

7 Churches of the Age

**River Outreach Church
Pineville, Louisiana, USA**

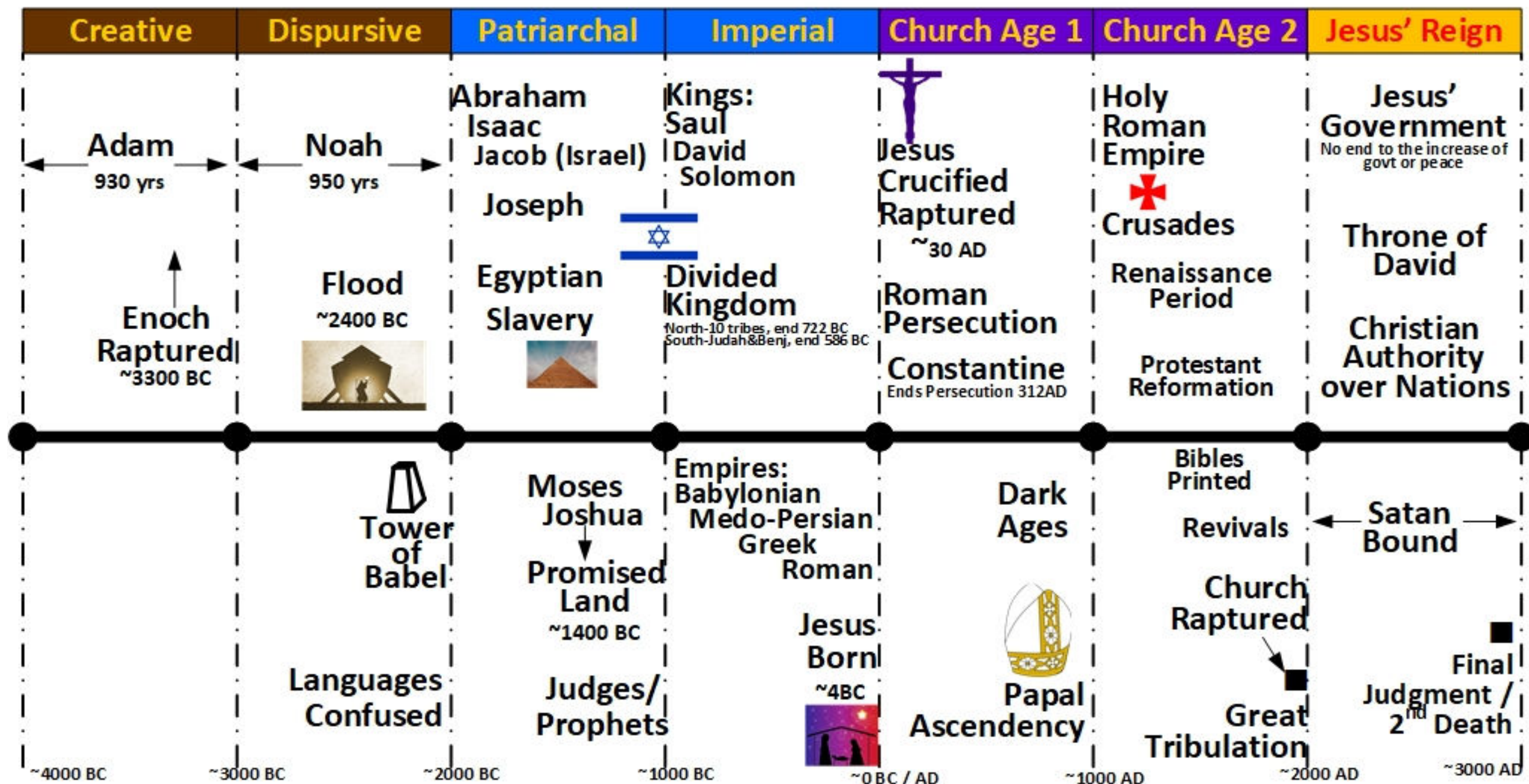
November 15, 2020

Overview

Chapter(s)

