



To objectives:

- 1) To encourage you in your Faith
- 2) To give you a greater love of the Word of God!

Judgment is Coming

- 'Judgment' occurs over 300x in the Bible
- Over 100x it points to a 'specific season of judgment'
- 'The day of the LORD' (25x)

The Day of the Lord

- Isaiah speaks of the coming Tribulation
- It's a time of God's wrath and judgment being poured out on a wicked, unbelieving and Christ-rejecting world
- It will be ushered in with 'labour pains'
 - Wars, Rumours of Wars, Earthquakes, Famines, Pestilence
- But, it will commence with the church!

Judgment is Coming!

17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

1 Peter 4:17

“For the (specific) season of judgment will commence at the house of God”

- Why will it come? **Because of apostasy!**
- When will it come? **In the time of harvest!
In the final church age!**

When Will Judgment Come?

³⁰ Let both grow together **until** the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together **first** the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Matthew 13:30

Judgment is Coming!

Two Questions:

- What do we mean by 'the final church age'?
- What happens to the 'true Church' aka 'the Wheat' that we are told will be gathered into His 'barn'?

The Judge of all the earth

²³ And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

²⁴ Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?

²⁵ That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

Genesis 18:23-25

The Righteous Hidden

²⁰ Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.

²¹ For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

Isaiah 26:20-21

The Righteous Hidden

³ Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which
have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek
meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the
LORD's anger.

Zephaniah 2:3

- Who are the meek of the earth?
- Jesus said the meek would inherit the earth! *Matt 5:5*
- Who is it that inherits the earth?
- The Church! *1 Cor 15:50 / Heb 6:12 / 2 Tim 2:12 / Rev 5:10 & 20:6*
- Thus, this promise to be '*hid in the day of the LORD's anger*' is a promise to the Church (*Jew & Gentile*)

The Church – comprising Jews and Gentiles

A Promise to The Church

³⁴ And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

³⁵ For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

³⁶ Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Luke 21:34-36

Judgment is Coming!

Two Questions:

- What do we mean by 'the final church age'?
- What happens to the 'true Church' aka 'the Wheat' that we are told will be gathered into His 'barn'?
- We see that scripture clearly indicates that the true Church (*"Wheat"/Meek/Righteous etc.*) are promised a way of 'escaping' / being removed from the coming judgment



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

II ...What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the **seven churches** which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Revelation 1:11

- Seven = complete
- Why these seven?
- Why not Antioch or Jerusalem?



The Seven Churches



The Seven Churches

Four levels of meaning

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

Rev 1:3

“.....the words of this prophecy”

The Seven Churches

- In the order these churches are given (and the specific detail each letter contains for each individual church) they foretell the history of the church from the time of the early church to the time of the Second Coming!



Heptadic Design

(pattens of seven)

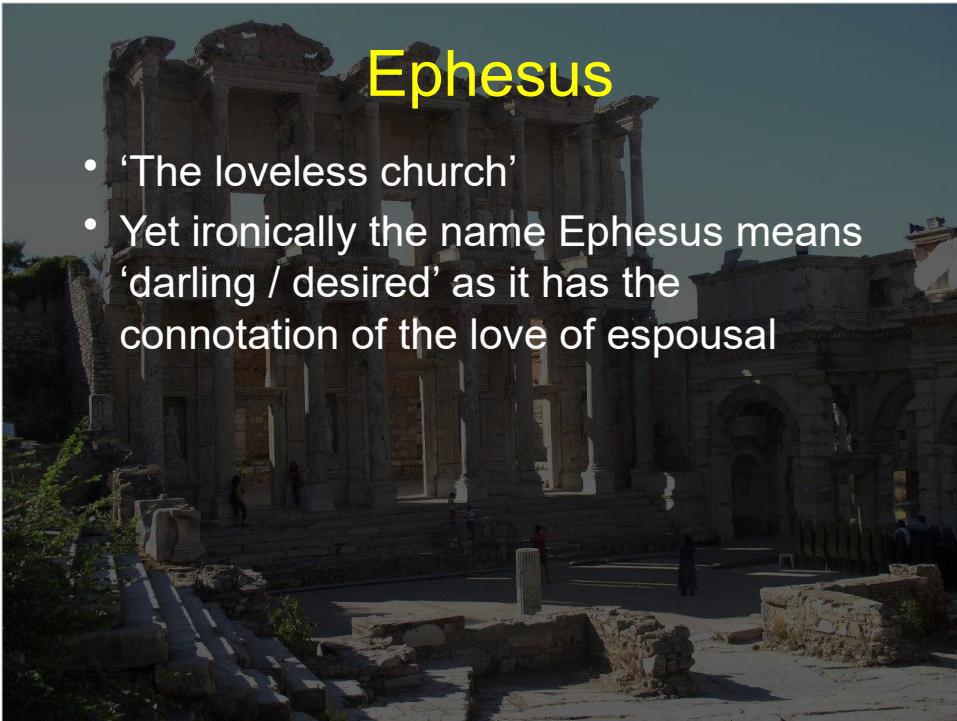
- 7 Letters in Revelation 2&3
 - Ephesus / Smyrna / Pergamos / Thyatira / Sardis / Philadelphia / Laodicea
- 7 Parables in Matthew 13
 - Sower / Tares / Mustard Seed / Leaven / Hidden Treasure / Pearl of Great Price / Dragnet
- 7 Churches that Paul wrote to
 - Ephesians / Philippians / Corinthians / Galatians / Romans / Thessalonians / Colossians
- 7 distinct ages of the nation of Israel

