

***A Letter to the
Seven Churches***

Revelation 2:1-11

Going





Revelation 1

A Revelation of JC

A Letter of Blessing

A Personal Letter of JC

COVID-19
PANDEMIC

Seven “Beatitudes” of Hope

1:3 Those who read and hear

22:7 Those who keep the words

14:13 Eternal Rest for Christians

16:15 Christians who persevere to the end

19:9 The church at the Great Wedding

20:6 Reign with Christ on earth for 1000 yrs.

22:14 Live with God in the New Jerusalem

A Letter of Blessing

Revelation

the hope of glory

A letter of Jesus from his heart

*“Write, therefore, what you have seen,
what is now and what will take place later.*

Chap 1-3 Present

“what you have seen”

Vision revealed (1:9-20).

“what is now”

Message to the 7 churches (2-3).

Chap 4-22 Future

“what will take place later”

Before the Second Coming



Letter to the Seven Churches

Pergamos 3★

4. Thyatira

Smyrna 2★

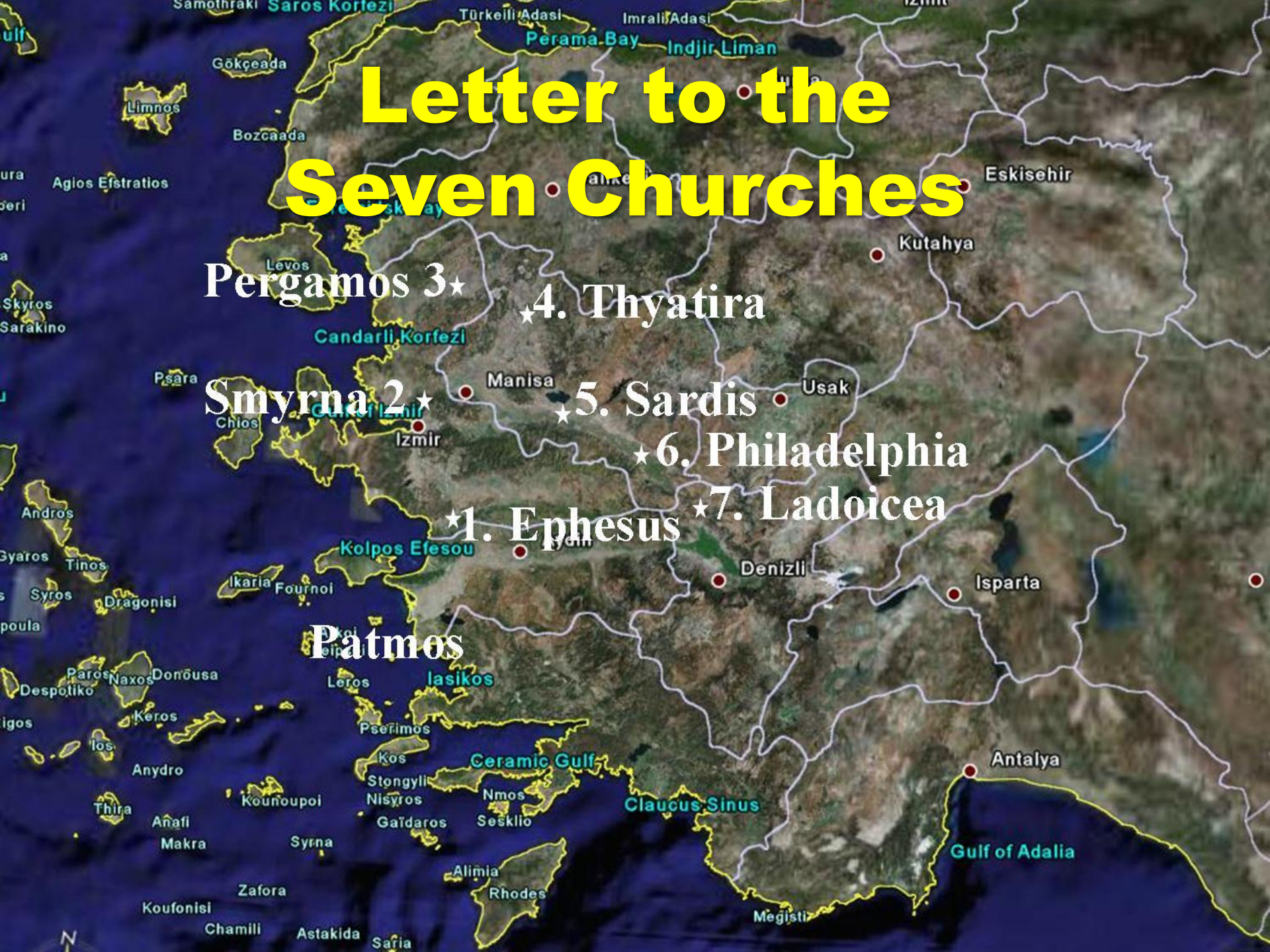
5. Sardis

6. Philadelphia

1. Ephesus

7. Ladoicea

Patmos



Revelation 2-3

A Spiritual Healthcheck

“Be Overcomers”