1	Jesus revealed
2 - 3	Church Age
4 - 5	Rapture & Heaven
6 - 18	Tribulation/Judgment
19	2nd coming of Jesus
20	Millennial Reign of Jesus
21-22	New heaven & earth

7 Milleniums of Human History



7 Churches of Revelation

Revelation

2:1-7	Ephesus
2:8-11	Smyrna
2:12-17	Pergamum
2:18-29	Thyatira
3:1-6	Sardis
3:7-13	Philadelphia
3:14-22	Laodicea

Church Message Similarities

1	From Jesus
2	Aspect of Jesus Christ is described
3	Good report to church
4	Bad report to church
5	Things God will do
6	Things church should do
7	Promise to overcomers in the church

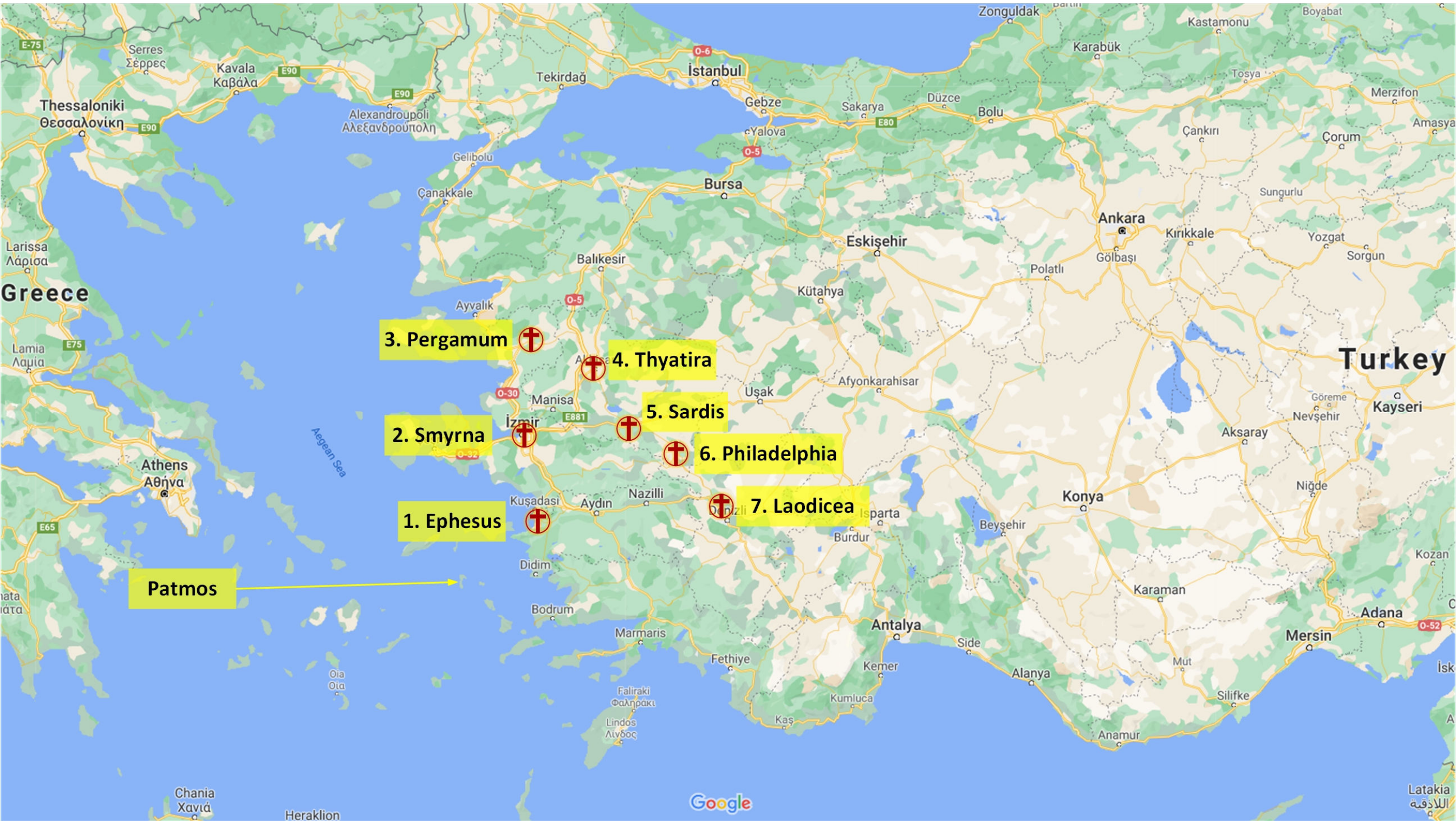
7 Churches of Revelation

	1. Ephesus	2. Smyrna	3. Pergamum	4. Thyatira	5. Sardis	6. Philadelphia	7. Laodicea
Revelation	2:1-7	2:8-11	2:12-17	2:18-29	(3:1-6	3:7-13	3:14-22
Christ	7 stars/7 lampstands	dead, now alive	sharp sword	The Son of God	7 Spirits of God	holy, Key of David	true witness
Good Report	labor, perseverance reject evil	tribulation poverty but rich	not denying the Faith	faith, perseverance deeds better lately	almost none	have a little power have kept My word	none
Bad Report	left first love	none	Balaam Nicolaitans	tolerate Jezebel she is leading astray	name as alive dead	none	lukewarm deceived
God's List	remove lampstand (church) if no repent	give martyrs crown of life	war with unrepentant souls	destroy Jezebel search hearts & minds	come like a thief	make Satan bow keep us from testing	reprove, discipline us stand at door knocking
Our List	remember, repent do 1st deeds	don't fear prison, tested to death	repent	no tolerating Jezebel hold fast until I come	remember, wake up repent	hold fast	be zealous, repent open door to Jesus
