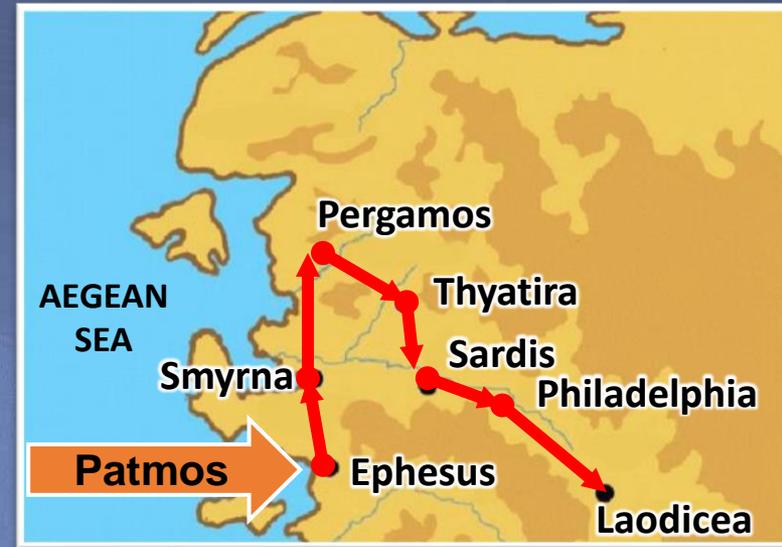


AMONG THE LAMPSTANDS



Revelation begins with an open letter to the seven churches in Asia Minor (Turkey). The order of the churches is the same a mailman would follow to deliver the letters.

Jesus Christ dictated this letter to John. Every detail in the letter has a special meaning, including its form and the message to each church. It still has a special meaning for us today, almost 2,000 years after it was written.



- The Revelation of Jesus Christ to John (Rev. 1:9-18)
 - Where: In Patmos (1:9)
 - When: On the Lord's day (1:10)
 - How: As the High Priest (1:12-18)
- The letter to the seven churches (Rev. 1:11, 19-20; 2:1-7)
 - How to interpret it (1:11, 19-20)
 - The message to the church of Ephesus (2:1-7)

PATMOS

“I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.” (Revelation 1:9)

WHAT WAS THERE IN PATMOS?

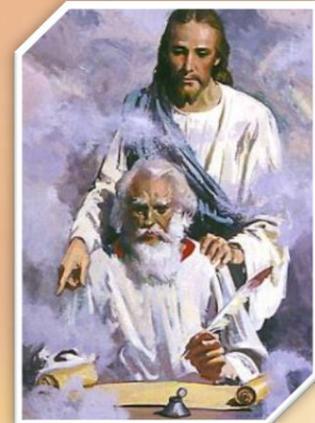
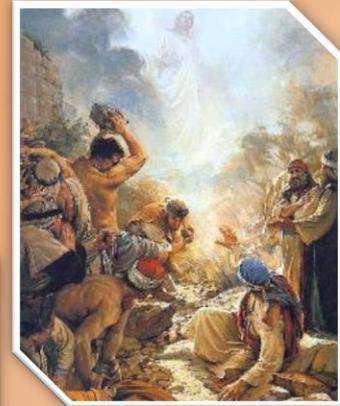
- Patmos is a barren and rocky island (10x6 mi—16x10 km). Romans established a penal colony there.

WHY WAS JOHN THERE?

- He was accused of heresy for preaching about Jesus Christ when he was an elderly man. The Roman emperor Domitian banished him there (between 81 and 96 AD)

WHAT DID JESUS DO FOR JOHN?

- Jesus brought John words of hope and encouragement, like He did for the young men in the fiery furnace and for Stephen when he was being killed.



We can be sure that Jesus will always be with us when we suffer tribulation for being faithful witnesses.

THE LORD'S DAY

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet." (Revelation 1:10)

How should we interpret "The Lord's Day"?

Sunday

- "The Lord's Day" was used to refer to Sunday for the first time by the end of the 2nd century. It didn't mean "Sunday" in John's time.

The Second Coming

- That would mean that John was already receiving a vision of the Second Coming when he received this new Revelation (Is. 13:6; 2P. 3:10). This theory is not supported by the text in Revelation.

