

Hope for The Future: A Study in the Book of the Revelation

1 – THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION: A BACKGROUND

I. Why Study Revelation?

- There is confusion among God's people as we find ourselves in these times.
- There is an ignorance concerning what the Bible actually says.
- There is a tendency to know the interpretations of others rather than scripture itself.
- It is our desire that you become informed of what the scriptures say.

Scripture: Daniel 12:9-10

⁹ And he said, "Go *your way*, Daniel, for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

¹⁰ Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

II. A Realistic Approach

A. A diversity of views

- We need to recognize that good Christians have different views.

Historical Note: Justin Martyr (c.100-c.165)

Justin said openly that not all Christians shared his expectation: "I and many others are of this opinion, and believe that such will take place ... but, on the other hand, many who belong to the pure and pious faith, and are true Christians, think otherwise." Such tolerance was not given for other doctrines, such as the resurrection of the dead. "Some who are called Christians ... say there is no resurrection of the dead, and that their souls, when they die, are taken to heaven; do not imagine that they are Christians."

B. Flexibility in interpretation

- Don't be dogmatic about your interpretations.
- Recognize that the church has struggled to understand this book for centuries.

C. Understand the Purpose

- The purpose of the book is to provide hope in the midst of trials.

III. Our Approach to the Study

- We will use the literal method of interpretation.
- This study will see a distinction between the church and Israel.

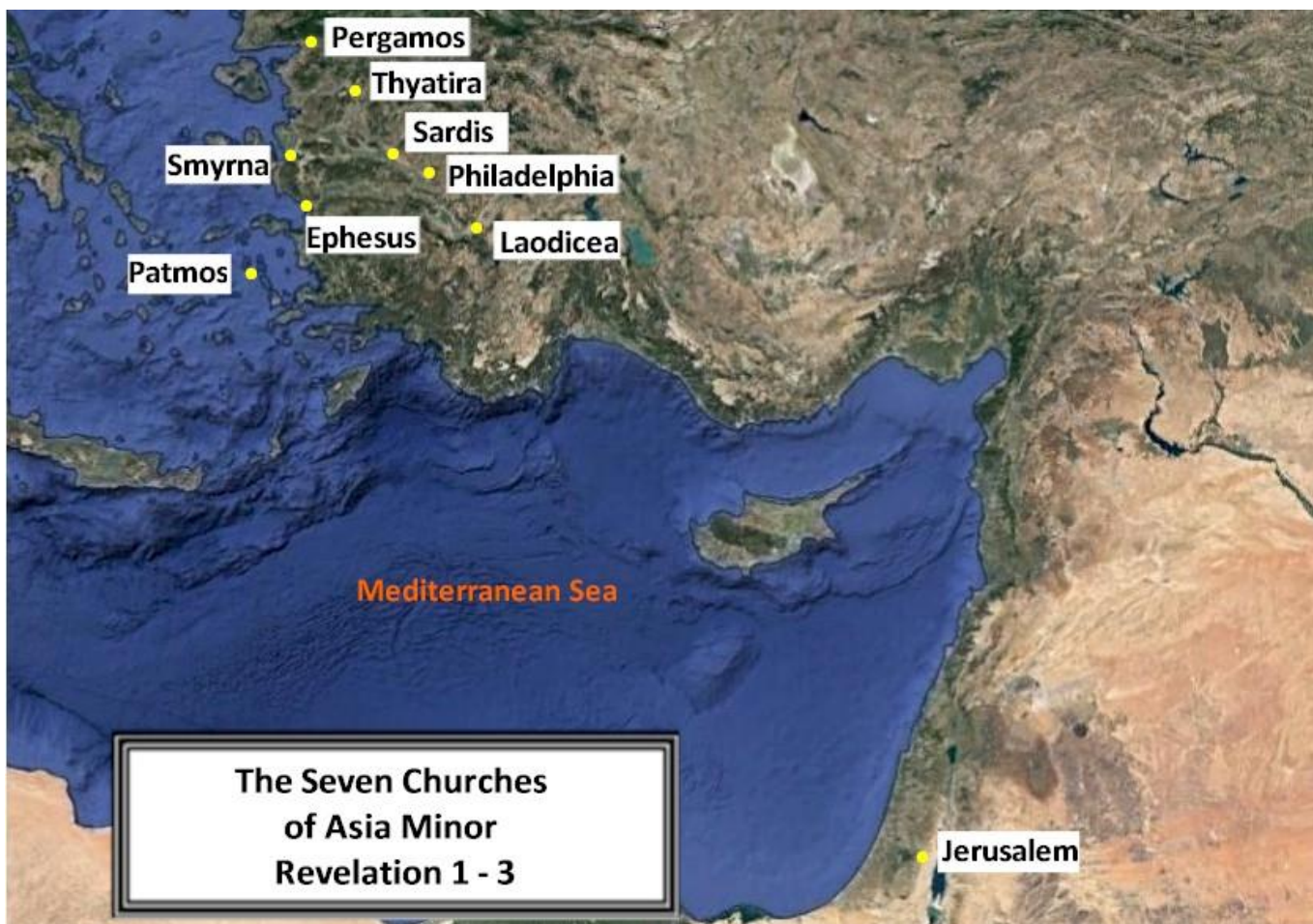
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- The rapture is the church meeting Jesus in the air as a distinct event at his second coming.
- This study will view the tribulation as a literal seven-year period.
- The study will view the millennium as a literal 1,000-year reign by Jesus Christ.

IV. The Author and Occasion (1:1,4)

A. The Apostle John

- The author of the book was the beloved disciple, John.
- John wrote the book while imprisoned on the island of Patmos.



B. The Recipients

- This book was written to the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- It is important to note that the churches were still made up of Jewish believers at this point.
- Although the churches were shifting to being dominated by Gentile believers.

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- The book is also written to every believer and church as well.

C. The Occasion

- It is the final revelation concerning the events surrounding the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

IV. Key Verse (1:19)

A. The key verse

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19.

B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)
2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)
3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

V. Key Phrase Concerning God's Wrath (9:20, 21; 16:9,11)

- In order to understand God's wrath, you need to understand the key phrase.

Scripture: Revelation 9:20, 21; 16:9, 11

- The key phrase is that unbelievers "did not repent" in spite of the judgments.