

Message to the Seven Churches



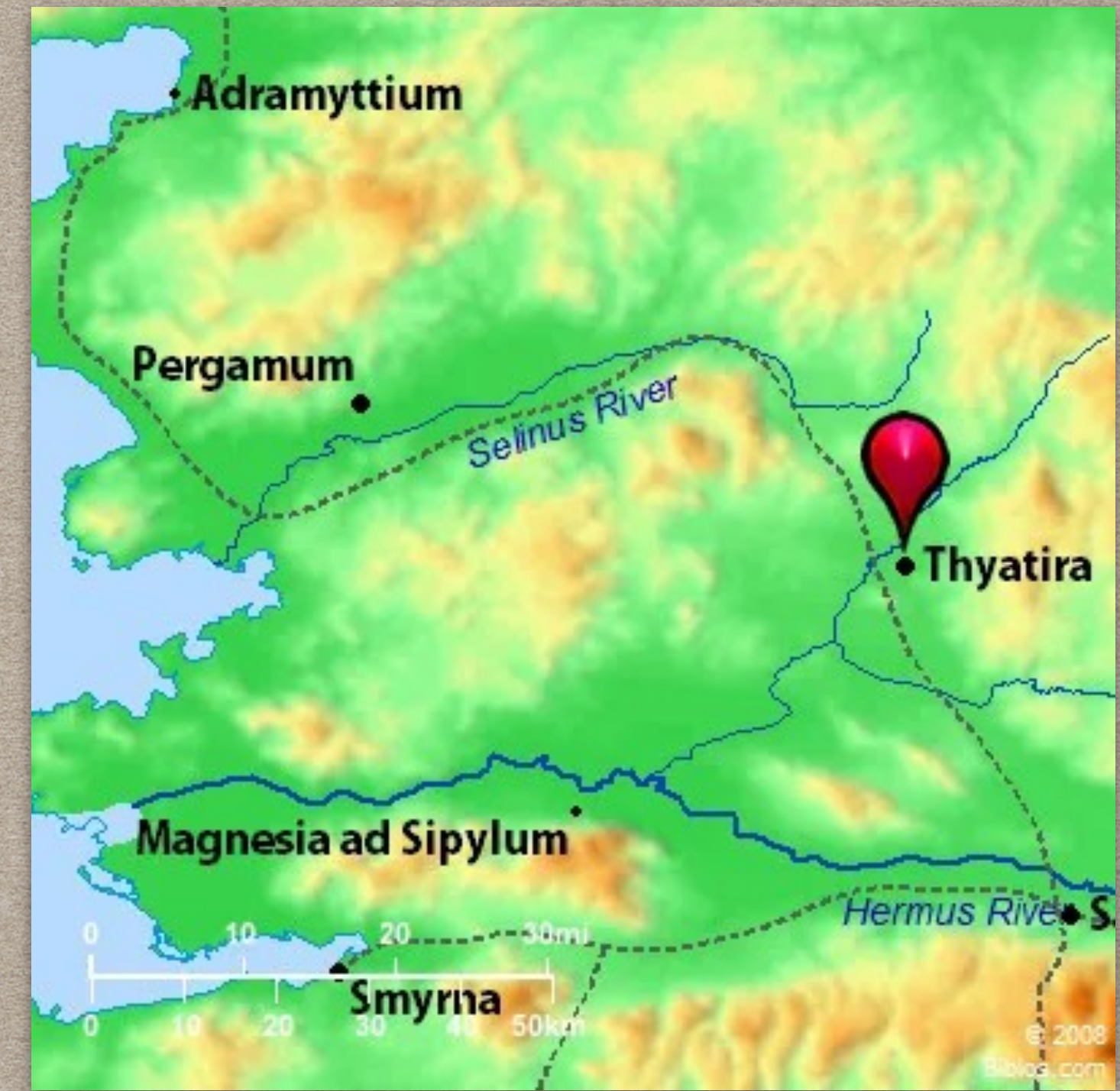
THYATIRA - THE CHURCH THAT HAD BECOME CORRUPTED

THE BETTER WE UNDERSTAND THESE 7 CHURCHES

- The better we understand:
 - The book of Revelation
 - The better we understand the tendencies of a congregation
 - The better we will be prepared to stand in the face of persecutions

