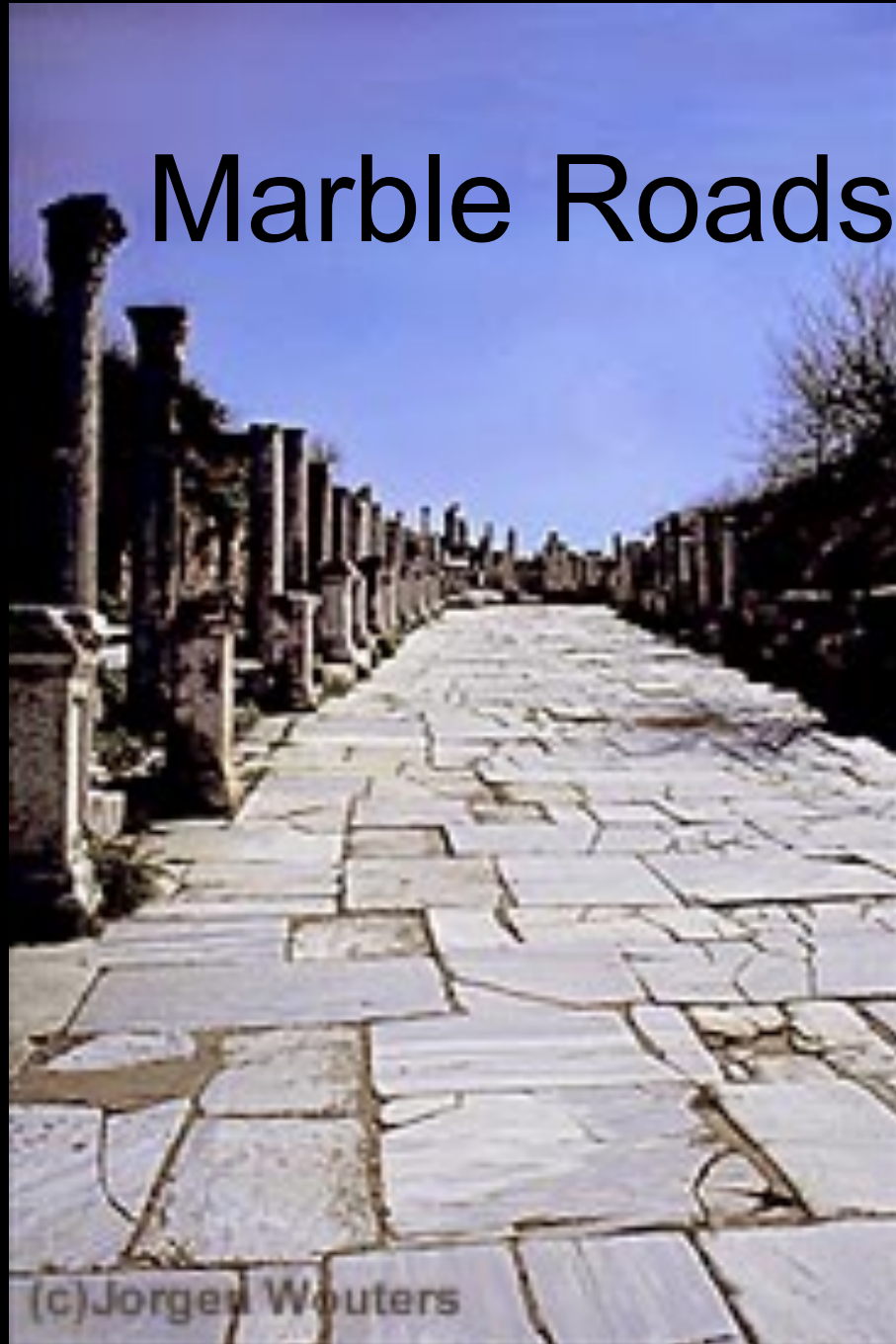


Photo Album

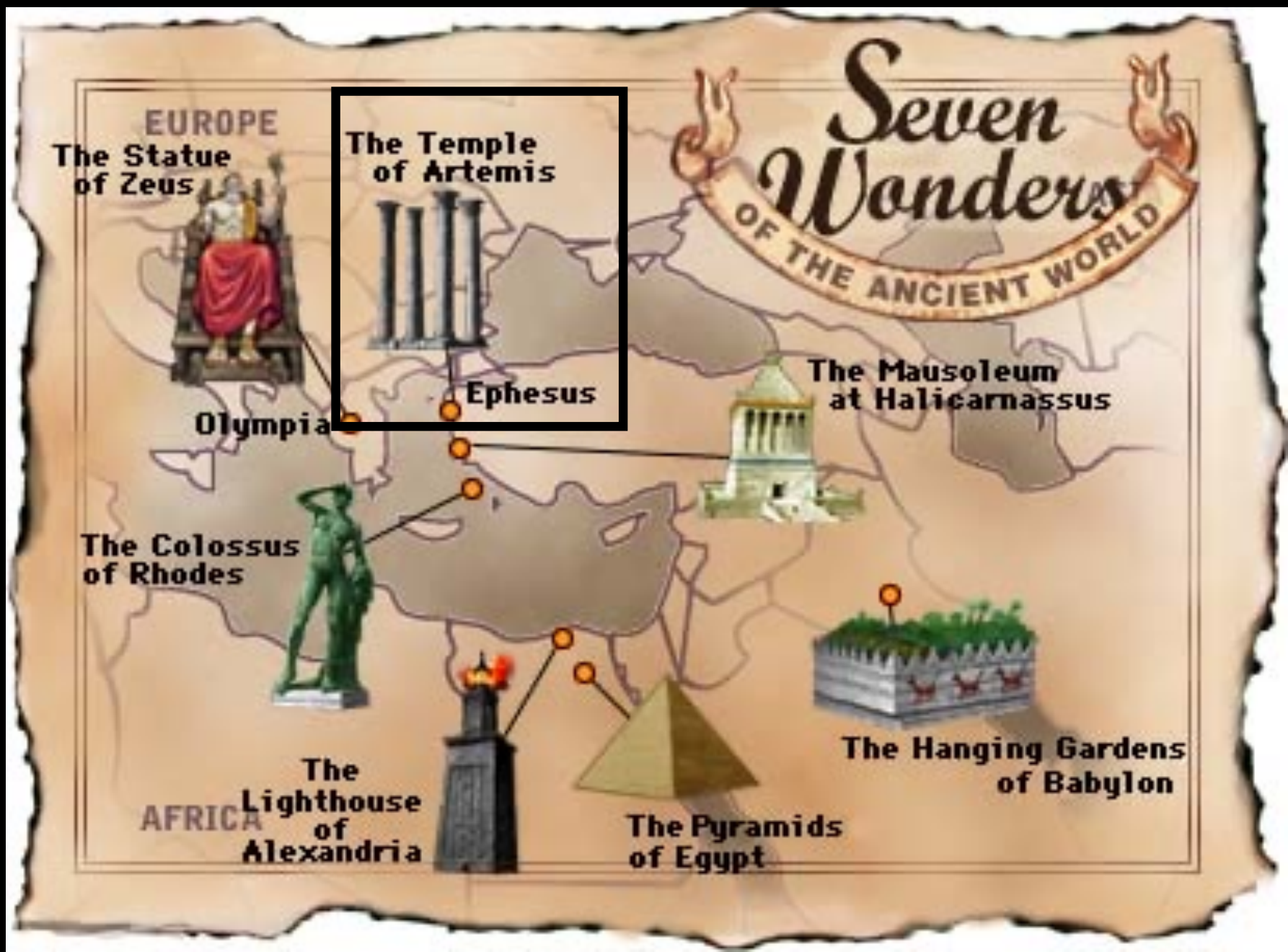
Artemis, Goddess of Fertility



Marble Roads



(c) Jorges Wouters



Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus

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The Temple of Artemis
at Ephesus
sunrise scene



copyright 1999 Bill Munns

Ephesus:

- It was home to the Magnificent Temple of Artemis (Diana).

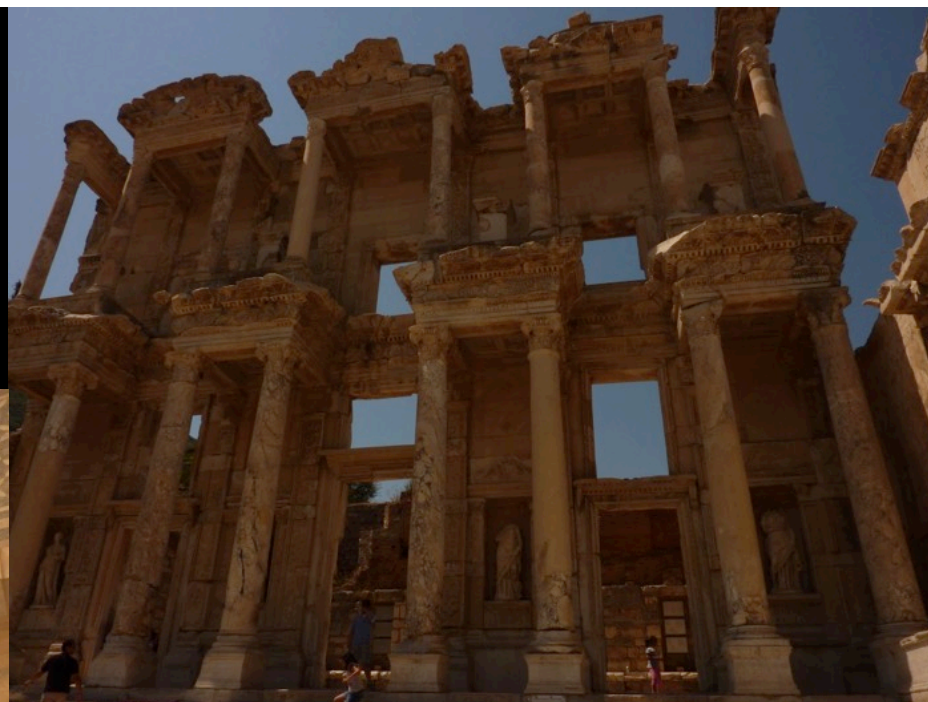


180c



Artemis (Diana) Video (cf. Acts 19)

Ephesus Today:





The Temple of Diana (Artemis) Today



Caesar



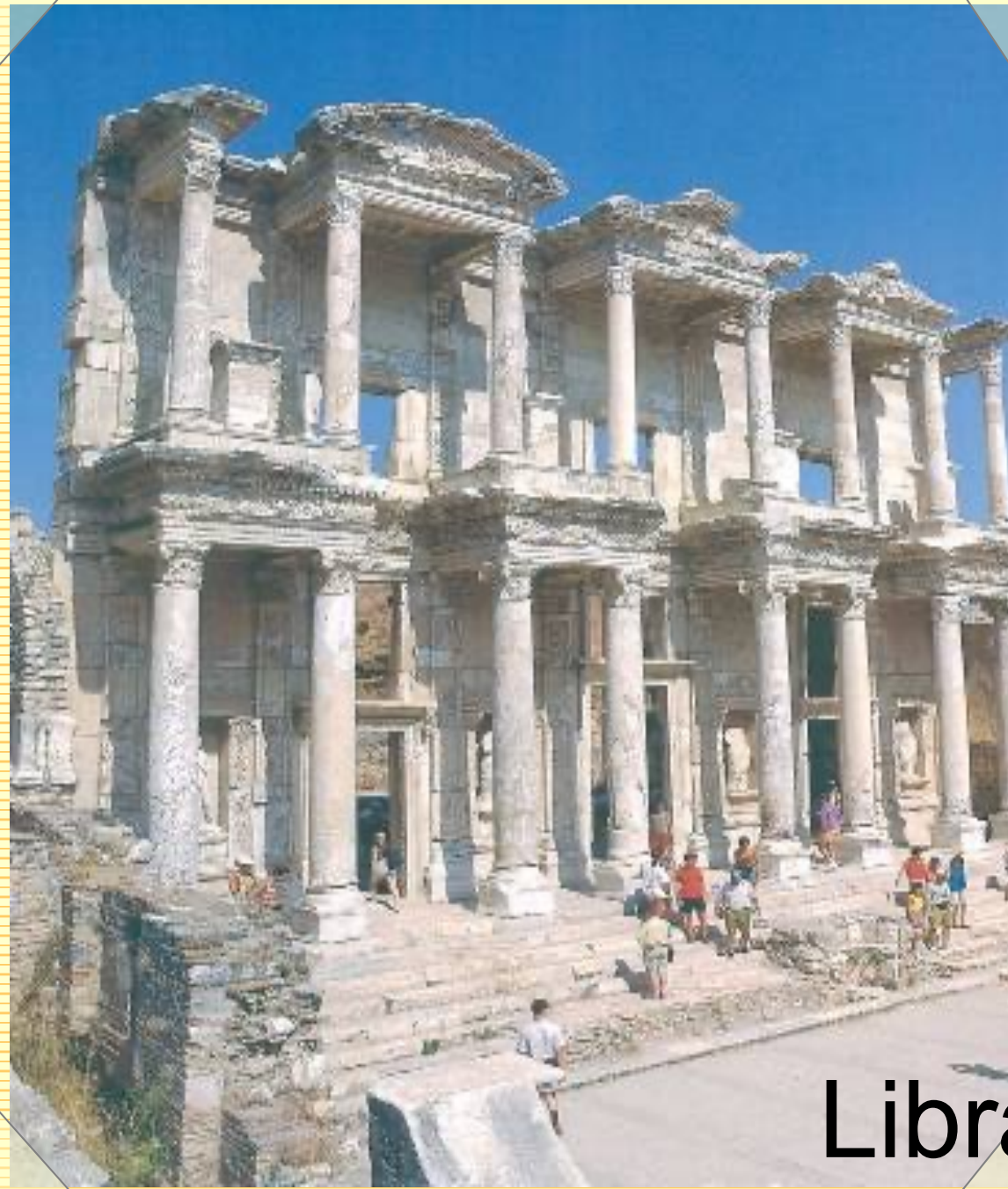
The Library of Caesar

theh'-at-ron

Theater Seats 25,000



Acts 19:29



Library

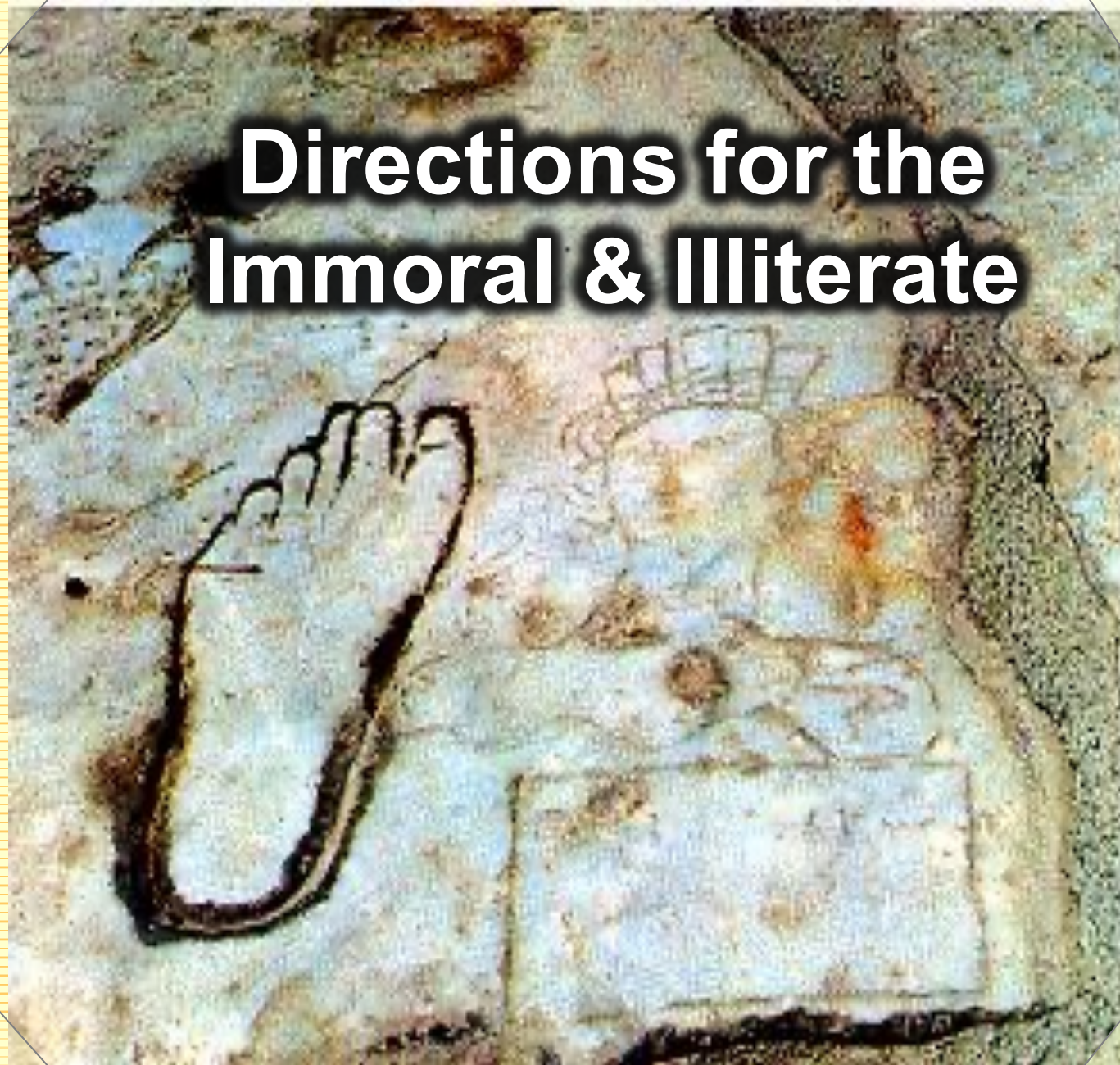


Amphitheatre

Arcadian Avenue



Directions for the Immoral & Illiterate



Toilets and aqueduct



Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7)

349

Promise

You will eat
from the tree
of life

Pergam

atira

Smyr

ardis

Ephe

iladelphia



"This is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, the one who walks among the seven gold lampstands" (2:1b)



Opening Explanation (1):

- To the “angel” of the Church in Ephesus



Three Likely Possibilities:

- They are spiritual beings (“angels”) that watch over each of the churches.
- They are references to the pastoral leader of each of the churches.
- They represent the prevailing spirit of each individual church.

Opening *Explanation* (1):

- From Jesus Who Cares for and Walks with the Church



Encouraging Commendation (2-3, 6):

- I know your deeds.

Encouraging Commendation (2-3, 6):

- Your Hard work (2)
- Your Intolerance of Wicked People (2)
- Your Testing of and Refusal to Accept People Claiming (But Failing) to Be Apostles (2)
- Your Energetic Endurance through Hardship for Jesus' Sake (3)
- Your Hatred of Nicolaitan Practices (6)

Some Food for Thought:

- **How would Jesus encourage and commend Crossroads International Church?**
- **How would Jesus encourage and commend you personally?**

Cautionary *Exhortation* (4-5):

- You have forsaken your first love.

“They had yielded to the temptation, ever present to Christians, to put all their emphasis on sound teaching. In the process, they lost love, without which all else is nothing.”

—Leon Morris

Cautionary *Exhortation* (4-5):

- How do we learn to love again?
- Remember!
- Repent!
- Redo!

Learning to Love Again:

- Remember!

- But what?

