

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**

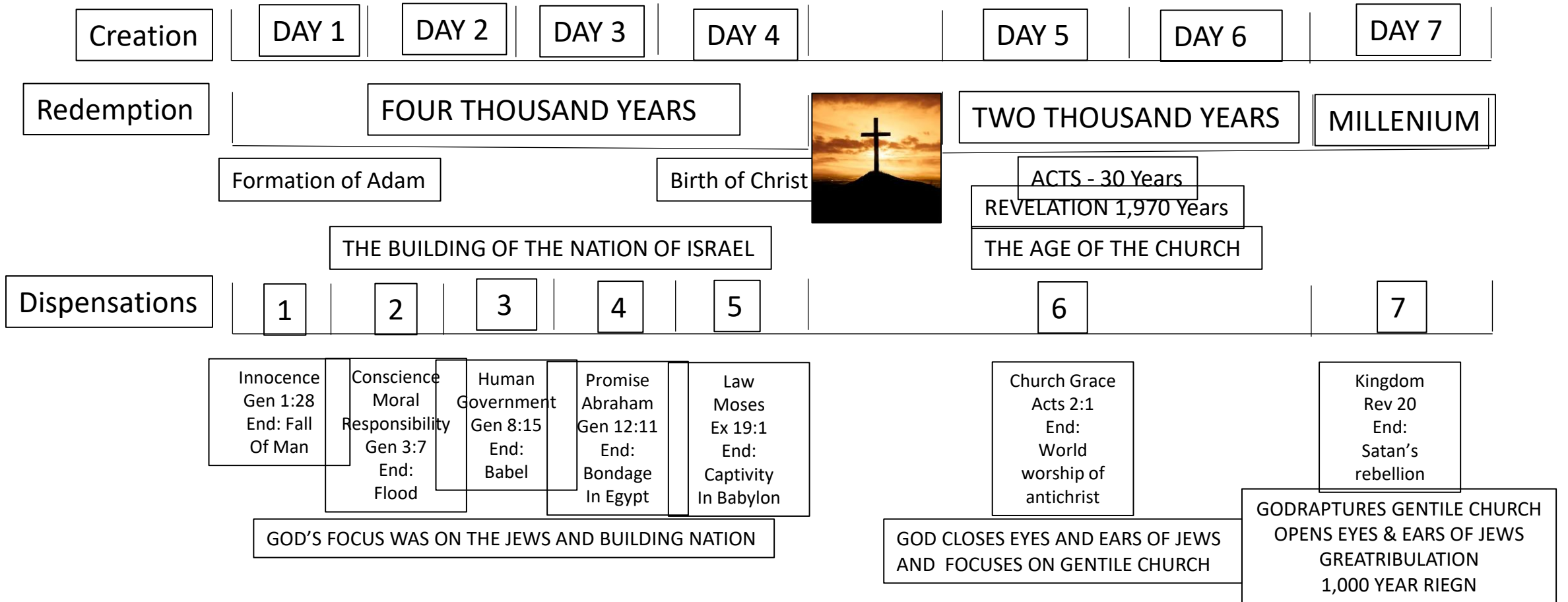
A Study of Revelation

Letter to the Church at Thyatira

Chapter 2

April 4, 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

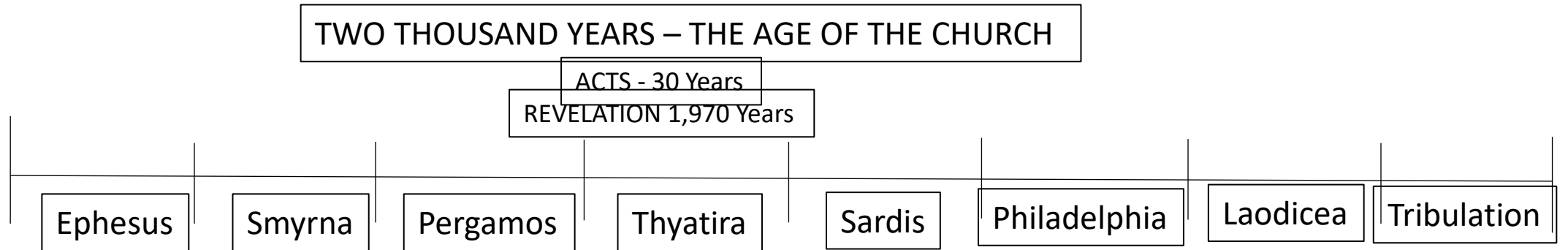
“I WAS IN THE SPIRIT.....” John says four times

- 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 Thyatira

The Church of Thyatira

The Nicolaitans

Frailties of the early centuries or “Tares” sown in the early Church were:

- Legalism (denial of Christ’s completed work)
- Gnosticism (denial of Christ’s humanity)
- Caesar worship (denial of Christ’s Lordship)

Some scholars believe the Nicolaitans were a first century sect abusing their liberty in Christ. But most scholars recognize the Nicolaitans as untranslated word. Nicao means to conquer, overcome, or rule; and Laos means Laity or people. The whole idea of the Nicolaitans was to rule over the people. Using their clerical structure or position to rule over the laity and seek apostolic authority for their opinions (Christ hated this; consider is washing of feet in John 13). The deeds that Ephesus had rejected had become the doctrine at Pergamos.

