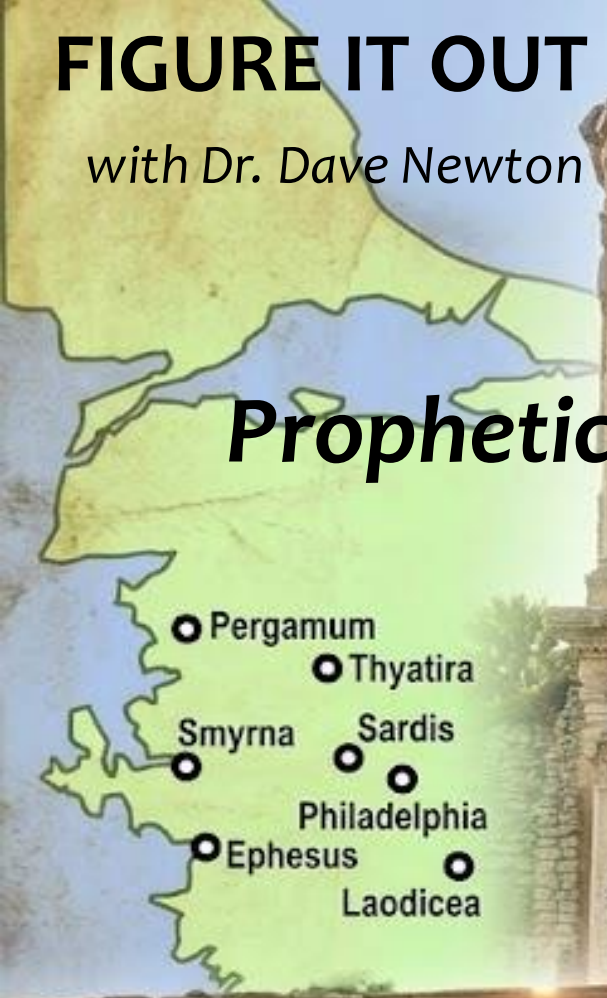
FIGURE IT OUT

with Dr. Dave Newton

Prophetic Perspectives on the 7 Churches of Revelation



Special 4-Week Study in Revelation 2 +3

Oct. 26 - Nov. 2 - 9 - 16

1st Peter 1:1
Pontus
Galatia
Cappadocia
Asia
Bithynia

Acts 2:10
Phrygia
Pamphylia

Acts 14:6
Lycaonia

Acts 14:24
Pisidia

Acts 22:3
Cilicia

Acts 27:5
Lycia

Real Historical Locations



Revelation 2 + 3 [churches are on earth … in heaven chapter 4 *meta tauta*]

- **Ephesus** Ἔφεσος [pre-Greek]
- **Smyrna** Σμύρνη *myrrh* [crushed to activate aroma]
- **Pergamum** Πέργαμον *pyrgos = fortress or tower*
- **Thyatira** Θυάτειρα *daughter*

Revelation 3

- **Sardis** Σάρδεις *reddish-brown gemstone sardion*
- **Philadelphia** φίλος ἀδελφός *love of brother*
- **Laodicea** Λαοδίκεια laos-dike *people of justice*

Colossians 4

- **Hierapolis** Ἱεράπολις *hieros = holy polis = city*

Revelation 1

- **Patmos** Πάτμος *pre-Greek Lydian of* latmos = *mountain to Artemis*

Revelation 2 + 3 [churches are on earth … in heaven chapter 4ff]

WHY *these particular 7 ?*

WHAT ABOUT	*Athens?*	*Rome?*	*Thessalonica?*
	Philippi?	*Corinth?*	*Syrian Antioch?*
	Galatia?	*Troas?*	*Pisidian Antioch?*
	Cyprus?	*Colossae?*	*Jerusalem?*
	Alexandria?	*Berea?*	*Neapolis?*

HOLY SPIRIT 3 targets of 7 letters:

1. each unique church 1st Century AD
2. ALL churches [*one document*]
3. ***Prophetic MAP*** *of Church History*

Prophetic Perspective of the 7 Churches [works ONLY in ***this order***]

