

God Is Government

Isaiah 33:22

**“For the LORD is our judge, the
LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is
our KING; he will save us.”**

**TEACHINGS OF YESHUA HAMASHIACH
BIBLICAL AND WORLD HISTORY MASTERCLASS**

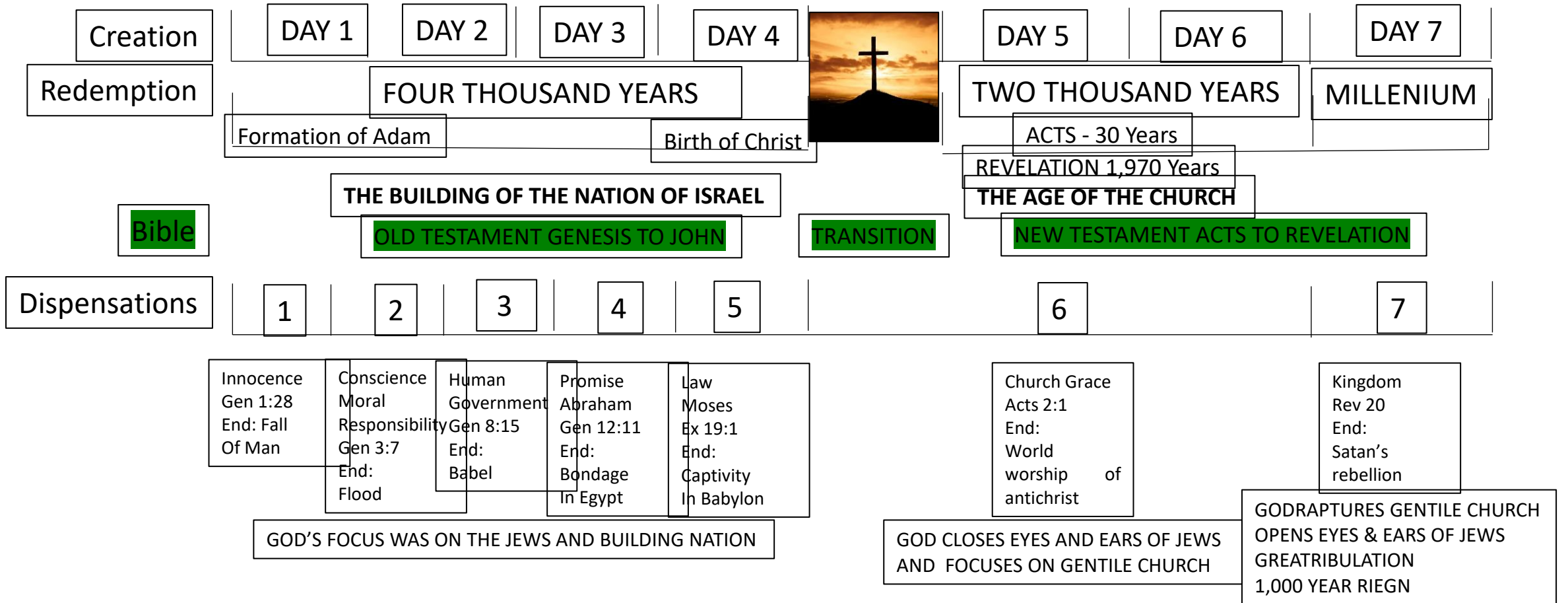
A Study of Revelation

Letter to the Church at Laodicea

Chapter 3

May 2, 2024

CREATION (GENESIS) – REDEMPTION (REVELATION) TIMEFRAME



The Seven Churches

- The seven churches are
 - ❖ Ephesus
 - ❖ Smyrna
 - ❖ Pergamos
 - ❖ Thyatira
 - ❖ Sardis
 - ❖ Philadelphia
 - ❖ Laodicea
- These seven, somehow are completely representative of the Church in total – the age of the church history.
- The degree, the way they are ordered, are anticipatory of history (prophetic) is astonishing!

Revelation 1:10-11 – VISION OF THE SON OF MAN

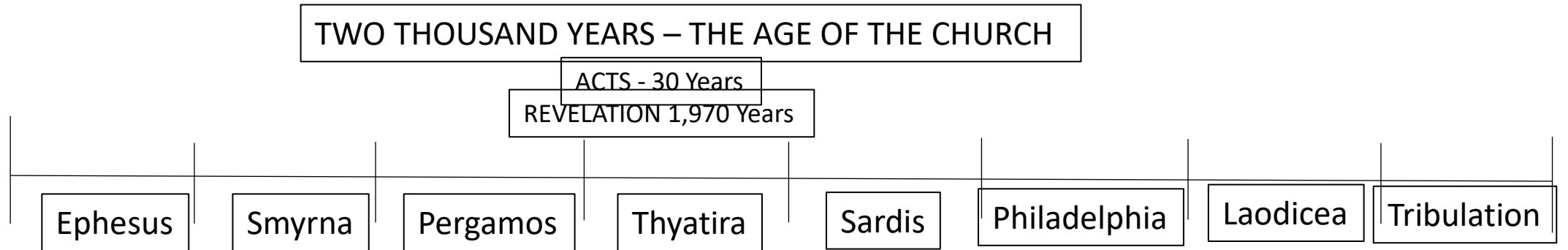
“I WAS IN THE SPIRIT.....” John says four times