Historical Background – Thyatira

The road from Istanbul to Izmir runs through the small and unattractive town of Akhisar (population 30,000) which now occupies the site where once stood the important military city of Thyatira. In New Testament times, the city stood at the junction of three main roads leading to Pergamos, Sardis, and Smyrna.

It was originally a Lydian town bearing the name of Pelopia, then Semiramis, and then Euhippia. It was taken by the Persians and then Alexander, and is ultimately passed to the possession of Lysimachus, one of Alexander's four generals. In 301 BC, however, Lysimachus was defeated by his rival Seleucus I (Nicator) and it then became part of Syria. The city was converted into a frontier fortress to guard the way to Pergamos.

Nicator named it "Thyatira" (Greek meaning "daughter") on being informed that a daughter had been born to him (another meaning for "Jezebel" is "continual sacrifice" which many scholars associate with the doctrine of the mass).

Historical Background – Thyatira

Growing in commercial importance, Thyatira became a well-known center for trade guilds (today's unions). Membership in these was compulsory and essential if one was to pursue a trade. These were well organized corporate bodies, providing specific benefits and taking actions to protect their interests, often owning considerable property. Each guild was under the patronage of some pagan deity, and all proceedings and feasts commenced with paying homage to the patron god or goddess. The dilemma of the Christian tradesman continues in our own day.

Thyatira was known for its dyes – particularly its purple or scarlet, derived from the madder-root which is prolific in the area. Alternatives also included the murex, a shellfish from whose throat a drop of dye could be extracted (Acts 16:14-15).

Historical Background – Thyatira

Thyatira portrays the medieval papacy from 600 to 1500 AD. The dream to establish and enforce the pretensions of the Roman church constitute the major part of the history of the Middle Ages. The Chaldean priest who interpreted the esoteric doctrines of the Babylonian mysteries was called Peter (the interpreter). He wore an insignia of the two keys of Janus and Cybele, which still appear on the Papal arms as symbols of spiritual authority.

The danger to the church at Thyatira did not arise from the persecutions of imperial Rome nor from the animosity of Jewish attitudes. It arose from within the church itself – all the more serious and dangerous to deal with.

The Church of Thyatira

Revelation 2:18 – Title of Christ

And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

Thyatira was formally named “Semiramis” (consort of Nimrod, mother of Tammuz and later Tammuz wife)

This is the only mention of the “Son of God” out of the entire book of Revelation! It is possible that this is an apposition to the theme of the letter which is going to be the “queen of heaven” and “Jezebel.” (see Peter’s own confession; Matthew 16:16-18 vs. “queen of heaven”) Jesus asserts His power and authority for judgment: “eyes like fire” and “feet like brass.” When you see the word “like” in scripture it is a reference to a simile. These are symbols of judgment. The letter to Thyatira is the central letter of the seven.

The Church of Thyatira

Revelation 2:19 - Commendation

I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

“I know thy works” : He loves us so much He can’t take His eyes off us! He is always fully informed on our actions and conditions. First the good news: “works.. Love.. Service.. Faith.. Patience.. Works”: Jesus names six positives and tells them they are improving!

The Church of Thyatira

Revelation 2:20-22 - Concern

Rev 2:20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Rev 2:21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

Rev 2:22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

The word “fornication” speaks to sexual immorality, but it is also used throughout scripture (in the Old and New Testament) referring to “idol worship.” Having intimacy with a false god is fornication. The chief sin of this church simply consisted of failing to raise a protest against this woman who led them into idolatrous doctrines and practices (see Acts 15:29 injunctions; Elijah at Mt. Carmel; 1 Kings 18). This is the first reference to the Great Tribulation (“except if they repent”). Only the unrepentant church will go into the great tribulation.

The Church of Thyatira

Revelation 2:20-22 – Concern Jezebel

Jezebel was the daughter of Eth-Baal, who was the King of Sidon and Priest of Astarte. He had murdered his predecessor, Pheles, to seize the throne. She married King Ahab (king of the northern house of Israel) to seal a profitable trade alliance between Israel and Phoenicia. Jezebel sought to exterminate prophets of YHWH (1 Kings 18:13). The queen was running things and of all the women seen in the Old Testament, none was more cunning or more unscrupulous. She obtained lands through “inquisition.” Read the incident of Naboth’s Vineyard (1 Kings 21). A vivid picture of the medieval church for a thousand-year period, including the Dark Ages.

