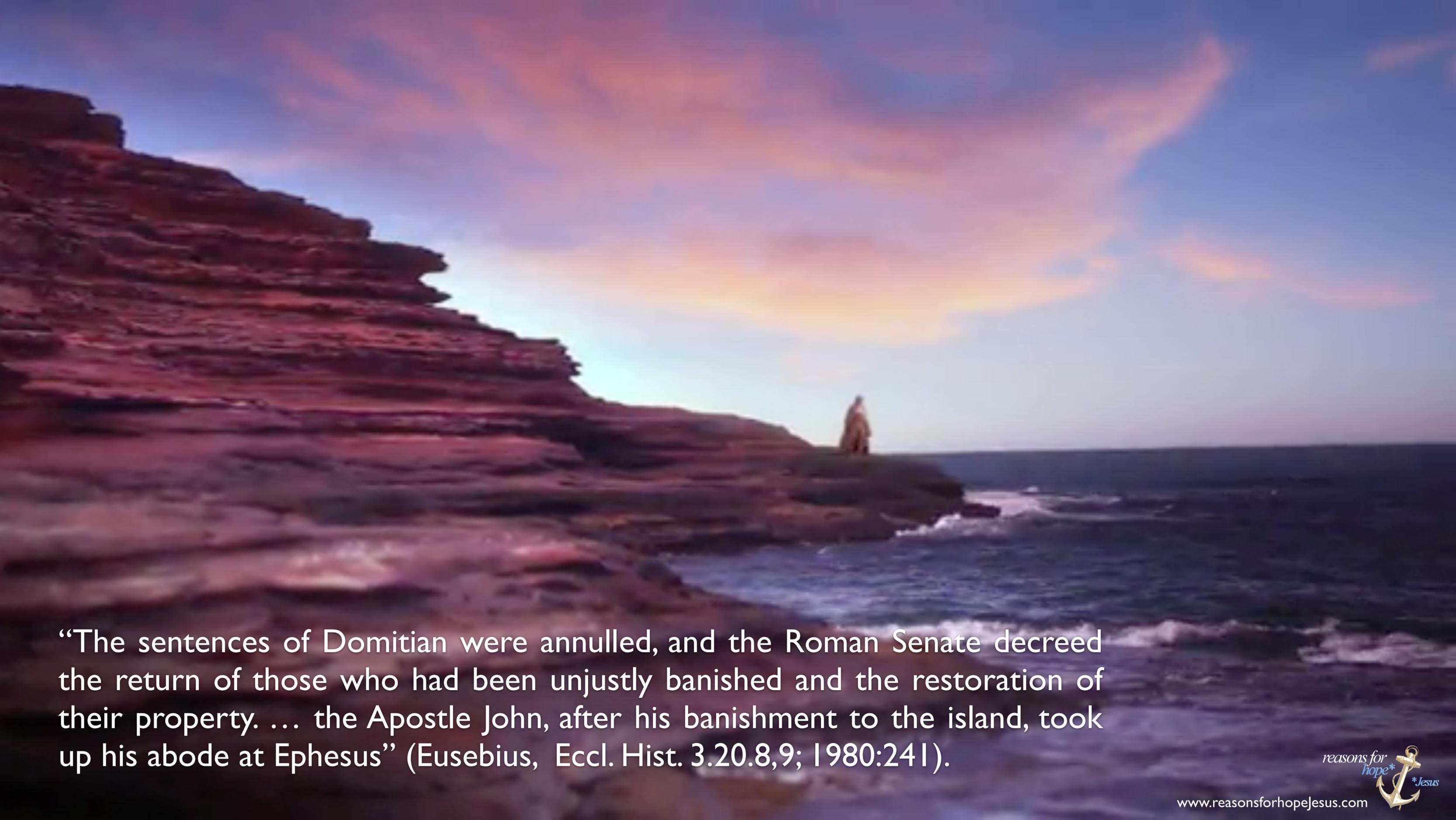




John on Patmos - 95 AD



A person is standing on a rocky cliff overlooking the ocean at sunset. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of pink, orange, and blue. The ocean is dark blue with white waves crashing against the rocks. The person is silhouetted against the bright light of the setting sun.

“The sentences of Domitian were annulled, and the Roman Senate decreed the return of those who had been unjustly banished and the restoration of their property. ... the Apostle John, after his banishment to the island, took up his abode at Ephesus” (Eusebius, Eccl. Hist. 3.20.8,9; 1980:241).



John was free to walk the island during the day.





Walking the shoreline John would have looked out over the Aegean Sea.

John was now very old—

John was by himself on the island—

but he was not alone!



As the days grew dim...



and the nights fell...



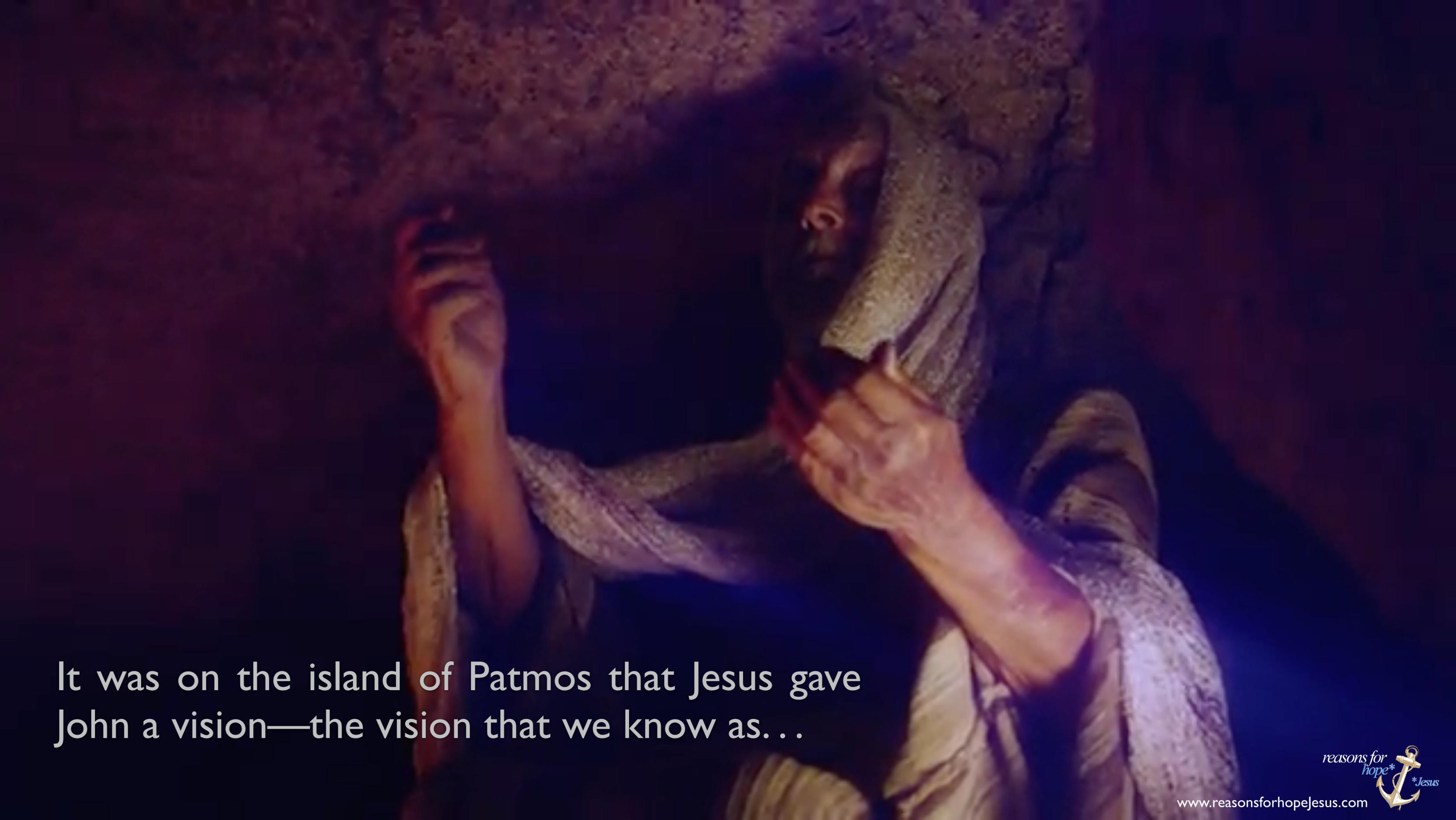
John would seek refuge in a cave.



