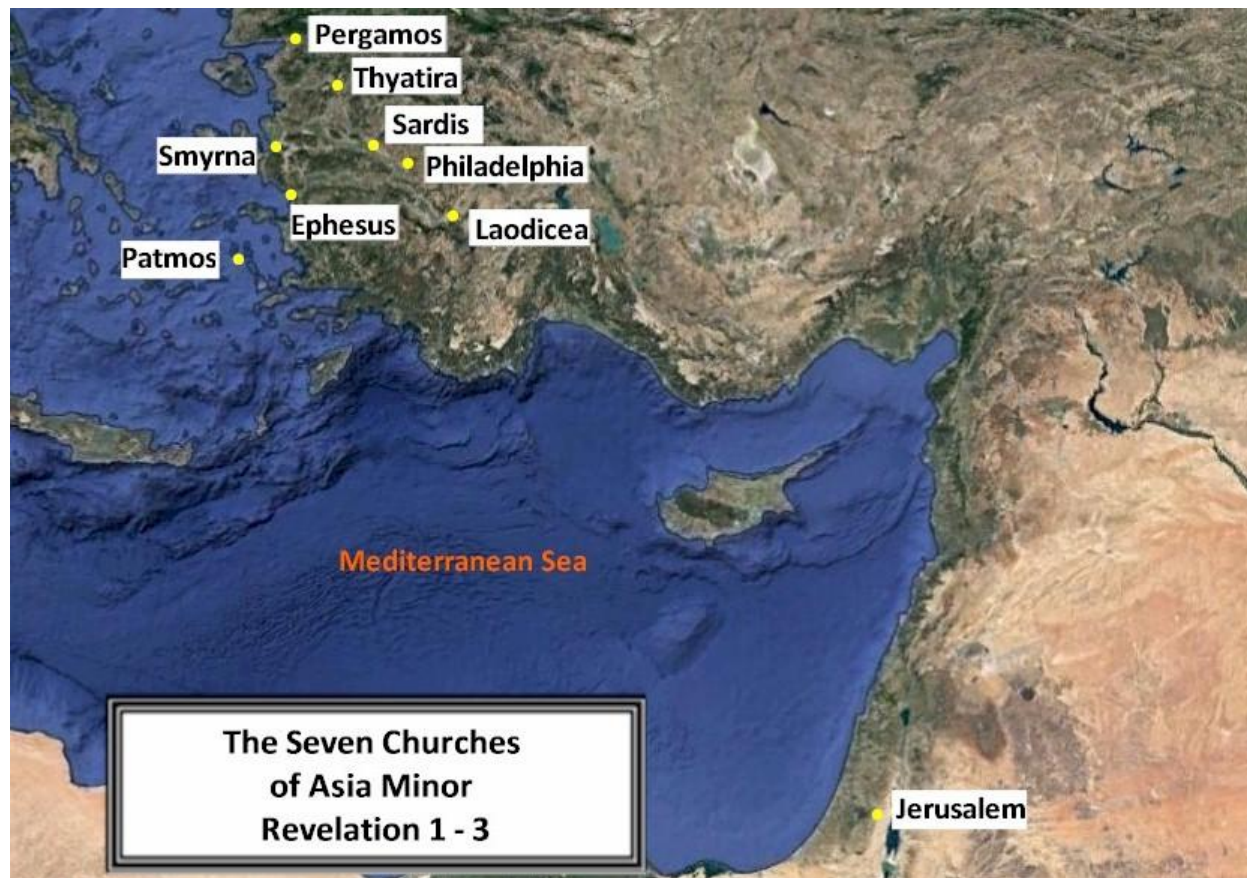


10 - THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA (REVELATION 3:14-22)



I. Destination (Revelation 3:14)

A. The Recipient

- Christ addressed the pastor of the church in Laodicea.

Historical Note: Laodicea

Laodicea was an ancient Greek city built on the river Lycus. It was located in the Roman province of Phrygia. The wealthy city of Laodicea was located on the road to Colosse about 64 kilometers southeast of Philadelphia. Laodicea, benefiting from its advantageous position on a trade route, became one of the most important and flourishing commercial cities of Asia Minor. Large money transactions and the extensive trade of black wool took place in the city. About 35 years before this letter was written, Laodicea was destroyed by an earthquake, but it had the wealth and ability to rebuild. It received from Rome the title of free city. Many of the inhabitants of Laodicea were Jews

See: Colossians 2:1; 4:13,15,16

B. The Description of Christ

1. Amen

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- The word "amen" means "so be it."
- Christ affirms His sovereignty over human affairs.

Biblical Note: The Amen

The title "the Amen" is used for Jesus Christ. The title is an acknowledgement of something true and binding. It refers to the sovereignty of God which is behind human events.

2. The Faithful and True Witness

- Christ affirms His testimony is trustworthy and fully comprehensive.

3. The Beginning of the Creation of God

- Christ existed before God's Creation and is sovereign over it.

Biblical Note: The Beginning of the Creation of God

The title "The Beginning of the Creation of God" refers to the fact that Jesus Christ existed before God's Creation and is sovereign over it.

See: Colossians 1:16-17

Scripture Colossians 1:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

II. Commendation

- It is noteworthy that Christ did not commend them for anything.

III. Rebuke (Revelation 3:15-17)

A. Christ's Knowledge of the Church (Revelation 3:15a)

- Christ has an intimate knowledge of the church.

B. They were Lukewarm (Revelation 3:15b-16)

- They were abhorrent to Christ because of their complacency in spiritual matters.

Biblical Note: Lukewarm

The word "lukewarm" would be known to the Laodiceans. The city of Laodicea did not have a natural source of water. The city always had a problem with their water supply. The city to the northwest of Laodicea was famous for its hot mineral springs. To aid the city with its water problem, an aqueduct was built to bring water from the hot springs to the city. When the water reached the city, it was neither hot nor refreshingly cold. It was lukewarm and filled with minerals making it impure resulting in a terrible taste.

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C. Blind to Their True Condition (Revelation 3:17)

- They were blind to their true condition because of their wealth.

IV. Exhortation (Revelation 3:18-19)

A. Seek Spiritual Riches (Revelation 3:18a)

- Christ calls them to seek riches in heaven.

B. Seek Righteousness (Revelation 3:18b)

- Christ calls them to be clothed in righteousness.

C. Seek Spiritual Sight (Revelation 3:18c)

- Christ calls them to seek healing for their spiritual blindness.

Biblical Note: Eye Salve

Laodicea prided itself on the precious eye salve that the city produced. The eye salve healed many common eye problems. Jesus counsels the Laodicean church to buy from him spiritual eye salve to heal their spiritual blindness.

D. Repent (Revelation 3:19)

- Christ calls them to acknowledge and turn from their sin.

V. Promise (Revelation 3:20-22)

A. Fellowship (Revelation 3:20)

- Christ promises to fellowship with those who come to Him.

B. Share Christ's Throne (Revelation 3:21)

- Those who persevere will share Christ's throne with Him.

C. The Exhortation (Revelation 3:22)

- We are called to acknowledge what the Holy Spirit reveals to us.