

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

An open scroll with Hebrew text is the central focus, illuminated by a warm, golden light. The scroll is unrolled, showing two pages of text. The background is dark and textured, possibly representing a cave or a hidden place. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and ancient.

The Seven Letters of Jesus



The Seven Letters of Jesus



John's Commission

¹⁹ Write the things which thou hast seen and the things which are and the things which shall be hereafter;

Revelation 1:19

- We are given a divinely inspired outline for the book
 - Thou hast seen > Chapter 1
 - The things which are > Chapter 2-3
 - Which shall be hereafter > Chapter 4-22

Letters to the Churches

Four levels of meaning

Letters to the Churches

Four levels of meaning

- Local

Letters to the Churches

Four levels of meaning

- Local

Ch 1:11

“write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches”

Letters to the Churches

Four levels of meaning

- Local
- Personal

Letters to the Churches

Four levels of meaning

- Local
- Personal

Rev 2:7

He that hath an ear.....,

Letters to the Churches

Four levels of meaning

- Local
- Personal
- Message to all Churches

Letters to the Churches

Four levels of meaning

- Local
- Personal
- Message to all Churches

Rev 2:7

“let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches”

Letters to the Churches

Four levels of meaning

- Local
- Personal
- Message to all Churches
- Prophetic – 7 church ages

Letters to the Churches

Four levels of meaning

- Local
- Personal
- Message to all Churches
- Prophetic – 7 church ages

Rev 1:3

“.....the words of this prophecy”



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 3

The Letter to the Church at Sardis

Verses 1-6

The Letter to the Church at Sardis

- Sardis was the capital of the ancient kingdom of Lydia and one of the oldest and most important cities of Asia Minor.
- It was located inland and built on a small, elevated plateau which rises sharply above the Hermus Valley.
- On all sides but one the rock walls are smooth, nearly perpendicular.

The Letter to the Church at Sardis

- Because of this the people at Sardis became complacent and in 549 BC the Median soldiers of Cyrus scaled the parapet,
- Then again in 214 BC Antiochus the Great captured Sardis because a Cretan slipped over the walls while the sentries were careless.

The Letter to the Church at Sardis

- Thus it became said that Sardis could be taken by a thief in the night.
- According to historians, there was an arrogance and superiority about the city.
- Archaeologists think that the first coins used for currency were made in Sardis.

The Prophetic History of The Church

SARDIS
'remnant'

5th Church Age - The Reformation Church
1517 AD - Tribulation

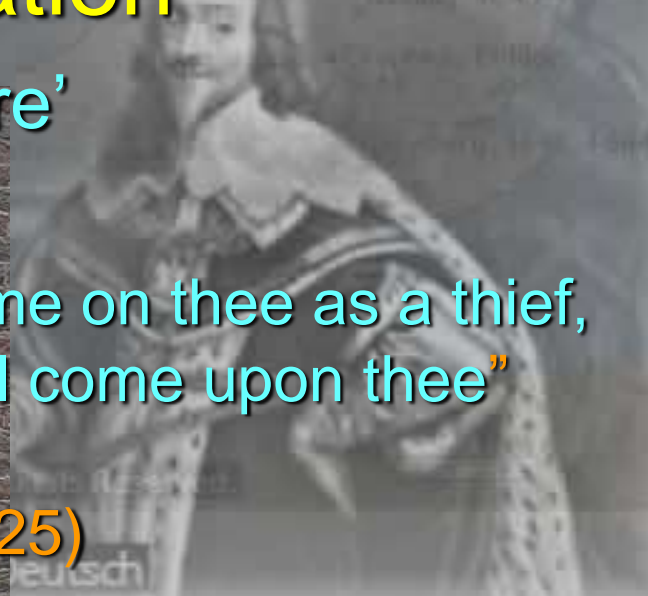
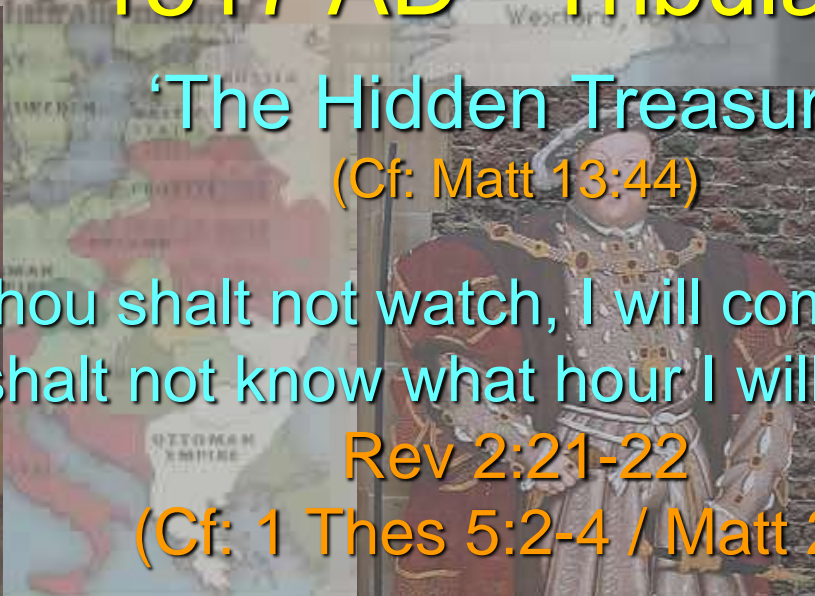
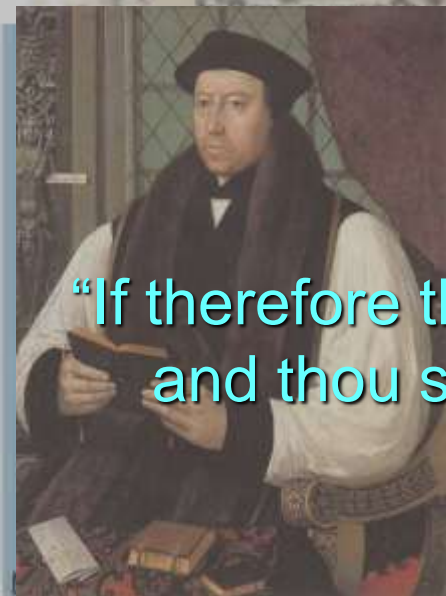
'The Hidden Treasure'

