

The Overcomers (Rev. 2–3)

Pergamum

2:17

Thyatira

2:26

Smyrna

He who overcomes, I will reward in this way

Revelation 3

Ephesus

2:7

...the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name (3:12)

3:5

Philadelphia

3:12

Laodicea

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



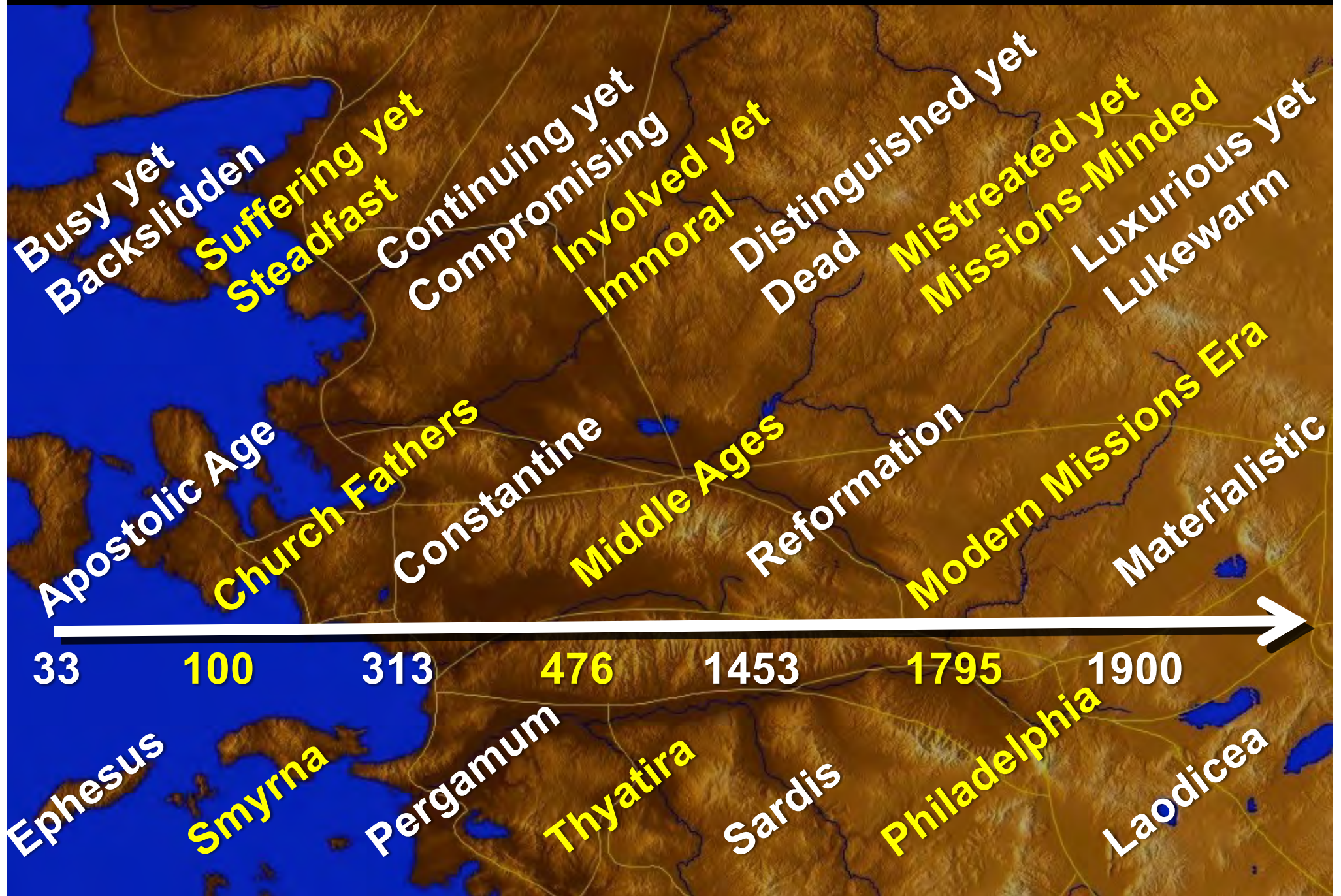
The 7 Churches (Rev. 2–3)

345



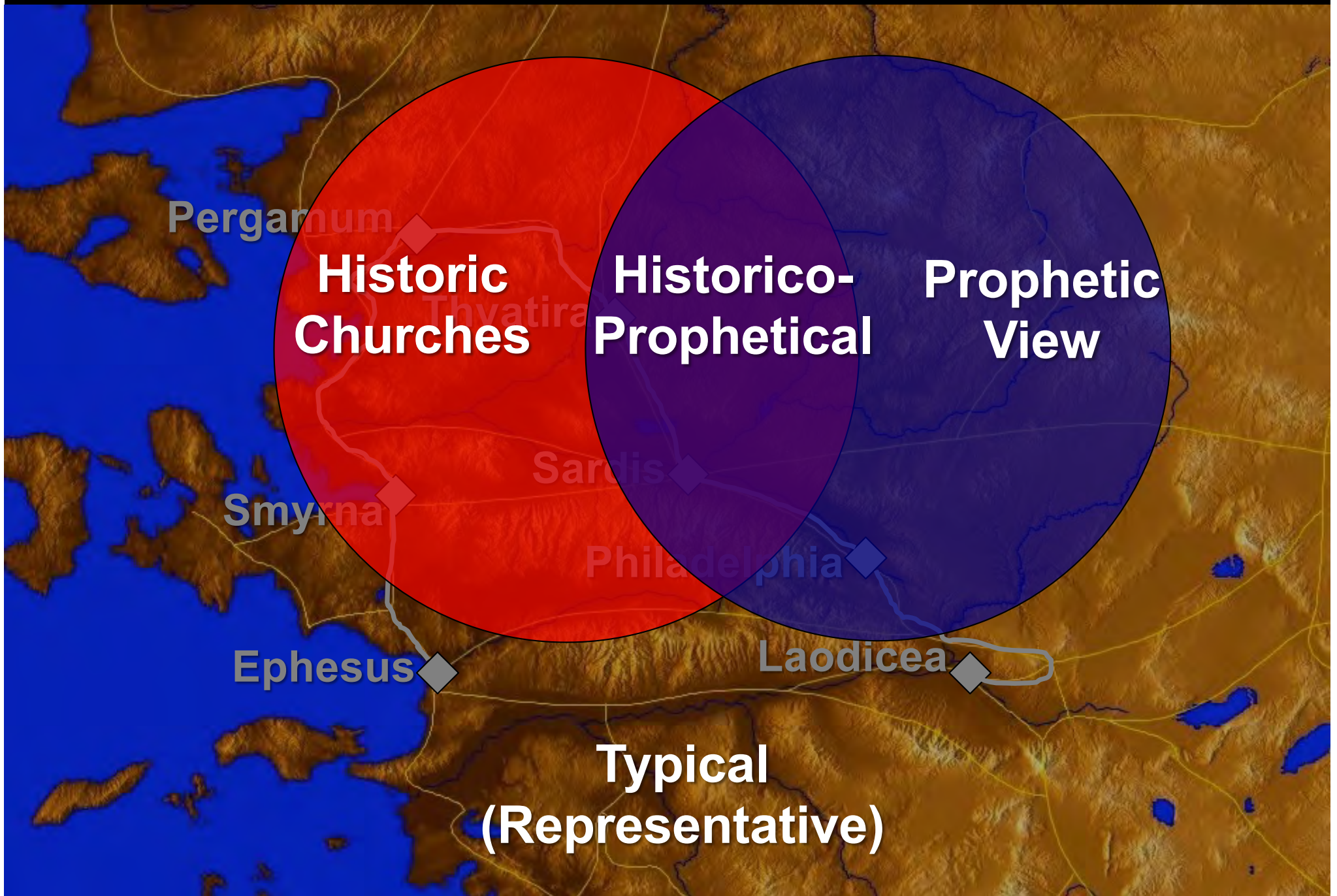
7 Church Stages?

347



Four Views on Rev. 2–3

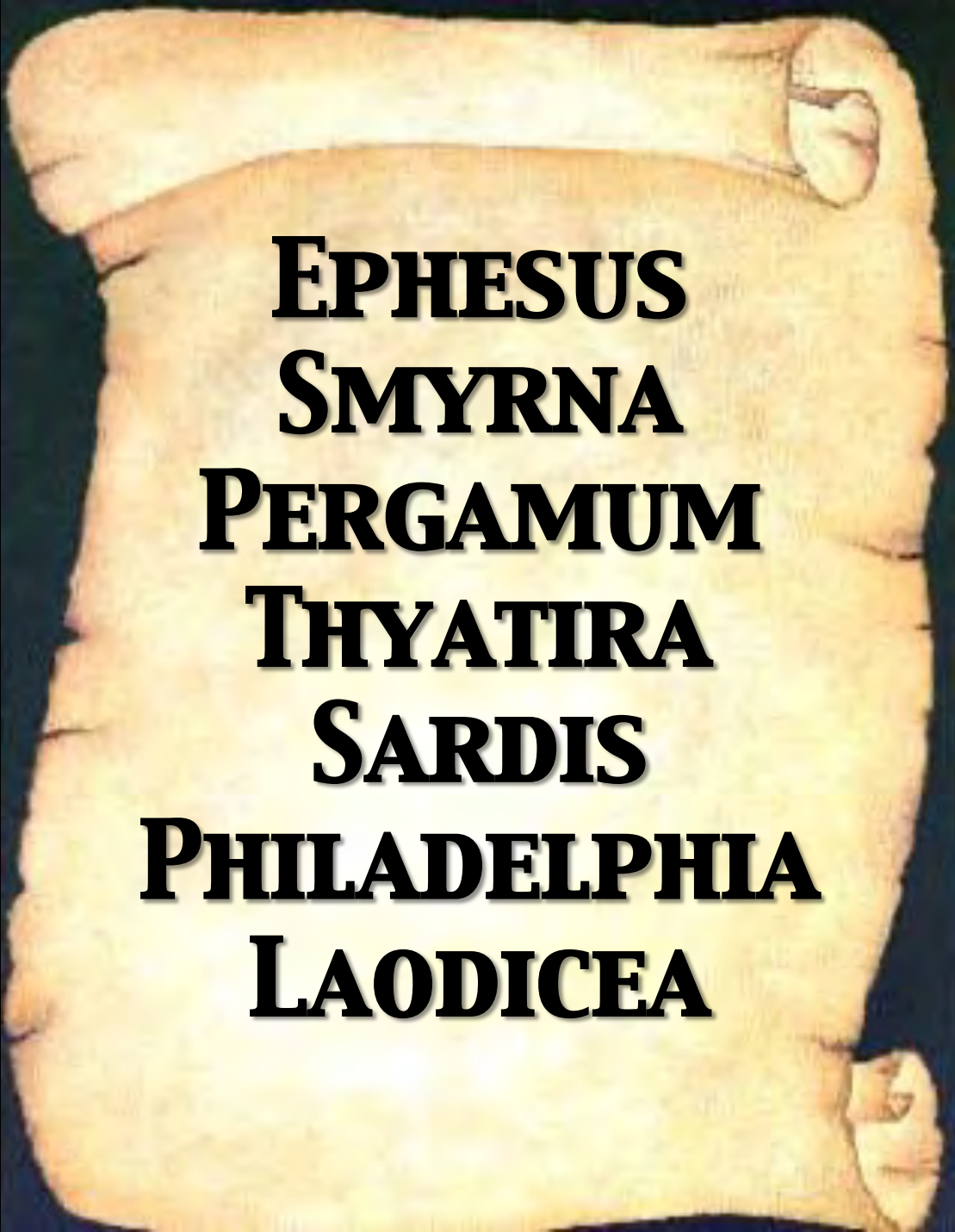
345



**Christ has
authority
over all
churches**



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

A scroll with the names of seven churches listed on it. The scroll is unrolled, showing the text in the center. The names are: EPHESUS, SMYRNA, PERGAMUM, THYATIRA, SARDIS, PHILADELPHIA, and LAODICEA.

**EPHESUS
SMYRNA
PERGAMUM
THYATIRA
SARDIS
PHILADELPHIA
LAODICEA**

Sovereignty of Christ in Future Victory

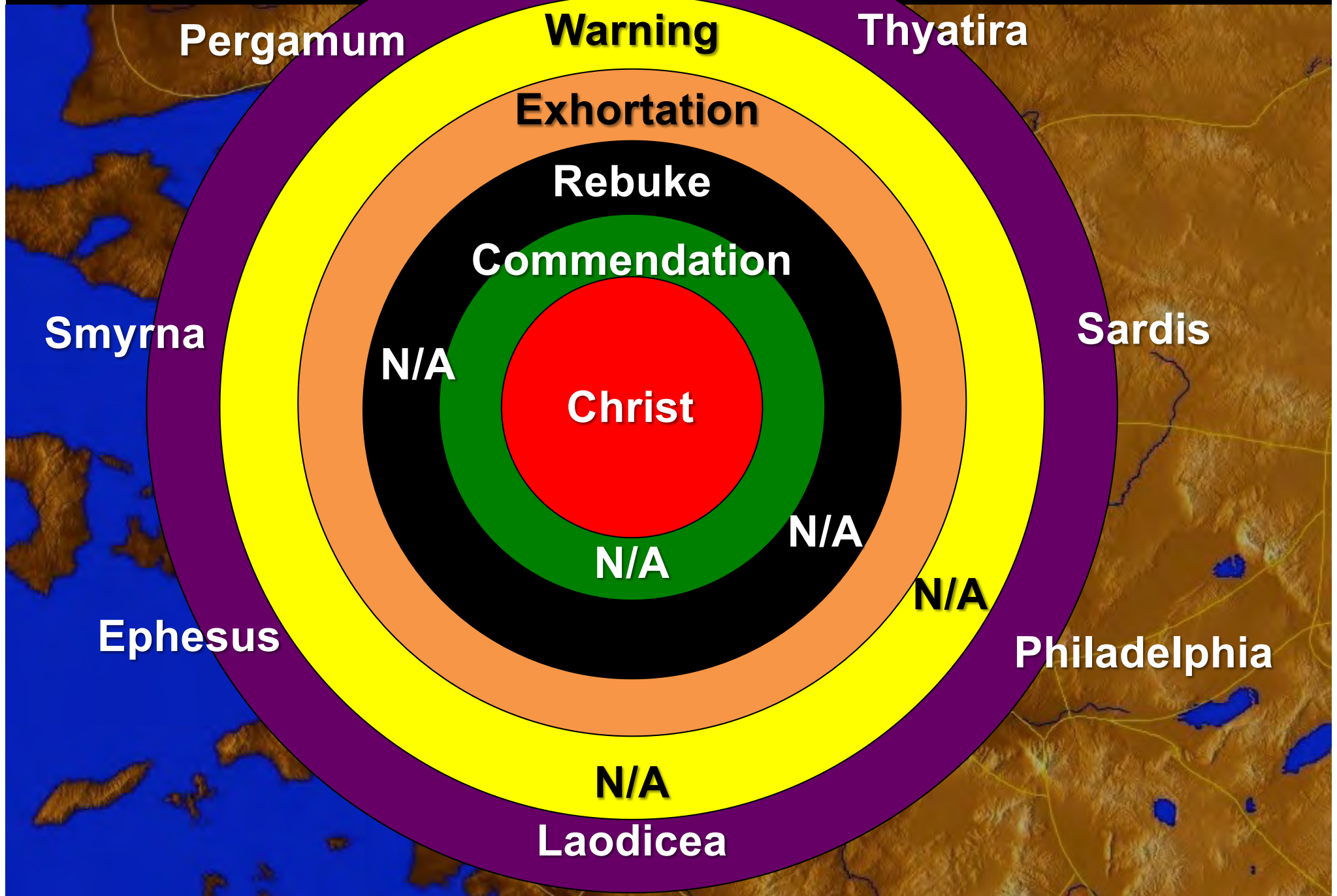
318, 324 M

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

AD 95

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)

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Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Christ:
Holds the
seven spirits of
God and the
seven stars

Ephesus

Philadelphia

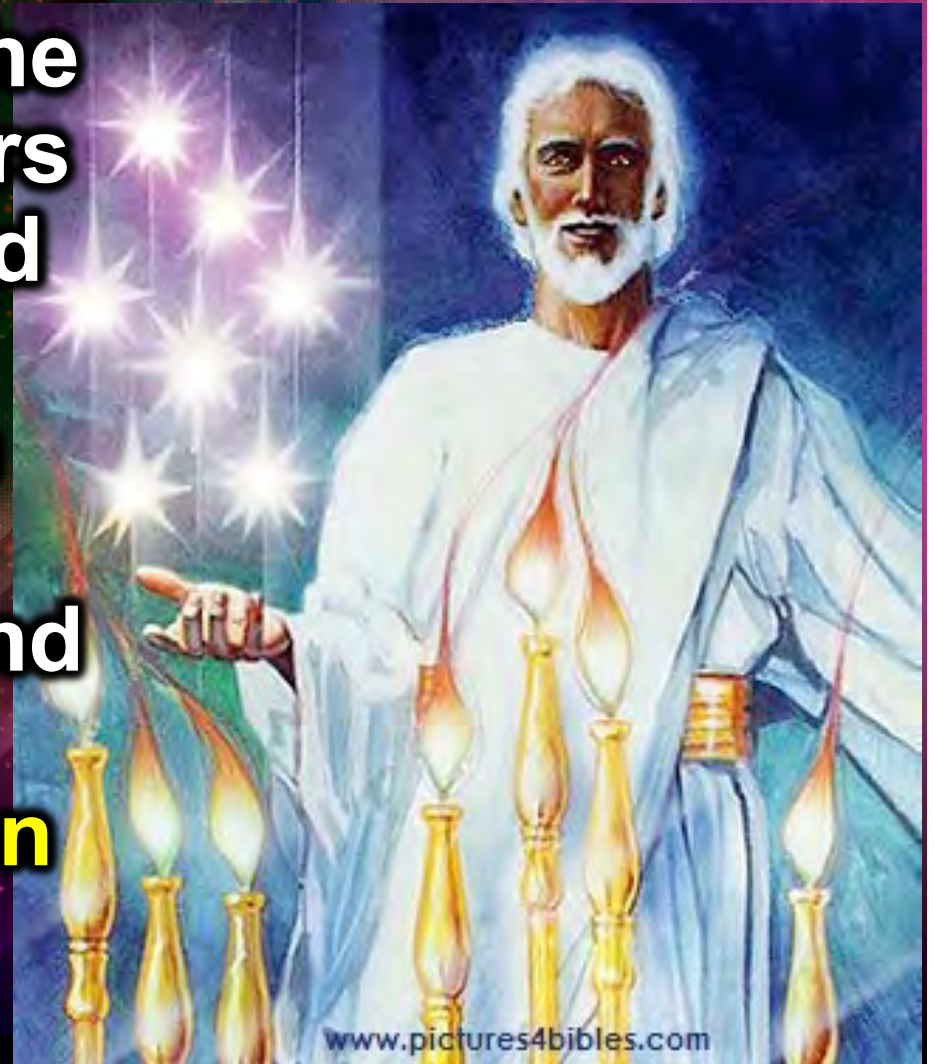
Laodicea



**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)

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



How much do you care?