The Church of Thyatira

Revelation 2:20-22 – Concern

Jezebel – Pagan Worship

Jezebel was a worshiper of Baal and Astarte (originated in Babylon), she and King Ahab ushered in the worst period in the Old Testament (1 Kings 16:30,33):

- She also worshiped Ashtoreth (Judges 2:13, 10:6; 1 Samuel 31:10; 1 Kings 11:5,33)
- The Groves (trees carved as phallic symbols; Deuteronomy 16:21; (Jews never had holy places on the top of a hill because of the association to pagan worship)
- The Abomination of Sidonians (2 Kings 23:3, 6-7; Ezekiel 36:15)
- Title of “Queen of Heaven” is a Babylonian concept (Jeremiah 7:18; 44:15-30)

Compare Jezebel with the ‘Woman and the Leaven’ parable in Matthew 13 (see Leviticus 2; 1 Corinthians 5:7-8)

The Church of Thyatira

Revelation 2:20-22 – Concern

Jezebel – Pagan Worship

Elijah and Prophets of Baal: 1 Kings 18

1 Kings 18 must be one of the best “show downs” of the Bible where Elijah takes on the prophets of Baal

Naboth’s Vineyard: 1 Kings 21

Remember no scripture is in the Bible by accident and 1 Kings 21 maybe one of the most revealing of all when we are studying Revelation. Naboth had a vineyard given to him by his father and King Ahab desires his vineyard. Naboth refuses to give up the property. Queen Jezebel arranges an Inquisition including false witnesses against Naboth, his condemnation and his execution, along with all his heirs so there is no claim on the land. Naboth’s vineyard was seized for the king.

Jehu: 2 Kings 9

King Jehu encounters Jezebel and runs her over. Jehu was a servant of Ahab at Naboth’s vineyard and witnessed the sins of Ahab at that time. He also is a witness to the judgment of Ahab and now Jezebel.

The Church of Thyatira

Revelation 2:23 – Concern

Jezebel – Pagan Worship

And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

In the phrase, “I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts,” the word “reins” is referring to our “mind.” In Jeremiah 17:10, God tells us “I, the Lord, search the hearts, I test the mind (YHWH). IN Romans 8:27 it says, “And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. ”

Look at “your works” verses “My works.” There is the implication that only a remnant survives. Within this church was an evil for which no remedial measures are sufficient.

The Church of Thyatira

Revelation 2:24-25 - Exhortation

Rev 2:24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

Rev 2:25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

The “deep things of satan” is the word “Bathos” and the word ‘Baros” means burden. The deep things of satan verses the deep things of God (1 Corinthians 2:10). This is the **first promise of His Second Coming!** This is expressed only in the last four letters to the seven churches.

The Church of Thyatira

Revelation 2:26-29 – Promise to the Overcomer

Rev 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Rev 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

Rev 2:28 And I will give him the morning star.

Rev 2:29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

The phrase “power of nations” may have been the goal of Jezebel. The ‘Rod of Iron’ echoes in scripture (Psalms 2:7-9; 110:2; “Us”: 1 Corinthians 6:2; Daniel 7:18, 27). The “Rod” means scepter of righteousness (Hebrews 1:8).

The phrase the “morning star” described a time before sunrise (Revelation 22:16; 2 Peter 1:19; Numbers 24:17; possible echo of the Star of Jacob; Ballam). This is the first letter where the promise to the overcomer is in the body of the letter. There is a change and shift in structure of the letter to Thyatira and the letters to follow.

Perspectives

Admonitory Level (to all churches)

- Ephesus Devotion, not just doctrine
- Smyrna Endure persecution
- Pergamum Purify ambassadorship
- Thyatira Pagan practices
- Sardis
- Philadelphia
- Laodicea

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 | |
| ➤ Philadelphia | |
| ➤ Laodicea | |

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
- Philadelphia
- Laodicea

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 Thyatira Begins in Babylon through Pergamum

Prophetic Profile

Babylonian Roots

It was Nimrod who founded the original Babylonian religion. It was virtually identical to Phaethon – or Aesculapius – eventually developing into the worship of his widow Semiramis and his posthumous son: (the following are the Latin or Greek labels of the original Chaldean)

Semiramis	and	Tammuz of Babylon
Ashtoreth	and	Tammuz of Phoenicia
Isis	and	Horus of Egypt
Aphrodite	and	Eros of Greece
Venus	and	Cupid of Rome

- Alexander Hislop

When Cyrus conquered Babylon, the Babylonian priesthood and their initiates fled and set up shop in Pergamum. As the centroid of power ultimately shifted to Rome, the same religious system adopted Latin labels and formed the foundation for pagan Rome.

