



# Revelation 3

# **Sardis**

## **Revelation 3:1-6**

# **The Church of Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6)**



**Distinguished Yet Dead**



**How well do you know yourself?**



**Jim Keenan**

Known to others  
and myself

Known only to  
others

**Open**

**Blind Spot**

**Hidden**

**Unknown**

Known only to  
myself

Known to no  
one



**How well do you know yourself?**





What does **Jesus** think of you?

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



# The Seven Churches of Revelation



The Writing Ministry of Jesus

*This is the third to last of the seven letters of Revelation 2–3*

# The 7 Churches (Rev. 2–3)

345

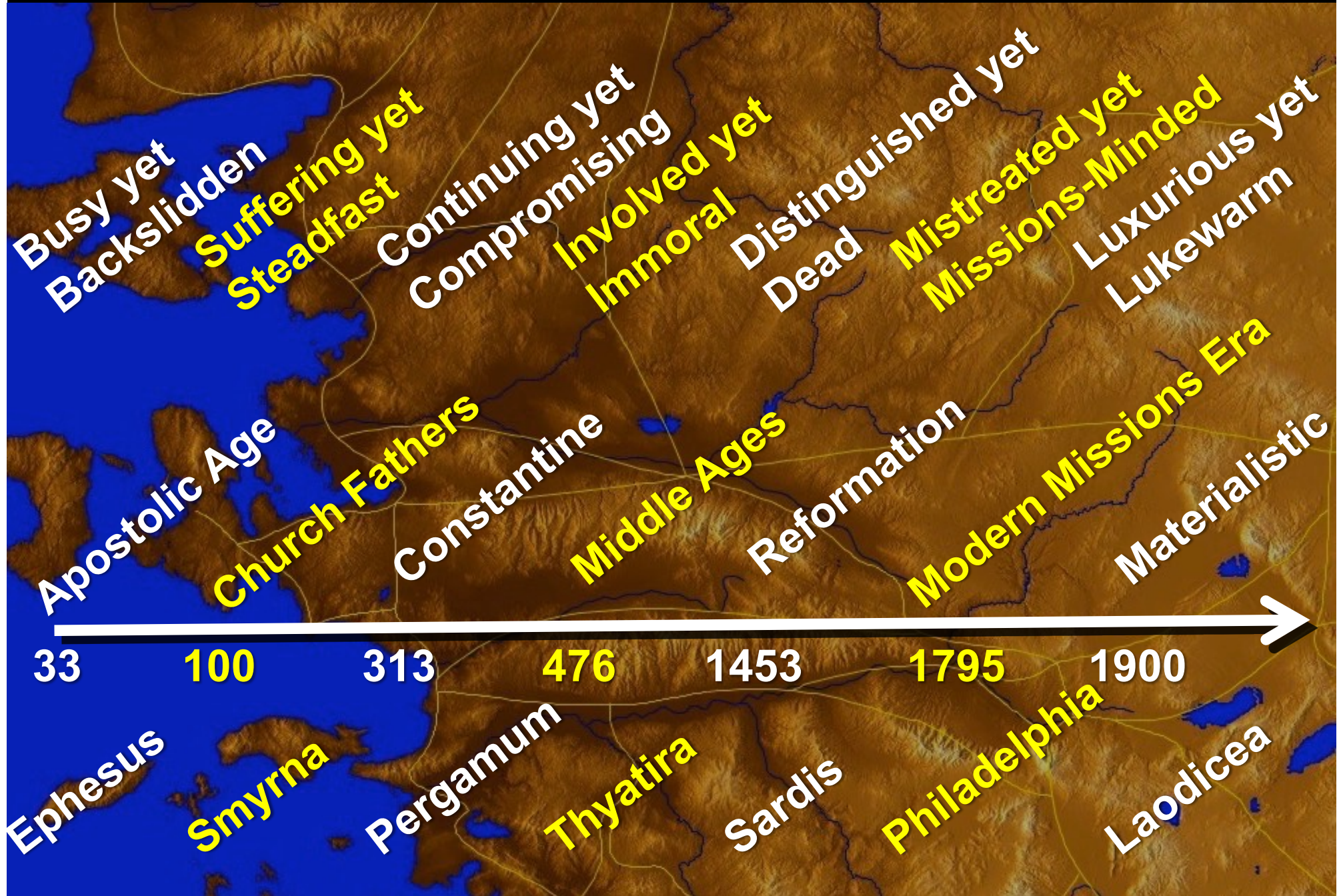


# The 7 Churches (Rev. 2–3)



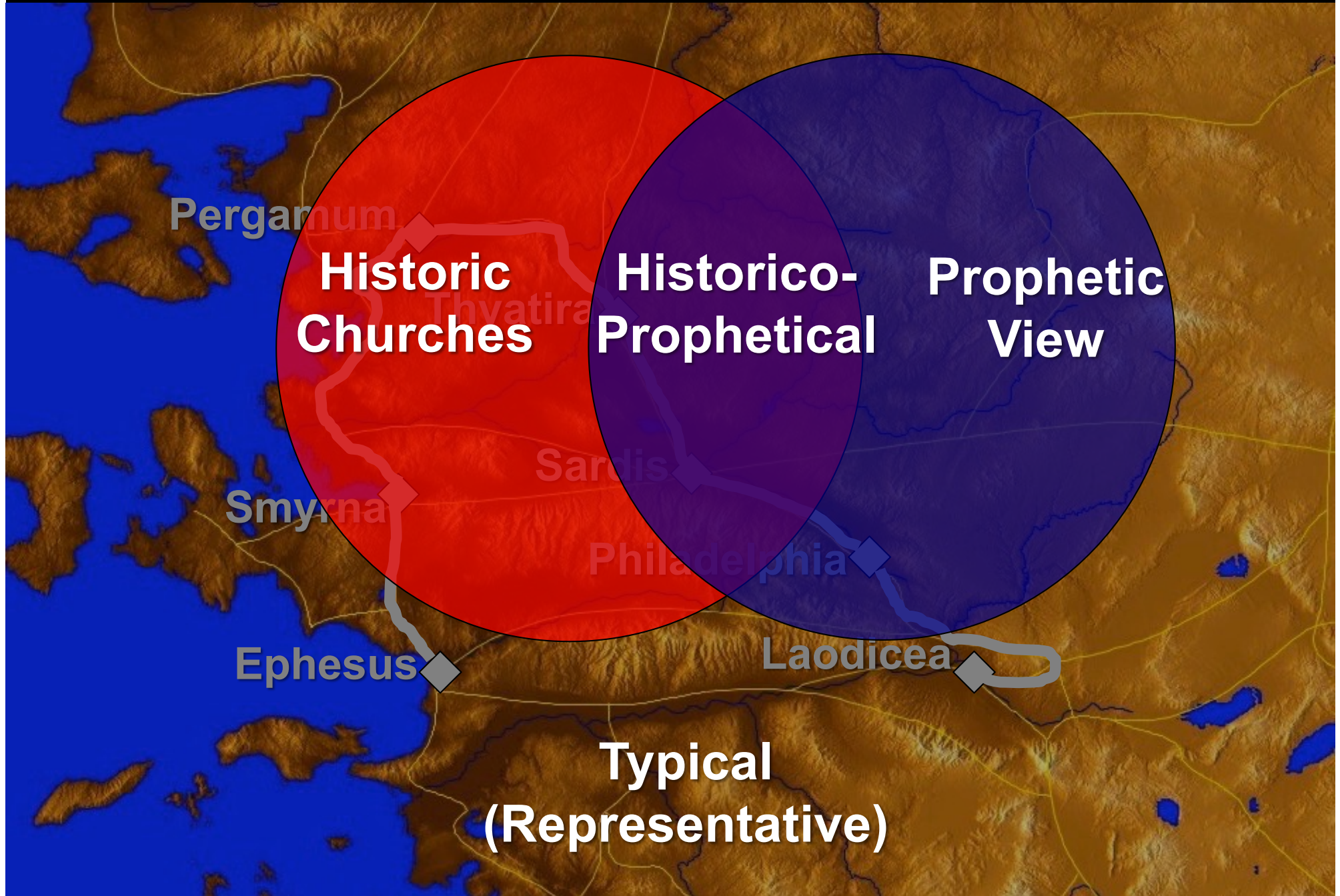
# 7 Church Stages?

347



# Four Views on Rev. 2–3

345

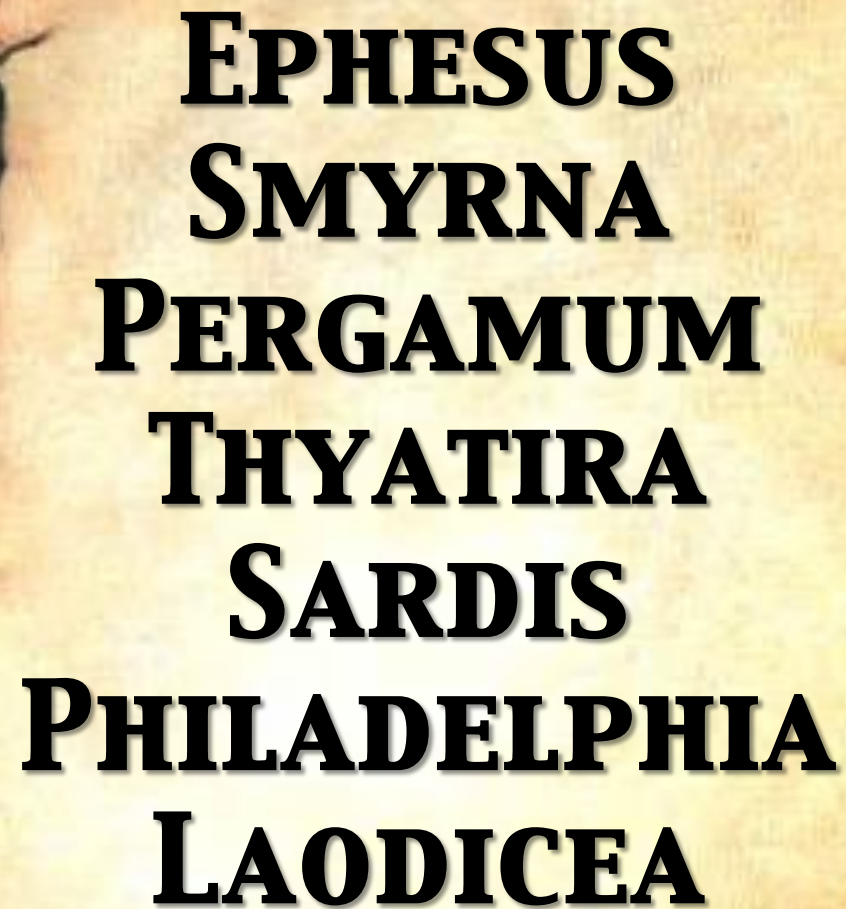


**Christ has  
authority  
over all  
churches**





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



**EPHESUS  
SMYRNA  
PERGAMUM  
THYATIRA  
SARDIS  
PHILADELPHIA  
LAODICEA**

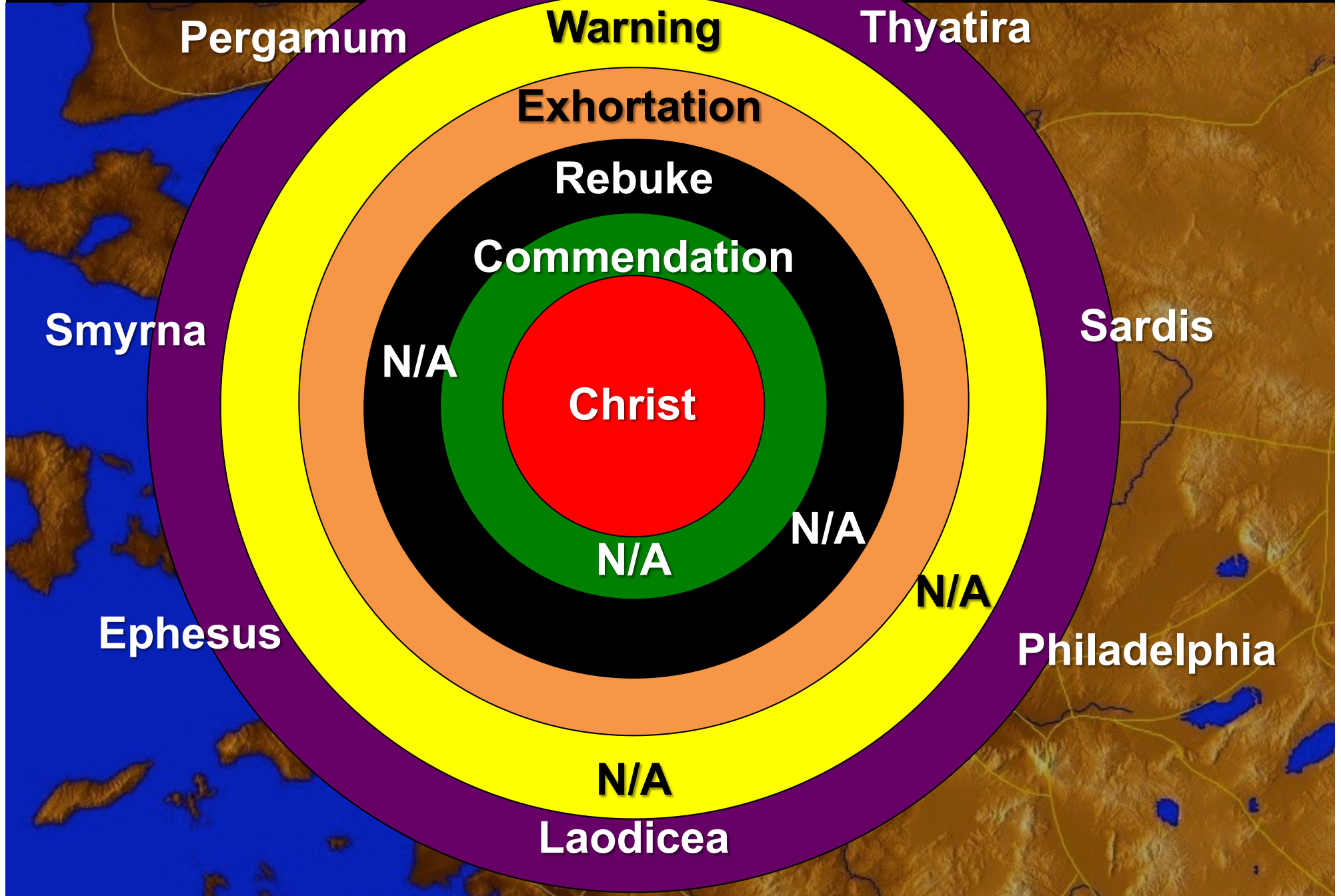
# Sovereignty of Christ in Future Victory

318, 324 M

# Revelation

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

# The 7 Churches (Rev. 2–3)



**Clint  
Eastwood  
1966**



**THE THE AND THE  
GOOD BAD UGLY**

**Christ  
knows  
it all**



**The Church of Sardis  
(Rev. 3:1-6)**

I. Jesus knows the **good**.



**Jesus encouraged Sardis with the good news that he was sovereign and knew their faithfulness (3:1-2a)**





**Sardis Acropolis from Below**





**Sardis from Acropolis**



**Sardis Temple of Artemis from Above**



**Sardis Temple of Artemis from Above**



**Sardis Temple of Artemis**



**Sardis Gymnasium**



**Sardis Synagogue, 4th c AD**



**Sardis Synagogue Bema**



**Sardis Synagogue Mosaic, AD 400**





**Sardis Paved Roman Street Leading to Persia**

# Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6)

357

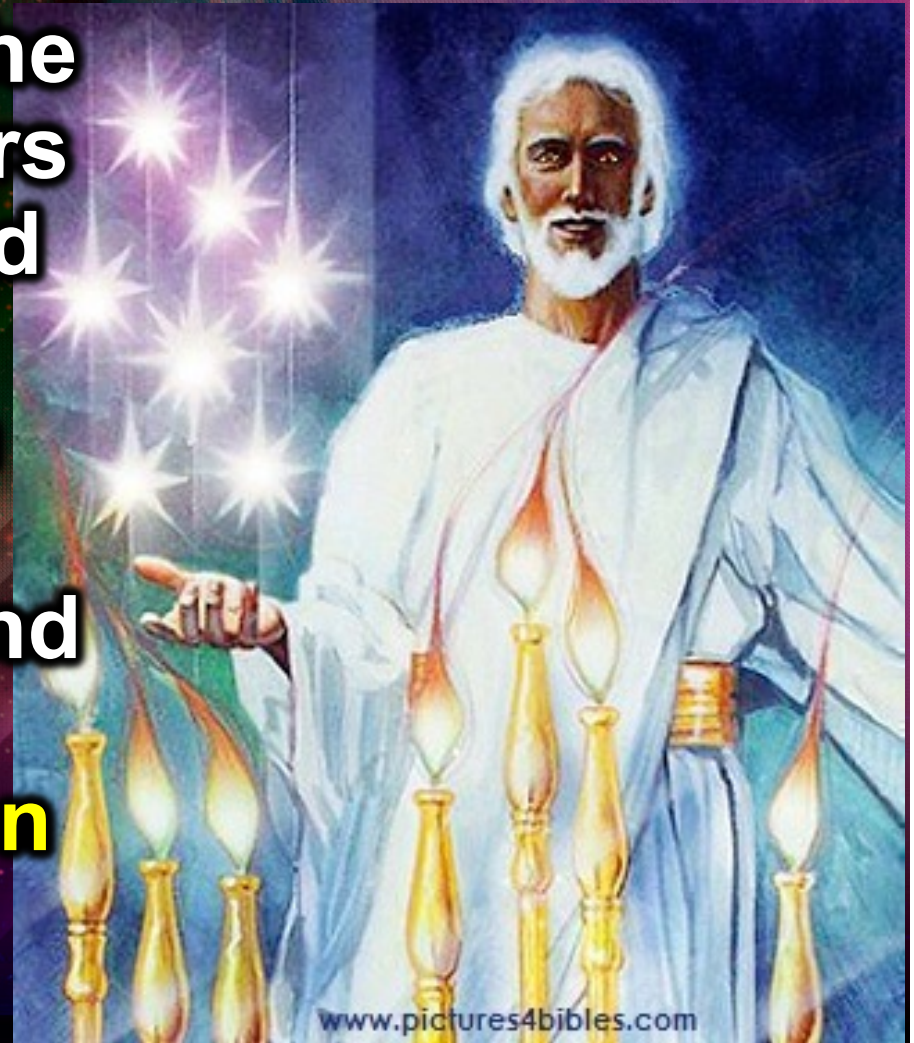




**John's vision of  
the glorified Christ  
proves He can  
handle the  
Church's internal  
and external  
problems  
(1:12-16)**

# 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.**"



# Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6)

357



Pergamum

Thyatira

Commendation:

Smyrna

Deeds

Sardis

Reputation for  
being alive

Ephesus

Philadelphia

Laodicea



**Christ knows all your good  
deeds and reputation**



**How much do you care?**

I. Jesus knows the **good**.







II. Jesus knows the **bad**.

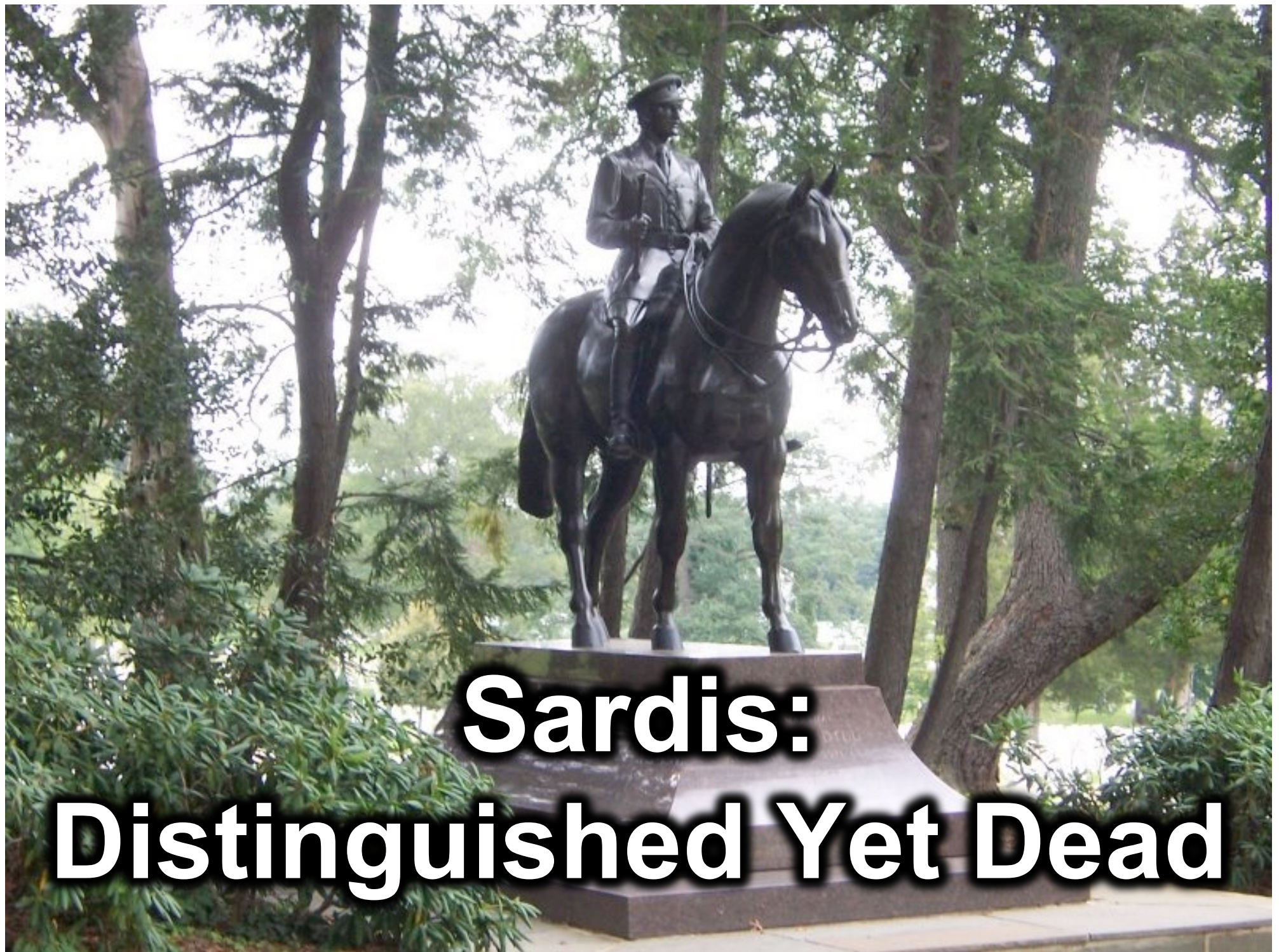
# Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6)

357



# Sardis: Distinguished Yet Dead

"You have a reputation for being **alive**,  
but in reality you are **dead**" (3:2)



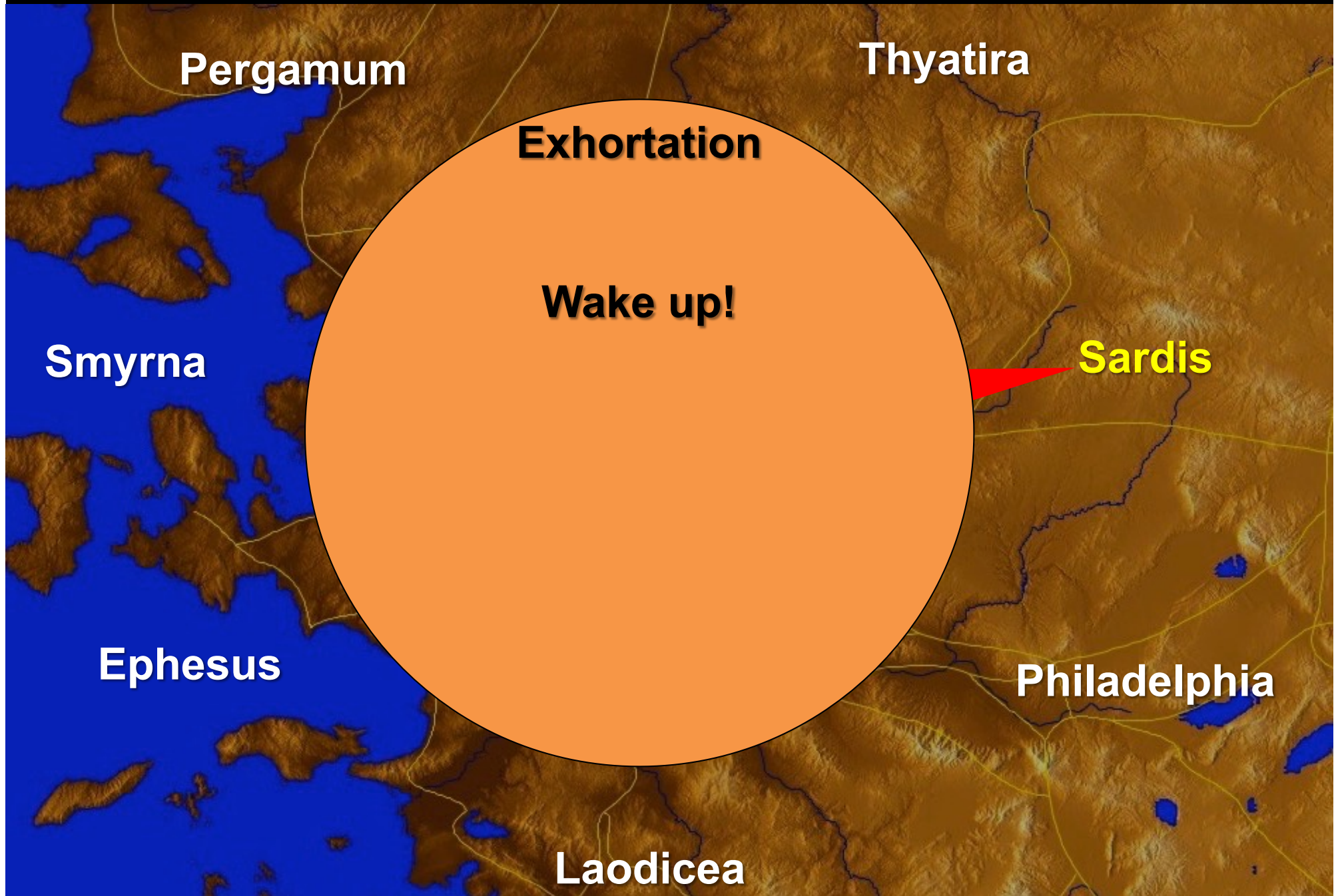
**Sardis:  
Distinguished Yet Dead**



**"If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference."**

# Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6)