I. Jesus knows the **good**.





II. Jesus knows the **bad**.

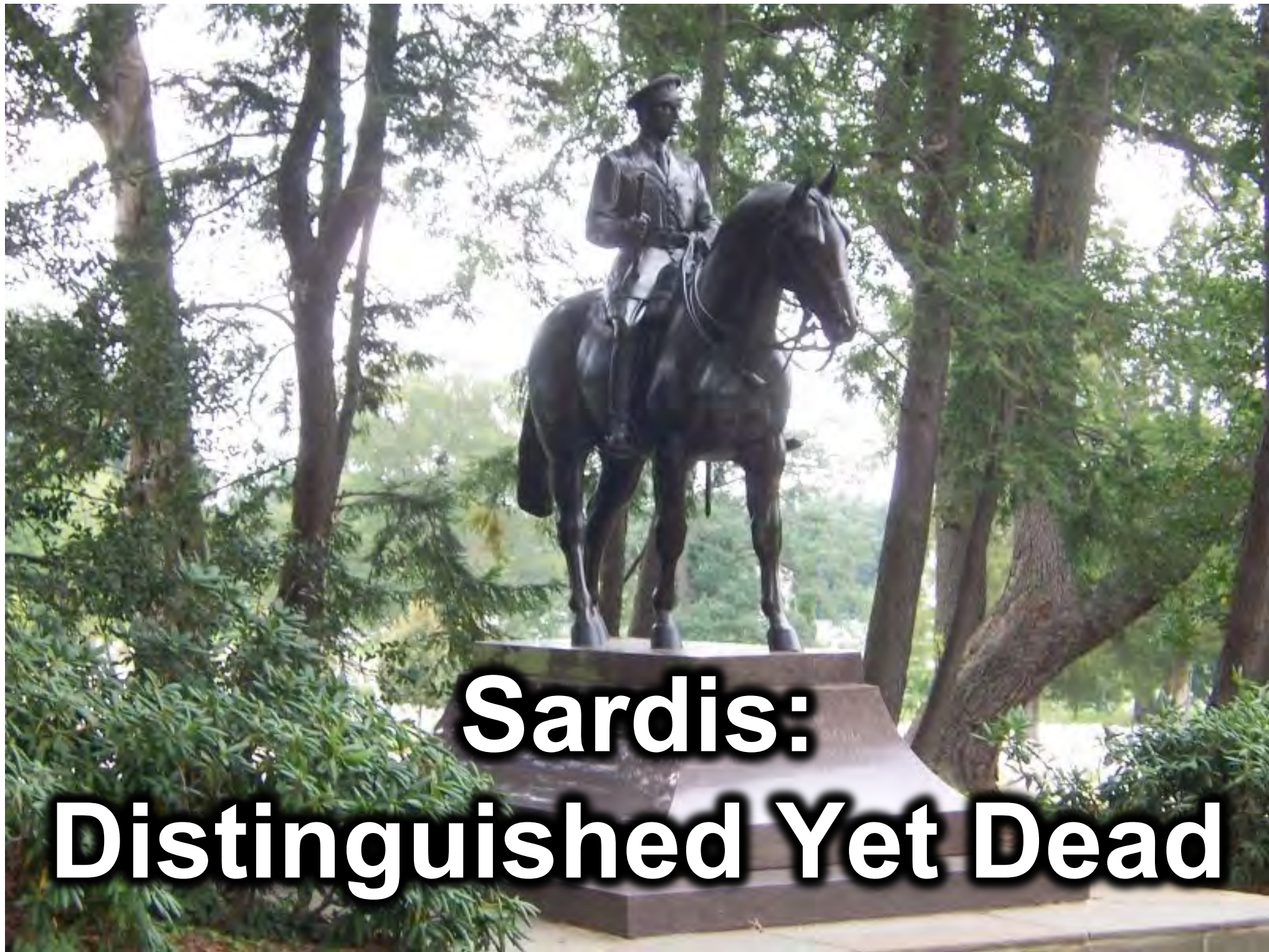
Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6)

357



Sardis: Distinguished Yet Dead

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



Sardis:

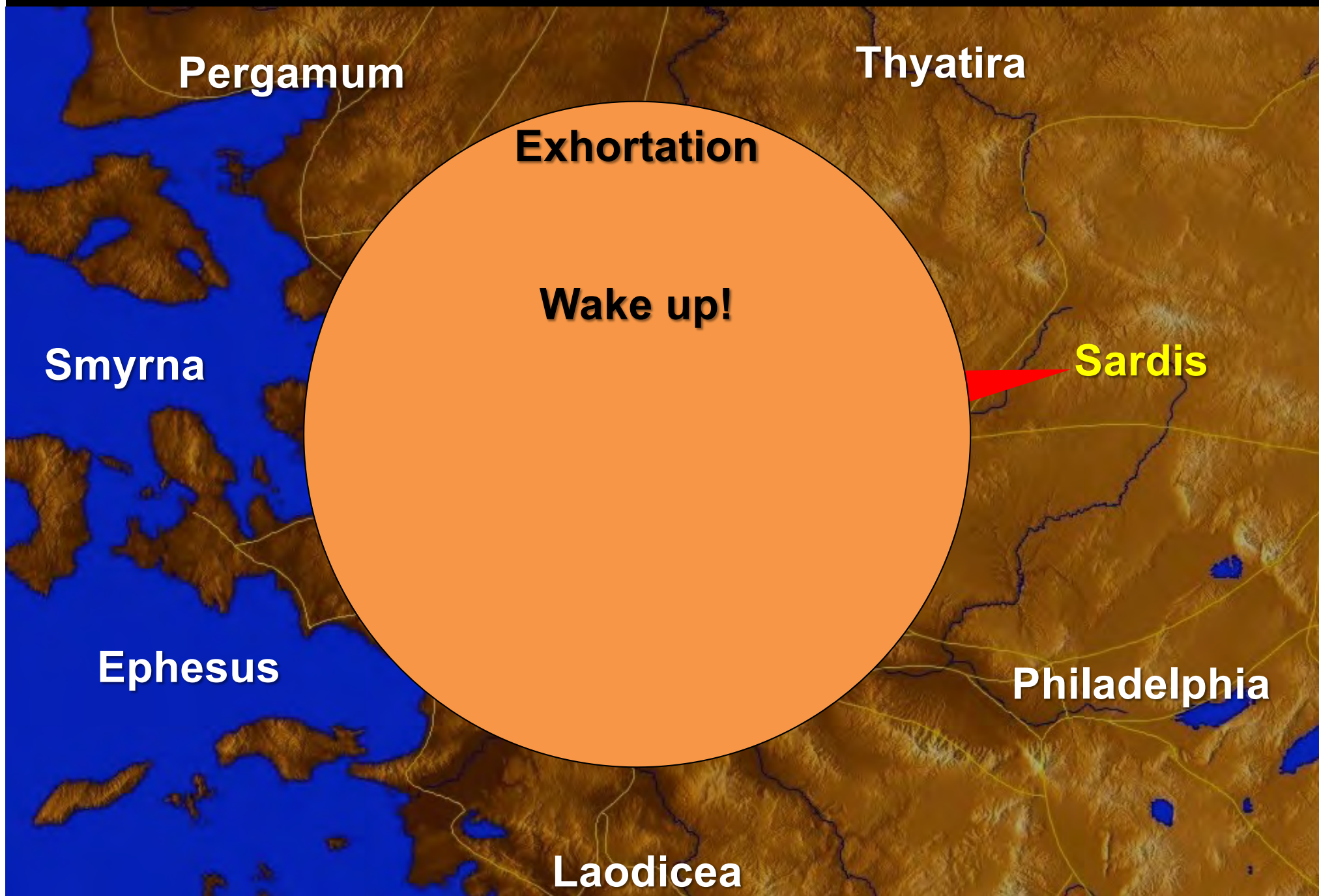
Distinguished Yet Dead



"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

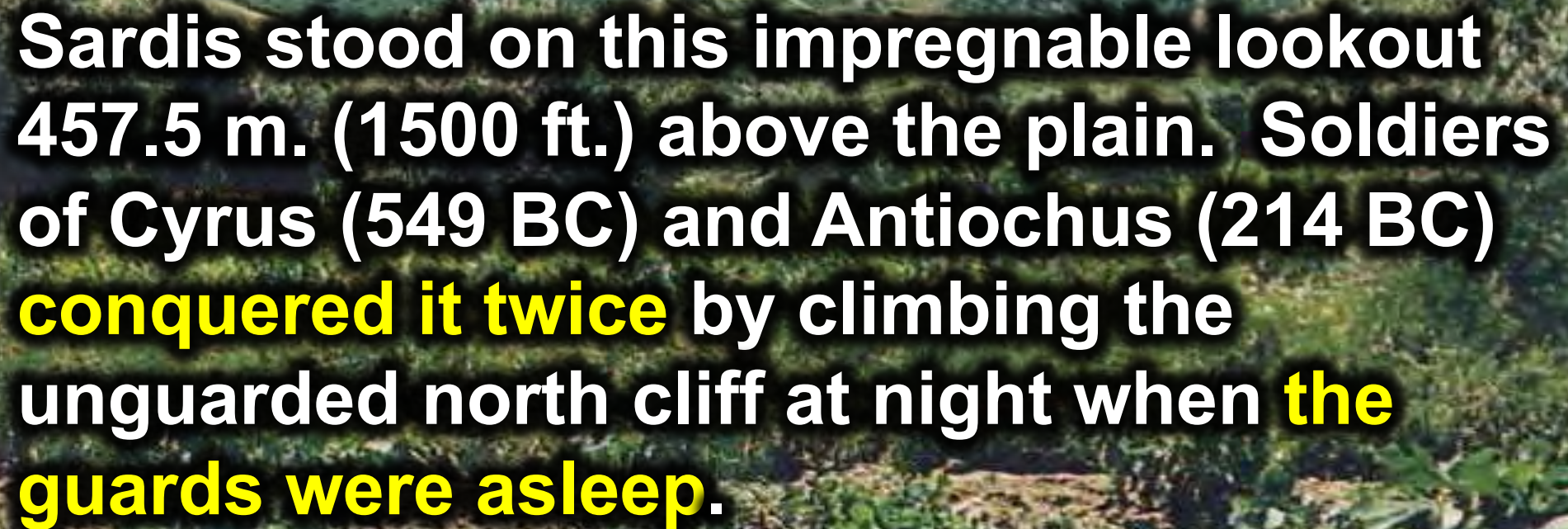
358

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

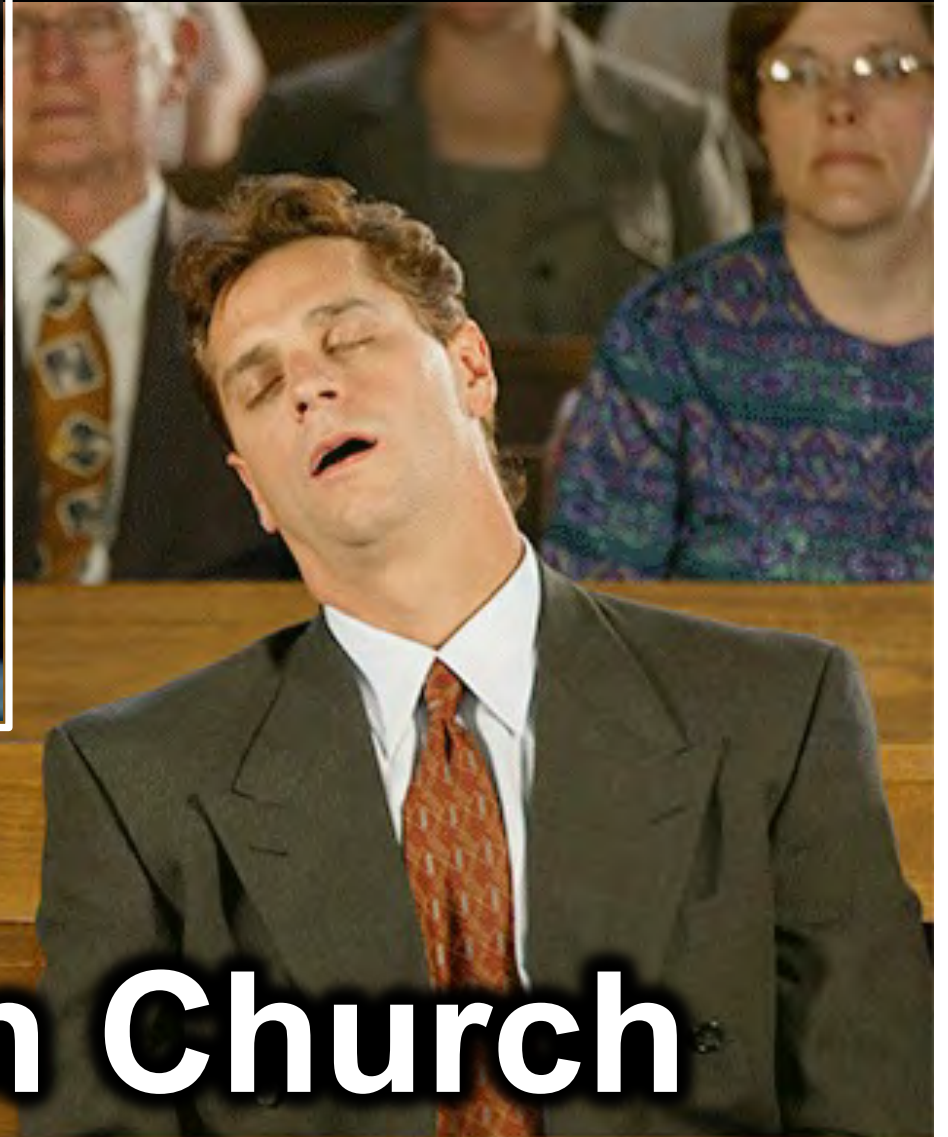


Sardis

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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.

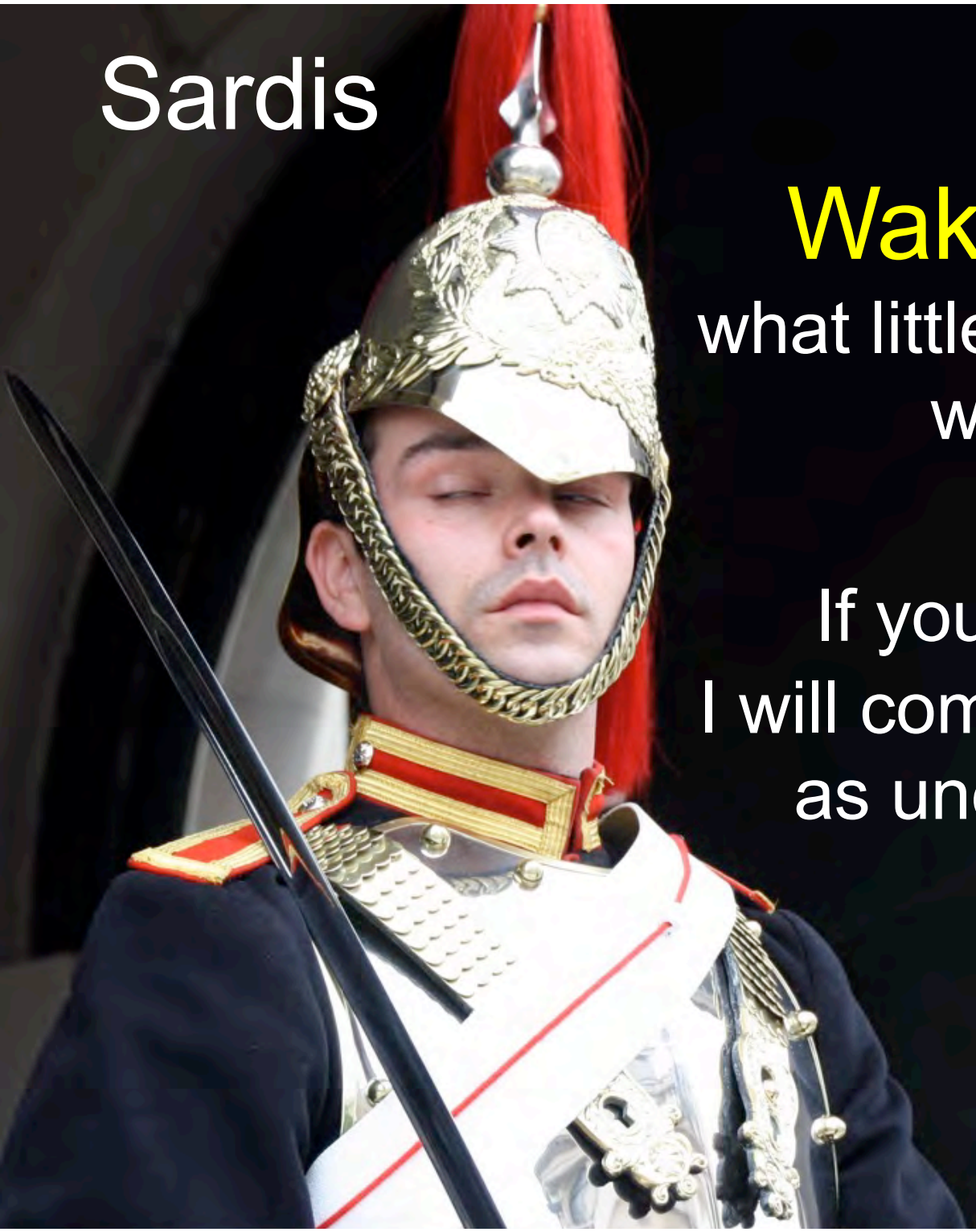
Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6)

357



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**.





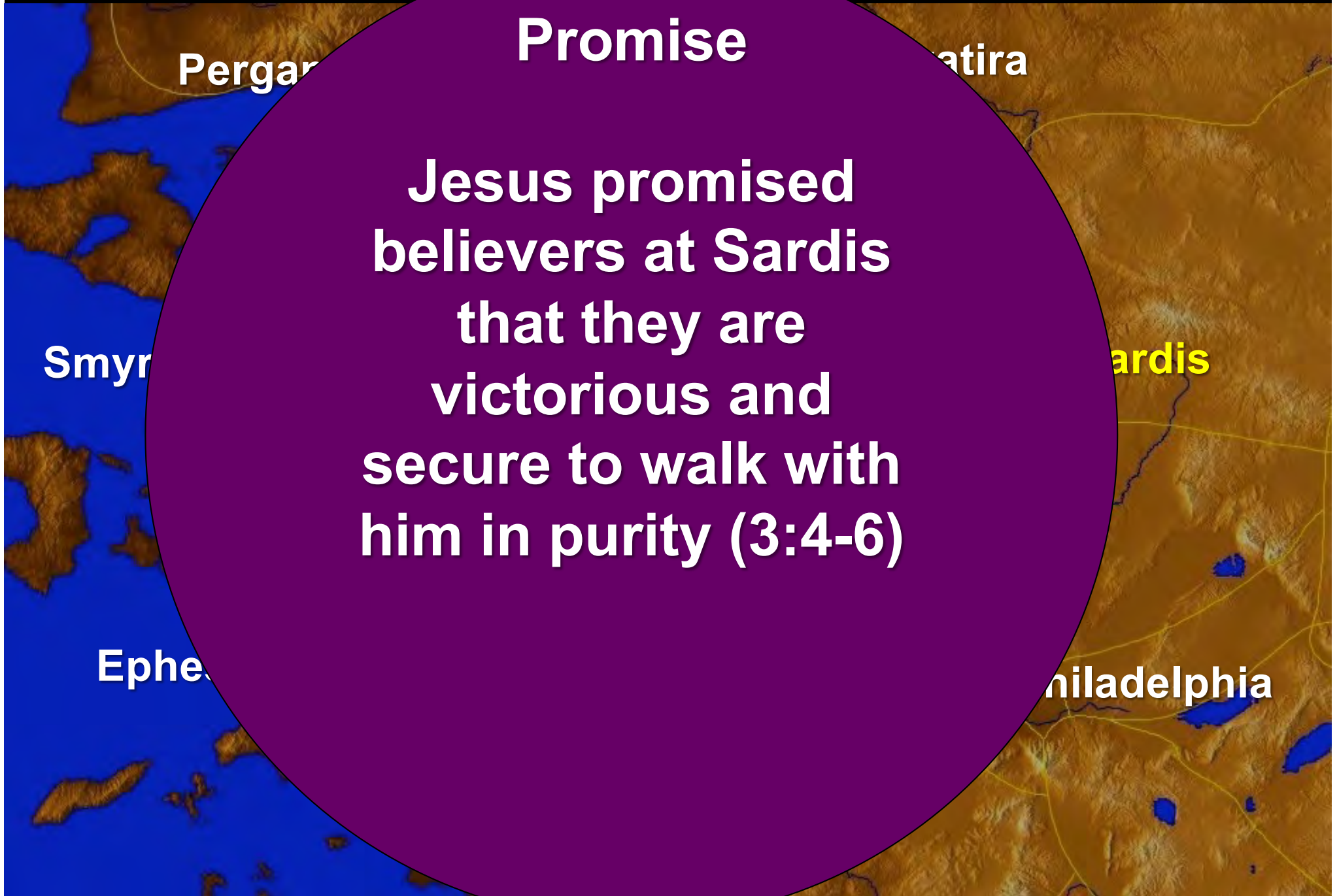
II. Jesus knows the **bad**.