- **Ephesus** – *Loyal but Loveless*
- **Smyrna** – *Afflicted but Affluence*
- **Pergamum** – *Faithful but Flaw*
- **Thyatira** – *Committed but Corrupted*
- **Sardis** – *Dynamic but Dying*
- **Laodicea** – *Crowded but Christless*
- **Philadelphia** – *Small but Significant*



The pattern in the seven letters

Each letter has seven parts:

- **Address** - To the angels of the church.
- **Attribute** - Description of the Sender Jesus.
- **Approval** - Commendation: *I know your deeds.*
- **Accusation** – “*But I have this against you.*”
- **Advice** - Counsel to put things right.
- **Assurance** – ‘*he who overcomes...*’
- **Appeal** – Exhortation to return.

The church at Ephesus

Address and Attribute

*To the angels of the church in Ephesus write:
These are the words of him who holds the
seven stars in his right hand and walks
among the seven golden lampstands.*

Jesus knows and cares and is in charge



Ephesus - *The city and lifestyle*

- **A Commercial Centre**
- **A Religious Centre**
- **Temple of Goddess Diana, Artemis.**



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Approval - Commendation

² I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.... ⁶ You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

He knows their deeds, perseverance, discipline, faithfulness to the word.



Accusation

***⁴ Yet I hold this against you:
You have forsaken your first love.***

They have lost the first love

Lost the Spiritual and Relational Vitality!



Loyal but Loveless Church

Advice - Exhortation

*⁵ Remember the height from which you have fallen!
Repent and do the things you did at first.*

Love is Paramount!



**Remember,
Repent!
Return
to Love!**

Assurance/Appeal

⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

The Eternal Paradise
The Eternal Life of Love



Loss of first love today

**Lost of zeal for prayer,
worship, evangelism,
service, and study.**

- **Infatuated with knowledge not holiness**
- **Cold legalism**
- **Love for world > Christ**



To the angel of the church in Smyrna

The oldest of the seven

An excellent harbor

Roman Emperor Worship

Many pagan gods

A beautiful seacoast resort - Izmir.



Attribute of Jesus

*These are the words of him
who is the First and the Last,
who died and came to life again.*

You have eternal life!