357



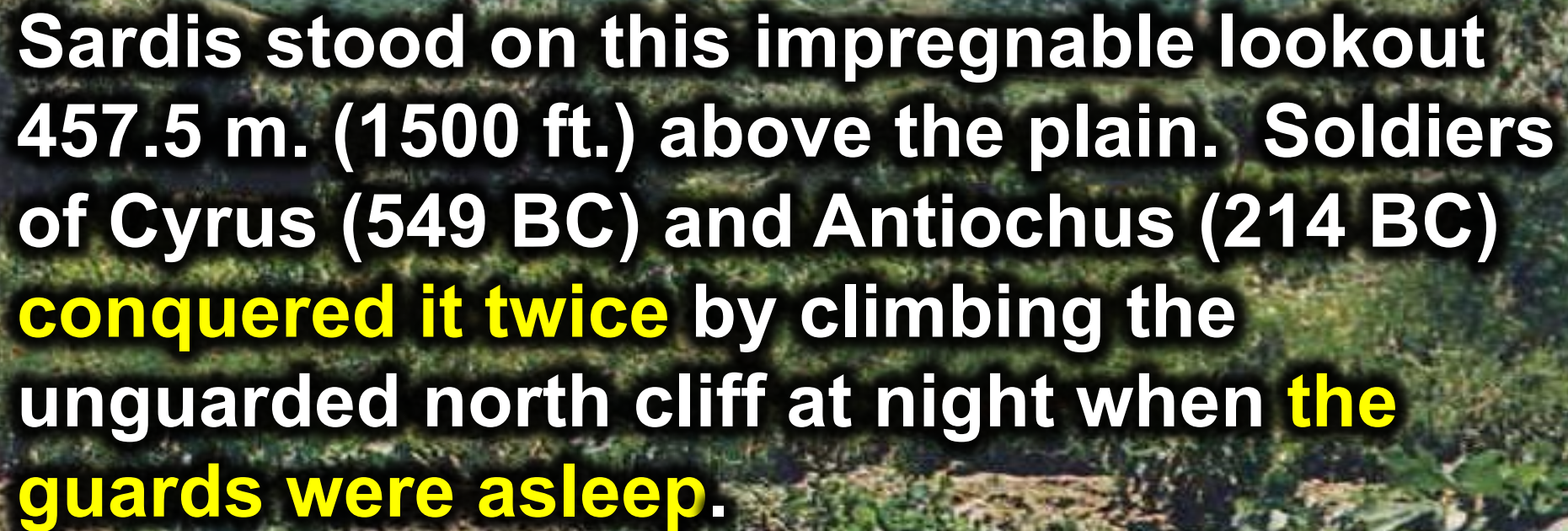
# Sardis

358

**Wake up!** Strengthen  
what little remains, for even  
what is left is almost  
dead...  
(3:2 NLT).

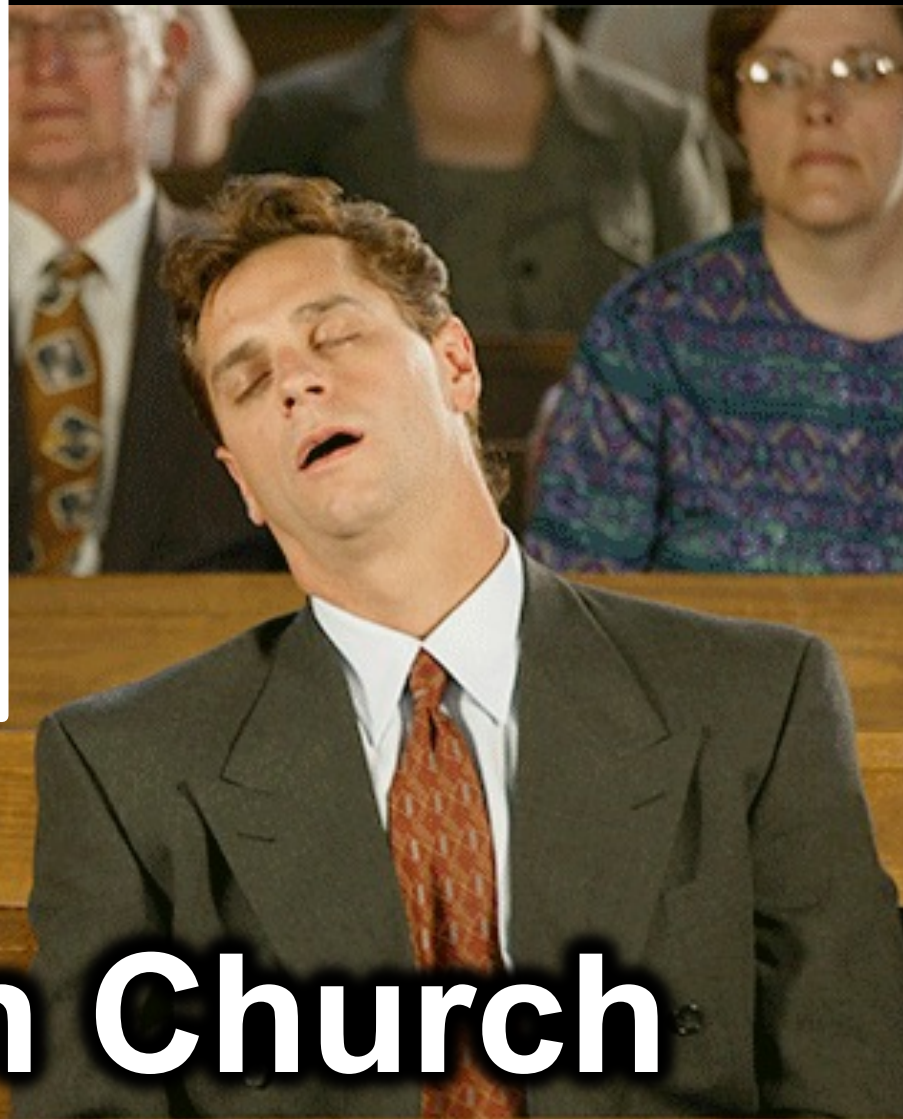
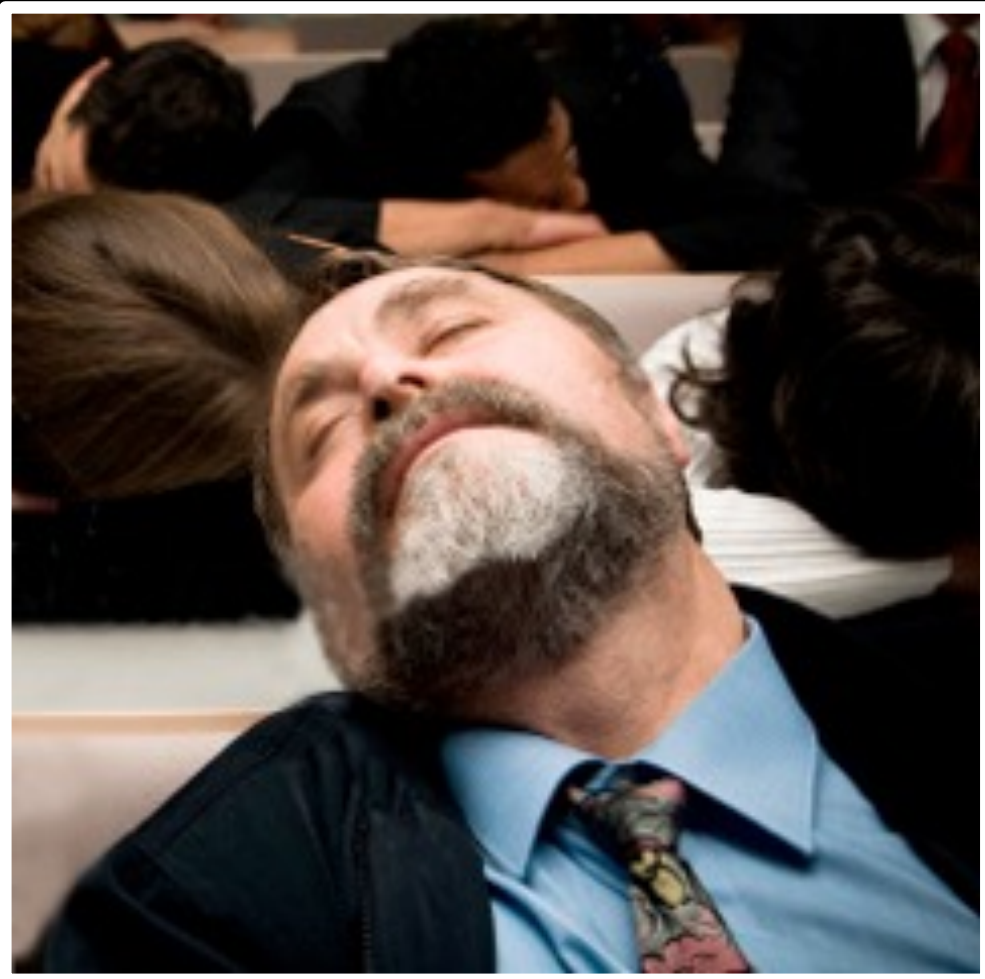


# Sardis

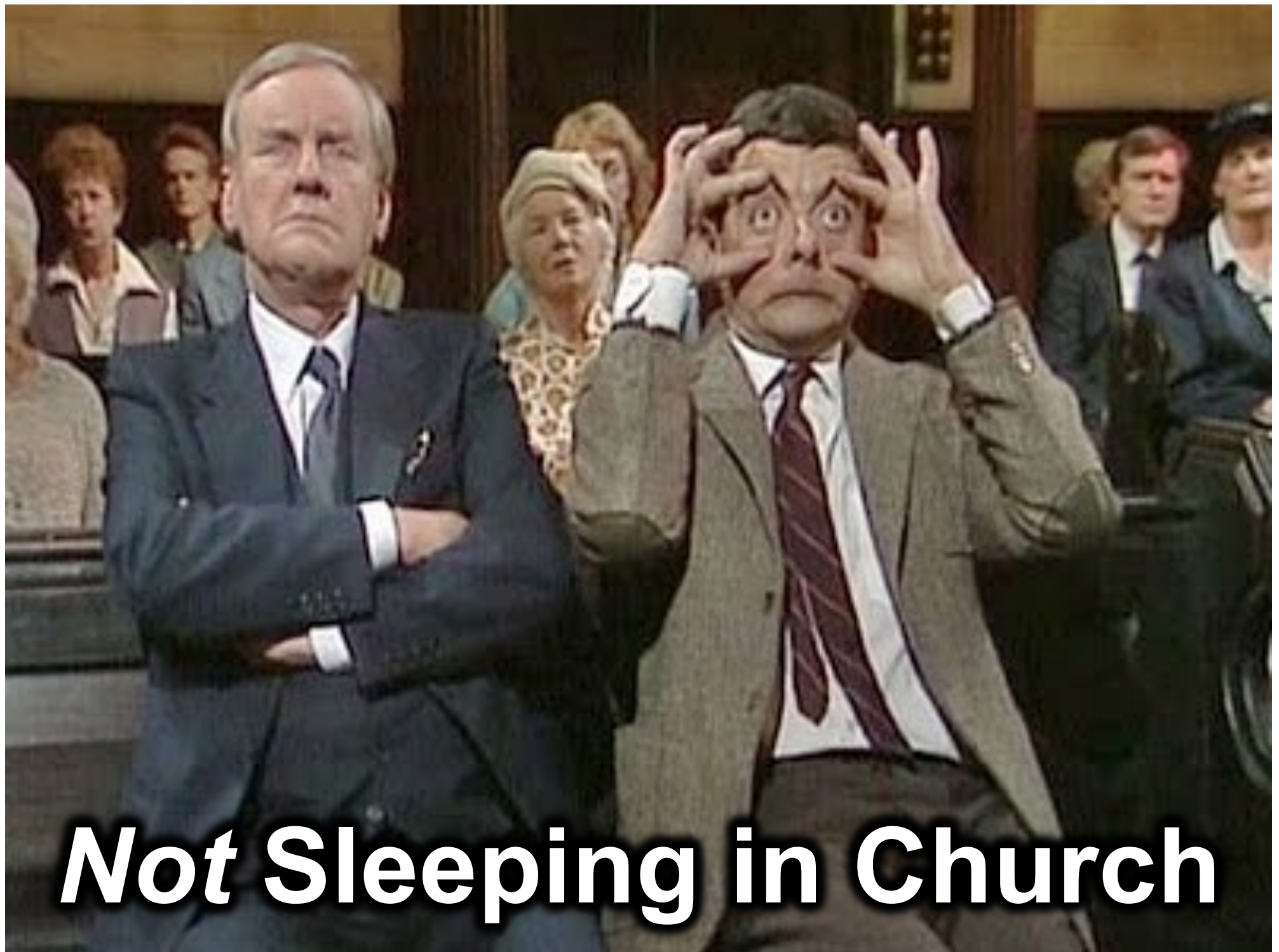


**Sardis stood on this impregnable lookout 457.5 m. (1500 ft.) above the plain. Soldiers of Cyrus (549 BC) and Antiochus (214 BC) **conquered it twice** by climbing the unguarded north cliff at night when **the guards were asleep.****





**Sleeping in Church**



***Not Sleeping in Church***

# Signs Your Pastor Caught You Napping During His Sermon:

- He serves you Red Bull during communion



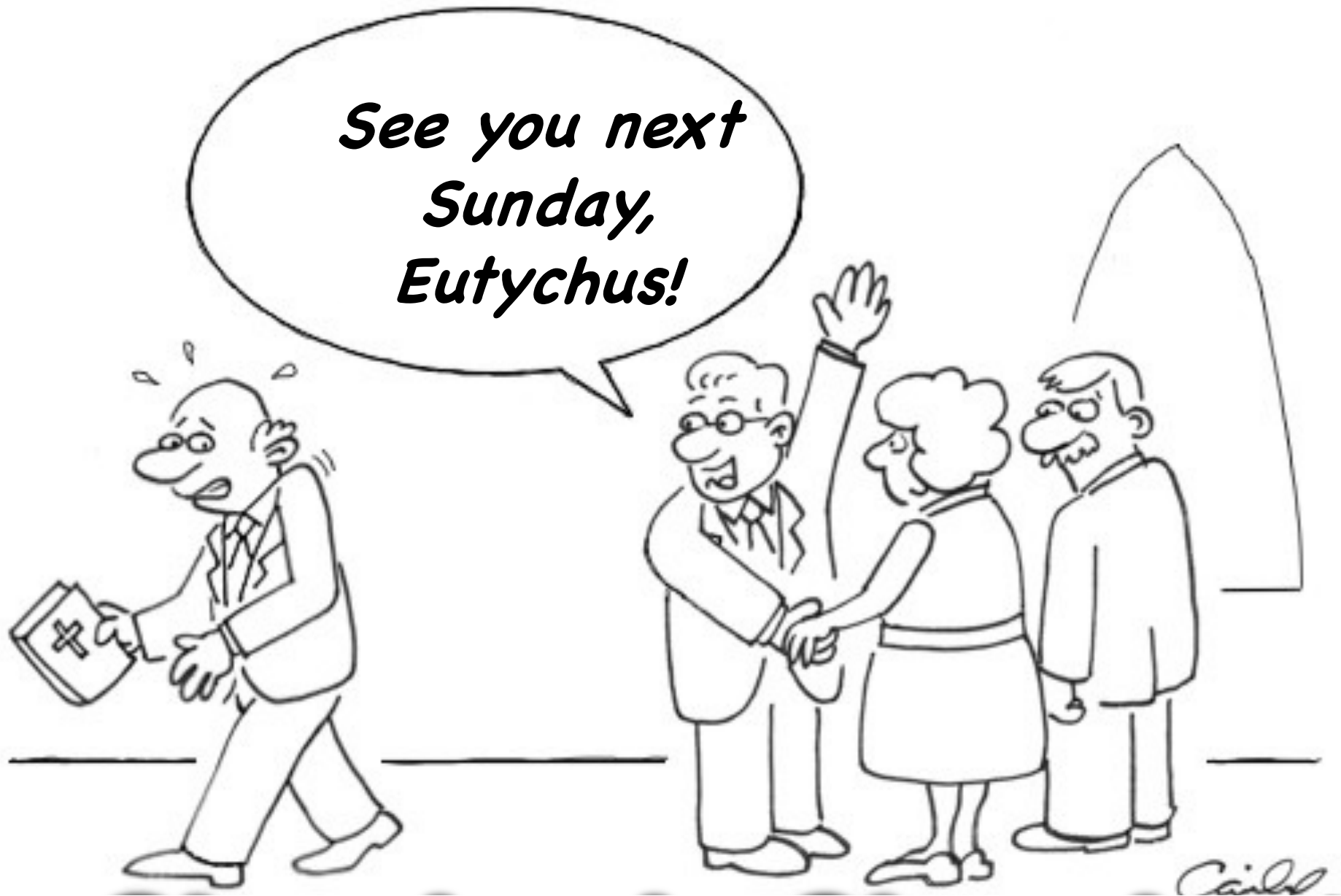
# Signs Your Pastor Caught You Napping During His Sermon:

- He interrupts his sermon to put shaving foam in your hand, then tickles your nose with a feather



# **Signs Your Pastor Caught You Napping During His Sermon:**

- **He begins questioning his calling due to your inattentiveness, then quits the ministry, starts drinking heavily, and dies alone in a skid row flophouse.**



**A good sign the pastor caught you napping during his sermon.**

# Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6)

357



Pergamum

**Warning**

Thyatira

Smyrna

**If you do not wake up,  
I will come like a thief  
against you**

Sardis


Ephesus

Philadelphia

Laodicea

# Sardis

358



**Wake up!** Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead...

If you don't **wake up**, I will come to you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief (3:2-3 NLT).



Known to others  
and myself

Known only to others

- **Family**
- **Spiritually  
malnourished**

**Open**

**Blind Spot**

**Wake**

**Hidden**

**Unknown**

**up!**

Known  
myself

Known to no one



# **Christ warns us as a church to wake up too**

- 1. He owns all we have**
- 2. Caring for people means caring for their kids**

I. Jesus knows the **good**.





II. Jesus knows the **bad**.



III. Jesus knows the **future**.

## Promise

**Jesus promised  
believers at Sardis  
that they are  
victorious and  
secure to walk with  
him in purity (3:4-6)**

Pergam

atira

Smyr

Sardis

Ephe

Philadelphia

# The Overcomers (Rev. 2–3)

365

Pergamum

2:17

Thyatira

2:26

He  
who

overcomes will thus be

clothed in white garments;

and I will not erase his name  
from the book of life, and I

will confess his name

before My Father and  
before His angels (3:5)

Sardis

3:5

Smyrna

2:11

Ephesus

2:7

Philadelphia

Laodicea



**Christ has a fantastic  
future for you!**

**"Anyone with ears to hear must  
listen to the Spirit and understand  
what he is saying to the churches"  
(3:6 NLT)**



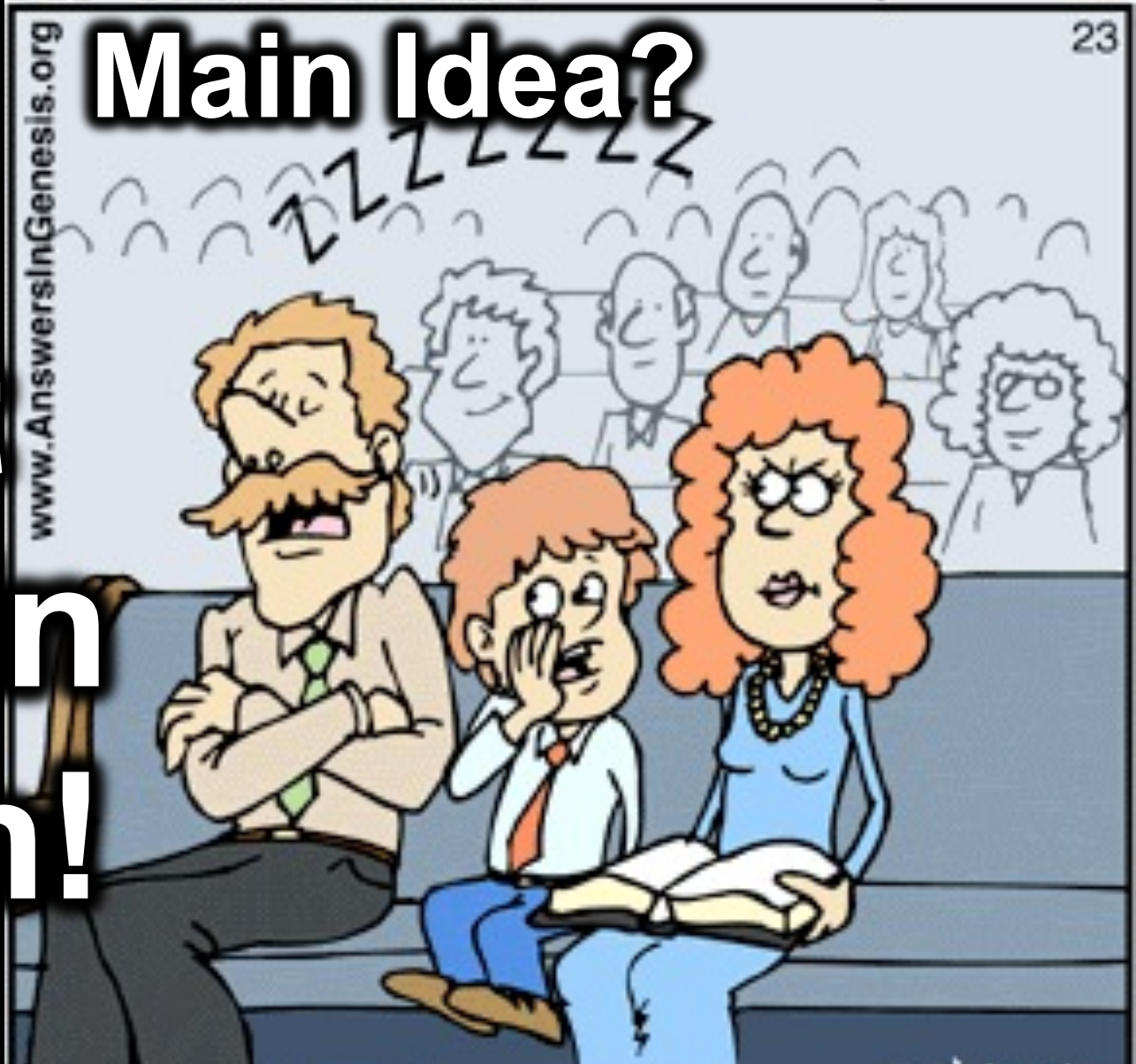
If Jesus wrote a letter to **you**,  
**w**hat **w**ould **J**esus **s**ay?



www.AnswersInGenesis.org

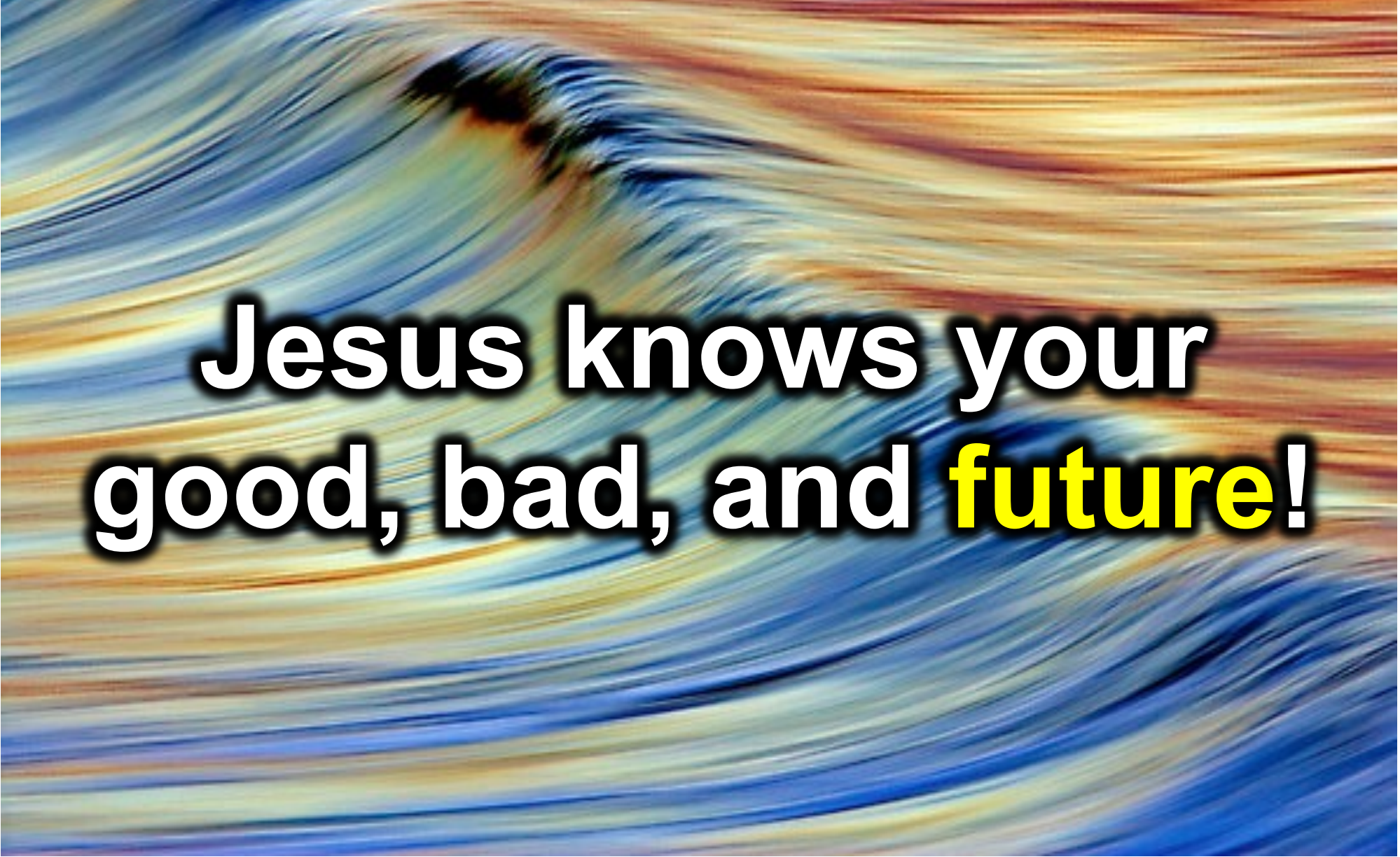
# Main Idea?

**Don't  
sleep in  
church!**



**Mom, I think Dad is taking the  
"day of rest" a little too far.**

**Main Idea:**



**Jesus knows your  
good, bad, and **future!****

**Will you wake up?**

**How can you be more  
spiritually awake in this  
coming year?**

# Will you wake up?

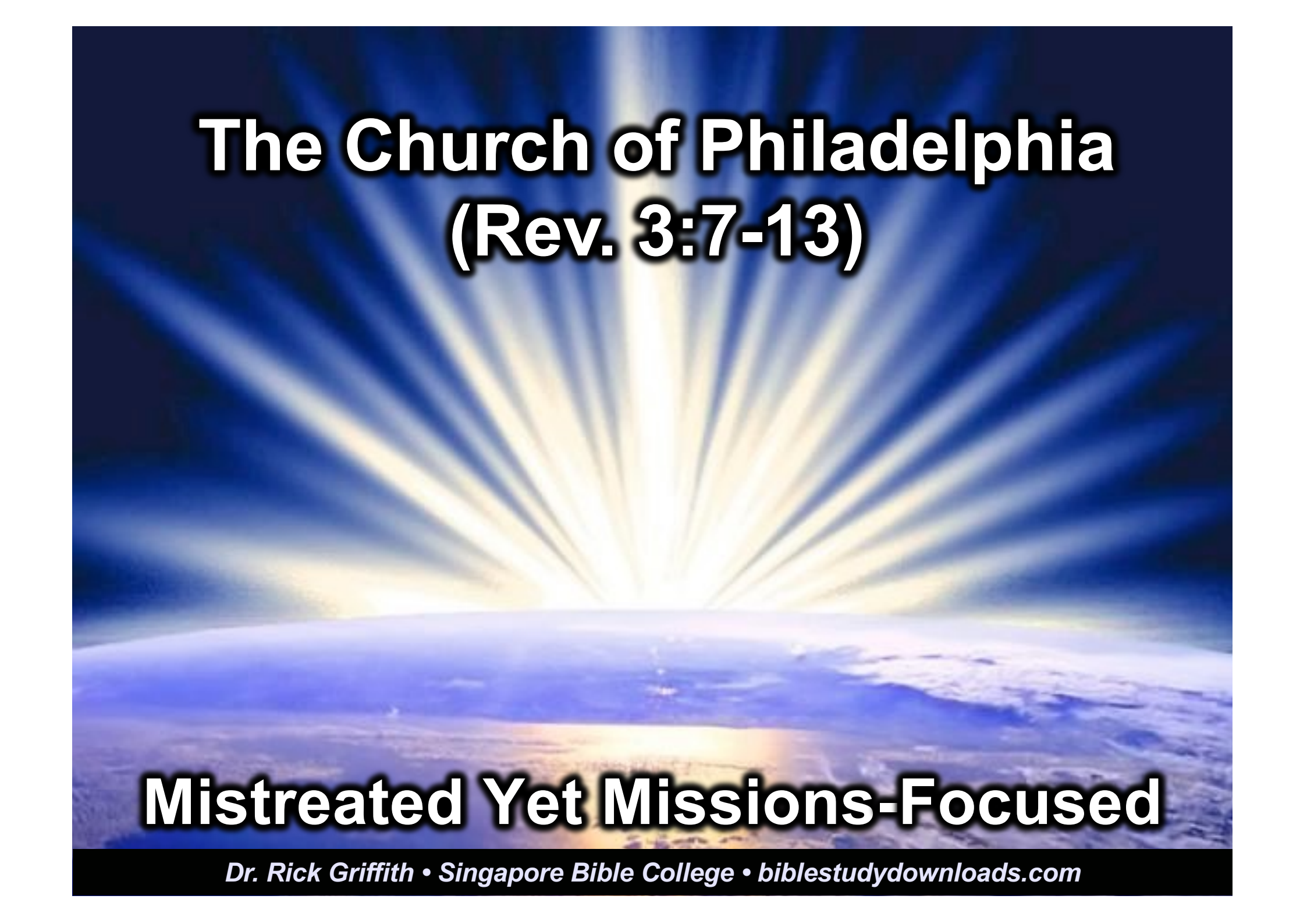


Yes

No

# **Philadelphia**

## **Revelation 3:7-13**



# **The Church of Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13)**

**Mistreated Yet Missions-Focused**

# The Huddle





# Who hates unity?



**No one.**



# **Our Huddle**

**Thank God for  
making us one  
despite our 16  
countries!**

# The Huddle



# THE HOLY HUDDLE



**Worship • Unity • Focus**



# **The Holy Huddle**

**Where everyone  
looks • acts • sounds • smells  
just like us!**

# The Holy Huddle

**Uniformity—  
not unity**





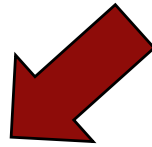
**Why do you like CIC?**



CROSSROADS  
international church

*Our Vision is to...*

**Love God**



**Love the  
Church**





**Do you want our  
church to stay small?**



**What does Jesus want for us?  
Doesn't he want us to reach out?**



***How* does Jesus encourage us  
to **reach out**?**

# The Seven Churches of Revelation

The Writing Ministry of Jesus

*This is the second to last of the seven letters of Revelation 2–3*

# Asia in the Roman Empire



Asian Churches

Rome

2. External  
Persecution

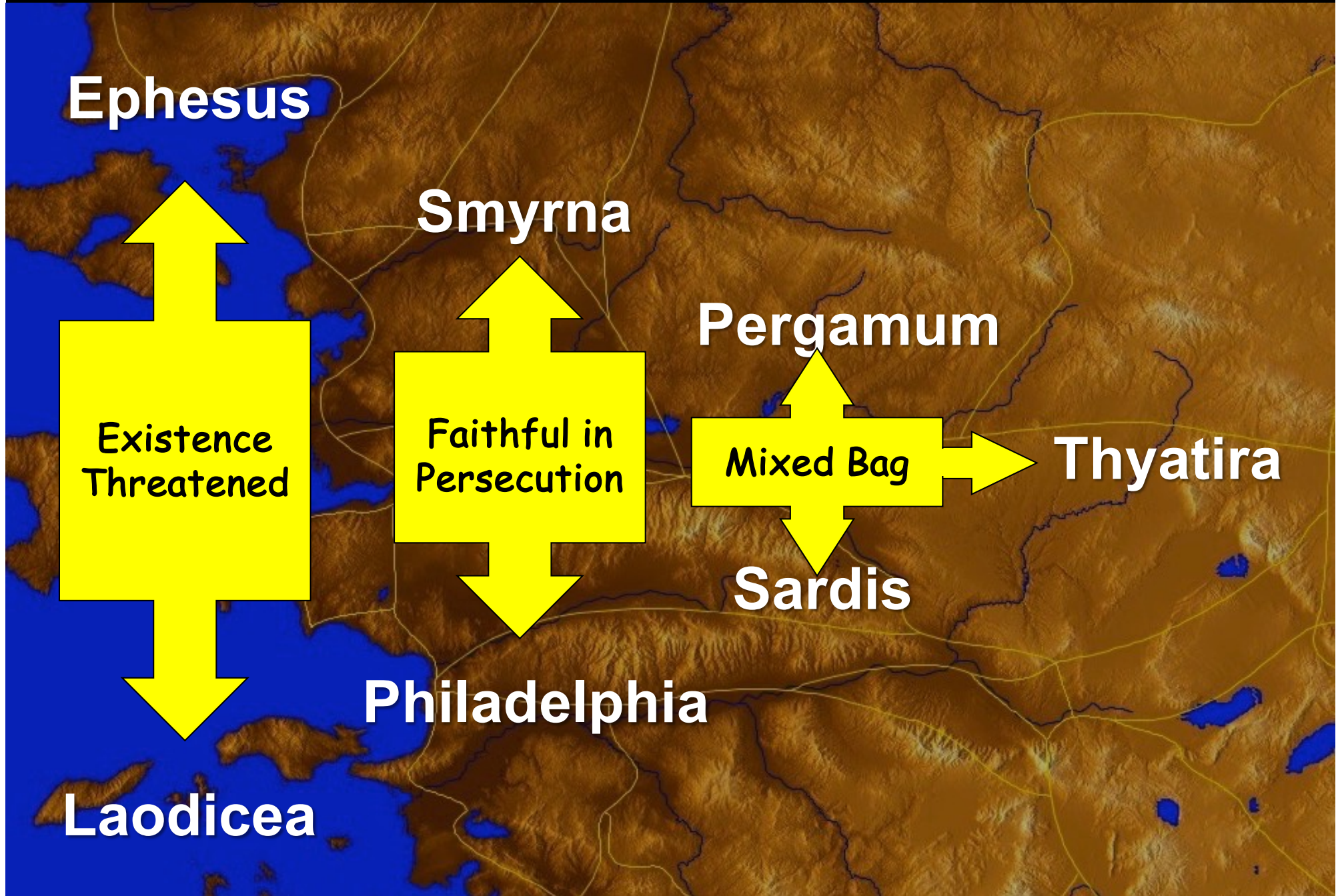
from Rome (1:9;  
2:9-10; 3:10)

1. Internal Struggles  
inside churches  
(2:4, 14-15, 21-24;  
3:1, 15-17)

What did  
John see  
around him?