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)**



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



**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**,
what **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

A large crowd of people, all wearing identical orange hooded robes and white masks, filling the frame. The perspective is from within the crowd, looking slightly upwards and forward. The repetition of the same appearance creates a strong sense of uniformity.

**Uniformity—
not unity**



Why do you like CIC?



Our Vision is to...

Love God



**Love the
Church**



*Many members,
one body.*

**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, 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).





***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?

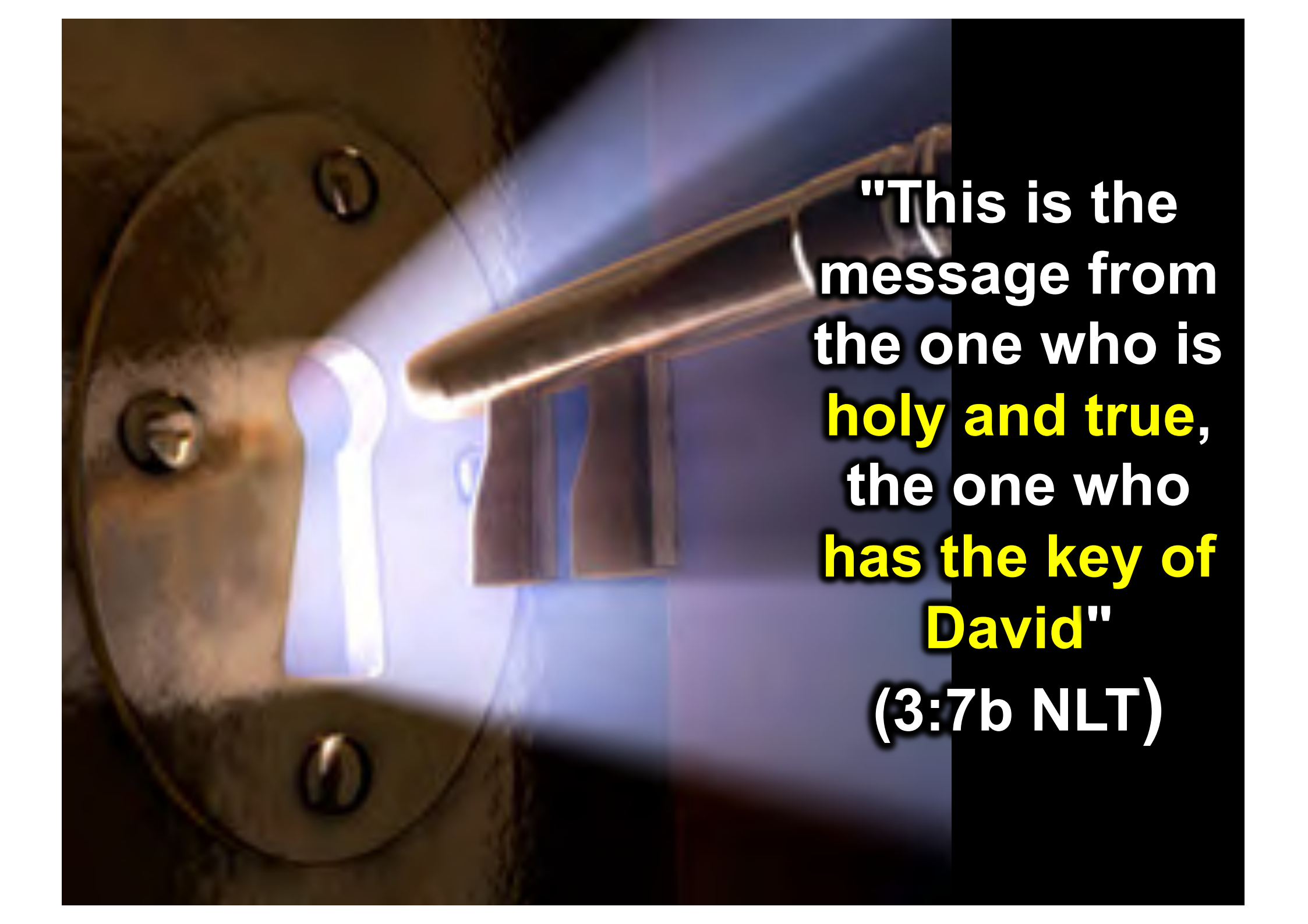
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Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13)

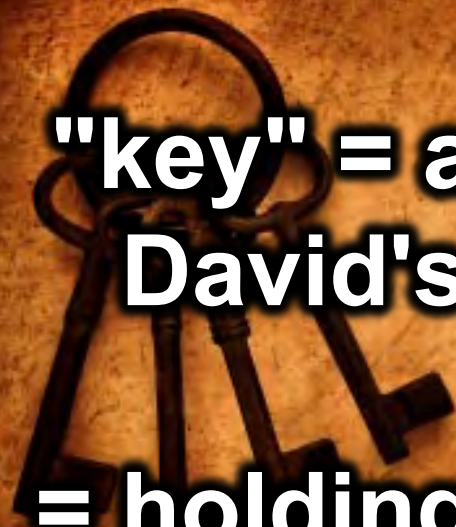
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**"This is the
message from
the one who is
holy and true,
the one who
has the key of
David"**

(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)**



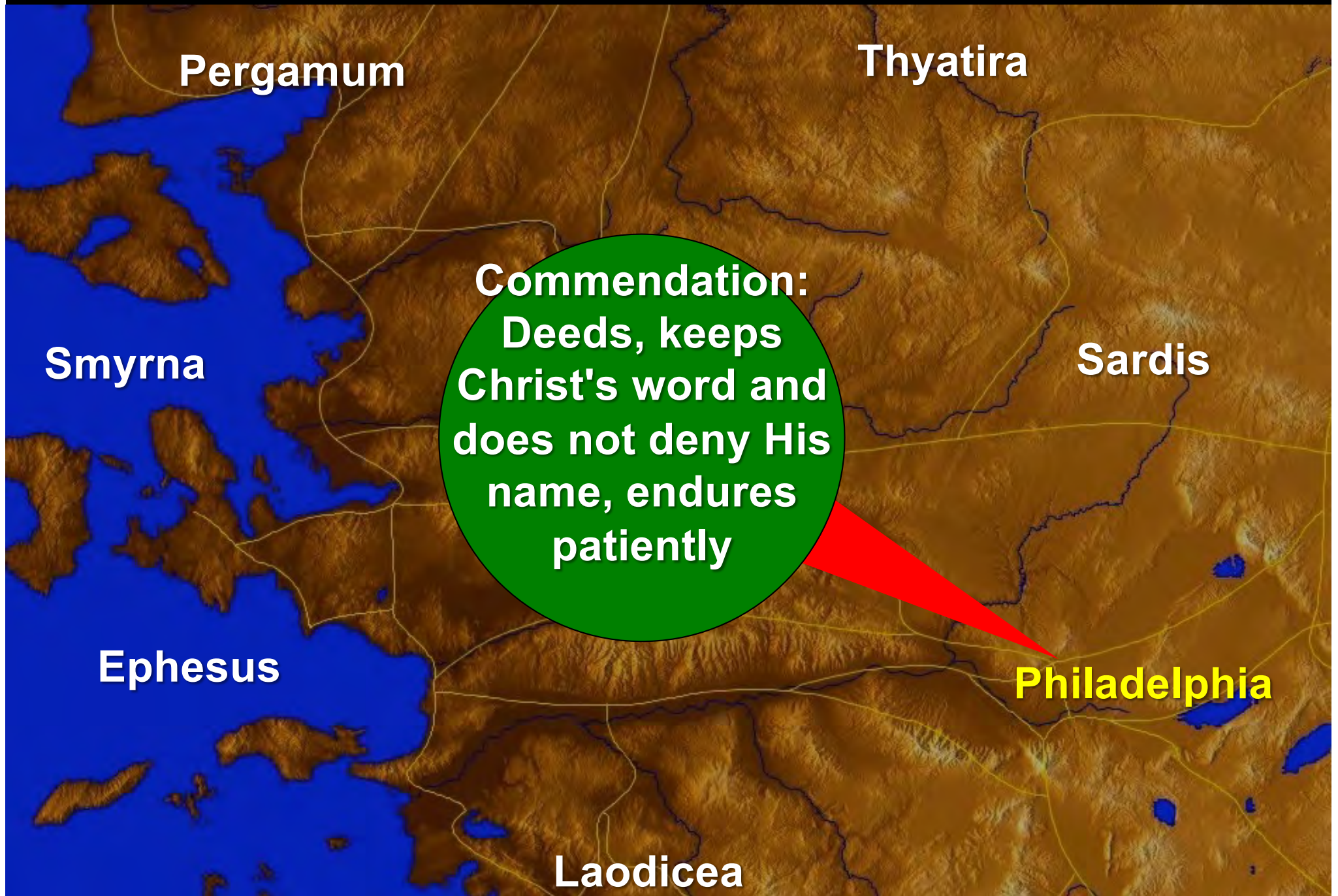
Commendation: He gave them opportunities based on their faithfulness (3:8).



"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)

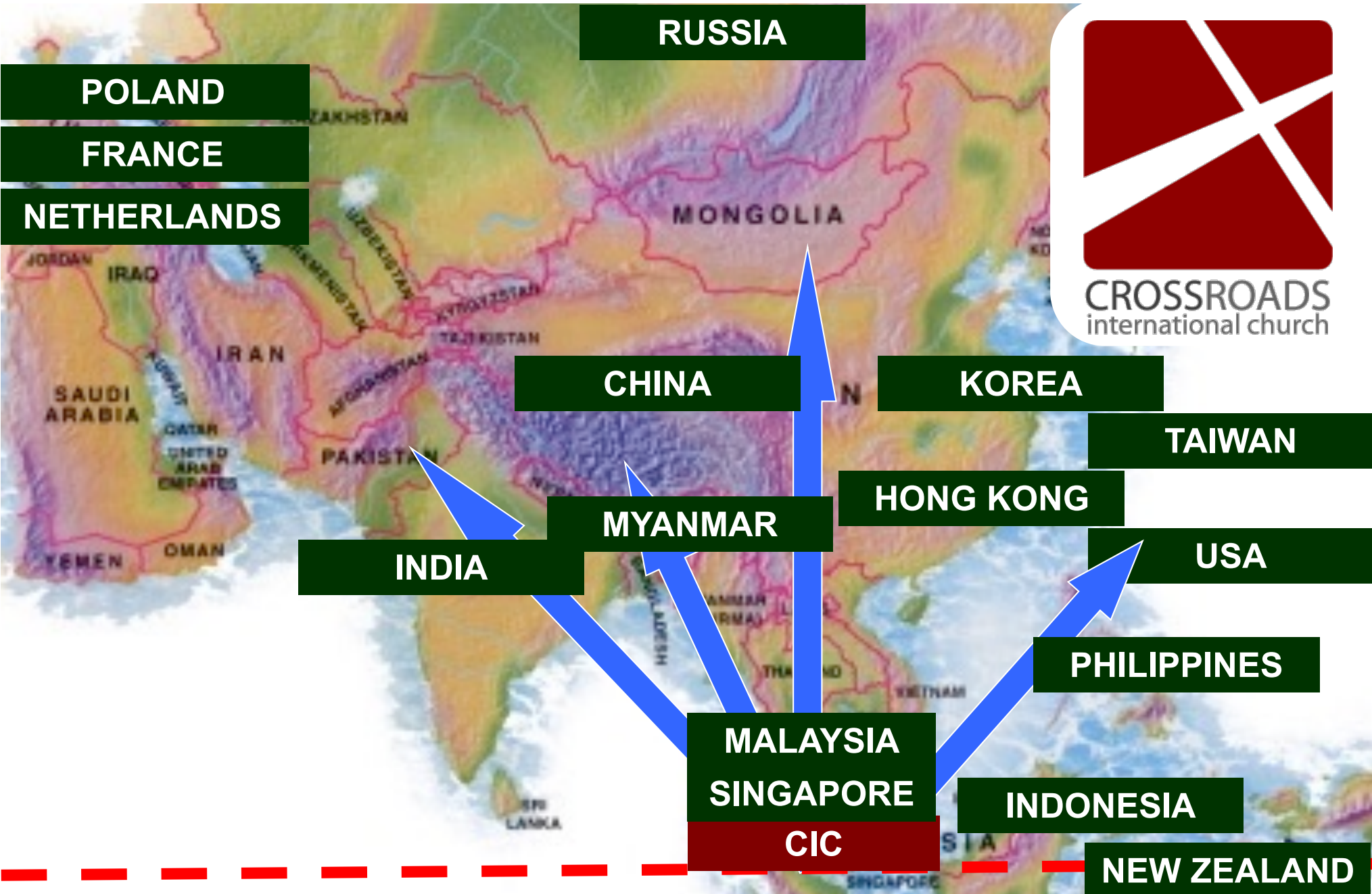
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**Jesus has given our church many
open doors for witness too!**

**"...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!



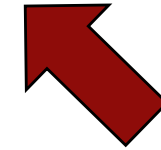


Our Vision is to...

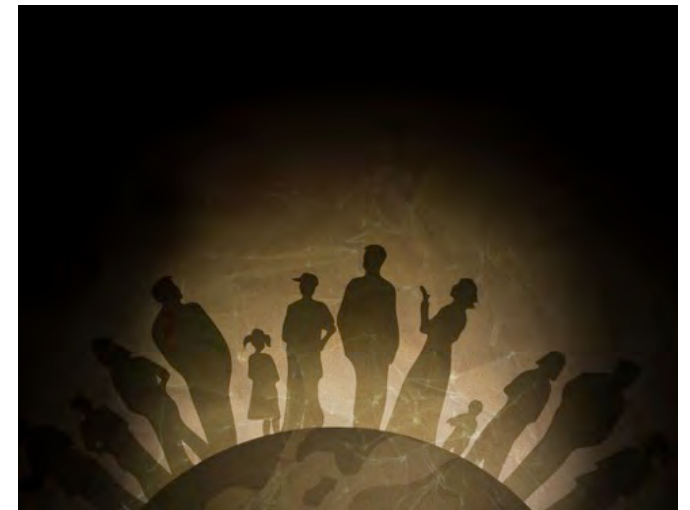
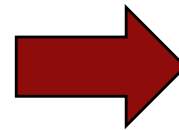
Love God



Love the Church



Love the Nations





CROSSROADS
international church

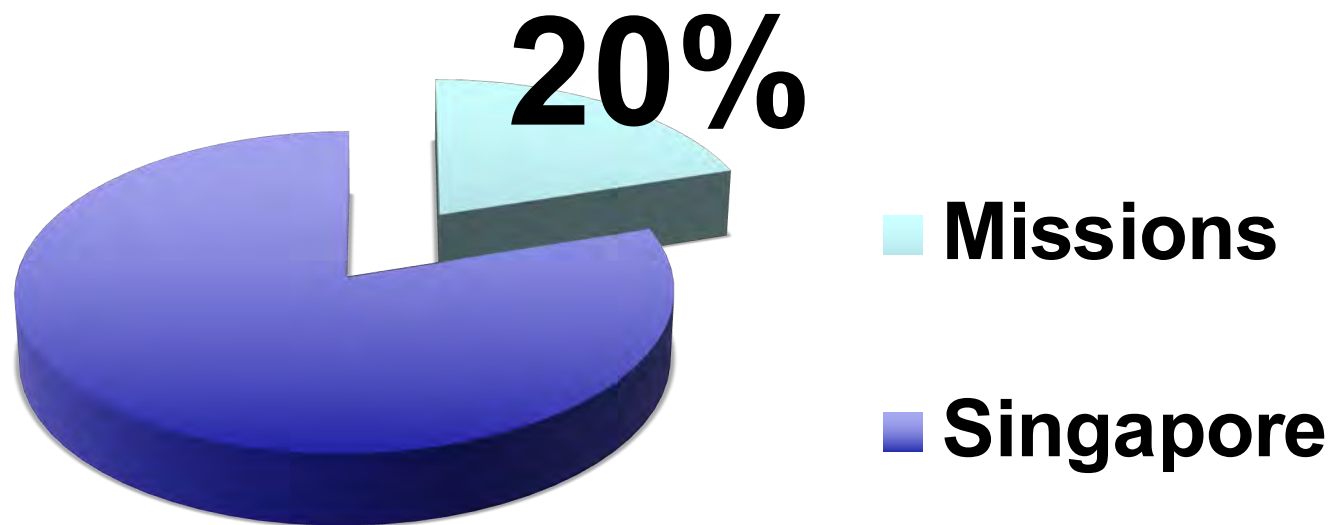
Our Mission Giving

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





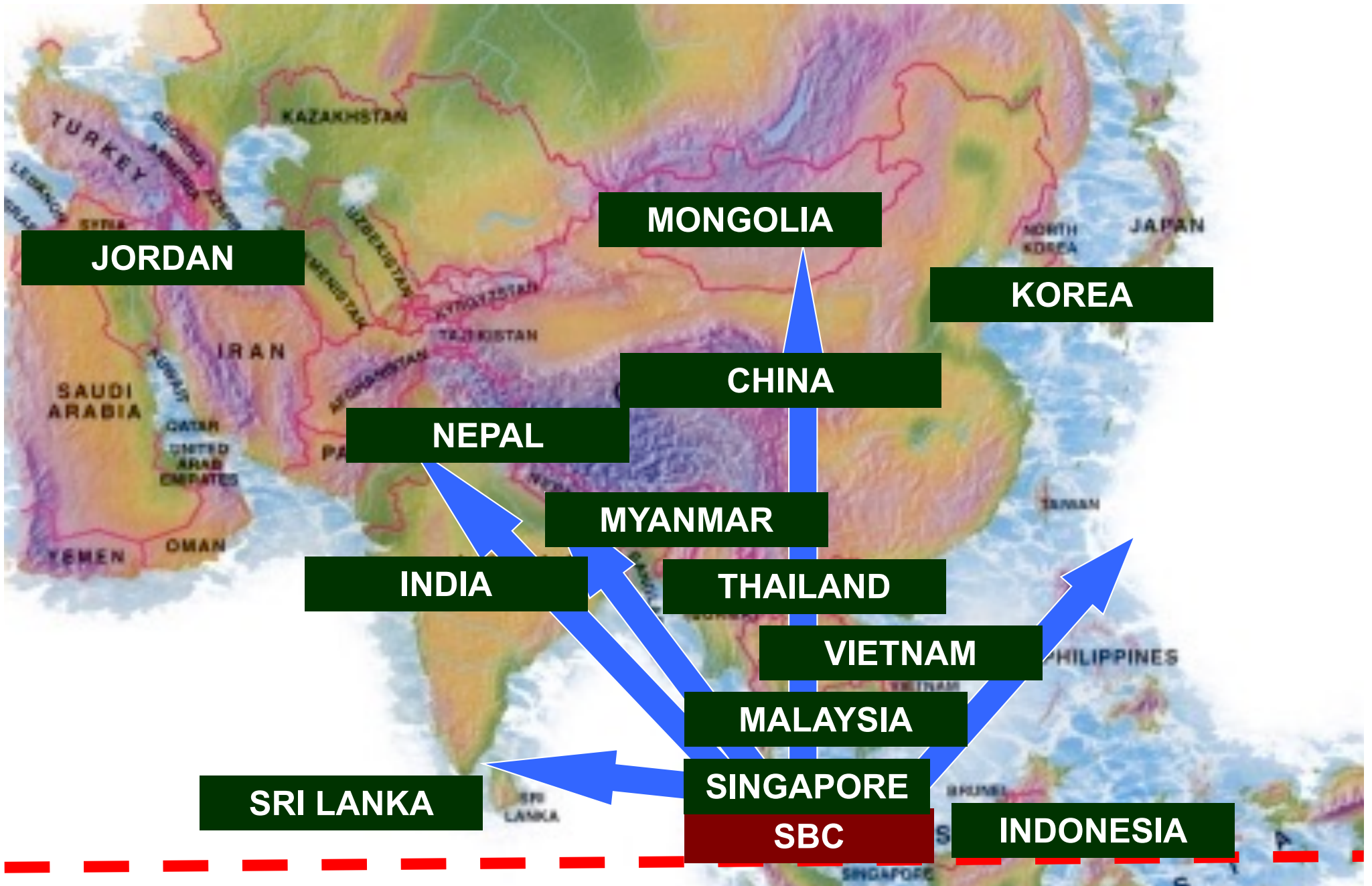
Missions Giving



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
				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



A black and white photograph of two hands reaching towards each other, set against a blue background. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with fingers slightly curled as if about to grasp each other. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the skin and the contours of the hands. The overall mood is one of connection and outreach.