HISTORY OF THYATIRA

- Modern day Turkish city of Akhisar - “White Castle”
- Intersection of several valleys
- City of the Guilds
 - wool-workers, linen-workers, makers of outer garments, dyers, leather-workers, tanners, potters, bakers, slave-dealers, and bronze-smiths



HISTORY OF THYATIRA

- Lydia "seller of purple"
- Paul's work in Asia Minor



Acts 16:14-15 "14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard [us]. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged [us], saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us."

TO THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA

Revelation 2:18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: "

- Son of God
- Eyes like flame of fire: piercing, illuminating, and/or consuming
- Feet like fine brass: firm, strong, and pure
 - Revelation 1:15, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

TO THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA

Revelation 2:19 "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and [as] for your works, the last [are] more than the first."

- The 5 Praises to Thyatira
- Stagnant vs Active Growth: Hebrews 5:12-14

"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need [someone] to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes [only] of milk [is] unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, [that is], those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

TO THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA

Revelation 2:20-23 "Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. 22 "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds." 23 "I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works."

- Obedience vs Disobedience
- 1st Century Challenges

TO THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA

- Comparison to Jezebel: 1 Kings 16:29-33
 - 1 Kings 18:4 - Massacred the Lord's prophets
 - 1 Kings 18:19 - Personally supported the pagan priests of Baal and Asherah
- Compare Ephesus to Pergamum to Thyatira
- No Toleration of sin: Ephesians 5:11, 1 Corinthians 5:6-7
- Jesus is merciful, but we can not forget that he is righteous: Romans 2:4-6
- Judgement will be severed: Ezekiel 16:36-41

TO THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA

Revelation 2:24 "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden."

- "Deep Things of Satan"
- '1 Corinthians 2:10-14 But God has revealed [them] to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.

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TO THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA


Revelation 2:25-29 But hold fast what you have till I come. 26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— 27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'--as I also have received from My Father; 28 "and I will give him the morning star. 29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches

- Rule over nations: Psalms 2:8-9, Romans 8:37-39
- Rod of Iron: Isaiah 11:4, Ephesians 1:20-23, Hebrews 11:4, 7
- Morning Star: Revelation 22:16


modern day
TURKEY




Pergamos



Smyrna




Ephesus




Thyatira



Sardis



Philadelphia



Laodicea

Church	Known For	Praised	Condemned	Conclusion
Smyrna	Lived faithfully through persecution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stood strong in face of tribulation - Resisted false accusations and blasphemy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nothing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More persecution was coming, Hold Fast
Philadelphia	Kept the command to persevere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small in number but served the Lord - Spiritual warfare against the synagogue of Satan, the Jews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nothing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hold fast
Ephesus	Left their 1st Love	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active workers in the Kingdom - Tested those who claimed to be apostles - Refused to tolerate false teaching - Kept heart during tribulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Left their zeal/ passion for Christ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give God our hearts and obedience
Pergamum	The neutral church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held fast Jesus Name - Did not deny my faith - Courageous in the face of death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stood neutral to address those following Nicolaitans and Balaam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address and respond to sin, no matter where it occurs
Thyatira	The compromised church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acknowledged their works, love, service, faith, patience, and continued growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allowed false prophetess to compromise the group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Judgement is coming - Faithful to remain clean
Sardis	Alive to the world, but dead to God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some were considered faithful - There was some good occurring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - While they were perceived as active, God saw them as dead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repent, God will return as a thief
Laodicea	Lukewarm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nothing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compromised by the society and culture - Neither hot or cold for God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To Repent

God sees and knows what we are doing. How would our letter read?