(Cf: Matt 13:44)

"If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief,
and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee"

Rev 2:21-22

(Cf: 1 Thes 5:2-4 / Matt 25)



¹ And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write;
These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of
God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that
thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Revelation 3:1

- This church need to be reminded that it is Jesus who has the seven stars...
- ...for His purposes
- We do not have Christ for ours!

¹ And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write;
These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of
God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that
thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Revelation 3:1

- This church has a name, reputation that it's doing fine - but in Jesus' eyes it is dead.
- The church of the reformation was characterised by the different 'names' (denominations) that resulted from it.

“Protestantism today, as a whole, has a name that it lives, but it is dead. Many Protestant churches today are just going through the form. They are building all the time, and people are coming, especially on Sunday mornings. But there are not many at the midweek service, when they really ought to come to hear the Word of God. “Thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.” This is a frightful condemnation and is a picture of Protestantism today”.

J Vernon McGee

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Revelation 3:2

- If there is one thing the Protestant church isn't it's watchful!
- According to Rick Warren, we are not to concern ourselves with what is ahead of us
- The C of E took the decision not to talk about 'end times' because it is too divisive

“Protestantism, as a whole, has turned away from looking for the coming of Jesus Christ, and they have built up these systems [that teach that] certain things must be fulfilled before He can come. My friend, it is tissue-thin from where we are right now to the coming of Christ for His church. He could come the next moment or tomorrow. Don’t say that I said He is coming tomorrow because I don’t know. It may be a hundred years, but, my friend, His imminent return is what we are to look for.

Sardis didn't know when the enemy was coming, and we don't know when Christ is coming—we have no way of knowing at all. In view of the fact that the Rapture could take place at any moment, the church is to be alert. The date is not set, nor even the period in which He will come, and the reason for that is that the church is to be constantly on the alert for His coming. *“Looking for that blessed hope ...”* (Titus 2:13). You see, anyone can make ready for a fixed hour, but you must always be ready for an unexpected hour.

J Vernon McGee

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Revelation 3:2

- All hope was not gone for this church...
- ...but it would require great effort to keep alive
- When something is planted it starts to grow, but unless it is cared for and maintained, it will die.

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain,
that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works
perfect before God.

Revelation 3:2

- Perfect = Complete
- This is true of the reformation churches

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Revelation 3:3

- ‘Remember’ – they had received through the Word
- Hold fast x 7 in the NT
- ...and repent – a gift of grace

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, **I will come on thee as a thief,** and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Revelation 3:3

- Sardis was known for complacency
- The same can be said for the reformation churches

4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

Revelation 3:4

- 5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.
- 6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:5-6