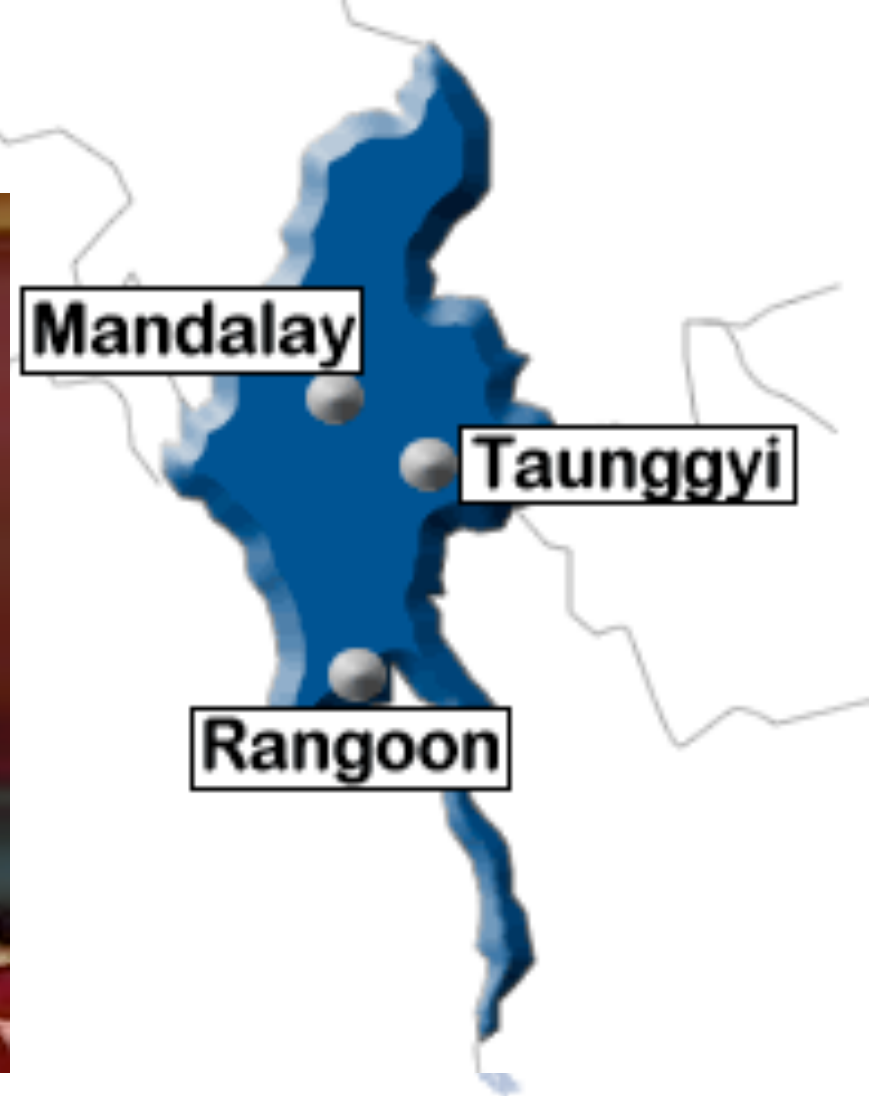
Invitations to Reach Outside Singapore Now

**Myanmar:
Jonathan Stone**

**Thailand:
Manik Corea**

Myanmar 2014?

Jonathan Stone





Corea Family in Bangkok, Thailand since July 2008

Manik's International Church Plant





Albina Chan

Prison




EVANGELISM

Ineffective Evangelism





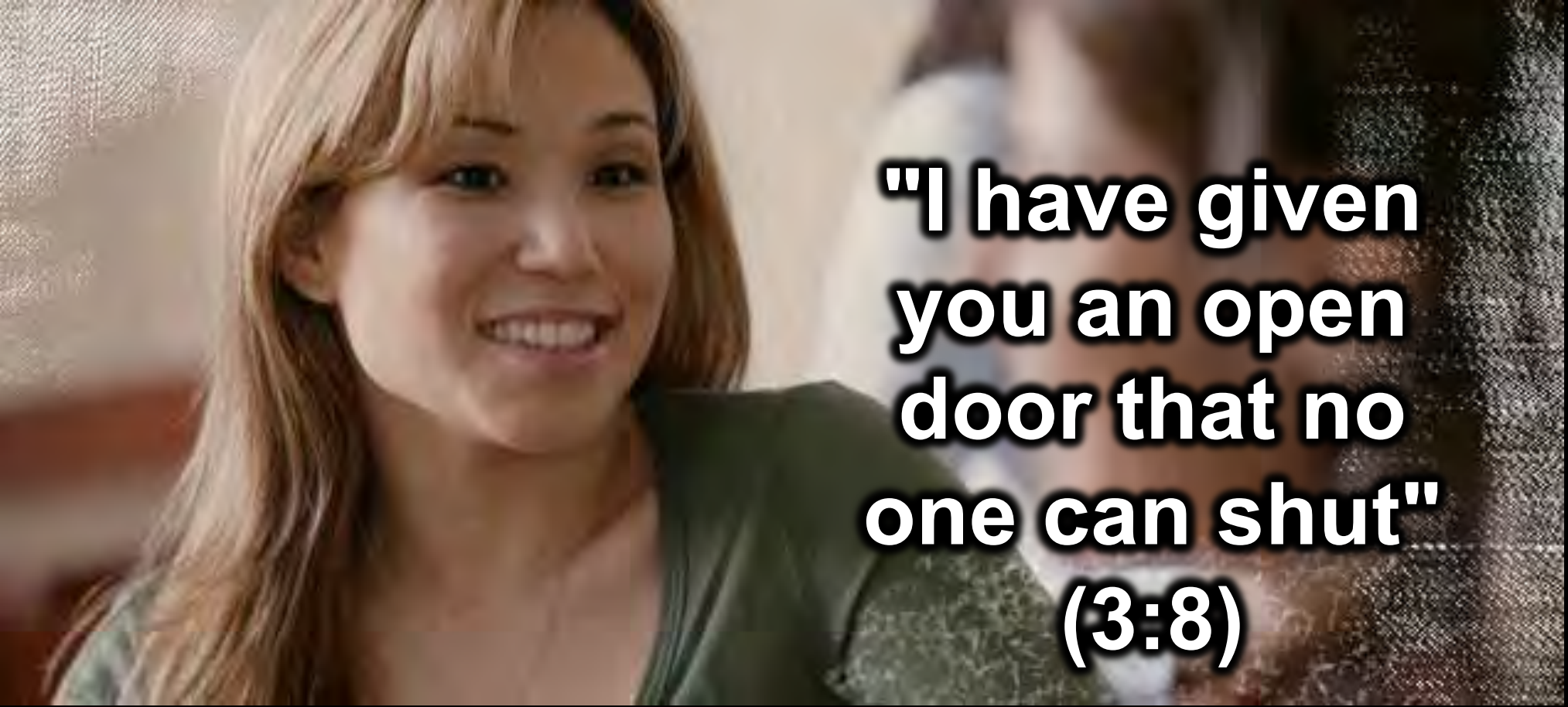
**Let's be
enfolding**



**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 warmly. She is wearing a green top. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a social 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. The lighting is dramatic, with the hands appearing dark against the bright light source behind them.

**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).

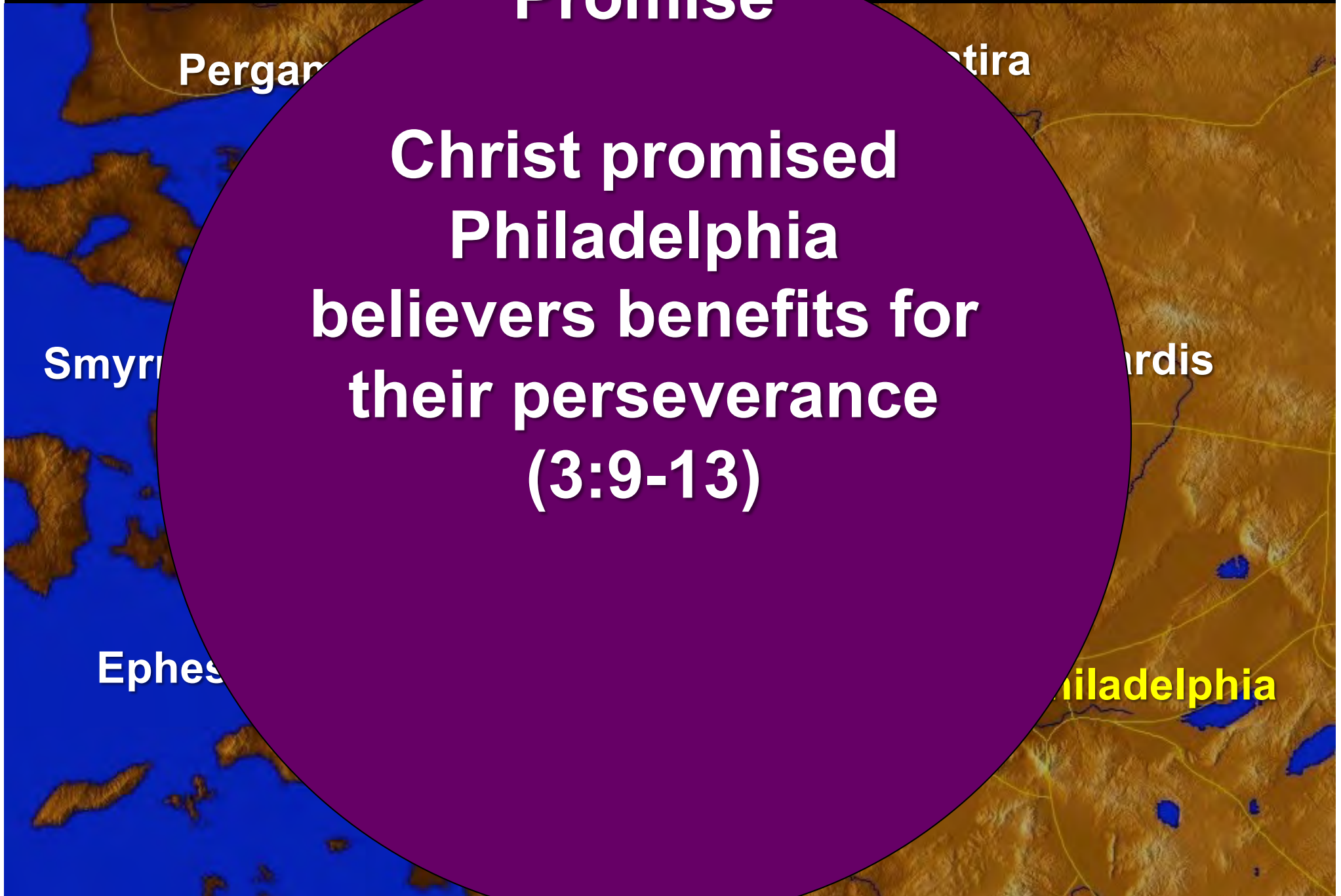


II. Christ promises **rewards for
service (3:9-13).**

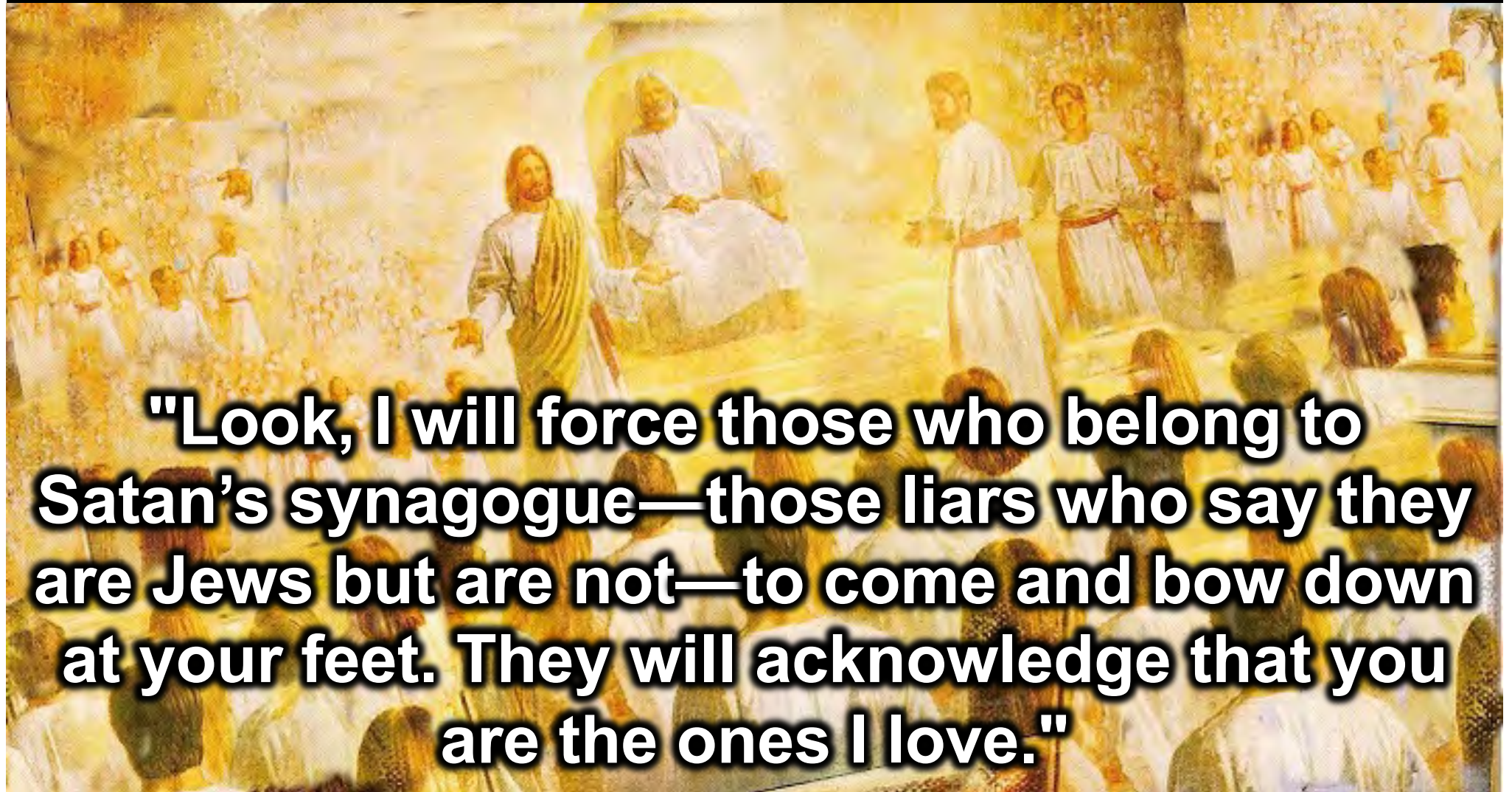


Promise

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



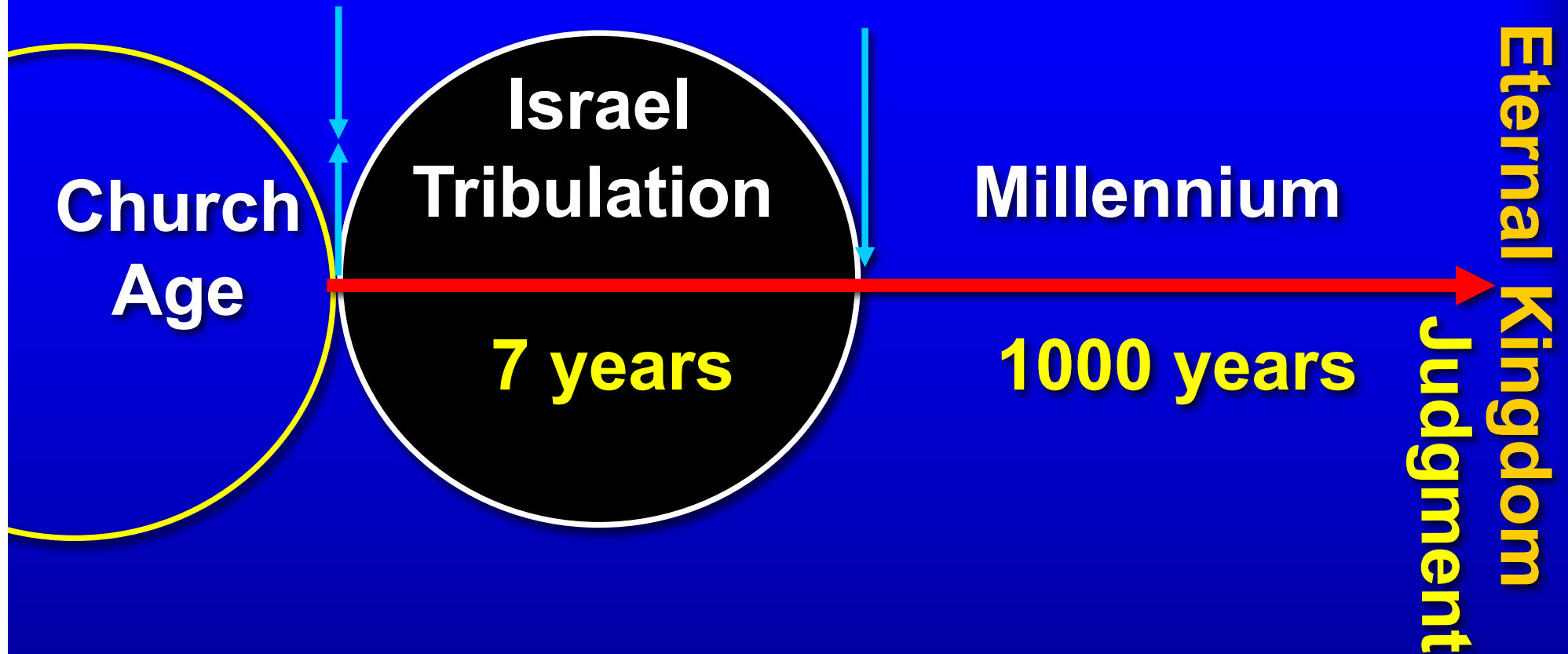
Christ promises honor before enemies (3:9).