# The Chiasm (Rev. 2–3)

366



A photograph of two hands reaching towards each other against a bright, glowing background. The hands are positioned as if about to clasp or support each other, with fingers slightly curled. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the contours of the hands against the bright light.

**So how does Jesus encourage  
us to **reach out**?**

**In two ways...**

***Rev. 3:7-13***

# I. Christ **opens** doors for witness (3:7-8).







***OH NO! NOT  
EVANGELISM!***

**Christ gave Philadelphia opportunities to witness (3:7-8).**



**Founded by Eumenes II, king of Pergamum,  
or his brother, Attalus II Philadelphus  
(reigned 159-138 BC),  
meaning "lover of his brother"**



Philadelphia view to south from acropolis

# Where was Philadelphia?

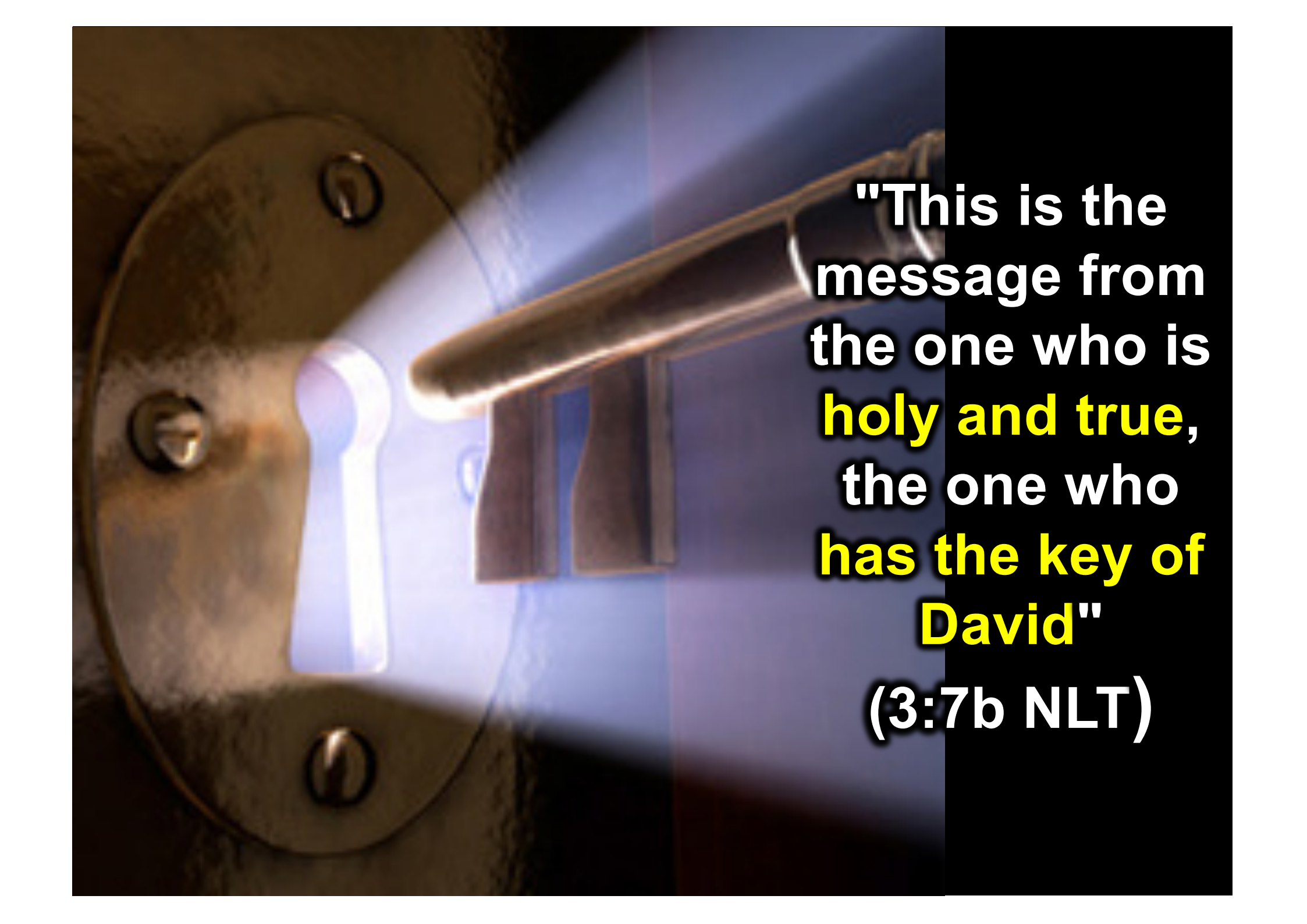
345



# Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13)

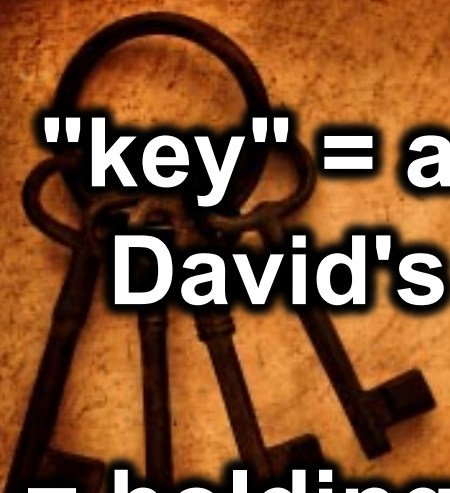
359






"This is the  
message from  
the one who is  
**holy and true,**  
the one who  
**has the key of**  
**David"**

**(3:7b NLT)**



**"key" = access to  
David's wealth**

**= holding spiritual  
treasures (e.g.,  
opportunities for  
service)**



**"I will give [Eliakim]  
the key to the house  
of David—the  
highest position in  
the royal court.  
When he opens  
doors, no one will  
be able to close  
them; when he  
closes doors, no  
one will be able to  
open them"**

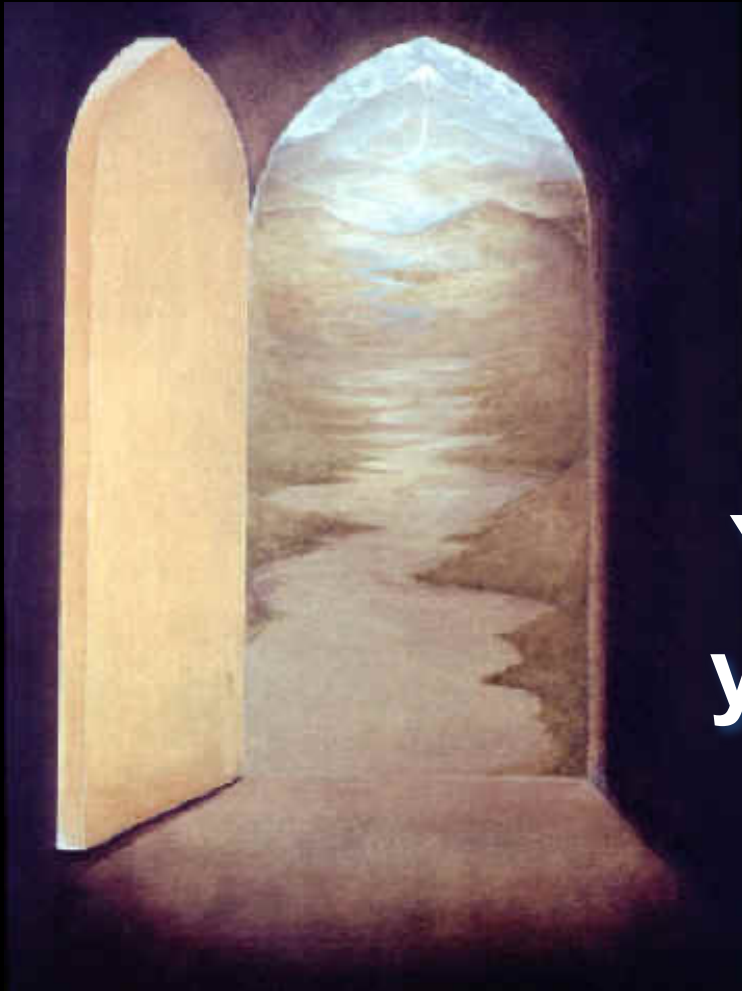
**(Isa. 22:22 NLT)**

**"What he opens, no one can close;  
and what he closes, no one can  
open" (3:7c NLT)**





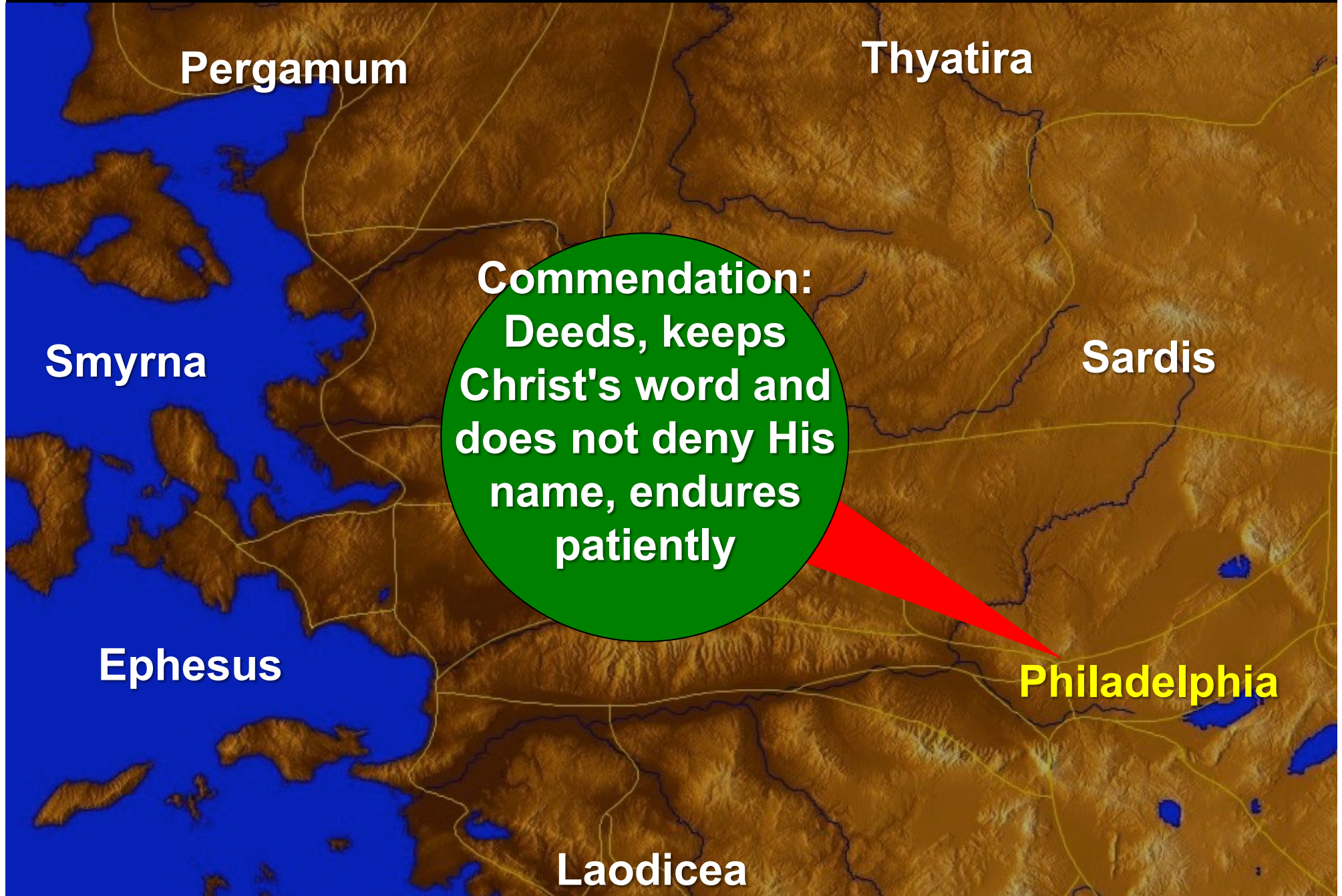
**Commendation: He gave them opportunities based on their faithfulness (3:8).**



**"I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me" (3:8 NLT).**

# Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13)

359



Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Commendation:  
Deeds, keeps  
Christ's word and  
does not deny His  
name, endures  
patiently

Sardis

Ephesus

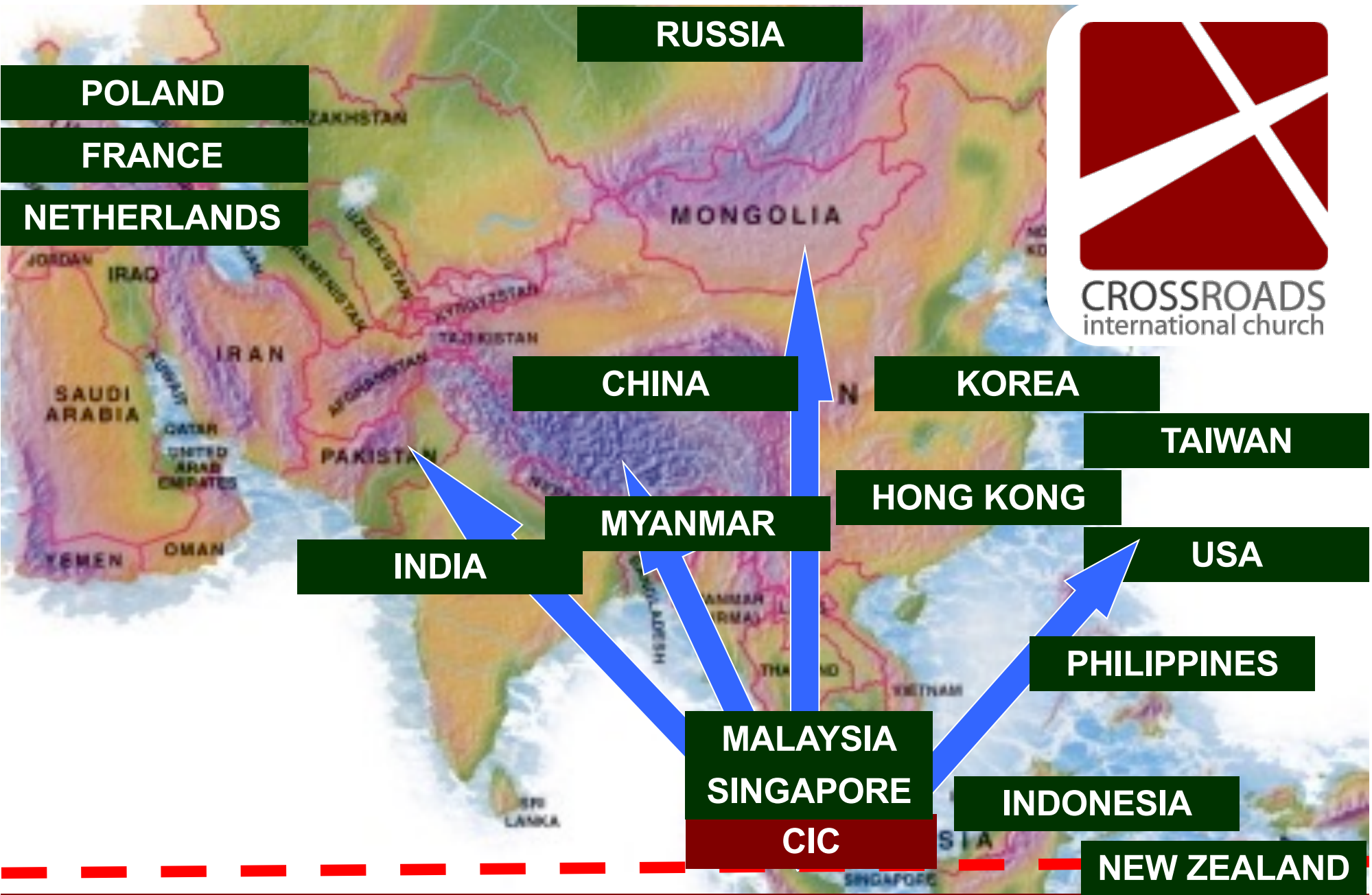
Philadelphia

Laodicea

**Jesus has given our church many  
open doors for witness too!**

**"...I have given you  
an open door that  
no one can shut..."  
(3:8 NLT)**





# Crossroads People 2014



**Let's reach out to more of our own people living in Singapore!**





*Our Vision is to...*

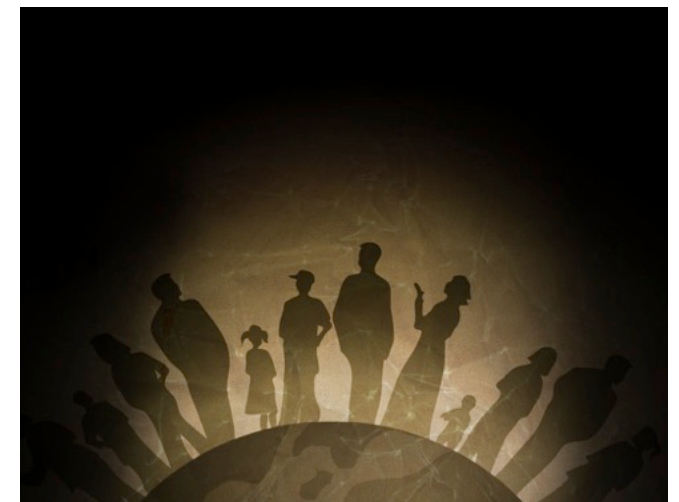
**Love God**



**Love the Church**



**Love the Nations**



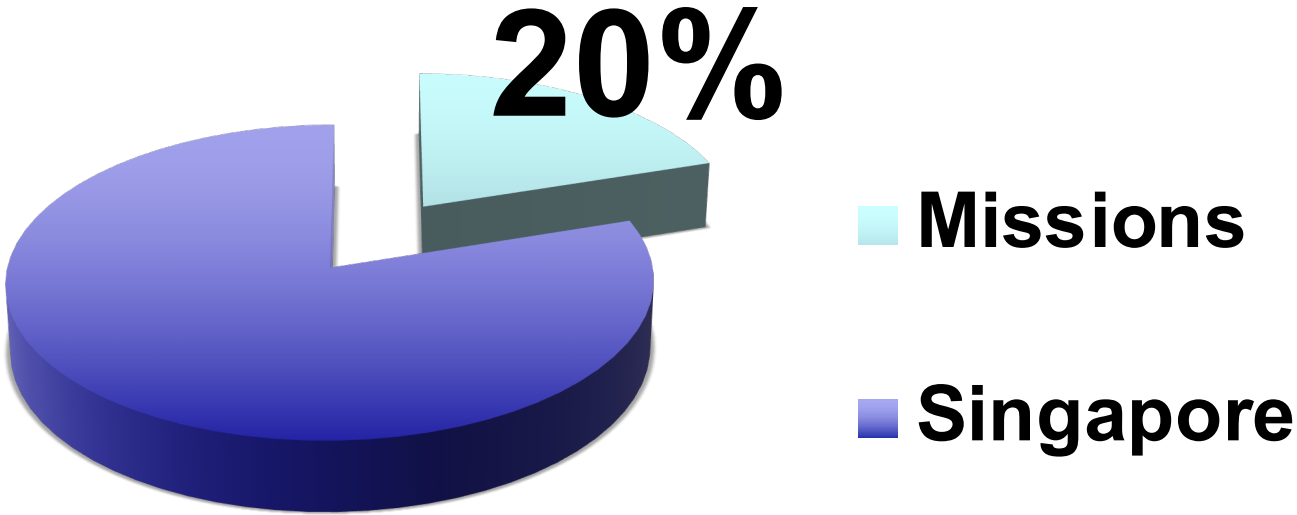


CROSSROADS  
international church

# Our Mission Giving

- Thailand
- Vietnam
- India
- Mongolia
- Philippines (training for
- Myanmar Indonesia)
- Pakistan
- Bangladesh
- Afghanistan
- Nepal
- Canada



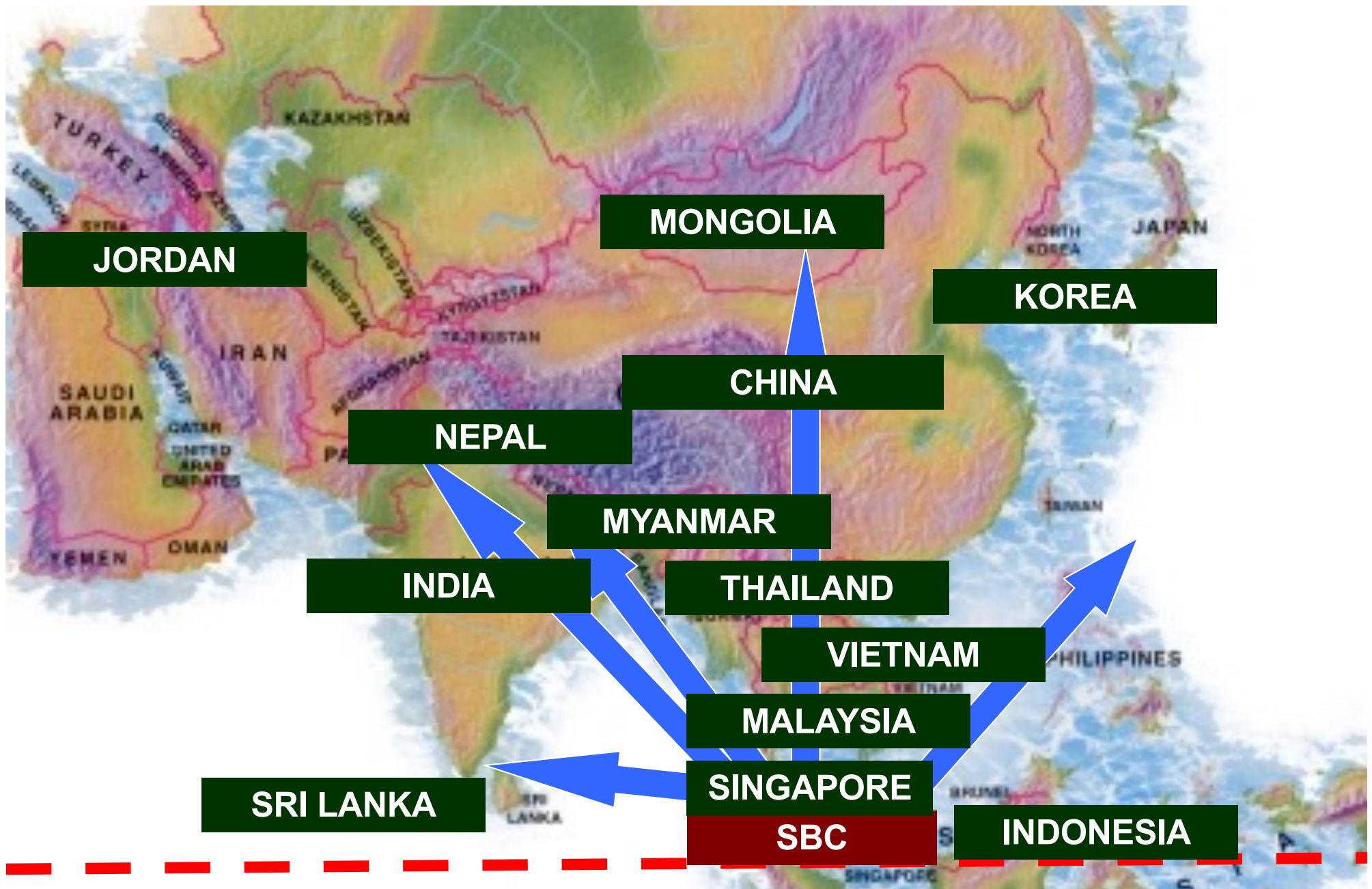




# Open door to mission trips



**"...I have given  
you an open  
door that no  
one can  
shut..." (3:8  
NLT)**



**56 Teaching Trips (1997-2015)**

# 2010 MISSION TRIP



Where? MONGOLIA



When? September 4-12, 2010

What? Teaching

| SEPTEMBER |     |      |     |     |     |     |
|-----------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| SUN       | MON | TUES | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|           |     |      |     | 1   | 2   | 3   |
| 4         | 5   | 6    | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 11        | 12  | 13   | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| 18        | 19  | 20   | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| 25        | 26  | 27   | 28  | 29  | 30  |     |

# 2012 MYANMAR MISSION

**Who? Lewis & Barbara Winkler**

**Where? YANGON**

**When? 30 Nov-3 Dec**

**What? Officiating & Teaching**



# **Invitations to Reach Outside Singapore Now**

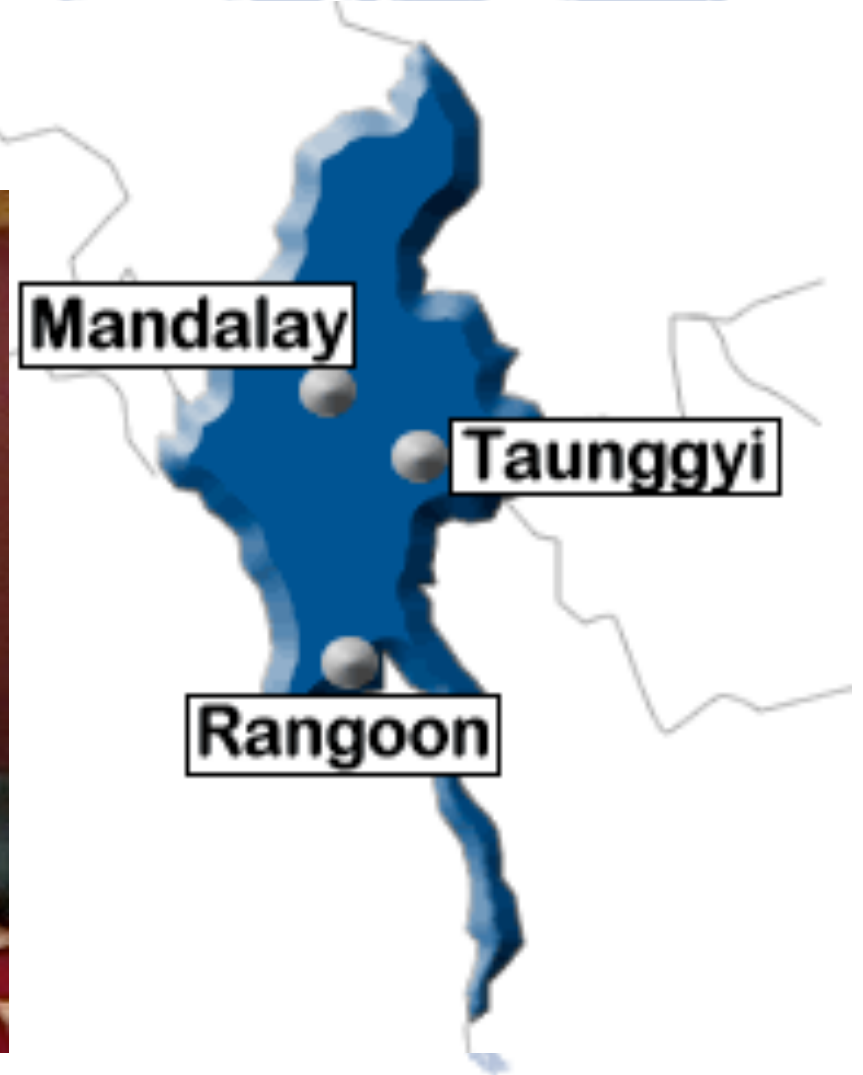
A black and white photograph of two hands reaching towards each other, with the fingers just inches apart. The background is a solid, light blue color. The hands are positioned diagonally across the frame, with one hand on the left and one on the right. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the skin and the contours of the hands.