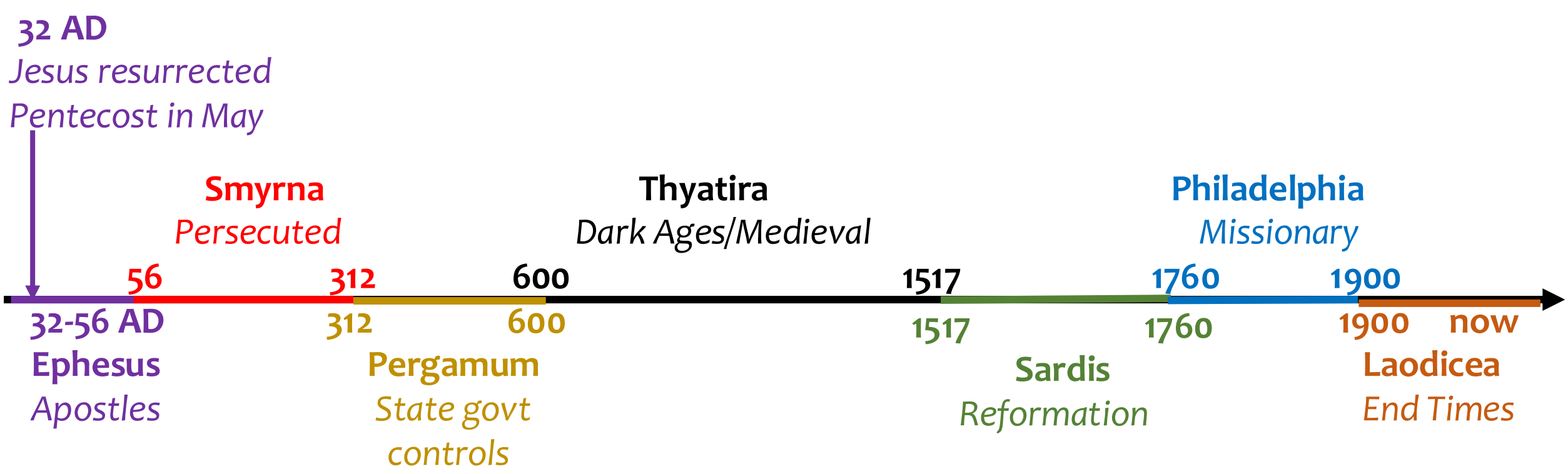
Revelation 2+3

- **Ephesus** **32-56 AD** *1st Century AD church of Apostles* *zealous but left First Love*
- **Smyrna** **56-312** *heavily persecuted church until Constantine*
- **Pergamum** **312-600** *'State' church allows gross compromise*
- **Thyatira** **600-1517** *Dark Ages Medieval church - rise of the papacy/corruption*
- **Sardis** **1517-1760** *Reformation church - break from Rome - many denominations*
- **Philadelphia** **1760-1900** *Worldwide missionary evangelism church*
- **Laodicea** **1900-today** *End Times church self-satisfied, complacent, wealthy and yet spiritually undiscerning and blind to false teachers/doctrines*


ASIA
MINOR
Bergama
PERGAMUM
THYATIRA
Akhisar
Sart
SARDIS
SMYRNA
Izmir
PHILADELPHIA
Alaşehir
Selçuk
EPHESUS
HIERAPOLIS
LAODICEA
Laodikeia/Denizli
AEGEAN
SEA
SAMOS
Kusadasi
PATMOS


FIAT
ROTA RENTAL


1 3 5
2 4 6 R


32 AD
Jesus resurrected
Pentecost in May
Smyrna
Persecuted
Thyatira
Dark Ages/Medieval
Philadelphia
Missionary
56
312
600
1517
1760
1900
32-56 AD
Ephesus
Apostles
312
600
Pergamum
State govt controls
1517
1760
Sardis
Reformation
1900
now
Laodicea
End Times

Revelation 3:1-6 *to aggelos messenger*

Sardis Σάρδεις *reddish-brown gemstone Sardion*

- **9th Cent. BC** Phrygian king Midas mastery of gold from Pactolus River
- Capital of Kingdom of Lydia … dates to ***Darius Cyrus Artexerxes***
  600 BC innovative standardized coinage stamped with lion + bull icons
- **561-547 BC** King Croesus - Lydian mint separates ***gold and silver***
  'is anyone as rich as Croesus?'
- **17 AD** Huge earthquake destroyed most of the city
  [time of Tiberius Caesar … Jesus in Nazareth age 19]

Revelation 3:1-6 *to aggelos messenger*

- He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says:

*- I know your deeds - **you have a name** that you are alive **but you are DEAD***
wake up and strengthen the things that remain - which were about to die
*for I have **not found your deeds completed** in the sight of My God*

You have great name-reputation but in **90s AD** it means nothing
Reformation + Church Denominations *name but dead and incomplete deeds*

- Lutheran - Reformed - Presbyterian - Anglican
- Episcopalian - Covenant - Congregational - Brethren

MANY ***reformers*** well short of full return to Biblical/NT Christianity
[infant baptism priests serve communion state-enforced religion
priests bishops church hierarchy]

- Martin Luther - Jean Calvin - John Wesley - John Knox
- Jakob Hermann - Martin Bucer - Thomas Cranmer - William Tyndale

Revelation 3:1-6 *to aggelos messenger*

Sardis Σάρδεις *He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says:*

*- remember what you have received and heard and **KEEP IT** and repent*

Return to original intent of the ***early Reformation***

Denominations have creeds, deep theological hymns, books of prayers, liturgy, ceremony, formal vows, sacraments

but … has it all become routine, lifeless, procedural?