- On the “day of the Lord” (At Patmos) Revelation 1:10
- To the Throne in Heaven Revelation 4:2
- Carried away in the wilderness Revelation 17:3
- Carried to a mountain Revelation 21:10

John was “in the spirit” but the key phrase here is “On the day of the LORD” (Revelation 1:10). John, through the spirit was brought forward through time and was given the ability to “SEE” what was going to happen. He was able to “SEE” “the day of the LORD,” even though he is on the island of Patmos. In chapter 4, he is in the spirit and at the throne room in heaven.

There is another phrase to pay attention to. “Thunders, voices, lightening's, and an earthquake.” The first time we see the phrase it is in regard to the Throne (Rev 4:5) and another referring to the opening of the seven seals (Rev 8:5), Trumpets (Rev 11:9) and Bowls (Rev 16:18).

REDEMPTION (REVELATION) TIMEFRAME



Revelation 1:10-11 – VISION OF THE SON OF MAN

The Seven Churches: “The Things That Are”

- There is Divine outline of the book of Revelation. The entire book is like a cover letter that is then sent to the seven churches. Each letter to the seven churches contains the same closing phrase “He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” There are four levels of interpretation or application of these seven letters:
 - ❖ **LOCAL:** There were actual churches (researched extensively by Sir William Ramsey and found these churches existed and they had problems that the letters were relevant to.)
 - ❖ **ADMONITORY:** It says “churches” meaning all of them. Each message applies to each, to some extent.
 - ❖ **HOMILETIC:** the phrase “He that hath an ear” is a personal letter that applies to us.
 - ❖ **PROPHETIC:** In their particular order they profile and lay out the history of the church. (They fill the gap implied in Daniel 9:26 and between Revelation 12:5 and 6).

Revelation 1:10-11 – VISION OF THE SON OF MAN

Seven Design Elements In Each of the Letters

- Name of the Church: Each church name proves to be significant to its particular unique message.
- Title of Christ Chosen: Jesus will select a title, from those listed in Chapter One, to represent Himself to each church, a title characteristic for the unique letter.
- Commendation: Some good news.
- Concern: the bad news.
- Exhortation: what to correct.
- Promise to the Overcomer: this will prove to be an interesting structural element.
- “He that hath an ear what the Spirit says to the churches”: the close.

Every detail will prove important: even the placement of the closing phrase will prove illuminating.

The Church at LAODICEA

Historical Background – LAODICEA

The city was originally founded by the Ionians (in about 2000 BC) and was a relatively small town of Diospolis. But in the 19th century BC, the Hittites added it to their expanding empire. A thousand years later, it was captured by the Phrygians, and soon after was captured by the Lydians. It was renamed Rhoas, but (about 250 BC) was taken by the Syrians, and Antiochus II rebuilt the town and renamed it after his wife, Laodice. It became part of the Kingdom of Pergamos (about 190 BC), and ultimately passed into the hands of the Roman Empire. According to Josephus, there was a large Jewish colony there.

WATER SUPPLY

Laodicea was part of a tri-city area. It was south of Philadelphia, not far from Colossae, on the banks of the river Lycus, a tributary of the Meander. It was the twin of Hierapolis, six miles away, which was renowned for its hot springs. (The current Turkish government is attempting to harness this geothermal power source.) Laodicea stood midway between the hot springs of Hierapolis and the cold waters of Colossae. It was fed by an aqueduct from Hierapolis, but the water would be lukewarm when it arrived at Laodicea.

Historical Background – LAODICEA

ECONOMY

Laodicea was a large and prosperous city of merchants, bankers, and gold refiners. Because of the junction of roads leading from Ephesus and Smyrna, wealth flowed through Laodicea with a caravan trade as far east as the Yellow River in Punjab by the China Sea. Cicero held court in the city and did his banking there.

When an earthquake destroyed Laodicea in AD 62, it was rebuilt by its wealthy citizens without help from Rome. [Tacitus, Annals 14:27] (NOTE: It becomes obvious that this church was driven by pride, mostly because they were so wealthy and had need of nothing.)

Historical Background – LAODICEA

ECONOMY

Laodicea was known for its prosperity neutrality. It was never militarily defensible, so its strategic position was one of compromise. A highly successful commercial and financial center, remains of a theatre, aqueducts, baths, gymnasium and stadium still survive to testify of its former luxury.