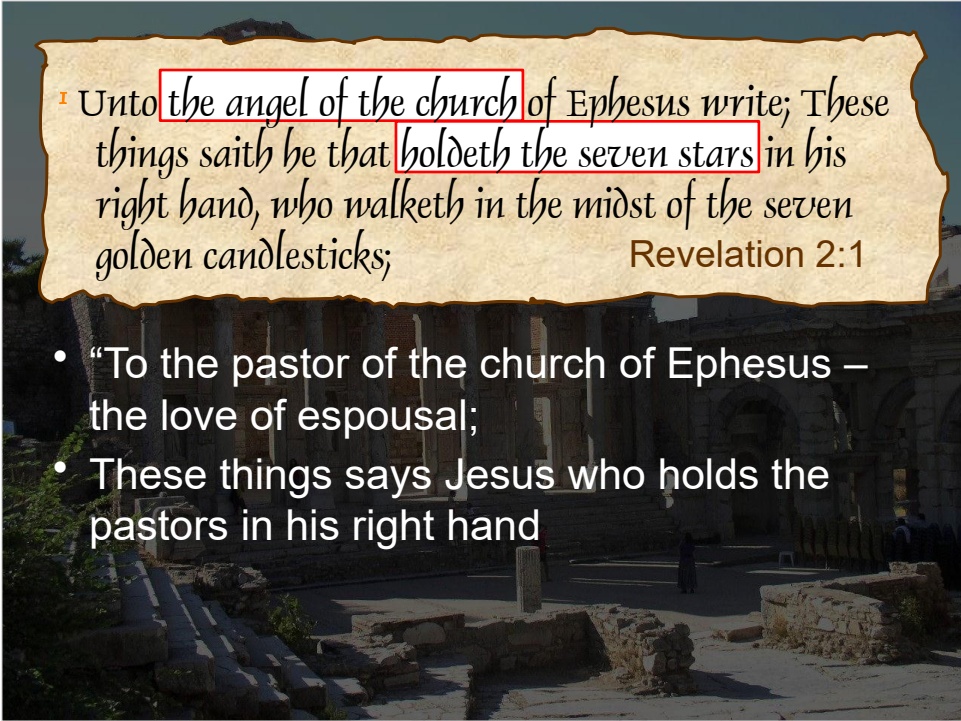
Letters to Ephesus



Ephesus

- 'The loveless church'
- Yet ironically the name Ephesus means 'darling / desired' as it has the connotation of the love of espousal





Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

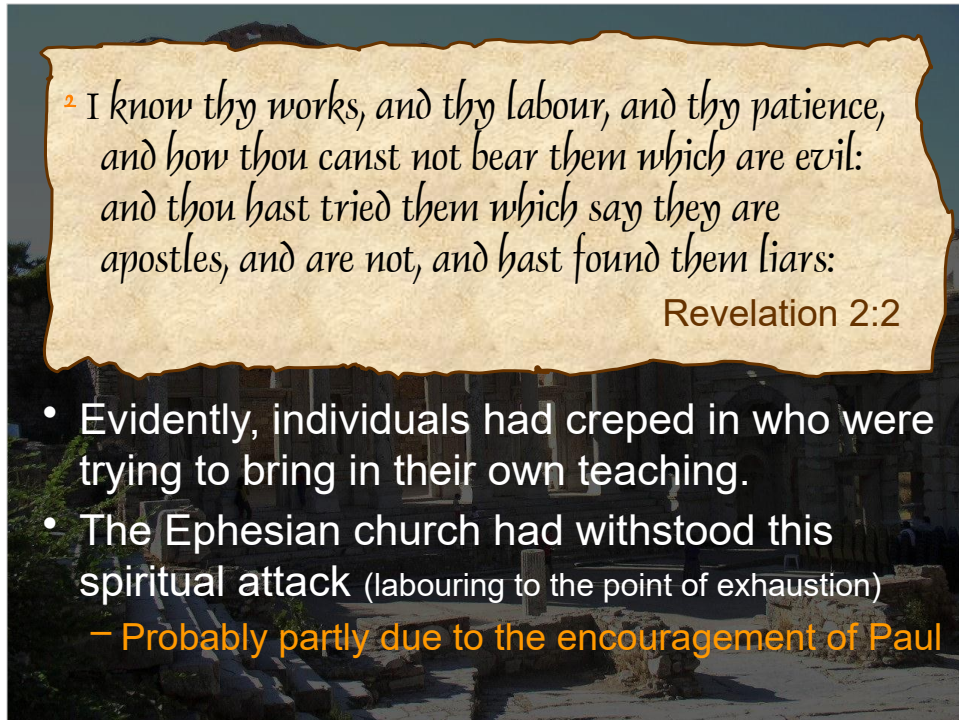
Revelation 2:1

- “To the pastor of the church of Ephesus – the love of espousal;
- These things says Jesus who holds the pastors in his right hand