Promise	eat from Tree of Life	First resurrection NOT 2nd death	hidden manna white stone	authority over nations	name confessed by Jesus	New Jerusalem Paradise	sit with Jesus on His throne
Summary	Apostolic	Persecuted	Corrupted	Adulterous	Ritualistic	Revived	Deluded
Appx Time	30 - 70 AD	70 - 312 AD	312 - 962 AD	962 - 1453 AD	1453 - 1648 AD	1648 - 1906 AD	1906 AD - present
Major Events	Jesus' resurrection 30 AD	10 Persecutions by Roman Empire	state supports church	Holy Roman Empire 962 - 1806 AD	1453 Muslims defeat Constantinople	1648 AD End 30 Years' War	Azuza St revival in Los Angeles 1906 AD
Major Events	temple destroyed 70 AD	Constantine, Edict of Milan 312AD	Constantinople, Eastern Roman Emp (Greek) to 1453 AD	church selects state leaders	Protestant Reformation 1500's	~75 missionary societies	1914-18 WWI 1938-45 WWII
Major Events			Western Roman Empire (Latin) falls 476 AD	4 Crusades 1097 - ~1250AD	1456 AD Gutenberg printing press 1611 AD - KJV	The First Great Awakening, New England 1740AD	5/14/1948 Israel is proclaimed a nation
Major Events			Muslims conquer Jerusalem 632 AD	The Bubonic Plague 1348 - 1351AD	Spanish Inquisition 1479 - 1820 AD	Revivals England & USA	
Correlation	false prophets fought	Smyrna = "myrrh", death	Balaam teaching - distractions	Jezebel's systems	Name alive, but dead	missions revived	Lukewarm please everyone church
Correlation	relaxed efforts	tribulation 10 days	Nicolaitans teaching - conquer the people	Jezebel's children die	Deeds incomplete - no Holy Spirit	people revived	Rich prosperity gospel
Correlation	hate Nicolaitans	Devil casting in prison		Later deeds better	Jesus comes like thief		Deceived church



Byzantium,
Constantinople
Now Istanbul

7 churches



Patmos

3. Pergamum

4. Thyatira

2. Smyrna

5. Sardis

6. Philadelphia

1. Ephesus

7. Laodicea

Why these 7 churches?