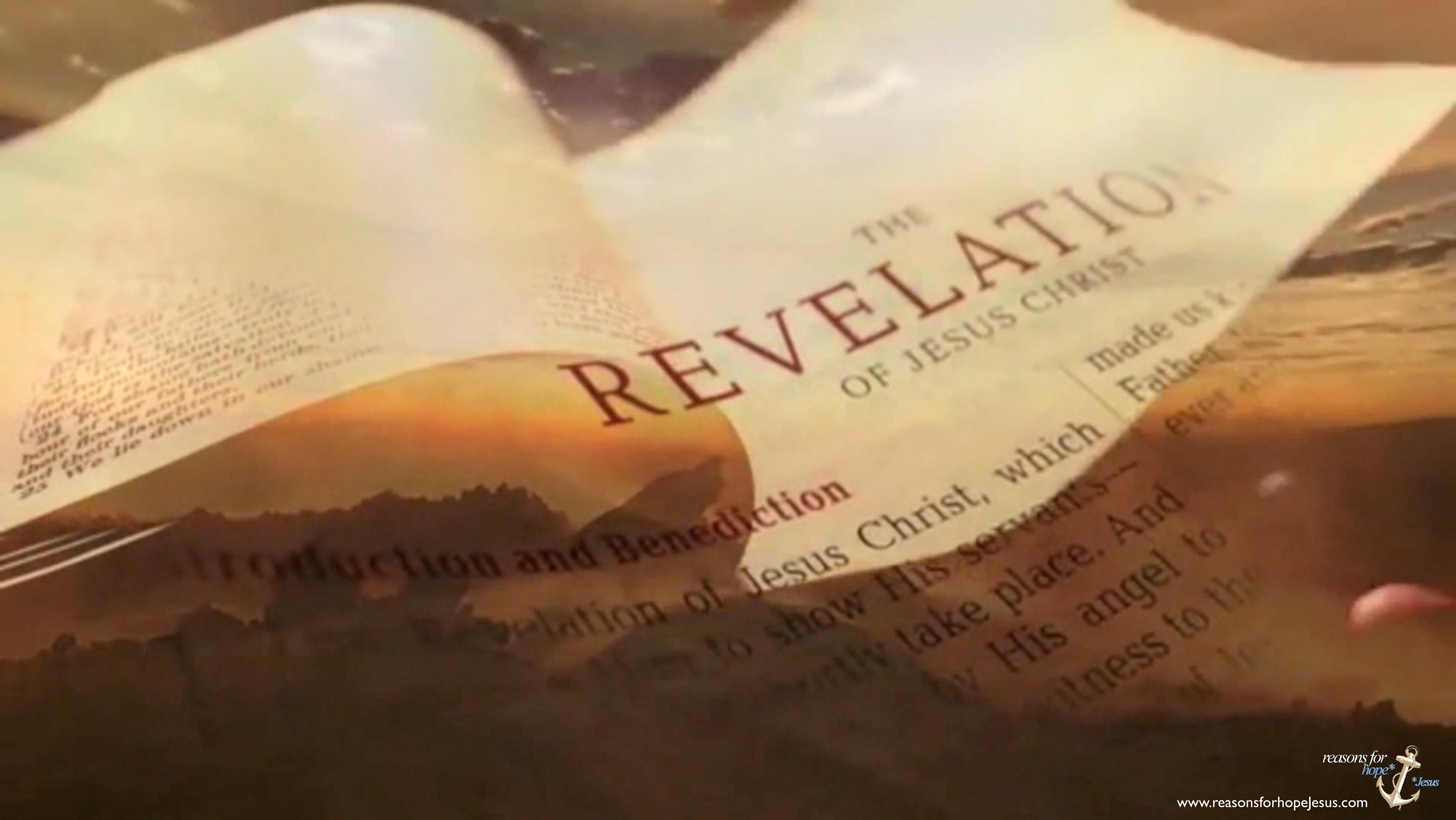
He was by himself...



but never alone!

A man with a full white beard and long white hair, wearing a white robe, is shown from the chest up. He is holding a scroll with both hands, looking down at it. The background is dark and textured, possibly a cave or a stone wall. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the man's face and the texture of his robe.

It was on the island of Patmos that Jesus gave John a vision—the vision that we know as...



THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

made us k...
Father...

Introduction and Benediction

...velation of Jesus Christ, which
...to show His servants—
...lly take place. And
...by His angel to
...ilness to the

24 We lie down in our slumber
and their daughters
and their fathers from
hour of our fathers
25 We lie down in our slumber
and their daughters
and their fathers from
hour of our fathers

Jesus
the Judge!

“...the Alpha and the Omega,
the First and the Last”



1:1

1:20

← The things you
have seen →

Jesus
the Judge!



1:1

1:20

← The things you
have seen →

Rev 1:11 ... what you see,
write in a book...

Jesus
the Judge!