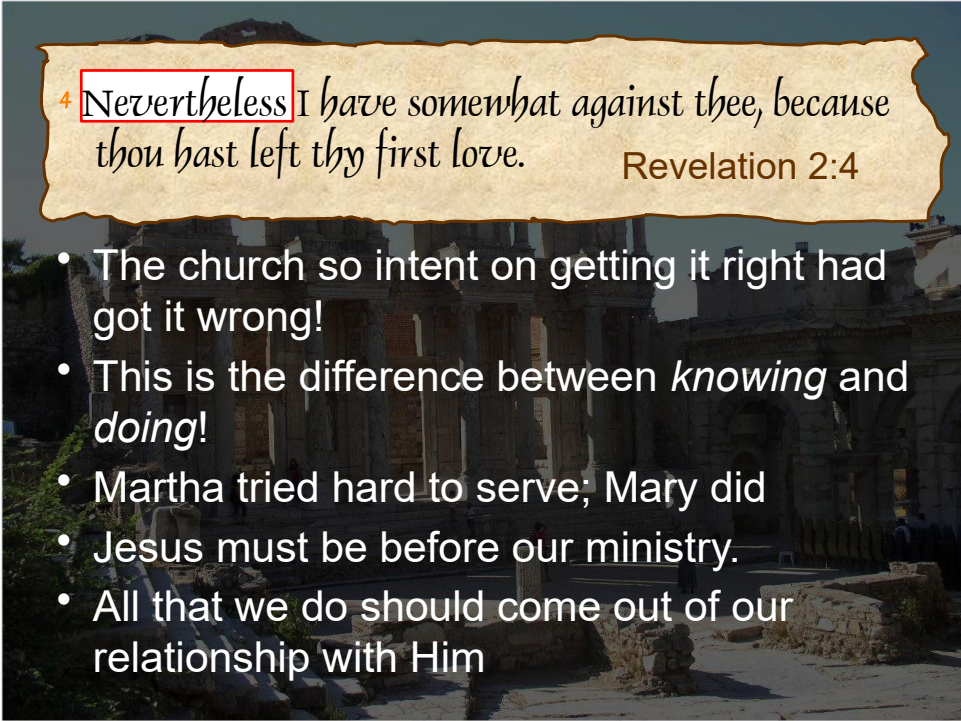
Pastors

- Jesus has given pastors to serve the church
Eph 4:11
- They are not to be 'Lords' *Gr. katakurieuo* _
lit, to exercise dominion – *1 Peter 5:3*
- They are to be *Gr. 'poimen'* lit. shepherds
that tend & feed His sheep – *John 21:15-17*
- Pastors & teaches will receive a stricter
judgment because of the influence they
have over His people *James 3:1*



Gail Erwin, talking about church discipline said that we should restore the sinner, remove the person that causes divisions and reconcile with the person we have personal problems with.

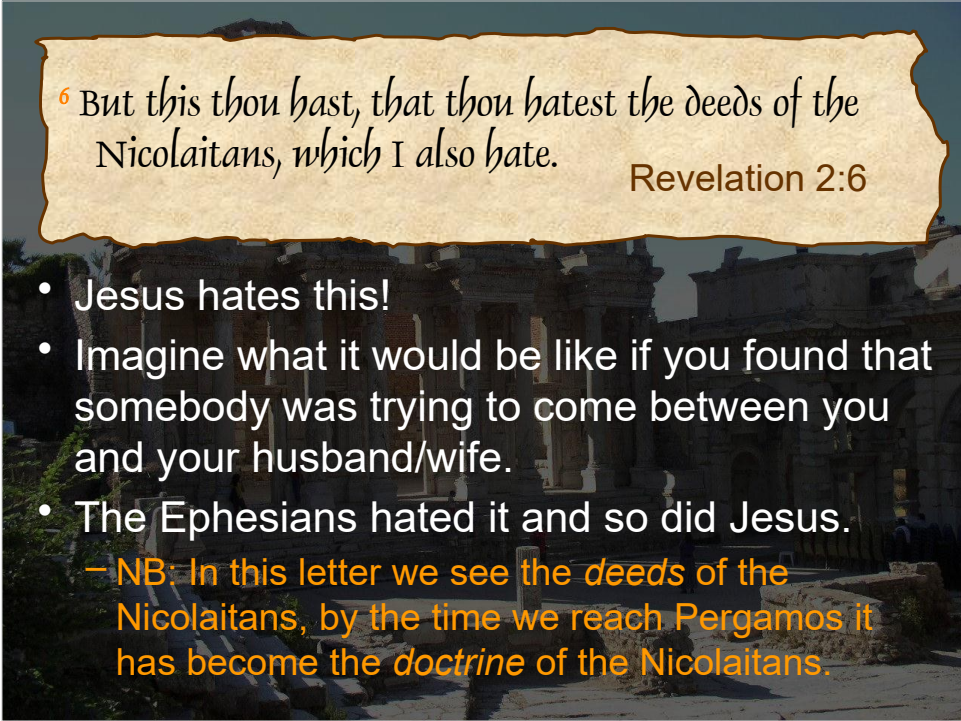
But he then added that sadly many churches have it backward. We restore the person that causes division, we remove the sinner, and we never reconcile with the person we have problems with!



⁴ Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Revelation 2:4

- The church so intent on getting it right had got it wrong!
- This is the difference between *knowing* and *doing*!
- Martha tried hard to serve; Mary did
- Jesus must be before our ministry.
- All that we do should come out of our relationship with Him

Martha Luke 10:41



⁶ But *this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

Revelation 2:6

- Jesus hates this!
- Imagine what it would be like if you found that somebody was trying to come between you and your husband/wife.
- The Ephesians hated it and so did Jesus.
 - NB: In this letter we see the *deeds* of the Nicolaitans, by the time we reach Pergamos it has become the *doctrine* of the Nicolaitans.



