



# LOSING OUR 1ST LOVE WHILE WORKING IN THE KINGDOM

AN EXAMINATION OF THE CHURCH OF EPHEBUS  
REV 2:1-7



# GOD IS OBSERVING

- Revelation 2:1 "...who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands"
- Proverbs 5:21 "For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He watches all his paths."
- Proverbs 15:3 "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good."
- Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. 14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil."



modern day  
**TURKEY**



Pergamos



Thyatira



Smyrna



Sardis



Philadelphia



Ephesus



Laodicea





# LAODICEA

- Textiles
- Medicine
- Banking
- Lukewarm





# PERGAMUM

- Idol worship
- Antipas
- Neutral vs Action



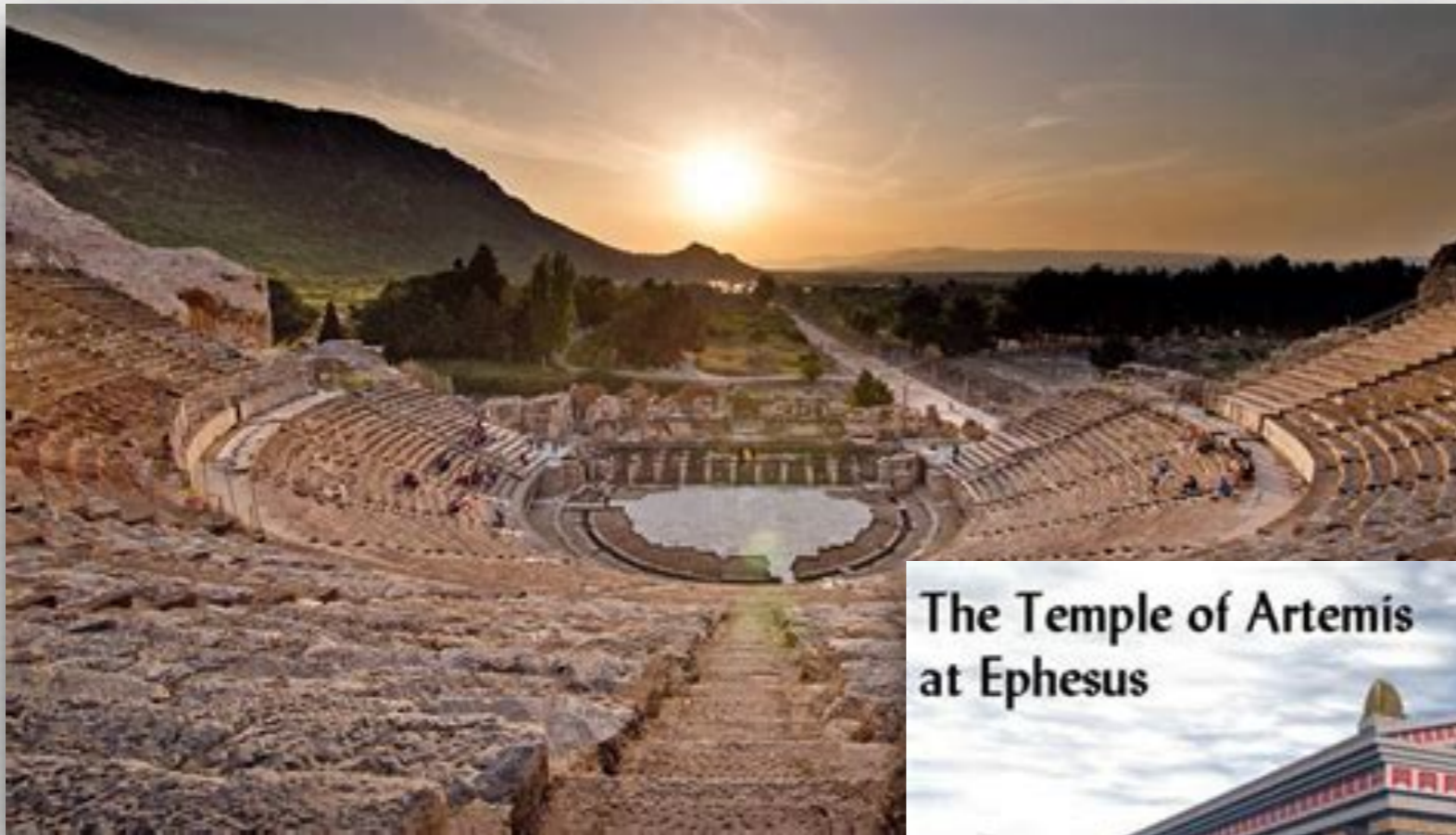


# THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

- The city of Ephesus is discussed a lot in the NT
  - Acts 18, 19, 20
  - Epistle to the Ephesians
  - 1st and 2nd Timothy
- Ephesians:
  - 2 major divisions
  - Living Godly by being united, holy, loving, separated from ungodliness, wise, and vigilant



# THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS



The Temple of Artemis  
at Ephesus





# THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

Revelation 2:2 “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;”

- This was an active church, laboring for God.
  - 1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”
  - Revelation 14:13 “Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.””



# THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

Revelation 2:2 “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;”

- This was an active church, laboring for God.
  - Revelation 20:12 “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.
  - Ephesians 4:16 “from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”



# THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

Revelation 2:2 “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.”

- Adding verse 3, we see a complete picture of patience and perseverance
  - Romans 5:3-4 “And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope”
  - 2 Corinthians 4:16 “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day.”



# THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

Revelation 2:2 “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.”

- Adding verse 3, we see a complete picture of patience and perseverance
  - Ephesians 3:13 “Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.”
  - Matthew 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”



# THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

Revelation 2:2 "... and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;"

- Testing teachers
  - Acts 17:11 read "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so."
  - 2 Corinthians 13:5 "Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified."



# THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

Revelation 2:4 “Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.”

- Leaving our first love
  - Psalm 78:34-37 “When He slew them (punish), then they sought (repented) Him; And they returned and sought earnestly for God. 35 Then they remembered that God [was] their rock, And the Most High God their Redeemer. 36 Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, And they lied to Him with their tongue; 37 For their heart was not steadfast with Him, Nor were they faithful in His covenant.”
  - Malachi 1:10 ““Who *is there* even among you who would shut the doors, So that you would not kindle fire *on* My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you,”



# THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

1 Timothy 1:12-17 “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting [me] into the ministry, 13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did [it] ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 15 This [is] a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, [be] honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”



# THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

Luke 17:9-10 helps us remember this too “He does not thank the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he? 10 “So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, ‘We are unworthy slaves; we have done [only] that which we ought to have done.’””

Deuteronomy 30:16 “in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.”



# THE CHURCH OF EPHEBUS

Revelation 2:5 and 7 “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. And verses 7 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”