Learning to Love Again:

- **Repent!**
- **But of what?**

Learning to Love Again:

- **Redo!**

- **But what?**

The First Love of the Ephesians (Acts 19:8-20):

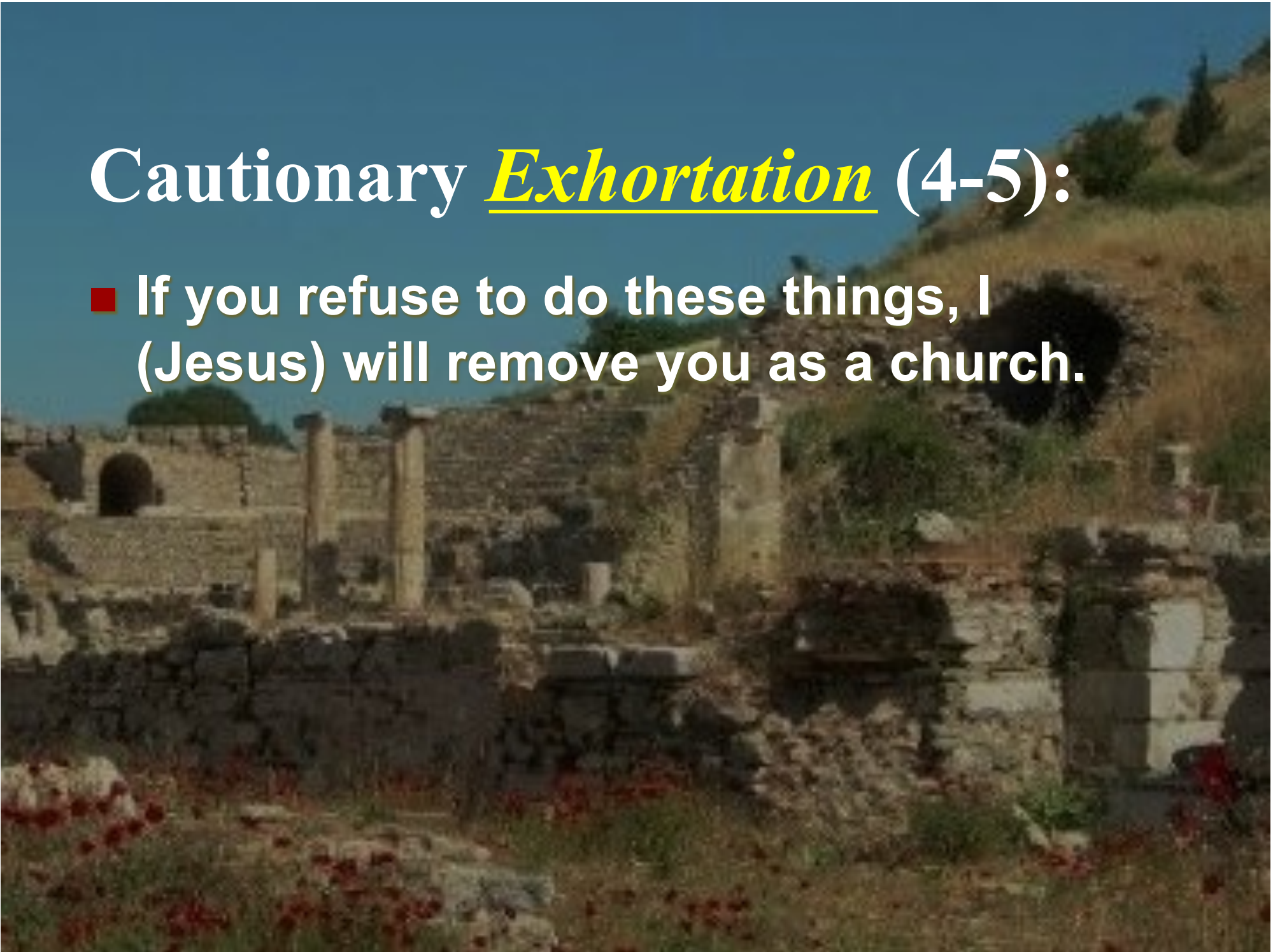
- **They held the name of Christ “in high honor” (verse 17).**
- **They “openly confessed their evil deeds” (verse 18).**
- **Those who had previously practiced sorcery “brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly” (verse 19).**

The First Love of the Ephesians (Acts 19:8-20):

- **As a result, “the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power” (verse 20).**

Cautionary *Exhortation* (4-5):

- If you refuse to do these things, I (Jesus) will remove you as a church.



Some Food for Thought:

- How would Jesus warn Crossroads International Church?
- What do we need to remember?
- What do we need to repent of?
- What do we need to start doing (again)?
- How can we truly make Jesus our first love?

Closing Motivation (7):

- If you are spiritually sensitive, then listen!
- The overcomers of evil will eat from the tree of life in God's eternal kingdom (heaven)!

Closing *Motivation* (7):

“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb, down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. . . . They will see [God’s] face and his name will be on their foreheads. . . . And they will reign forever and ever. . . . These words are trustworthy and true.”

—Revelation 22:1-6

C. S. Lewis from “The Weight of Glory”

“If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. *We are far too easily pleased.*”



Conclusion:

- **Jesus calls us to love Him first and foremost by:**
- **REMEMBERING**
- **REPENTING**
- **REDOING**

Main Idea:

In order to restore our first love, we must remember, repent, and redo.

Personal Application:

- **What do I need to remember?**
- **What do I need to repent of?**
- **What do I need to do again—or perhaps begin to do for the very first time—to really love Jesus as my first and foremost love?**

A Story of First Love:

■ Ocean City, New Jersey, 1986



A Story of First Love:

■ The Caleb Declaration:

THE CALEB DECLARATION

"Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, 'We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we shall surely overcome it.'" Numbers 13:30

Compelled by my 'first love' for Jesus Christ, I will obey the Great Commission of Mt. 28:18-20 for the rest of my life. In doing so, I will accept the priority of Paul to see the gospel preached among those peoples where Christ is not yet named.

(Romans 15:20)

I will also endeavor to fulfill the Caleb Commitments.

Signed Lewis Winkler Date 7/4/86

CALEB COMMITMENTS

1. I will go to another culture or stay in this one, depending on the Lord's leading.
2. I will impart my understanding of Christ's global cause to other students.
3. As other students become committed to Christ's global cause, I will trust God that three of them will be able to demonstrate this commitment by signing The Caleb Declaration.
4. I will attempt to share my vision and elicit commitment through the church denomination or student organization of which I am currently a member.
5. I acknowledge the need for accountability and will send in the prescribed monthly reports explaining my current progress for one year and then until I no longer need them. When I am no longer sending in accountability sheets, I will periodically inform Caleb Project of my activities.

A Story of First Love:

■ International School of Theology, 1993



A Story of First Love:

- **But somewhere along the way**

I gradually, almost imperceptibly, became comfortable, complacent, and content in my walk with God, even though I was still in full-time ministry.

A Story of First Love:

- Then, in the winter of 2002 at a cabin in the southern California mountains . . .



A Story of First Love:



- Singapore and the East Asia School of Theology in August 2006



A Story of First Love:

- **Crossroads
International Church,
November 2006**



The Ongoing Challenge:

- Do you love Jesus above all other loves?
- If you have let other people, pursuits, and things crowd out your love for Him, are you willing to learn to love Him as your first love again?

Book Chart of Ephesians

Jew-Gentile Unity Shown in Love

Unity as Equals

Chapters 1—3

Doctrine

Position

Belief

Privileges

Salutation

1:1-2

Position

1:3-23

Reconciliation

2

Uniqueness

3

Unity

4:1-16

Holiness

4:17—5:20

Submission

5:21—6:9

Reliance

6:10-20

Love

6:21-24

Love as Testimony

Chapters 4—6

Application

Practice

Behaviour

Responsibilities

Rome

Fall AD 60 (first Roman imprisonment)

Remember when you loved at first?



Ephesus: Busy Yet Backslidden

*Yet I hold this against you:
You have forsaken
your first love.*



Revelation 2:4 (NIV)

Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11



The Church of Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11)

Suffering Yet Steadfast

Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church • biblestudydownloads.com

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church 11-10-2013



A photograph of a white dome with a golden cross on top, set against a light sky. The cross is made of wood and has a traditional Latin cross shape. The dome is made of white stone or plaster and has a ribbed structure. The background is a clear, light blue sky.

22 Sep 2013

All-Saints Church



Peshawar

PAKISTAN





All-Saints Church



All-Saints Church





All-Saints Church






Eshaan & Neha



90 killed
150 wounded
13 widows
36 orphans
53 families lost bread
winners

All-Saints Church





**Doctors
Absent**

All-Saints Church

the Nation



All-Saints Church



**In what
area are
you
"taking
hits" for
your faith
in Christ?**



**How does
Jesus want
you to
respond to
suffering?**



Christ's Writing Ministry

If Jesus wrote a letter to **our**
church,
what would Jesus say?



Asia Minor in AD 95

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The 7 Churches (Rev. 2–3)

345

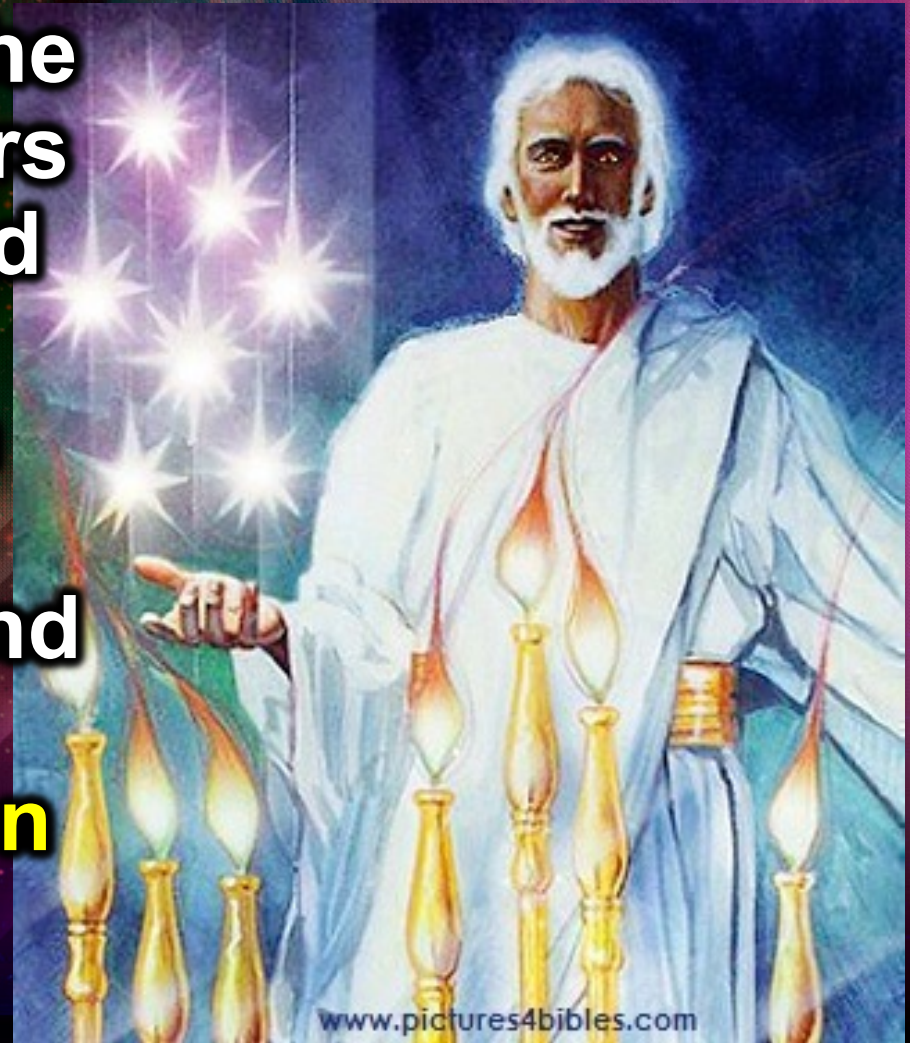


The 7 Churches (Rev. 2–3)



What are the 7 Stars & 7 Lampstands (1:20 NLT)?

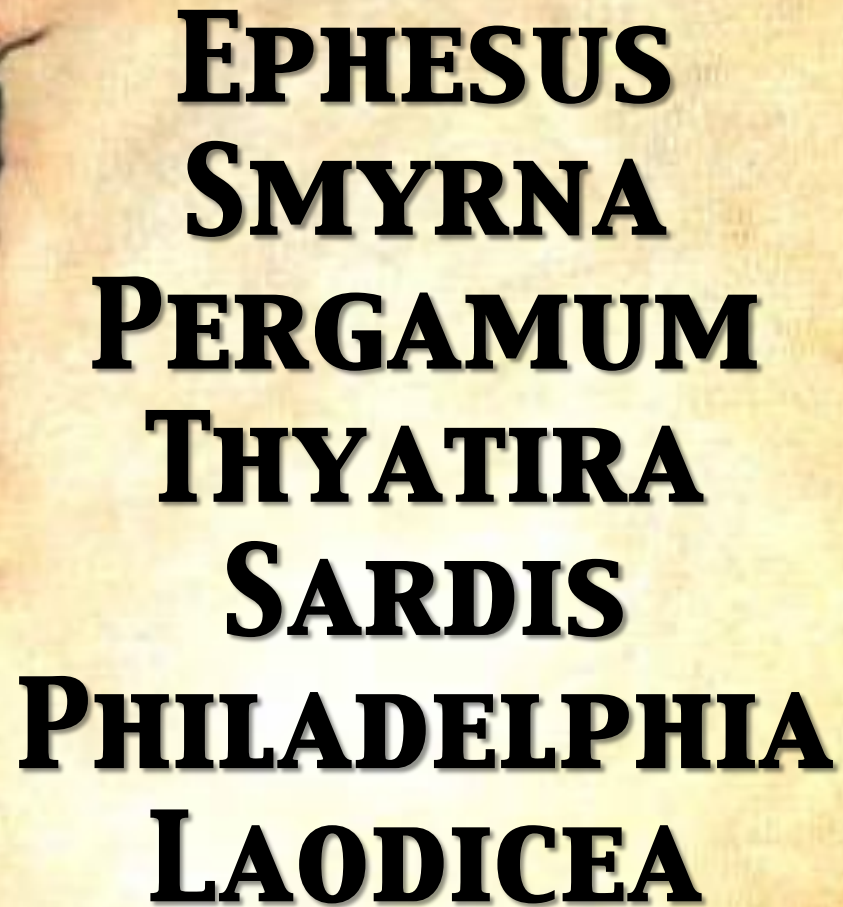
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**Christ has
authority
over all
churches**



**So Jesus
wrote 7
churches
(Rev. 2–3)**



**EPHESUS
SMYRNA
PERGAMUM
THYATIRA
SARDIS
PHILADELPHIA
LAODICEA**

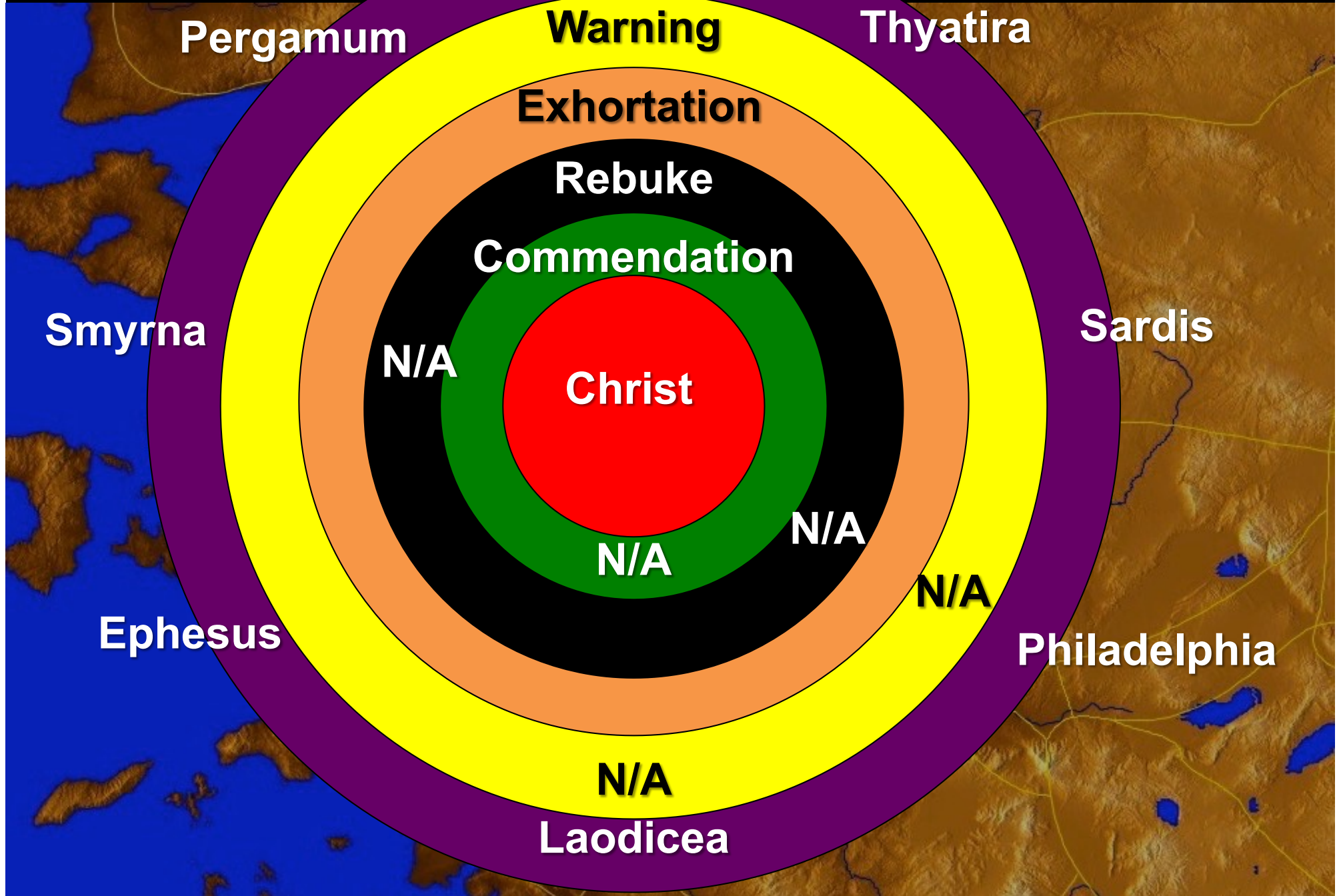
Sovereignty of Christ in Future Victory

318, 324 M

Revelation

| | | | | | | | | |
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The 7 Churches (Rev. 2–3)





**Ephesus was the
capital of Asia**

Ephesus: Busy Yet Backslidden

*Yet I hold this against you:
You have forsaken
your first love.*



Revelation 2:4 (NIV)