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 3

The Letter to the Church at Philadelphia

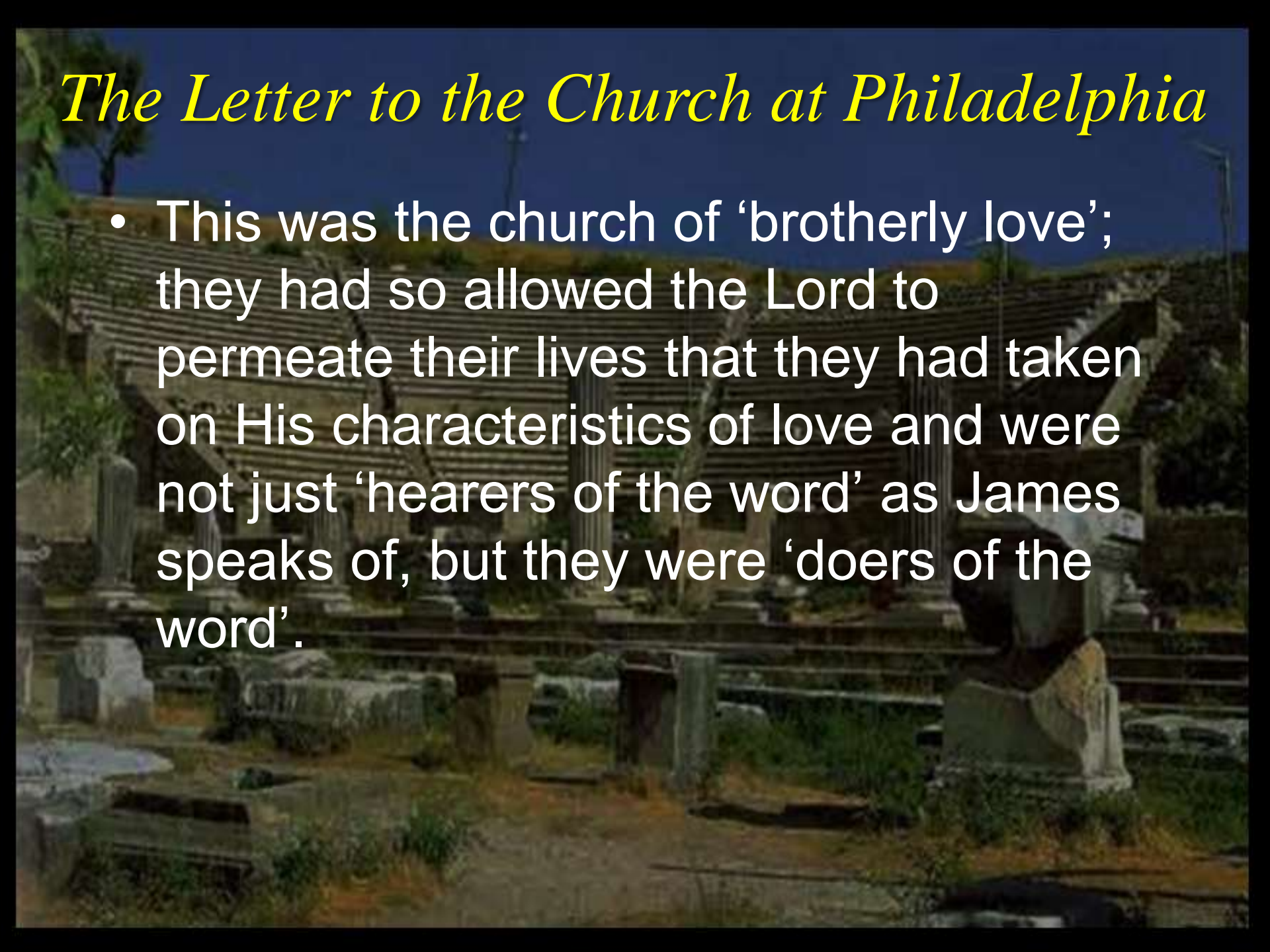
Verses 7-13

The Letter to the Church at Philadelphia

- The name means 'brotherly love'
- Clovis G. Chappell said, "***Were it my privilege to go back across the years and attend a service at one of these seven churches, I think I should choose the church at Philadelphia.***"