The Church of Thyatira Begins in Babylon through Pergamum

Prophetic Profile

Pontifex Maximus

When Cyrus conquered Babylon, they founded a new center at Pergamum and that king became Pontifex Maximus, the high priest of that pagan system. There is a subsequent transfer of the cult from Pergamum to Rome with the appointment of successive Caesars as high priest. By AD 378 Damasus, the Bishop of Rome, completed the absorption of Babylonianism into the Roman Catholic Church. From the fall of Rome splitting into its pieces the pagan government and pagan religion of the Roman Catholic Church spread throughout the world.

The world that has not removed the pagan Roman governmental laws of the 12 tables and the religious culture are still under Roman rule.

The Church of Pergamum to Rome (Thyatira) to the World

History of Rome

Caesar Worship

Augustus inaugurated emperor worship in order to give the empire a bond of common sentiment. Although not the seat of imperial and judicial authorities, Pergamum became the center of the official religion of emperor worship. The first of this cult was erected at Pergamum in 27 BC. Under Vespasian and his successors, it became a test of one's loyalty if one would or would not offer incense to the status of the emperor.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

Thyatira represents the Medieval Church. A review of the papacy will help us to understand the context.

In 378 AD, Damasus, The Bishop of Rome, took on the office of Pontifex Maximus, which was the high priest of the Babylonian religion. It was previously the prerogative of the Caesar or Roman emperor, this combining the “Christian” church with the pagan religion. The ceremonies, rites, titles, vestments ... celibate priests, Mariolatry, image and crucifix worship, veneration of saints, adoration of the host .. Papal infallibility, transubstantiation, etc. There are all idolatry thinly veneered by Christian nomenclature.

The word Pope means “Pap,” or “Father,” Initially it applied to all Western bishops, but at about 500 AD, it began to be restricted to the Bishop of Rome (for five hundred years the Bishop of Rome were NOT popes).

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

Peter

The Roman Catholic tradition that Peter was the first pope is fiction, without any historical (or Biblical) basis whatsoever. There is no evidence that Peter was ever a Bishop of Rome. His own foreboding over successors appears in 1 Peter 5:3, “Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. ”

Early Roman Bishops attempted to influence and control other bishops, but with no significant effect.

Silvester I (AD 314-335) was Bishop of Rome when Constantine virtually made Christianity the state religion of the Roman Empire. Constantine regarded himself as the head of the church, calling and presiding over the Council of Nicaea (AD 325). The Bishops of Alexandria (Gnostics) and Antioch (Christians) were accorded full jurisdiction over their provinces, as was the Roman Bishop over his, without even a hint that they were subject to Rome.

Important to note that The King James Bible came from Antioch manuscripts. If you look at all other Bible translations it references in the preface that they came from the texts at Alexander.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

Peter

By the end of the fourth century the churches and bishops had come to be largely dominated from five primary centers:

- Rome
- Constantinople
- Antioch
- Jerusalem
- Alexandria

These Bishops had come to be called Patriarchs, of equal authority, each in control of their own province. After the division of the Empire (AD 395), Antioch, Jerusalem and Alexandria came to acknowledge the leadership of Constantinople. Subsequently, the struggle between Constantinople and Rome began.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

The Struggle for Supremacy

The Bishop of Rome, Siricius (395-398), in his lust for worldly power claimed universal jurisdiction over the church. But unfortunately for him, in his day the Empire divided (AD395) into two separate empires, East and West. The east was beset with theological controversies. The west was under increasingly weak emperors, was breaking up before the barbarians. The west fell apart before AD 476. The east outlasted the west by about one thousand years. But these attempts continued from the Bishop of Rome to declare universal jurisdiction over the church until Leo I (AD 440-461).

The struggle remains to this day: it was the root of the bloodshed in the Croatia-Bosnian-Serbian conflict in the region of Yugoslavia. There are three ethnic traditions, three religions, three different sources of support: the Roman Catholics, the Eastern Orthodox, and the Muslims. There is no “high ground”: they all have accumulated atrocities over the past 1,500 years.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

Leo I (440-461)

Leo I is whom some historians regard as the first pope. He obtained from Emperor Valentinian III imperial recognition for his claim as Primate of All Bishops (AD 445). IN 452, he persuaded Attila the Hun to spare the city of Rome. IN 455, he induced Genseric the Vandal to have mercy on the city. His reputation was made. He declared himself Lord of the Whole Church, advocated exclusive universal papacy, resistance to his authority was a sure path to Hell, and he advocated the death penalty for heresy. However, the Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon (451), composed of bishops from all over the world, had given the Patriarch of Constantinople the equal prerogatives with the Bishop of Rome.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

Fall of Rome

Simplicius (468-483) was the Roman “Pope” when the Western Empire came to an end (476). Free of civil authority, the fragmented kingdoms of the barbarians left ample opportunity for individual advantageous alliances, and ironically the Pope became the most commanding figure in the West.