**How can we handle suffering?
Christ gave Smyrna three ways.**

I. Recognize that
Christ
understands
your suffering (2:8-9)



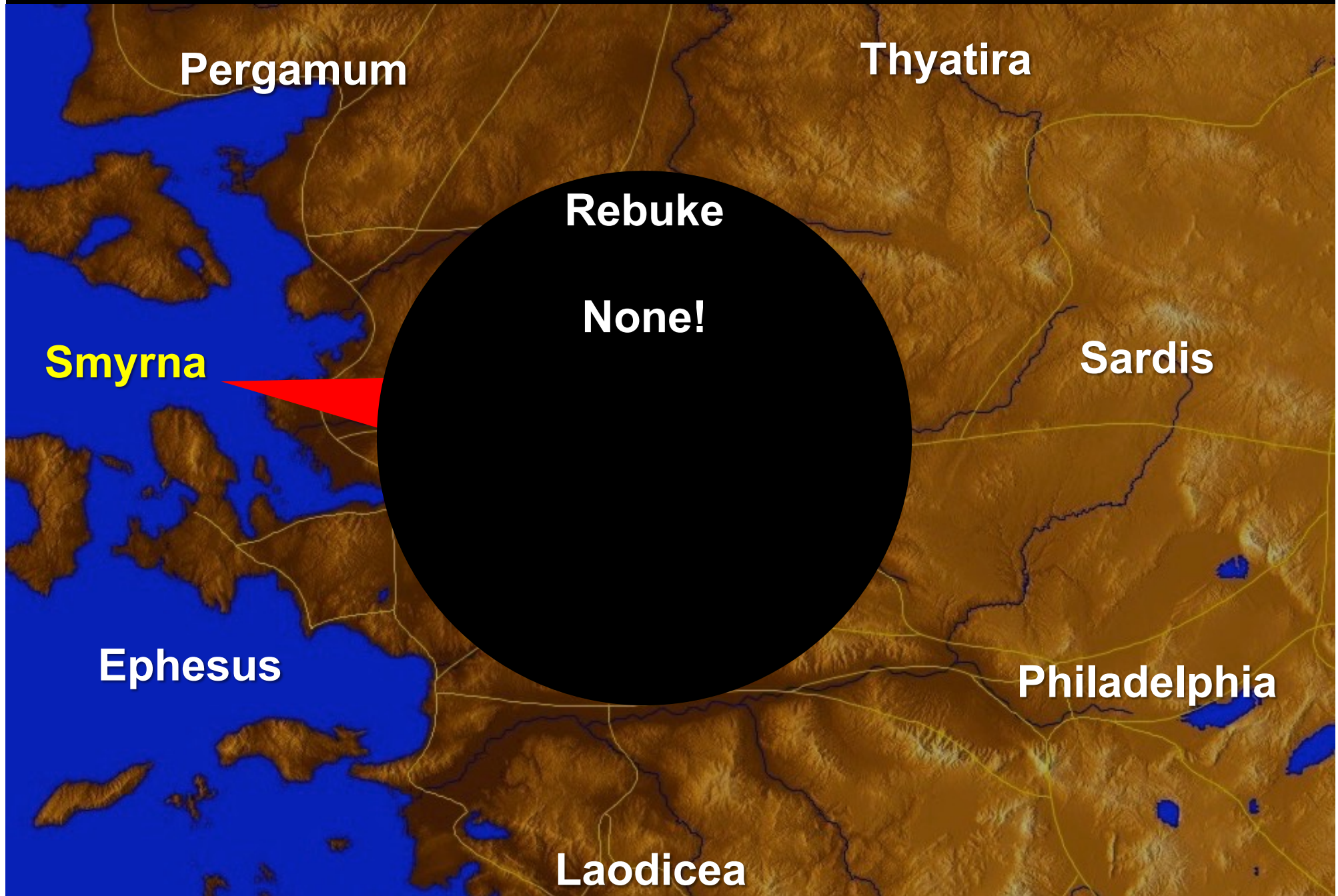
The 7 Churches (Rev. 2–3)

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Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11)

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Pergamum

Thyatira

Rebuke

None!

Smyrna

Sardis

Ephesus

Philadelphia

Laodicea



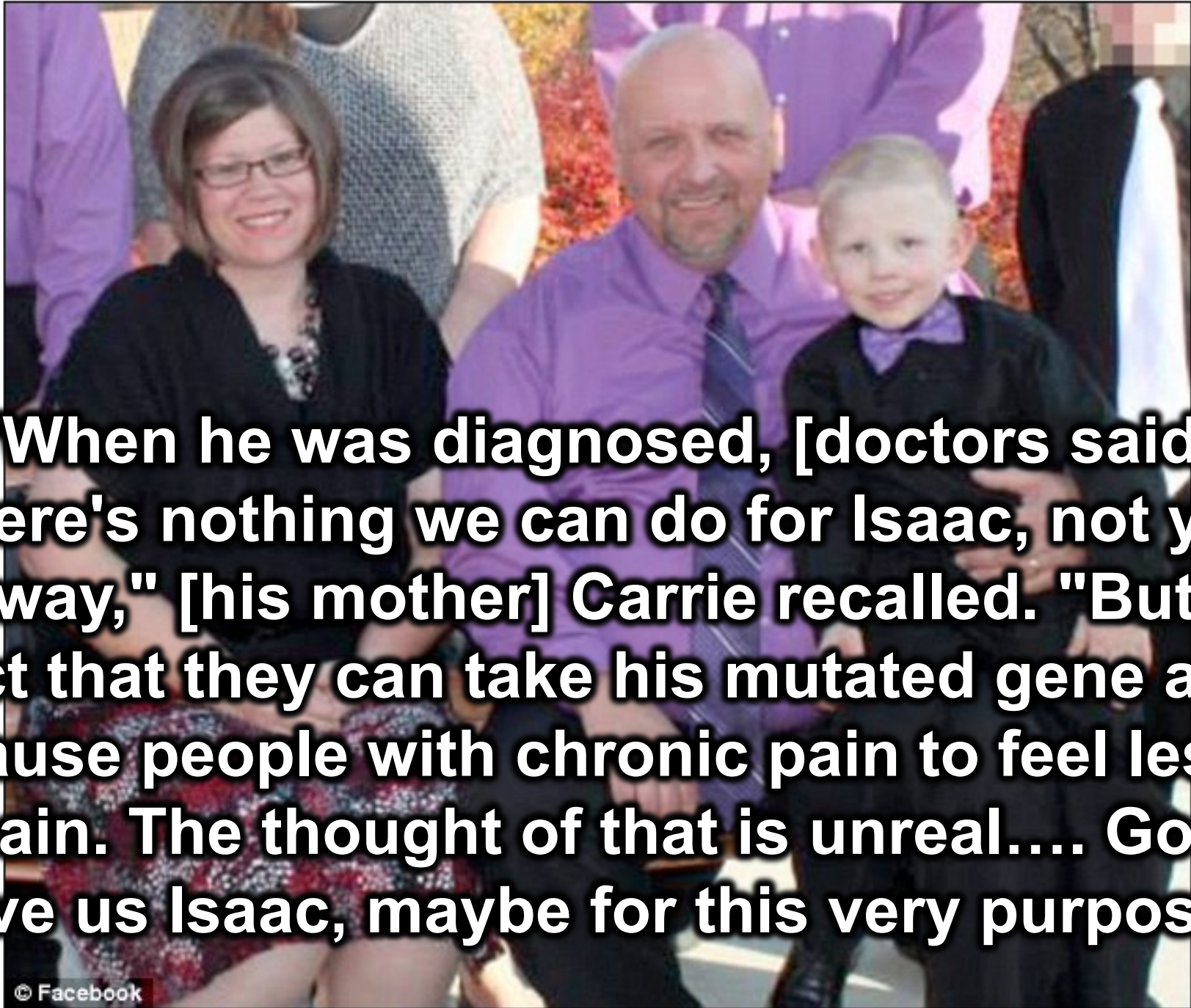
**Thank Christ that he
understands your own
area of suffering**

Isaac Brown

The Boy Who Feels NO Pain



<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/meet-toddler-feels-pain/story?id=20658484>



"When he was diagnosed, [doctors said] there's nothing we can do for Isaac, not yet anyway," [his mother] Carrie recalled. "But the fact that they can take his mutated gene and cause people with chronic pain to feel less pain. The thought of that is unreal.... God gave us Isaac, maybe for this very purpose."

© Facebook

Reasons for Suffering

John Walvoord, "Revelation," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 2:935

“Suffering can be expected for the ungodly, but why should the godly suffer? The Scriptures give a number of reasons.

Suffering may be:

- 1. disciplinary** (1 Cor. 11:30-32; Heb. 12:3-13),
- 2. preventive** (as Paul’s thorn in the flesh, 2 Cor. 12:7),
- 3. the learning of obedience** (as Christ’s suffering, Heb. 5:8; cf. Rom. 5:3-5), or
- 4. the providing of a better testimony for Christ** (as in Acts 9:16).”

Christ feels your pain.



I. Recognize that
Christ
understands
your suffering (2:8-9)



II. Don't **fear** suffering for Christ (2:10a)



Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11)

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Who fears more?

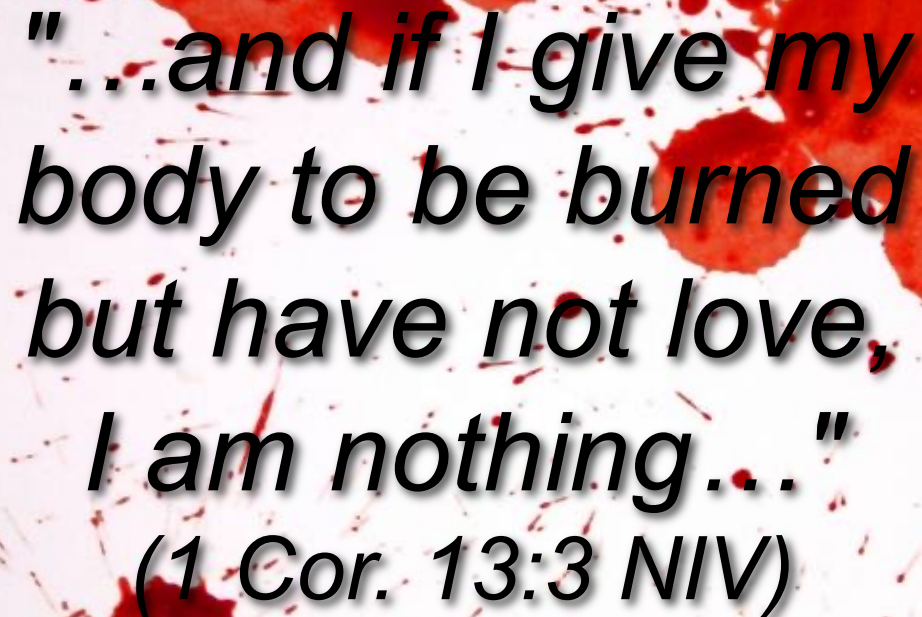


Persecutors?

Persecuted?

"Do not fear **what they**
[persecutors] **fear...**"
(1 Peter 3:14b)

Giving



*"...and if I give my
body to be burned
but have not love,
I am nothing..."
(1 Cor. 13:3 NIV)*

by Blue.Ice.Artwork

"The Blood of the Martyrs is the seed of the Church"

-Tertullian-

Responses

Dedicated to the Martyrs of All Saints
Church Peshawar Blast



No one can move them, neither can they tremble

Sometimes we react based on fear



Political Responses



**Indian Christians Call to End
Relations with Pakistan**

Responses of Anger



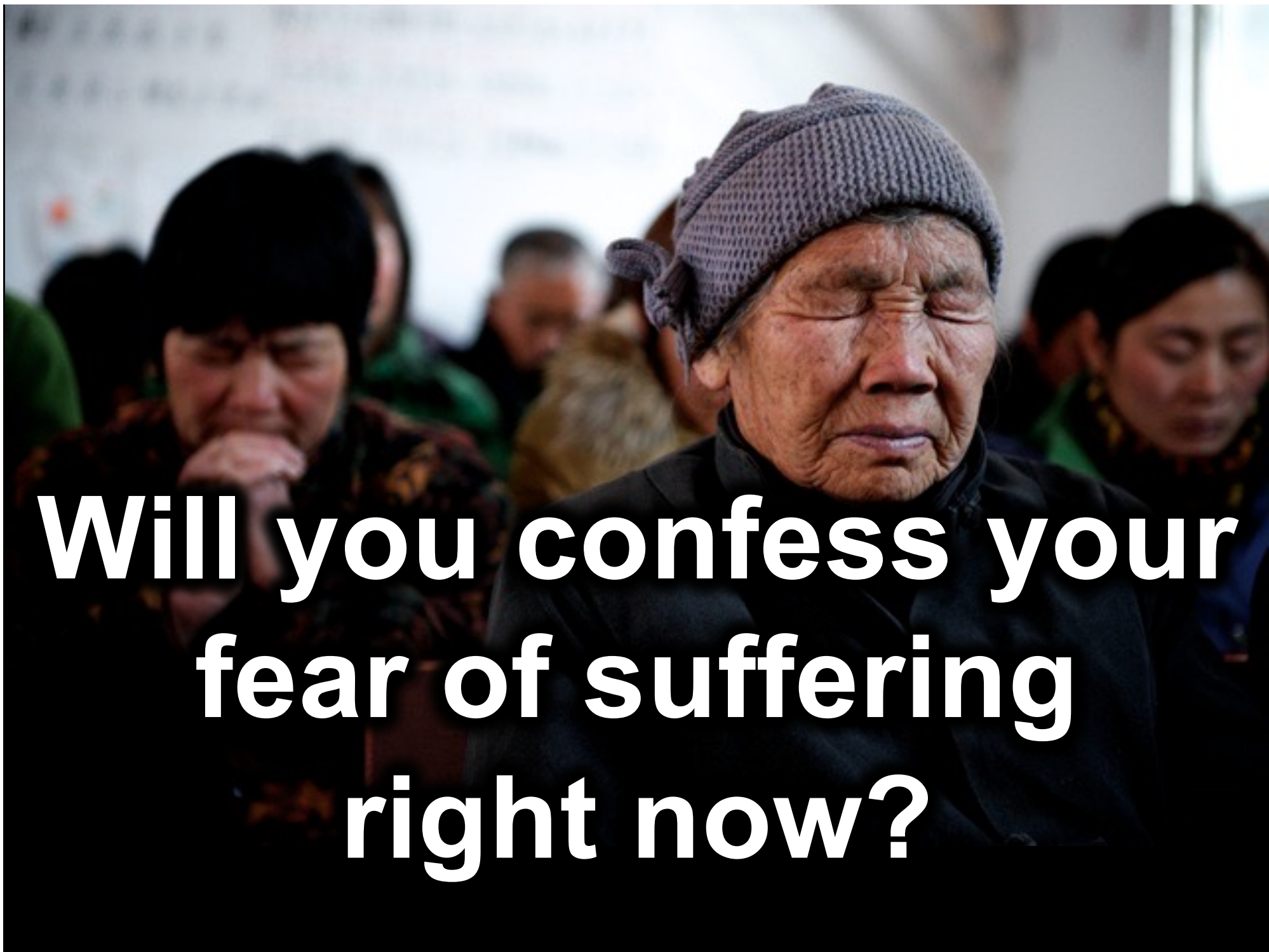




If one part suffers...

Our Response





**Will you confess your
fear of suffering
right now?**

I. Recognize that
Christ
understands
your suffering (2:8-9)



II. Don't **fear** suffering for Christ (2:10a)



III. Be **faithful** during suffering (2:10b-11).



Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11)

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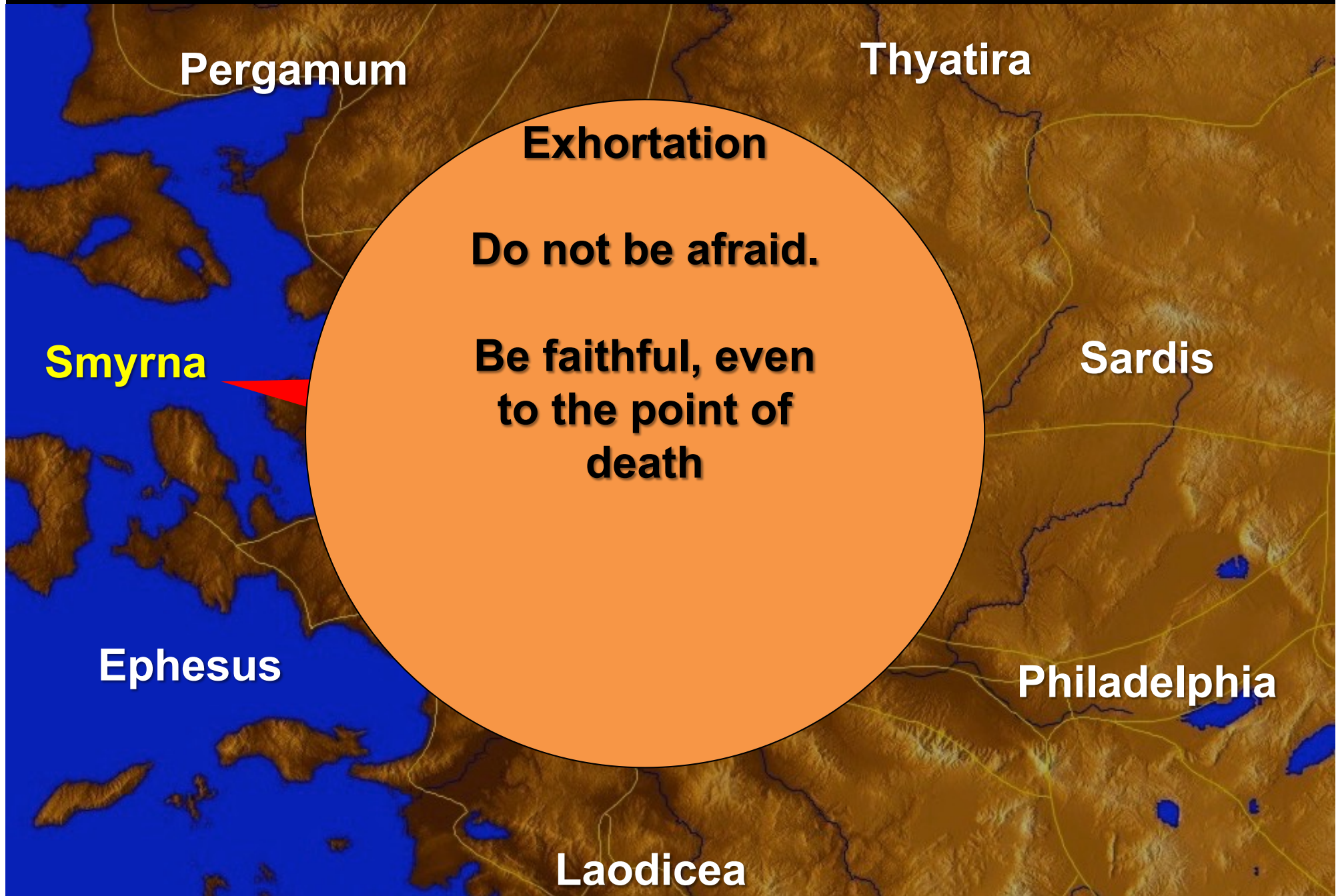
Smyrna: Suffering Yet Steadfast



"The devil will throw some of you into prison and test you for 10 days" (2:10b)

Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11)

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"Be faithful until death" (2:10c)





Perpetua's Martyrdom (AD 203)

Will receive a
crown of life

Pergam

ira

Smyrna

rdis

Ephes

Philadelphia



How the issue is framed...

DEFEND EQUALITY



ENDA

Employment
Non-
Discrimination
Act

How the issue is framed...



How the issue is framed...



**I SHOWER
NEXT TO A
GAY
PERSON.
YOU CAN
WORK NEXT
TO ONE.**

PASS ENDA.