Textile manufacturing was also a source of considerable revenue. Laodicea was also well known for the quality of black wool. It was produced from a particular strain of sheep, bred in the Lycus valley, for the cloth and carpets manufactured from it. A famous school of medicine was there, especially known for an ophthalmic ointment (a mixture of oil and the collyrium powder). This was known all over the world and was described by Aristotle as “Phrygian powder.” (These two items, the wool and medical ointment, became important to note as Jesus makes reference in them later.)

Historical Background – LAODICEA

CHURCH HISTORY

The church there may have been founded by Epaphras, as there is a reference in Colossians (Colossians 4:12-13). However, some commentators believe Laodicea was not visited by Paul. Although he addressed a letter to it., which may very well have a circular letter. It is possible, but still speculation, a copy of this letter is preserved for us as the epistle to the Ephesians.

On the other hand, Paul's first letter to Timothy may have been written by him from Laodicea (1 Timothy 6:21) so it would seem he did visit Laodicea.

There is a tradition that Archippus had become the bishop of Laodicea. Some thirty years earlier, Paul had warned Archippus (thought by some to have been the son of Philemon) to be more diligent in fulfilling his ministry (Colossians 2:1; 4:16-17). It may have been his weakness which contributed to the spiritual condition of the church here. (NOTE: Laodicea was in close proximity to Colossae and they are instructed to exchange letters. So many of the letters to Colossae deals with issues with Laodicea, and visa verse.)

THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA

Revelation 3:14A – Letter to Laodicea

And unto the angel of the church in Laodicea write;

The word Lao means “people” and dicea means “rulers,” meaning “rule of” or “Ruled by the people” and also meaning the “Self-satisfied” church. This was a church ruled by the people. (Who is to rule over the Church? Jesus, not the people!)

THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA

Revelation 3:14B – Title of Christ

These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

FOUNDATIONAL CHARACTER

Faithful and True Witness (Revelation 1:5-7, 18; Isaiah 65:16; John 14:6; 1 Corinthians 1:18-22; Psalms 89:24-37; Isaiah 55:4; John 18:37)

BEGINNING OF CREATION OF GOD

- The word Amen means beginning; first origin; first cause; ruler; also, its an illusion of the ruling power and authority of the Creator, who began the creation of God (See Revelation 1:8, a quote from Isaiah 41:4)
- The term is used of rank and honor (unique expression here and in the letter to Colossians; Colossians 1:15).
- Paul specifically instructed that Colossae and Laodicea exchange epistles. A rebuttal to the gnostic errors (dealing with the deity of Christ) beginning to make their appearance in the Lycus valley

THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA

Revelation 3:15-18 – Concern

Rev 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

Rev 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Rev 3:17 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:

Rev 3:18 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.

THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA

Revelation 3:19-20 - Exhortation

Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Rev 3:20 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.

THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA

Revelation 3:21-22 – Promise to the Overcomer

Rev 3:21 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.

Rev 3:22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

On whose throne? (Throne Room of the Universe in Chapter 4)

Heb 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Luk 22:30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

2Ti 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

Perspectives

Admonitory Level (to all churches)

- **Ephesus** **Devotion, not just doctrine**
- **Smyrna** **Endure persecution**
- **Pergamum** **Purify ambassadorship**
- **Thyatira** **Pagan practices**
- **Sardis** **Watchfulness, diligence**
- **Philadelphia** **Missionary Outreach**
- **Laodicea** **Prosperous compromise**

STAND FAST AGAINST THE WORLD!

Perspective

Personal Level (Homiletics – to each of us today)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| ➤ Ephesus | Neglected priorities |
| ➤ Smyrna | satanic opposition |
| ➤ Pergamum | Spiritual compromise |
| ➤ Thyatira | Pagan practices |
| ➤ Sardis | Watchfulness, diligence |
| ➤ Philadelphia | Loyal Ambassadorship |
| ➤ Laodicea | Repent and be committed, Materialistic Apostacy |

STRENGTHEN, PURIFY YOUR AMBASSADORSHIP. AND ACCURATELY REPRESENT YOUR KING!!!!!!

Perspective

Promises to the Overcomer

- **Ephesus** **Eat of the Tree of Life**
- **Smyrna** **Not hurt of the Second Death – satan’s grave of the fiery pit**
- **Pergamum** **Manna, Stone (DNA change) New Name (Name in Lamb’s Book of Life – your ticket to heaven)**

- **Thyatira** **Power over nations**
- **Sardis** **Walk with Him in white; name**
- **Philadelphia** **Pillar in Temple, name of God, name of His city, new name**
- **Laodicea** **Sit with Him on His throne**

Who is the “Overcomer”?