Relatively Insignificant Churches

- Ephesians written to church at Ephesus
- Laodicea mentioned in letter to the Colossians
- 5 others not mentioned anywhere else in Bible

Why not address larger “more important” churches?

- Rome, Antioch (Syria-1st Christians), Jerusalem?

Why not just send one message to all churches?

Why these 7 churches?

Revelation PROPHETICALLY describes:

- | |
|---|
| • Disposition of all people in heaven or hell |
| • Punishment of the forces of evil |
| • Reign of Jesus Christ |
| • Eternity with God |
| • IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER |

Conclusion-- Messages to 7 churches are:

- | |
|------------------------|
| • PROPHETIC |
| • CHRONOLOGICAL |

1. Ephesus - The Apostolic Church

Approximate Time Period

- 30 – 70 AD

Major Events

30 AD	Jesus' resurrection
70 AD	Destruction of Jerusalem and Temple by Titus

1. Ephesus - The Apostolic Church

Correlation – Attempted Rise of False Prophets

Rev 2:2you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false.
	• Jesus warns followers, ravenous wolves (Mat 7:15)
	• Paul warns Corinthians (2 Cor 11) & Galatians (Gal 2)
	• Peter warns all Christians (2 Pet 2:1)

1. Ephesus - The Apostolic Church

Correlation – Relaxed Efforts

Rev 2:4you have left your first love.
	• would be hard to maintain same excellence
	• "First" implies chronological order of the messages

Correlation – Hate Nicolaitans

Rev 2:6	...you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
	• Priestly order
	• Apostolic succession

2. Smyrna - The Persecuted Church

Approximate Time Period

- 70 - 312 AD

Major Events

70 AD	Destruction of Jerusalem and Temple by Titus
67-312AD	10 Sets of Persecution under Roman Empire
312 AD	Constantine, Edict of Milan, ends persecution

2. Smyrna - The Persecuted Church

Correlation – Smyrna - root word "myrrh"

Rev 2:8	The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life...
	3 Gifts the Magi brought Jesus:
	• Gold for King
	• Frankincense for Priest
	• Myrrh for Burial spice

2. Smyrna - The Persecuted Church

Correlation – Ten Persecutions

Rev 2:10	...you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.		
67 AD	1. Nero	235 AD	6. Maximinus
81 AD	2. Domitian	249 AD	7. Decius
108 AD	3. Trajan / Adrian	257 AD	8. Valerian
162 AD	4. Marcus Aurelius Antoninus	274 AD	9. Aurelian
192 AD	5. Severus	303 AD	10. Diocletian

2. Smyrna - The Persecuted Church

Correlation – Ten Persecutions

In case there was any doubts about source:

Rev 2:10	...the devil is about to cast some of you into prison...
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3. Pergamum - The Corrupted Church

Approximate Time Period

- 312- 962 AD

Major Events

312 AD	Constantine, Edict of Milan, ends persecution, Christianity becomes "official" state religion
330 AD	Constantine moves Roman capital to Byzantium, renames Constantinople, later is Eastern Roman Empire (Greek)



Byzantium,
Constantinople
Now Istanbul

7 churches

3. Pergamum - The Corrupted Church

Approximate Time Period

- 312- 962 AD

Major Events

476 AD	Western Roman Empire (Latin) falls "Dark ages" ~1000AD
570 - 632 AD	Mohammed Muslims capture Jerusalem 632AD Dome of the Rock built on temple mount 681AD

3. Pergamum - The Corrupted Church

Correlation – Balaam Method

Rev 2:14	...some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel...
	Balaam = prophet Balak = Moab King

Teaching of Balaam: "Distractions"

• Fornication = church marries/unites with the Roman state
-- Pergamum (Pergamos) -- means mixed marriage

3. Pergamum - The Corrupted Church

Correlation – Balaam Method (continued)

Teaching of Balaam: "Distractions"

- Idolatry (mixing pagan rituals with church)
 - statue use
 - veneration of saints

Tactical Change:

- was straight up murder, that didn't work (Smyrna)
- now state supports the church, pays for new buildings

3. Pergamum - The Corrupted Church

Correlation – Nicolaitans

Rev 2:6	...you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. (to Ephesus)
Rev 2:15	So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. (to Pergamum)

Nicolaitans: “to conquer the people (laity)”

• Priestly order
• Apostolic succession

3. Pergamum - The Corrupted Church

Correlation – Nicolaitans (continued)

Council of Nicea - 325 AD

- Convened by Constantine, divine nature of Jesus Christ
- Firmly entrenched the separation of laity & clergy by acceptance of 20 canon laws

4. Thyatira - The Adulterous Church

Approximate Time Period

- 962 - 1453 AD

Major Events

962 - 1806 AD	Holy Roman Empire - Pope claims right to select state leaders
1054 AD	The Great Schism - Eastern Orthodox & Western Roman church separate over papal authority, celibacy, church self-governance

4. Thyatira - The Adulterous Church

Approximate Time Period

- 962 - 1453 AD

Major Events

1097 - 1271 AD	Crusades -- religious wars initiated by Western Roman church to recover Holy Lands from Islamic rule
1348 - 1351 AD	The Bubonic Plague (black death) kills 1/3 of the people in Europe, estimated 40,000,000 people

4. Thyatira - The Adulterous Church

Correlation – Jezebel

Rev 2:20 ... you tolerate the woman Jezebel ...

Characteristics of “Jezebel’s System”

Destroyer	Loud & Talkative	Power Hungry
Kills Prophets	Martyr Mentality	Unrepentant
Religious System	Cunning to Achieve	Sharp Tongued
Large Size	Liars	Threatens Reprisals

4. Thyatira - The Adulterous Church

Correlation – Jezebel (continued)

Jezebel's False Religious System

Penance	Purgatory	Equal authority of scripture & church tradition
Eucharist	Indulgences	Pope is "Vicar of Christ"

Jezebel Eliminates Threats

1204 AD	4th Crusade - Diverted from Holy Land to Constantinople.
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4. Thyatira - The Adulterous Church

Correlation – Jezebel (continued)

Jezebel's System

- Church runs the state (Holy Roman Empire)
- No longer a marriage, now she's in control

4. Thyatira - The Adulterous Church

Correlation – Jezebel’s Children

Rev 2:23	And I will kill her children with pestilence...
1348 - 1351 AD	The Bubonic Plague (black death) kills 1/3 of the people in Europe, estimated 40,000,000 people

Correlation – Later Deeds

Rev 2:19	I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.
Trending toward reformation.

5. Sardis - The Ritualistic Church

Approximate Time Period

- 1453 - 1648 AD

Major Events

1453 AD	Ottoman Empire (Sunni Islamic) defeats Constantinople. Greek scholars which still remained after 4th Crusade leave for the west. Take Greek Bible manuscripts.
1500's	<u>Protestant</u> Reformation - Protesting Jezebel's False Religious System. 5 Sola's (ONLY's)

5. Sardis - The Ritualistic Church

Approximate Time Period

- 1453 - 1648 AD

Major Events

1456 AD	Gutenberg printing press
1611 AD	King James version of Bible published
1479 - 1820 AD	Spanish Inquisition (Investigation) - 340,000 trials for heresy to the church. 32,000+ Jews and Protestants murdered.

5. Sardis - The Ritualistic Church

Correlation – Name

Rev 3:1	...I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.
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New Denominations

1520	Lutheran (Martin Luther)	1560	Reformed
1527	Anabaptist (Mennonites, Brethren, Amish)	1610	Baptist
1534	Episcopal / Anglican (Church of England)	1650	Society of Friends / Quakers
1534-60	Presbyterian (Calvin)		

5. Sardis - The Ritualistic Church

Correlation – Lacking Holy Spirit

Rev 3:2	...I have not found your deeds completed...
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Rom 8:12	So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—
Rom 8:13	for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; <u>but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.</u>
Rom 8:14	For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

5. Sardis - The Ritualistic Church

Correlation – Thief

Rev 3:3	...if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief...
Luk 12:35	Be dressed in readiness, and <u>keep your lamps lit.</u>
Luk 12:39	But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what hour <u>the thief was coming</u> , he would not have allowed his house to be broken into.
Luk 12:40	<u>You too, be ready</u> ; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect.