Judgment in
the House of God



1:1

1:20

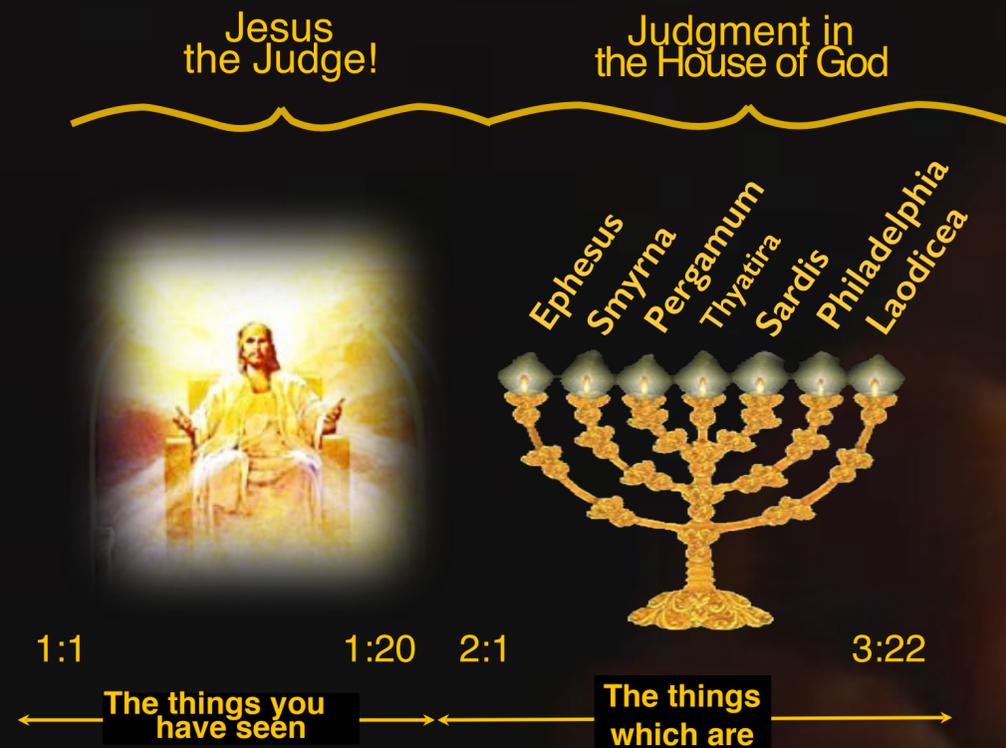
2:1

3:22

The things you
have seen

The things
which are

Rev 1:11 ... and send *it* to the
seven churches which are in Asia:



to Ephesus,
to Smyrna,
to Pergamos,
to Thyatira,
to Sardis,
to Philadelphia, and
to Laodicea.



Rev 1:12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

Rev 1:14 His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

Rev 1:16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength.

“...the Alpha and the Omega,
the First and the Last”

Jesus
the Judge!