Incomplete works **Complacency** **Falling Asleep** **Apathy**

*- If you do not **Wake Up - I will come like a thief***

*you will **not know at what hour** I will come to you*

Allusion to *harpazo* that many denominations no longer to hold to

Revelation 3:1-6 *to aggelos messenger*

*- but there are a **few** people in Sardis who have not dirtied their garments*

ὀλίγος *oligos* like oligopoly [**some fruit even in denominations**]

and they will walk with Me in white for they are worthy

- he who overcomes will so be clothed in white garments

Rev. 3:18 Laodicea **Rev. 4:4 7:9 7:13-14 19:8 19:14** *white garments-linen-robes*

- I will not erase his name from Book of Life **double negative hyperbole to make point**

Exodus 32:33 *whoever sins against Me I will blot them out of My book*

Deut. 25:19 *the memory of Amalek is blotted out*

Deut. 29:20 *Lord will blot out his name from under heaven*

Psalm 69:27-28 *add their iniquity to iniquity - they not come into Your righteousness*

may they be blotted out of the Book of Life

Rev. 21:27 *only ones in New Jerusalem have their names in Lamb's Book of Life*

NOT a fluid ongoing ledger of good + bad deeds ***Simply names that were not entered***

Revelation 3:1-6 *to aggelos messenger*

- I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels **at the Bema?**
- he who has an ear HEAR what the Holy Spirit says to the churches

- Jesus has ***nothing positive*** to say to this church!

Note: *no criticism of Smyrna and Philadelphia*
no commendation at all for Laodicea