1Jn 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

1Jn 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

The Church of Laodicea

Prophetic Profile

Laodicea represents the Apostate Church

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Name of the Church	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Title of Christ Chosen	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commendation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Concern	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Exhortation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Promise to the Overcomer	PS	PS	PS	BODY	BODY	BODY	BODY
“He that hath an ear what the Spirit says to the churches”	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

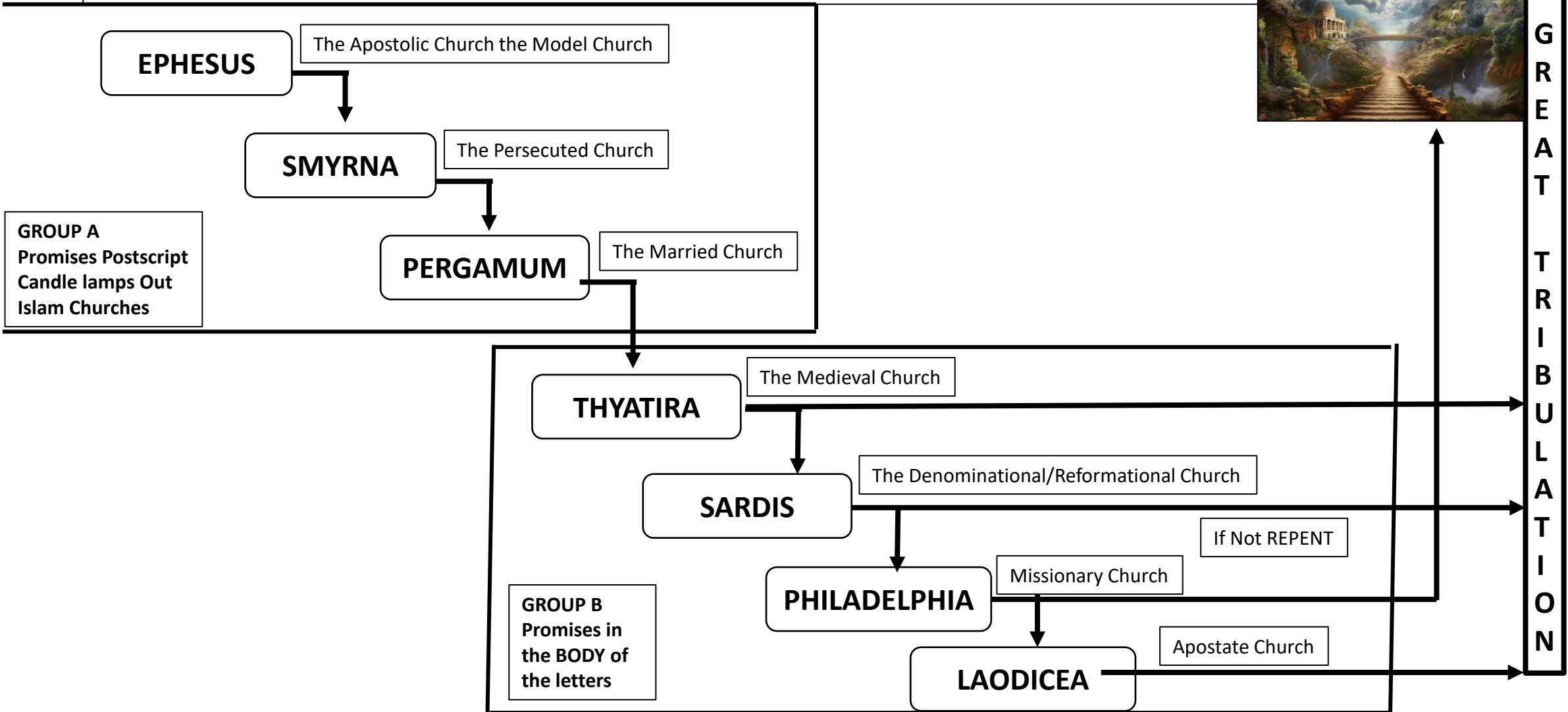
PS – Means that the Promise to the Overcomer was made after the body of the letter.

BODY – Means that the Promise to the Overcomer was made part of the letter to the churches.

Prophetic Profile of the Seven Churches



THE GREAT TRIBULATION



Study Assignment

- Always pray first before asking to open your minds to God's reveal for you
- Have a relationship with the Author of everything – Jesus Christ
- Set aside your personal presuppositions
- Take good notes
- Start and Continue to update your personal private journal
- Read the book of Revelation each week
- **Search Paul in the Bible and read what it says.**
- **Take all the seven letters to the churches and prepare an individual assignment of how each church applies to your life today**
- **As you study about Paul add to your personal assessment what Paul says to fix your issues**