

What is your first love?

Revelation 1:19 – 2:7 The Letter to the
Church at Ephesus

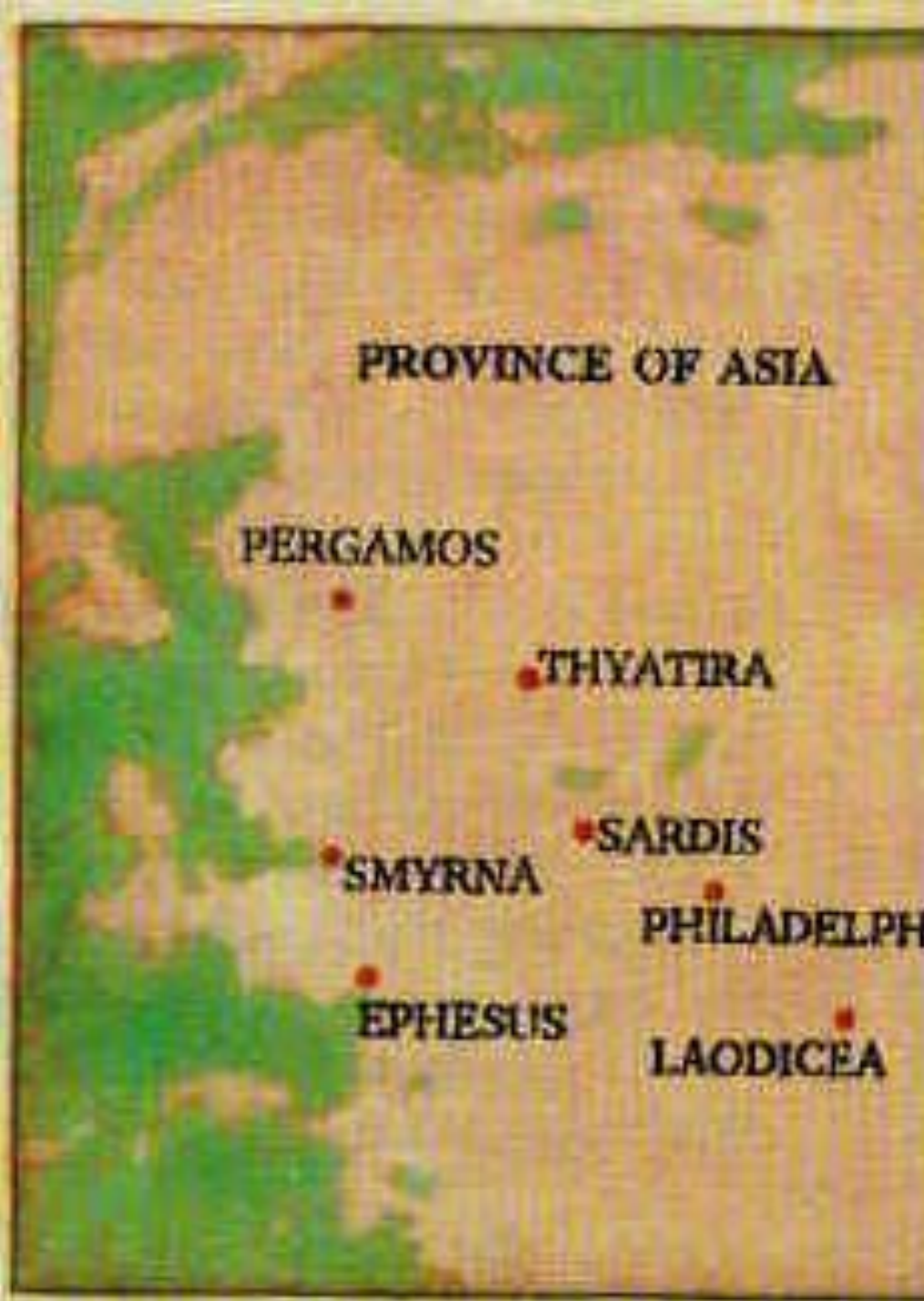
The background image shows the ruins of an ancient city, likely Ephesus. On the left, a large, partially ruined colonnade with several standing columns is visible. In the center and right, there are more ruins, including a structure with arches and a large, tiered stone structure that appears to be a theater or amphitheater. The ground is covered in rubble and debris. Several people are scattered throughout the scene, providing a sense of scale. The sky is blue with some white clouds.