**Myanmar:  
Jonathan Stone**

**Thailand:  
Manik Corea**

# Myanmar 2014?

**Jonathan Stone**





**Corea Family in Bangkok, Thailand since July 2008**

# Manik's International Church Plant







**LAKESIDE**

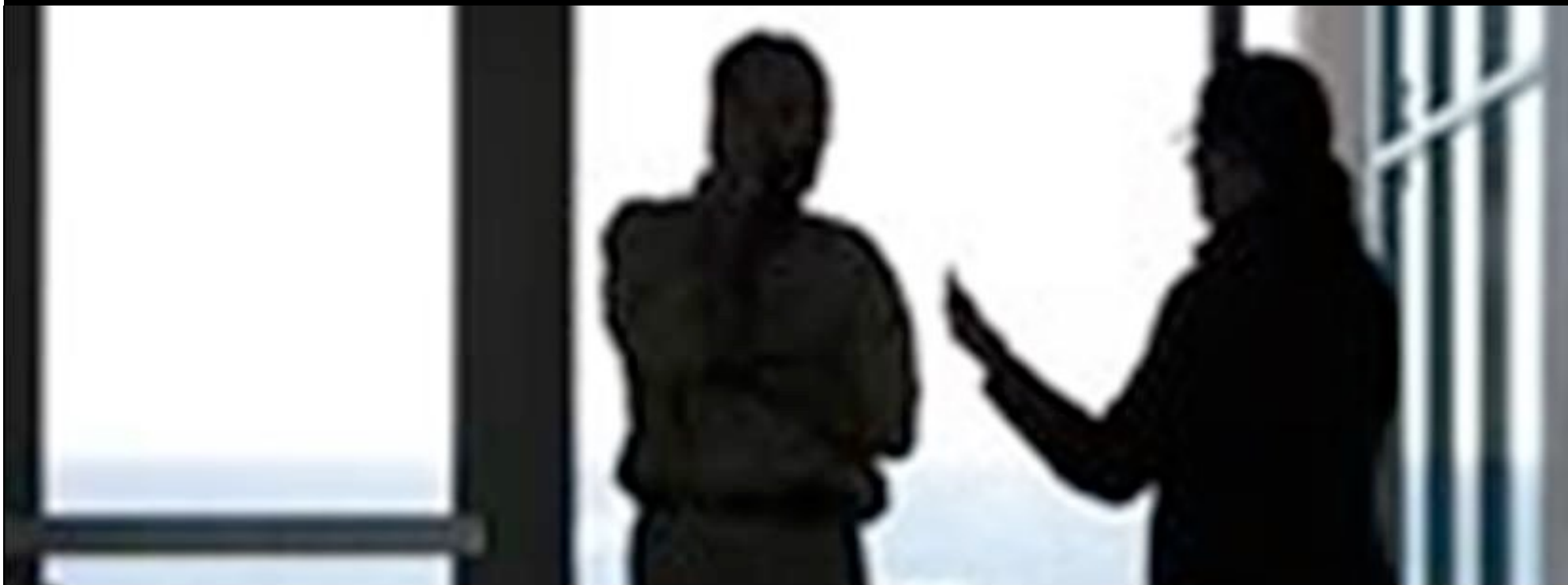
**FAMILY**

**CENTRE**



**Albina Chan**

# Prison



*EVANGELISM*

# Ineffective Evangelism

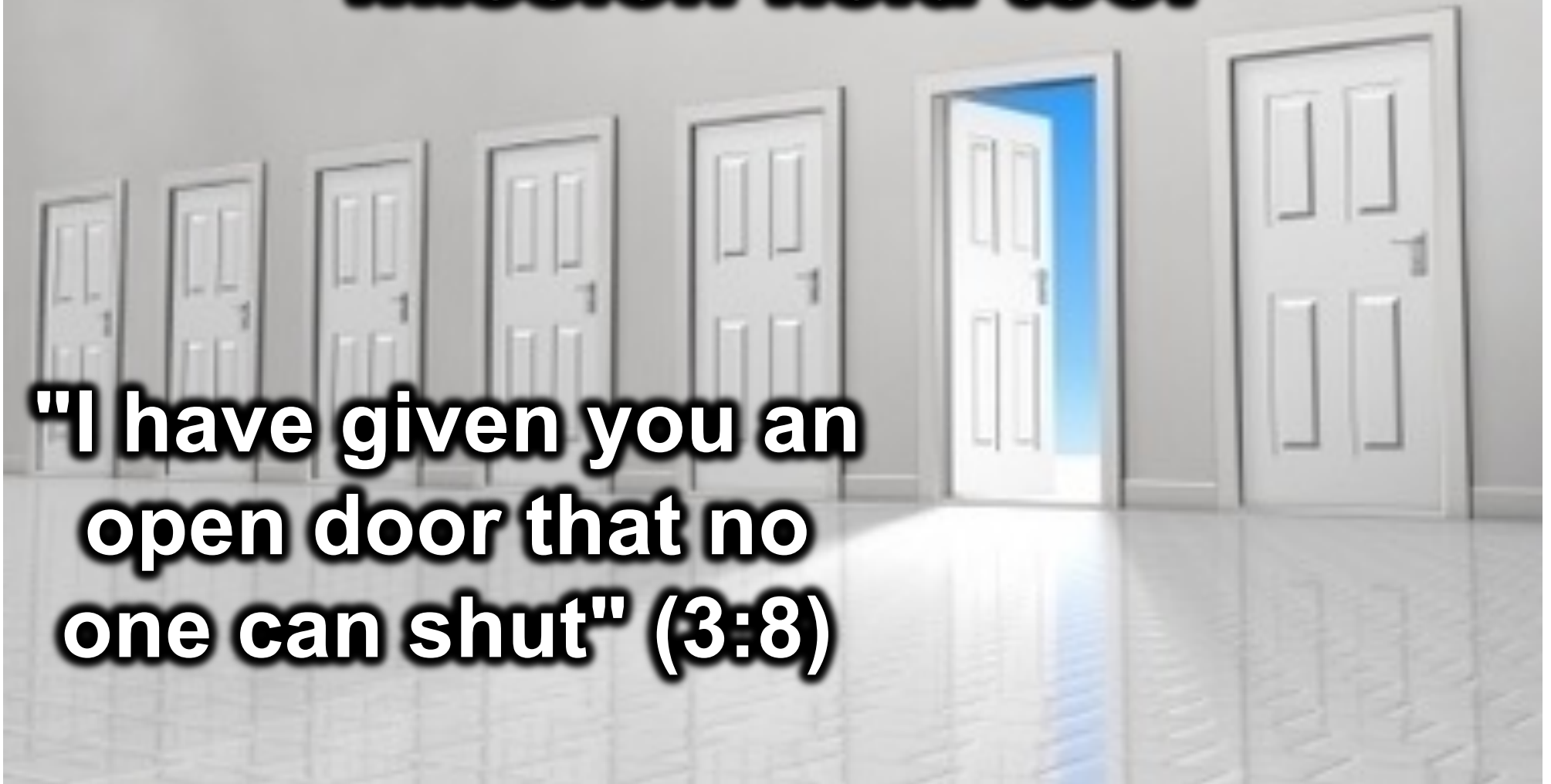




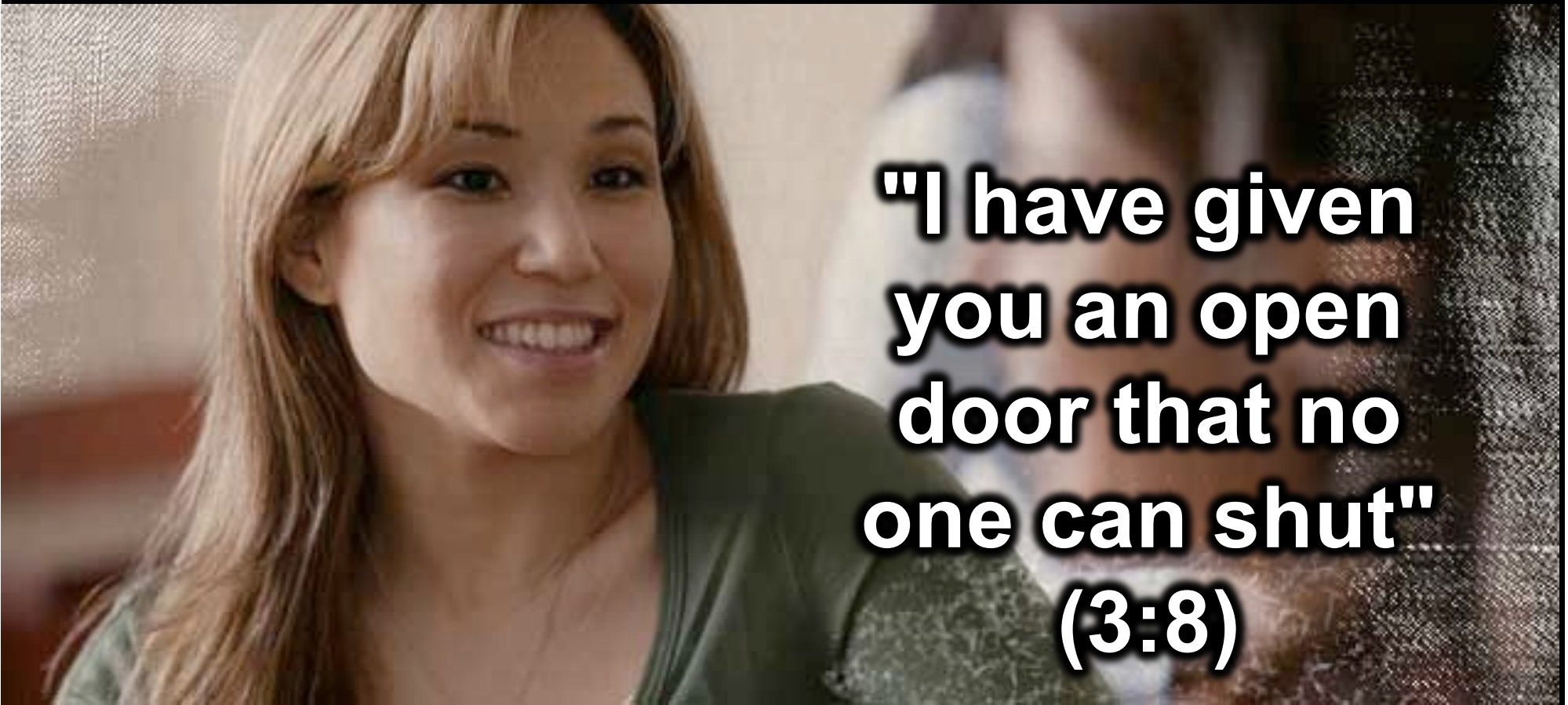
**Let's be  
enfolding**

**Your place of work is a  
mission field too!**

**"I have given you an  
open door that no  
one can shut" (3:8)**



# Just talk to people!

A woman with long, light brown hair is smiling and looking towards a man whose face is partially visible on the right side of the frame. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting.

**"I have given  
you an open  
door that no  
one can shut"  
(3:8)**

A photograph of two hands reaching towards each other against a bright, glowing background. The hands are positioned as if about to clasp or support each other, symbolizing encouragement or assistance.

**So how does Jesus encourage  
us to **reach out**?**

**In two ways...**

***Rev. 3:7-13***

# I. Christ **opens** doors for witness (3:7-8).



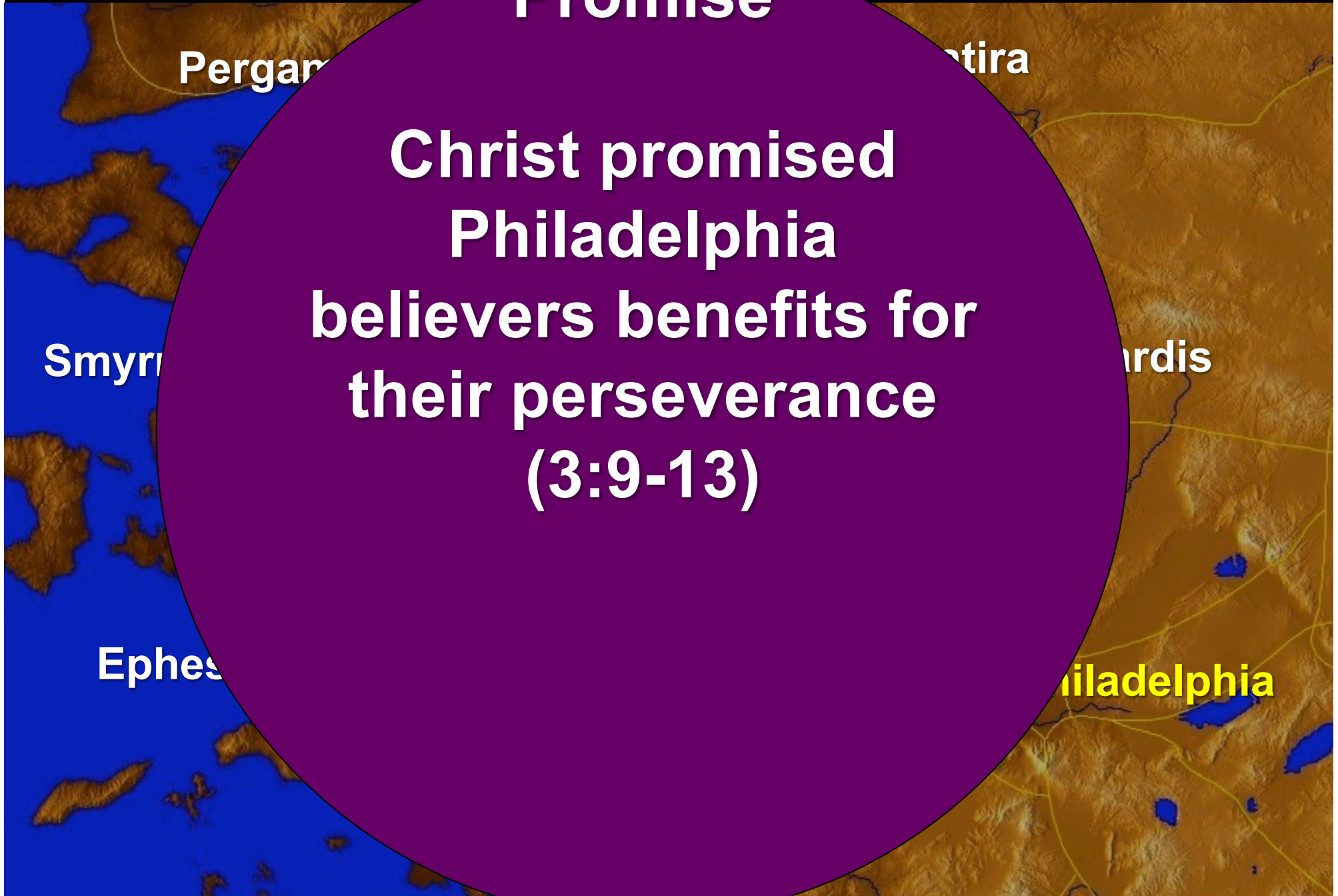


**II. Christ promises **rewards** for  
service (3:9-13).**

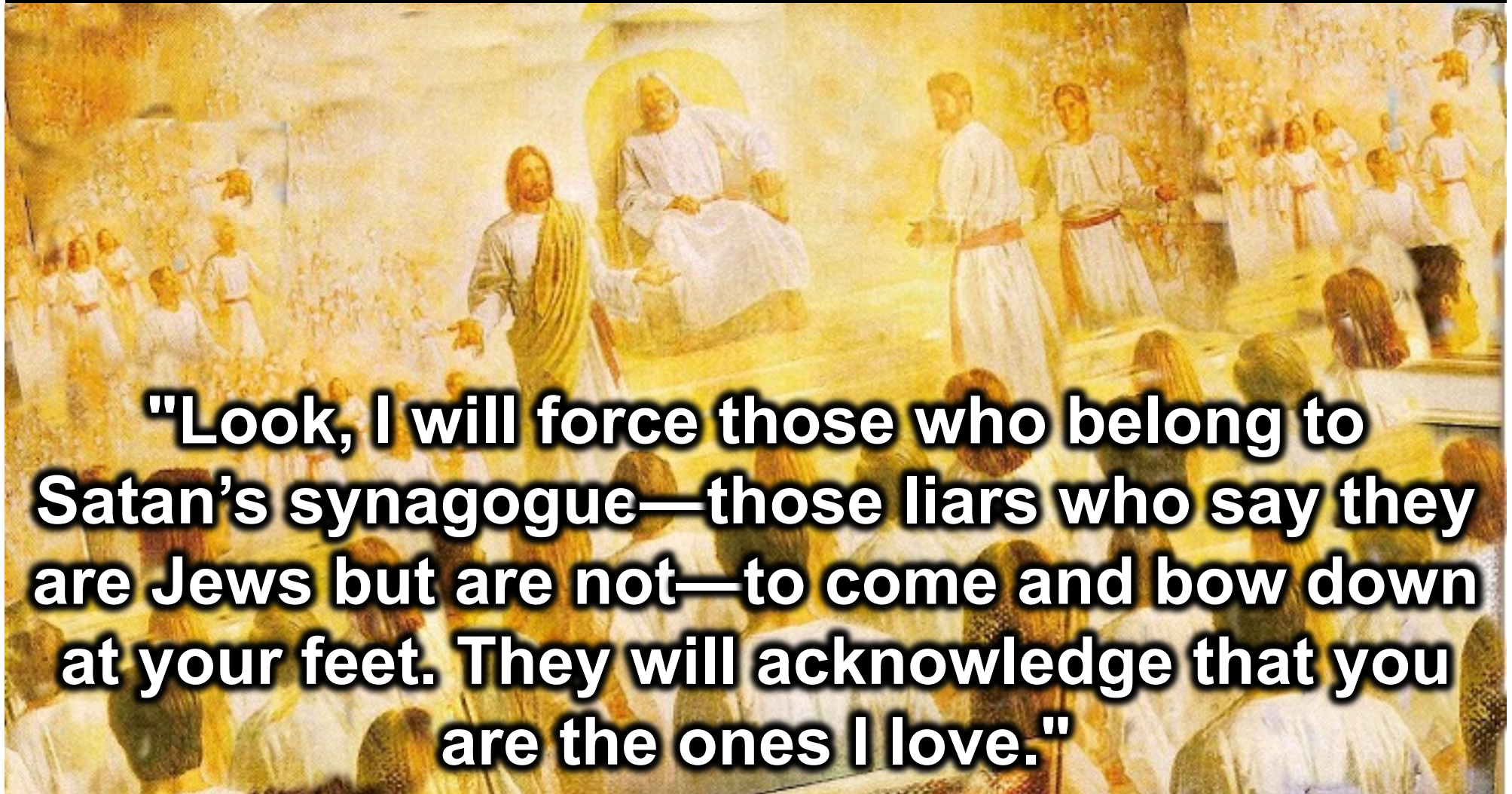


**Promise**

**Christ promised  
Philadelphia  
believers benefits for  
their perseverance  
(3:9-13)**



# Christ promises honor before enemies (3:9).

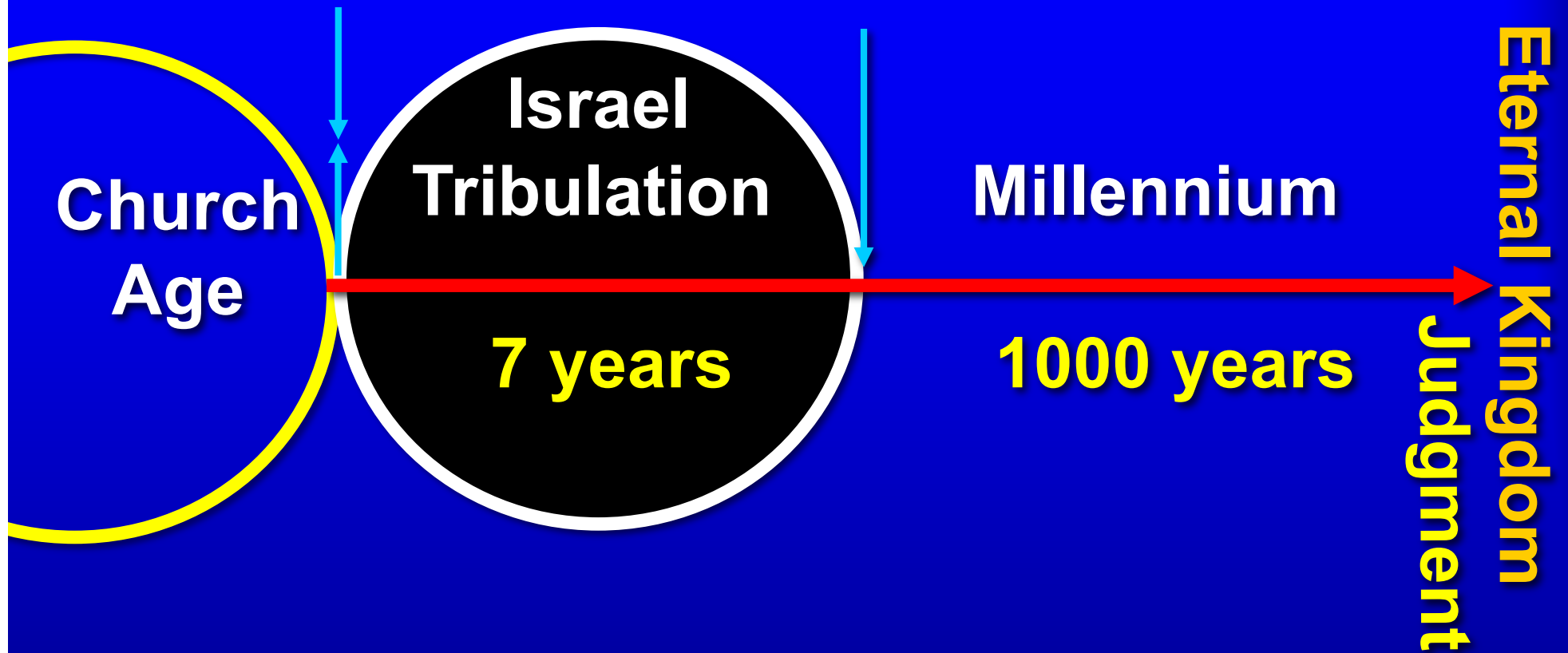


**"Look, I will force those who belong to Satan's synagogue—those liars who say they are Jews but are not—to come and bow down at your feet. They will acknowledge that you are the ones I love."**