Gregory I (590-604) is regarded by many as the first Pope. He appeared at a time of political anarchy throughout Europe. His conspicuous leadership over the various kings stabilized the times. He labored unceasingly over the purification of the church, deposed neglectful or unworthy bishops, opposed the sale of offices (“simony” by Simon Peter in Acts), etc. In his personal life he was a good man, one of the purest and best of the popes. If more had been as he was the world would have a different estimate of the papacy.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

Charlemagne

Zacharias (741-752) was instrumental in making Pepin, father of Charlemagne, King of the Franks (a Germanic people occupying western Germany and northern France). Stephen II (752-757) requested Pepin to lead his army to Italy and conquer the Lombards, which had pillaged Italy. He succeeded and gave a large part of central Italy to the Pope, which was the beginning of the Papal States, a temporal dominion which continued for 1,100 years (until King Victor Emmanuel returned these lands to the Kingdom of Italy in 1870). Pepin's son, Charlemagne, (who was the grandson of Charles Martel, who had saved Europe from Islam by his victory at the Battle of Tours, 732) was one of the greatest rulers of all time. He reigned forty-six years with many wars and conquests of vast magnitude. His realm included what is now Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, and parts of Spain and Italy.

He helped the Pope, and the Pope helped him. He was one of the greatest influences in bringing the Papacy to a position of world power. After Charlemagne's death, the Treaty of Verdun (843) divided his empire into what became the foundations of Germany, France and Italy, and a ceaseless struggle between the Popes and the German and French kings again. The "Holy Roman Empire" lasted one thousand years, until Napoleon brought it to an end in 1806.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

The Isidorian Decretals

Nicholas I (858-867) was the first Pope to wear a crown. It was about this time (857) that a book appeared, “The Isidorian Decretals,” which purported to be letters and decrees of Bishops and Councils of the second and third centuries. Centuries later they were discovered to be deliberate forgeries. They were designed to exalt the power of the Pope, stamping the Papacy with the authority of antiquity, antedating the Pope’s temporal power by five centuries. They are regarded as the most colossal literary fraud in history.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

The Great Cleavage

Until 869, all ecumenical councils had been held in or near Constantinople, and in the Greek language. Nicholas undertook to interfere in the affairs of the Eastern Church. He excommunicated Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople, who in turn excommunicated him. The claims of the Roman Church became unbearable, and the East finally separated itself. The breach became wider through the centuries. The brutal treatment of Constantinople by the armies of Pope Innocent II during the Crusades, and the creation of the dogma of Papal Infallibility in 1870 deepened the chasm even more.

In the ninth century, the Eastern Church separated itself from the West (Rome). The East was primitive Christianity plus Greek and Oriental paganism. The West was primitive Christianity plus Greek and Roman paganism.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

The Rule of the Harlots (904-963)

The two hundred years between Nicholas I and Gregory VII (870-1050) are called the “midnight of the Dark Ages.” Bribery, corruption, immorality, and bloodshed mark this blackest chapter of the church.

Sergius III (903-911) had a mistress, Marozia. She, her mother Theodora, and her sisters filled the Papal chair with paramours and bastard sons and turned the Papal den into a den of robbers. This is called in history “the Rule of the Harlots” (904-963).

John X (914-928) was brought from Ravenna to Rome and made Pope by Theodora for her more convenient gratification. He was smothered to death by Marozia, who then in succession raised to the Papacy Leo VI (928-929), Stephen VII (929-931), and John XI (931-936), her own illegitimate son.

Another of her sons appointed the four following Popes: Leo VII (936-939), Stephen VIII (939-942), Martin III (942-946), and Agapetus II (946-955). John XII (955-963), a grandson of Marozia, was guilty of almost every crime; he violated virgins and widows, lived with his father’s mistress, made the Papal Palace a brothel, and was killed while in the act of adultery by the woman’s enraged husband.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

The Descent Continues (1012-1047)

Benedict VIII (1012-1024) and John XIX (1024-1033) bought the Office of the Pope with open bribery. Benedict IX (1022-1045) was made Pope as a boy twelve years old, through a money bargain with the powerful families that ruled Rome. He committed murders and adulteries in broad daylight, and robbed pilgrims on the graves of martyrs. He was a hideous criminal and the people drove him out of Rome. Some call him the worst of all the Popes.

There were three rival Popes in 1045-1046: Benedict IX, Gregory VI, and Sylvester III. Rome swarmed with hired assassins and the virtue of pilgrims was violated. Clement II (1046-1047) was appointed Pope by Emperor Henry III of Germany “Because no Roman clergyman could be found who was free of the pollution of simony and fornication.”