Sabbath

- In the Old Testament, God (the Lord) called the Sabbath "mine", so it's His day (Ex. 31:13; Is. 58:13). Jesus also called Himself "Lord of the Sabbath" (Mt. 12:8; Mr. 2:28). So John received the Revelation on Sabbath, the Lord's Day.



7

THE VISION OF JESUS CHRIST

“And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, ‘Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.’” (Revelation 1:17)



What was the physical appearance of Jesus in Revelation 1?

Revelation 1:13-16



- A long robe
- A golden band
- White hair
- Eyes of fire
- Bronze feet
- Thunderous voice
- A sword from His mouth
- Face like sun

Daniel 10:5-6



- A linen garment
- A golden belt
-
- Eyes of fire
- Bronze feet
- Thunderous voice
-
- Face like lightning



The person clothed in line that John and Daniel saw is Jesus Christ dressed as the High Priest.

THE VISION OF JESUS CHRIST

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John saw Jesus walking amid seven lampstands which are a symbol of the seven churches (1:20)

The message to each church begins with "I know your works." (2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15). Jesus is always amid His people. He knows His people and He knows each one of us.

He is great and majestic, but we shouldn't be afraid of His presence.



He is the One who died and resurrected. He has the keys of death. He is powerful over death and He takes care of the living ones.



THE LETTER TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

“What you see, write in a book 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.” (Revelation 1:11)

The message to the seven churches in Asia can be interpreted in three different and supplementary levels (1:19):



**IMMEDIATE
(HISTORIC)**

A message from Jesus to every church meeting in seven cities of Asia Minor in John's time.

**FUTURE
(PROPHETIC)**

A message to each historical age of the Church from John's time till our days.

UNIVERSAL

A message to every church and believer in every moment of history.

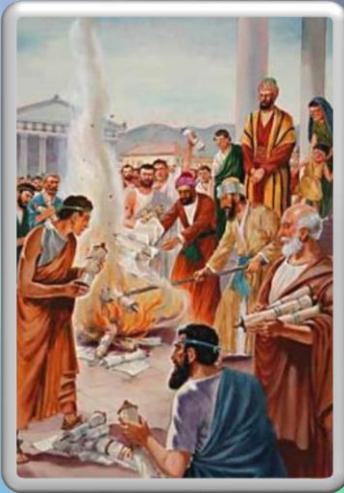
THE MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS



"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:'" (Revelation 2:1)



Ephesus was a very important city in Asia. John was a pastor in that city which was full of immorality and witchcraft (Acts 19:19)



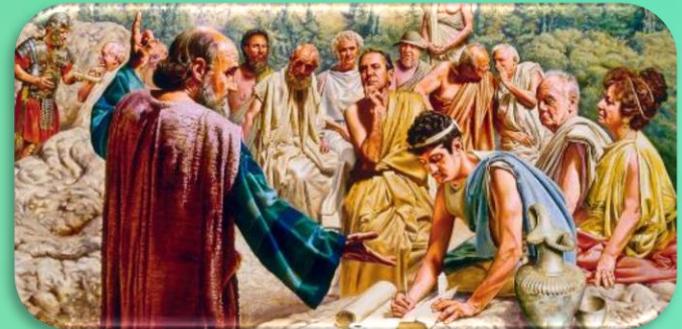
The church remained firm in that turbid atmosphere. However, they forgot their first love as the old Israel did (Jeremiah 2:2)



This church represents the 1st century Christian church (approx. from 31 AD to 100 AD)

Let's follow the divine advice to keep their virtues and avoid their mistakes: (1)

Remember your first love; (2) repent; (3) and do good works.



“He [Jesus] walks in the midst of His churches throughout the length and breadth of the earth. He watches them with intense interest to see whether they are in such a condition spiritually that they can advance His kingdom. Christ is present in every assembly of the church. He is acquainted with everyone connected with His service. He knows those whose hearts He can fill with the holy oil, that they may impart it to others. Those who faithfully carry forward the work of Christ in our world, representing in word and works the character of God, fulfilling the Lord’s purpose for them, are in His sight very precious. Christ takes pleasure in them as a man takes pleasure in a well-kept garden and the fragrance of the flowers he has planted.”

E.G.W. (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, cp. 53, p. 418)