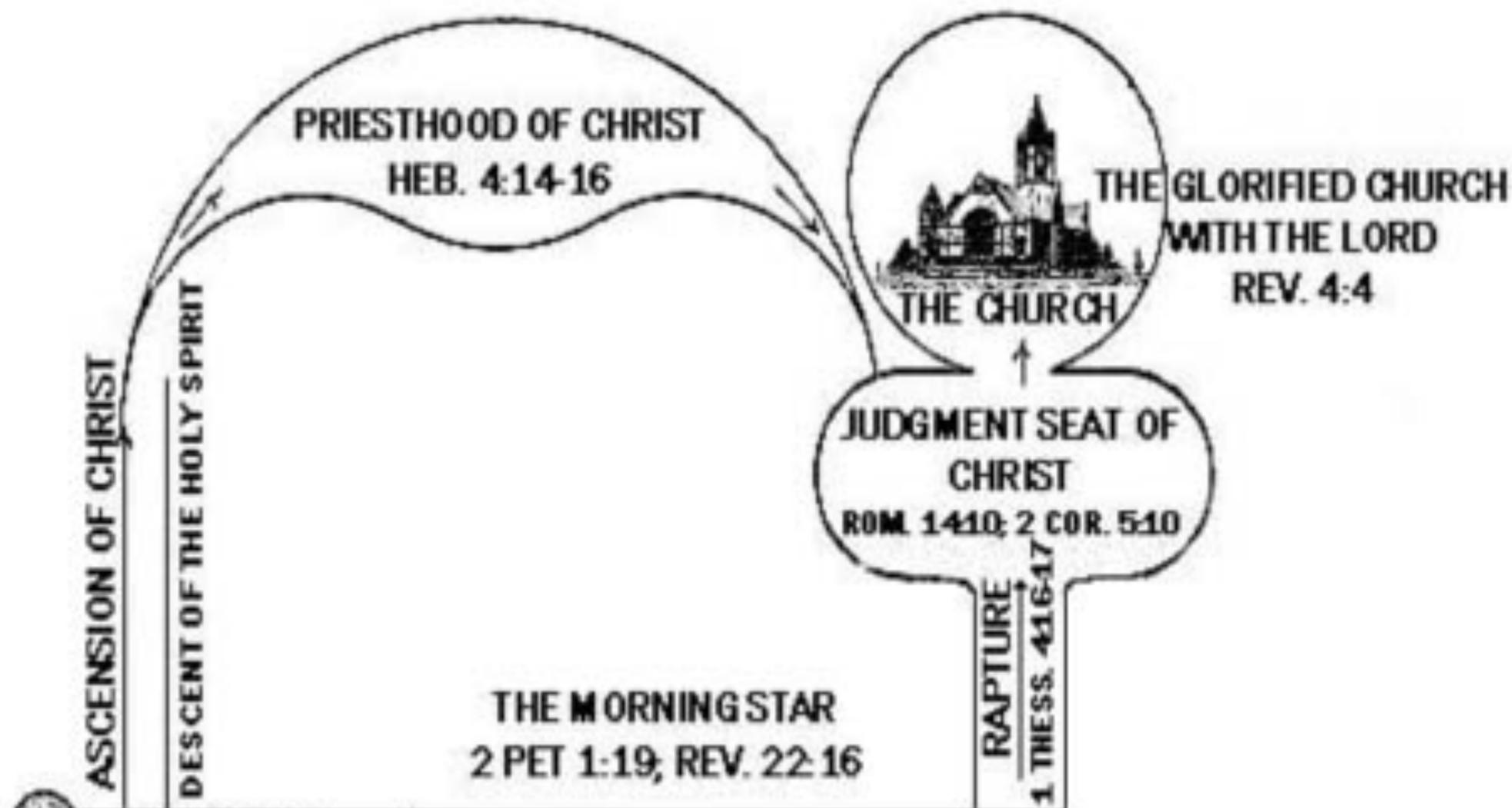
1:1

1:20

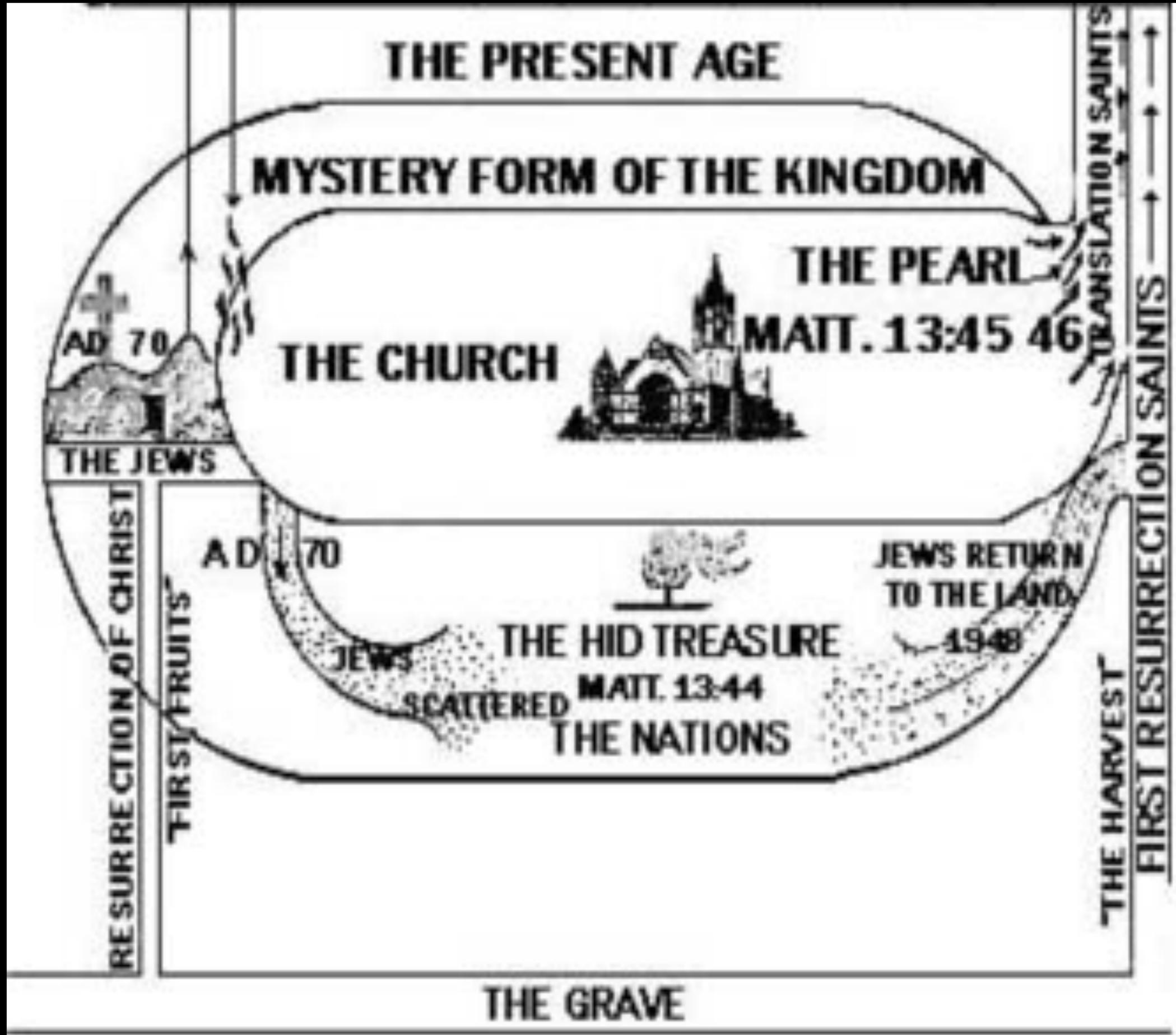
← The things you
have seen →



*Write the things which you have seen: The Vision of Christ, Chapter 1
and the things which are: The Seven Churches, Chapters 2, 3
and the things which will take place after this: After the Churches Chapters 4-22*



BOOK OF REVELATION	WHAT THOU HAST SEEN		THE THINGS WHICH ARE						
	THE VISION		THE SEVEN CHURCHES						
	1:1-8	CH. 1:19-20	CHAPTERS 2&3						
	THE SALUTATION		★	★	★	★	★	★	★
			EPHESUS	BACKSLIDDEN CH	SMYRNA	PERSECUTED CH	PERGAMOS	LICENTIOUS CH	THYATIRA
THE HEAVENLY VISION		CHAPTERS 4&5							
		SARDIS	DEAD CHURCH	PHILADELPHIA	FAVORED CHURCH	LAODICEA	LUKEWARM CH		







KARIA

Mount
Kirketeus

SAMOS

AYDIN

Mediterranean Sea



PATMOS

LIPSOI

AEGEAN
ISLANDS

Aegean Sea

Akra Telos

MUC

HALIKONAS
BETWA





Istanbul

Athens

Pergamos

Thyatira

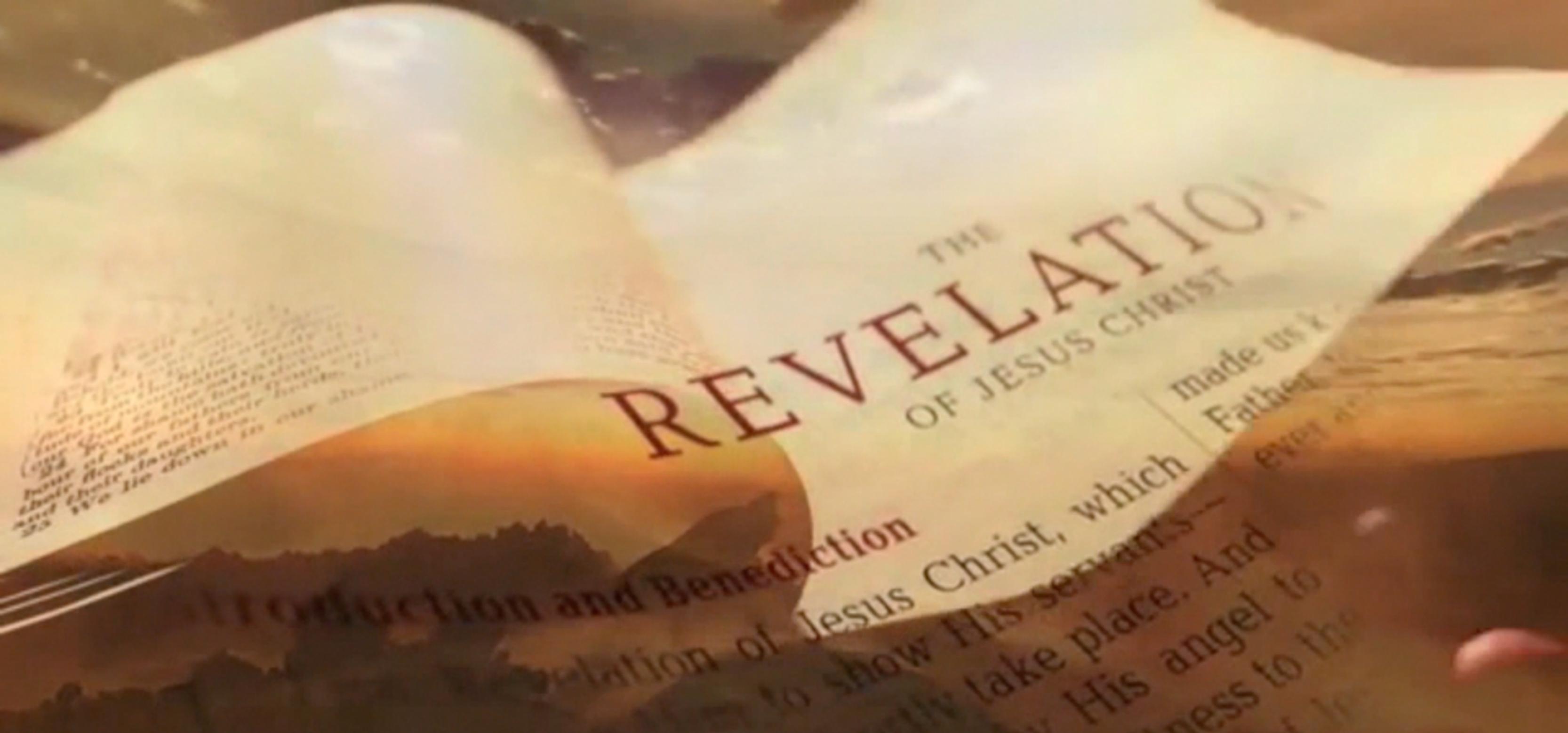
Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