6. Philadelphia - The Revived Church

Approximate Time Period

• 1648 - 1906 AD

Major Events

1648 AD	End of 30 Years' War
..period..	About 75 missionary societies formed
1730 - 1740 AD	The first great awakening in New England. Revival spreads across America.
1737 AD	George Whitefield / John Wesley -- England

6. Philadelphia - The Revived Church

Approximate Time Period

- 1648 - 1906 AD

Major Events

1806 AD	End of Holy Roman Empire by Napoleon, French Revolution
1854 AD	Charles Spurgeon -- England
1855 AD	Dwight L. Moody -- USA
1901 AD	Boxer Rebellion -- China kills & expels missionaries
1906 AD	Azuza St Revival -- Los Angeles

6. Philadelphia - The Revived Church

Correlation – Missions

Rev 3:8	I have put before you an open door...
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1648 - 1906 AD	About 75 missionary societies formed (32 USA, 42 England)
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6. Philadelphia - The Revived Church

Correlation – Revivals (England & USA)

Rev 3:8	...you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.
1730 - 1740 AD	The first great awakening in New England. Revival spreads across America.
1737 AD	George Whitefield / John Wesley -- England
1854 AD	Charles Spurgeon -- England
1855 AD	Dwight L. Moody -- USA
1906 AD	Azuza St Revival -- Los Angeles

6. Philadelphia - The Revived Church

Message for Today?

Rev 3:9	Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, <u>but lie</u> —I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you.
Rev 3:10	I am coming quickly; <u>hold fast what you have</u> , so that no one will take your crown.

7. Laodicea - The Deluded Church

Approximate Time Period

- 1906 AD - Present

Major Events

1914-18	WWI. Communism spreads.
1938-45	WWII. Holocaust, 6,000,000 Jews murdered.
5/14/1948	Israel is proclaimed a nation again by David Ben-Gurion. Truman recognizes Israel nation the same day.

7. Laodicea - The Deluded Church

Correlation – Lukewarm

Rev 3:15	I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot.
Rev 3:16	So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

➔ The Pleasing Unoffensive Church ➔

7. Laodicea - The Deluded Church

Correlation – Rich

Rev 3:17	Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” ...
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→ Prosperity Gospel ←
→ Name-it Claim-it Church ←

7. Laodicea - The Deluded Church

Correlation – Deceived

Rev 3:17	...you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,
translation	...You are poor quality and inadequate and worse than usual and lacking discernment and not disguised from me as to your true self.
Rev 3:20	Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

→ The Lost Church ←

Promises to the Overcoming Church

7 Churches

Ephesus	Tree of Life
Smyrna	First Resurrection (no 2nd death)
Pergamum	Hidden manna / white stone
Thyatira	Authority over the nations
Sardis	Name confessed by Jesus
Philadelphia	The New Jerusalem
Laodicea	Sit with Jesus on his throne

Life Message

7 Churches

Ephesus	Repent
Smyrna	Don't fear
Pergamum	Repent
Thyatira	Hold fast
Sardis	Repent
Philadelphia	Hold fast
Laodicea	Repent



A map of the western coast of Turkey showing the locations of the seven churches mentioned in the Book of Revelation. The map includes major cities like İzmir, Manisa, Aydın, and Denizli, as well as the Aegean Sea to the west. Seven yellow rectangular labels with black text and red cross icons are placed over the map to indicate the locations of the churches. The labels are numbered 1 through 7, corresponding to the list on the right.

3. Pergamum

2. Smyrna

1. Ephesus

4. Thyatira

5. Sardis

6. Philadelphia

7. Laodicea

Conclusions

- 1. Jesus told us the future**
- 2. Our church age is BAD**
- 3. Self deception is prevalent**

7 Churches of the Age

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