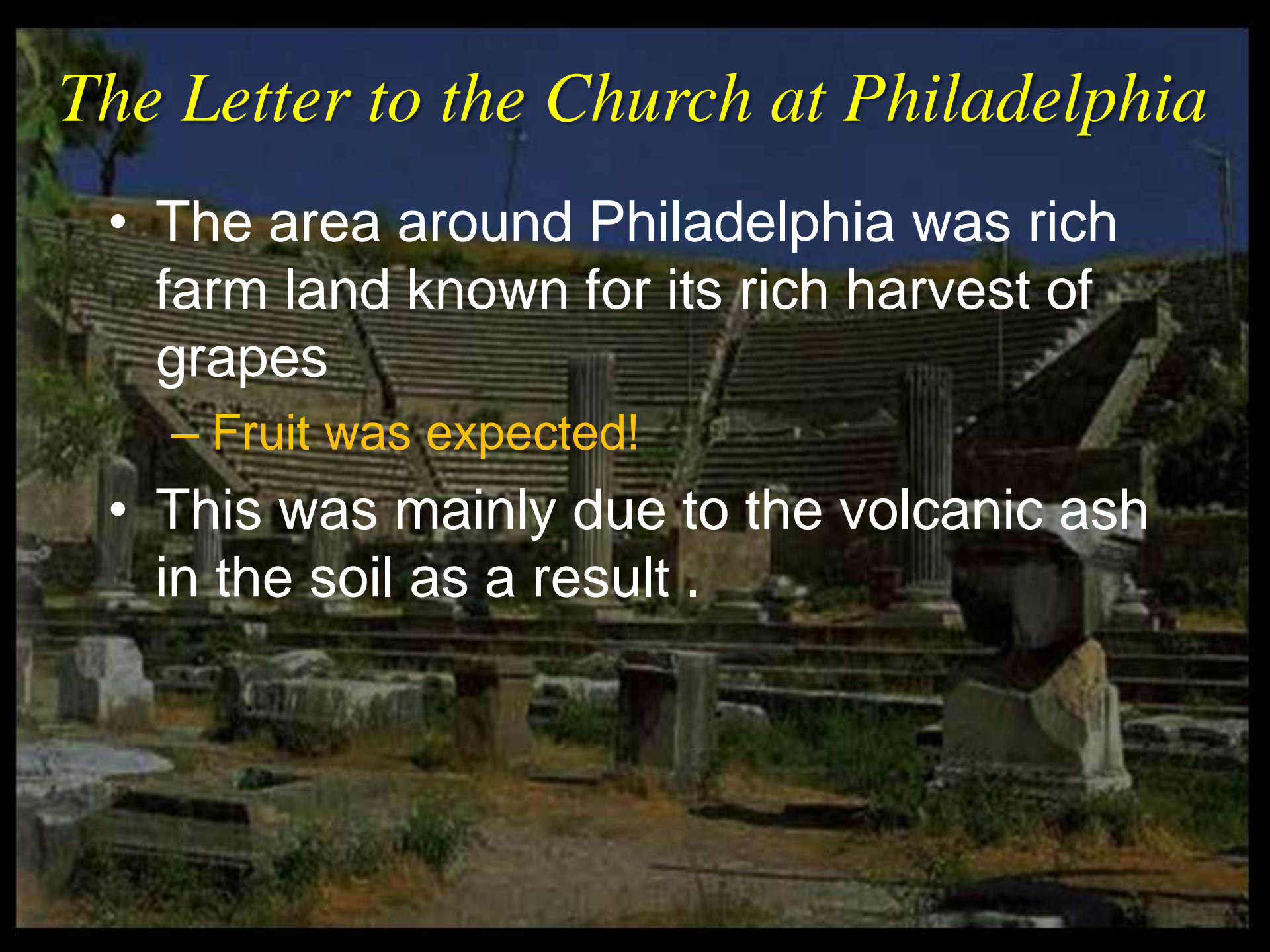
The Letter to the Church at Philadelphia

- This was the church of ‘brotherly love’; they had so allowed the Lord to permeate their lives that they had taken on His characteristics of love and were not just ‘hearers of the word’ as James speaks of, but they were ‘doers of the word’.



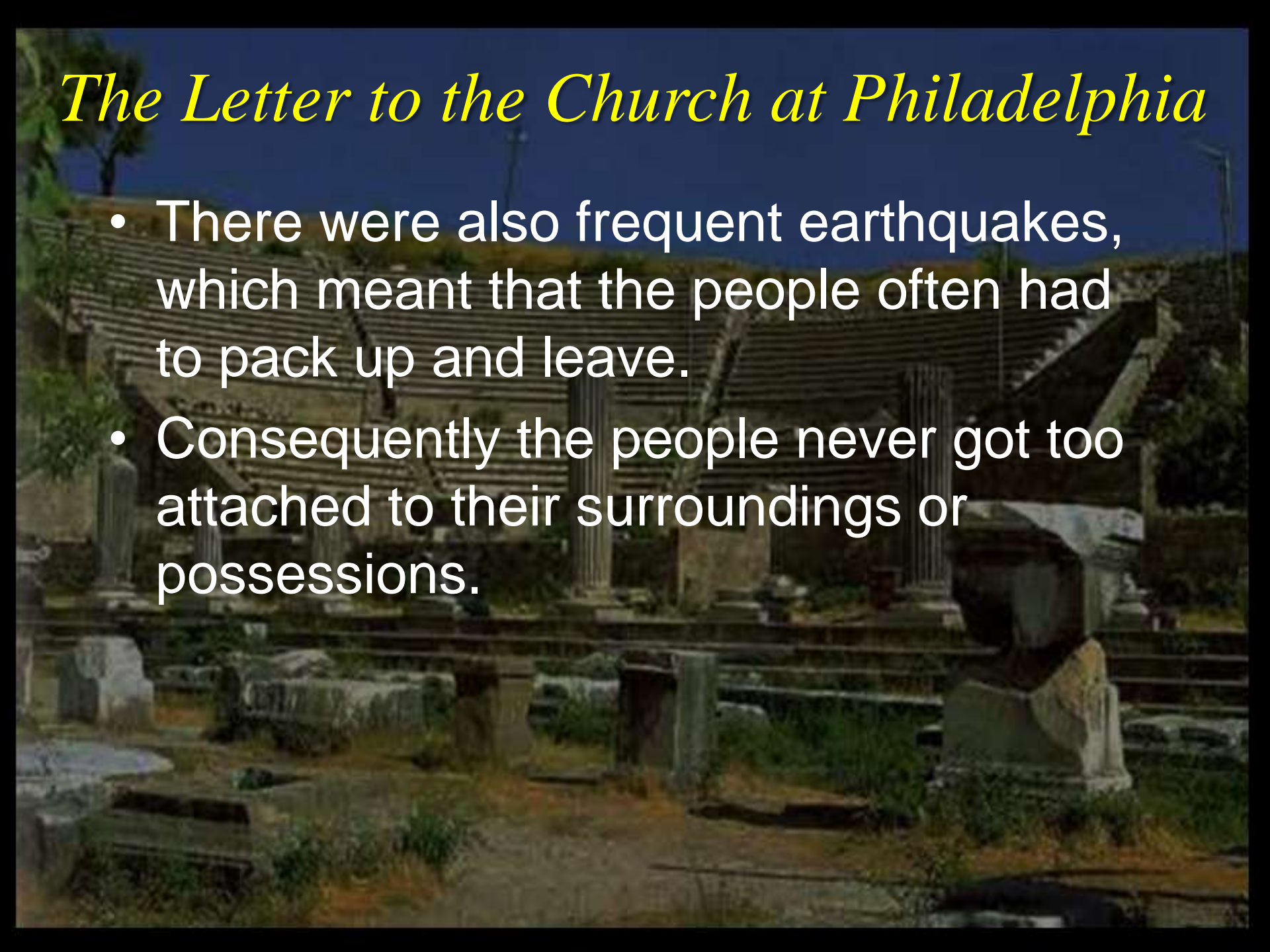
The Letter to the Church at Philadelphia