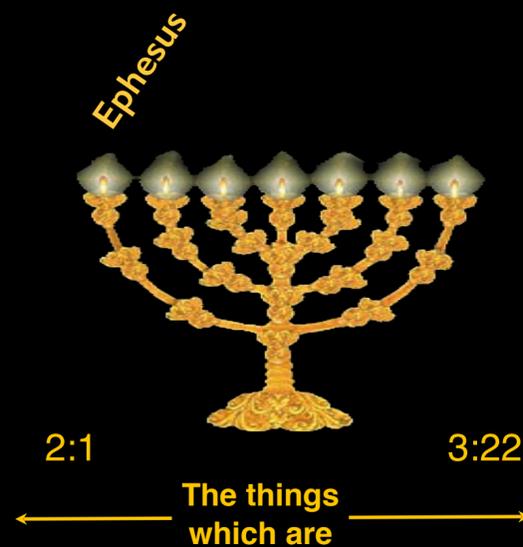
Ephesus

Laodicea



Chapters 2 & 3: Letters to the Seven Churches

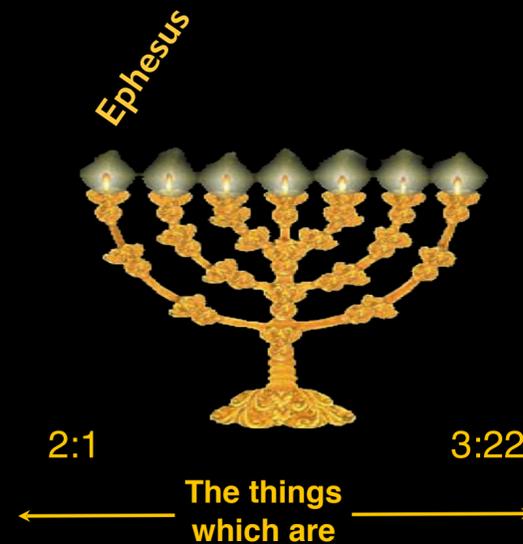
Ephesus - Revelation 2:1-7



Rev 2:1-4 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love,

Rev 2:5-7 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place; unless you repent. But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Ephesus - Revelation 2:1-7



Christ: (Rev 1:20)

Holds the seven stars in His right hand.

Walks in the midst of the seven candlesticks.

Meaning of name: The Desired One

Commendation: works, labor, patience, cannot bear those who are evil and proved them as liars, persevered for Christ's sake and labored without becoming weary.

Rebuke: Left their first Love.

Exhortation: Remember, repent and do good works.

Or else... "I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place"

Promise: You will eat from the Tree of Life

Historical Picture: The apostolic church of the first century

Ephesus - Revelation 2:1-7



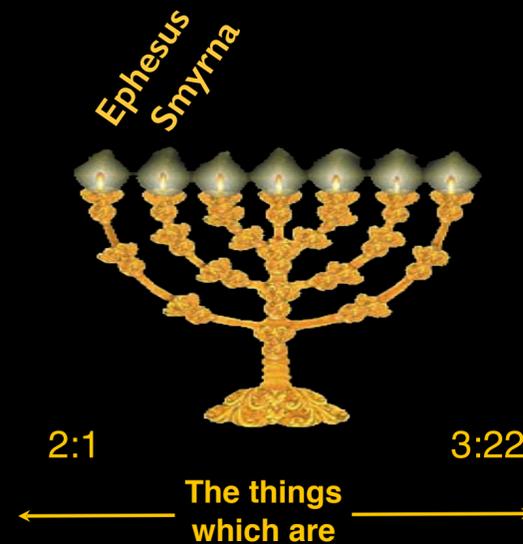
The re-erected marble façade of the Library of Celsus at ancient Ephesus.

Ephesus - Revelation 2:1-7



The Great Theater of ancient Ephesus as viewed from the Arcadian Way on the way to the harbor.

Smyrna - Revelation 2:8-11

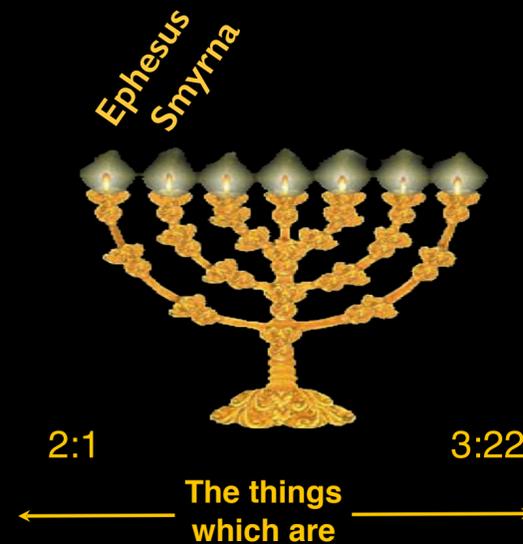


Rev 2:8-9 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.'"

Rev 2:10 "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Rev 2:11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."

Smyrna - Revelation 2:8-11



Christ:
First and the Last
Who was dead and is alive.