The Prophetic History of The Church

EPHESUS

‘love of espousal’

1st Church Age

The early Church

32AD – 100AD

‘The Seed is Sown’

(Cf: Matt 13:3-9)

“Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and
repent, and do the first works; or else I will come to thee
quickly, and will remove thy candle stick out of his place”

Rev 2:5

Letters to Ephesus

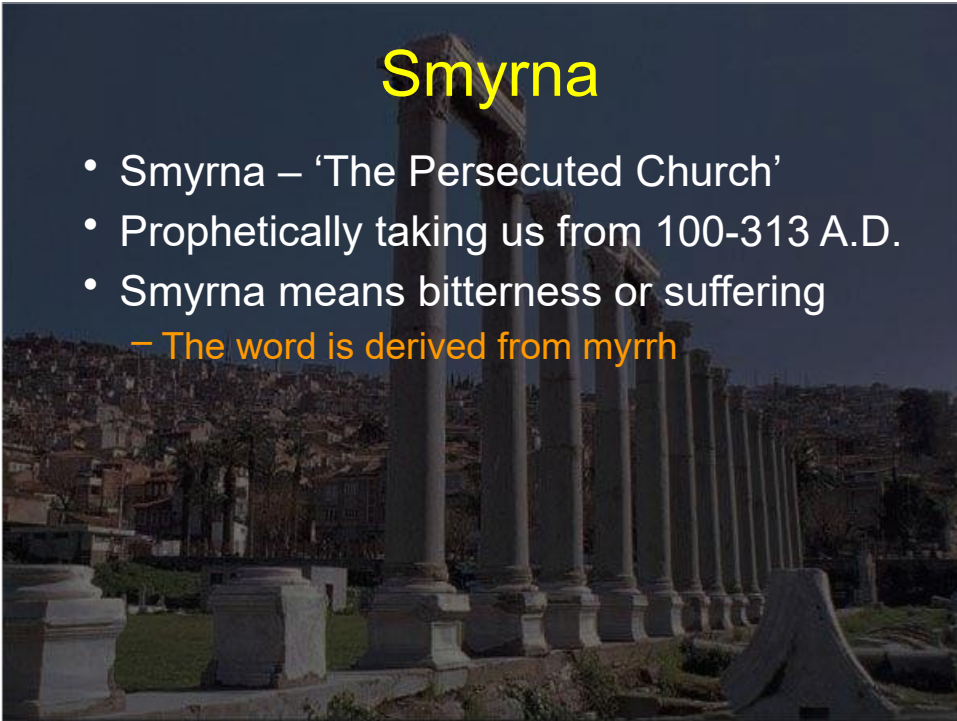


Letter to Smyrna



Smyrna

- Smyrna – ‘The Persecuted Church’
- Prophetically taking us from 100-313 A.D.
- Smyrna means bitterness or suffering
 - The word is derived from myrrh



Smyrna

- Tertullian records that the church became the scapegoat if anything went wrong.
- *“If the Tiber river overflows it’s banks, or if the Nile has remained in it’s bed, if the sky has become still, or if the earth in commotion, if death has made it’s devastations, or famine it’s afflictions, the cry of Rome is always: this is the fault of the Christians!”*

*American Convention for World Peace,
where it was stated that:*
***“The greatest roadblock to world peace
is the fundamental Christians” –***

Smyrna

- The name Smyrna comes from the same root as Myrrh
 - ...which gives off a sweet smell when it is crushed, and it is used for embalming.
- What a sweet smell it must have been for the Lord as His servants chose Him even at the cost of their lives.
- When you crush a lemon you get lemon juice; an apple, apple juice – so when you crush a Christian you should get Christ!

The Prophetic History of The Church

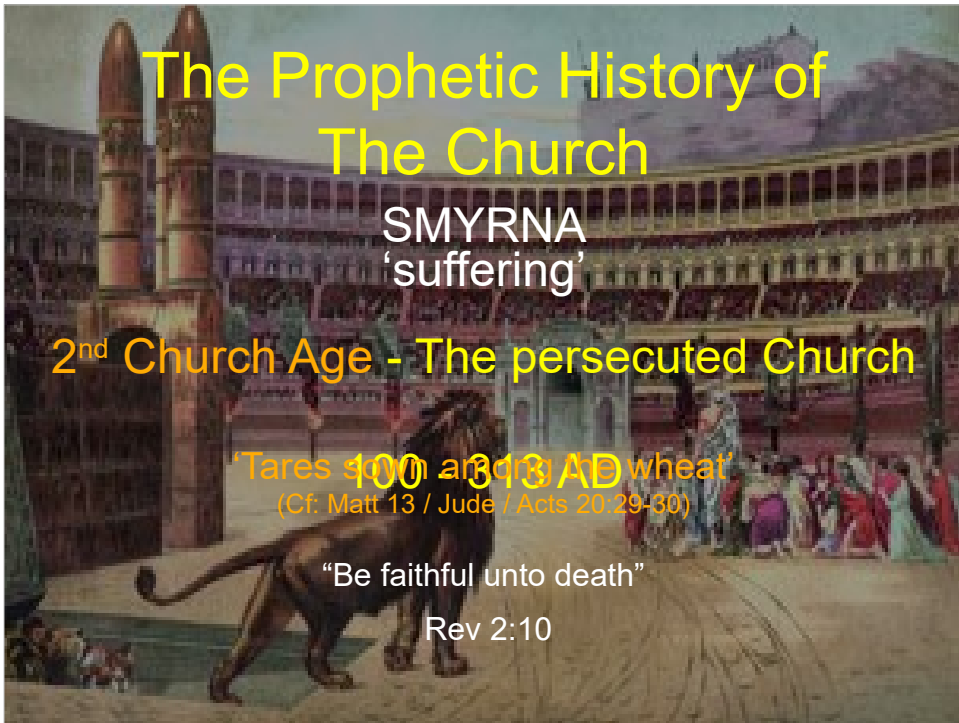
SMYRNA
'suffering'