STOP

THE ENDA BILL

**Most Christian
conservatives
oppose ENDA**

How the issue is framed...

washington
blade

Previous ENDA Exceptions

<http://www.washingtonblade.com/2013/10/30/enda-heats/>

"America's Leading Gay News Source"

"Currently (30 Oct 2013), ENDA has a religious exemption that provides leeway for religious organizations, like churches or religious schools, to discriminate against LGBT employees. That same leeway isn't found under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits religious organizations from discriminating on the basis of race, gender or national origin."

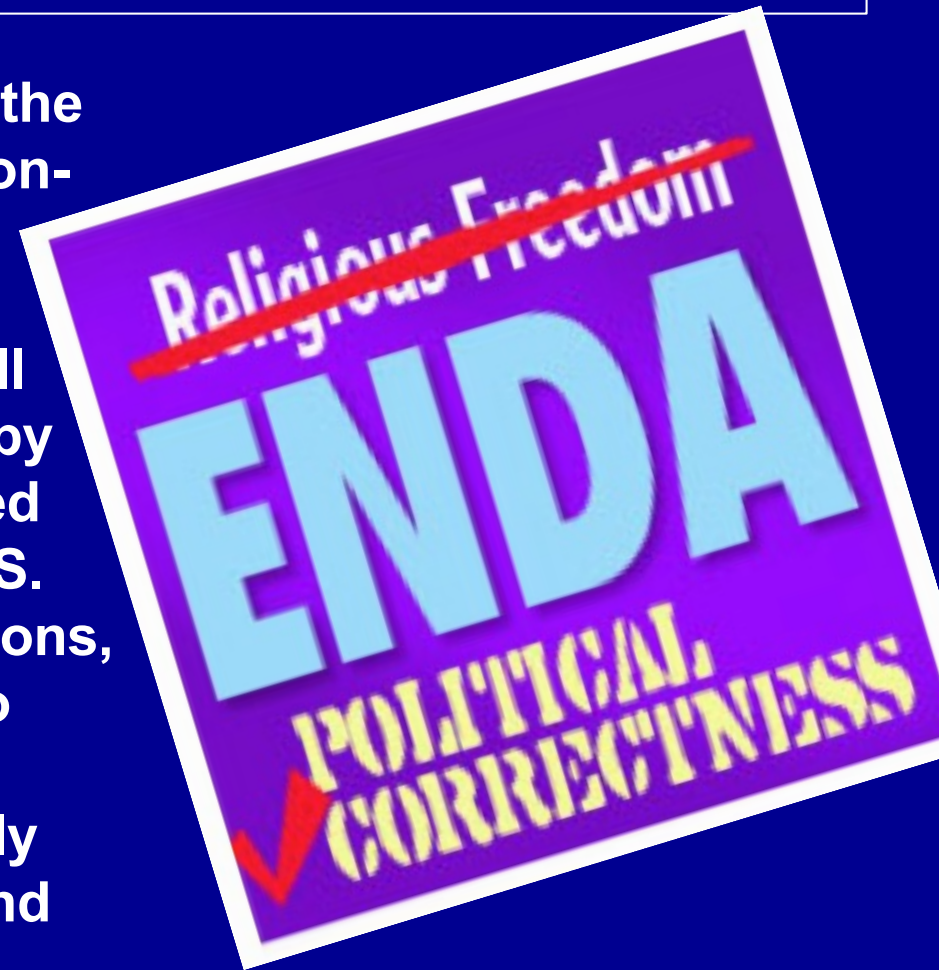



ENDA Actual Wording

"It shall be unlawful for any employer to fail or refuse to hire or to discharge any individual, or otherwise discriminate against any individual with respect to the compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment of the individual, because of such individual's **actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.**"

ENDA Senate Vote (5 Nov 13)

"By a 61-30 margin, the Senate cleared the last hurdle between the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and final passage before heading to the House. Unlike dozens of other versions, this bill takes the radical agenda a step farther by including 'gender identity' as a protected class under the law. According to 61 U.S. Senators, American schools, organizations, companies, and charities would have to swallow their concerns about safety, profits, and future business and not only encourage men to dress like women (and vice-versa) at work — but make special accommodations for them to do so."



A photograph of Speaker John Boehner of the House of Representatives. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a blue patterned tie. He is standing in front of several American flags. The text is overlaid on the image.

House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner Opposes ENDA

"The Speaker believes this legislation will increase frivolous litigation and cost American jobs, especially small business jobs." Boehner, his office continued, has "always believed this is covered by existing law."

Tony Perkins' Washington Update Family Research Council 7 Nov 2013

Main Idea

Replace **fear** with **faithfulness**
during suffering since Jesus
knows exactly how you feel

Are you ready?

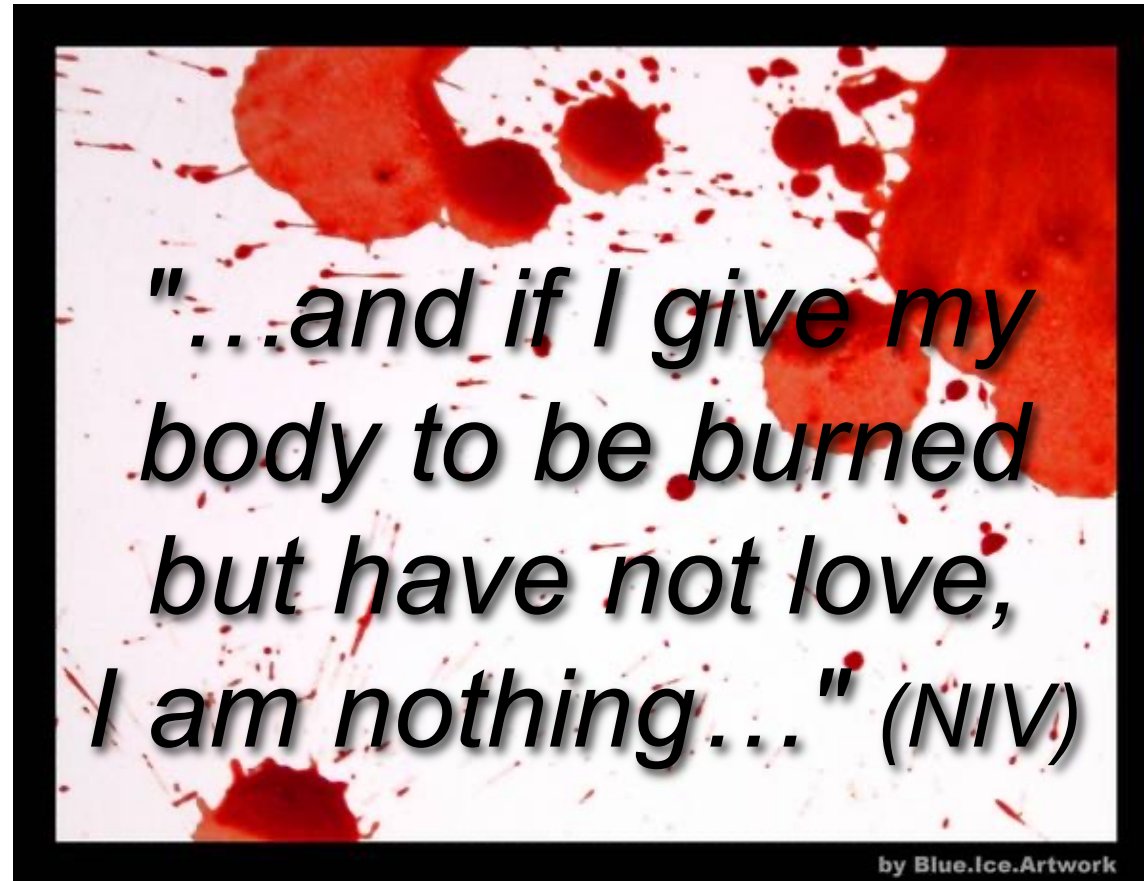
- 1. Recognize that Jesus understands your situation.**
- 2. Don't fear suffering for Christ in this area.**
- 3. Be faithful to him despite the outcome.**



**How are you
suffering
now?**

INDIA

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"The Blood of the Martyrs is the seed of the Church"

-Tertullian-

The Burnt Church Building



A fire destroyed this church building³⁵²



Some Christians Survived



Others went to Jesus

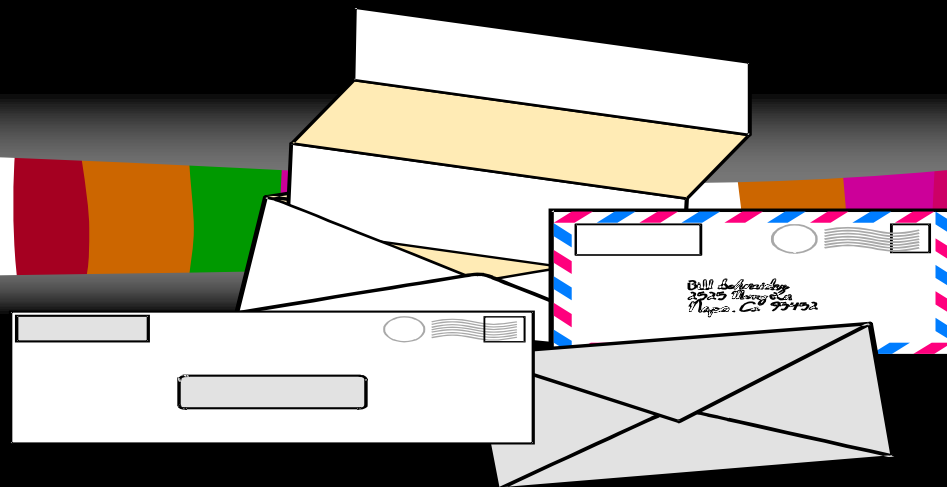
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Pergamum

Revelation 2:12-17

Dear Pergamum,



**The Compromising Yet Continuing
Church**

Pergamum (Rev. 2:12-17)

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Pergamum (Rev. 2:12-17)

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Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Commendation:

Remains true to
Christ; does not
renounce her faith

Sardis

Ephesus

Philadelphia

Laodicea

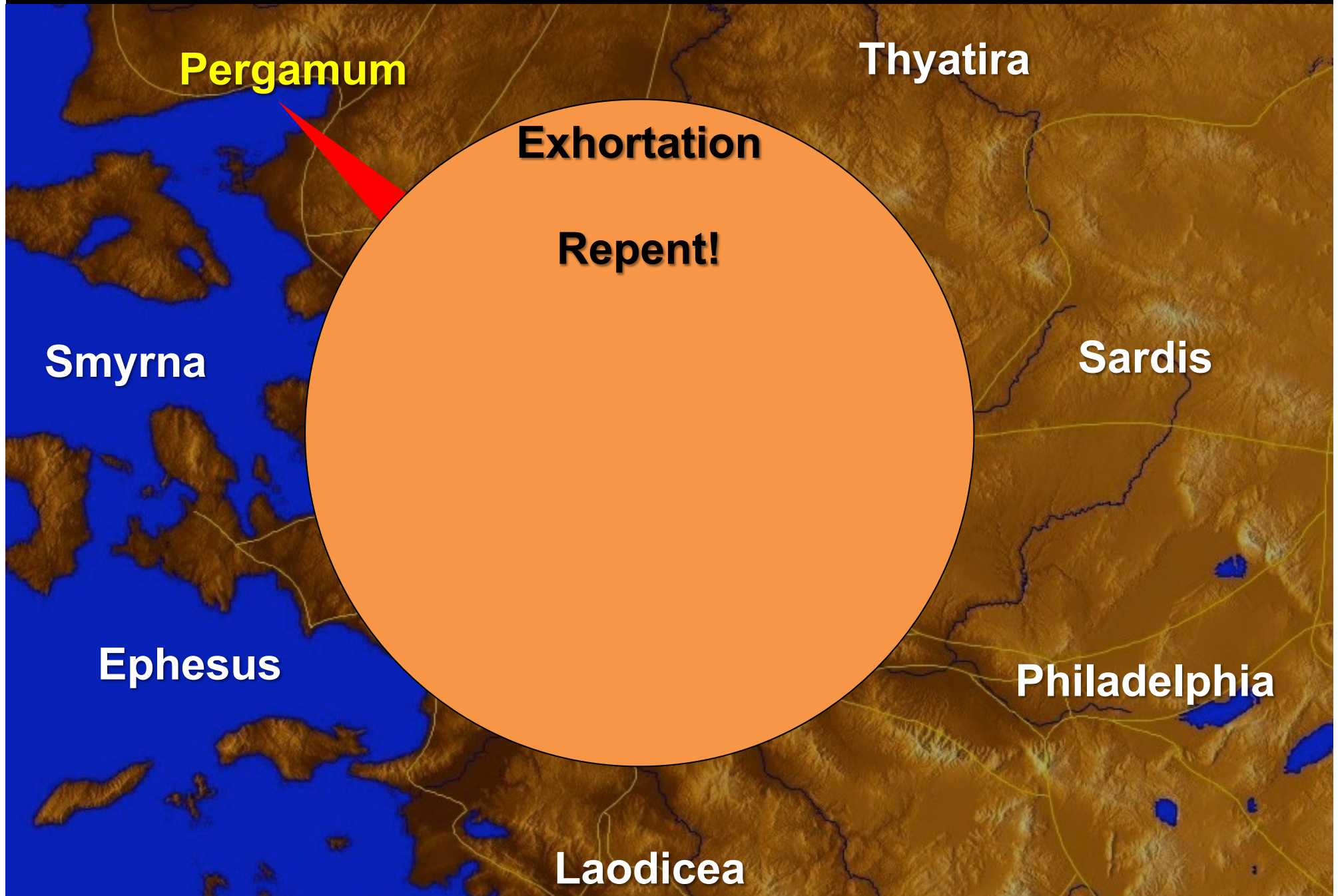
Pergamum (Rev. 2:12-17)

353



Pergamum (Rev. 2:12-17)

353



Pergamum (Rev. 2:12-17)

353



Pergamum

Warning

Thyatira

If you do not repent,
I will make war against
those people with the
sword of my mouth

Smyrna

Sardis

Ephesus

Philadelphia

Laodicea

Pergamum (Rev. 2:12-17)

353

Promise

Will receive hidden
manna and white
stone with a new
name on it

Pergamum

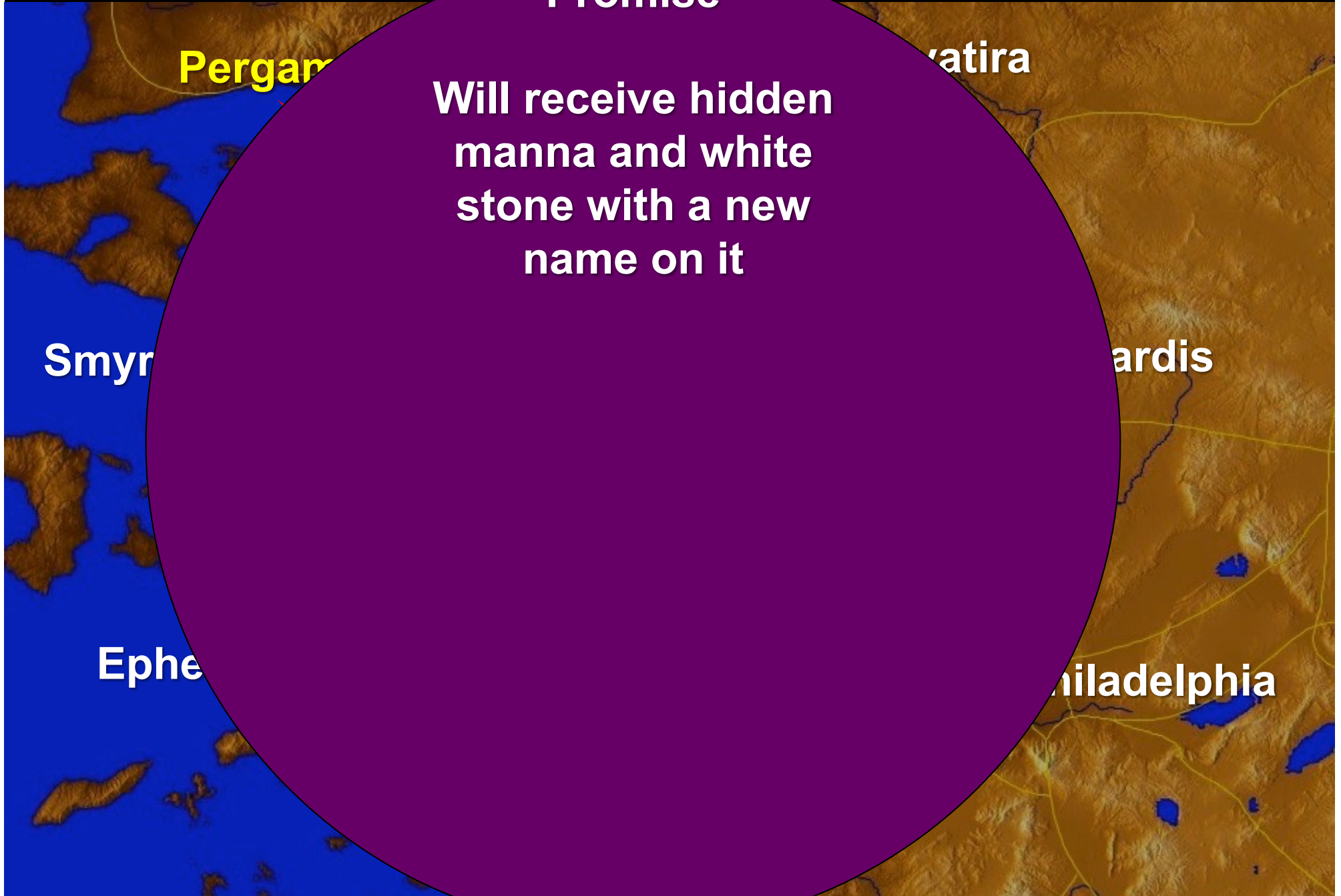
Thyatira

Smyrna

Ephesus

Ephesus

Philadelphia



Revelation 2:12-17

¹²To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.

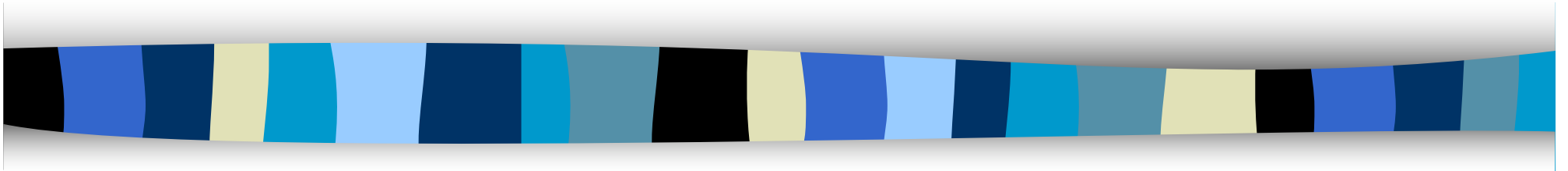
¹³I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

¹⁴Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.

¹⁵Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

¹⁷He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.

Christ's Commission



**Jesus tells John to send this letter
*"To the angel (or messenger) of the
church of Pergamum" (2:12)***

Christ's Commendation



2:13 "I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city— where Satan lives."