Meaning of name: myrrh; death

Commendation: works, tribulation, poverty

Rebuke: NONE

Exhortation: fear not, be faithful unto death

Or else... NONE

Promise: Will receive the crown of life and not be hurt by the second death.

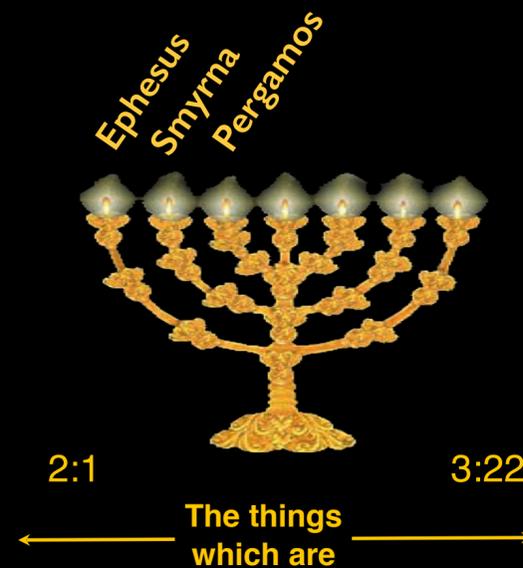
Historical Picture: The persecuted church of the second and third centuries.

Smyrna - Revelation 2:8-11



Ruins of the forum at the site of the ancient city of Smyrna in Asia Minor (modern Turkey).

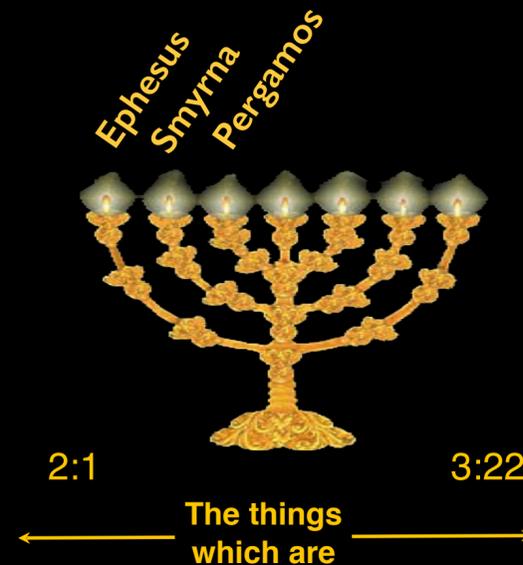
Pergamos - Revelation 2:12-17



Rev 2:12-14 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.'"

Rev 2:15-17 "Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.

Pergamos - Revelation 2:12-17



Christ:

Has the sharp two-edged sword.

Meaning of name: mixed marriage

Commendation:

Works, hold fast to Jesus' name, do not deny His faith

Rebuke: hold the doctrine of Balaam and the doctrine of the Nicolaitans

Exhortation: repent

Or else... "I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth."

Promise: will eat of the hidden manna; will receive a white stone with a new name written on *it*.

Historical Picture: The church from about 300 - 500 AD. The church "married" to the world.

State Churches

A.D.220 Origen introduces infant baptism.

312 Constantine “adopts” Christianity.

325 Edit of Toleration: state endorsed religion. The rags of caves exchanged for silks of the court. Clergy professionalized. Churches “fit for a king.”

380 House churches outlawed. Bishops Theodosius and Gratian order that there should be only one state-recognized Orthodox church. Every Roman citizen was forced to be a member and should be made to believe “lex fidei,” the law of faith.

431 Council of Ephesus: Mary worshiped as the “Mother of God.” (Infant baptism became compulsory in the western world by 416.)

440 Leo the Great: “Bishop of Rome.”

445 Valentian confirmed as “Spiritual leader of Western Empire.

500 Common priestly dress code.

State Churches

565 Justinian: state-ordained church.

607 Boniface III: 1st “Pope” of Catholic Church.

709 Kissing Pope’s foot begins.

786 Worship of images and relics develops.

850 Use of holy water begins.

995 Canonization of dead Saints.

998 Fasting on Fridays and before Lent. 1070 Celibacy of the priesthood instituted.

1090 Prayer beads adopted from paganism.

1184 Inquisition begins: Jews, witches, etc. Napoleon’s brother Joseph declares it illegal in 1808. Last heretic hanged in Valencia Spain 1826, 18 years later.

1215 Transubstantiation of water & wine

1254 Pope Innocence IV officially establishes sale of indulgences.

1229 Reading the Bible forbidden to laymen.

State Churches

1414 Communion cup forbidden to lay people.

1439 Doctrine of Purgatory decreed.

1492 Jews outlawed in Spain. Columbus sails.

1545 Tradition granted equal authority with Bible (Council of Trent).

1517 Luther's 95 Theses (Zwingli, Melancton, Calvin, John Knox, and others...).

1526 Reversions to traditional forms of services (vs. "Anabaptists" et al.).

1530 "All lay pastors teaching publicly are to be killed." Schwenckfeld outlawed;
disciples jailed.

1600: 40 translations from the Latin Bible.

1700: Huguenots (Claude Brousson publicly executed before 10,000).

Pergamos - Revelation 2:12-17



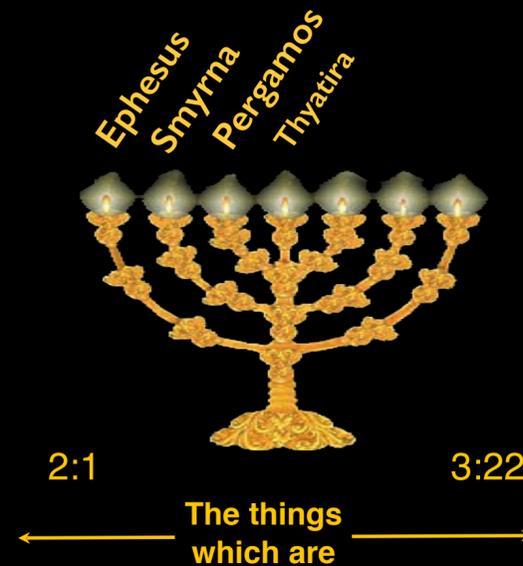
A portion of the Roman theater located at ancient Pergamos.

Pergamos - Revelation 2:12-17



The temple of Athena at ancient Pergamos.