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

Golden Age of Papal Power (1049-1294)

The cry for reform was answered by Hildebrand who led the Papacy into its Golden Age (1049-1294). He controlled five successive administrations prior to his own: Leo IX (1049-1054); Victor II (1055-1057); Stephen IX (1057-1058); Nicolas II (1059-1061); and Alexander II (1061-1073). He became Gregory VII (1073-1085) and undertook a major reform, especially simony. Practically all bishops and priests purchased their offices from the kings and this brought him in conflict with King Henry IV, Emperor of Germany. Devastating wars followed and Italy was devastated by the opposing armies. Gregory was eventually driven from Rome and died in exile. But he had succeeded in making the Papacy independent of Imperial power.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

Innocent III (1198-1216)

Innocent III (1198-1216) was the most powerful of all the Popes. He claimed to be “Vicar of Christ,” “Vicar of God,” and “Supreme Sovereign over the Church and the World.” “All things on earth and in heaven and in hell are subject to the Vicar of Christ.” The kings of Germany, France, England, and practically all the monarchs in Europe obeyed his will, including the Byzantine Empire. Never in history has any one man exerted more power. He ordered two-crusades; decreed transubstantiation. Confirmed auricular confession, declared papal infallibility, condemned the Magna Carta, forbade the reading of the Bible in the vernacular, instituted the Inquisition, ordered the extermination of heretics, etc. More blood was shed under his direction and that of his immediate successors than in any other period of church history (except in the Papacy’s efforts to crush the Reformation in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries).

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

The Inquisition

The Inquisition was called “The Holy Office;” it was instituted by Pope Innocent III and perfected by Pope Gregory IX. Under the Inquisition, everyone was required to inform against heretics. Anyone suspect was liable to torture, without knowing the name of his accuser. The proceedings were secret. The Inquisitor pronounced sentence and the victim was turned over to civil authorities to be imprisoned for life or to be burned. The victim’s property was confiscated and divided between the church and the state.

The Inquisition claimed vast multitudes of victims in Spain, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands and did its most deadly work against the Albigenses.

The Albigenses, or Carthari, in southern France, northern Spain and northern Italy preached against the immoralities of the priesthood, worship of saints and images, completely rejected the clergy and their claims, opposed the claims of the Church of Rome, made great use of the Scriptures, and lived self-denying lives with a great zeal for moral purity. By 1167, they embraced a majority of the population of southern France and were very numerous in northern Italy. IN 1208, Pope Innocent III ordered a crusade in which the bloody war extermination utterly wiped-out town after town – the inhabitants murdered without discrimination – until all the Albigenses were utterly wiped out.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

The Inquisition

The Waldenses, a similar but not identical group in the same region emphasizing Bible reading and rejecting clerical usurpation and profligacy were similarly wiped out (but for the few survivors in the Alpine Valley southwest of Turin who are now the leading Protestant body in Italy). It is recorded that in the thirty years between 1540 and 1570 no fewer than 900,000 Protestants were put to death by the Pope's was for extermination of the Waldenses.

For five hundred years, the Inquisition was the most diabolical thing of human history. For its record, none of the subsequent line of "holy" and "Infallible" Popes have ever apologized. Rather, their leadership and instigators have been elevated to sainthood.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

Boniface VIII (1294-1303)

Boniface VIII (1294-1303), in famous Bul, *Unam Sanctum*, he said, “We declare, affirm, define, and pronounce that it is altogether necessary for salvation that every creature be subject to the Roman Pontiff.” (However, he was so corrupt that Dante, who visited Rome during his pontificate, called the Vatican a ‘sewer of corruption,’ and assigned him, along with Nicolas III and Clement V, to the lowest parts of Hell.)

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

French Control of the Papacy (1305-1377)

The Papacy had been victorious in its two-hundred-year struggle with the German Empire, but their match in Philip the Fair, King of France, with whom the history of modern France begins.

After the death of Pope Benedict XI, the Papal Palace was removed from Rome to Avignon on the south border of France and for seventy years the Papacy was the mere tool of the French Court (1305-1377). For the next forty years there were two sets of Popes, one at Rome and one at Avignon, each claiming to be the ‘Vicar of Christ,’ hurling anathemas and curses at each other.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

Renaissance Popes (1410-1503)

John XXIII (1410-1415), called by some the most depraved criminal who ever sat on the Papal throne, was guilty of almost every crime. As Cardinal in Bologna, two hundred maidens, nuns and married women fell victim to his amours. As Pope he violated virgins and nuns; lived in adultery with his brother's wife; was guilty of sodomy and other nameless vices; bought the Papal Office; sold Cardinalates to children of wealthy families and openly denied the future life.

Pius II (1458-1464) was said to have been the father of many illegitimate children; spoke openly of the methods he used to seduce women; encouraged young men and even offered to instruct them in methods of self indulgence. Paul II (1464-1471) "filled his house with concubines." Sixtus IV (1471-1484) sanctioned the Spanish Inquisition; decreed that money would deliver souls from purgatory; was implicated in a plot to murder Lorenzo de Medici and others who opposed his policies; and used the Papacy to enrich himself and his relatives. He made eight of his nephews Cardinals while some of them were mere boys. In wealth and pop he and his relatives surpassed the old Roman families.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

Renaissance Popes (1410-1503)

Innocent VIII (1484-1492) had sixteen children by various married women. He multiplied church offices and sold them for vast sums of money; decreed the extermination of the Waldenses; appointed the brutal Thomas of Torquemada the Inquisitor and General of Spain; and ordered all rulers to deliver up heretics to him.