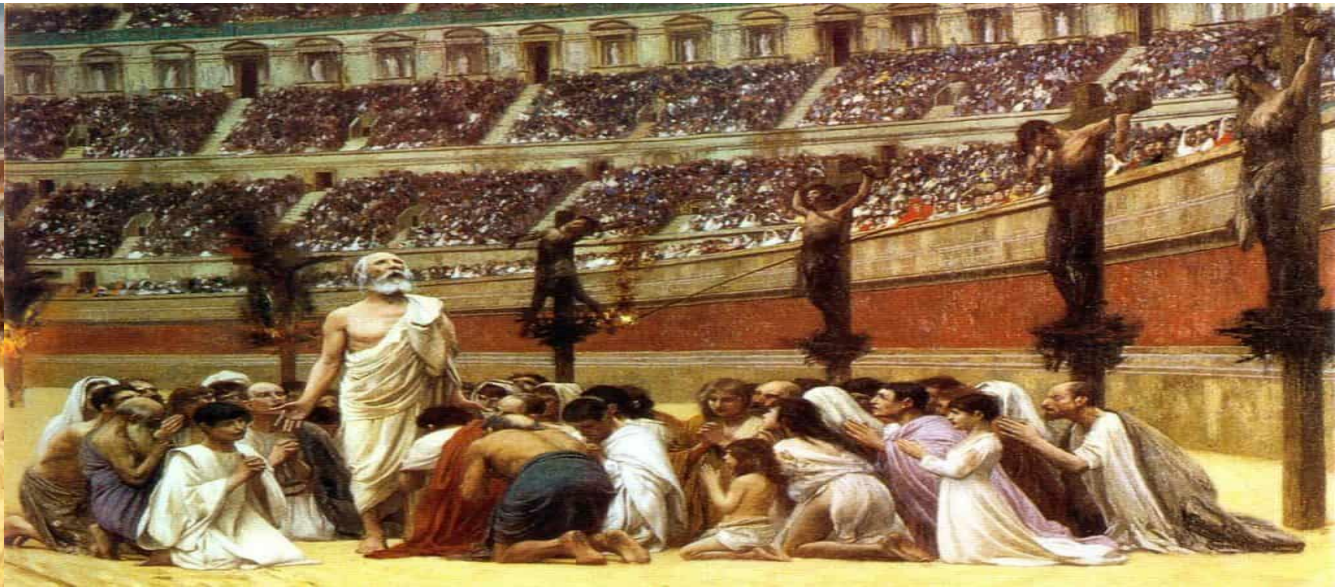


Approval - Commendation

*⁹ I know your afflictions and
your poverty—yet you are rich!*

Afflicted but Affluence

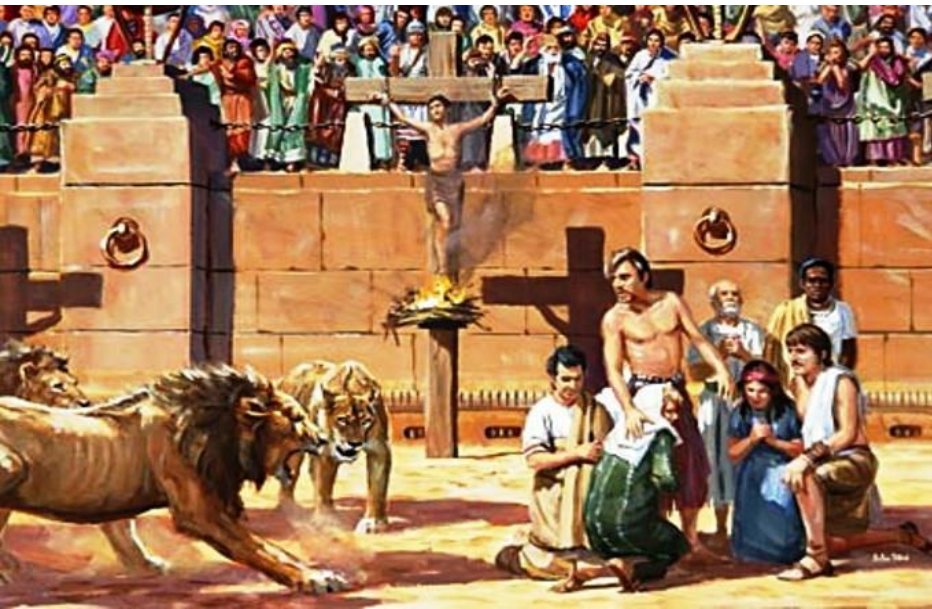
Poor yet you are rich!



Advice - Exhortation

*I know the slander of those who say
they are Jews and are not,
but are a synagogue of Satan.*

I know your enemy!



Assurance/ Appeal

¹⁰ Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer...Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.



**Do not fear!
Persevere,
You will receive
the crown of life**

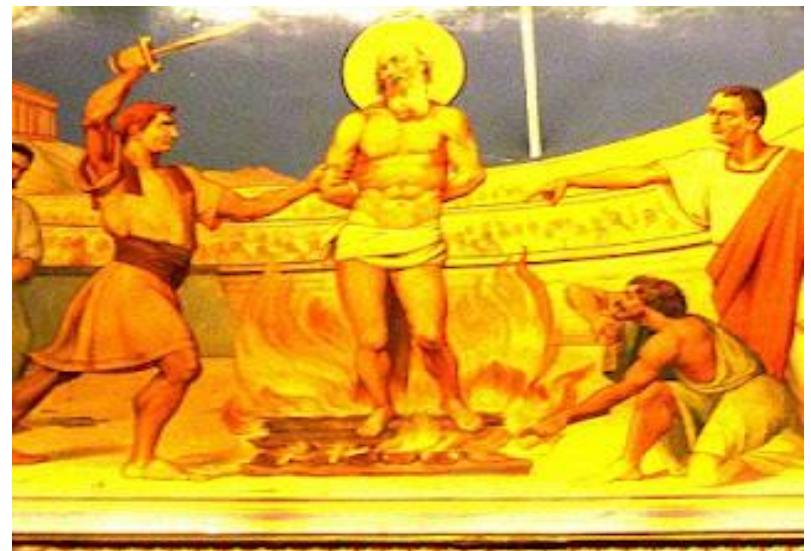
He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.

Polycarp, the disciple of John



“Eighty and six years have I served him, and in nothing hath he wronged me; and how then, can I blaspheme my King, who saved me?”

“Martyrdom of Polycarp” from Ceiling of the Church of St. Polycarp, Smyrna.



Persecutions in the church today...

World Watchlist

North Korea, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Iran, Maldives, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Iraq, China...



Open Doors®
Serving persecuted Christians worldwide



Encouragement in times of great persecution

- **You have eternal life!**
- **You are rich!**
- **I know your enemy!**
- **Persevere! No second death.**
- **You will receive the crown of life!**