Thyatira - Revelation 2:18-29

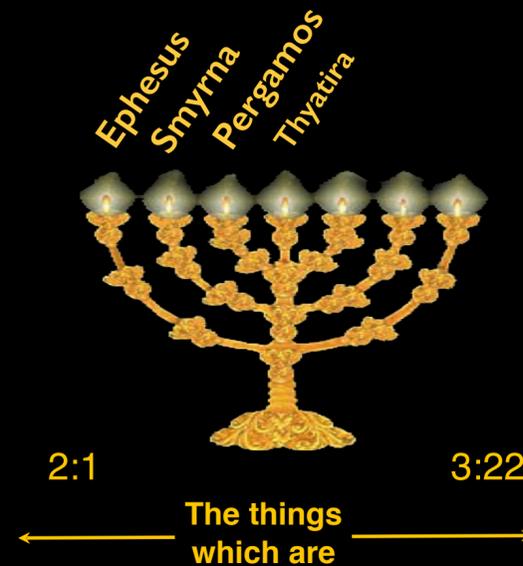


Rev 2:18-19 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.

Rev 2:20-23 "Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

Rev 2:24 "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations; He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'; as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Thyatira - Revelation 2:18-29



Christ:

His eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass

Meaning of name: Semiramis

Commendation: works, charity, service, faith, growth in works

Rebuke: tolerated false prophetess; she taught and seduced Christians commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols

Exhortation: repent, hold fast what you have till I come

Or else... great tribulation, death of children, each receive according to deeds

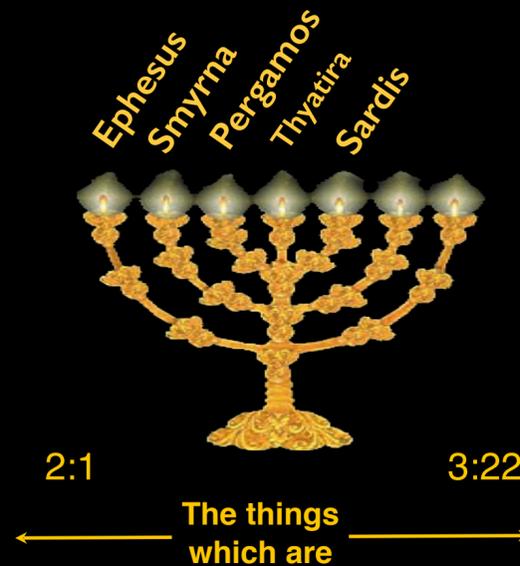
Promise: will give power over the nations; will receive the morning star

Historical Picture: The medieval church; the Vatican

Thyatira - Revelation 2:18-29



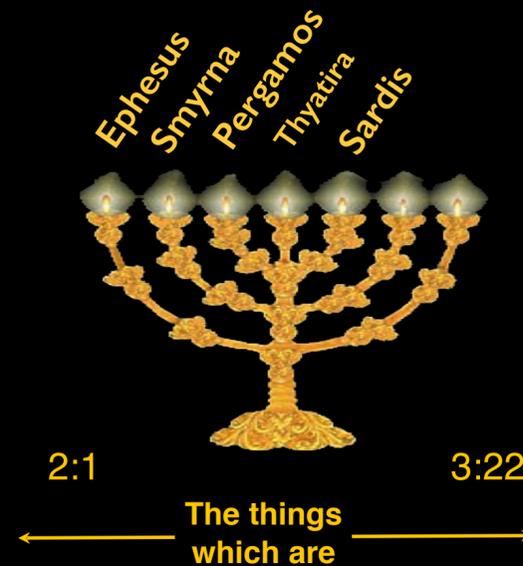
Sardis - Revelation 3:1-6



Rev 3:1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God."

Rev 3:3-6 "Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Sardis - Revelation 3:1-6



Christ:

Has seven spirits and seven stars.

Meaning of name: remnant

Commendation:

Works, a name (reputation) of being alive

Rebuke: ...but are dead

Exhortation: be watchful, strengthen the things which remain, remember how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent.

Or else... I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

Promise: shall walk with Christ; shall be clothed in white garments, will not have name blotted out from the Book of Life; Jesus will confess his name before His Father and His angels.

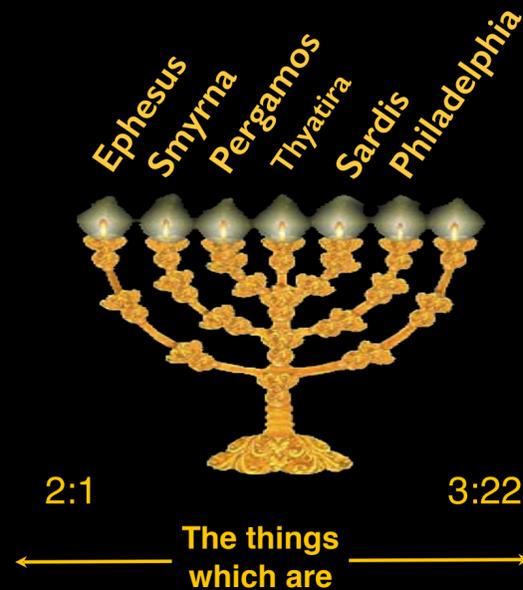
Historical Picture: The church of Renaissance and Reformation

Sardis - Revelation 3:1-6



Ruins of the Roman gymnasium at the ancient city of Sardis in Asia Minor (modern Turkey).

Philadelphia - Revelation 3:7-13



Rev 3:7-8 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens: I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name."

Rev 3:9-13 "Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie; indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. 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 I will write on him My new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Philadelphia - Revelation 3:7-13



Christ:

He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David

Meaning of name: Brotherly Love

Commendation:

Good works, have kept Jesus' word, have not denied His name.

Rebuke: NONE

Exhortation: hold fast that which you have.

Or else... that no man take your crown.

Promise: keep you from the hour of trial; be made a pillar in the temple of My God; Jesus will write on him the names of God and the city of God, the New Jerusalem.

Historical Picture: The church of revival of the 19th century. The missionary church.

Philadelphia - Revelation 3:7-13



Temple ruins at the site of the ancient city of Philadelphia in Asia Minor (modern Turkey).

Laodicea - Revelation 3:14-22



Rev 3:14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.'"

Rev 3:17-19 "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'; and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked; I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

Rev 3:20-22 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Laodicea - Revelation 3:14-22



Christ:

The Amen, the Faithful and True Witness,
the Beginning of the creation of God

Meaning of name: People's Opinion or People Judged

Commendation: NONE

Rebuke: lukewarm, neither cold nor hot, wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked.

Exhortation: buy from Jesus gold refined in the fire, white garments, and eye salve;
be zealous and repent.

Or else... Jesus will spue them out of His mouth.

Promise: fellowship with Christ; sit with Jesus on the throne

Historical Picture: The end-times lukewarm church. The apostate church.

Laodicea - Revelation 3:14-22



*Temple ruins at the site of the ancient city of Philadelphia in Asia Minor (modern Turkey).
Chad Brand et al., eds., "Philadelphia,"*

Laodicea - Revelation 3:14-22



Archaeological remains of an early church located at Laodicea in Turkey.

An inscription on a cathedral in Lubeck, Germany

Thus speaketh Christ our Lord to us:

Ye call Me Master and obey Me not.