Model of Pergamum: Continuing Yet Compromising



Altar of Zeus

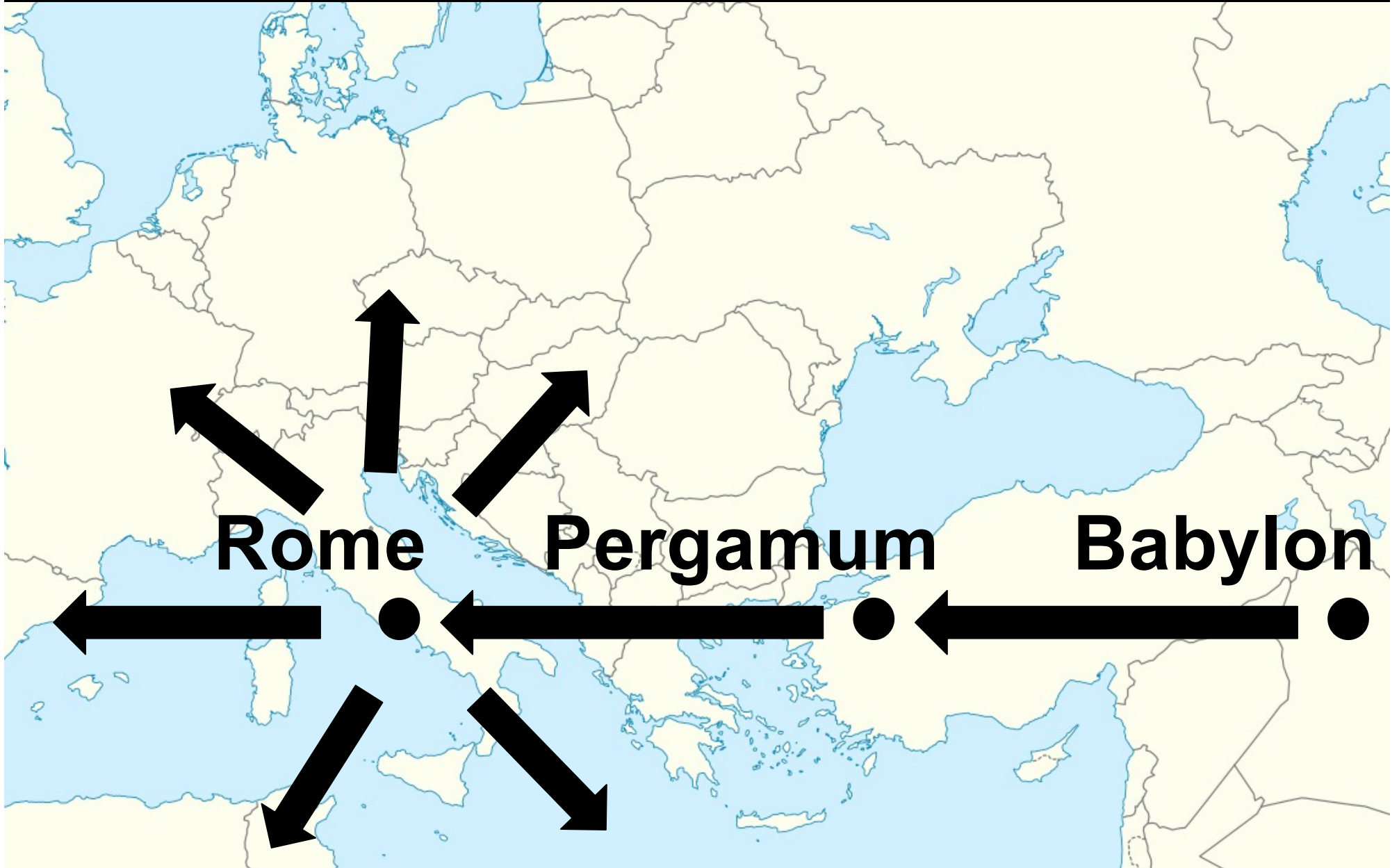
**"I know where you live—where
Satan has his throne" (2:13)**

Altar of Zeus



The actual altar was moved to Berlin in 1878, installed in the Pergamon Museum in 1930, and copied for Hitler's exaltation in Nuremberg in 1933

Babylon Religion Moved West



Babylon Religion Moved West

*Pontifex
Maximus*
"Major Keeper
of the Bridge"

"Keeper of the
Bridge"
between man
and Satan

Rome

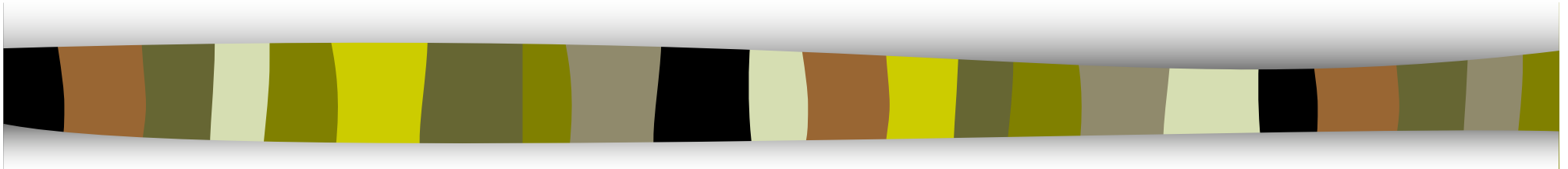
Babylon



Christ's Condemnation

2:14 "Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. ¹⁵Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans."

Some of their members held to the doctrine of Balaam



2:14 "Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality."

Preparation to Occupy the Land

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Preparing the Old Generation | | Postponement for Unbelief | | | | Preparing the New Generation | | | |
| 1:1–10:10 | | 10:11–25:18 | | | | 26–36 | | | |
| God's Faithfulness | | Israel's Faithlessness | | | | God's Faithfulness | | | |
| God's Blessings | | God's Discipline | | | | God's Blessings | | | |
| Israel's Commitment | | Israel's Complaining | | | | Israel's Commitment | | | |
| Order | | Disorder | | | | Reorder | | | |
| Mount Sinai | | Wilderness | | | | Moab | | | |
| 20 Days | | 38 Years, 3 Months, 10 Days | | | | ca. 5 Months | | | |
| Organization (1-4) | Sanctification (5:1-10:10) | To Kadesh (10:11-12:16) | Kadesh Sin (13-14) | Wilderness (15-19) | To Moab (20-21) | Moab Sin (22-25) | Provision for Land (26-27) | Offerings & Vows (28-30) | Final Preparations (31-36) |

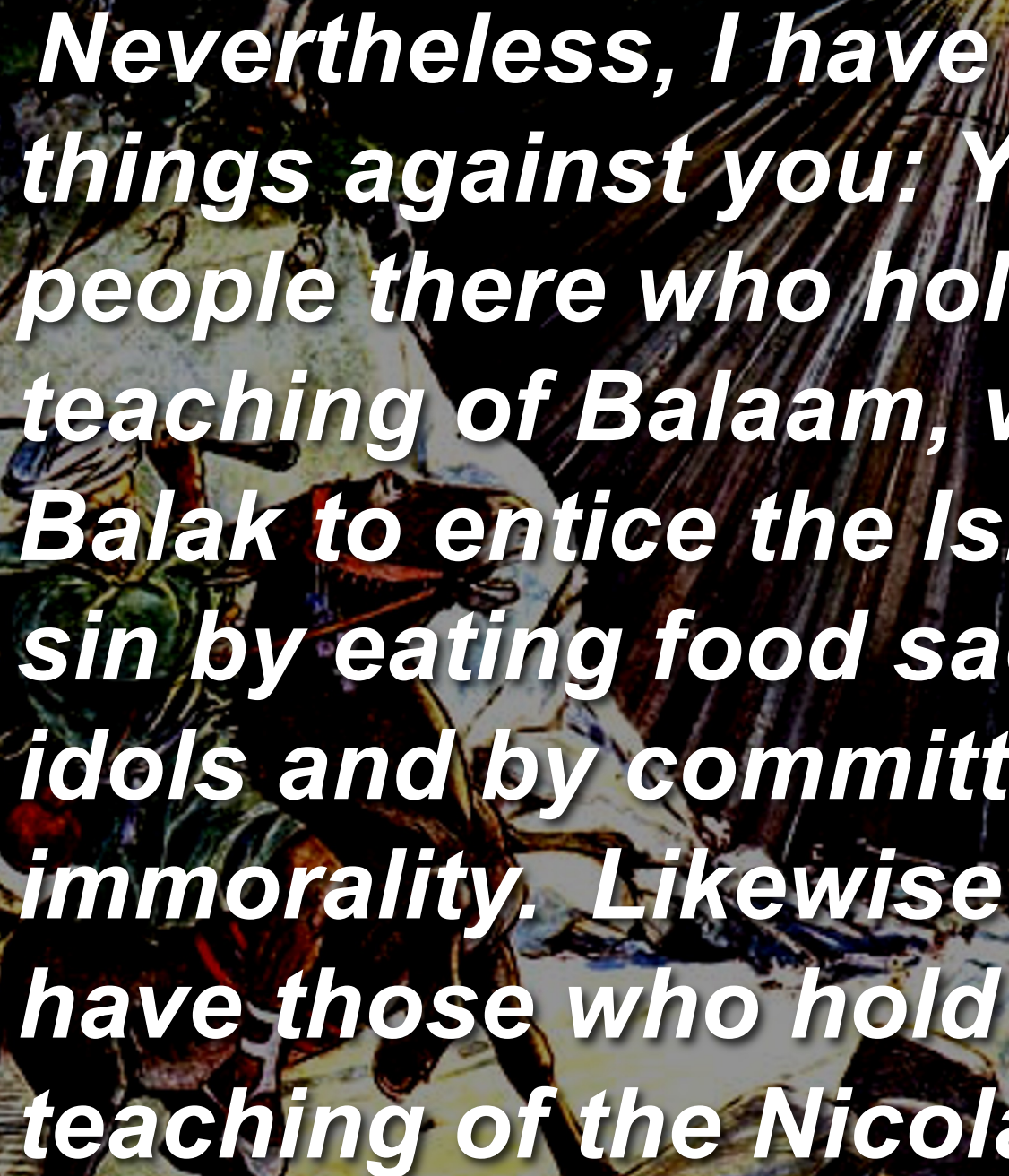
Transjordan Events

- **Victory over Sihon and Og (Num. 21)**
- **Balak fails to turn God against Israel—blessing by Balaam (Num. 22-24)**



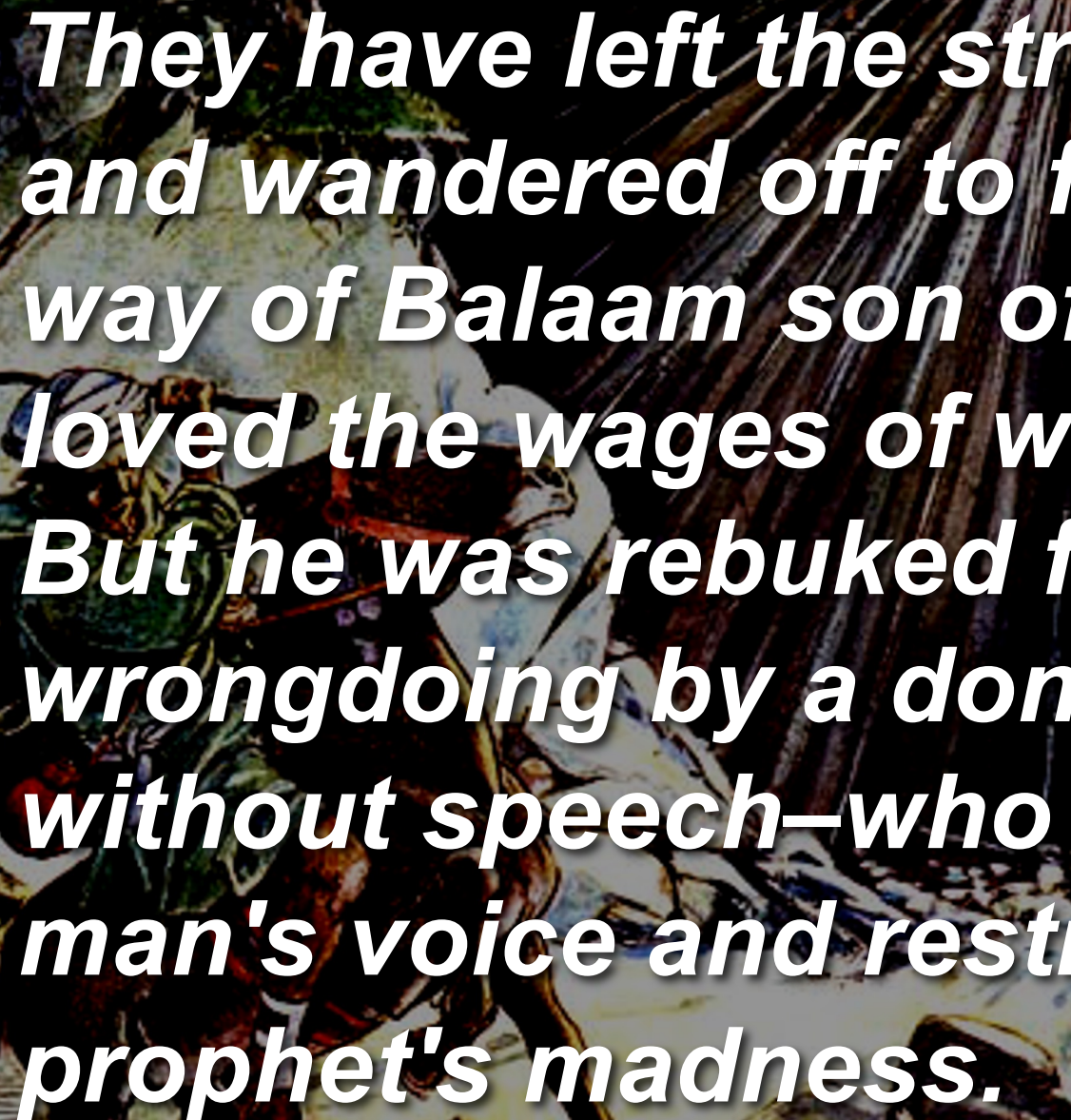


Balaam
Numbers 22–24



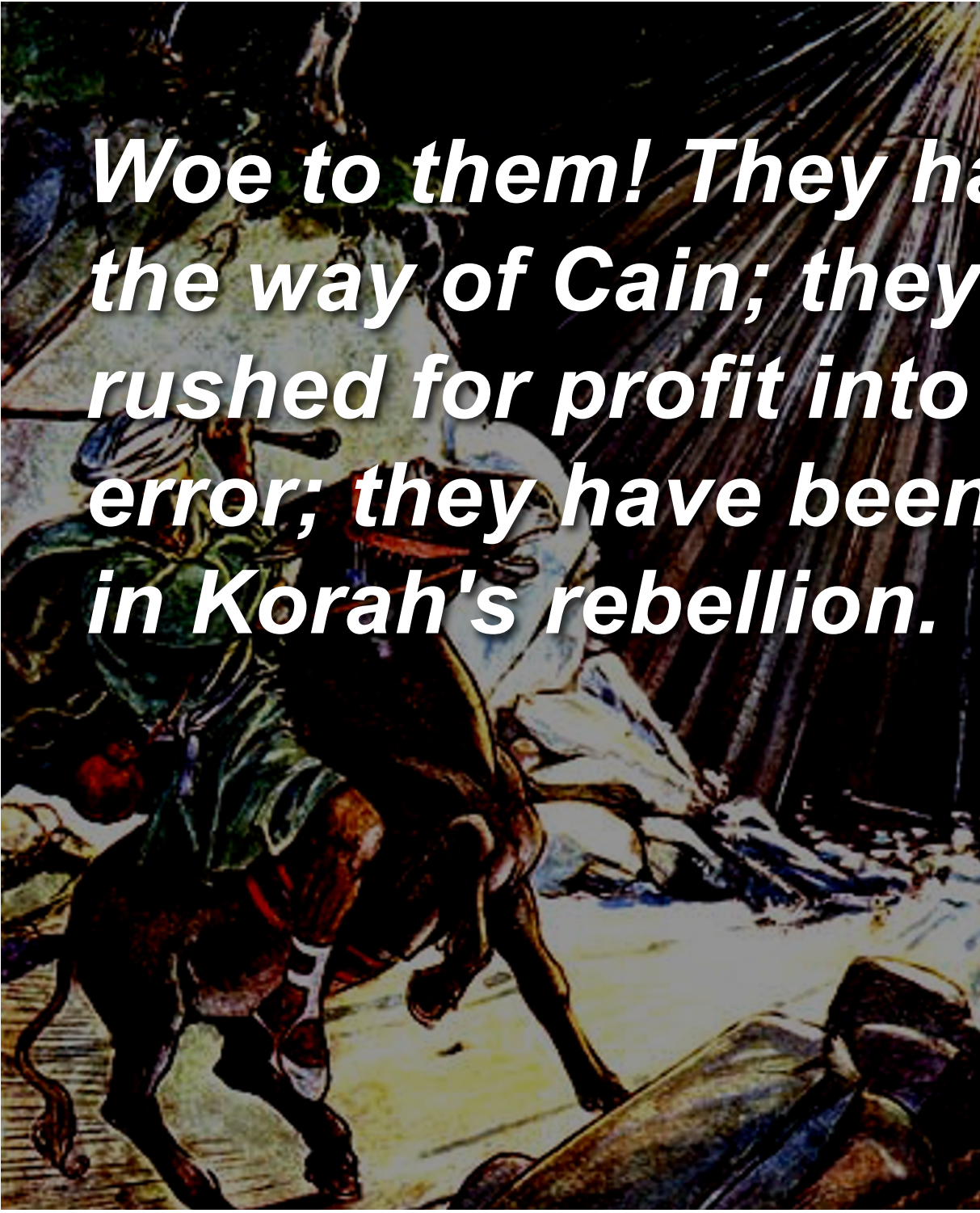
Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

Revelation 2:14-15



They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness. But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—a beast without speech—who spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

2 Peter 2:15-16 (NIV)



Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.

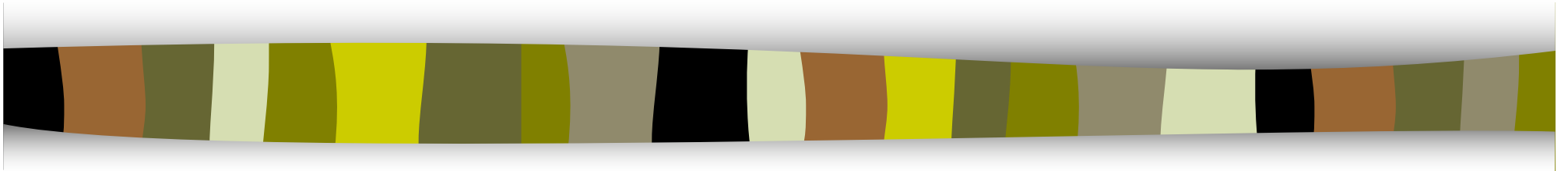
Jude 11 (NIV)

Transjordan Events

- **Victory over Sihon and Og (Num. 21)**
- **Balak fails to turn God against Israel—blessing by Balaam (Num. 22-24)**
- **Balak succeeds to turn Israel against God by immorality at Beth Peor (Num. 25)**



Some of their members held to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans

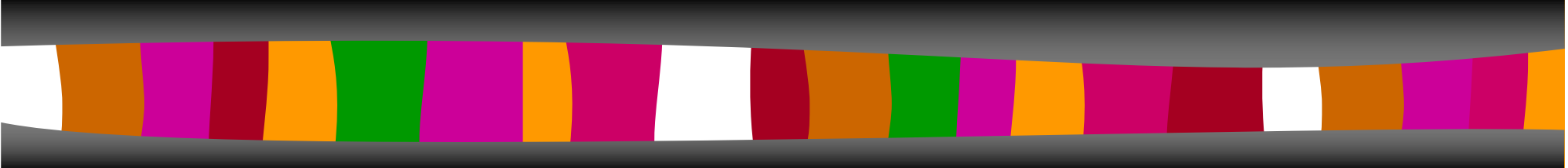


2:15 "Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans."