Deliverance from the Tribulation

208
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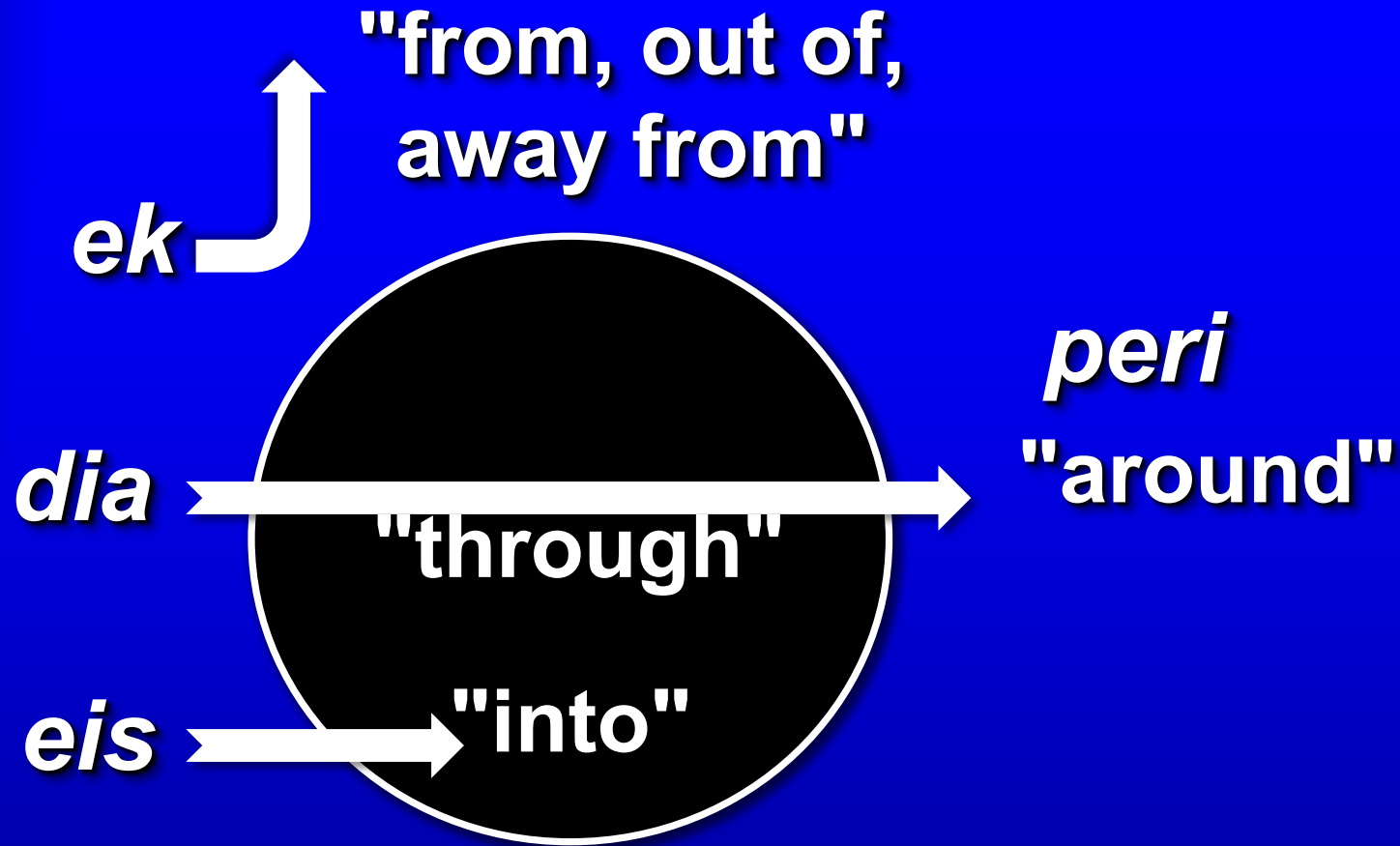
Second Coming



When will the Rapture occur?



Greek Prepositions



Premillennialism

Second Coming = Second Advent

Church Age

Tribulation

Millennium

Eternal Kingdom

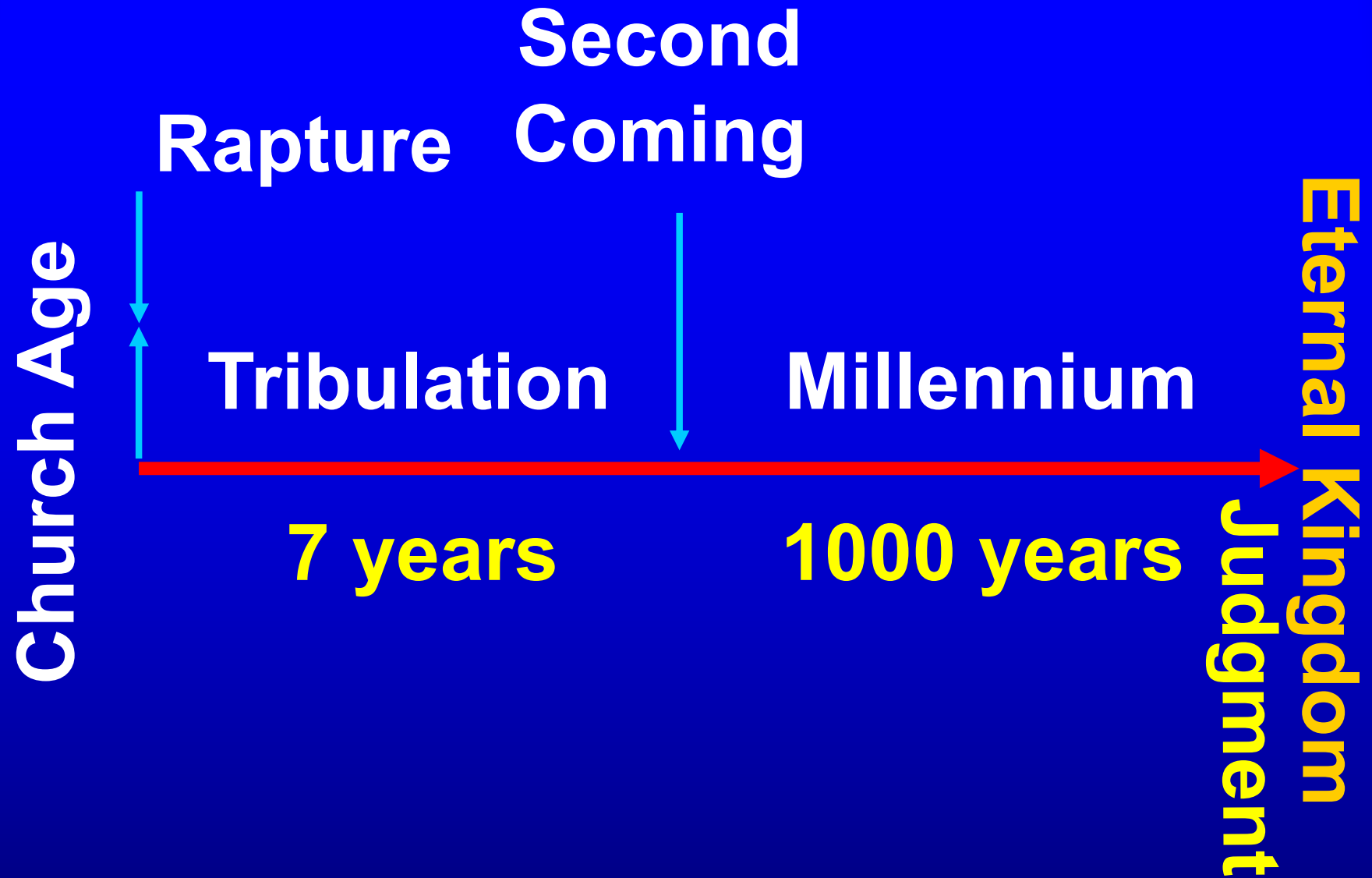
Judgment

7 years

1000 years

**ALL 5 RAPTURE
VIEWS ARE
PREMILLENNIAL**

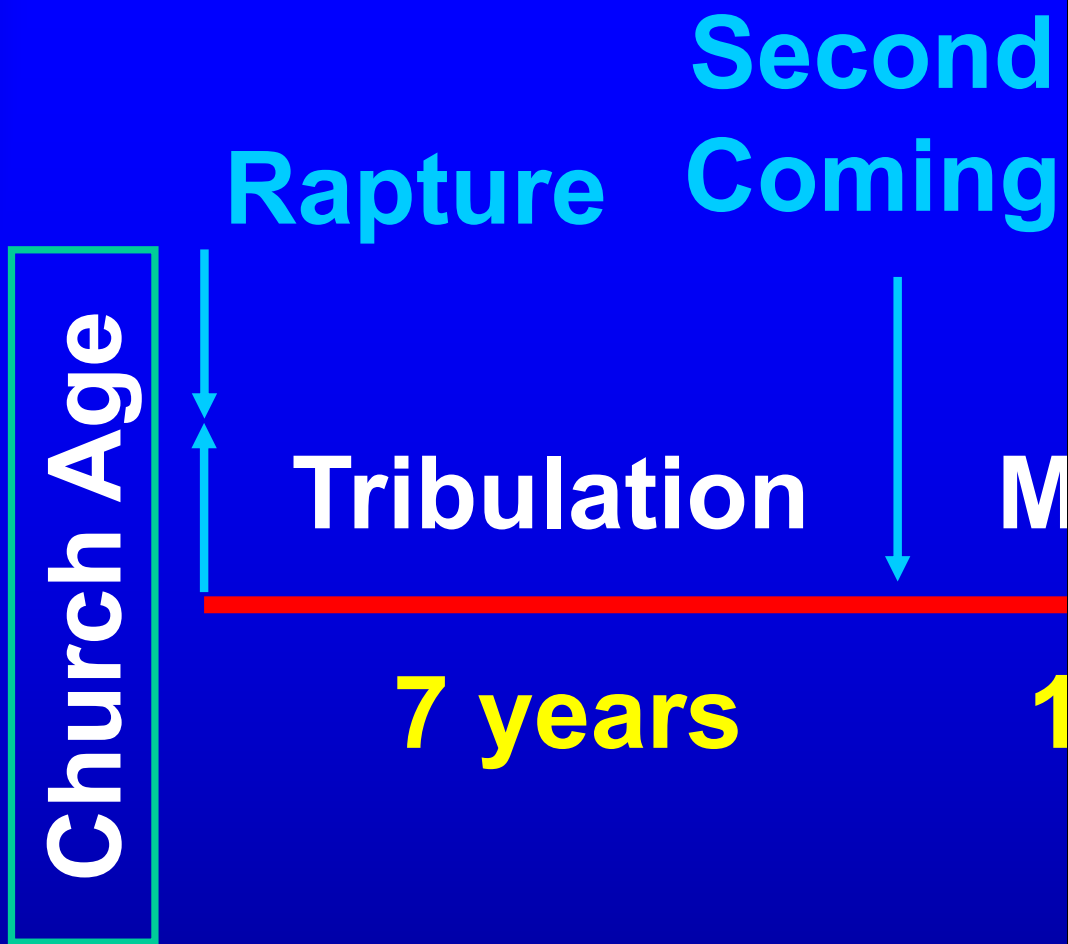
"Pre-Trib" Rapture



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



"from, out of, away from"

Tribulation

"through"
7 years

"into"

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*)

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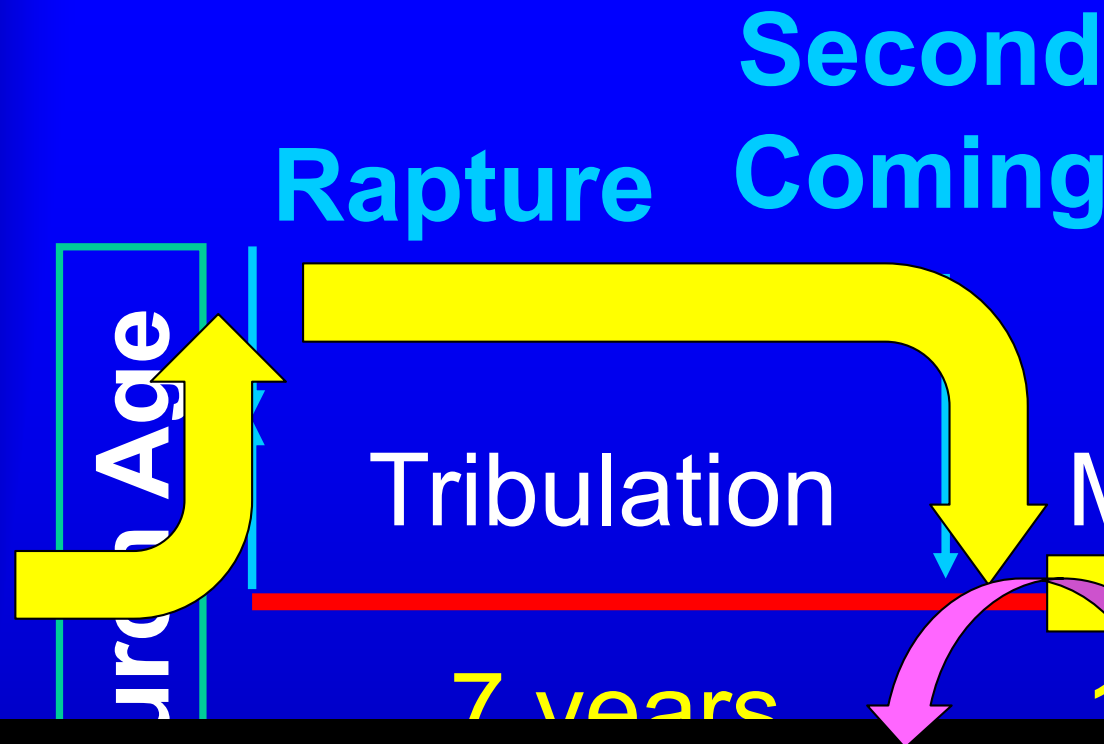
The idea of being taken out of the world relates to being **removed** from the world

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 → sphere of "the evil one"
"from, out of, away from"

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)

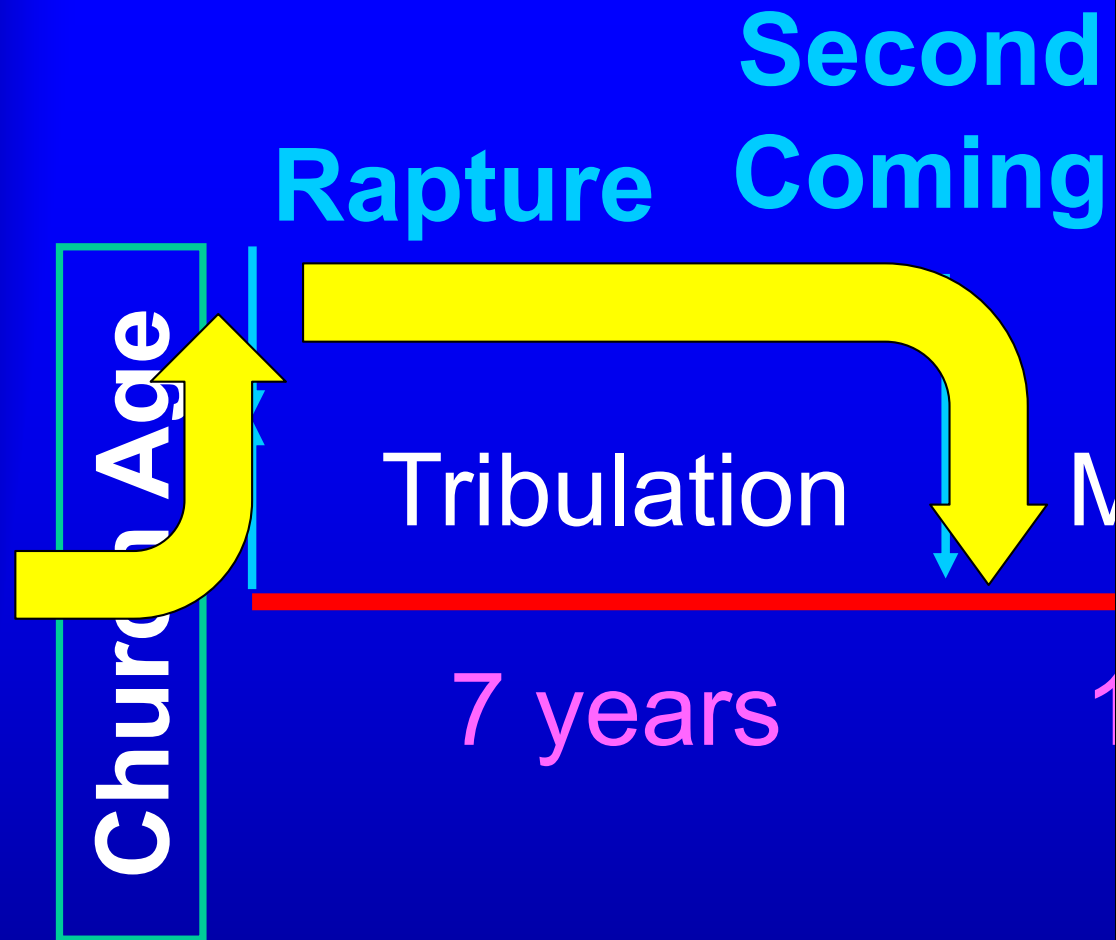
πνεῦμα "spirit" = neuter noun but used of a person)

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)

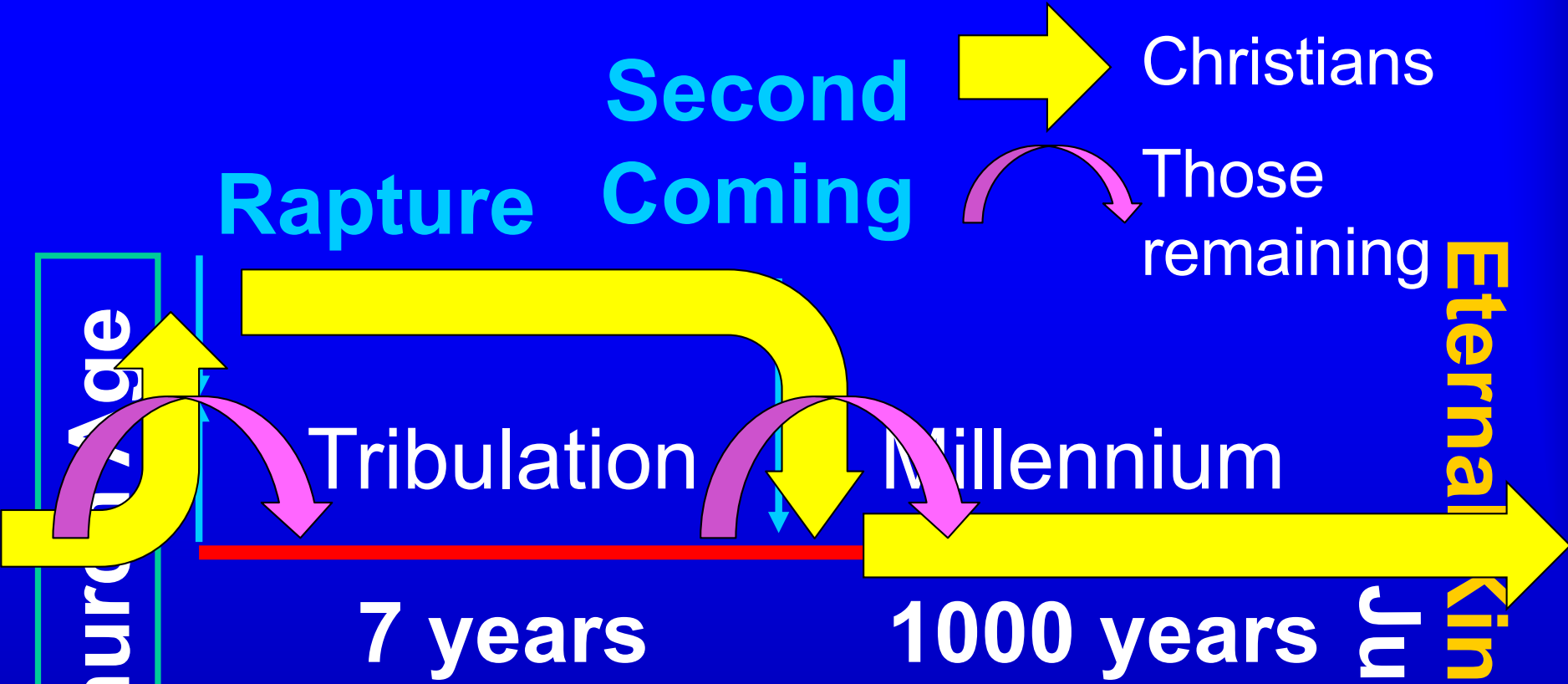
Stages of the Second Coming 210

The Rapture	The Revelation
1 <u>Invisible</u> and private as only 0 believers see Christ and since God sends a powerful delusion through the Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:11)	<u>Visible</u> and public since "every eye shall see Him" (Rev. 1:7)
11 Fulfills a promise to the <u>Church</u> where Jew-Gentile distinctions do not exist (1 Thess. 4:15; cf. John 14:1-3; Eph. 2:11-16)	Fulfills promises to <u>Israel</u> of covenants made in the Old Testament (Gen. 12:1-3; Ps. 89; Isa. 11:11-14; cf. Rom. 11:26-27)
1 Evil begins to <u>increase</u> (2 Thess. 2 2:1-12)	Evil is <u>suppressed</u> (2 Thess. 1:7; Ps. 37:9-10)
1 <u>Church</u> removed (1 Thess. 4:13- 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 4 Church and all things (Eph. 1:10, 22; 4:15; Col. 1:18; 2:10)	Christ vindicated as <u>Messiah</u> to Israel (Zech. 14:3-4; cf. Acts 1:6 with v. 11)
1 Judgment seat of Christ for 5 <u>believers</u> (2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:13)	Judgment of <u>Israel and Gentiles</u> (Ezek. 20:34-38; Matt. 25; Zech. 14:4; cf. p. 160)
1 The <u>Lord</u> is at hand (Phil. 4:5) 6	The <u>kingdom</u> is at hand (Matt. 24:14)
1 Nature subsequently <u>ruined</u> 7 (Rev. 6–16)	Nature subsequently <u>restored</u> (Rom. 8:19-22; Isa. 11:6-9; 35:9; 65:25)