Revelation 2-3

The Letters to the seven Churches

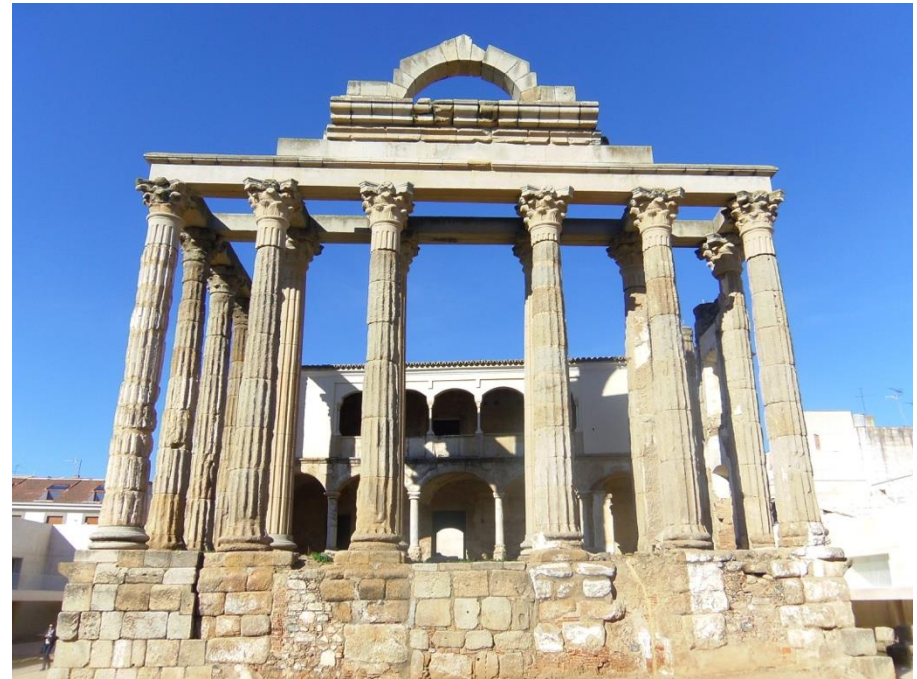
Outline

- These are similar to some of the short prophecies in the old testament, such as Amos 1-2.
- They are a group of 7 in reference to the lamp stand and stars in the vision of Jesus in the previous chapter.
- They are structured in the following manner –
 - A description of Christ with reference to the opening vision
 - An encouragement for the good things that the church is doing
 - A criticism of the faults of the Church
 - A promise of reward at Jesus' return



The Letter to the Church at Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7)

- Ephesus
 - One of the greatest cities of the ancient world, the largest in Asia Minor
 - Known for its temple of Diana, later for two temples devoted to worship the Roman emperors
 - Known as a place of refuge for fugitives but because of this became a centre of Organized crime.
 - There was much interest in superstition and magic (See Acts 19:13-20)





Reject False Teaching (Vs 2-3 & 6)

- The Ephesians were commended for rejecting false teaching
- In Particular the teaching of the Nicolaitans – A teaching of moral compromise, licentiousness
 - - Idolatry
 - - Compromise with pagan traditions
 - - Sexual immorality
 - - Dualism – Spirit is everything, so the body does not matter!
- Many of these are in the church today!
- Be watchful and guard your faith, reject false teaching
- Where are you compromising your faith?

Return to your first love (Vs 4 & 5)

- The church at Ephesus had good Theology. They were doing the “Right stuff”
- How did the loss of love begin? Possibly a gradual fade??
- Relationships break –
 - Lack of appreciation
 - Lack of effort
 - Taking the other for granted
- How to restore the love – Repent, Turn back to your true love!
- What priority does God have in your life?



Right to eternal life Vs 7

- There is more than some good to come, God is good! Ultimately, he will make all things new!
- What a reward. The promise of a new day!
- Jesus gave us Salvation on the cross. This includes the promise of Eternal life!

To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:7

- Have you made Jesus Lord?
- Are you Certain of your eternal reward?



Respond!

- Are you rejecting false teaching? What compromises are you making?
- Return to your first love? What is the priority of your life? Is Jesus first?
- Claim your right to eternal life! Keep going, don't give up!