Alexander VI (1492-1503) is called the most corrupt of the Renaissance Popes. He was licentious, avaricious, and depraved. He bought the Papacy; made many new cardinals for money; had a number of illegitimate children whom he openly acknowledged and appointed to high church offices while they were yet children – and they with their father murdered cardinals and others who stood in their way. He had for a mistress a sister of the cardinal who became the next Pope, Pius III (1503).

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

MARTIN LUTHER

In the year 1483, in Eisleben, Saxony, a baby was born to a poor coal miner. As he grew up and observed the poverty of his father, this boy, named Martin, chose to pursue a different vocation. He decided to become a lawyer and in 1501, entered the University of Erfurt, where he excelled in his studies.

As he came to the end of his schooling in 1504, an event took place which changed his life. While he was walking the campus grounds, a storm broke so forcefully that Martin fell on his face in fear. The thunder was deafening and lightning struck all around him, including a tree next to him. Instinctively, he cried out to the patron saint of coal miners, whose name he had heard invoked during his childhood. “Saint Anne! Save me from the lightning. If you save me, I will become a monk.” Shortly thereafter the storm stopped.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

MARTIN LUTHER

Being a man of his word. Martin withdrew from Law school and entered an Augustinian monastery where he applied himself so diligently that he obtained a Doctorate of Theology with a few years. But the more he studied, the more troubled his heart became; for although he was becoming an expert in theology, he lacked peace personally. The question he repeatedly wrote in his diary was: “How can a man find favor with God.”

Disillusioned by a visit to Rome, Habakkuk 2:4 (the just shall live by faith...) became his life text. On October 31, 1517, Luther nails his ninety-five-page thesis to the door at Wittenberg College. His hope was to get the church to reform and shed these pagan practices.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

The Centuries of War

Martin Luther posted his ninety-five-page theses on October 31, 1517 as his attempt to spur change in the Roman church. On December 10, 1520, Pope Leo X issued a papal bull, or decree, which excommunicated Luther and commanded him to “retract within sixty days or suffer death.” Luther burned it publicly, and the Reformation was born. At the Diet of Worms in 1521, Charles V the Emperor of ‘ the Holy Roman Empire’ (Germany, Spain, Netherlands and Austria) summoned (God does not summon) Luther to appear. Luther said to him, “Here I stand I can do naught else; so, help me God.”

The Centuries of War began:

- The war on the German Protestants (1566-1609)
- War on Protestants of Netherlands (1566-1609)
- Huguenot Wars in France (1572-1598)
- Philip’s attempt against England (1588)
- Thirty Years War (1618-1648)

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

The Centuries of War

All these wars were started by Roman Catholic Kings urged on by the Pope and Jesuits for the purpose of crushing Protestantism. The thousands killed at the hands of the Caesars of Pagan Rome are dwarfed by the millions killed at the hands of the Vatican.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

The Reformation Popes

Julius II (1503-1513) was called the Warrior Pope. He was the richest of the cardinals with vast income from numerous bishops and church estates, and he bought his own Papacy. He attained and personally led vast armies and issued indulgences for money.

Leo X (1513-1521) was Pope when Luther started the Protestant Reformation. He was made an Archbishop at age 8 and a Cardinal at age 13. He was appointed to 27 different church offices, which means vast income, before he was 13. He appointed Cardinals as young as 7. He maintained the most luxurious and licentious court in Europe. This voluptuary reaffirmed the Unam Sanctum, in which it is declared that every human being must be subject to the Roman Pontiff for salvation. He issued indulgences for stipulated fees and declared the burning of heretics a divine appointment.

Adrian VI was pope from 1522-1523. Paul III (1534-1549) had many illegitimate children A determined enemy of the Protestants; he offered Charles V an army to exterminate them.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

The Jesuits

Rome's answer to the Lutheran succession, the Inquisition was an order founded by Ignatius Loyola, a Spaniard, under the leadership of the Jesuits. On the principle of absolute and unconditional obedience to the Pope, its sole objective was the recovery of territory lost to Protestants and Muslims and the conquest of the entire heathen world for the Roman Catholic Church. Their supreme aim was the destruction of heresy – that is, thinking anything different from what the Pope said or thought. For this accomplishment anything was justifiable, deception, immorality, vice, even murder.

