



The Revealing

**Of Blessings to Seven Churches
(For our Benefit)**

Introduction

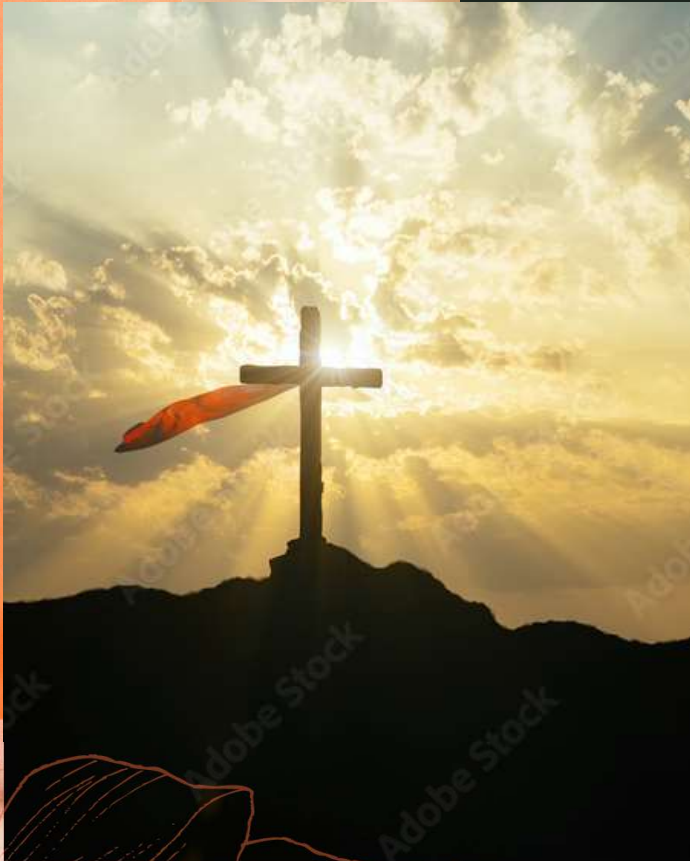
Today -

- I am the first and the last, the living One; and I was dead.
- Behold, I am alive forevermore.
- Seven Stars, Seven Lampstands.
- Letters to the Churches:
 - Ephesus
 - Smyrna
 - Pergamum
 - Thyatira
 - Sardis
 - Philadelphia
 - Laodicea



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Jesus Christ



In Revelation Chapter 1, Jesus Christ is portrayed:

- I am the first and the last (!!!)
- ...the living One; and I was dead.
- behold, I am alive forevermore.
- and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

Son of Man / Son of God



Do Not Love the World

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God continues to live forever.

[1 John 2:15 -17]

See to it that there is no one who takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception in accordance with human tradition, in accordance with the elementary principles of the world, rather than in accordance with Christ.

[Colossians 2:8]

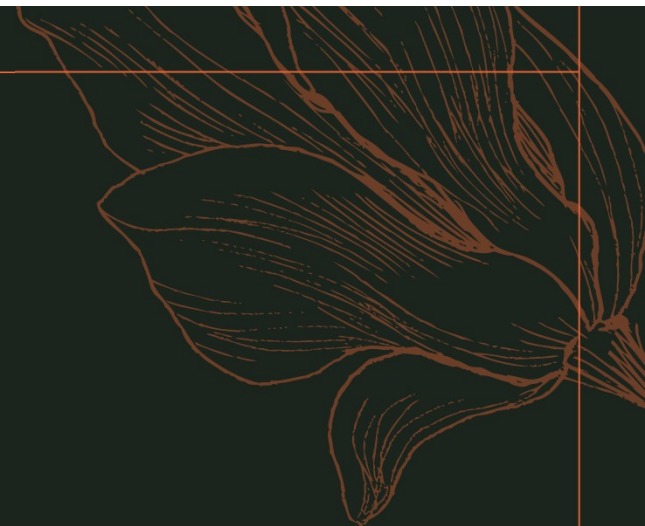
Son of Man / Son of God



The One who holds the
seven stars in His right
hand, the One who walks
among the seven golden
lampstands, says this:

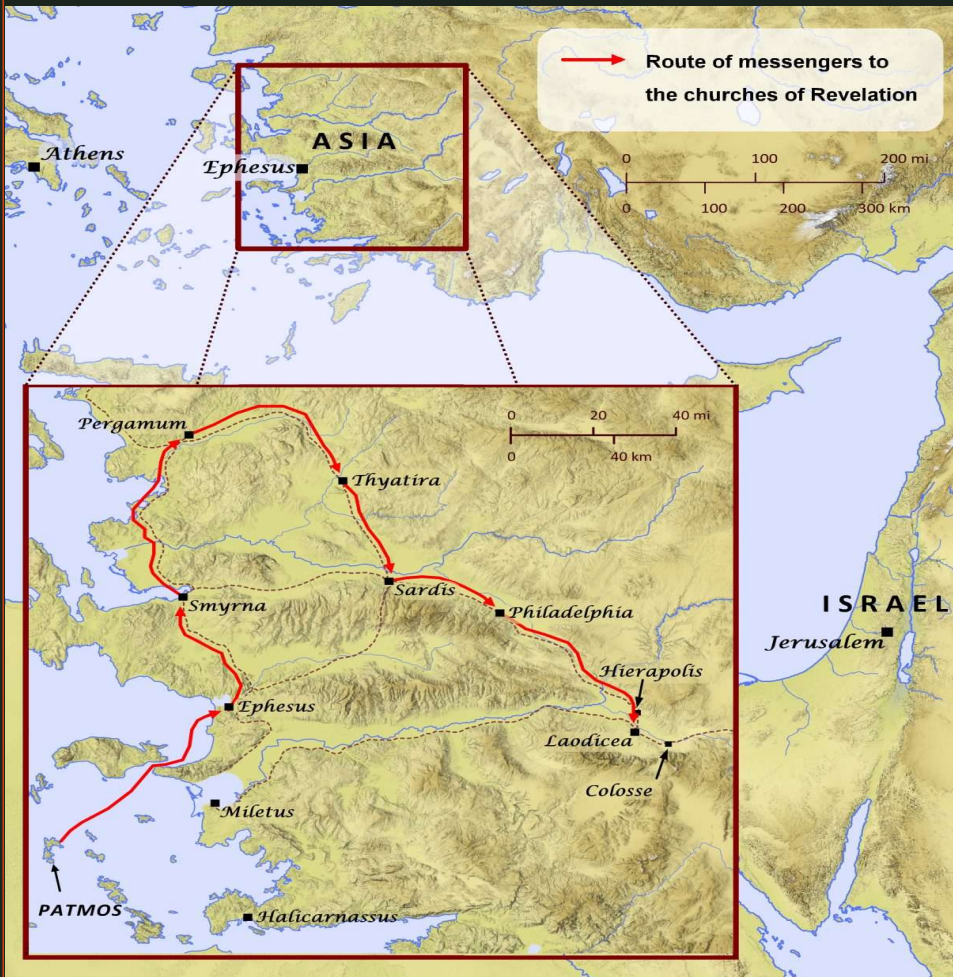


[Revelation 2: 1 NASB]



The Revealing

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The Seven Church Cities of Revelation

The Island of Patmos was designated by Roman authorities to be where the Apostle John was to be kept. He was not permitted to leave the Island.

The seven churches communicated with John and provided for John by bringing food and other needed items. Messengers from each of seven churches participated. In turn, John would send back messages to the churches via the messengers.