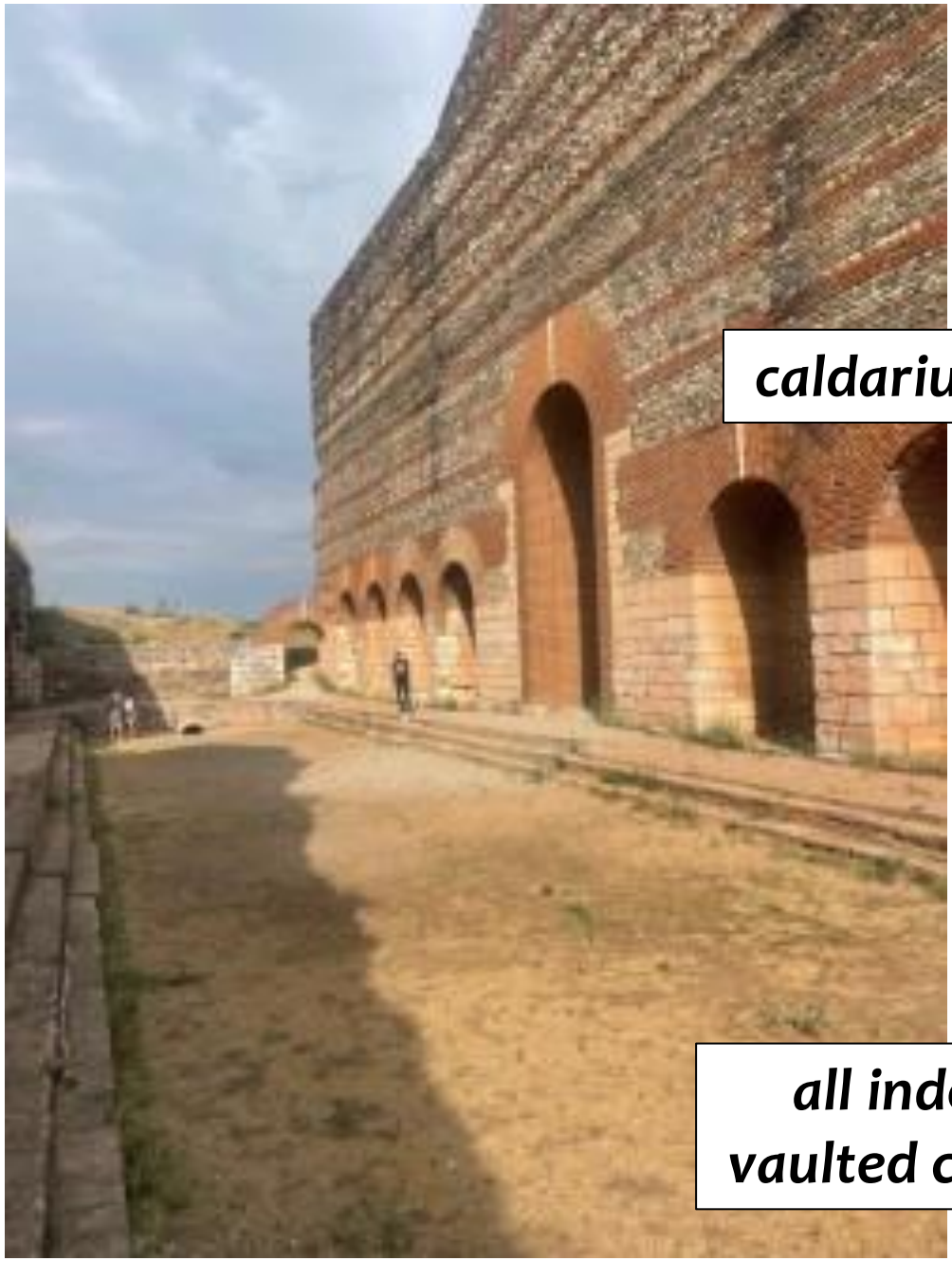









tepidarium
frigidarium
'cold pool'
132ft x 29ft


caldarium
all indoors
vaulted ceilings

Sardis *synagogue*





capacity of 1,000

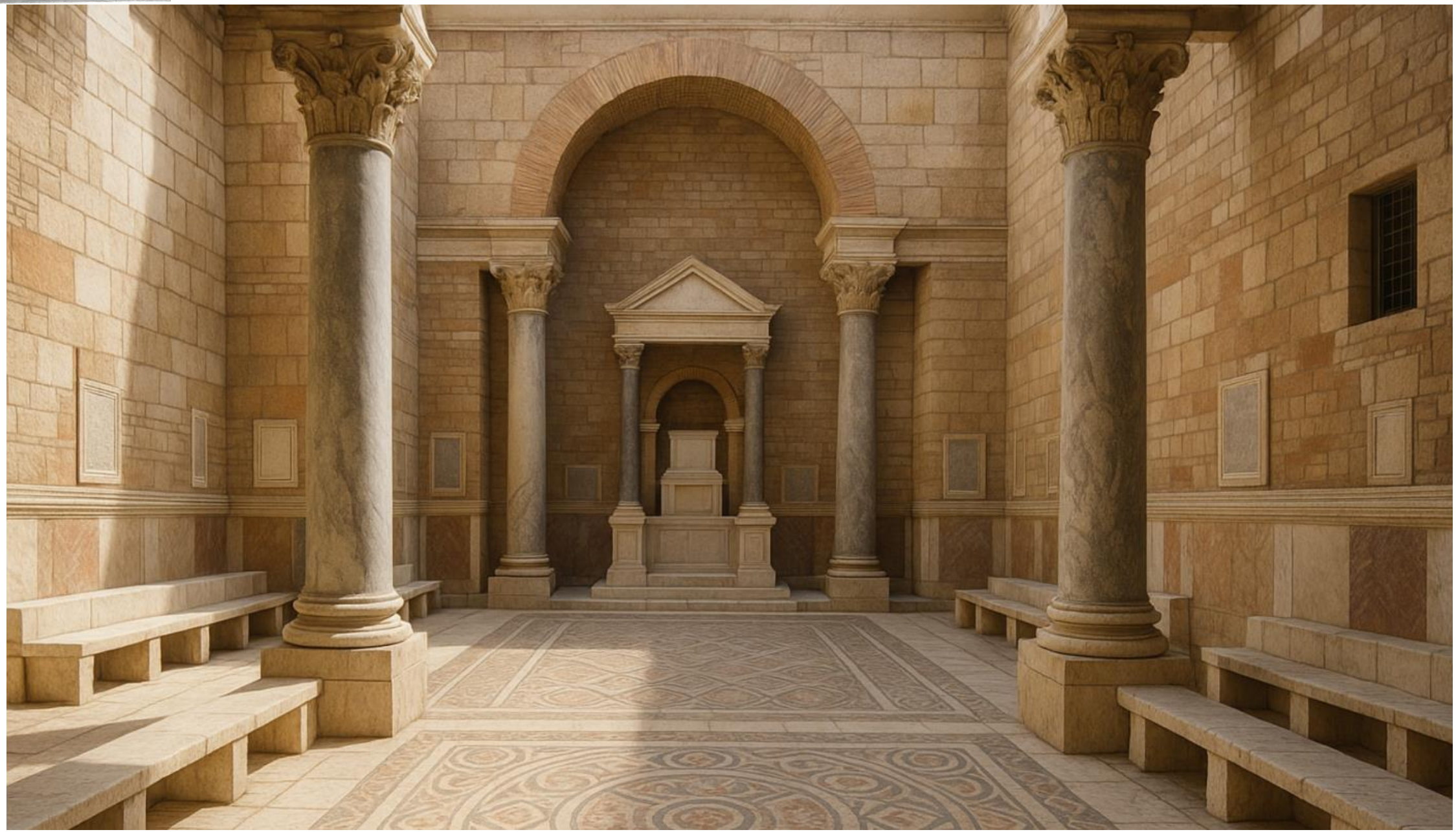


Elders-rabbis seating

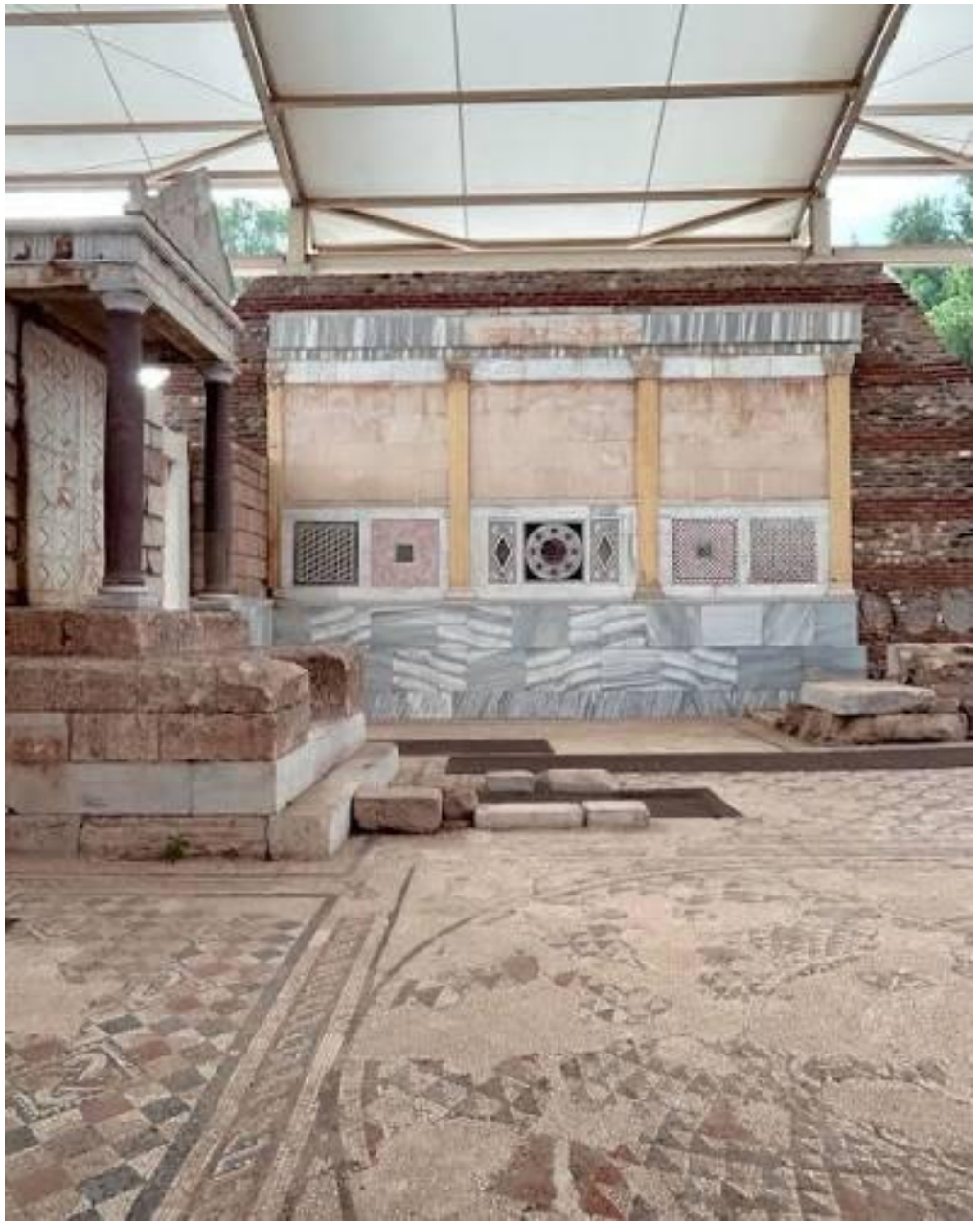


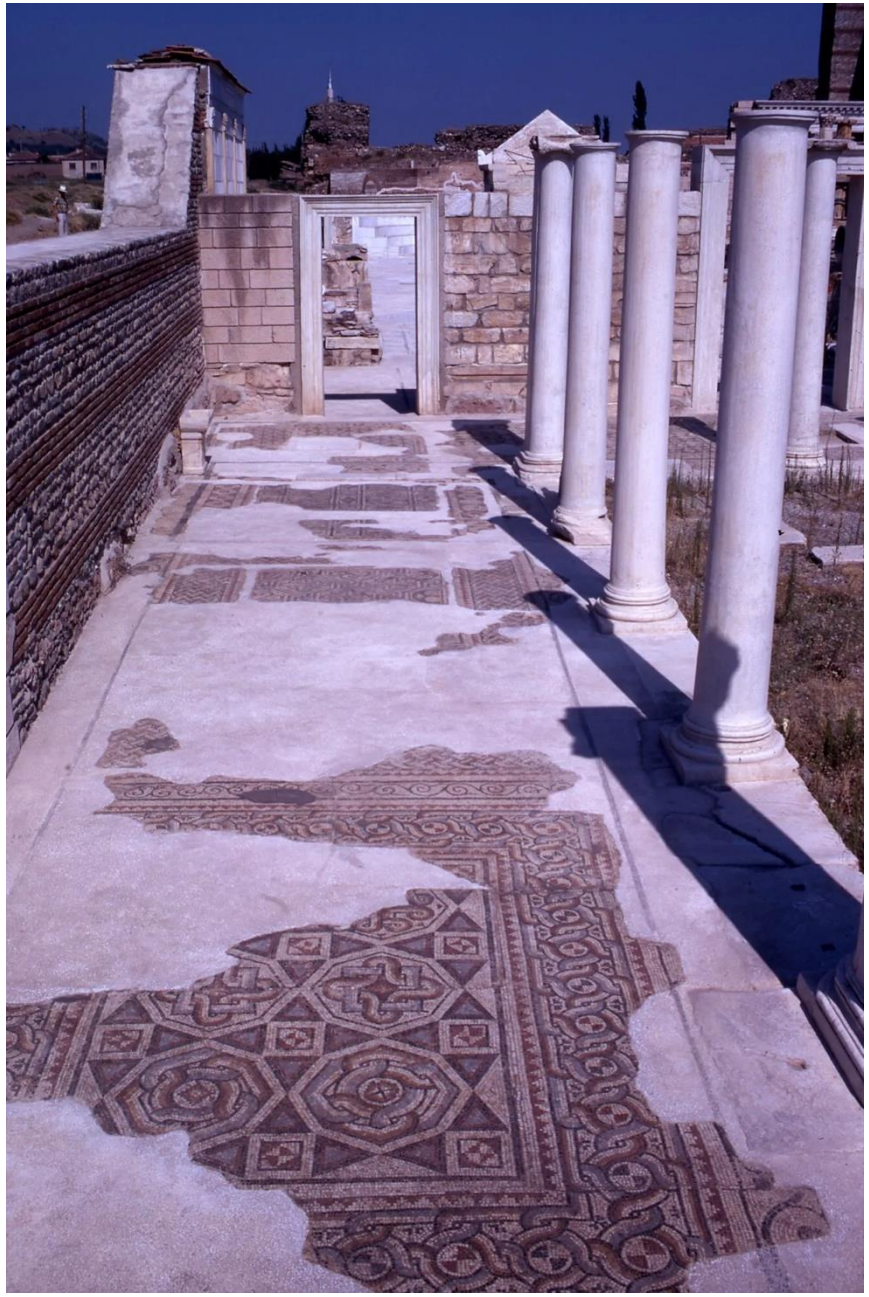















Luc Wouters
http://turkeyphotoguide.com



Temple to Artemis

about 2km away





 © 2026 David Newton

front steps



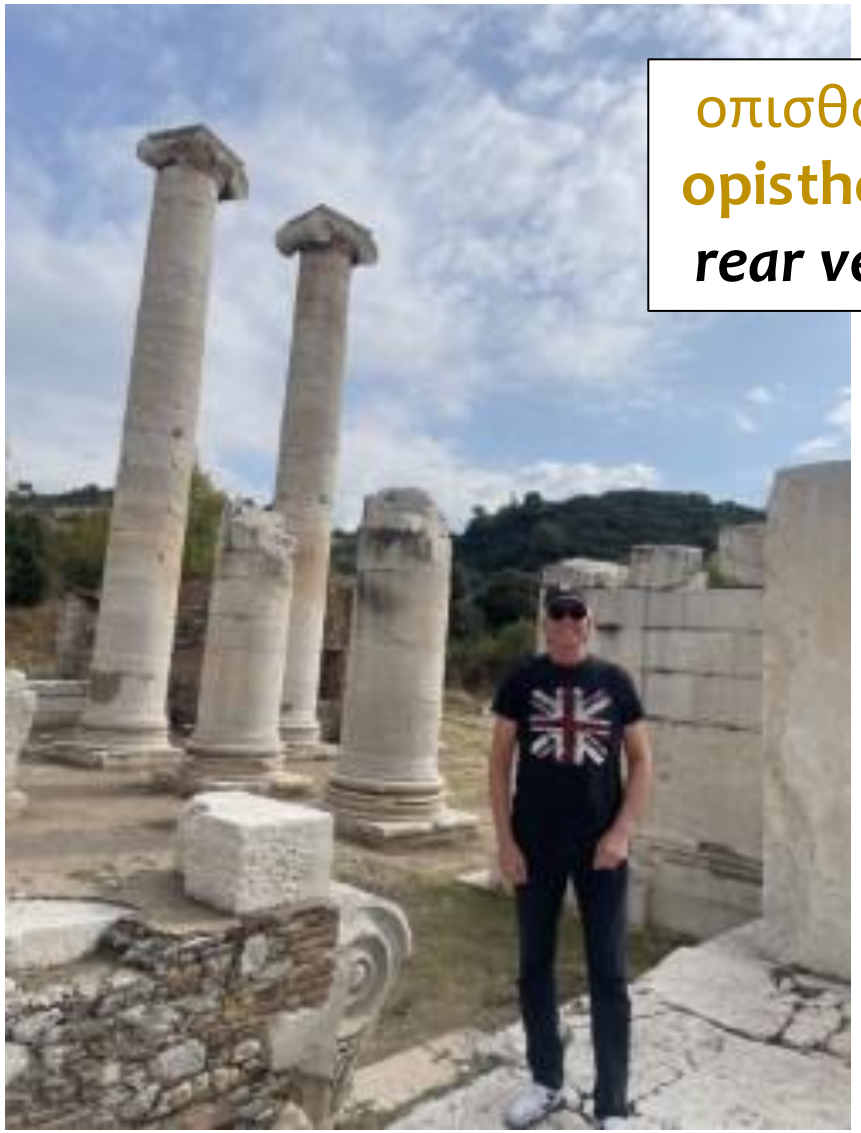


side steps





side portico



οπισθόδομος
opisthodomos
rear vestibule



Revelation 3:1-6 *to* Sardis Σάρδεις

Where is the Sardis church today?

- ***17 AD*** Huge earthquake devastated most of the city
- ***615*** final Byzantium-Sasanian War
  Persians destroyed remaining city
- ***1402*** Timur [Turkish-Mongol] overran-captured site

- ***15th - 18th Centuries*** gradually became small agrarian village
  re-named ***Sart*** in Manisa Province
- **WWI** Ruled by Ottoman Empire until Germany defeated
- **1923** Merged into modern Turkiye