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

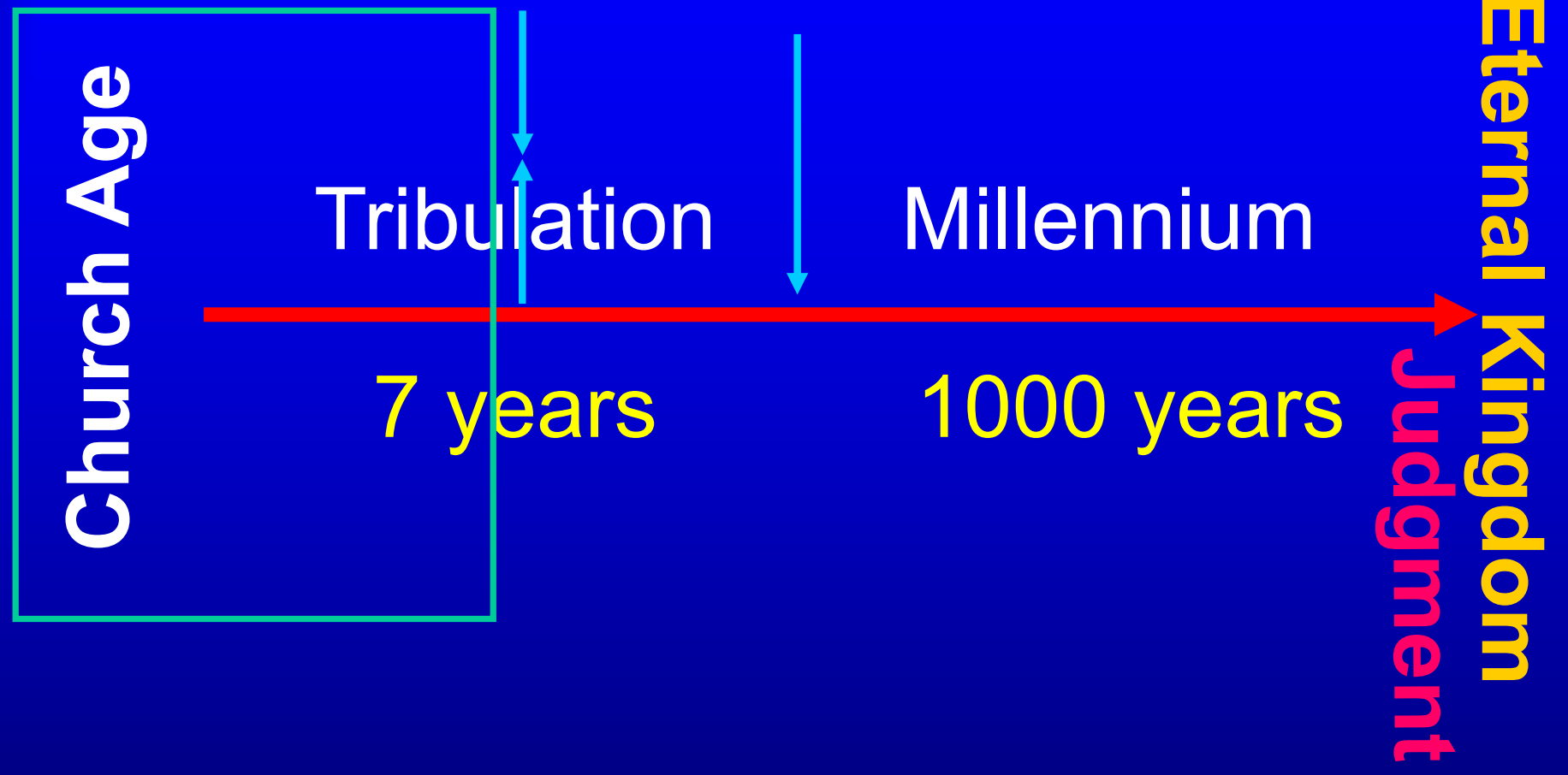


At the Rapture, believers will go to heaven and unbelievers remain on earth—the Tribulation will start 0% Christian.

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

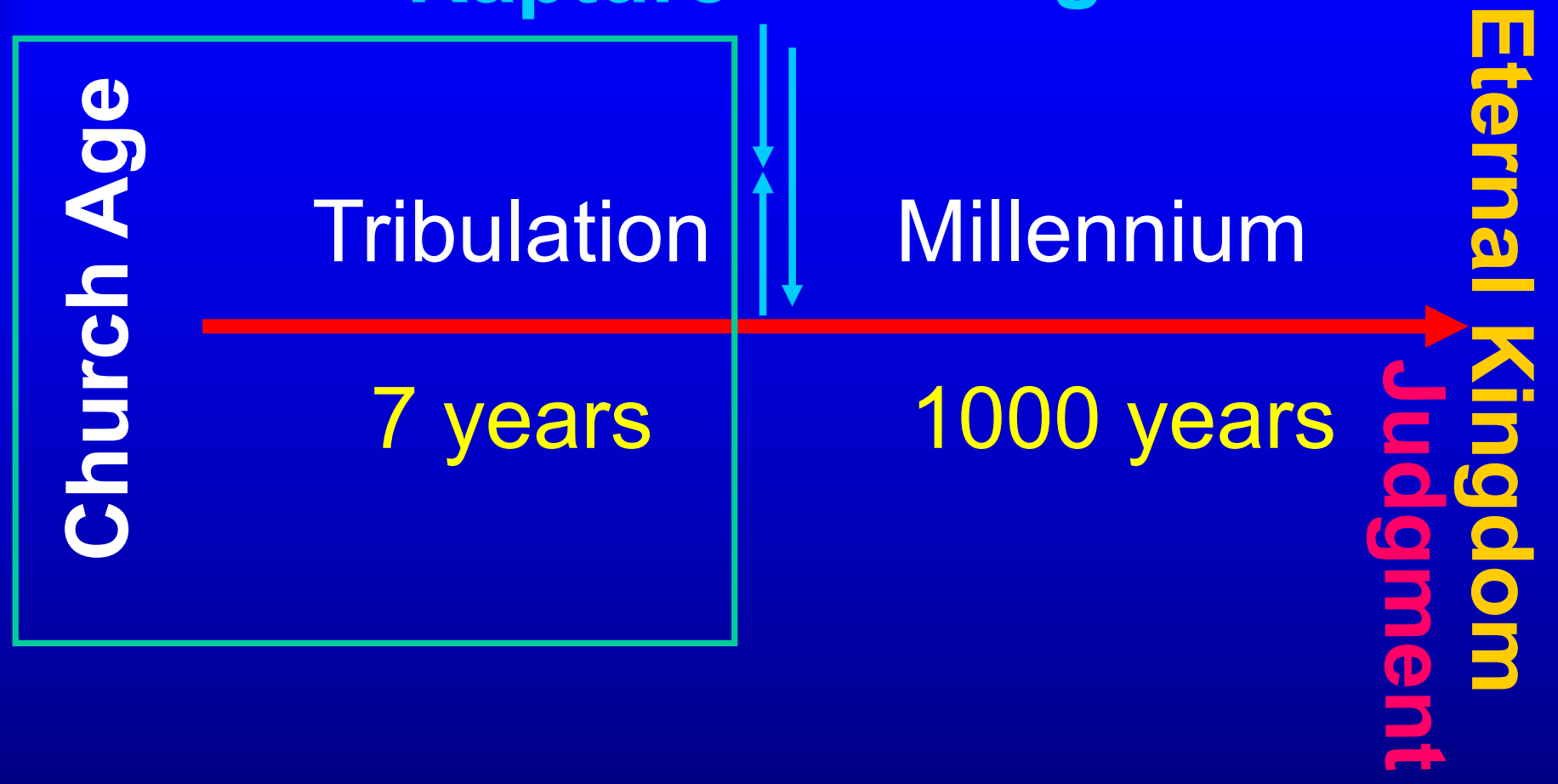
"Mid-Trib" Rapture

Second Rapture Coming



"Post-Trib" Rapture

Second Rapture Coming



Critiques of a “Post-Trib” Rapture 70

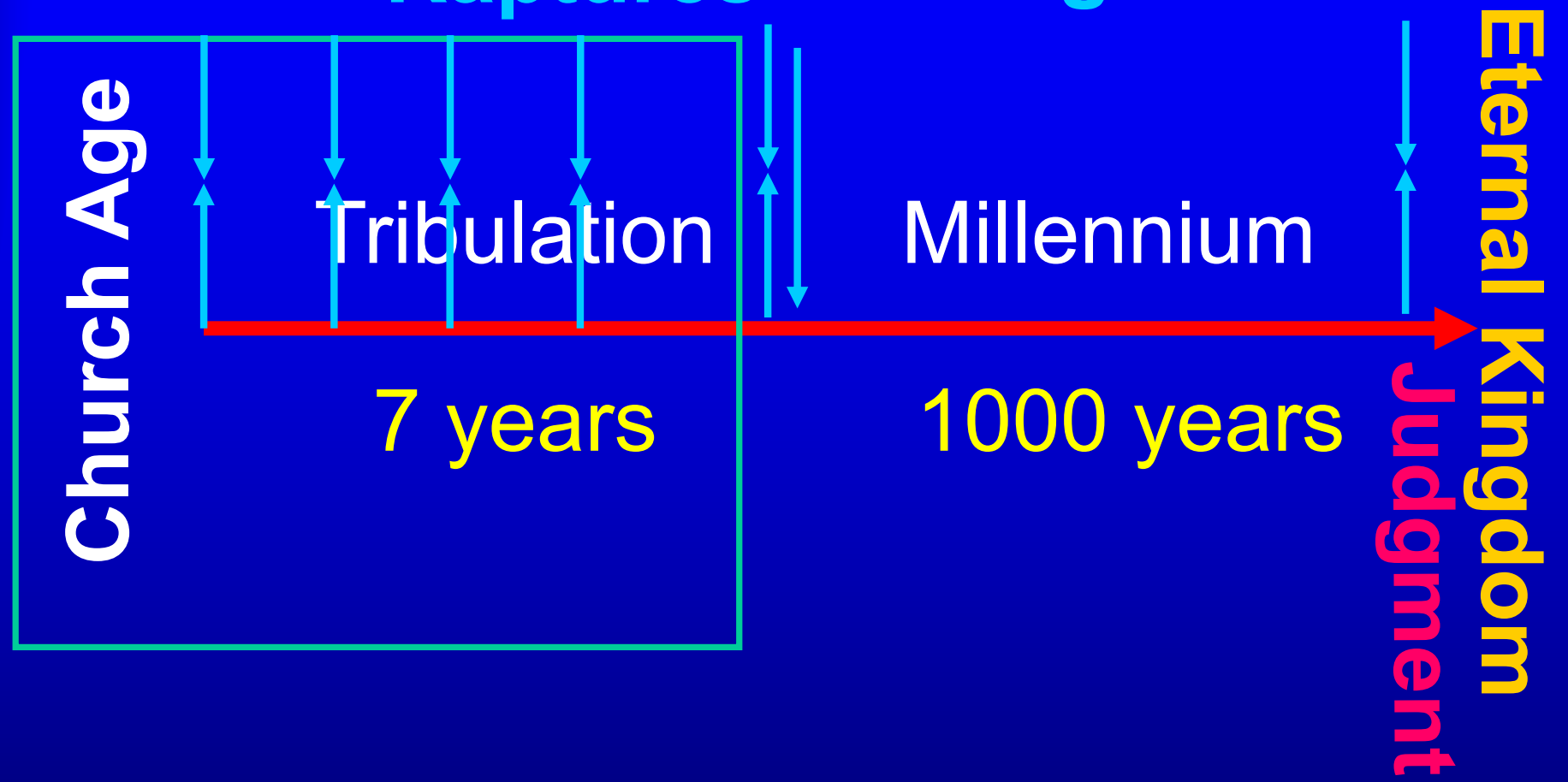
- 1 Historical: a doctrine being new does not make it invalid, J.N. Darby was not first “pre-tribber” anyway (245-48)
- 2 Nature of the Tribulation period is a time of God’s wrath, beginning in Rev. 6 (248-52)
- 3 Nature of the Church as distinct from Israel, to whom the Tribulation is directed (253-56)
- 4 Dissimilarity between Rapture & Second Coming texts, despite similar terminology (256-57)
- 5 Time needed between Rapture & Second Coming for rewards, marriage supper and mortal bodies (257-58)
- 6 Imminency denied: nothing had to be fulfilled by the time Peter grew old (John 21:18-19; cf. 1 Pet 4:7)
- 7 Olivet Discourse concerns Israel and lacks a resurrection or glorifying of the church (259-60)
- 8 Need for non-glorified bodies in the millennium and presence of “sheep” at “sheep and goat” judgment (260)

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.

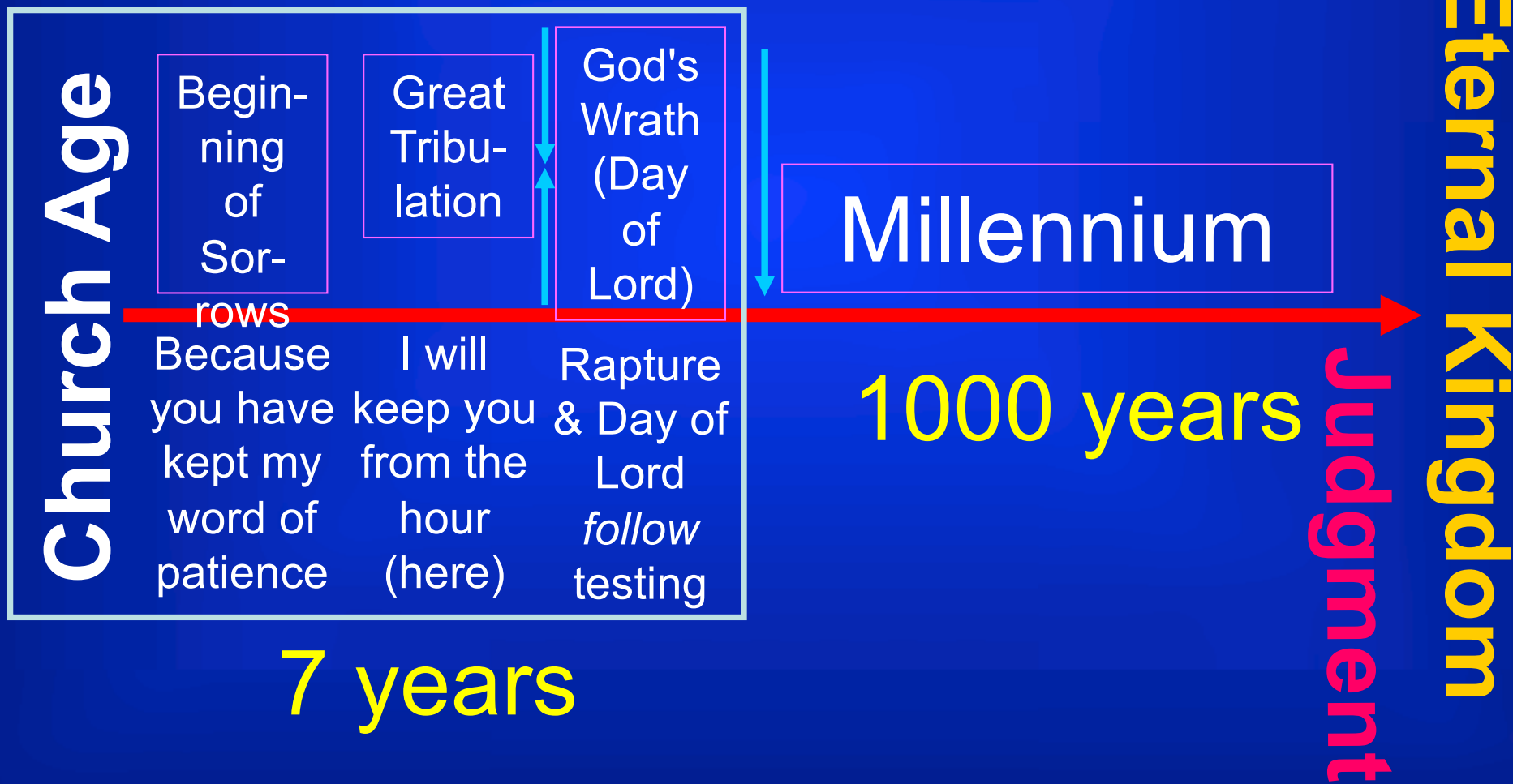
"Partial" Rapture

Second Raptures Coming



"Prewrath" Rapture

Pre-Wrath Second
Rapture Coming



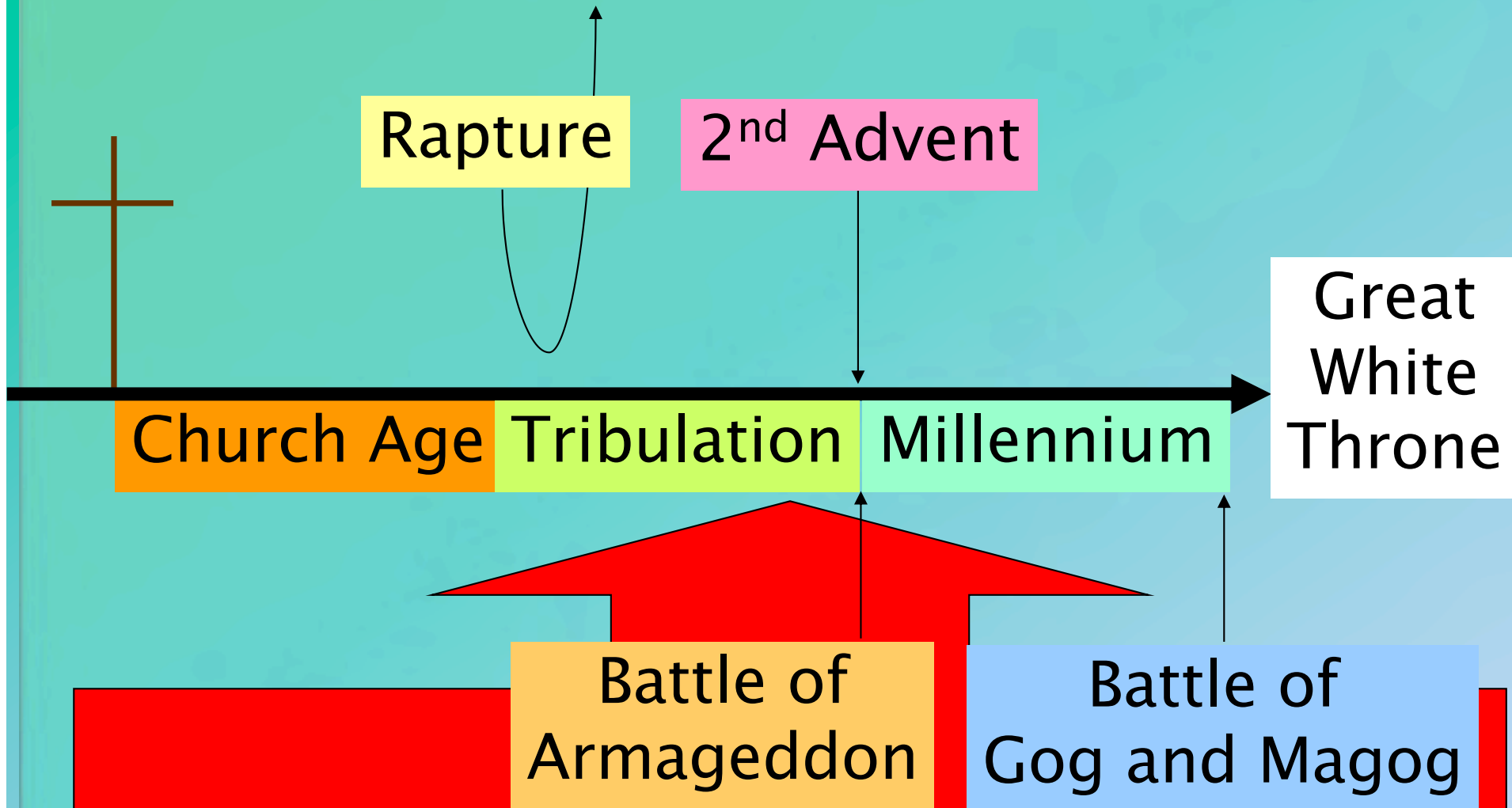
7 years

1000 years

Judgment

Eternal Kingdom

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)