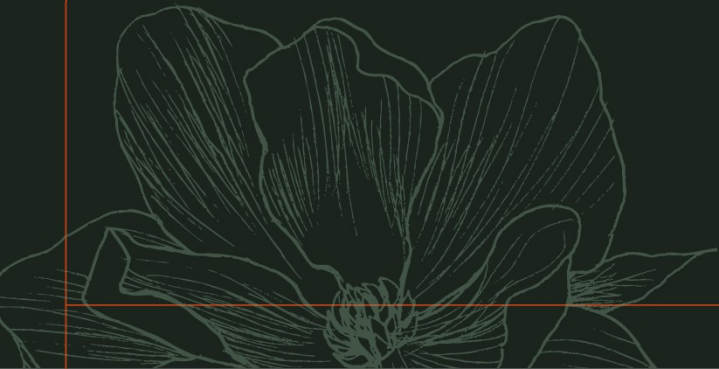
This scroll “The Revealing” from John was a great work that Jesus provided.

The Revealing

Ephesus

Ephesus began as an Ionian Greek settlement built in the 10th century BC on the earlier Bronze Age site of Apasa, capital of Arzawa.

It grew into one of the most important cities of Ionia and later the Roman province of Asia and became a major Roman metropolis as a port city famous for the Temple of Artemis (Diana), the Library of Celsus



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Smyrna

Under Roman rule, Smyrna became a wealthy, strategically important city, known for its loyalty to Rome and participation in the imperial cult

Temples to the goddess Roma and Emperor Tiberius highlighted the tension between civic loyalty and Christian faith, as believers refused to worship Caesar, often facing poverty, exclusion, and persecution



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Pergamum

Pergamum, also known as Pergamon, was located in western Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey, perched on a steep hill overlooking the Caicus plain and near the Aegean Sea

The city was founded in the 3rd century BC by the Attalid dynasty and became the capital of the Kingdom of Pergamon

Its strategic location along land and sea trade routes contributed to its prosperity, attracting pilgrims, merchants, and scholars from across the Mediterranean.

The city was a center of learning and culture, boasting a library that rivaled Alexandria's, with over 200,000 volumes. Pergamum was also known for its impressive architecture, including the Great Altar of Zeus, the Temple of Trajan, and a large theater.



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Thyatira

Thyatira was an ancient city in Lydia, Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), strategically located on the road between Pergamum and Sardis, which made it a vital center for trade and commerce .

The city was renowned for its guilds of dyers, weavers, tanners, and bronze workers, with a particular fame for producing purple dye, a luxury item in the ancient world

Founded as a military outpost by the Seleucid Empire and later incorporated into the Roman province of Asia, Thyatira had a rich commercial and cultural life, including temples dedicated to local deities and organized artisan guilds that wielded significant social influence



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Sardis

Sardis, located in modern-day Sart, Turkey, was founded around the 7th century BCE by King Gyges of the Mermnad dynasty and became the capital of the ancient kingdom of Lydia.

The city thrived due to its strategic location along trade routes and its access to natural resources, including gold from the Pactolus River.

Sardis was renowned for its wealth, impressive acropolis, and the temple of Artemis (Diana). Its fortifications were formidable, built on a steep hill with sheer cliffs on three sides, yet the city fell twice due to carelessness: first to Cyrus of Persia in 546 BC and later to Antiochus III of Syria.



Philadelphia

Philadelphia was strategically positioned on the road connecting Sardis and Laodicea, making it an important center in Lydia. Despite its small size, it gained prominence due to its religious and cultural importance. The city was part of the Kingdom of Pergamon, later incorporated into the Roman Republic in 133 BC, and became a notable Roman city.