Christ's Correction

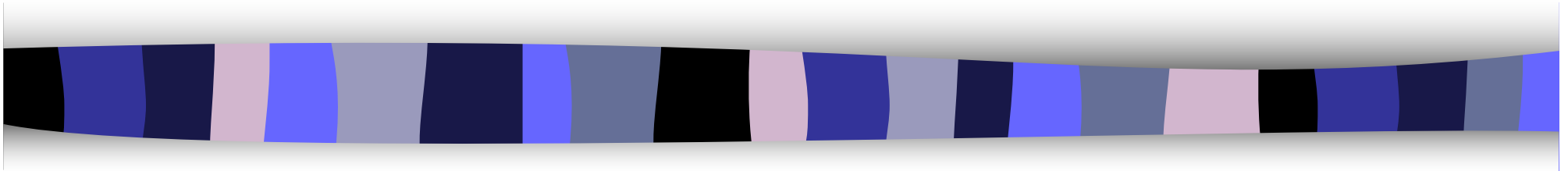
2:16 "Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it."

Repent...




2:16 "Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth."

Receive...



2:17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it."

Receive... The Bread of Life



**"To him who overcomes, I will give
some of the hidden manna"
(2:17a)**

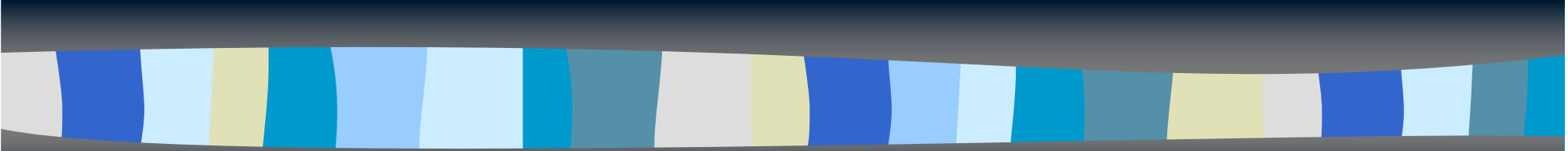
John 6:30-35

So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

"Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread." "Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."

Receive... Eternal Life



**"a white stone with a new name written on it,
known only to him who receives it"**
(2:17b)

Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-29



***Thyatira:
Involved Yet Immoral***
Revelation 2:18-29

Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church • biblestudydownloads.com

Right Way

Wrong Way

Pornography



Pornography



Selling sex is one of the oldest businesses in the world, and right now, business has never been better. But this full-blown addiction to porn is spreading from computer and TV screens across America to homes, families, and marriages across the country at a dangerous pace.

Pornography

Every 30 minutes: A **porn film is made** in the USA.

The United States produces **89%** of all pornographic websites.



Every second: **30.000** people are viewing porn.



42.7% of internet users view porn (that's **102,434,567** people)

Pornography

Porn is roughly a

\$13,000,000,000

industry



PORN.

It's larger than the revenues of the top technology companies combined.

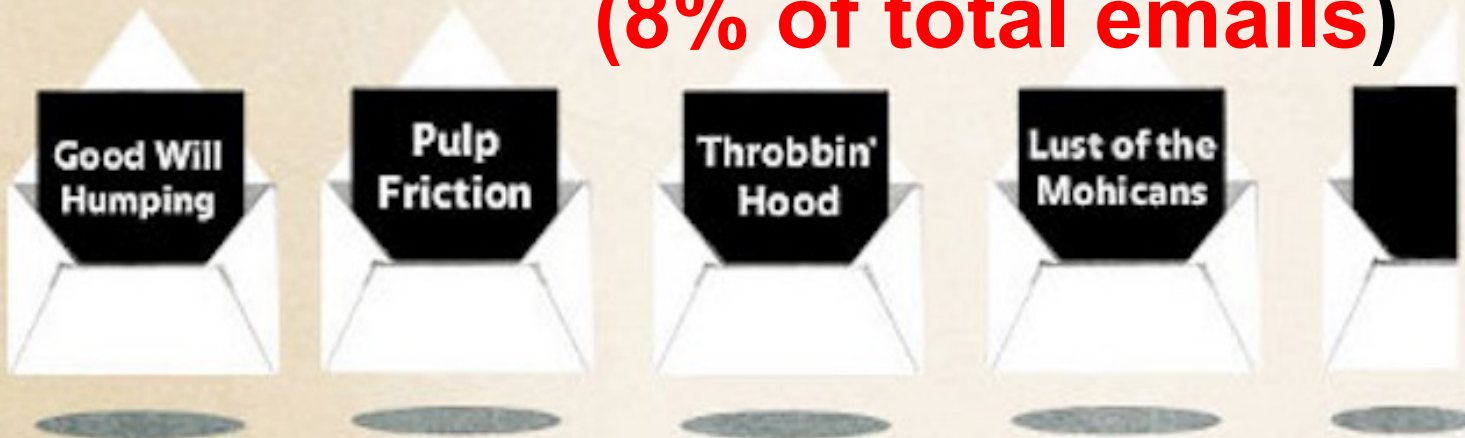
Microsoft, Google, Amazon, eBay, Yahoo, Apple, Netflix, EarthLink



There are:
68 MILLION
daily
pornographic
search engine
requests



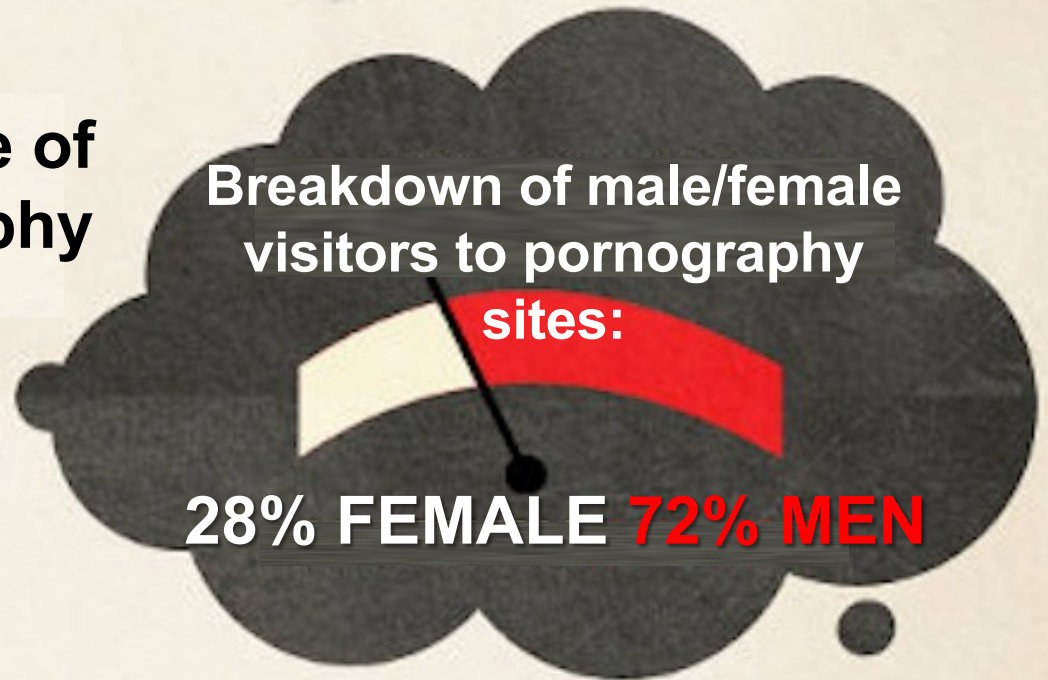
2.5 billion daily pornographic emails
(8% of total emails)



The average
Internet user
receives
4.5
pornographic
emails per day.



The average age of initial pornography is just 11.



Men are more than 6X as likely to view porn than woman, and more likely to spend more time viewing it.



17% of women say they struggle with pornography addiction.



Pornography

About 200,000 Americans are “porn addicts”: defined as spending 11 hours or more per week online looking at porn.



Repeatedly viewing porn can negatively effect your sex drive:

More than 50% of those engaged in “sexual internet interactions” had lost interest in sexual intercourse.



One-third of their partners had lost interest as well.

Pornography

Addiction to porn has led to:

40% “sex addicts” lose their spouses

58% suffer considerable financial losses

One-third lose their jobs



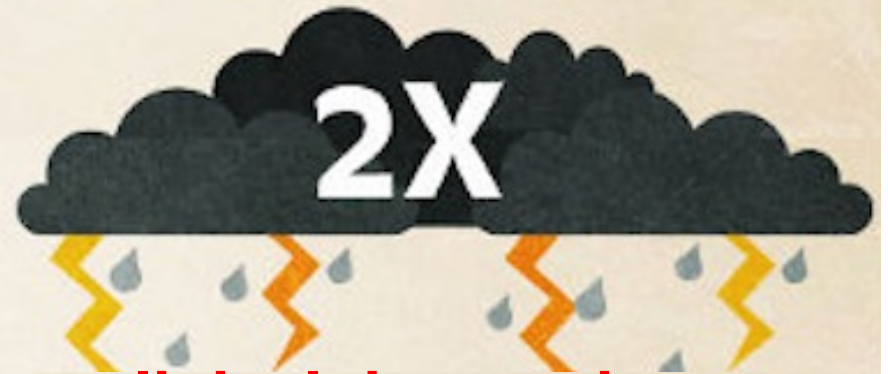
Pornography use **increases** the marital infidelity rate by more than



300%



56% of divorce cases **involved** one person having an **obsessive interest** in pornographic websites.



Severe clinical depression was reported **twice as frequently** among Internet pornography users compared.



Sexual compulsives & addicts are **23 times more likely** than those without a problem to state that:

“Discovering online sexual material **was the worst thing that had ever happened** in their life.”

Pornography



of men aged **18-24** visit porn sites in a typical month.

Pornography

THE AVE PORN SITE VISIT **LASTS 6 MINUTES & 29 SECONDS.**

THE **LEAST POPULAR** DAY OF THE YEAR TO VIEW PORN IS **THANKSGIVING.**

THE **MOST POPULAR** DAY OF THE WEEK TO VIEW PORN IS **SUNDAY.**

LOWEST



HIGHEST



THANKSGIVING



SUNDAY

SOURCE:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-1141485/A-clicks-mouse-internet-porn-destroys-middle-class-marriage-.html>
<http://internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com/internet-pornography-statistics-pg3.html>
<http://www.safefamilies.org/sfStats.php>
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<http://newsblaze.com/story/20090316152957faul.nb/topstory.html>
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<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/7845561.stm>

OnlineSchools
www.OnlineSchools.org

Pornography

SOURCES:

<http://pagingdrgupta.blogs.cnn.com/2011/01/20/how-porn-is-changing-our-sex-lives/>

<http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/us/2010/07/28/am.intv.dines.pornland.cnn>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1332165/Third-pupils-aged-10-view-porn-internet.html#ixzz1D1QCp1rF>

<http://techcrunch.com/2007/05/12/internet-pornography-stats/>

http://www.time.com/time/2004/sex/article/the_porn_factor_in_the_01a.html

www.OnlinePsychologyDegree.net

Porn in the Church



How does Jesus respond to **immorality** among believers?



If Jesus wrote a letter to **our** church,
what would Jesus say?

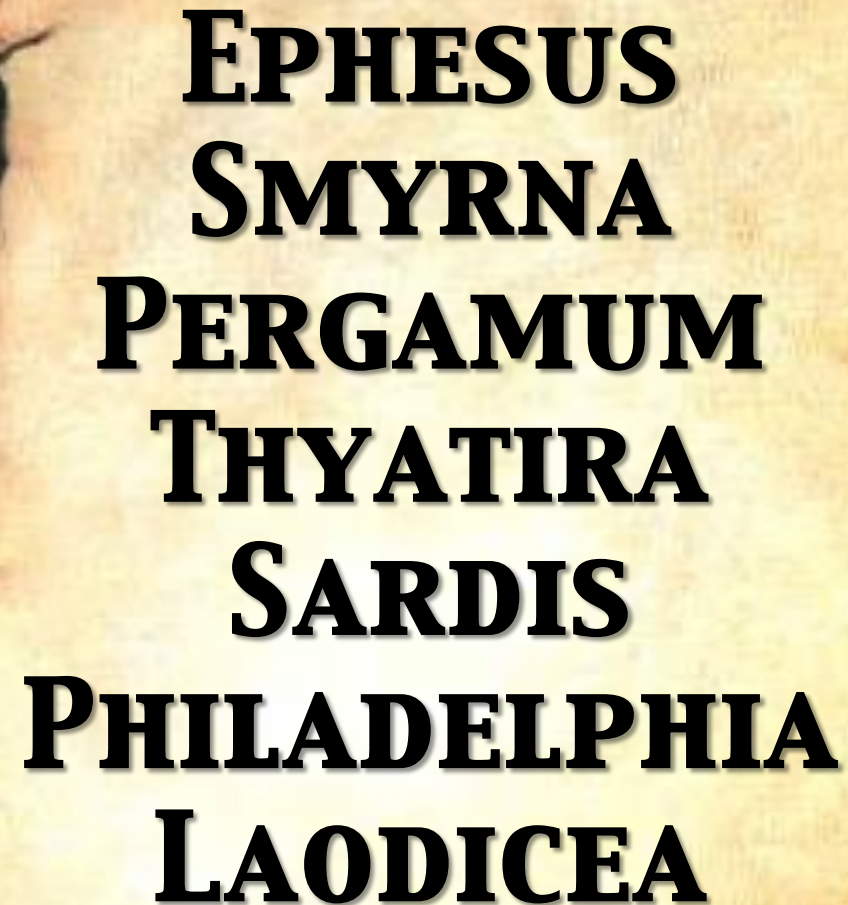


The 7 Churches (Rev. 2–3)

345



**Jesus had
authority
over and
wrote 7
churches
(Rev. 2–3)**

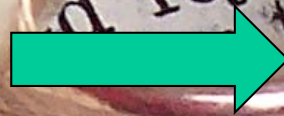


**EPHESUS
SMYRNA
PERGAMUM
THYATIRA
SARDIS
PHILADELPHIA
LAODICEA**

Revelation 2:18-29

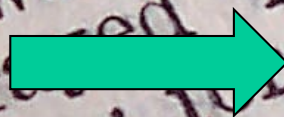
Structure

Negative



Positive

Negative



Positive

How does Jesus respond to **immorality** among believers?



I. Jesus **judges** sin in
believers (2:18).



Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29)

345



Thyatira

Thyatira was famous for its purple dyes and guilds for tanners, dyers, woolen and linen workers. These led to an extensive use of clay pots and pagan celebrations.



Many Christians died rather than compromise in guild festivities.

Thyatira



Thyatira had more trade guilds than any other city. Such guilds supported the pagan gods, so Christians had trouble supporting themselves.

Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29)

355



Description of Christ

**"This is the
message from
the Son of God,
whose eyes are
like flames of
fire, whose feet
are like polished
bronze" (2:18
NLT)**



How does Jesus respond to **immorality** among believers?



II. Jesus **commends** service for Christ (2:19).



Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29)

355



Pergamum

Thyatira

Commendation:

Deeds, love,
faith, service,
perseverance,
doing more
than at first

Smyrna

Sardis

Ephesus

Philadelphia

Laodicea

**"I know all the things you do. I have
seen your love, your faith, your
service, and your patient endurance.
And I can see your constant
improvement in all these things"
(2:19 NLT)**



**Who should be commended
among us?**



Miriam Burnett



Lewis, Barbara & Christine Winkler















Susan Griffith



Excellent

Very Good

Good

Average

Poor

**Jesus
knows!**

How does Jesus respond to **immorality** among believers?