2nd Church Age - The persecuted Church

100-313 AD
'Tares sown among the wheat'
(Cf: Matt 13 / Jude / Acts 20:29-30)

"Be faithful unto death"

Rev 2:10



Letter to Smyrna



Letter to Pergamum





Pergamos

- The name 'Pergamos' means mixed or elevated marriage.
 - Pergos – berg (German) = castle or something that is lifted up.
 - *The word 'Perverted' derived from this*
 - Gammos – marriage (as in polygamy, monogamy etc.)



Pergamos

- The church had become elevated through its marriage to Rome,
- Now the influences of the pagan religions had come under its roof.
- One day, the pagan priests were worshipping their idols in their temples...
- ...the next, they are told that they must convert to Christianity or die.
- The church, so long the oppressed, suddenly became the oppressor with its newly found political power.



Pergamos

- The Christians then started to use the lavish pagan temples and turn them into 'churches'.
- As more churches began to be built, they were modelled on the existing pagan temples, but also began to become even more elaborate.
- This was good news for architecture but bad for true Christianity!



Pergamos

- Now the buildings themselves became the focus;
 - a practice that persists even to this day.
- It is because of this that so many people associate 'church' with a building and not with the people who have left all to follow Jesus Christ.

Pergamos

- This was one of the worst times in the history of the Church, far from setting their minds on heavenly things, the Church had embraced the world and allowed countless compromises, including the watering down of the Word of God.

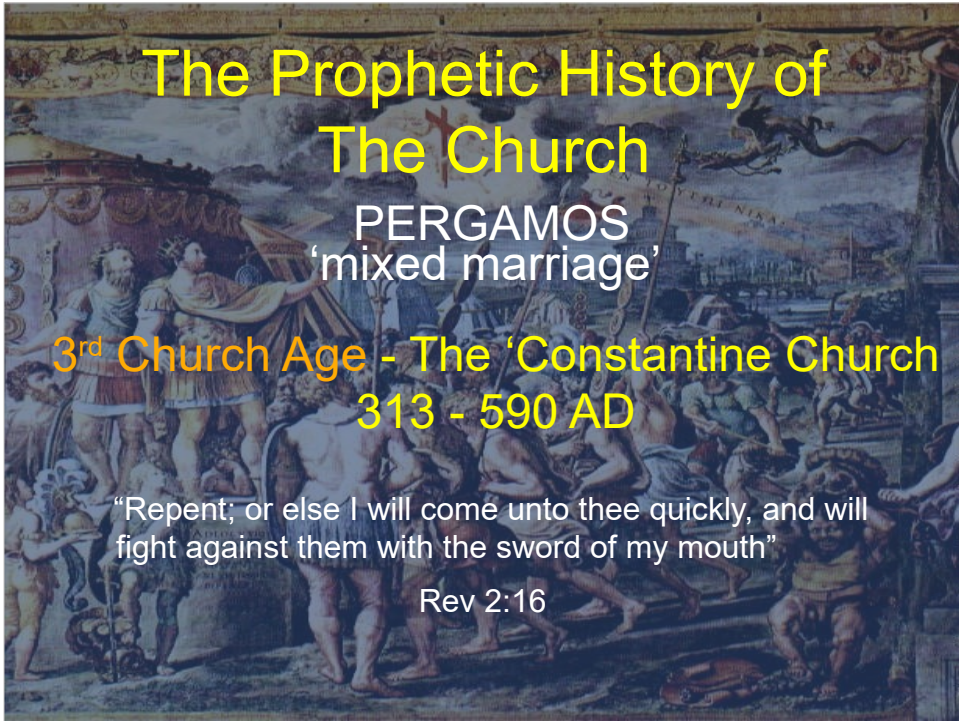
The Prophetic History of The Church

PERGAMOS
'mixed marriage'

3rd Church Age - The 'Constantine Church'
313 - 590 AD

"Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will
fight against them with the sword of my mouth"