Per

Neo Caesarea

Thyatira

2:17

Plabia

2:26

He wh
Alesehir (today)

overcomes, I will **make nim 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

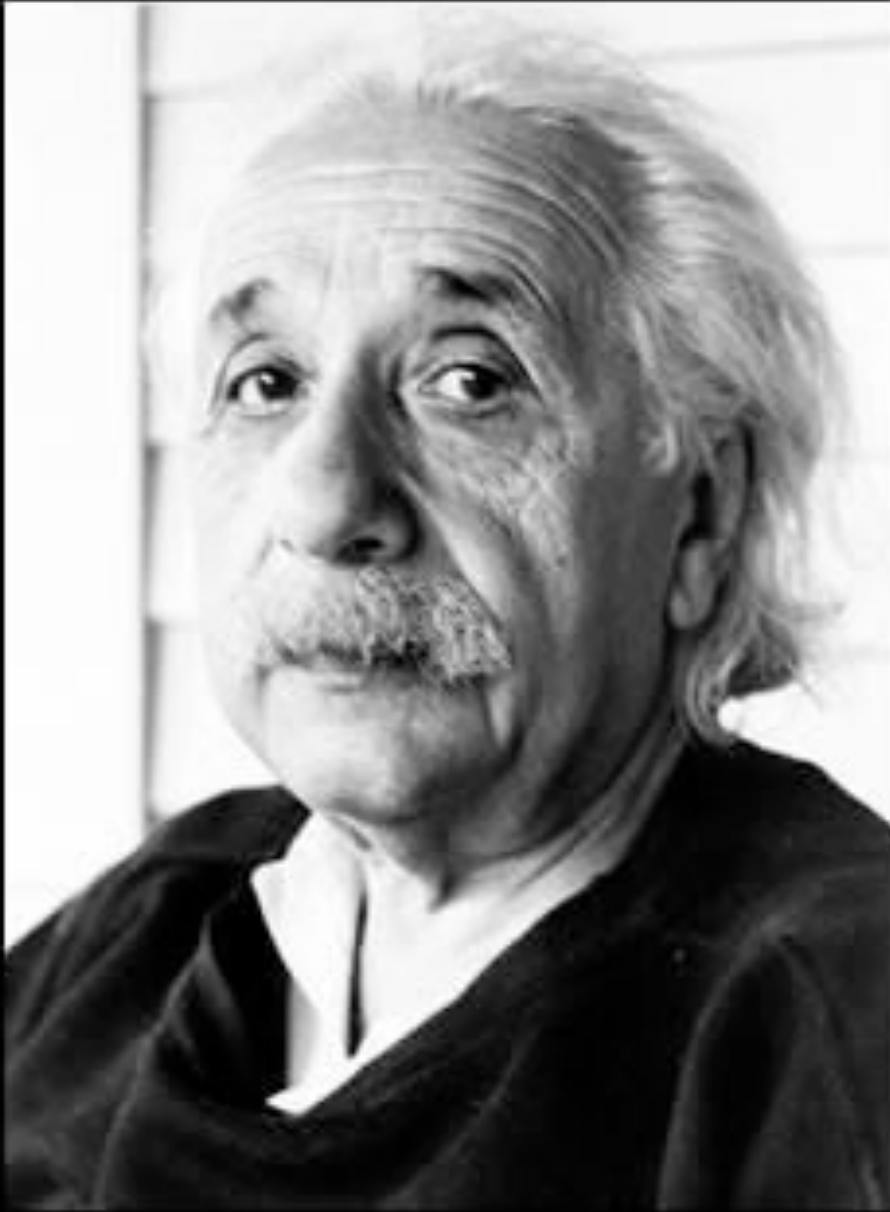
Ephesus

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***



Jody Dillow is the key author of the Partakers View



Final Destiny

*The Future Reign of the
Servant Kings*

Joseph Dillow



***The Reign
of the
Servant
Kings***

**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

The Lord's Prayer

· AFTER THIS MANNER THEREFORE PRAY YE ·

FATHER WHICH ART : **THY KINGDOM** COME
IN HEAVEN : **THY WILL** BE DONE
HALLOWED BE THY NAME : **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?



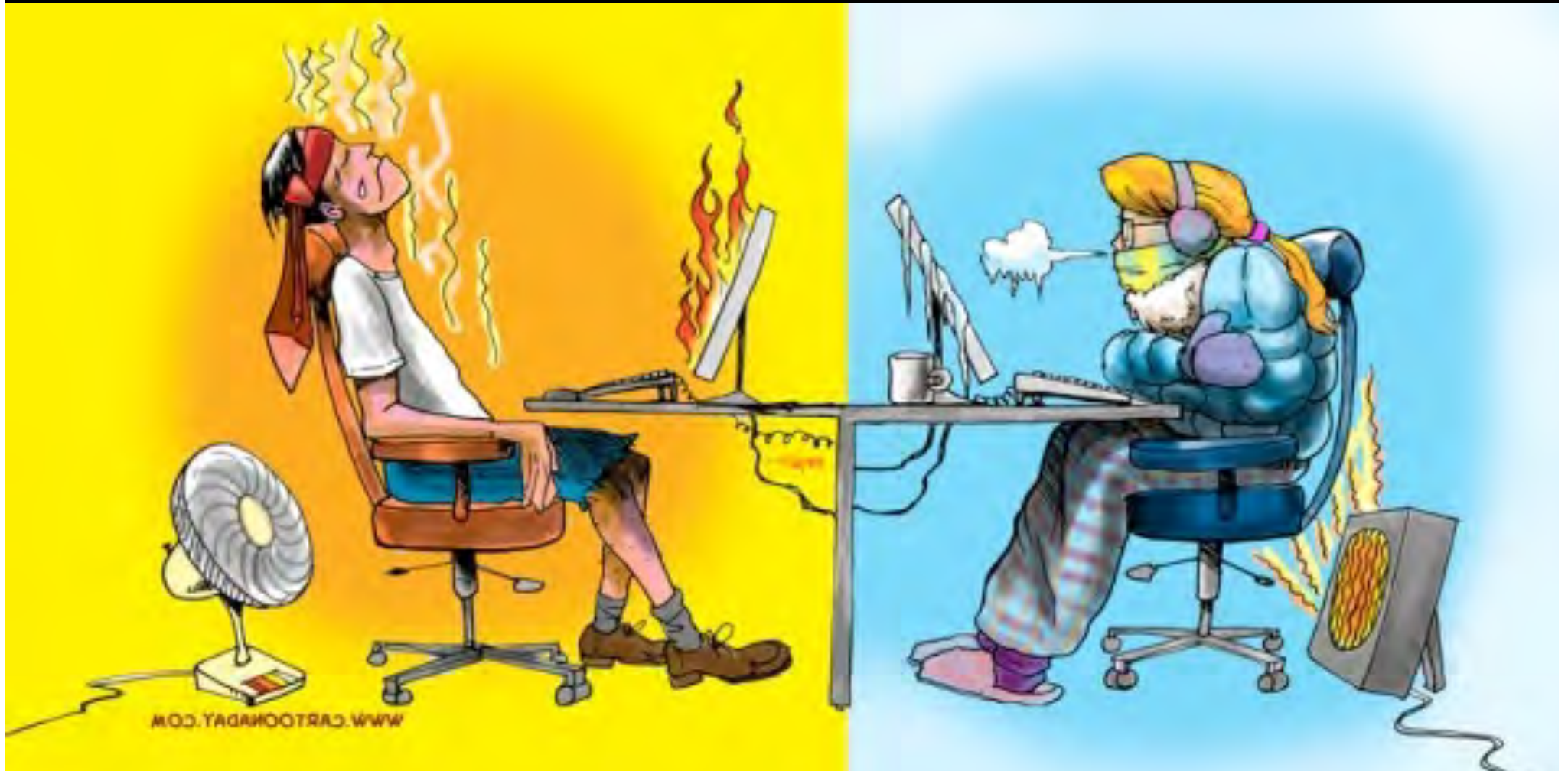
**When on the beautiful road,
seek no other road.**



**“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**,
what **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

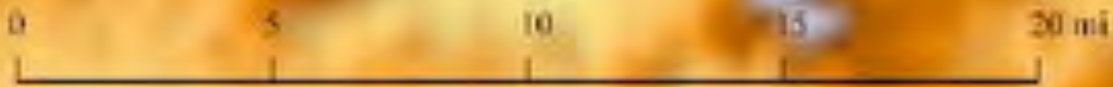
Meander R.

Hierapolis

Lycus R.

Laodicea

Colossae



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)



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

Smyrna

Sardis

Ephesus

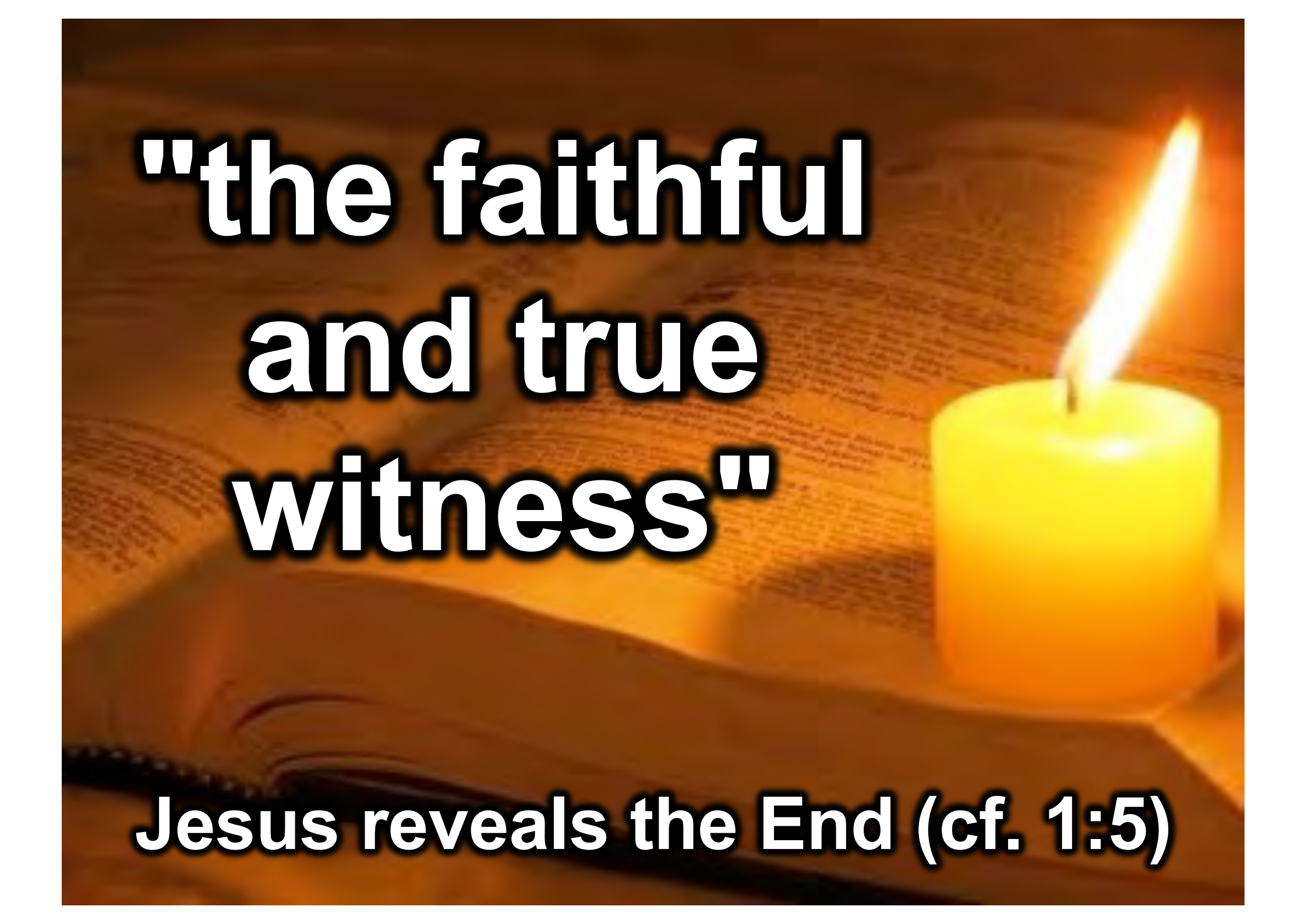
Philadelphia

Laodicea



"The Amen"

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

A lit candle with a bright yellow flame sits on the right side of an open book. The book's pages are visible, showing some text. The background is a warm, brownish-orange color, suggesting a wooden surface or a similar texture. The overall lighting is soft and warm, emanating from the candle.

**"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



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

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.

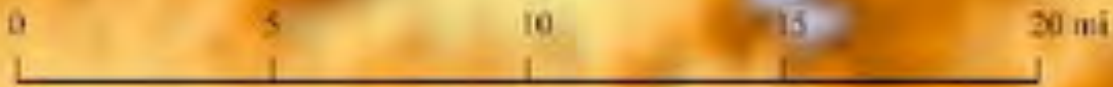
Hierapolis
Hot springs

Lycus R.

Laodicea
Lukewarm

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

Colossae
Cold springs



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"



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 liquid appears to be coming from the mouth. 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?

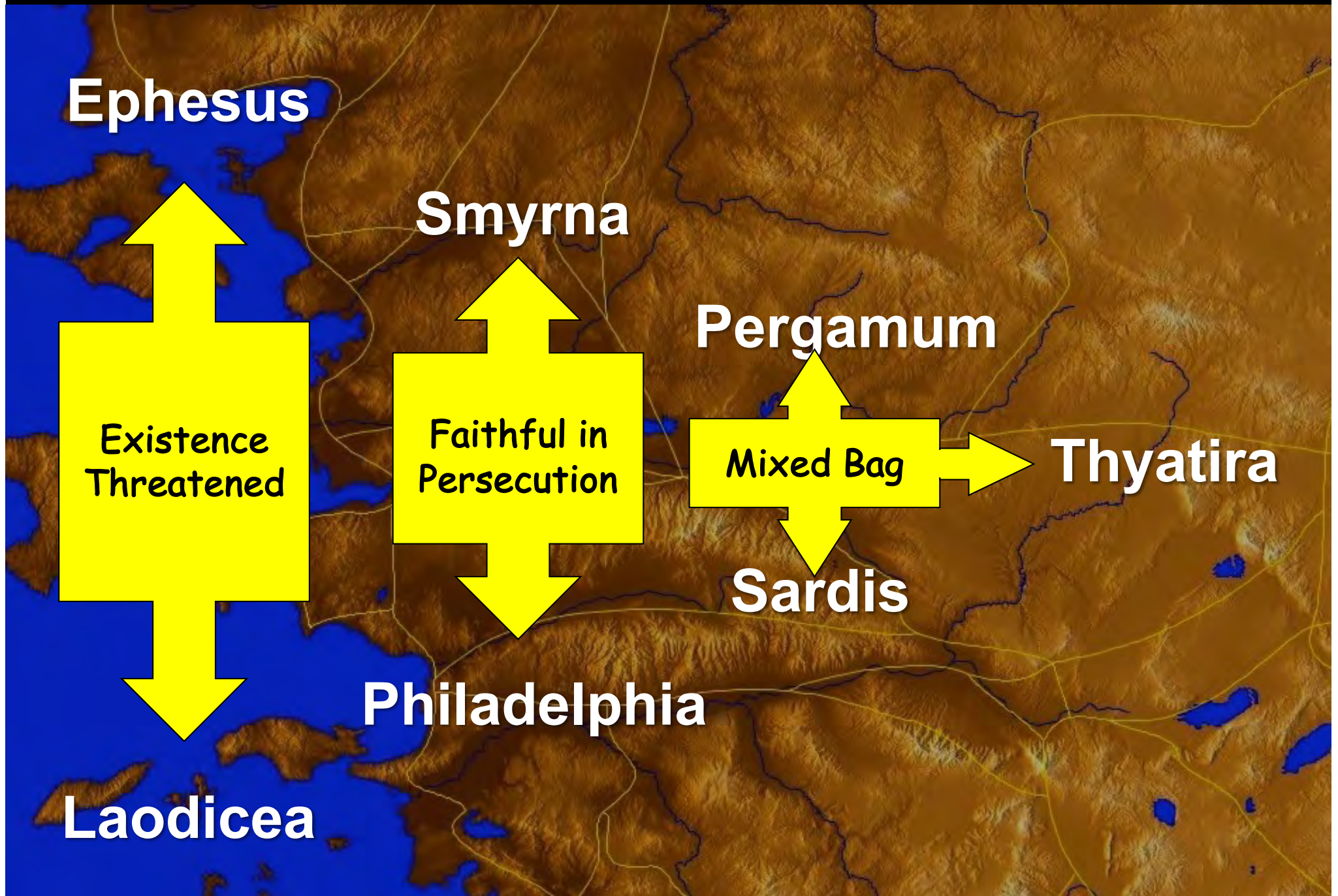
- **Lose their salvation?**



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"