It was sometimes called "Little Athens" during the Roman period because of its temples and festivals



The Revealing

Laodicia

Laodicea on the Lycus, located near modern Denizli, Turkey, was established around 261 BC by Antiochus II Theos, king of the Seleucid Empire, and named after his wife, Laodice I

The city was built on a plateau and occupied a strategic position on major trade routes connecting Ephesus, Sardis, and Syria. Before the Seleucid foundation, the site had earlier settlements and was known as Rhoas and Diospolis (“City of Zeus”),



A REMINDER : The First Blessing -

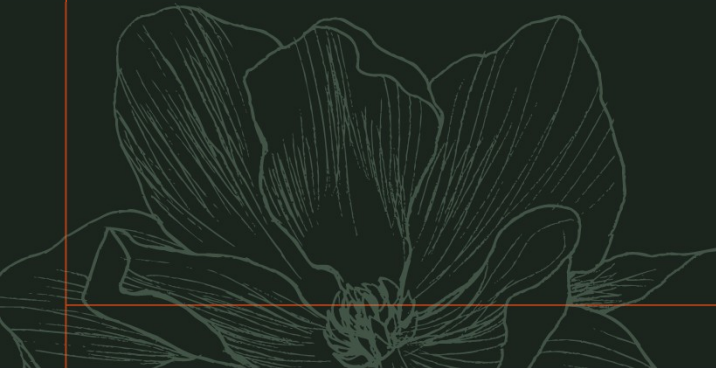
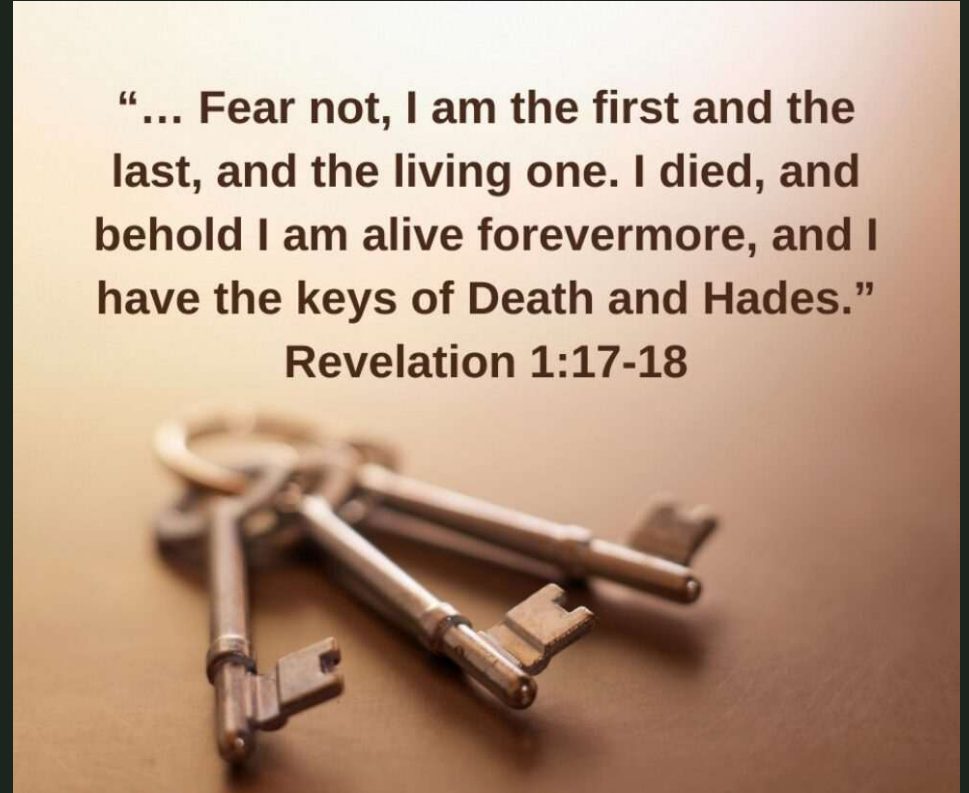


Blessed is the one who reads, and those who hear the words of the prophecy and keep the things which are written in it; for the time is near. [Revelation 1:3]

Do Not Be Afraid

“... Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

Revelation 1:17-18



Thank you

Deeper Digs for Next Week:

1. Read Revelation Chapters 3 & 4
2. Knowing some history... See the significance of Jesus' words in seeing the history presented?
3. Again see what Jesus says is positive about these churches. List them.
4. What does Jesus say is lacking in these churches. List these as well.