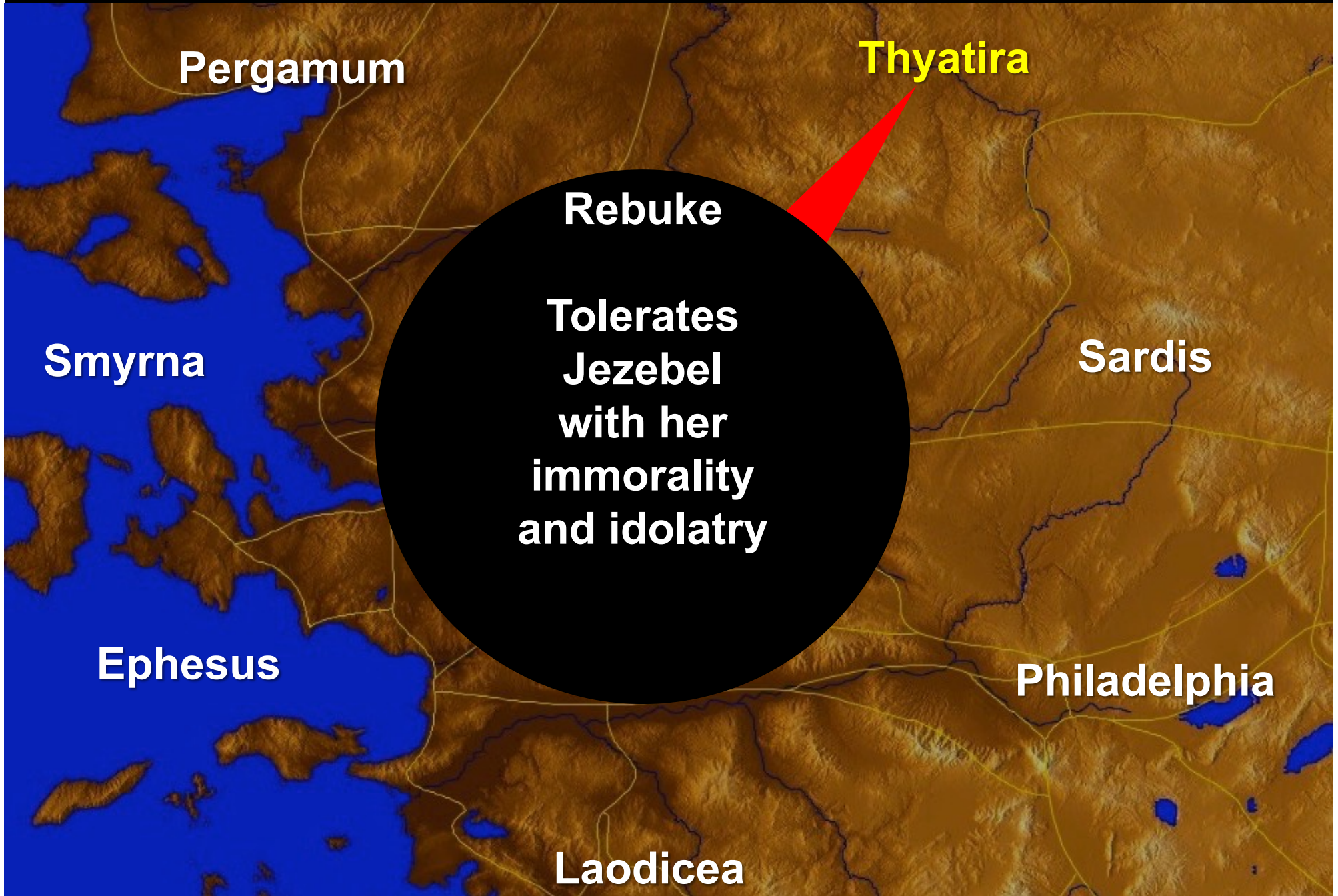


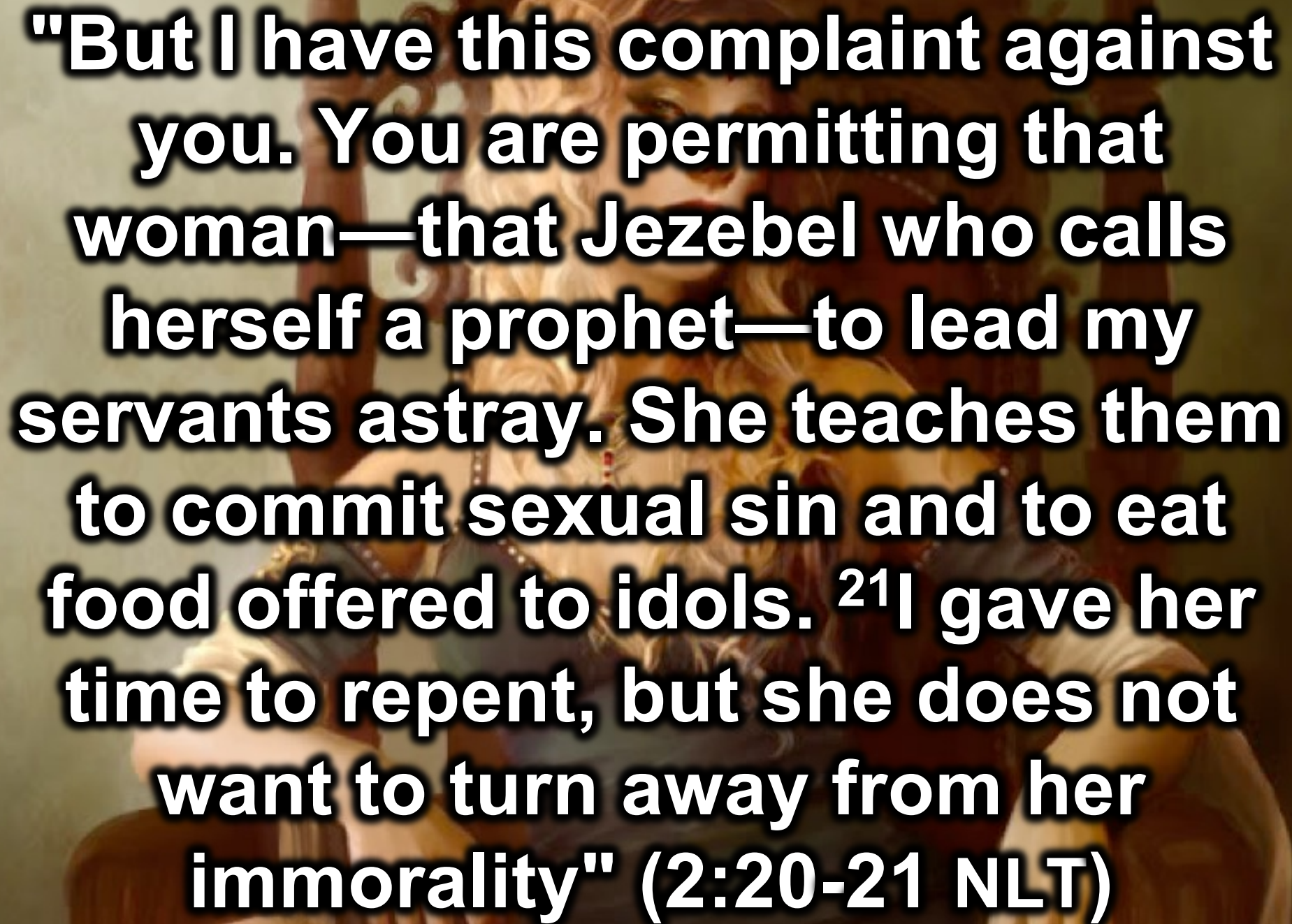
III. Jesus **discerns** between unfaithful and faithful believers (2:20-25)




Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29)

355





"But I have this complaint against you. You are permitting that woman—that Jezebel who calls herself a prophet—to lead my servants astray. She teaches them to commit sexual sin and to eat food offered to idols. ²¹I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to turn away from her immorality" (2:20-21 NLT)

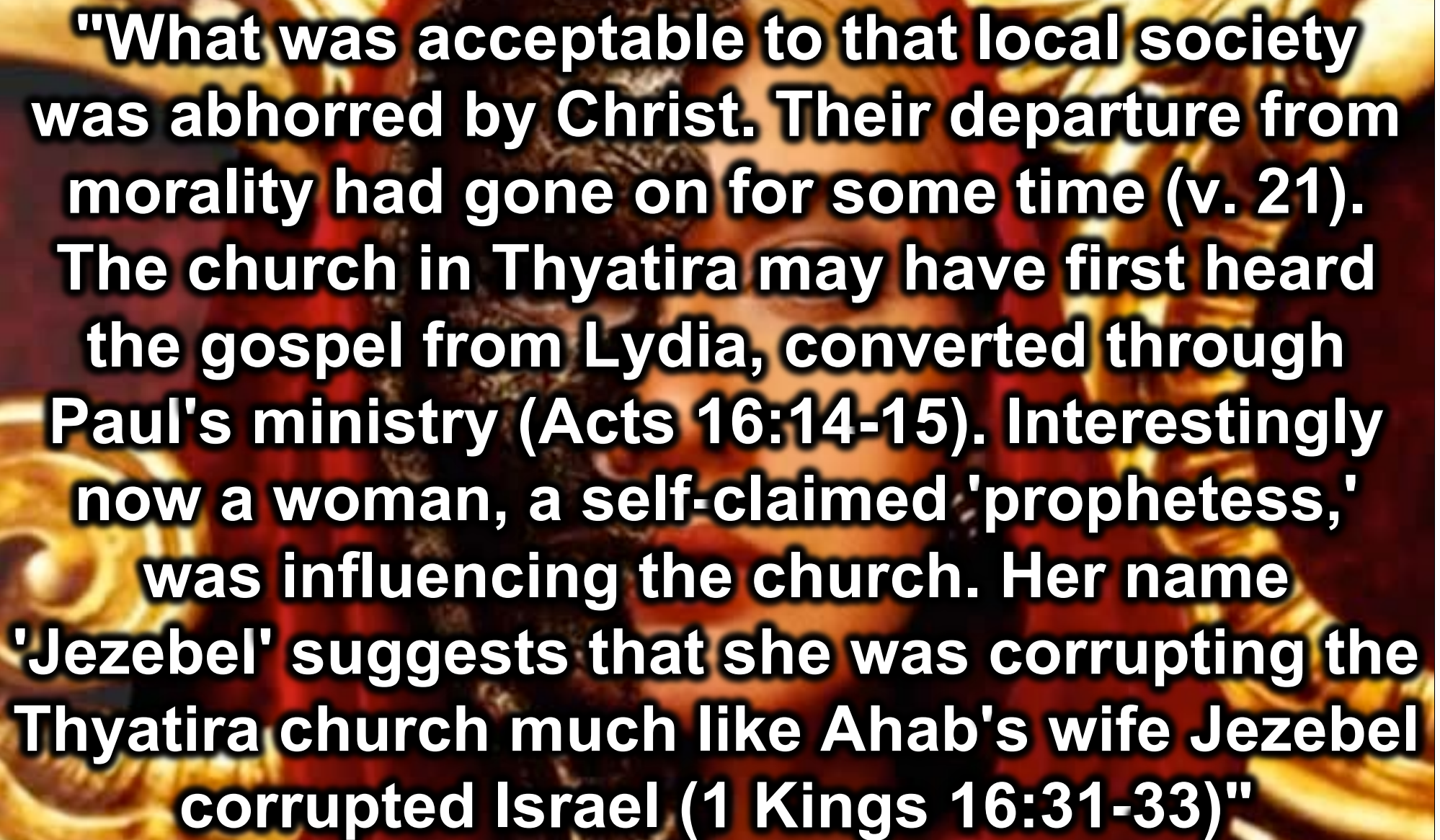


**Who
was
Jezebel?**

Elijah confronted
850 of Jezebel's
prophets at the
end of a 3.5 year
drought in the
land of the
"thunder god" and
"rain god."



1 Kings 16:31-33



"What was acceptable to that local society was abhorred by Christ. Their departure from morality had gone on for some time (v. 21). The church in Thyatira may have first heard the gospel from Lydia, converted through Paul's ministry (Acts 16:14-15). Interestingly now a woman, a self-claimed 'prophetess,' was influencing the church. Her name 'Jezebel' suggests that she was corrupting the Thyatira church much like Ahab's wife Jezebel corrupted Israel (1 Kings 16:31-33)"

(Walvoord, *BKC*)

Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29)

355

Pergamum

Warning

Thyatira

Smyrna

I am bringing her [Jezebel] violent illness, and adulterers with her into terrible suffering, unless they repent; and I will strike her followers with a deadly disease, and then all the churches will know that I am the one who searches minds and hearts. I will repay each one of you what your deeds deserve.

Sardis

Ephesus

Philadelphia

Laodicea



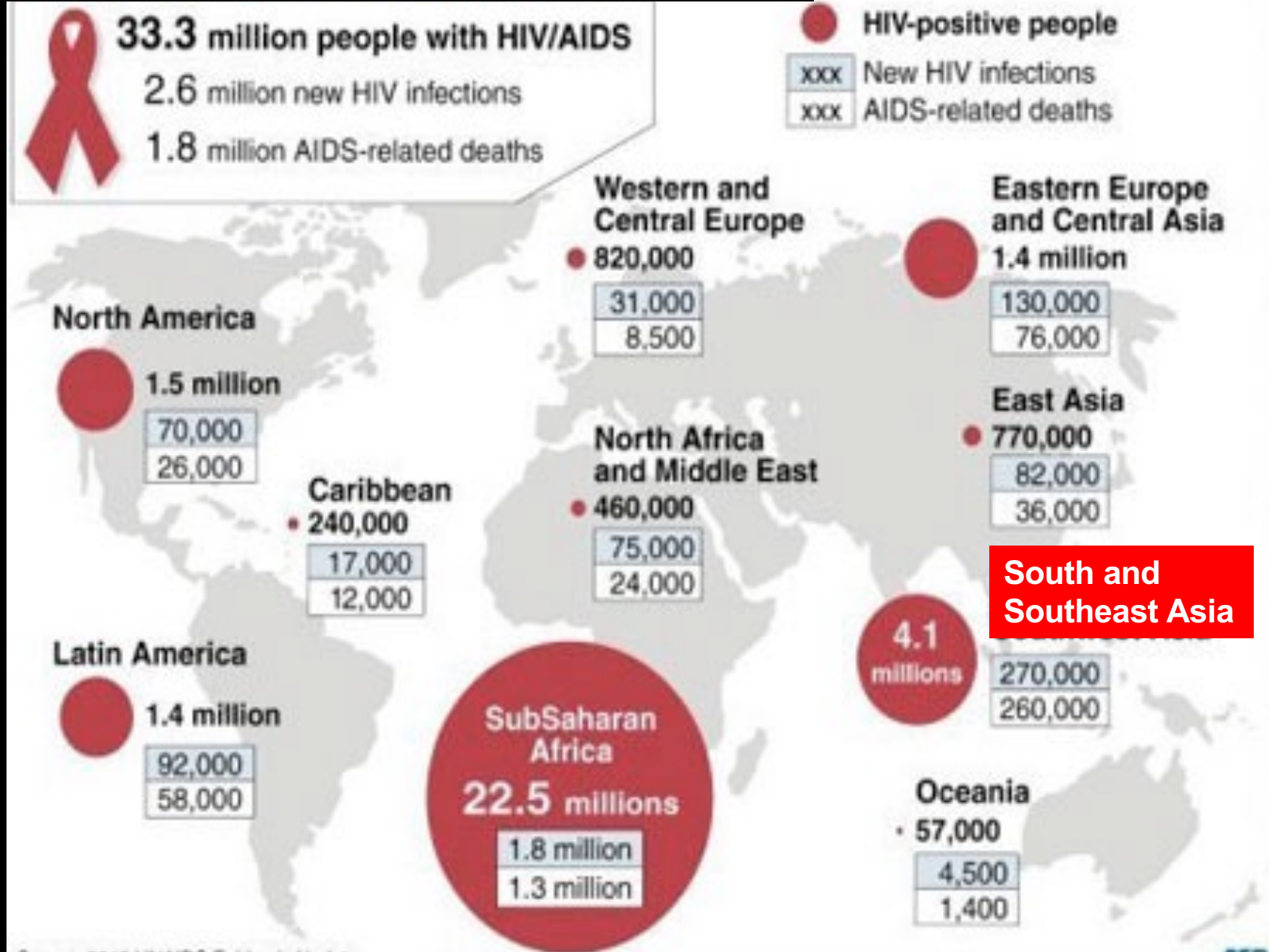
HIV



AIDS

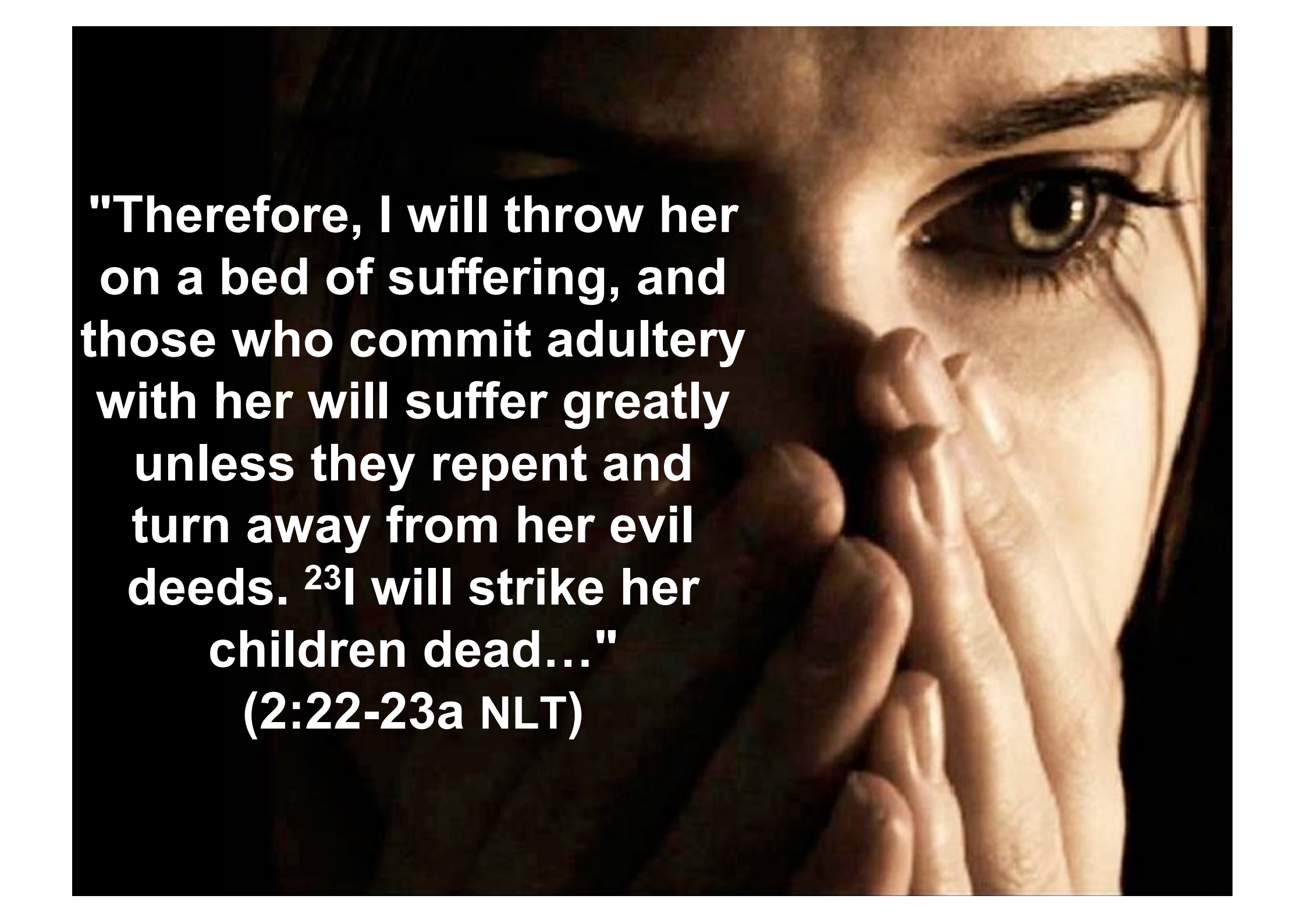
HIV and AIDS worldwide

Data for 2009 (most recent available)



Source: 2010 UNAIDS Epidemic Update

AFP



**"Therefore, I will throw her
on a bed of suffering, and
those who commit adultery
with her will suffer greatly
unless they repent and
turn away from her evil
deeds. ²³I will strike her
children dead..."
(2:22-23a NLT)**

Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29)

355



The Cure for AIDS



**Faithful
believers
must
persevere
(2:24-25)**



How does Jesus respond to **immorality** among believers?