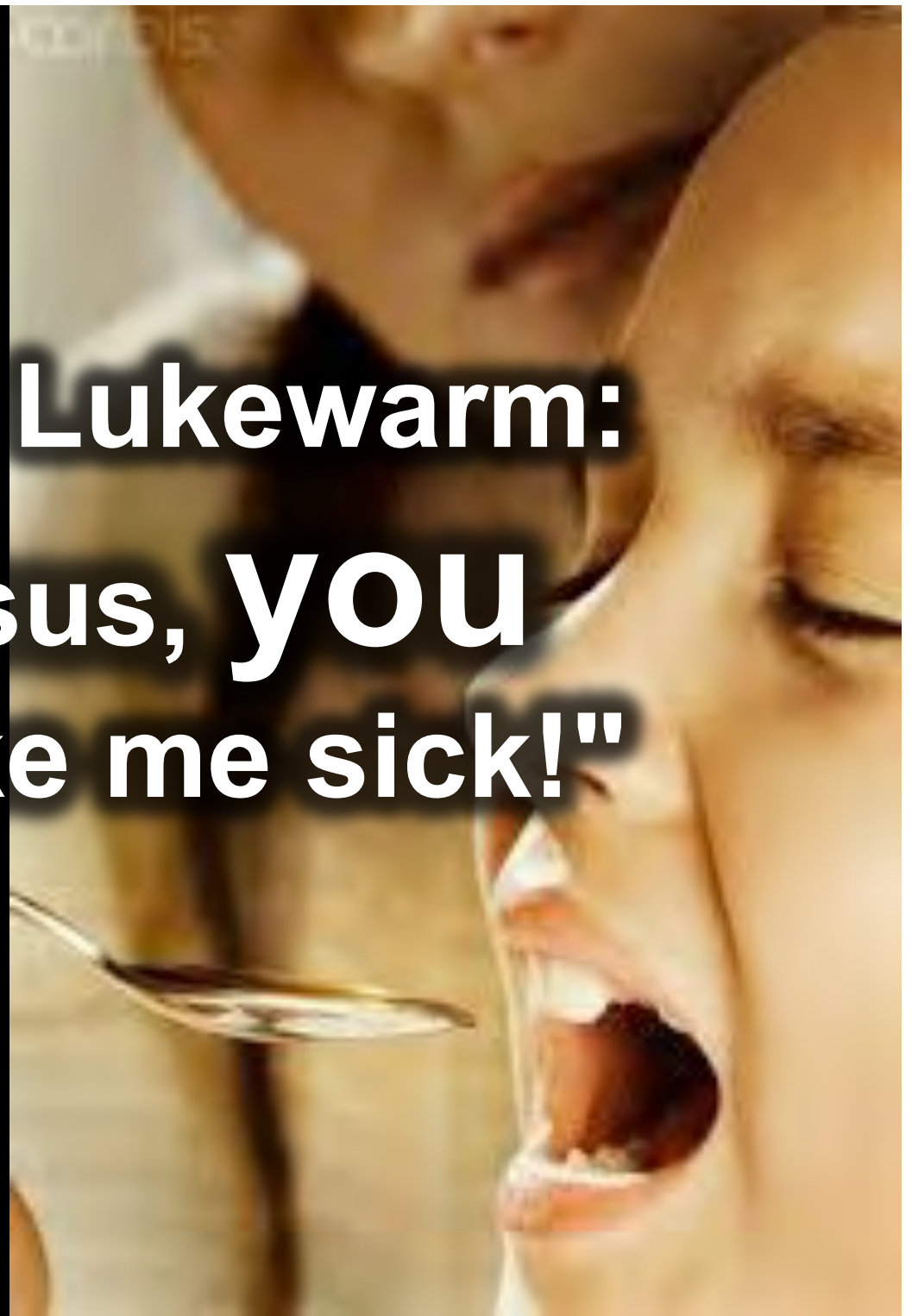
Marina Barrage Desalination Plant



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, also in a white 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

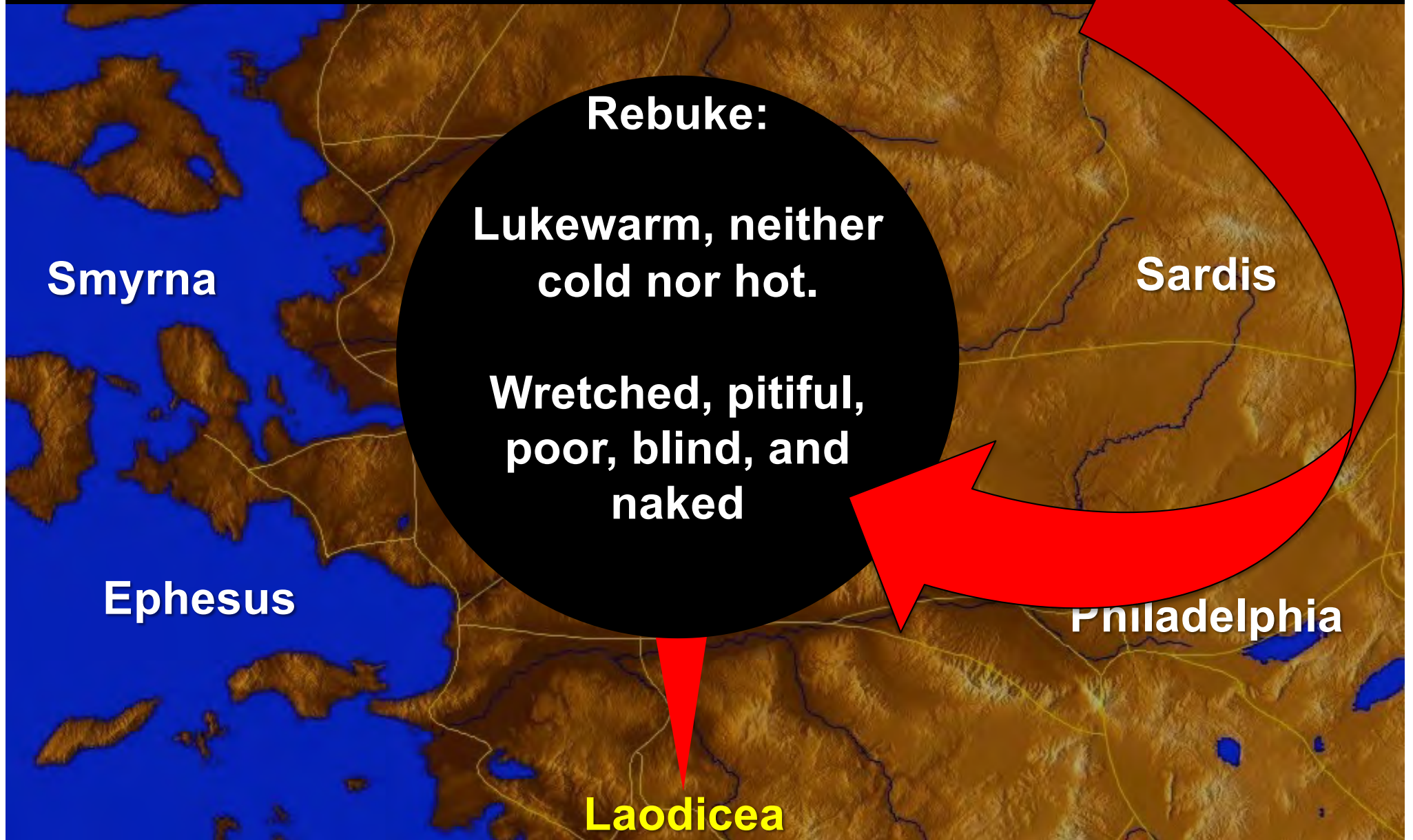
Smyrna

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

**"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

Warning

Thyatira

Pergamum

None!

Smyrna

Sardis

**But there is an
invitation!**

Ephesus

Philadelphia

Laodicea



Jesus to Philadelphia

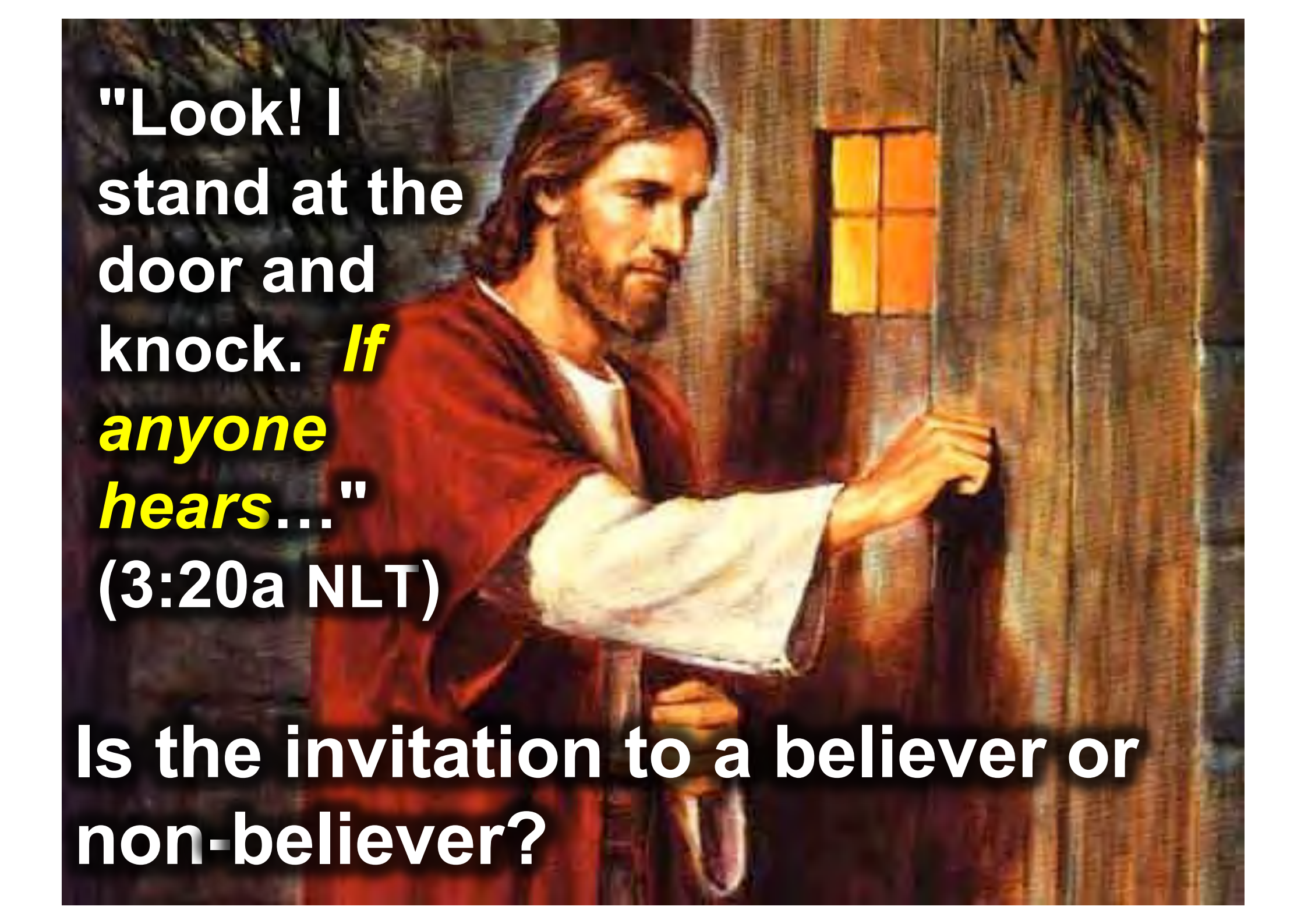
**"...I have given
you an open
door that no
one can
shut..." (3:8)**





**"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 standing at a wooden door, looking towards the right. He has long brown hair and a beard, and is wearing a red robe over a white tunic. His right hand is on the door handle. In the background, there is a window with a warm orange glow, suggesting an interior or a night scene. The overall style is classical and religious.

**"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. ⁵Who 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

2:7

Philadelphia

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

3:21

Laodicea



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



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

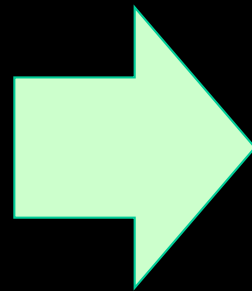
The second way to cure spiritual apathy is to heed Christ's...

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. ³³ But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven."

³⁴ "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)

³⁷ "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. ³⁸ If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. ³⁹ 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

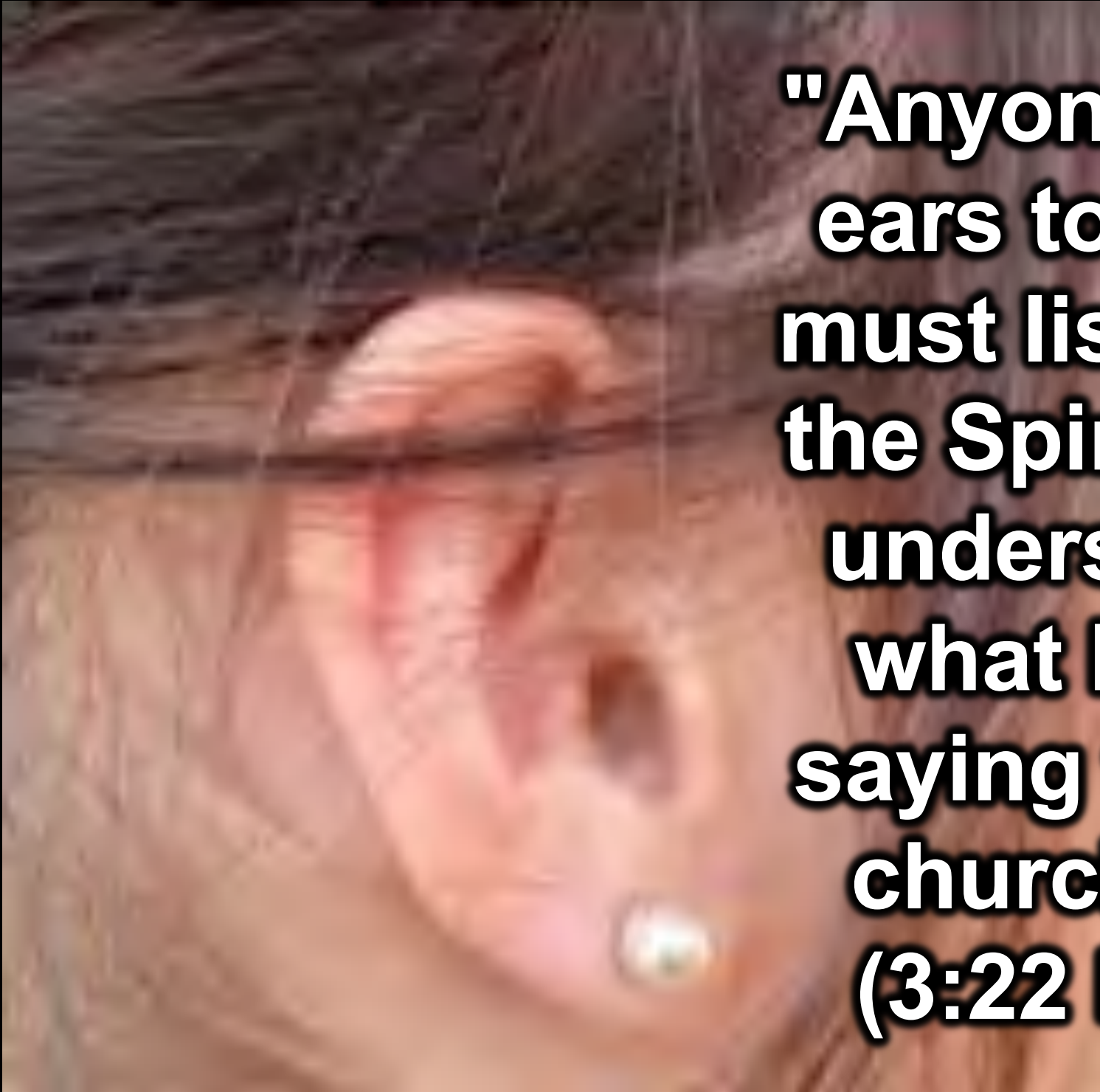


Decline



Accept

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.

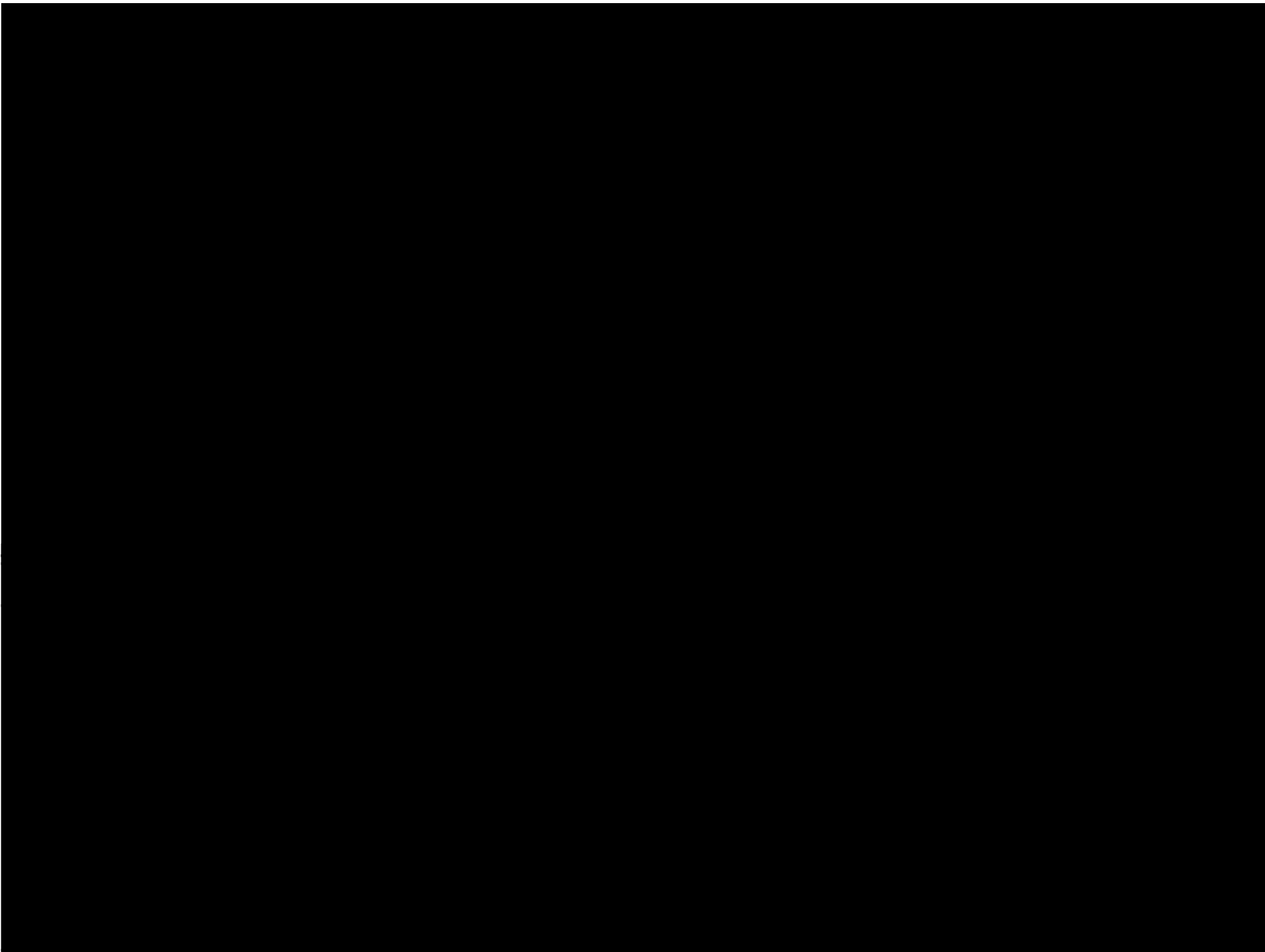


COMPLACENCY
is dangerous in both love and technology

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)**



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