In France, they were responsible for St. Bartholomew's Massacre; persecution of the Huguenots, revocation of the Toleration Edict, and the French Revolution. In Spain, Netherlands, south Germany, Bohemia, Austria, Poland and other countries led in the massacre of untold multitudes, and thus saved the Papacy from ruin.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

St. Bartholomew's Massacre

Catherine de Medici, mother of the King, an ardent Romanist and willing tool of the Pope, gave an order on the night of August 24, 1572, and 70,000 Huguenots were massacred. There was great rejoicing in Rome. The Pope and his College of Cardinals went in solemn procession to the Church of San Marco and ordered the Te Deum to be sung in thanksgiving. He then struck a medal in commemoration of the massacre and sent a Cardinal to Paris to bear the King and Queen-mother the congratulations of the Pope and Cardinals.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

Evangelicals and Catholics Together

The most significant event in five hundred years of church history was on March 29, 1994. On that date, a joint declaration titled “Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium” was issued. The compromise of the Gospel lies at the heart of the agreement – but the Gospel hasn’t changed.

The Church of Thyatira

Prophetic Profile: The Papacy

A Surprising Acknowledgement

On May 21, 1995, the Pope asked forgiveness for all wrongs and crimes committed and permitted by the Roman Catholic Church throughout their history.

Bibliography and suggested further research on your part:

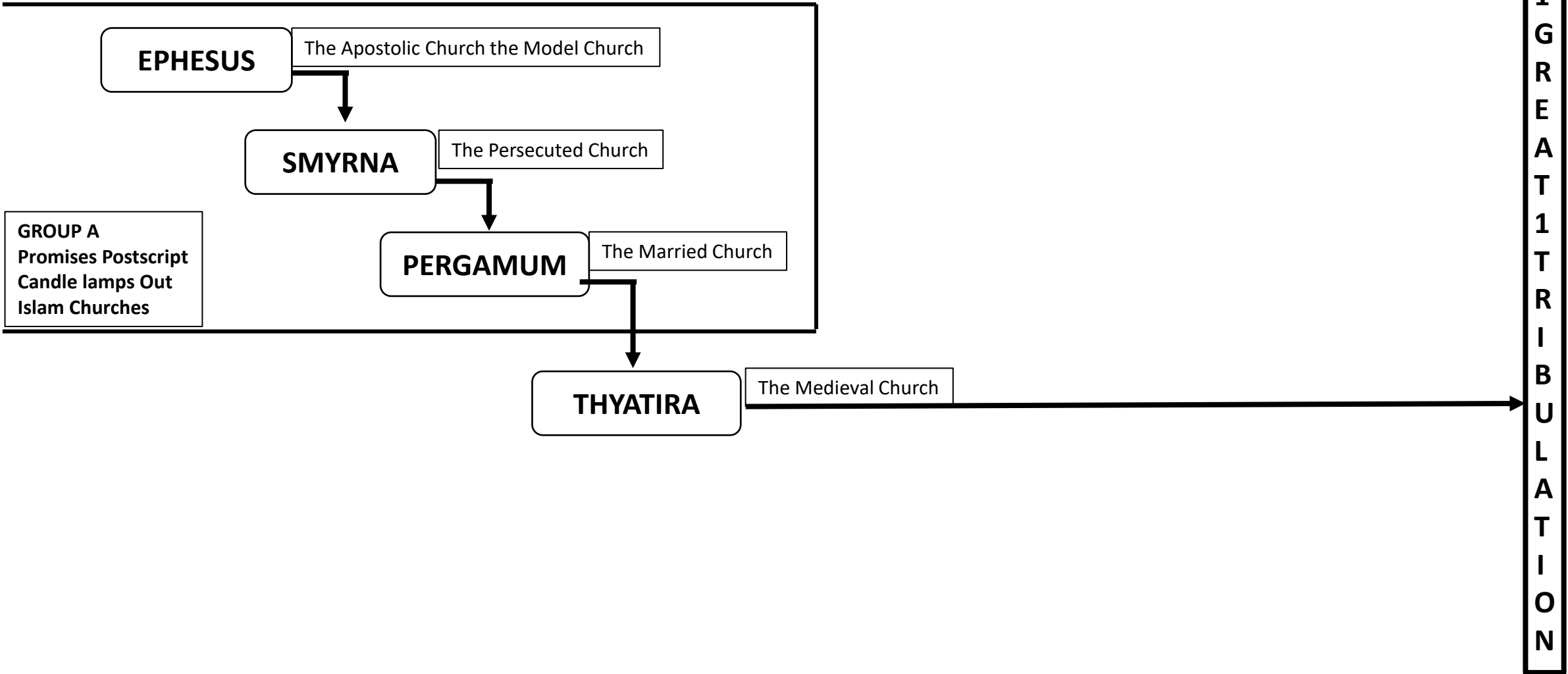
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	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Name of the Church	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Title of Christ Chosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Commendation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Concern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Exhortation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Promise to the Overcomer	PS	PS	PS	BODY			
“He that hath an ear what the Spirit says to the churches”	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

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



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
- Read the chapters 2 and 3.
- Download the Word Doc handout and outline the Church of Sardis.
- From the Handout Outline the Church of Ephesus.