# Deliverance from the Tribulation

208  
362

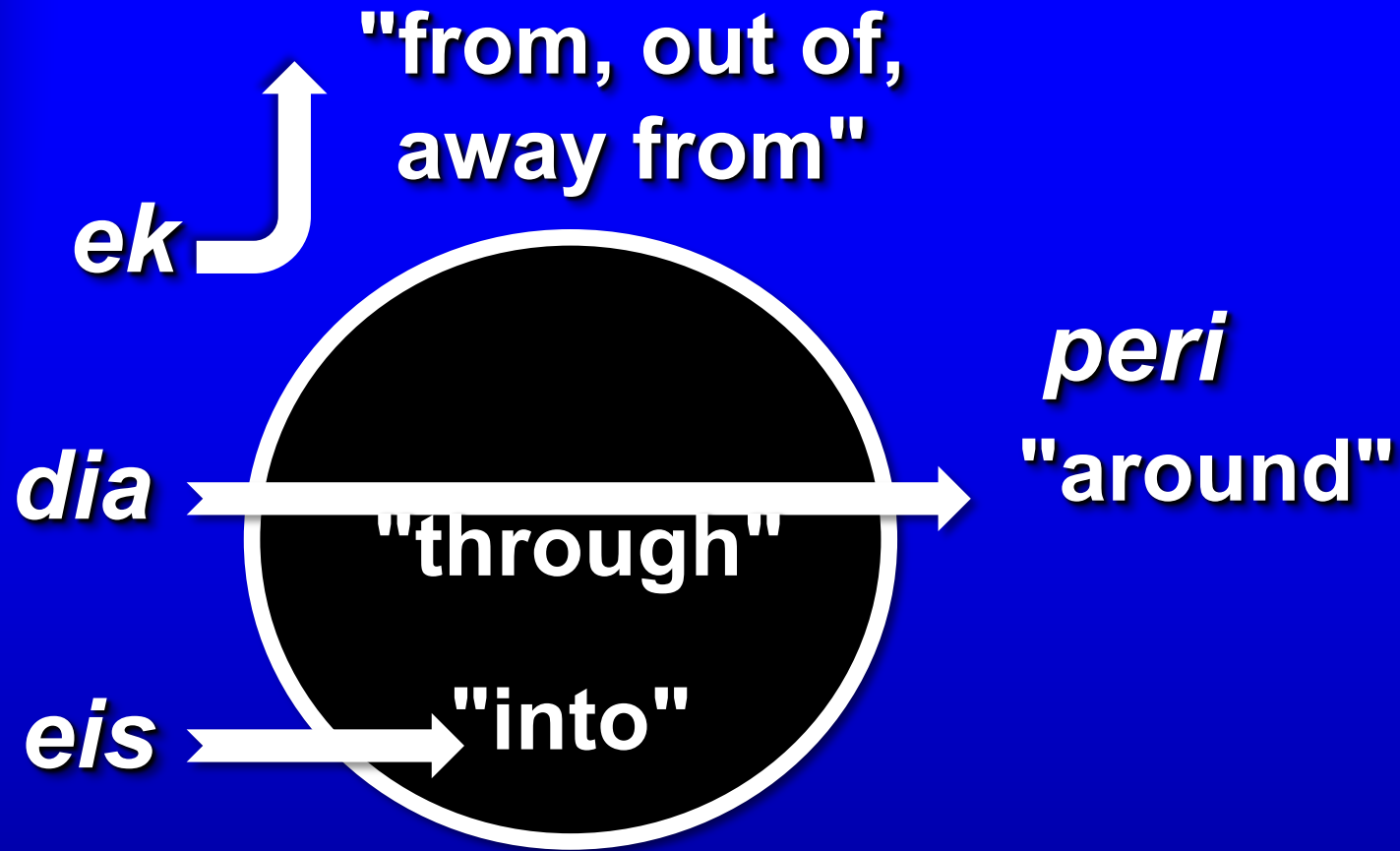
## Second Coming



# When will the Rapture occur?



# Greek Prepositions



# Premillennialism

**Second Coming = Second Advent**

**Church Age**

**Tribulation**

**Millennium**

**Eternal Kingdom**

**Judgment**

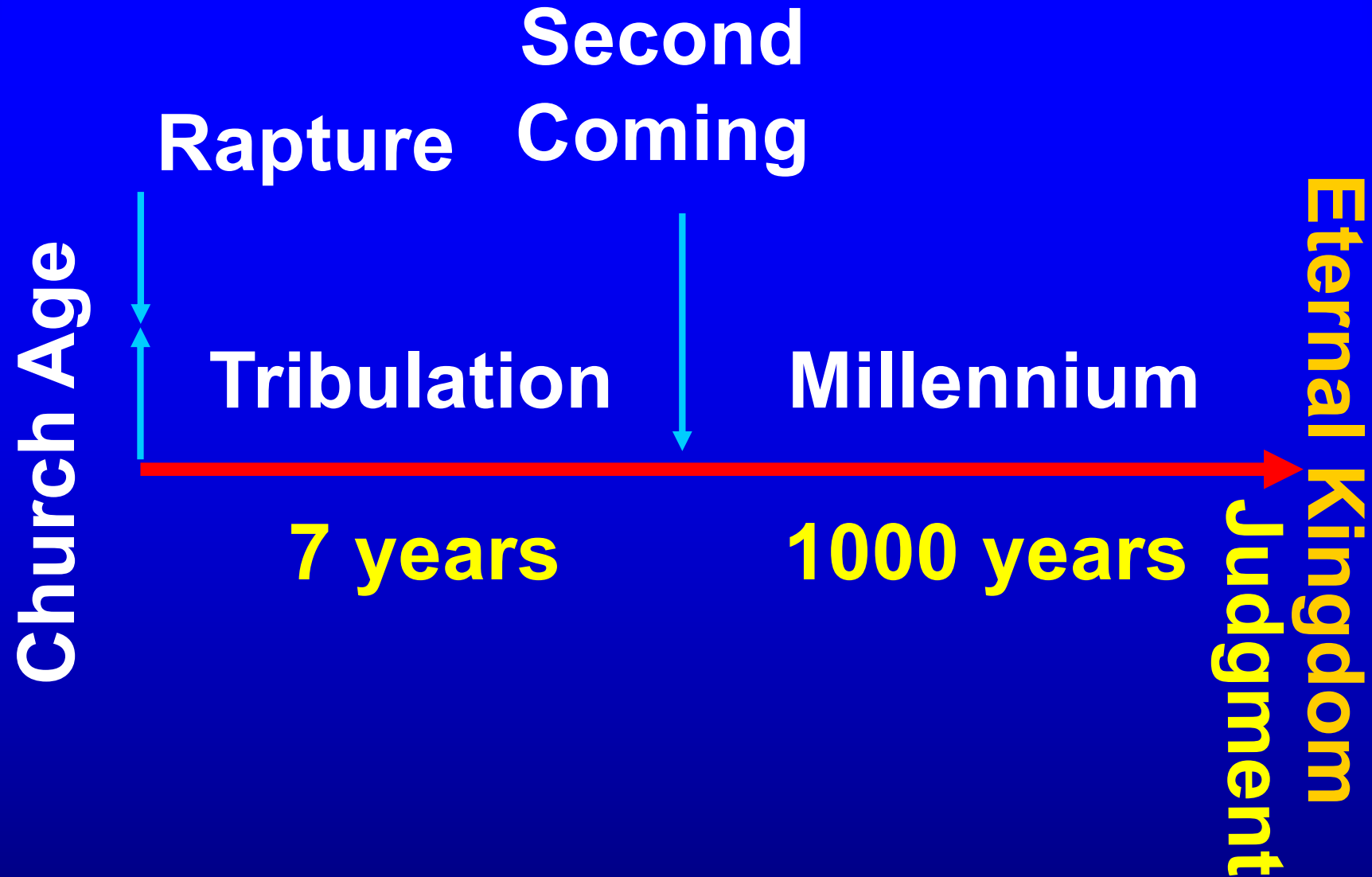
**7 years**

**1000 years**

**ALL 5 RAPTURE  
VIEWS ARE  
PREMILLENNIAL**



# "Pre-Trib" Rapture

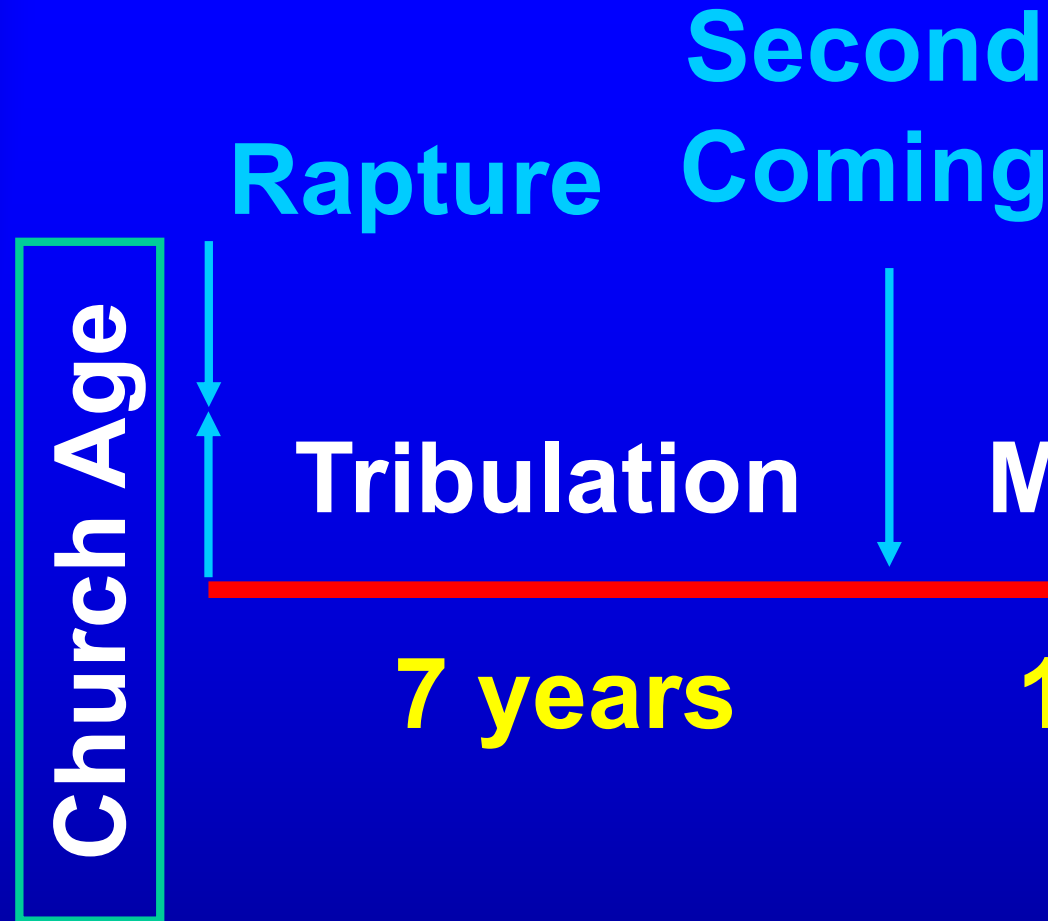




# Why Am I Pretrib?

1. **Believers will be kept from (*ek*) this "hour," or time period (Rev. 3:10).**

# "Pre-Trib" Rapture



1. "I will keep you from (ek) the hour of testing that will come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth"

(Rev. 3:10)



# "Pre-Trib" Rapture



1. "I will keep you from (ek) the hour of testing that will come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth"

(Rev. 3:10)

# The Only Other NT Occurrence of "Keep From" (*tereo ek*)

209  
362

The idea of being taken out of the world relates to being **removed** from the world

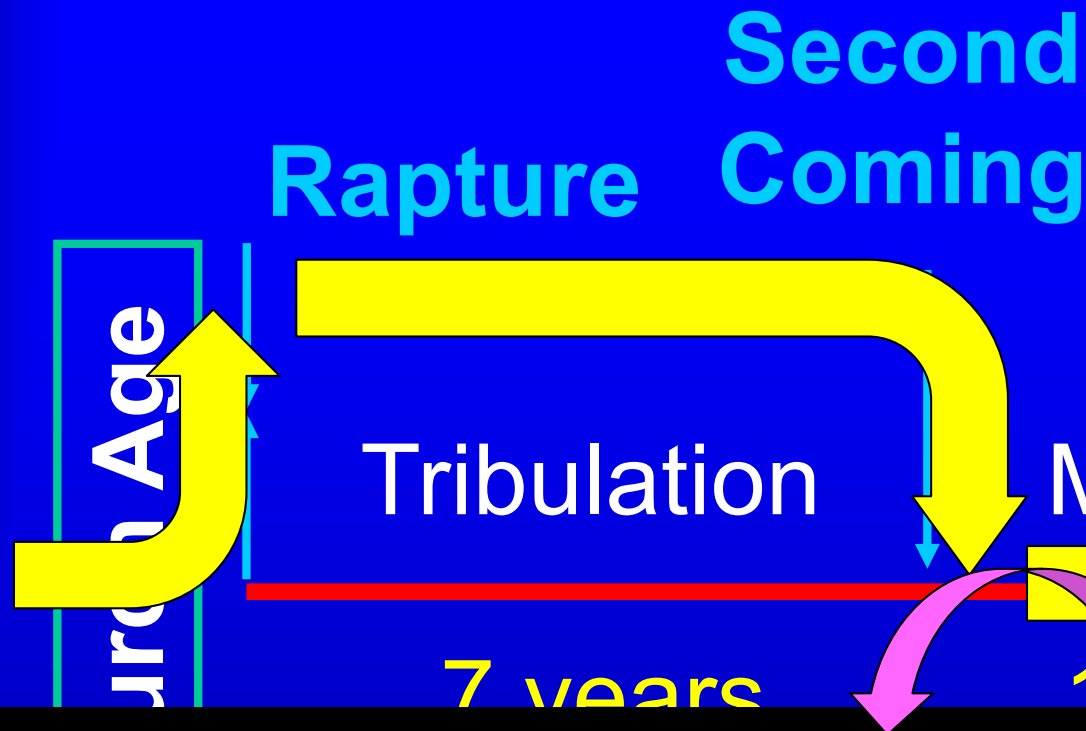
1. "I do not ask you to take them out of (*ek*) the world, but to **keep** them **from** (*ek*) the evil one" (John 17:15)

*ek* → "from, out of, away from"

sphere of "the evil one"

Not kept in Satan's sphere parallels  
not kept in Tribulation Period

# "Pre-Trib" Rapture



Each time this "phrase occurs... **the enemies** of the church are always in mind"  
(Mounce, 120)

2. "I will keep you from (ek) the hour of testing that will come upon the whole world, **to test those who dwell upon the earth**"

(Rev. 3:10)

# Why Am I Pretrib?

1. Believers will be kept from (*ek*) this "hour," or time period (Rev. 3:10).
2. The Tribulation tests unbelievers (3:10) under God's wrath (6:16-17).
3. The Holy Spirit's work of restraining evil will be absent (2 Thess. 2:6-7).

*τὸ κατέχον* ("what restrains" = neuter, 2:6 = gospel preaching)

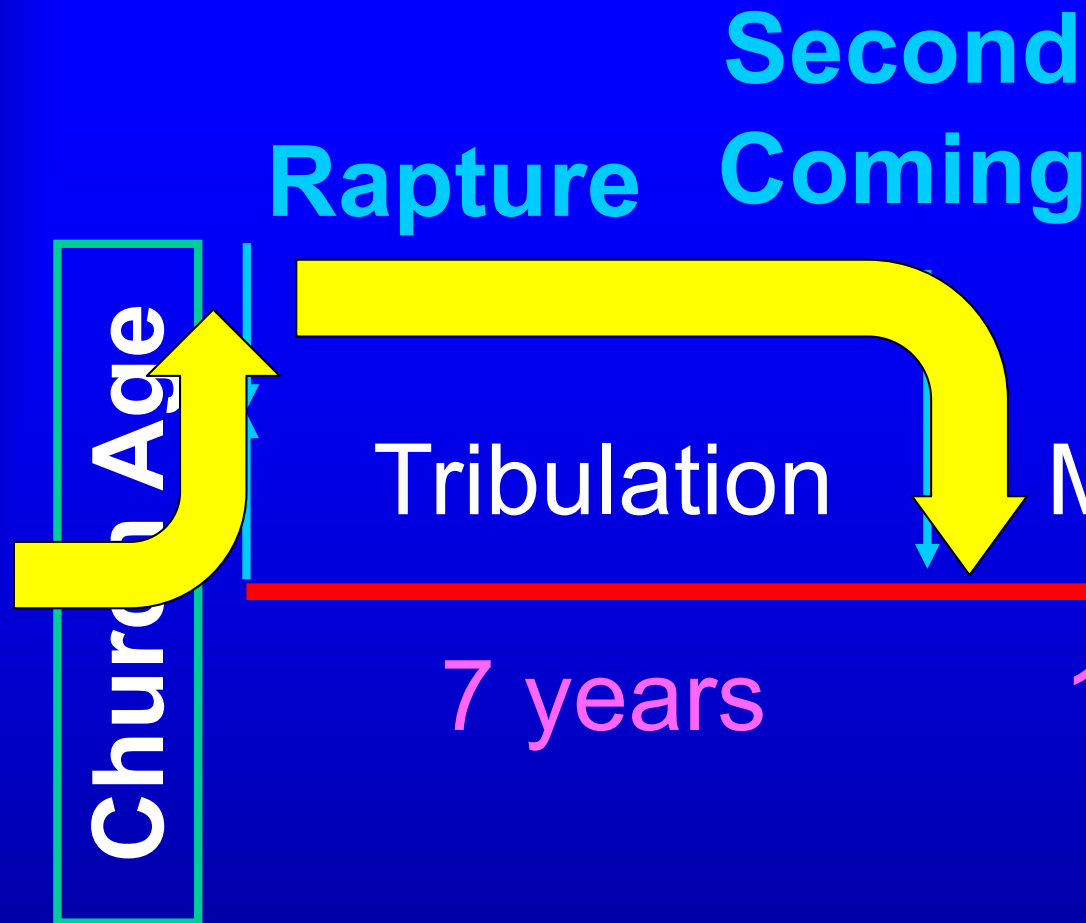
*ὁ κατέχων* ("he who restrains" = masculine, 2:7 = a person)

*πνεῦμα* Spirit" = neuter noun but used of a person)

## Why Am I Pretrib?

4. The church is never mentioned in the Tribulation chapters (Rev. 4–19) except as the "tabernacle of God" in heaven (13:6; cf. Eph. 2:21-22).
  
5. The Church will never come under God's wrath (John 5:24; Rom. 5:9; 8:1; 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9). Persecution and wrath are completely different!

# "Pre-Trib" Rapture



5. The Church will never come under God's wrath:

- John 5:24
- Rom. 5:9; 8:1
- 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9
- Rev. 6:15-17
- Rev. 11:18
- Rev. 14:10, 19



# Why Am I Pretrib?

6. **The Rapture is imminent ("can happen at any time"), so it must also be pretribulational:**
  - a. **"...the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:2)**
  - b. **"I will come back and take you to be with me" (John 14:3) = "I am coming" in immediate future without signs**
  - c. **James 5:8-9; Tit. 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 Pet. 1:6-7; 1 John 2:28; 3:2-3; Rev. 22:10, 12**

# Stages of the Second Coming 210

| The Rapture  | The Revelation  |
|--|---|
| 1 <u>Pretribulational</u> (Rev. 3:10)  | <u>Posttribulational</u> (Rev. 19:11-21)  |
| 2 Christ will <u>come in the air</u> (1 Thess. 4:16)   | Christ will <u>come to the earth</u> , His feet touching the Mt. of Olives (Zech 14:4)  |
| 3 A coming <u>for</u> the saints (John 14:1-2; 1 Thess. 4:15-17)   | A coming <u>with</u> the saints (Matt. 25:31; 1 Thess. 3:13; Rev. 19:14)  |
| 4 <u>Saints</u> (dead and alive) will be <u>caught up</u> ("raptured") from the earth to meet the Lord in the air and taken to heaven (1 Thess. 4:16-17) | <u>Saints</u> already on earth will <u>remain on the earth</u> (no Rapture) to be ushered into the Millennium (Acts 15:16; Rev. 5:10; cf. Matt. 6:10; chap. 24) |
| 5 Produces <u>comfort and hope</u> (1 Thess. 4:18)   | Produces <u>fear and judgment</u> (Matt. 24:27-31; Luke 21:20-28; Rev. 6:15-17)   |

# Stages of the Second Coming 210

| The Rapture   | The Revelation   |
|---|--|
| 6 <u>Mystery</u> truth revealed only in the New Testament age (1 Cor. 15:51)  | <u>Central</u> in OT prophecy but clarified in the NT (Jer. 30:7; Zech 14:1-3; Matt. 24:30; Col. 3:4)  |
| 7 Bodies of church saints <u>glorified</u> (1 Cor. 15:51-58; Phil. 3:20-21) and brought to heaven for seven years (1 Thess. 4:17) | Bodies of tribulation saints left in <u>mortal</u> state to continue to live on the earth in the millennium (Matt. 25:31-34)                             |
| 8 <u>Imminent</u> , no signs needed (1 Thess. 4:16)   | <u>Not imminent</u> but preceded by spectacular signs in the heavens and on the earth (Matt. 24:29-31; Luke 21:25-28; Acts 2:19-21; Rev. 1:7; chs. 6-19) |
| 9 Primary purpose is <u>deliverance</u> of the saints from this world (1 Thess. 1:10)   | Primary purpose is <u>judgment</u> of unbelieving (Matt. 25:31-46)   |

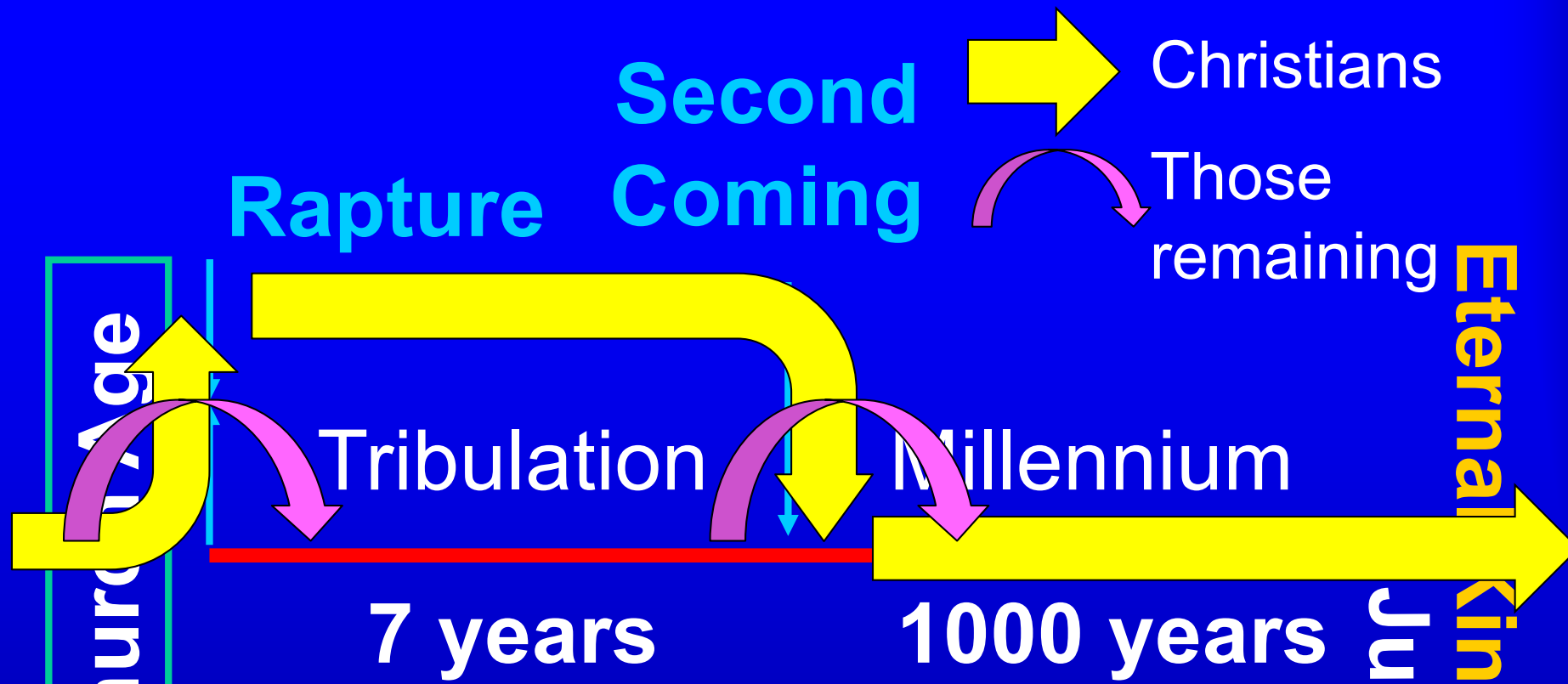
# Stages of the Second Coming 210

| The Rapture  | The Revelation   |
|--|--|
| 1 <u>Invisible</u> and private as only<br>0 believers see Christ and since<br>God sends a powerful delusion<br>through the Antichrist (2 Thess.<br>2:11) | <u>Visible</u> and public since "every eye<br>shall see Him" (Rev. 1:7)  |
| 11 Fulfills a promise to the <u>Church</u><br>where Jew-Gentile distinctions<br>do not exist (1 Thess. 4:15; cf.<br>John 14:1-3; Eph. 2:11-16)           | Fulfills promises to <u>Israel</u> of<br>covenants made in the Old<br>Testament (Gen. 12:1-3; Ps. 89; Isa.<br>11:11-14; cf. Rom. 11:26-27) |
| 1 Evil begins to <u>increase</u> (2 Thess.<br>2 2:1-12)  | Evil is <u>suppressed</u> (2 Thess. 1:7; Ps.<br>37:9-10)   |
| 1 <u>Church</u> removed (1 Thess. 4:13-<br>3 18)   | <u>Satan</u> removed (Rev. 20:1-3)   |

# Stages of the Second Coming 210

| The Rapture   | The Revelation  |
|---|---|
| 1 Christ shown as <u>Head</u> of the<br>4 Church and all things (Eph.<br>1:10, 22; 4:15; Col. 1:18; 2:10) | Christ vindicated as <u>Messiah</u> to<br>Israel (Zech. 14:3-4; cf. Acts 1:6 with<br>v. 11)     |
| 1 Judgment seat of Christ for<br>5 <u>believers</u> (2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor.<br>3:13)                         | Judgment of <u>Israel and Gentiles</u><br>(Ezek. 20:34-38; Matt. 25; Zech.<br>14:4; cf. p. 160) |
| 1 The <u>Lord</u> is at hand (Phil. 4:5)<br>6   | The <u>kingdom</u> is at hand (Matt.<br>24:14)  |
| 1 Nature subsequently <u>ruined</u><br>7 (Rev. 6–16)  | Nature subsequently <u>restored</u><br>(Rom. 8:19-22; Isa. 11:6-9; 35:9;<br>65:25)              |

# A "Pre-Trib" Rapture explains how the Millennium will have both babies & death

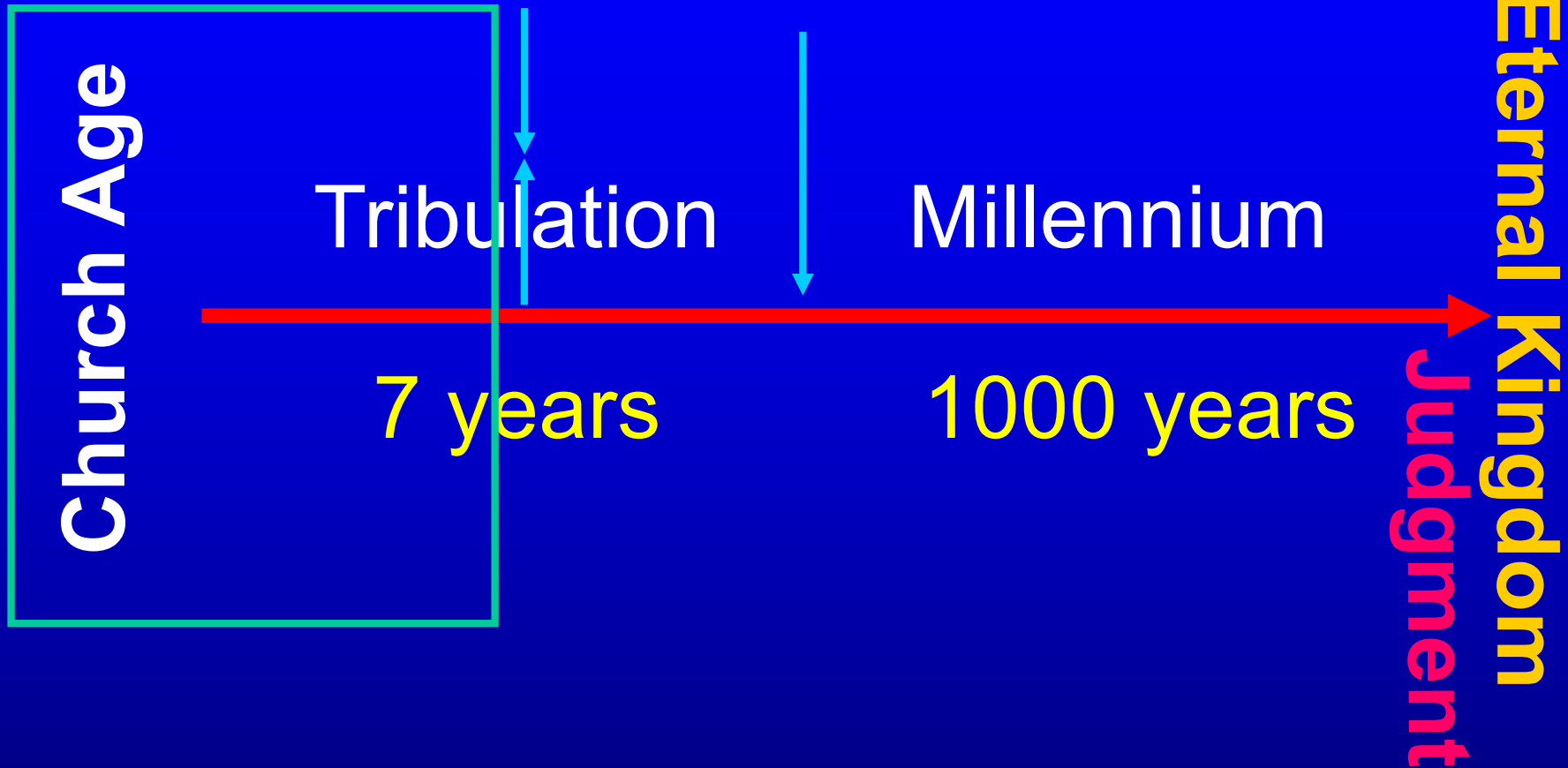


At the Rapture, believers will go to heaven and unbelievers remain on earth—the Tribulation will start 0% Christian.

After the Tribulation, believers on earth will enter the Millennium in their mortal bodies—the Millennium will start 100% Christian.