- The area around Philadelphia was rich farm land known for its rich harvest of grapes
 - Fruit was expected!
- This was mainly due to the volcanic ash in the soil as a result .



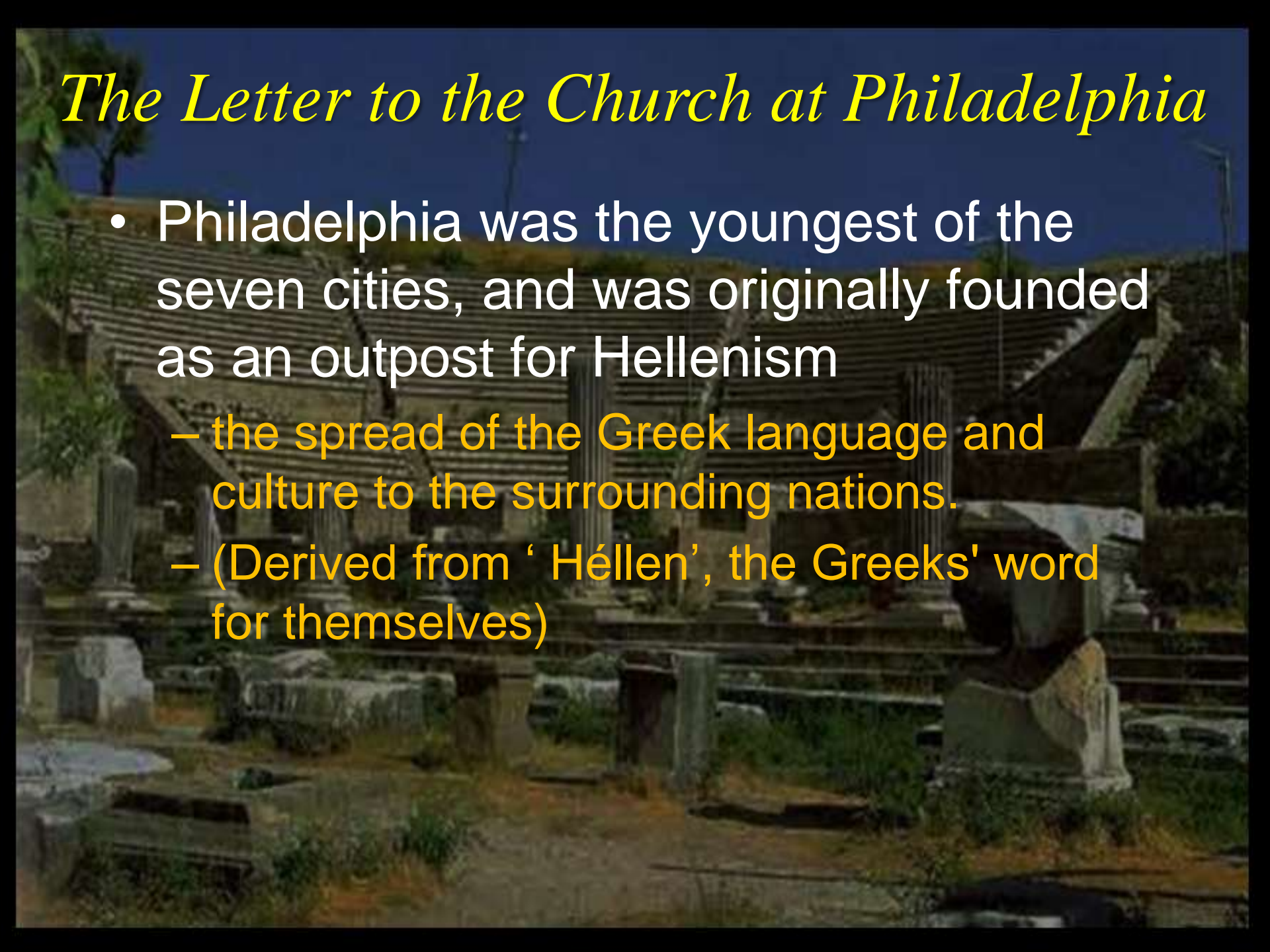
The Letter to the Church at Philadelphia