***IV. Jesus
rewards
faithfulness
(2:26-29).***

Thyatira (Rev 2:18-29)

355

Promise

Will have authority
over the nations and
the morning star

Pergam

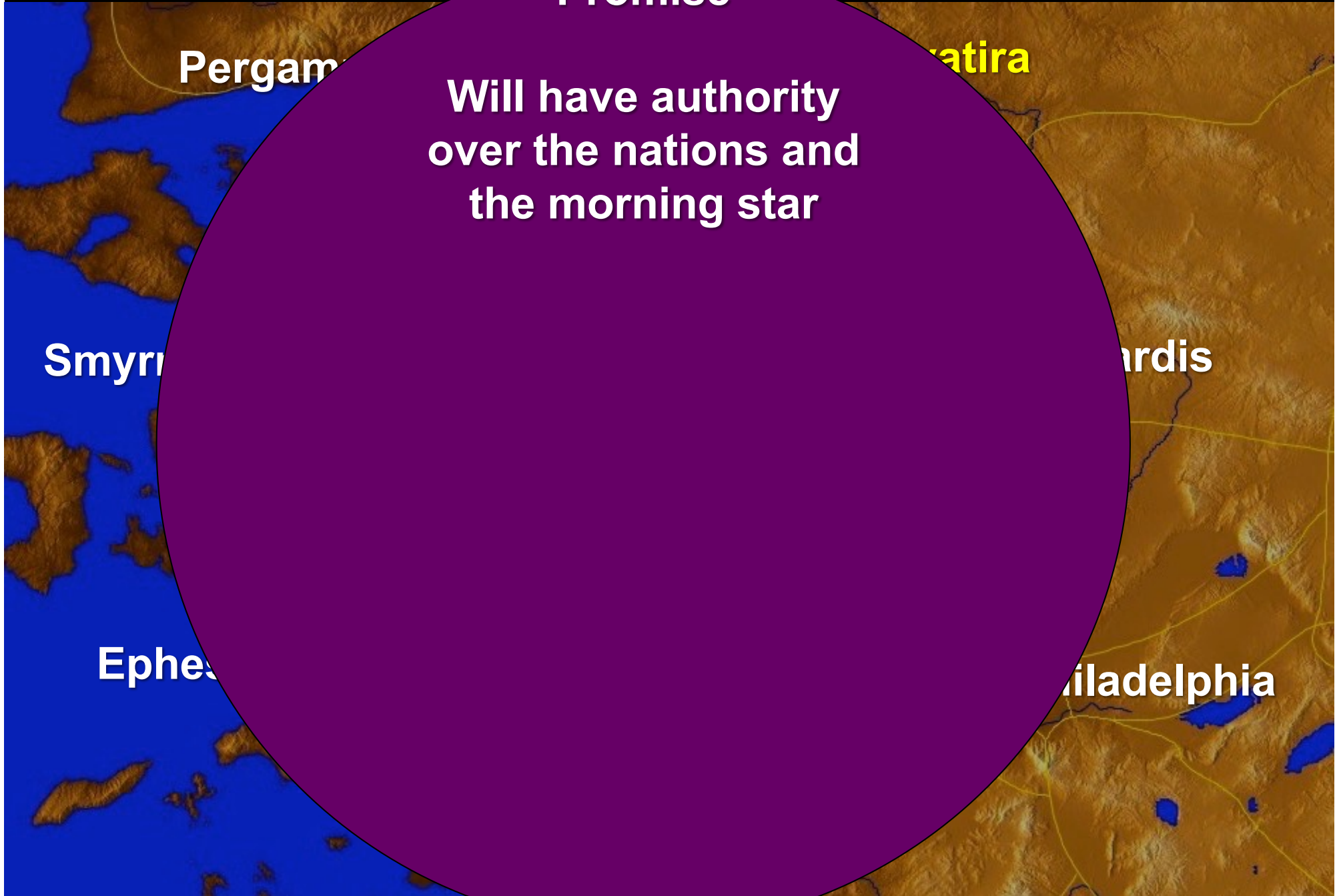
Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Ephesus

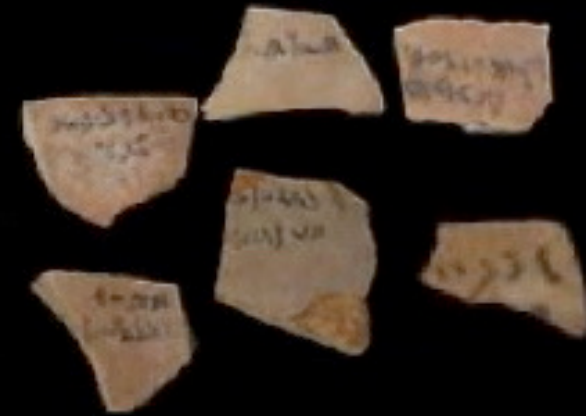
Philadelphia



Thyatira

To all who are victorious, who obey me to the very end,
To them I will give authority over all the nations.

²⁷They will rule the nations with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots.



Rev. 2:26-27 NLT

The Overcomers (Rev. 2–3)

365

Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

"He who overcomes"
(NAU) is used once
for each of the 7
churches, plus 21:7
with a total of 8
times in Revelation

Sardis

Ephesus

Philadelphia

Laodicea

The Overcomers (Rev. 2–3)

365

Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

To him who
overcomes, I will
grant to **eat of the
tree of life** which is
in the Paradise of
God (2:7)

Sardis

Ephesus

Philadelphia

2:7

Laodicea

The Overcomers (Rev. 2–3)

365

Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

2:11

He who overcomes
will **not be hurt by
the second death**
(2:11)

Sardis

Ephesus

2:7

Philadelphia

Laodicea

The Overcomers (Rev. 2–3)

365

Pergamum

2:17

Thyatira

To
him
who
overcomes,

Smyrna

2:11

to him I will give some of
the **hidden manna**, and I
will give him a **white stone**,
and a **new name** written
on the stone which
no one knows but he
who receives it (2:17)

Sardis

Ephesus

2:7

Philadelphia

Laodicea

The Overcomers (Rev. 2–3)

365

Pergamum

2:17

Thyatira

2:26

Smyrna

2:11

He who overcomes,
and he who keeps My
deeds until the end,
TO HIM I WILL GIVE
**AUTHORITY OVER
THE NATIONS (2:26)**

Sardis

Ephesus

2:7

Philadelphia

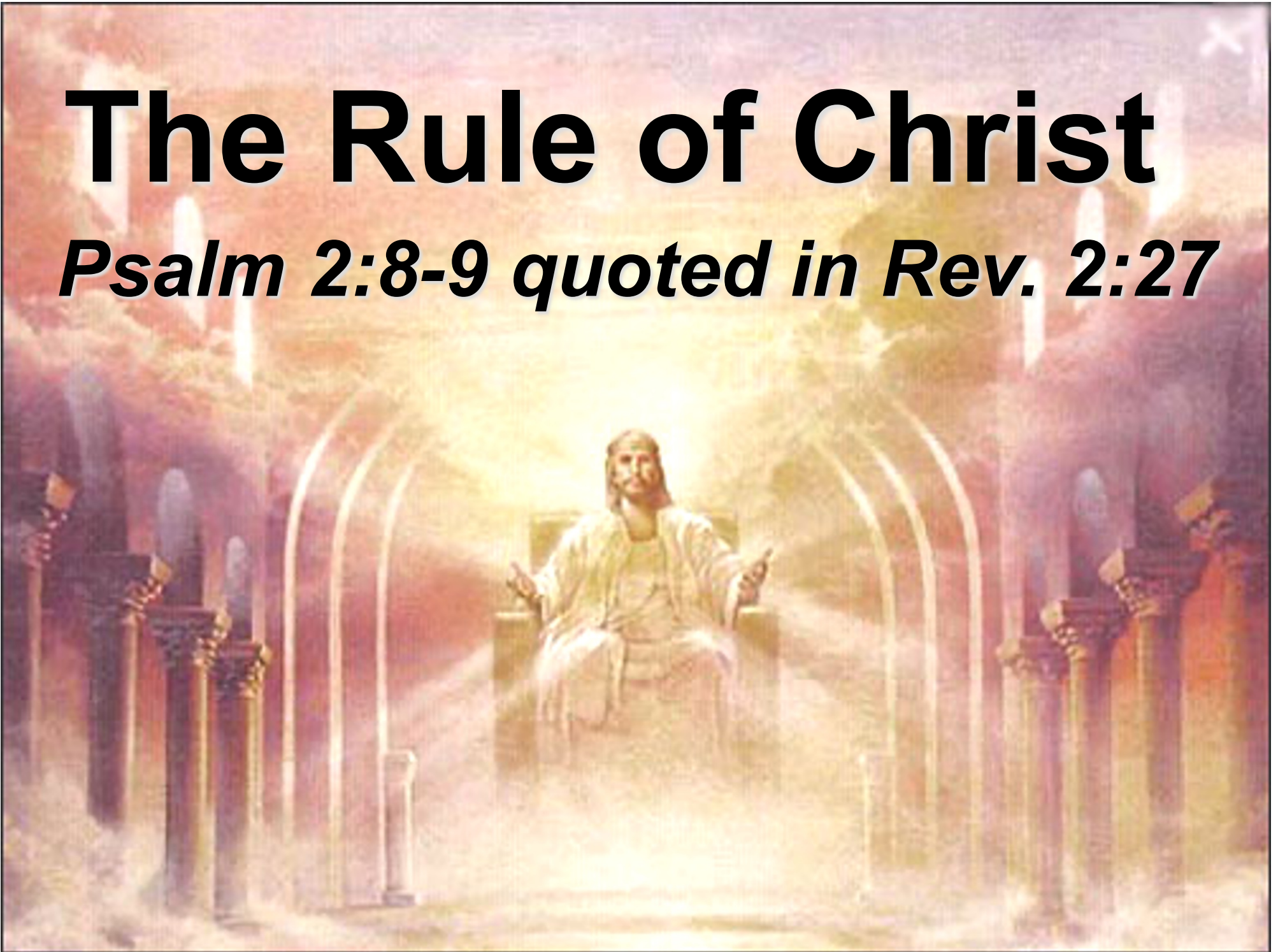
Laodicea

**Are you ready to rule
the world?**

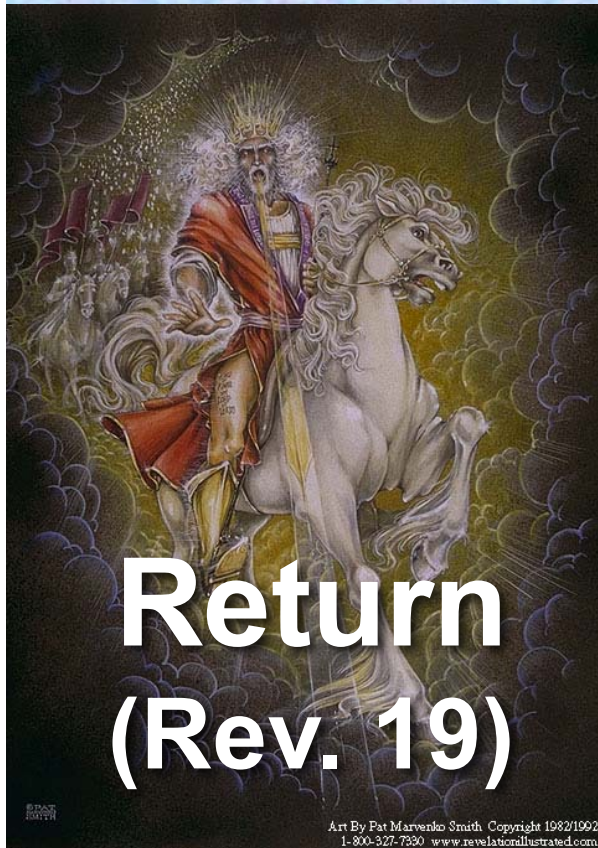


The Rule of Christ

Psalm 2:8-9 quoted in Rev. 2:27



Our Future (Rev. 19–20)





Final Destiny


*The Future Reign of the
Servant Kings*

Joseph Dillow



Revelation 20:4 (NAU)

⁴Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

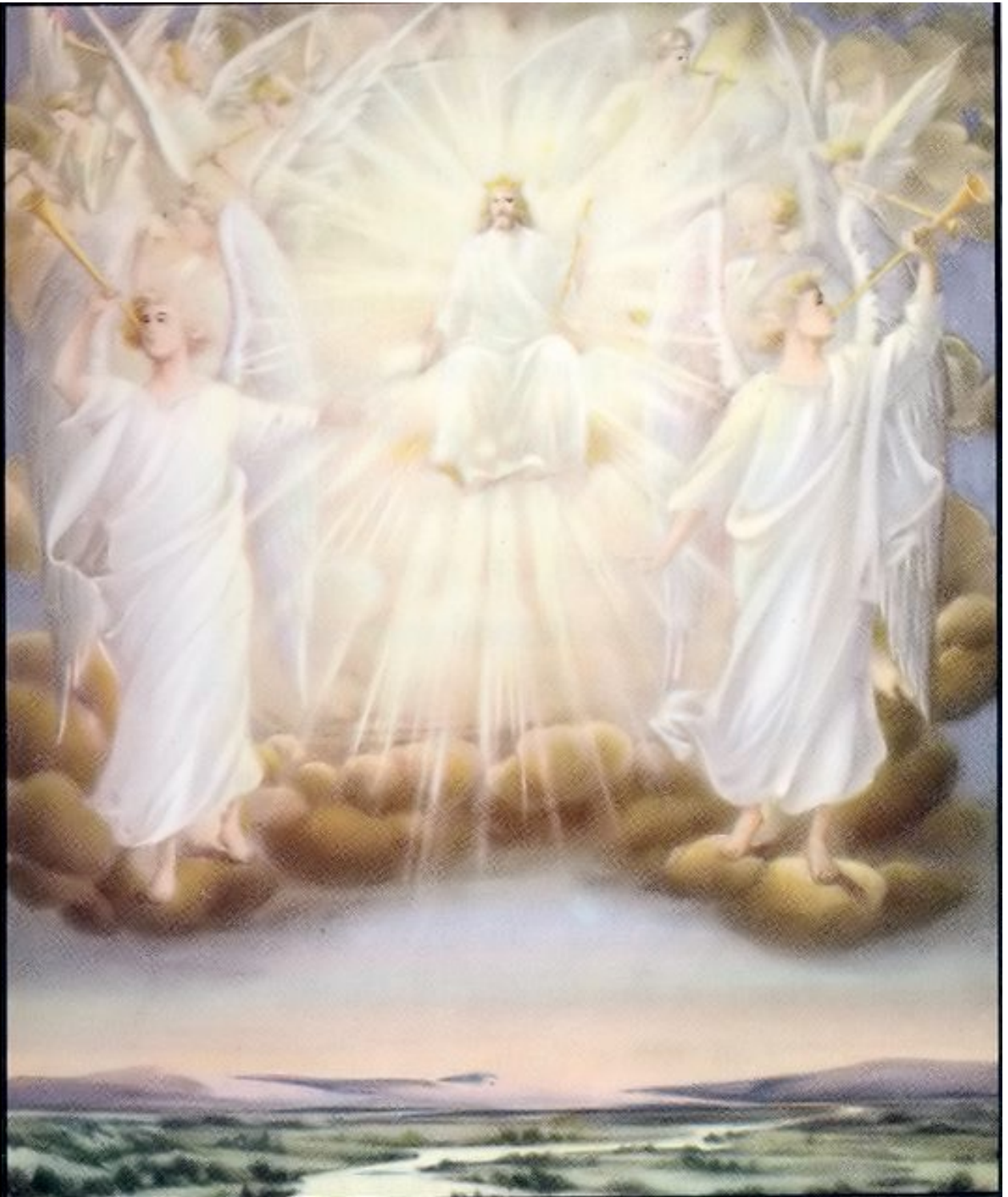


***"Do you not know
that saints will
judge the world?"
(1 Cor. 6:2a)***



**"If we endure hardship,
we will reign with him"**
(2 Tim. 2:12 NLT)

**"Those who
are victorious
will sit with me
on my throne,
just as I was
victorious and
sat with my
Father on his
throne"
(Rev. 3:21
NLT).**



How does Jesus respond to **immorality** among believers?



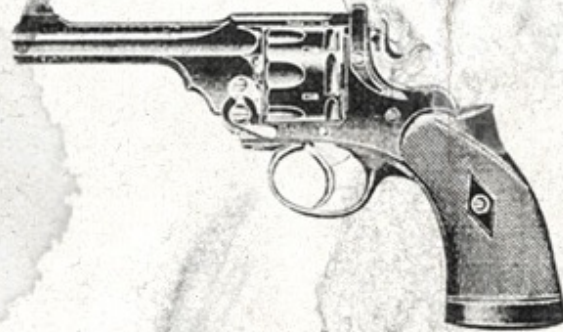
Main Idea:

**Service is no
substitute for
spotlessness**

How does Jesus respond to **immorality** among believers?



PORN-AGAIN CHRISTIAN A Book by Mark Driscoll



PORN-AGAIN
CHRISTIAN
a frank discussion on
pornography & masturbation

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A man with glasses is shown in profile, looking intently at a laptop screen. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the glow from the laptop screen, which casts a blueish light on his face and the surrounding environment. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an office or home workspace at night.

For No Porn-Again:

- 1. Strict filter**
- 2. Accountability**

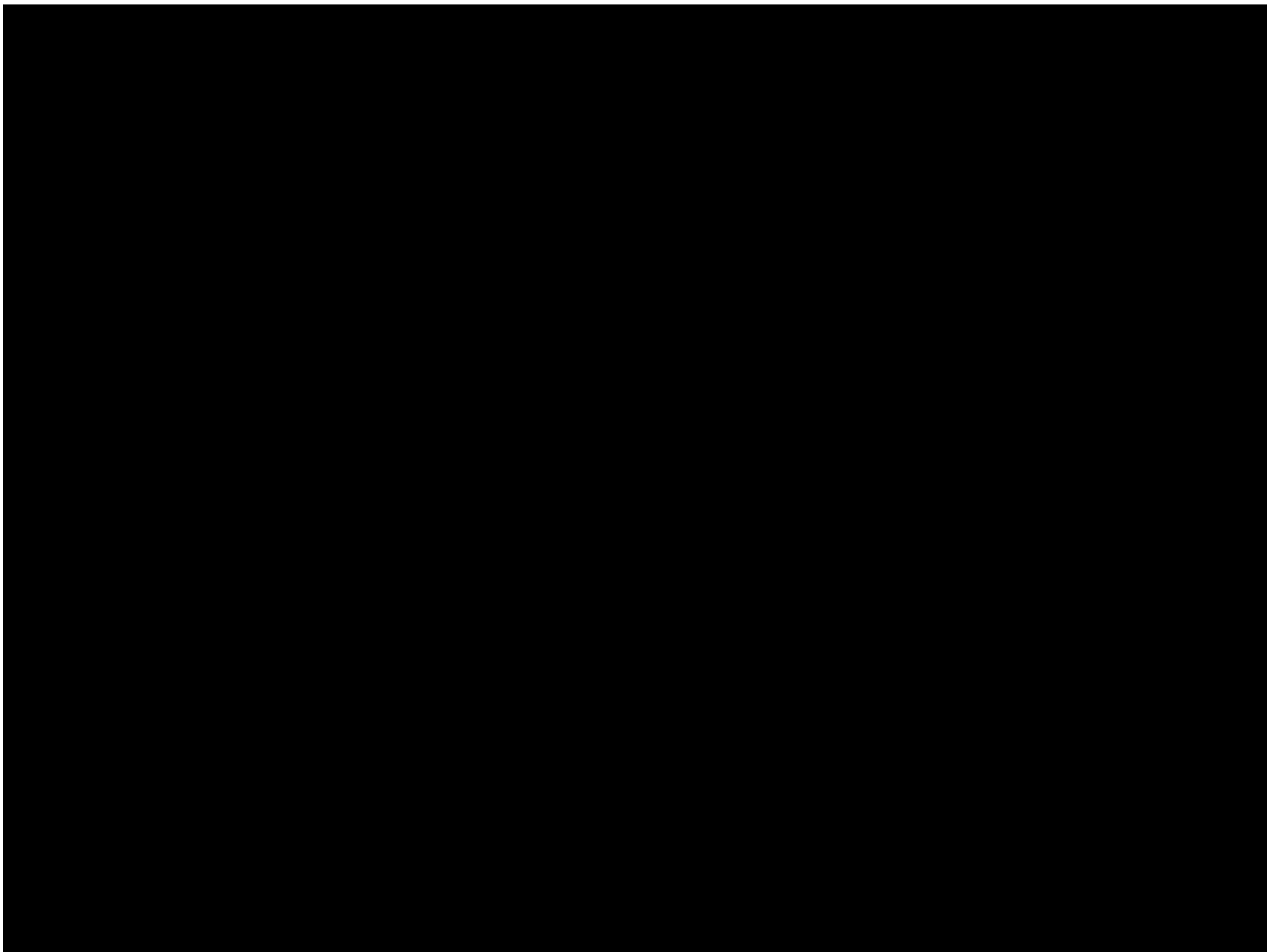


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Internet Accountability and Filtering

Your Brain on Porn

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