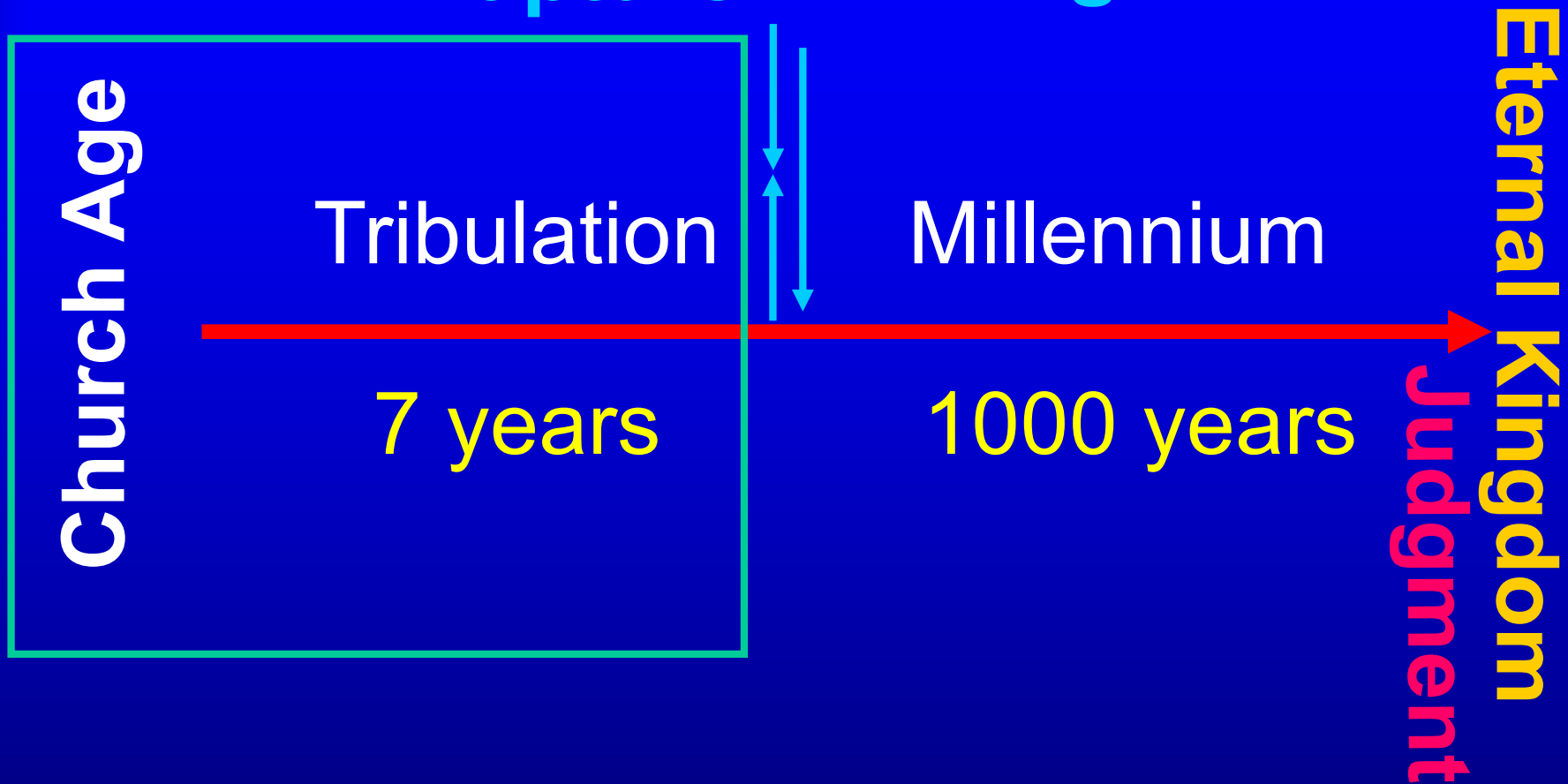
# "Mid-Trib" Rapture

Second Rapture Coming



# "Post-Trib" Rapture

Second Rapture Coming



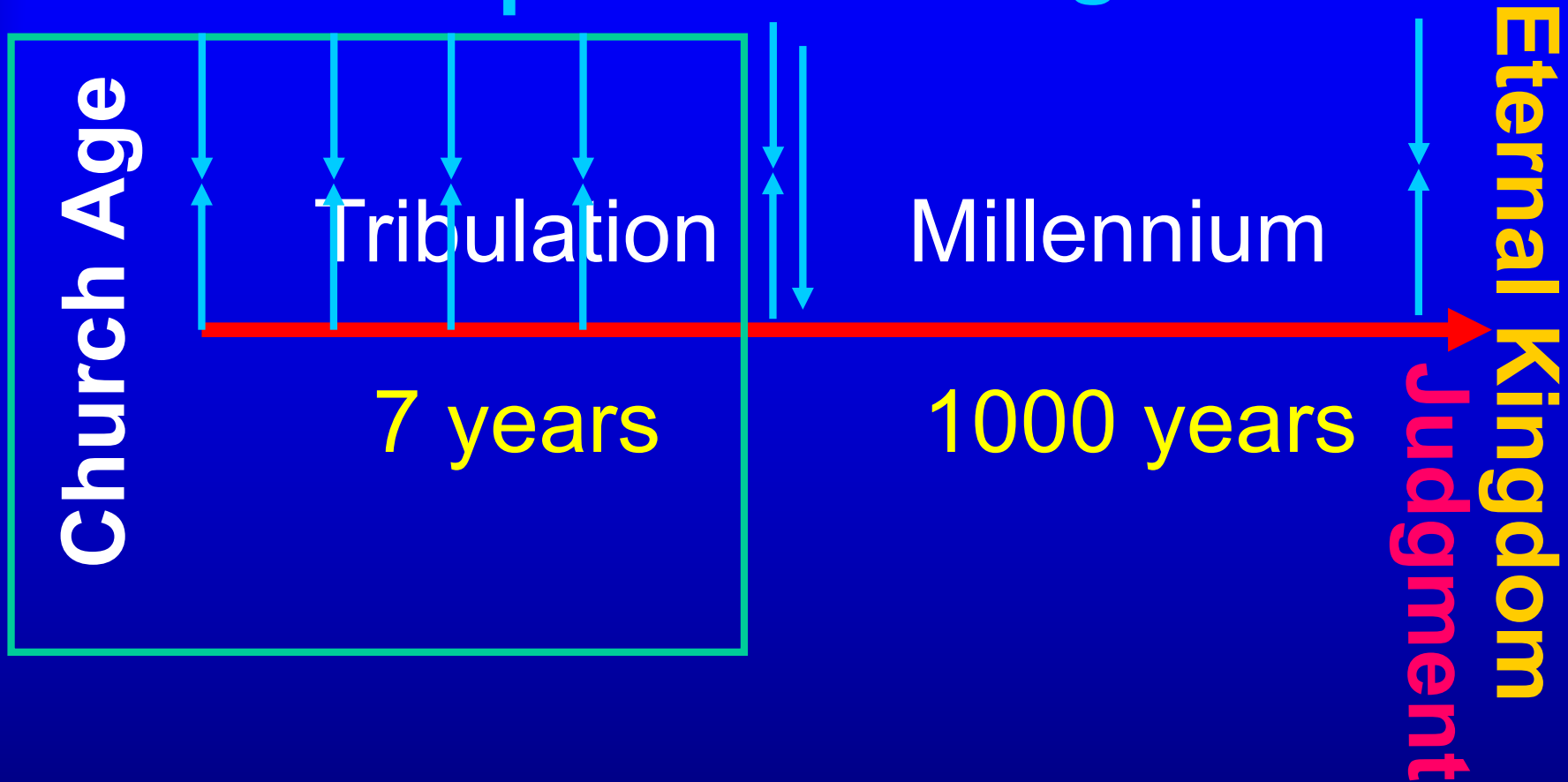


## Why Am I *Not Posttrib*?

8. If posttrib, then sheep would already be separated from goats (Matt. 25:31-46).
9. Some people in the millennium will die (Isa. 65:20), but a posttrib rapture gives a glorified body to *all* believers; therefore, some people must trust Christ in the Tribulation and enter the Millennium in their mortal bodies.

# "Partial" Rapture

Second Raptures Coming



# "Prewrath" Rapture

## Pre-Wrath Rapture      Second Coming

Eternal Kingdom



Church Age

Beginning of Sorrows

Because you have kept my word of patience

Great Tribulation

I will keep you from the hour (here)

God's Wrath (Day of Lord)

Rapture & Day of Lord follow testing

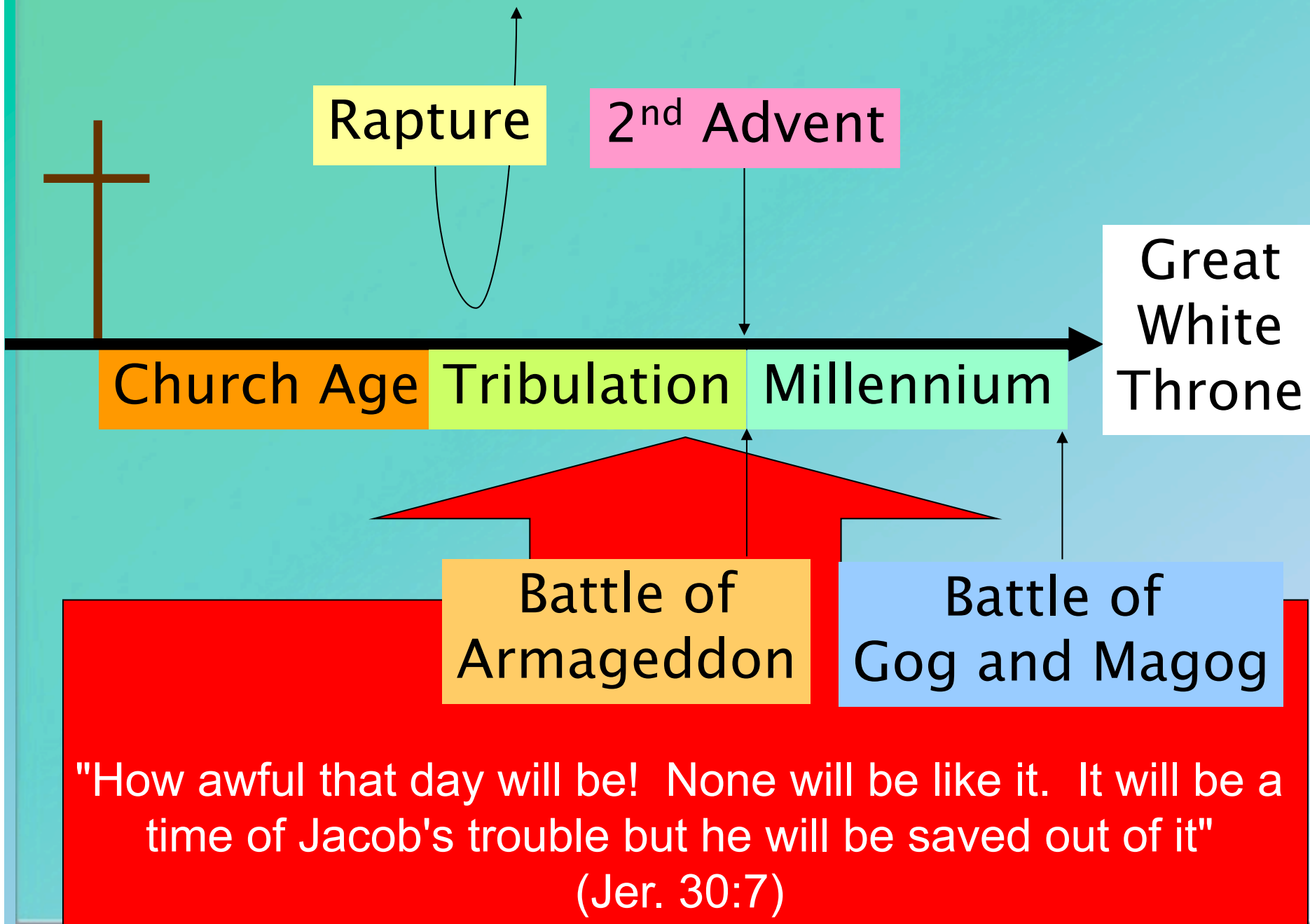
Millennium

1000 years

Judgment

7 years

# Pretribulational Premillennialism



"How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of Jacob's trouble but he will be saved out of it" (Jer. 30:7)

**He promises rewards for  
perseverance (3:11b).**



**"I am coming  
soon. Hold on  
to what you  
have, so that  
no one will  
take away your  
crown" (NLT).**

# Rewards can be lost!



**"Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward" (2 John 8 NLT)**

# The Overcomers (Rev. 2–3)

365

Pergamum

2:17

Thyatira

2:26

Smyrna

2:11

He who overcomes, I will **make him a pillar** in the temple of My God, and he will **not go out from it anymore**; 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 out of heaven from My God, **and My new name** (3:12)

Sardis

3:5

Ephesus

2:7

Philadelphia

3:12

Laodicea



**Philadelphia pillars fell in many earthquakes**





Philadelphia Church of St John columns

# Philadelphus Overcomers (Rev. 2–3)

Philadelphus

Perth **Neo Caesarea**

Thyatira

2:17

**Plabia**

2:26

**Alesehir (today)**

He who overcomes, I will **make him a pillar** in the temple of My God, and he will **not go out from it anymore**; 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 out of heaven from My God, **and My new name** (3:12)

Smyrna

2:11

Sardis

3:5

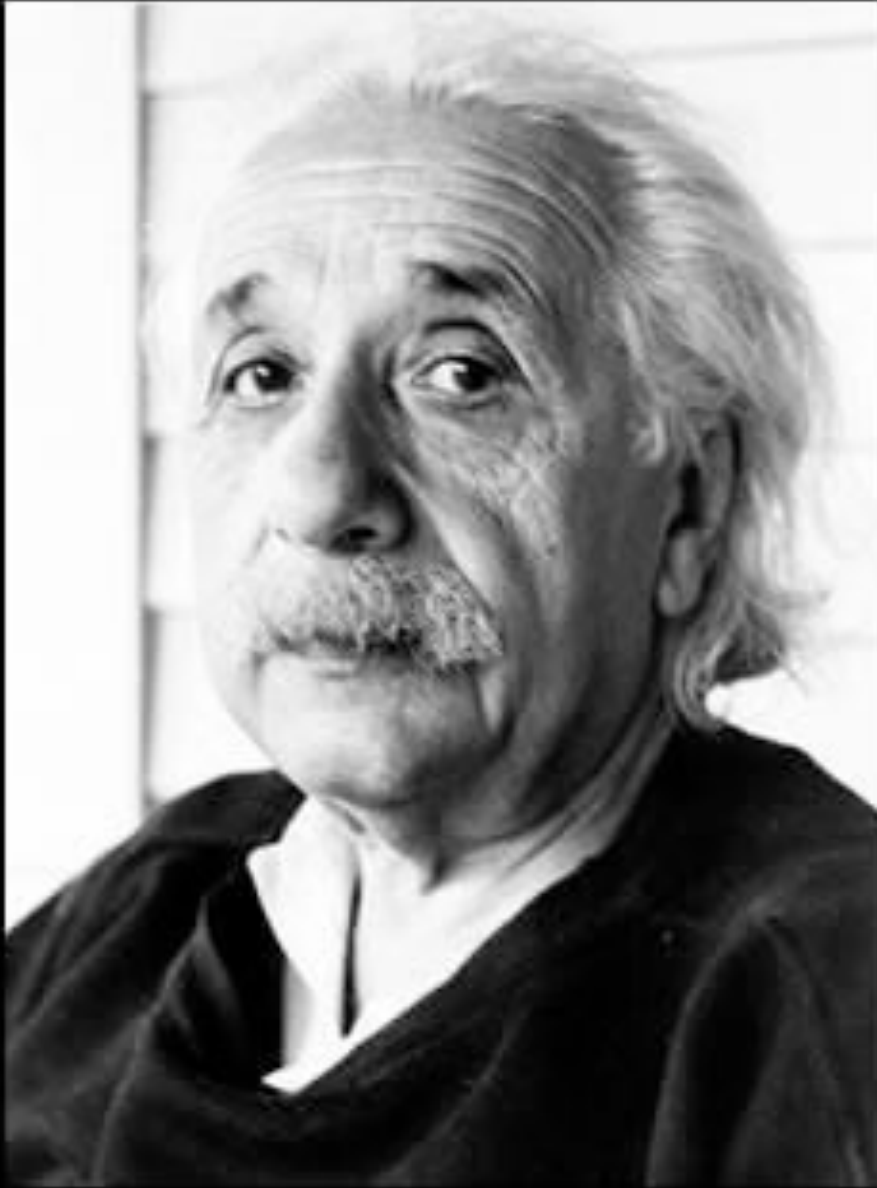
Ephesus

2:7

Philadelphia

3:12

# Albert Einstein



**"If people are good only because they fear punishment, and hope for reward, then we are a sorry lot indeed."**

***Rewards are not  
wrong***





# **Final Destiny**

*The Future Reign of the  
Servant Kings*

*Joseph Dillow*



**How does Jesus encourage us to  
reach out?**



# I. Christ **opens** doors for witness (3:7-8).

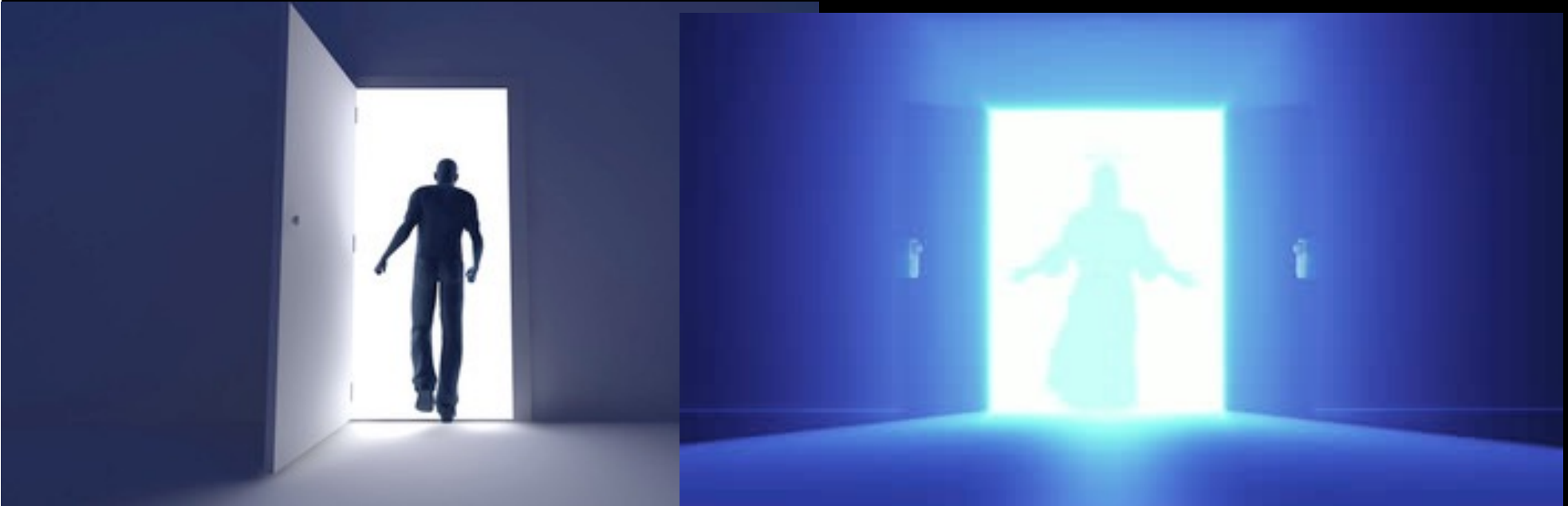


**II. Christ promises **rewards** for  
service (3:9-13).**





Jesus gives us both  
**opportunities** and **rewards** for  
witness



**Main Idea**



***Jesus will  
reward our  
service too!***



# THE HOLY HUDDLE



**Worship • Unity • Focus**

**What open doors has Christ  
given you for this year?**

**Write it down.**



**Laodicea**

**Revelation 3:14-33**

# **The Church of Laodicea** **(Rev. 3:14-22)**

**Luxurious Yet Lukewarm**

Dr Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore • [BibleStudyDownloads.org](http://BibleStudyDownloads.org)

# The Lord's Prayer

· AFTER THIS MANNER THEREFORE PRAY YE ·

**OUR FATHER** WHICH ART IN HEAVEN : **THY KINGDOM** COME  
HALLOWED BE THY NAME : **THY WILL** BE DONE  
IN EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

AND FORGIVE US | AS WE FORGIVE  
**OUR DEBTS** | **OUR DEBTORS**

AND **LEAD US** NOT INTO TEMPTATION  
*but* **DELIVER US** FROM EVIL  
FOR THINE IS THE **KINGDOM**

AND THE **POWER** AND THE **GLORY**

FOR EVER **AMEN**

MATTHEW 6:9-13 (KJV)

**Ah, comfort...**





# What's wrong with comfort?



**When on the beautiful road,  
seek no other road.**



**“I seek to  
comfort the disturbed and  
disturb the comforted.”**



# The Extremes



**"We are either hot or cold with God."**

# The Extremes



**But are there only two options?**

# Luxurious Yet Lukewarm Laodicea



**"I know all the things you do, that you are neither **hot** nor **cold**. I wish that you were one or the other!" (3:15 NLT)**

# Luxurious Yet Lukewarm Laodicea




"But... you are like **lukewarm** water,  
neither **hot** nor **cold**..." (3:16a NLT)

# The Spectrum



**A Christian can be in the middle**





**Are you  
lukewarm?**



How can you cure  
spiritual **apathy**?



**What does Jesus think of you?**

If Jesus wrote a letter to **you**,  
**w**hat **w**ould **J**esus **s**ay?



# The Seven Churches of Revelation



The Writing Ministry of Jesus

*This is the last of the seven letters  
of Revelation 2–3*



**What was Laodicea like?**



**Laodicea Video**

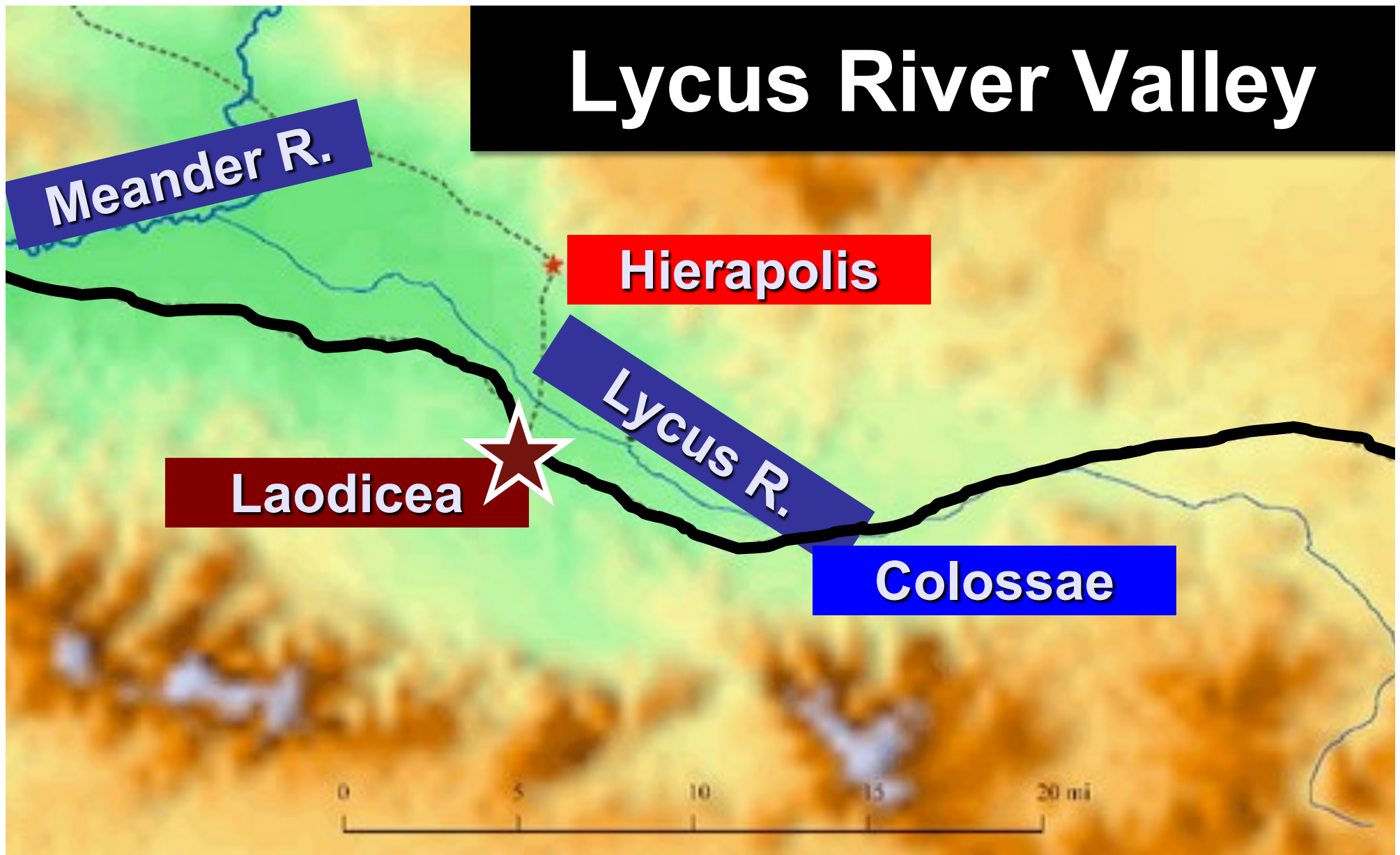
# The 7 Churches (Rev. 2–3)