Revelation 3:7-13 *to the messenger, aggelos*

φίλος ἀδελφός **Philadelphia** = *love of brother*

*He who is holy - who is true - who has the **key of David***

who opens and no one will shut - who shuts and no one opens says

*I know your deeds - **I have put before you an Open Door which no one can shut***

*because you have little power - have **Kept My Word** - have not denied My name*

μικρός δύναμις = *micros-dunamis*

Key of David? **Isaiah 22:22** *pride of palace secretary Shebna has KEY to house of David*

taken from him - given to Eliakim = name means God raised him up

he then possessed full access to treasury + court

Jesus is NOW the ONE who has that royal access

Jesus is the ONE who fulfills God's covenant to David

Warning! Worldwide Church of God cult TV program '*Key of David*'

They now hold the "key" to David's royal authority

Revelation 3:7-13 *to the messenger, aggelos*

- widely interpreted as the launch of global missionary movement

steam locomotives *steamships* *telegraph lines* *industrial printing*

- Made the entire world accessible to the Gospel

- Strong commitment to God's Word and Testimony

- ***'little power'*** = very modest means humble individuals small groups

- William Carey *- Hudson Taylor* *- David Livingstone*

- David Brainerd *- Henry Martyn* *- Adoniram Judson*

- C.T. Studd *- George Müller* *- Amy Carmichael*

Revelation 3:7-13 *to the messenger, aggelos*

φίλος ἀδελφός **Philadelphia means** *love of brother*

Alasehir [*also Neo Caesarea*]

I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan - who say that they are Jews and are not but lie … I will make them come and bow down at your feet and make them know that I have loved you … [Judaizers + reject Jesus as Mashiach]

Because you have kept the Word of My perseverance I also will keep you from the ***hour of testing*** *which is* ***about to come upon the whole world***

πειρασμός *peirasmos* Great Tribulation ὅλος οἰκουμένη = *inhabited Earth*

to test those who dwell on the earth

I AM coming quickly so hold fast what you have so that no one will take your crown

Similar language to name remaining in Book of Life

Revelation 3:7-13

*he who overcomes I will make him a **pillar** in the* *temple of My God*

στῦλος stylos = *tall column* ναός *naos*

*and he will **not go out from it** anymore* ***permanent*** fixture in God's house

Jachin = *He will establish*

Boaz = *in Him is strength*

*I will write on him the name of My God and name of the city of My God … the **New Jerusalem** which comes down out of heaven from My God and My new name*

καινός Ἰερουσαλήμ *kainos herousalem = entirely new kind, novel, unprecedented*

he who has an ear HEAR what the Spirit says to the churches

7th Century AD Basilica



September 2026


7th Century AD
Basilica

φίλος ἀδελφός Philadelphia






T.C.
KÜLTÜR VE TURİZM BAKANLIĞI
PHİLADELPHİA ANTİK KENTİ
TAPINAK KAZI VE RESTORASYON ÇALIŞMALARI
ALAŞEHİR BELEDİYESİ
RAFINDAN DESTEKLENMEKTEDİR




















Antik Stadyum
Ancient Stadium



Revelation 3:7-13 φίλος ἀδελφός Philadelphia

Where is Philos Adelphos church today?