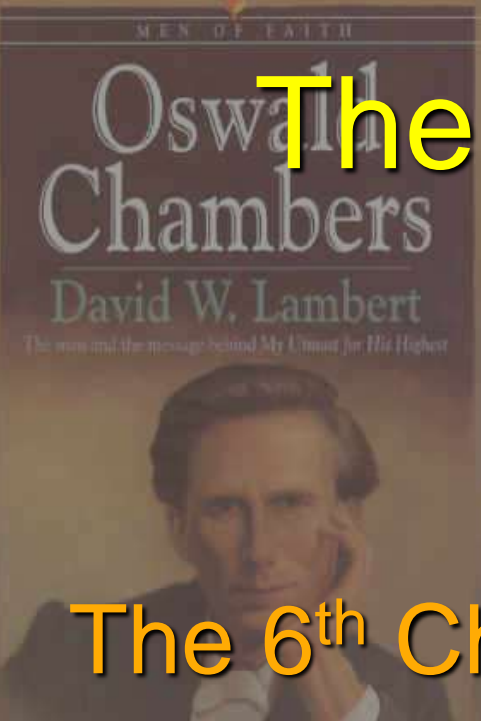
- There were also frequent earthquakes, which meant that the people often had to pack up and leave.
- Consequently the people never got too attached to their surroundings or possessions.



The Letter to the Church at Philadelphia

- Philadelphia was the youngest of the seven cities, and was originally founded as an outpost for Hellenism
 - the spread of the Greek language and culture to the surrounding nations.
 - (Derived from ‘Héllen’, the Greeks' word for themselves)





MEN OF FAITH
Oswald
Chambers

David W. Lambert

The man and the message behind My Utmost for His Highest

The Prophetic History of The Church

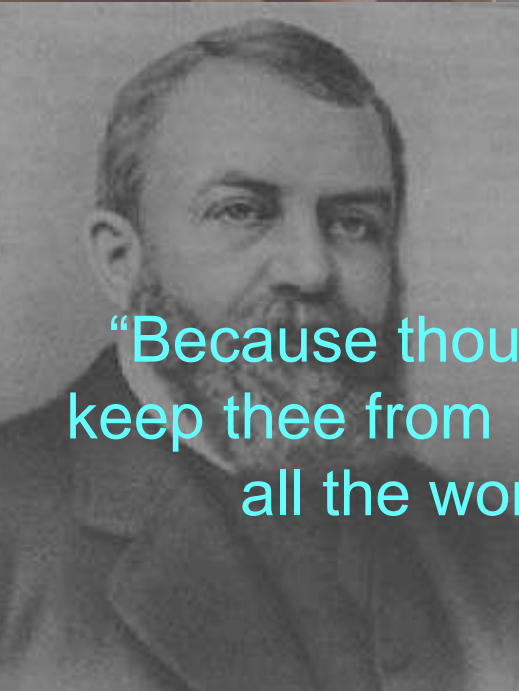


PHILADELPHIA
'brotherly love'

The 6th Church Age - The faithful Church
1750 AD - Rapture

'The Pearl of Great Price'

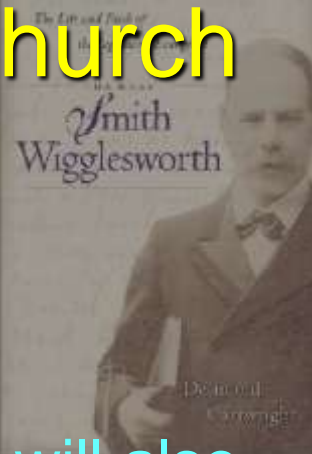
(Cf: Matt 13:45-46)