Rev 2:16



Letter to Pergamum



Letter to Thyatira



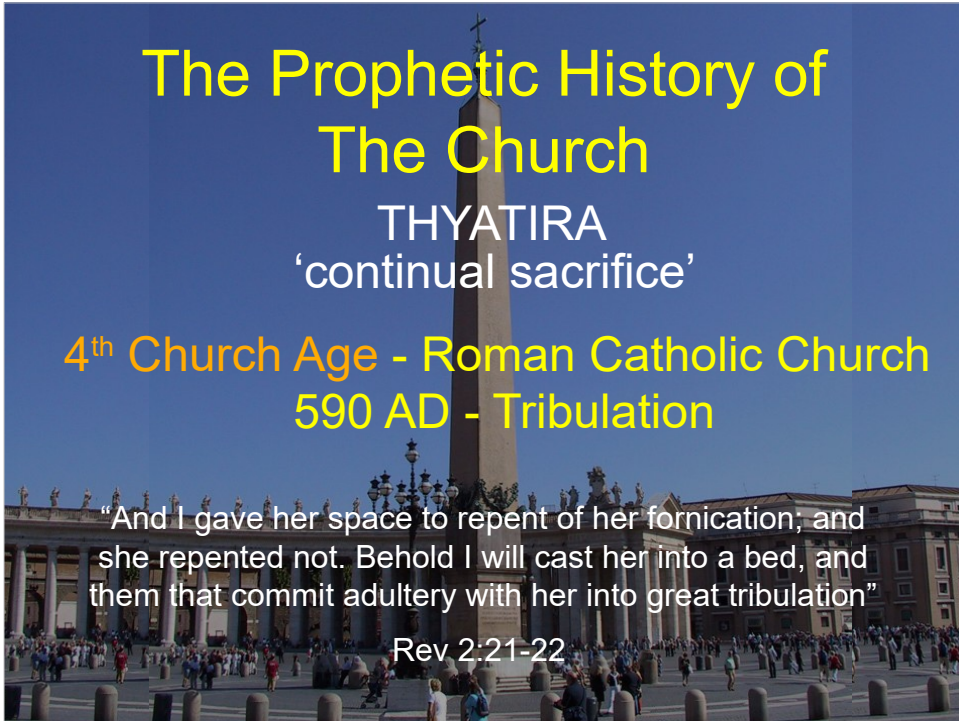
The Prophetic History of The Church

THYATIRA
'continual sacrifice'

4th Church Age - Roman Catholic Church
590 AD - Tribulation

"And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation"

Rev 2:21-22



Letter to Thyatira



Letter to Sardis



The Prophetic History of The Church

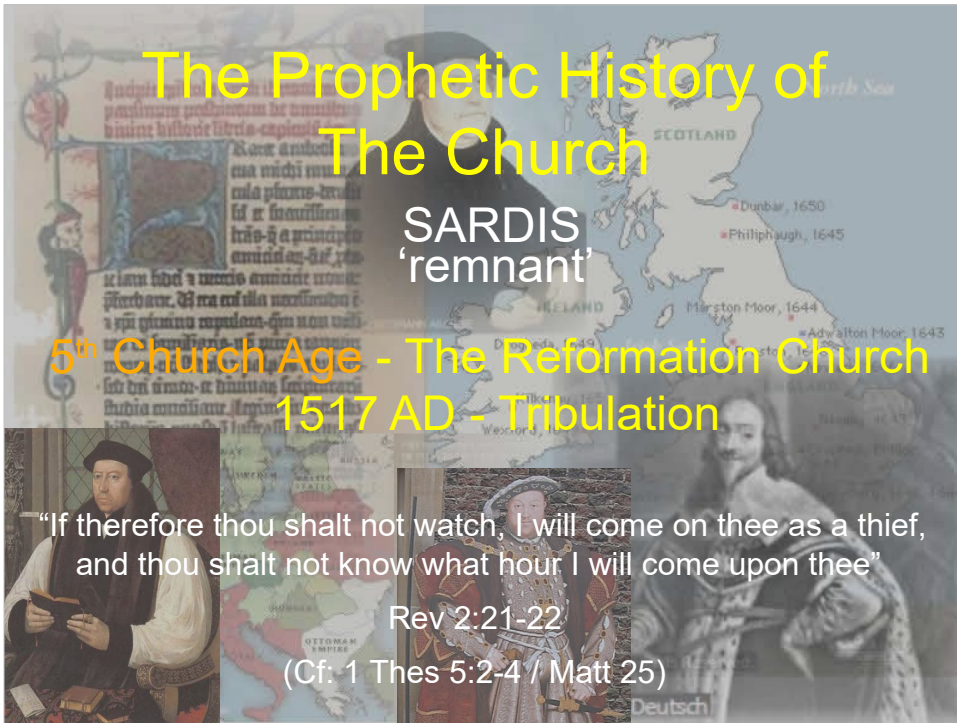
SARDIS
'remnant'

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

"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)