345





# Lycus River Valley



***Laodicea's strategic location***



**Laodicea tell from southwest**

**7500 Jewish men alone!**



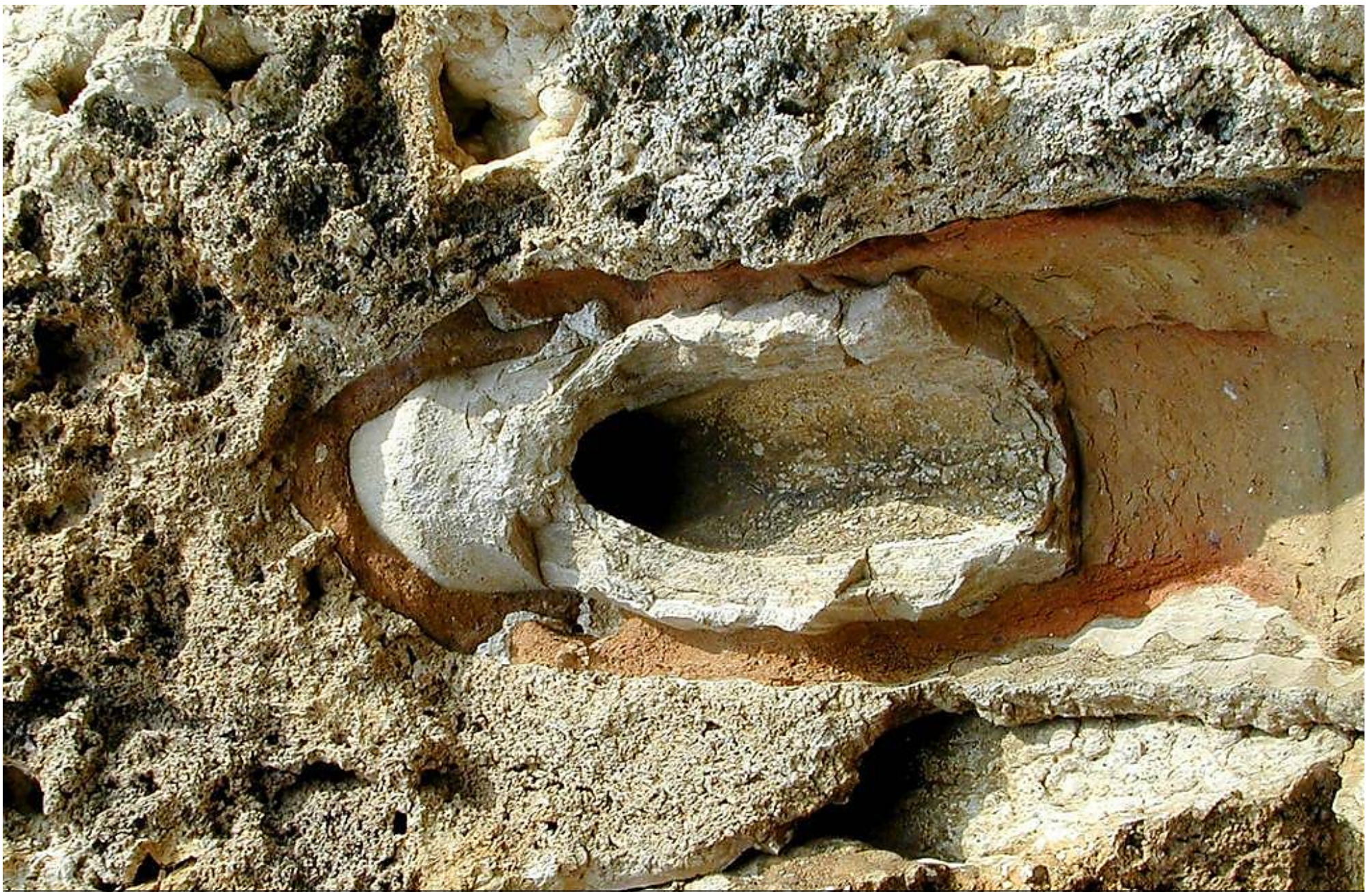
**Laodicea tell from south**



**Hot and Cold Channels**



**Laodicea aqueduct south of tell**



**Laodicea pipe with calcium**

- **Marble everywhere (wealthy!)**
- **Two theatres, a stadium, etc.**



**Graveyard with bathhouse on hill**



**Laodicea bathhouse arches**





**Laodicea Roman theater**



**Laodicea Greek theater**



**Laodicea stadium seating**



**Laodicea walls still standing**

**Three "Rs" to cure apathy...**


**Be Hot!**

***Rev. 3:14-22***

***The first way to cure spiritual apathy  
is to...***

**I. Recognize Christ's authority**

***Rev. 3:14***



# Luxurious Laodicea

Rebuilt own city after AD 17 earthquake



# Laodicea Garment Industry

363





**Exported an eye salve throughout the  
Roman Empire**



# Ruler: Jesus is the sovereign, faithful Creator (3:14b)



Smyrna

Ephesus

Laodicea

**Christ:**  
The Amen, the  
faithful and  
true Witness,  
the Ruler of  
God's creation

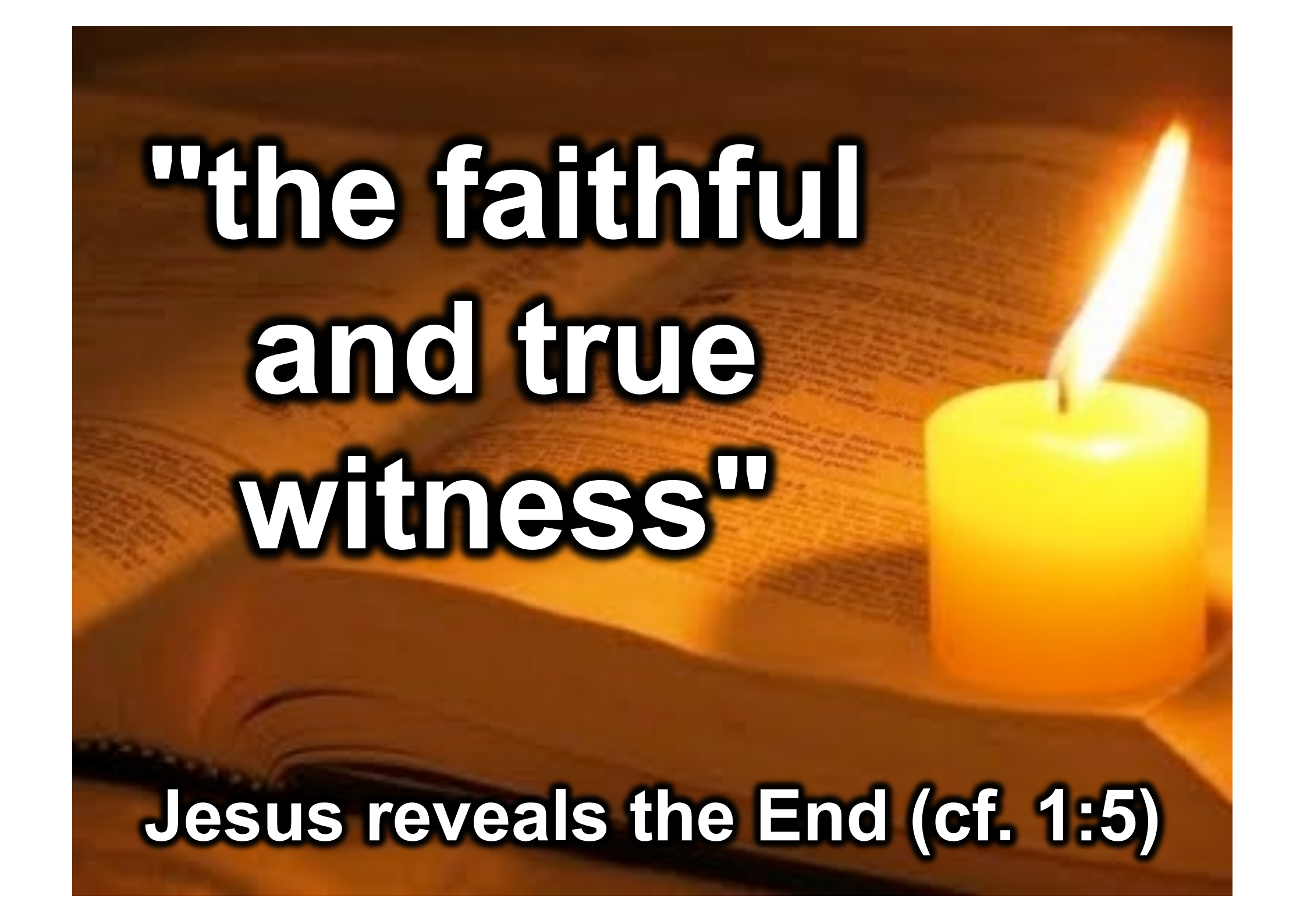
Sardis

Philadelphia



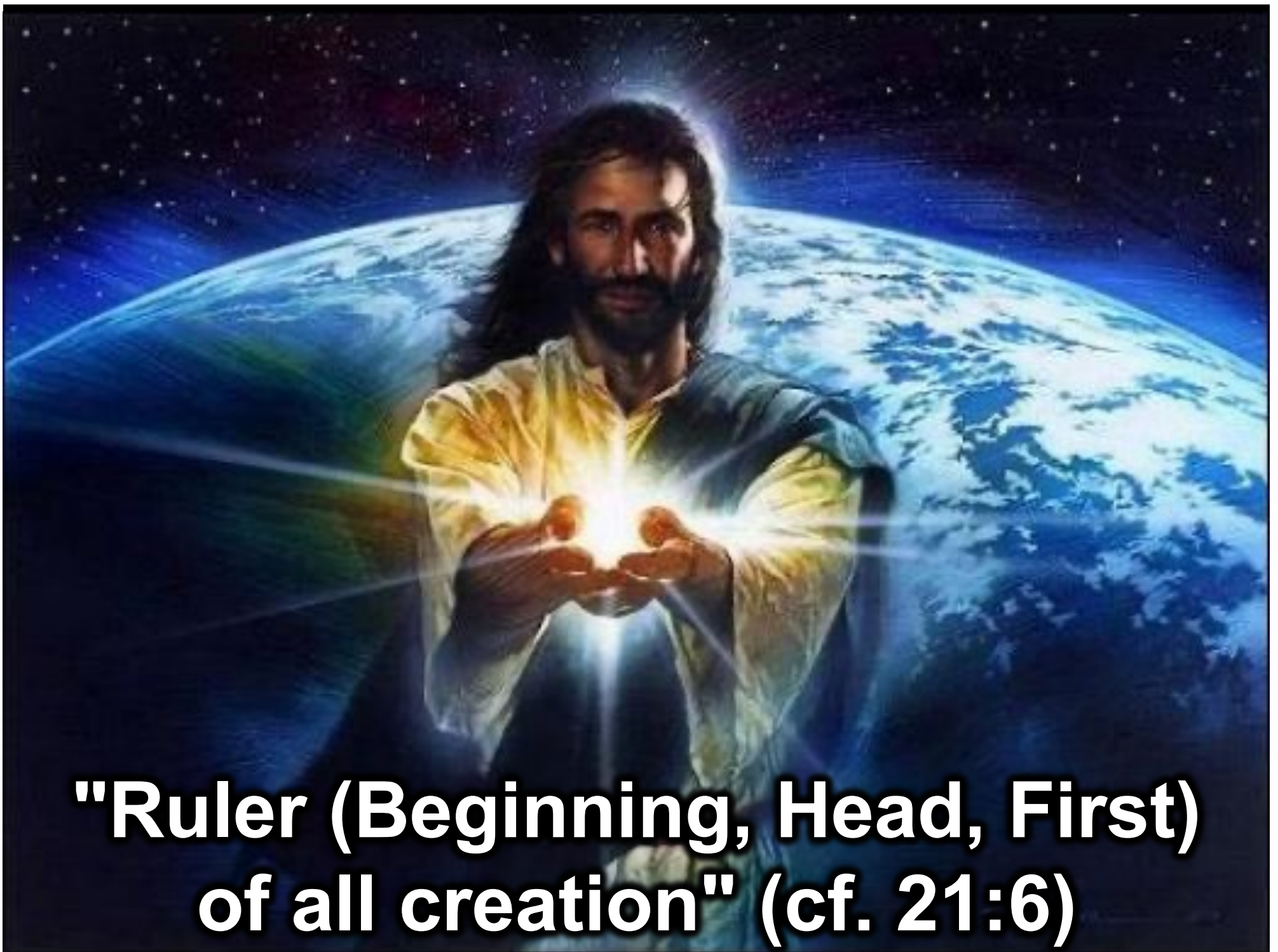
**"The Amen"**

**Jesus is the "So Be It" (cf. 1:6)!**

A lit candle with a bright flame sits on the right side of an open book. The book's pages are visible, showing some text. The background is a warm, golden-brown color, suggesting a close-up of the book and candle. The overall mood is one of light and knowledge.

**"the faithful  
and true  
witness"**

**Jesus reveals the End (cf. 1:5)**




**"Ruler (Beginning, Head, First)  
of all creation" (cf. 21:6)**

***The first way to cure spiritual apathy  
is to...***

**I. Recognize Christ's authority**

***Rev. 3:14***





***The second way to cure spiritual apathy is to...***

**II. Respond to Christ's rebuke**

**Rev. 3:15-16**

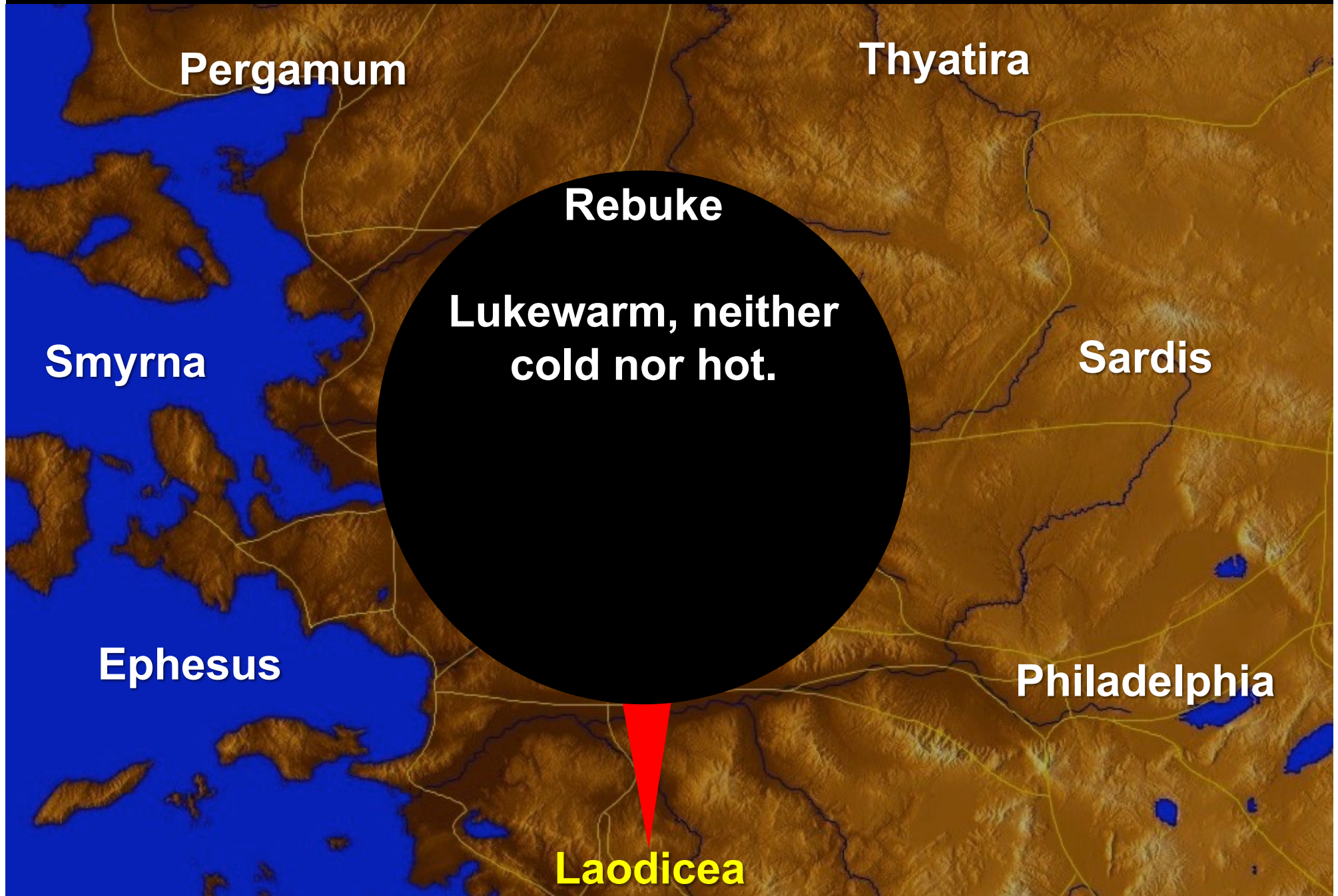


**Reality: We can be active but  
compromised (3:15-16a).**



# Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22)

363



# Luxurious Yet Lukewarm Laodicea



**"I know all the things you do, that you are neither **hot** nor **cold**. I wish that you were one or the other!" (3:15 NLT)**

# Luxurious Yet Lukewarm Laodicea



"But... you are like **lukewarm** water,  
neither **hot** nor **cold**..." (3:16a NLT)

# Laodicea Aqueduct



# Lycus River Valley

Meander R.

Hierapolis  
Hot springs

Lycus R.

Laodicea  
Lukewarm

**H** + **C** = **L**

Colossae  
Cold springs

0 5 10 15 20 mi

*Laodicea had money but no water*

# Hot & Cold Drinks



**Most prefer one or the other**

# Spiritual Fervor



**On fire for  
Christ!**



**Pretender**



**Reject  
Christ**

**"I wish that you were cold or hot"  
(3:15b). Really? Why?**



**On fire for  
Christ!**



**Pretender**



**Reject  
Christ**



**Rejecting  
Christ**



**"Cold"**

A close-up photograph of a young man with dark hair and a slight stubble, looking directly at the camera with a bored or apathetic expression. He is resting his chin on both hands, which are pressed against his cheeks. He is wearing a dark-colored shirt. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with some architectural elements.

**Apathetic**

**"Lukewarm"**

A close-up photograph of a person's mouth, showing a stream of white liquid being spit out. The liquid is captured in mid-air, creating a dynamic, splashing effect. The person's lips are slightly parted, and the skin around the mouth is visible. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

**Result: Christ stops  
compromise (3:16b).**

**"I will spit  
you out of  
my mouth"**

# Laodicea Water Supply

363



**Laodicea's water channelled through this dual pipeline but it carried thick calcium impurities. Combined with its lukewarm temperature, it would make a visitor vomit.**



**What does it mean for Jesus to vomit out the lukewarm?**

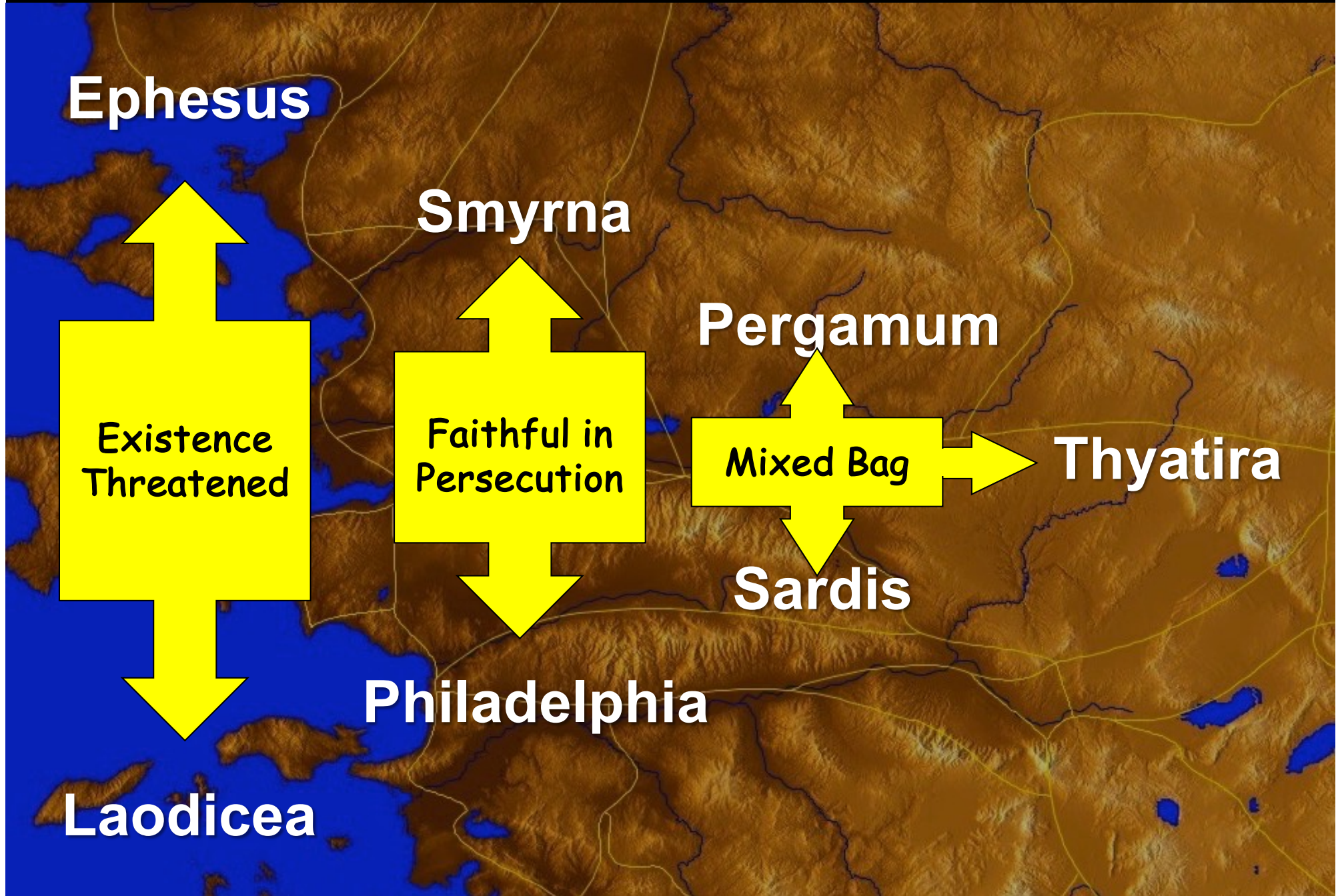
- **Lose their salvation?**



**Lose their privileges by being disciplined!**

# The Chiasm (Rev. 2–3)

366



# Laodicea Today

"I will spit you  
out of my  
mouth" (3:16)



**LAODICEA ON  
THE LYCUS**



**Singapore "Super Trees"**





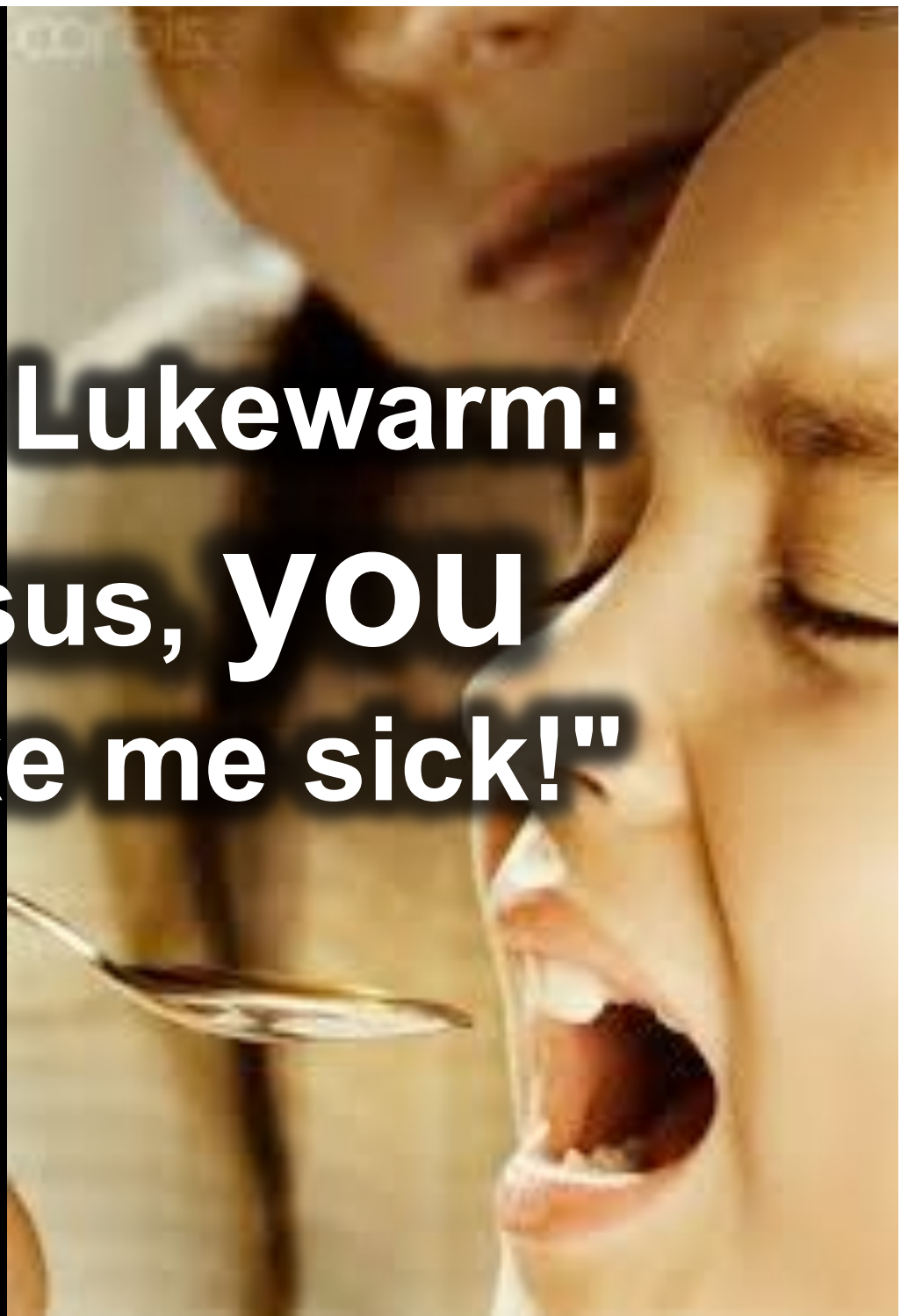
# Marina Barrage Desalination Plant



**Eventually...**

**Jesus:  
"No,  
you  
make  
me  
sick!"**


**The Lukewarm:  
"Jesus, YOU  
make me sick!"**



***The first way to cure spiritual apathy  
is to...***

**I. Recognize Christ's authority**

***Rev. 3:14***



A photograph of a man and a young boy on a beach at sunset. The man is kneeling on the left, wearing a white shirt and shorts, looking towards the boy. The boy is standing on the right, wearing a white t-shirt and shorts, looking down. The background shows the ocean and a bright sunset sky.

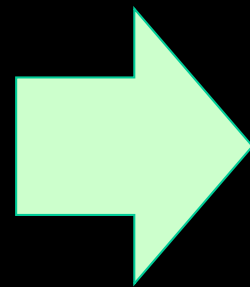
***The second way to cure spiritual apathy is to...***

**II. Respond to Christ's rebuke**

**Rev. 3:15-16**

*The third way to cure spiritual apathy is to...*

**III. Receive** Christ's riches and rule



**Rev. 3:17-22**

# Realize your sad state of spiritual self-sufficiency (3:17)

**Rebuke:**

**Lukewarm, neither cold nor hot.**

**Wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked**

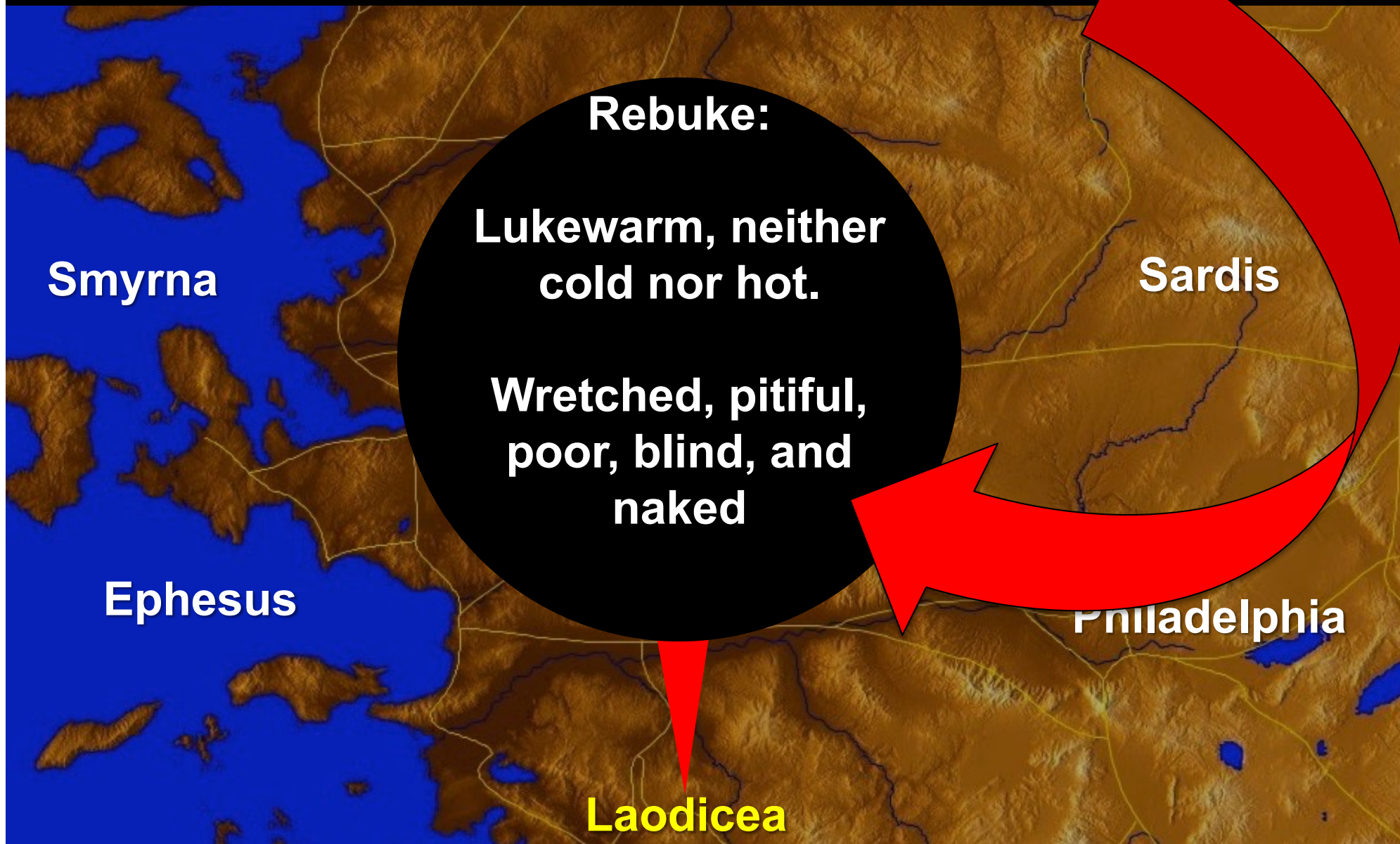
**Smyrna**

**Sardis**

**Ephesus**

**Philadelphia**

**Laodicea**



# Repent by trusting in Christ's riches (3:18-19).

## Exhortation

Buy from Christ  
refined gold,  
white clothes,  
and eye salve.

Be earnest and  
repent.

Smyrna

Sardis

Ephesus

Philadelphia

Laodicea





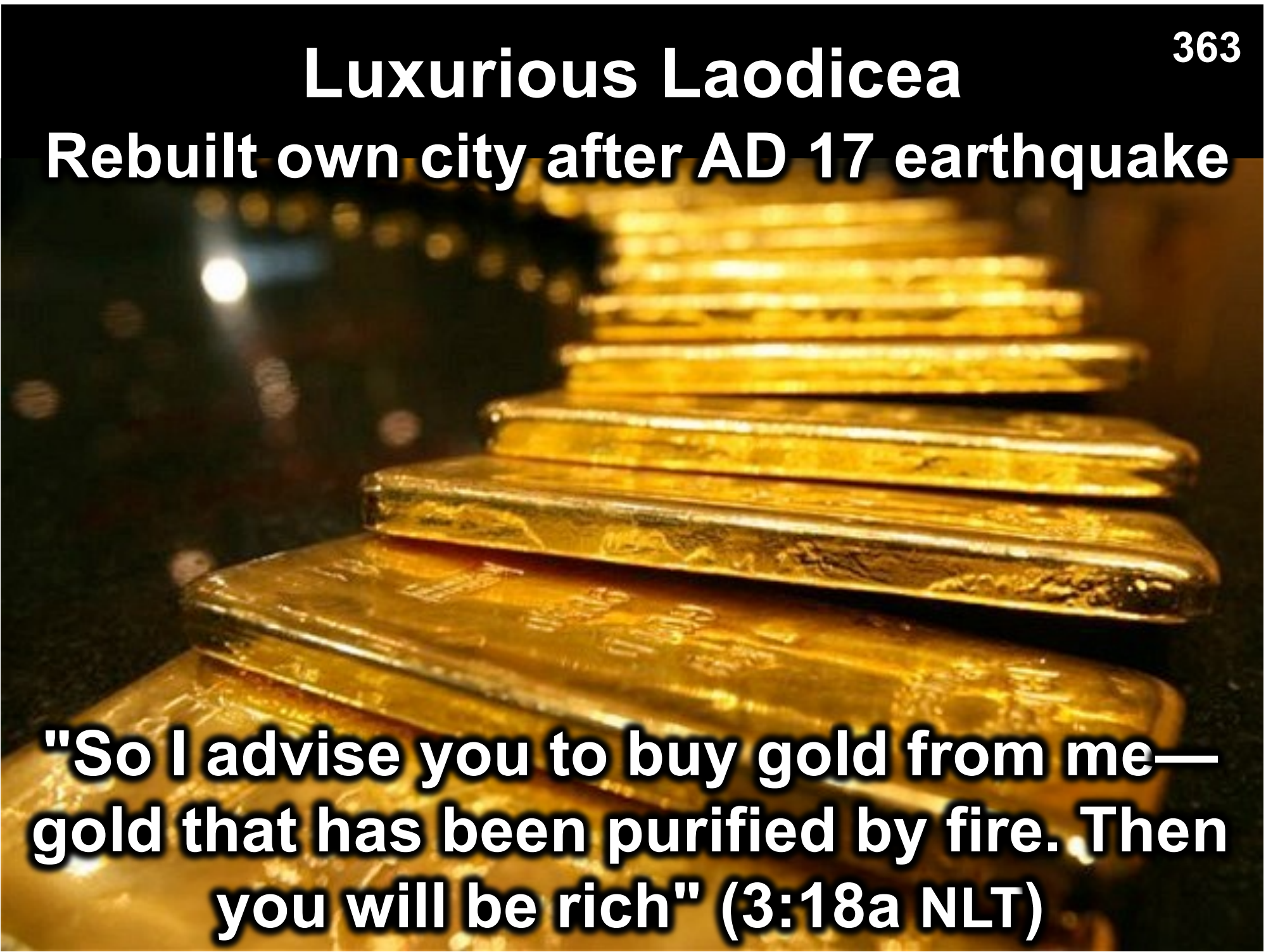
# Luxurious Laodicea

Rebuilt own city after AD 17 earthquake



# Luxurious Laodicea

Rebuilt own city after AD 17 earthquake

A stack of gold bars, symbolizing wealth and luxury. The bars are stacked in a slightly offset manner, creating a sense of depth and abundance. The lighting is warm, highlighting the metallic sheen of the gold.

**"So I advise you to buy gold from me—  
gold that has been purified by fire. Then  
you will be rich" (3:18a NLT)**

# Laodicea Garment Industry

363

## Produced a unique black wool



# Laodicea Garment Industry

363



**"Also buy white  
garments from me  
so you will not be  
shamed by your  
nakedness"  
(3:18b NLT)**



# Medical School at the Temple of Asclepius

Exported an eye salve throughout the Roman Empire



"You are blind..." (3:17)

# Laodicea Medical School

364

**Exported an eye salve throughout the  
Roman Empire**



**"Buy... ointment for  
your eyes so you  
will be able to see"  
(3:18c NLT)**

# Luxurious Laodicea

The assessment by Jesus:



- poor



- naked



- blind

# Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22)

363



Pergamum

Warning

Thyatira

None!