Ye call Me Light and see Me not.

Ye call Me Way and walk Me not.

Ye call Me Life and choose Me not.

Ye call Me Wise and follow Me not.

Ye call Me Fair and love Me not.

Ye call Me Rich and ask Me not.

Ye call Me Eternal and seek Me not.

Ye call Me Noble and serve Me not.

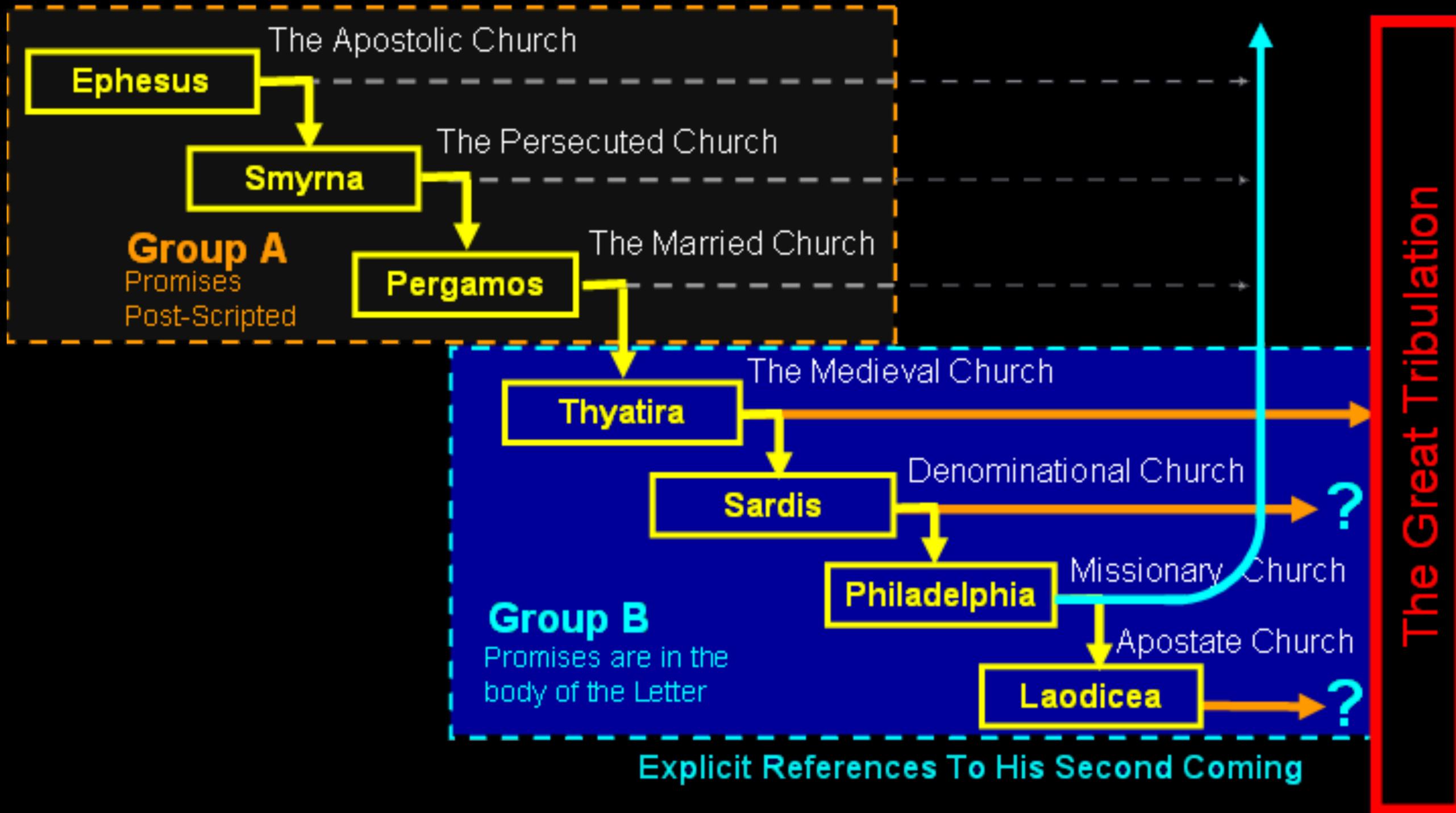
Ye call Me Gracious and trust Me not.

Ye call Me Might and honor Me not.

Ye call Me Just and fear Me not.

If I condemn you, blame Me not.

Prophetic Profile



Jesus wrote the seven letters recorded in Revelation 2-3.
In Matthew 13 Jesus spoke seven parables.

Ephesus: the apostolic church.

The Sower and the Four Soils

Smyrna: the persecuted church.

The Tares and the Wheat

Pergamos: the married church.

The Mustard Seed

Thyatira: the medieval church.

The Woman and the Leaven

Sardis: the denominational church.

The Hidden Treasure in the Field

Philadelphia: the missionary church.

The Pearl of Great Price

Laodicea: the apostate church.

The Dragnet

He who has an ear...

Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

Rev 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.

Rev 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives *it*.

Rev 2:26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations, Rev 2:29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Rev 3:5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Rev 3:6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. 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 *I will write on him* My new name.

Rev 3:13 He who **has an ear**, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Promises to the Overcomer

Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To him who overcomes** I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

Rev 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **He who overcomes** shall not be hurt by the second death.

Rev 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To him who overcomes** I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives *it*.

Rev 2:26 **And he who overcomes**, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations, Rev 2:29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Rev 3:5 **He who overcomes** shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Rev 3:6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Rev 3:12 **He who overcomes**, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. 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 *I will write on him* My new name. Rev 3:13 He who **has an ear**, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Jesus is The Overcomer

Rev 17:14 "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will **overcome** them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen. and faithful."



We are Overcomers

1 John 5:4-5 **For whatever is born of God overcomes** the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world; our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Rev 21:7 "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son."

Promise to the Overcomer

Rev 21:7 **He who overcomes shall inherit all things,**
and I will be his God and he shall be My son.



The New Heaven &
Earth

Personal Application for Christians

- **Ephesus: Good doctrine; forgot their first love.**

Remember Jesus — all He is and all He has done for you.

- **Smyrna: Persecuted church.**

Trust Jesus. Stay Faithful

- **Pergamos: Married to the world.**

Do not have idols. Worship God alone.

- **Thyatira: Tempted and influenced by false teachers.**

Know God's Word. Discern and refute false doctrines.

- **Sardis: Reputation of being alive, but actually dead.**

Let your life, everything you do and say, uphold your testimony.

- **Philadelphia: A good church, nothing bad said.**

Trust Jesus' promise to be strong for you. Stand strong in Christ.

- **Laodicea: Apathetic compromise and unbelief.**

In a world of increasing darkness, let your light shine.

Be a witness in word and deed to all people.