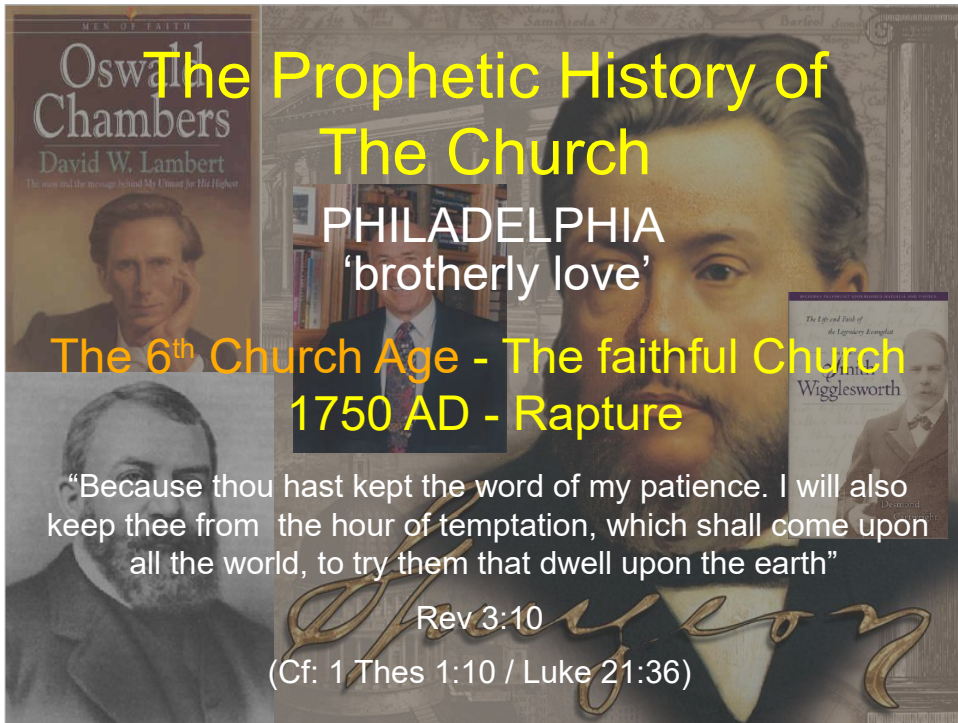


Letter to Sardis



Letter to Philadelphia





The Prophetic History of The Church

PHILADELPHIA
'brotherly love'

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

"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)

Letter to Philadelphia



Letter to Laodicea



RICK WARREN

THE
PURPOSE
DRIVEN[®]

Life

The Prophetic History of The Church

LAODICEA

'the rule of the people'

The 7th Church Age - The apostate church

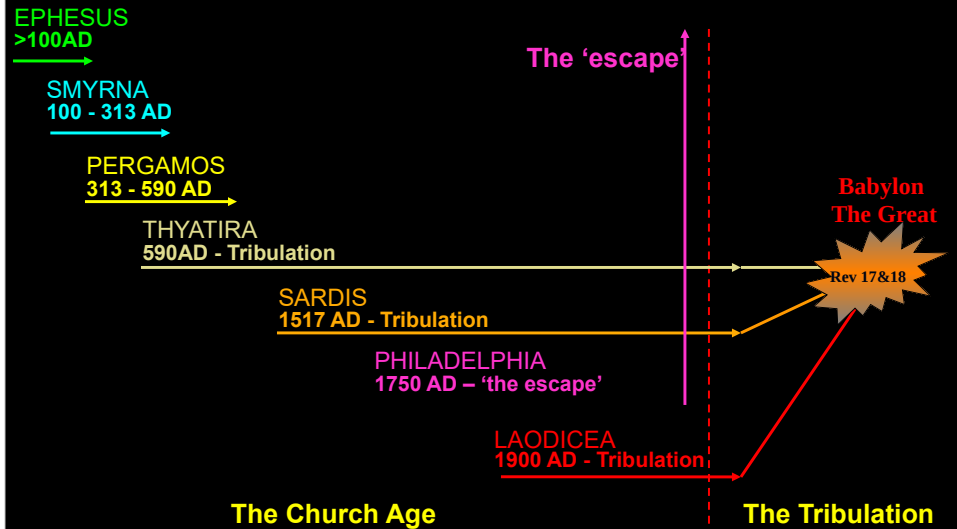
1900 AD - Tribulation

"...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

Prophetic view of the Churches





Israel

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

*"Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith
the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth,
the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me
in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown"*

Jeremiah 2:1-2

Jer 2:1-2

1 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

2 Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown.

KJV

Israel

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



Victory through time of war
cf: Promised Land

"Be strong and of a good courage"
Joshua 1:6

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

"And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites to tribute, and did not utterly drive them out" Then the Angel of the LORD... said...you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.' "
Judges 1:28, 2:1-3

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

"And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them"
1 Samuel 8:7

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

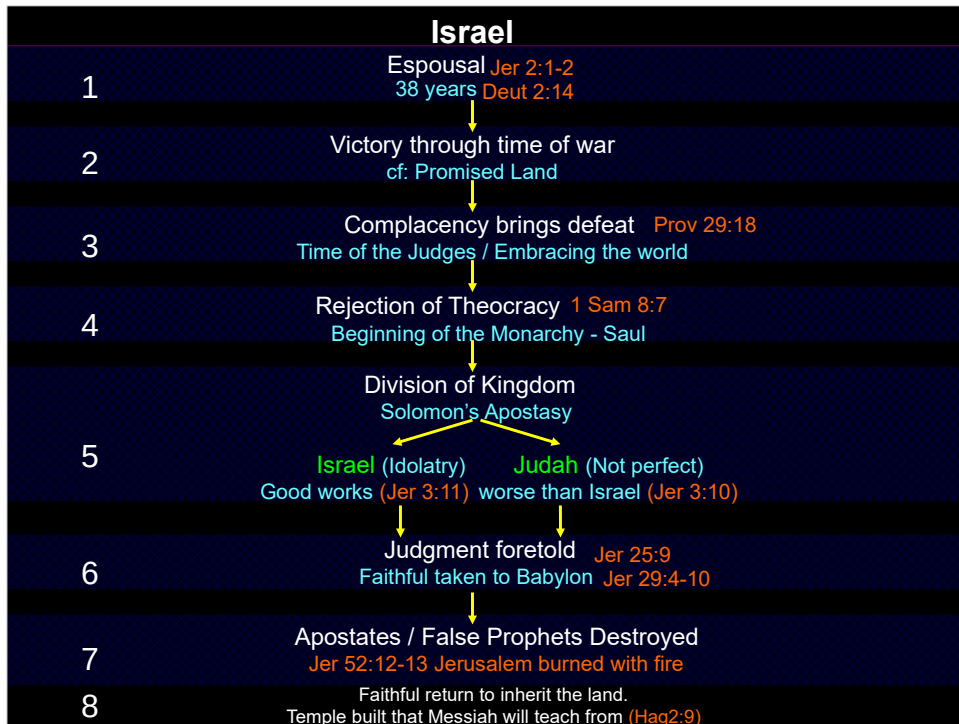
"Know that thus saith the LORD of the king that sitteth upon the throne of David, and of all the people that dwelleth in this city, and of your brethren that are not gone forth with you into captivity; Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will send upon them the sword, the famine, and the pestilence,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