- 17 AD Same huge regional earthquake that devastated Sardis
left most of Philadelphia uninhabitable
Emperor Tiberius [from Jesus' era] gave financial help
and residents renamed city *Neo-Caesarea*

- 1390 Last Christian metropolis to fall to Ottoman Empire

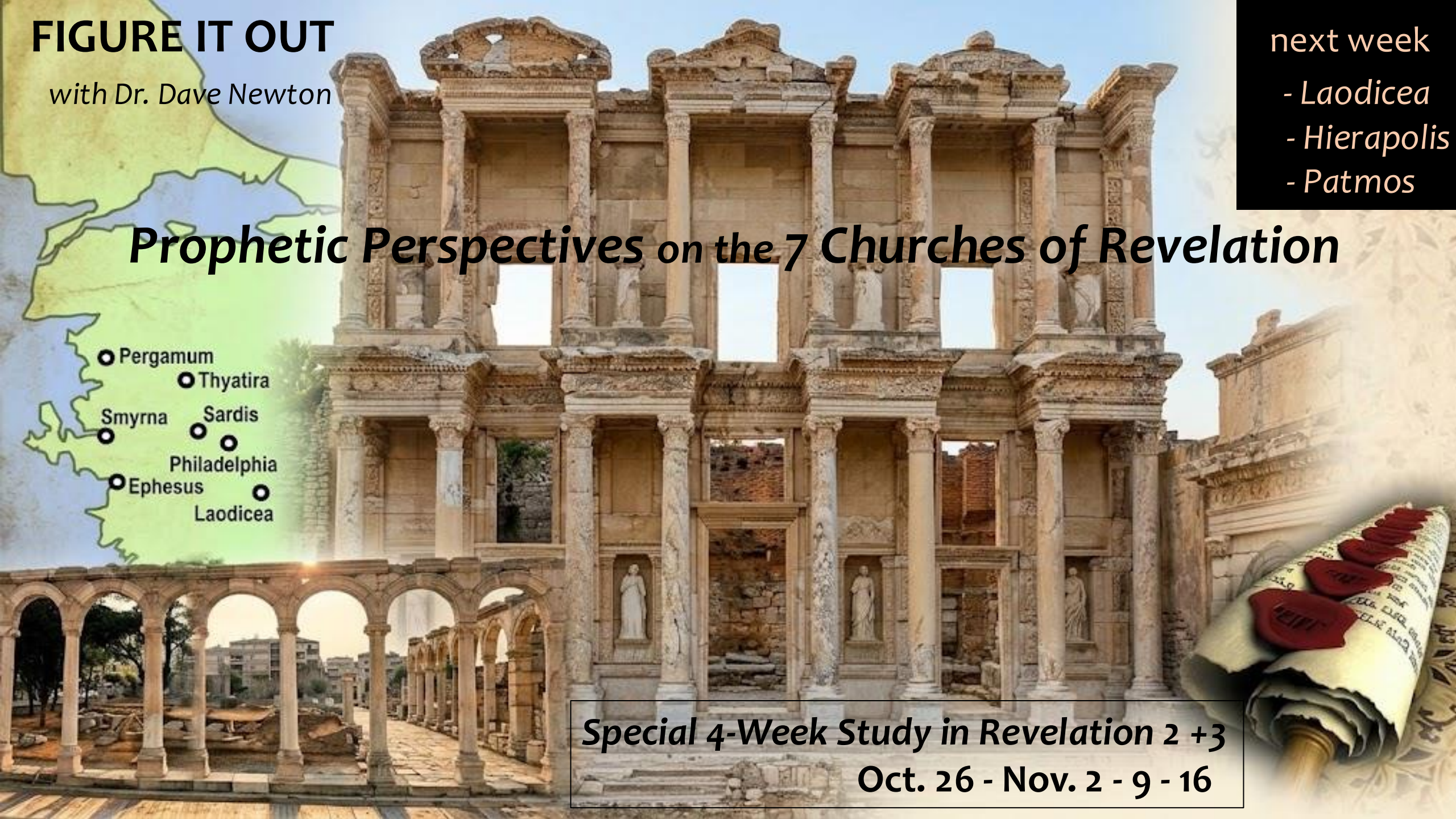
- 1922 Post WWI same Greek-Turkish war that devastated Smyrna
also purged tens of thousands of Christians-Greeks-Armenians
and the city was renamed Alaşehir

FIGURE IT OUT

with Dr. Dave Newton

next week
- *Laodicea*
- *Hierapolis*
- *Patmos*

Prophetic Perspectives on the 7 Churches of Revelation



Special 4-Week Study in Revelation 2 +3

Oct. 26 - Nov. 2 - 9 - 16