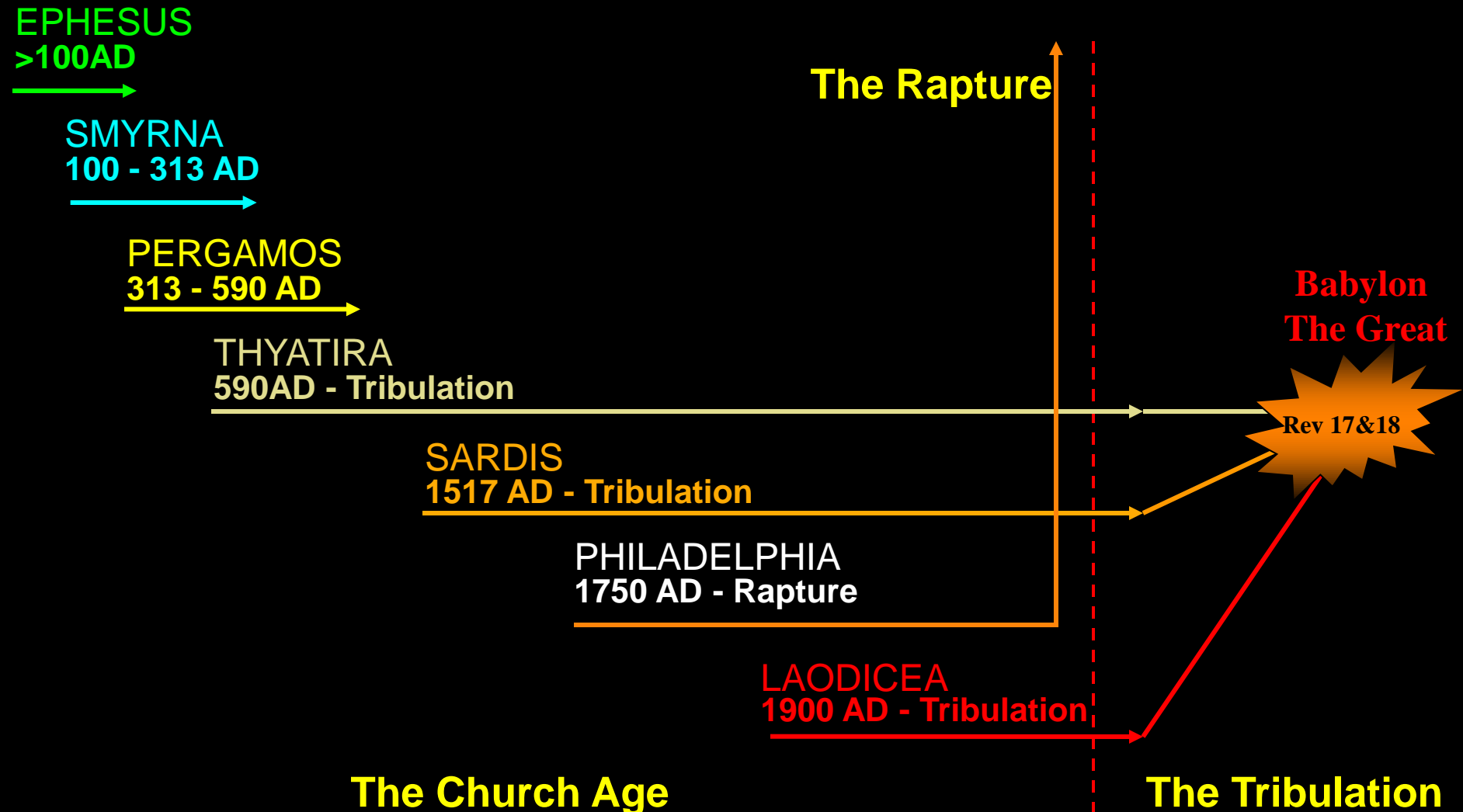
"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience. I will also keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth"

Rev 3:10

(Cf: 1 Thes 1:10 / Luke 21:36)



Prophetic view of the Churches



7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write;
These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he
that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no
man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Revelation 3:7

- Unlike the other letters, where the description of Jesus is drawn from ch 1 of Revelation,
- This description of Jesus comes from Isaiah 22.
 - Ref Eliakim who was Hezekiah's treasurer & over all his house
- This speaks of authority and power
 - See John 14:12-14

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Revelation 3:8

- *“For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries” 1 Cor 16:9*

9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Revelation 3:9

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Revelation 3:10

- Hour = time/season
- This refers to the coming Day of the LORD
– aka Tribulation

¹¹ Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Revelation 3:11

- Again, crowns are promised to those who hold fast.
- Do you realise that this verse implies that someone could take your crown?
- How secure is it?

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:12-13



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 3

The Letter to the Church at Laodicea

Verses 7-13

The Letter to the Church at Laodicea

- Laodicea was an important and wealthy city; that had a large Jewish population;
- Like other cities in the region, it had become a centre for Caesar worship and the worship of Asklepios
 - having a famous medical school there in connection with his temple.

The Letter to the Church at Laodicea

- History records that an earthquake devastated the region in 60 AD, Laodicea refused help from Rome in rebuilding the city, choosing to rely on their own resources.
- The historian Mounce said: ***"It is frequently noted that Laodicea prided itself on three things: financial wealth, an extensive textile industry, and a popular eye-salve which was exported around the world."***

The Letter to the Church at Laodicea

- However, a poor water supply made Laodicea vulnerable to attack through siege
- As a result they became quite accommodating to any potential foe, choosing rather to negotiate and compromise instead of fight.