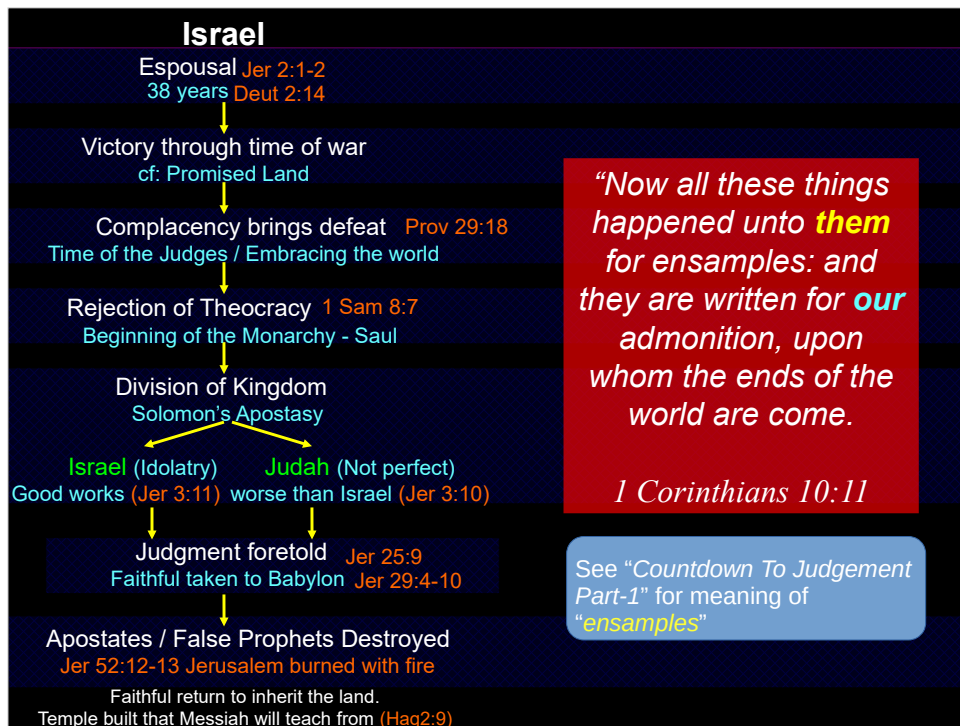
Jeremiah 29:16-17

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	Church
Espousal Jer 2:1-2 38 years Deut 2:14	Espousal Rev 2:4 38 years / Ephesus AD32-70
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)	
Judgment foretold Jer 25:9 Faithful taken to Babylon Jer 29:4-10	
Apostates / False Prophets Destroyed Jer 52:12-13 Jerusalem burned with fire	
Faithful return to inherit the land. Temple built that Messiah will teach from (Hag2:9)	

Israel	Church
Espousal Jer 2:1-2 38 years Deut 2:14	Espousal Rev 2:4 38 years / Ephesus AD32-70
Victory through time of war cf: Promised Land	Victory through suffering cf: Smyrna
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)	
Judgment foretold Jer 25:9 Faithful taken to Babylon Jer 29:4-10	
Apostates / False Prophets Destroyed Jer 52:12-13 Jerusalem burned with fire	
Faithful return to inherit the land. Temple built that Messiah will teach from (Hag2:9)	











Israel		Church	
1	Espousal Jer 2:1-2 38 years Deut 2:14	Espousal Rev 2:4 38 years / Ephesus AD32-70	
2	Victory through time of war cf: Promised Land	Victory through suffering cf: Smyrna	
3	Complacency brings defeat Time of the Judges / Embracing the world	Complacency brings defeat cf: Pergamos/Constantine-Married to the world	Prov 29:18
4	Rejection of Theocracy 1 Sam 8:7 Beginning of the Monarchy - Saul	Rejection of Theocracy Rev 2:6 Beginning of the Papacy / cf:Thyatira	
Division of Kingdom Solomon's Apostasy		Division of Church Catholic Apostasy / cf:Sardis	
5	Israel (Idolatry) Judah (Not perfect) Good works (Jer 3:11) worse than Israel (Jer 3:10)	Catholic (Idolatry) Protestant (Not perfect) Good works (Rev 2:19) Nothing good said	(Rev 3:2)
6	Judgment foretold Jer 25:9 Faithful taken to Babylon Jer 29:4-10	Judgment foretold 2 Pet2:1-2 Faithful Escape / cf: Philadelphia Rev 3:10	
7	Apostates / False Prophets Destroyed Jer 52:12-13 Jerusalem burned with fire	Apostates / False Prophets Destroyed cf:Laodicea "Lord, Lord...I never knew you" Matt 7:22-23 'burned with fire' Matt 13:30 / Rev 17 & 18	
8	Faithful return to inherit the land. Temple built that Messiah will teach from (Hag2:9)	Faithful return to inherit the land. Temple built that Messiah will teach from (Is2:2-3)	



To objectives:

- 1)To encourage you in your Faith
- 2)To give you a greater love of the Word of God!