Smyrna

**But there is an  
invitation!**

Sardis

Ephesus

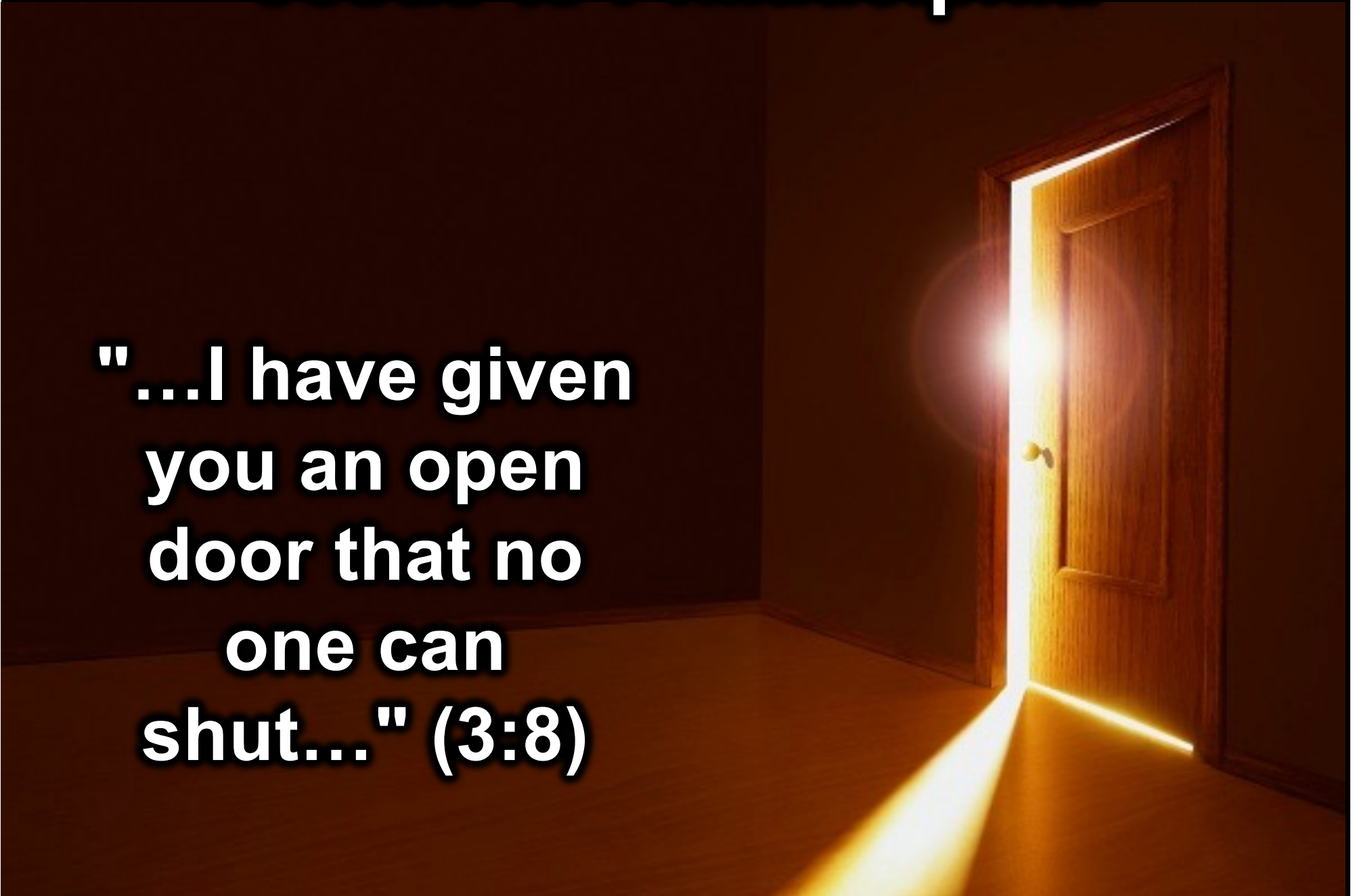
Philadelphia

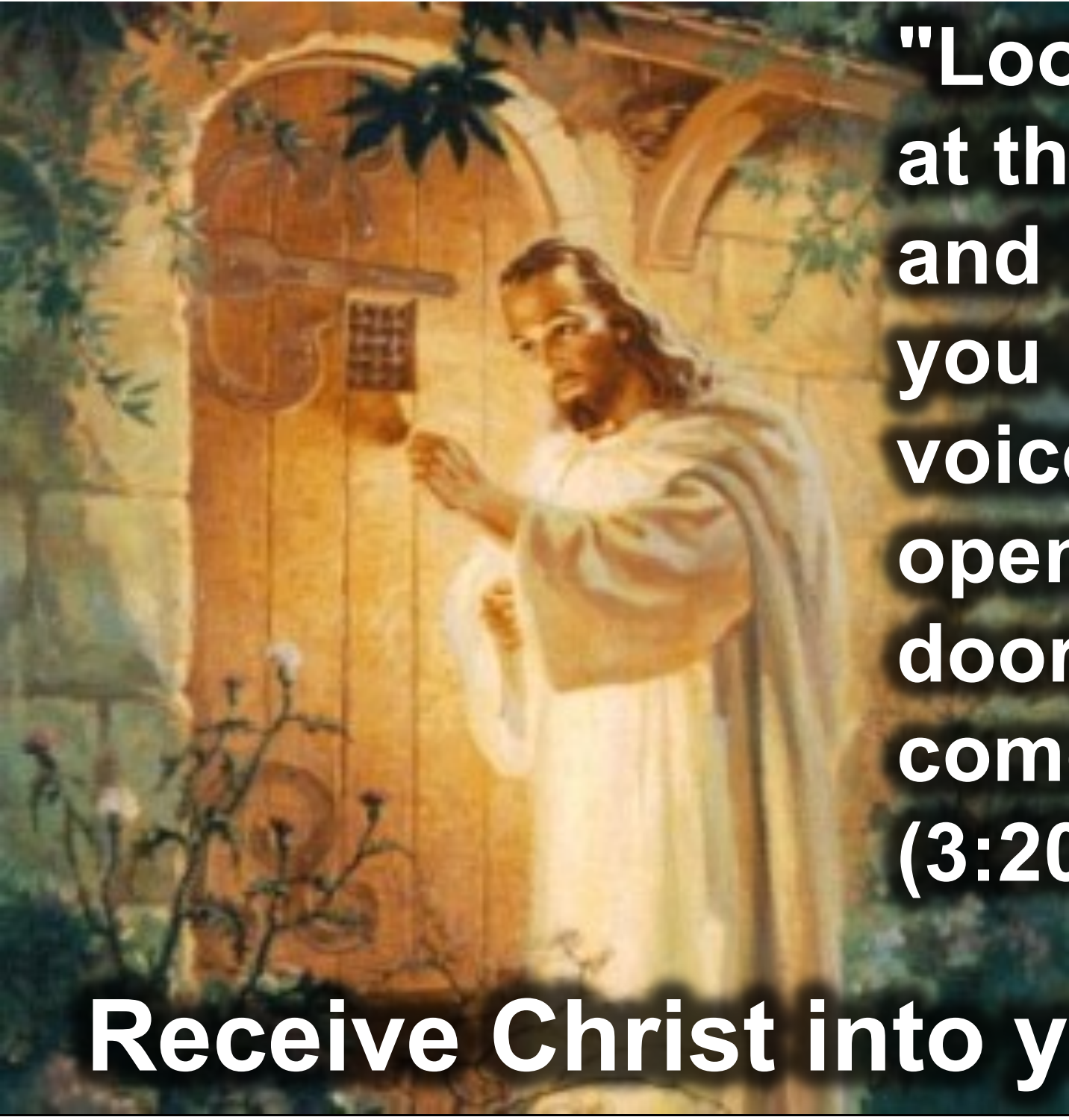
Laodicea



# Jesus to Philadelphia

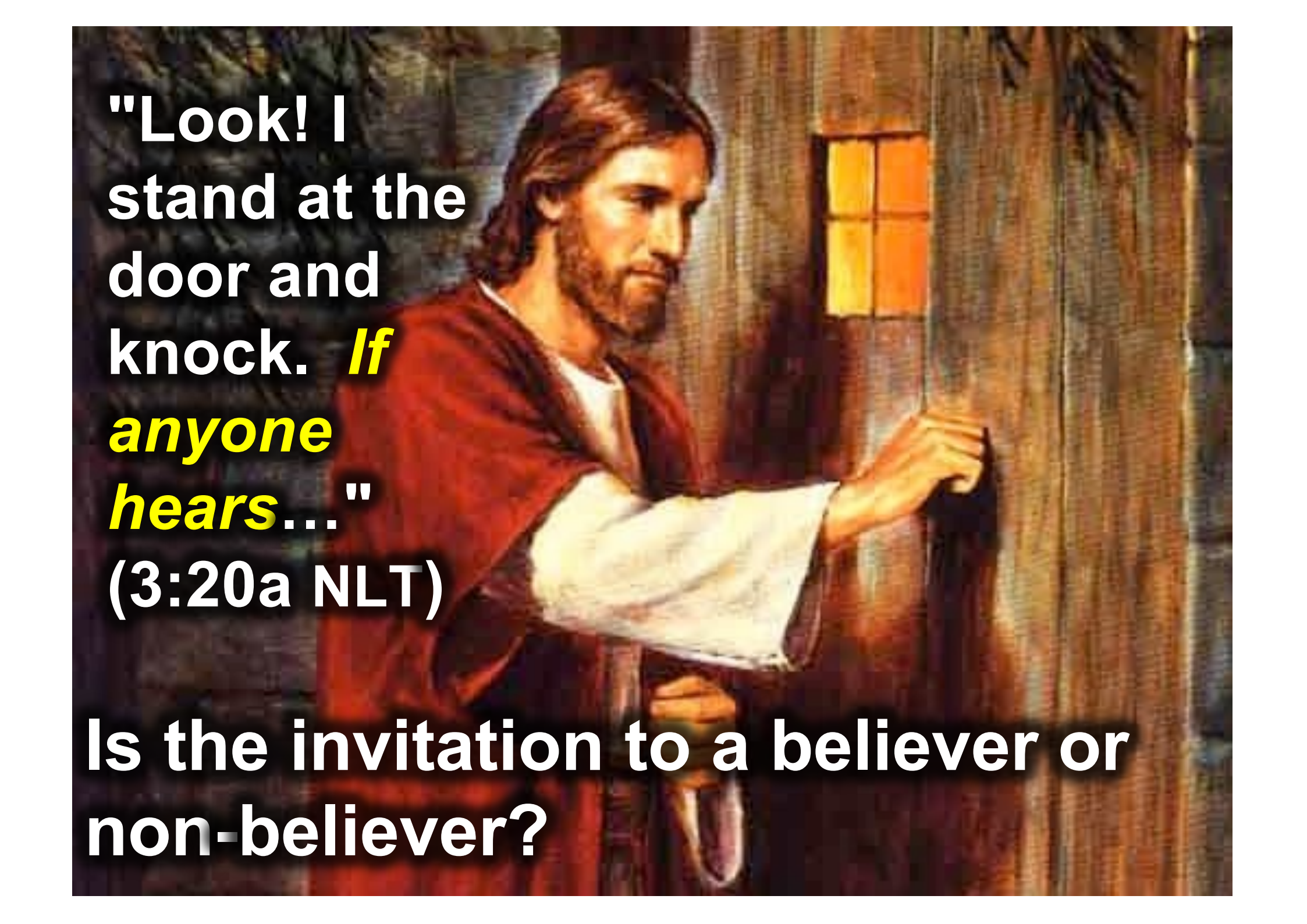
**"...I have given  
you an open  
door that no  
one can  
shut..." (3:8)**






**"Look! I stand  
at the door  
and knock. If  
you hear my  
voice and  
open the  
door, I will  
come in..."  
(3:20a NLT)**

**Receive Christ into your life**

A painting of Jesus with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a red robe over a white tunic. He is standing in a dark room, looking towards a wooden door on the right. His right hand is raised to the door handle. A small window with a yellow glow is visible in the background above the door.

**"Look! I  
stand at the  
door and  
knock. *If  
anyone  
hears...*"  
(3:20a NLT)**

**Is the invitation to a believer or  
non-believer?**



**"...and we will share a  
meal together as friends"  
(3:20b NLT)**

**Receive Christ into your life**



***Rule with  
Christ just as  
he rules with  
the Father  
(3:21-22).***

**Promise**

**Overcomers  
will eat with  
Christ and  
rule with  
Christ**



# The Overcomers (Rev. 2–3)

365

**“For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God” (1 John 5:4-5 NIV)**

**Every  
believer  
overcomes**

**The overcomer has “kept my command to endure patiently” (Rev 3:10 NIV) and “does my will to the end” (Rev 2:26 NIV)**

**Faithful  
believers  
overcome**

# The Overcomers (Rev. 2–3)

365

“...whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness... because the darkness has blinded him” (1 John 2:11)

“Only the crowned and rewarded church in heaven will rule” (Dillow, 664)

**Are all  
Christians  
overcomers?  
*No. Only  
faithful ones.***

All believers overcome in 1 John 5:4-5, yet some will still “shrink away in shame” (1 John 2:28)

“You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth” (5:10).



# The Overcomers (Rev. 2–3)

365

The context of  
Rev 21:6-8  
presents three  
types of people:

**All Saints:** “He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life” (21:6).

He who overcomes  
will inherit these  
things, and I will be  
his God and he will be  
My son (21:7)

**Unbelievers:** “But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death” (21:8).

# The Overcomers (Rev. 2–3)

365

If all overcome, then none could lose their crown: “I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown” (3:11).

“The seven letters deal with Christian works, not salvation (2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15)” —Yates, *BibSac* (2006): 227

**Are all  
Christians  
overcomers?  
*No. Only  
faithful ones.***

If we all overcome, then why all the warnings and promises?

His name will not be removed from the book of life (3:5)

# 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

# The Overcomers (Rev. 2–3)

365

Pergamum

2:17

Thyatira

2:26

He  
who

overcomes will thus be  
**clothed in white garments;**  
and I will **not erase his name**  
from the book of life, and I  
will **confess his name**  
before My Father and  
before His angels (3:5)

Smyrna

2:11

Sardis

3:5

Ephesus

2:7

Philadelphia

Laodicea



# The Overcomers (Rev. 2–3)

365

Pergamum

2:17

Thyatira

2:26

Smyrna

2:11

He who overcomes, I will **make him a pillar** in the temple of My God, and he will **not go out from it anymore**; 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 out of heaven from My God, **and My new name** (3:12)

Sardis

3:5

Ephesus

2:7

Philadelphia

3:12

Laodicea

# The Overcomers (Rev. 2–3)

365

Pergamum

2:17

Thyatira

2:26

Smyrna

2:11

He who overcomes, I will grant to him to **sit down with Me on My throne**, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne (3:21)

Sardis

3:5

Ephesus

2:7

Philadelphia

3:12

Laodicea

3:21

# The Overcomers (Rev. 2–3)

365

Pergamum

2:17

Thyatira

2:26

Smyrna

2:11

He who overcomes  
will inherit these  
things, and I will be  
his God and he will  
be My son (21:7)

Sardis

3:5

Ephesus

2:7

Philadelphia

3:12

Laodicea

3:21



How can you cure  
spiritual **apathy**?

# Main Idea



Replace **self**-reliance with  
**Christ**-reliance

**Three "Rs" to cure apathy...**


**Be  
Hot!**

***Rev. 3:14-22***

***The first way to cure spiritual apathy  
is to see the contrast in the...***

**I. Relationship:** Our pride falls short  
of Christ's real **authority**

***Rev. 3:14***





*The second way to cure spiritual apathy is to heed Christ's...*

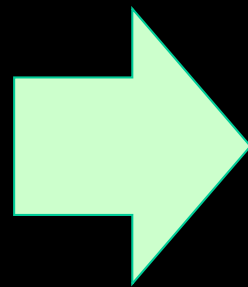
**II. Rebuke:** Christ responds to apathy with **discipline**

**Rev. 3:15-16**



*The third way to cure spiritual apathy is to change our...*

**III. Reliance:** Replace self-reliance by receiving Christ's **riches** and rule



**Rev. 3:17-22**



# **LUKEWARM... *AND LOVING IT***

**How are you like luxurious yet  
lukewarm Laodicea?**



**Loss of  
spiritual  
passion**

**What does lukewarm look like?**

**Not listening**



**What does lukewarm look like?**

**Where are you on the continuum?**

**Don't be satisfied!**

**"To be satisfied with  
where you are  
spiritually is to commit  
spiritual suicide!"**

**—Lisa Haven**

# **The Call of Jesus to Radical Commitment (Matt. 10:32-39)**

**"Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven."**

**<sup>34</sup> "Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword."**

# **The Call of Jesus to Radical Commitment (Matt. 10:32-39)**

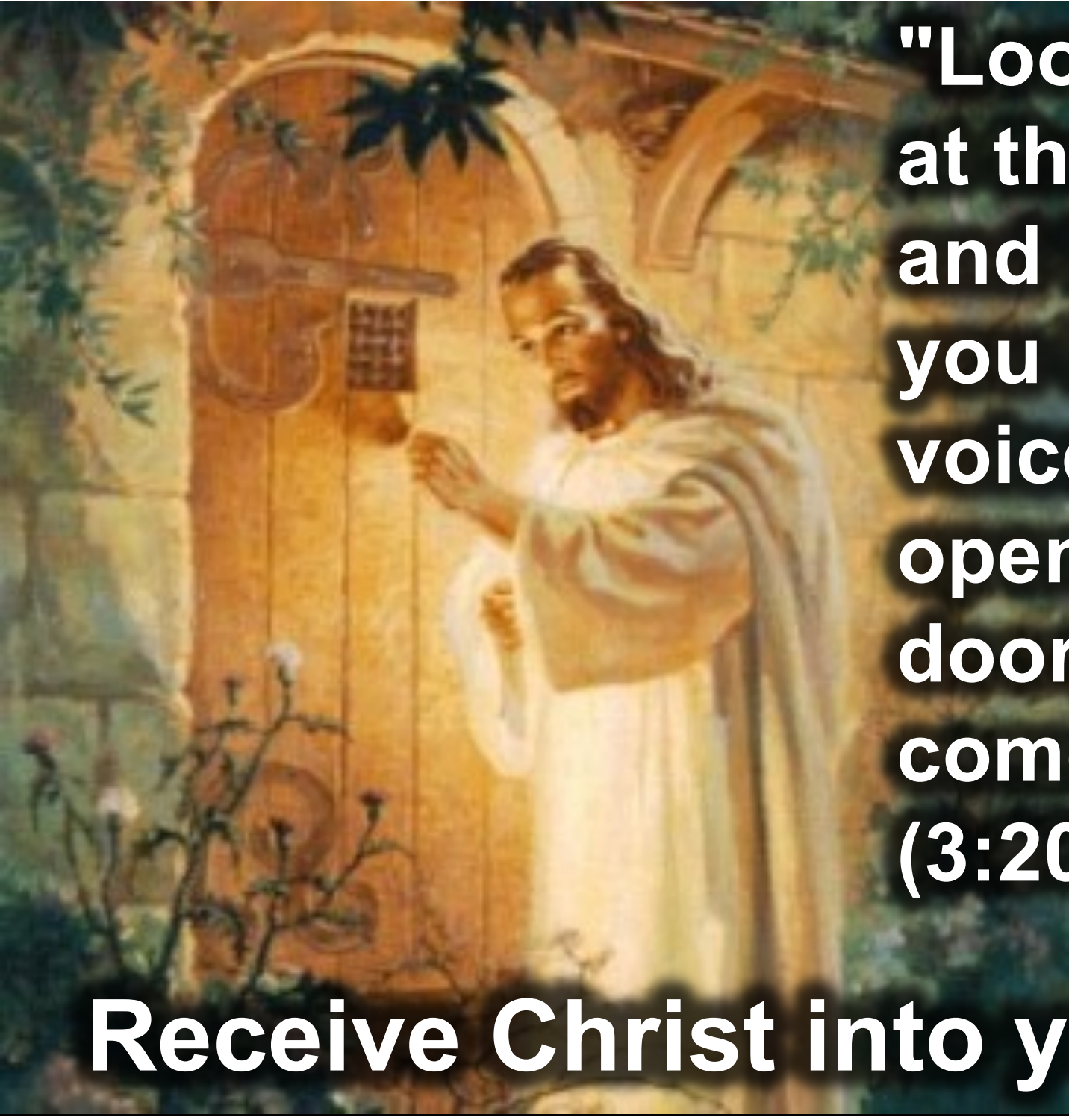
**35 "I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.**

**36 Your enemies will be right in your own household!"**

# **The Call of Jesus to Radical Commitment (Matt. 10:32-39)**

**<sup>37</sup> "If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. <sup>38</sup> If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. <sup>39</sup> If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it."**





**"Look! I stand  
at the door  
and knock. If  
you hear my  
voice and  
open the  
door, I will  
come in..."  
(3:20a NLT)**

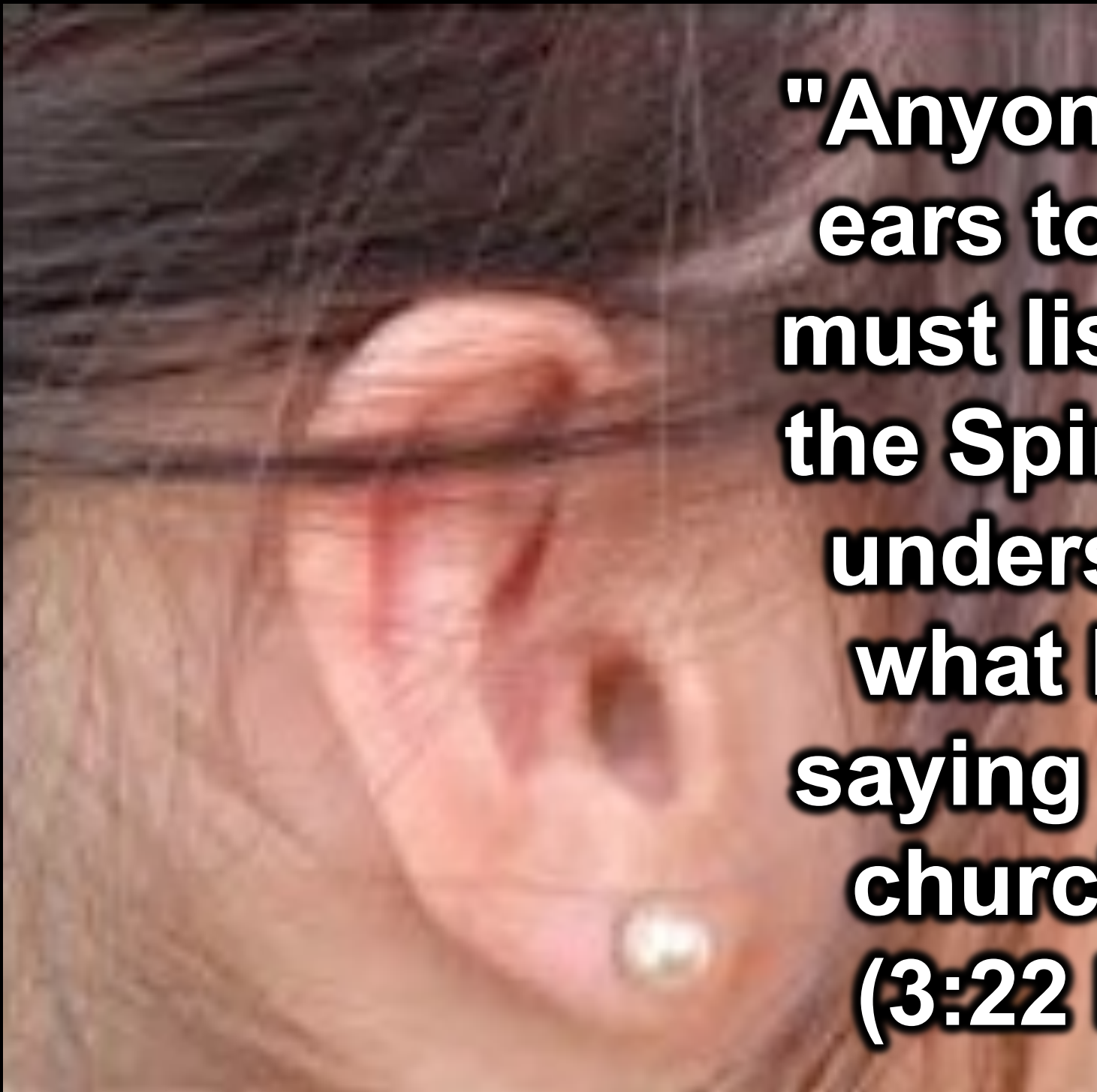
**Receive Christ into your life**

# Jesus

mobile



**Will you answer?**

A close-up photograph of a human ear, showing the earlobe and the ear canal. A small, round, white pearl earring is visible in the earlobe. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly wood or stone.

**"Anyone with  
ears to hear  
must listen to  
the Spirit and  
understand  
what he is  
saying to the  
churches"  
(3:22 NLT)**

# Laodicea Water Supply

363



The lukewarm water in the village next to Laodicea helps the eyes. Note the calcium layer on the ruins.

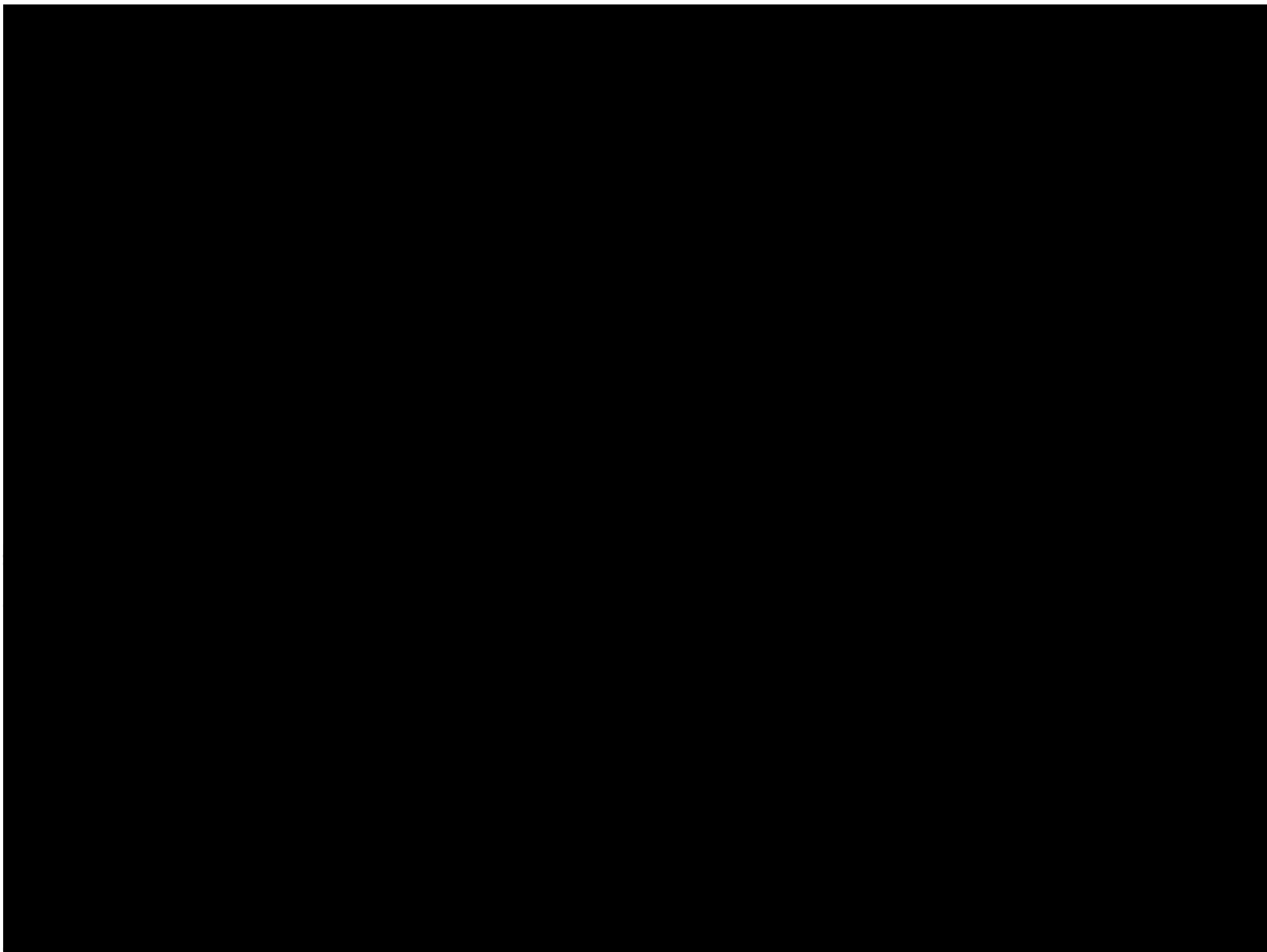


**COMPLACENCY**  
is dangerous in both love and technology

# Christ is Sovereign over All Churches



**II. Jesus revealed the internal  
compromise and external opposition of  
seven churches in seven letters to show  
His sovereignty to judge all churches  
(Rev. 2–3)**



# Get this presentation for free!



[Home](#) [Downloads](#) [FAQ](#) [Links](#) [Contribute](#) [Contact](#)

Search...



Bible Study Downloads has thousands of PowerPoint® and Word files in 42 languages for free download [here](#).

**Preaching (Homiletics) link at BibleStudyDownloads.org**