The Letter to the Church at Laodicea

- The Romans had constructed a six-mile aqueduct from the hot-springs of the nearby mountain town of Hierapolis, down to Laodicea.
- However by the time that the water had got down to Laodicea it was lukewarm.
- A second aqueduct was constructed to bring in the cold spring water from Colossae,
- Once again, by the time that the water had got down to Laodicea it was lukewarm.

The Letter to the Church at Laodicea

- We are living at a time when ‘the church’ has become self sufficient, and is ‘in need of nothing’;
- It has also repeatedly given in to compromise and become ‘lukewarm’ – politically correct, not wanting to rock the boat;
- Now more than ever does the church need His eye salve that she might see things from Jesus’ perspective.

The Letter to the Church at Laodicea

- It is generally agreed that this last church age began at the turn of the last century and will continue until the Second Coming
- But this church will eventually be full of just apostates and so will go into the Tribulation.
- This means that this church will not be raptured
- The call still goes out to any individual 'who has ears to hear',

RICK WARREN

The Prophetic History of The Church

THE PURPOSE DRIVEN

Life

LAODICEA

‘the rule of the people’

The 7th Church Age - The apostate church
1900 AD - Tribulation

‘The Dragnet’

(Cf: Matt 13:47-50)

“....I will spue thee out of my mouth....Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing, and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked”

Rev 3:16-17

Robert Schi

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

Revelation 3:14

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot:
I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold
nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Revelation 3:15-16

- “Has there been a greater curse upon the earth than empty religion? Is there any soul harder to reach than the one who has just enough of Jesus to think they have enough? Laodicea exemplifies empty religion; and tax collectors and harlots were more open to Jesus than scribes and Pharisees”.

David Guzik

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Revelation 3:17

Lübeck Cathedral, 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.

Lübeck Cathedral, Germany

- 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.

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Revelation 3:18

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Revelation 3:19

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Revelation 3:21

Heptadic Design

- 7 Kingdom parables

Sower	Wheat & Tares	Mustard Seed	Leaven	Hidden Treasure	Pearl of great price	Dragnet
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- 7 Letters to the churches

Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
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- 7 Ages of the church

Early Church 32-100AD	Age of persecution 100 – 313AD	Marriage to the world 313 - 590AD	Age of the Papacy 590AD – Tribulation	Age of the Reformation 1517AD - Tribulation	Age of Revival 1750AD – Rapture	Age of compromise 1900 - Tribulation
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- 7 churches written to by Paul

Ephesians	Philippines	Corinthians	Galatians	Romans	Thessalonians	Colossians
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Heptadic Design

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Israel

Espousal *Jer 2:1-2*
38 years *Deut 2:14*

↓
Victory through time of war
cf: Promised Land

↓
Complacency brings defeat *Prov 29:18*
Time of the Judges / Embracing the world

↓
Rejection of Theocracy *1 Sam 8:7*
Beginning of the Monarchy - Saul

↓
Division of Kingdom
Solomon's Apostasy

↙ ↘
Israel (Idolatry) **Judah** (Not perfect)
Good works (*Jer 3:11*) worse than Israel (*Jer 3:10*)

“And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the LORD. And the LORD said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah“
Jeremiah 3:10-11

Israel

Espousal Jer 2:1-2
38 years Deut 2:14



Victory through time of war

“Know that thus saith the LORD of the king that sitteth upon the throne of David, and of all the people that dwelleth in this city, and of your brethren that are not gone forth with you into captivity; Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will send upon them the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, and will make them like vile figs, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil.”

Jeremiah 29:16-17

Israel (Idolatry) Judah (Not perfect)
Good works (Jer 3:11) worse than Israel (Jer 3:10)



Judgment foretold Jer 25:9
Faithful taken to Babylon Jer 29:4-10

Israel

Espousal Jer 2:1-2
38 years Deut 2:14

Victory through time of war

*“For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, **Peace, peace**; when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD. I will surely consume them, saith the LORD: there shall be no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade; and the things that I have given them shall pass away from them”*

Jeremiah 8:11-13

Faithful taken to Babylon Jer 29:4-10

Apostates / False Prophets Destroyed
Jer 52:12-13 Jerusalem burned with fire

Israel

1

Espousal *Jer 2:1-2*
38 years *Deut 2:14*

2

Victory through time of war
cf: Promised Land

3

Complacency brings defeat *Prov 29:18*
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Revelation 3:22

An open scroll with Hebrew text, illuminated by a warm light, set against a dark, textured background. The scroll is unrolled, showing two pages of text. The lighting is dramatic, with a bright glow emanating from the center of the scroll, creating a sense of revelation and divine light. The background is dark and textured, possibly representing a cave or a hidden place.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

To be continued...



calvary
chapel
portsmouth

www.calvaryportsmouth.co.uk