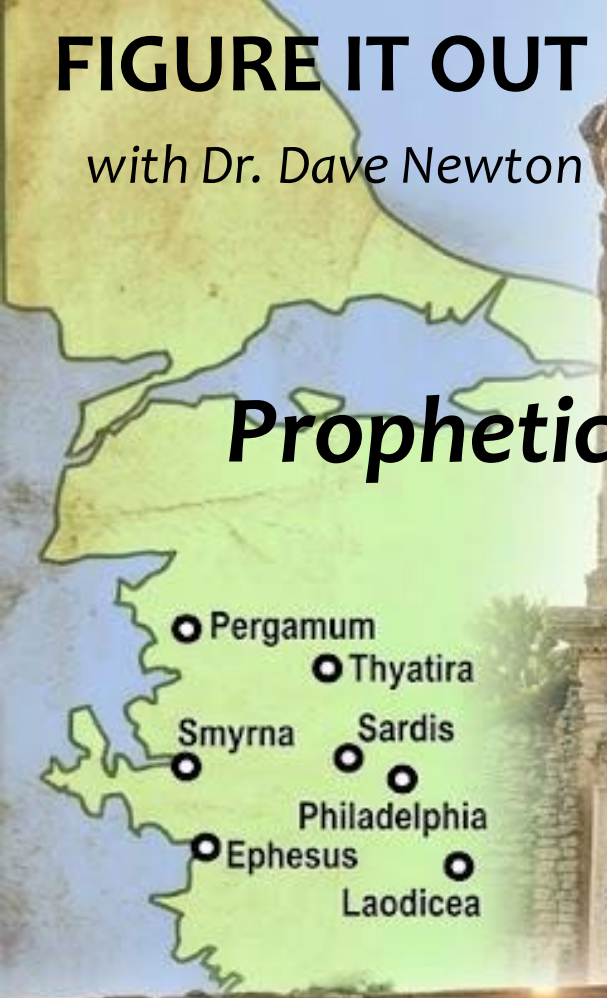
FIGURE IT OUT

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 … 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

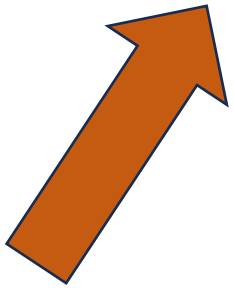
56 312 600 1517 1760 1900

32-56 AD
Ephesus
Apostles

312
Pergamum
State govt controls

600
1517
Sardis
Reformation

1760
1900 now
Laodicea
End Times



Revelation 3:14-16 *to aggelos messenger*

Laodicea Λαοδίκεια laos-dike *people of justice*

the **End Times** church

the Amen the Faithful and True Witness
the beginning of the creation of God says

*I know your deeds - you are neither **cold*** *or* ***hot***

ψυχρός *psychros = chilled* ζεστός *zestos = boiling*

*I wish that you were **cold or hot***

*but because you are **lukewarm*** χλιαρός *kliaros = tepid/lukewarm*

neither hot nor cold

*I will **spit*** *you out of My mouth* **VERY graphic language!**

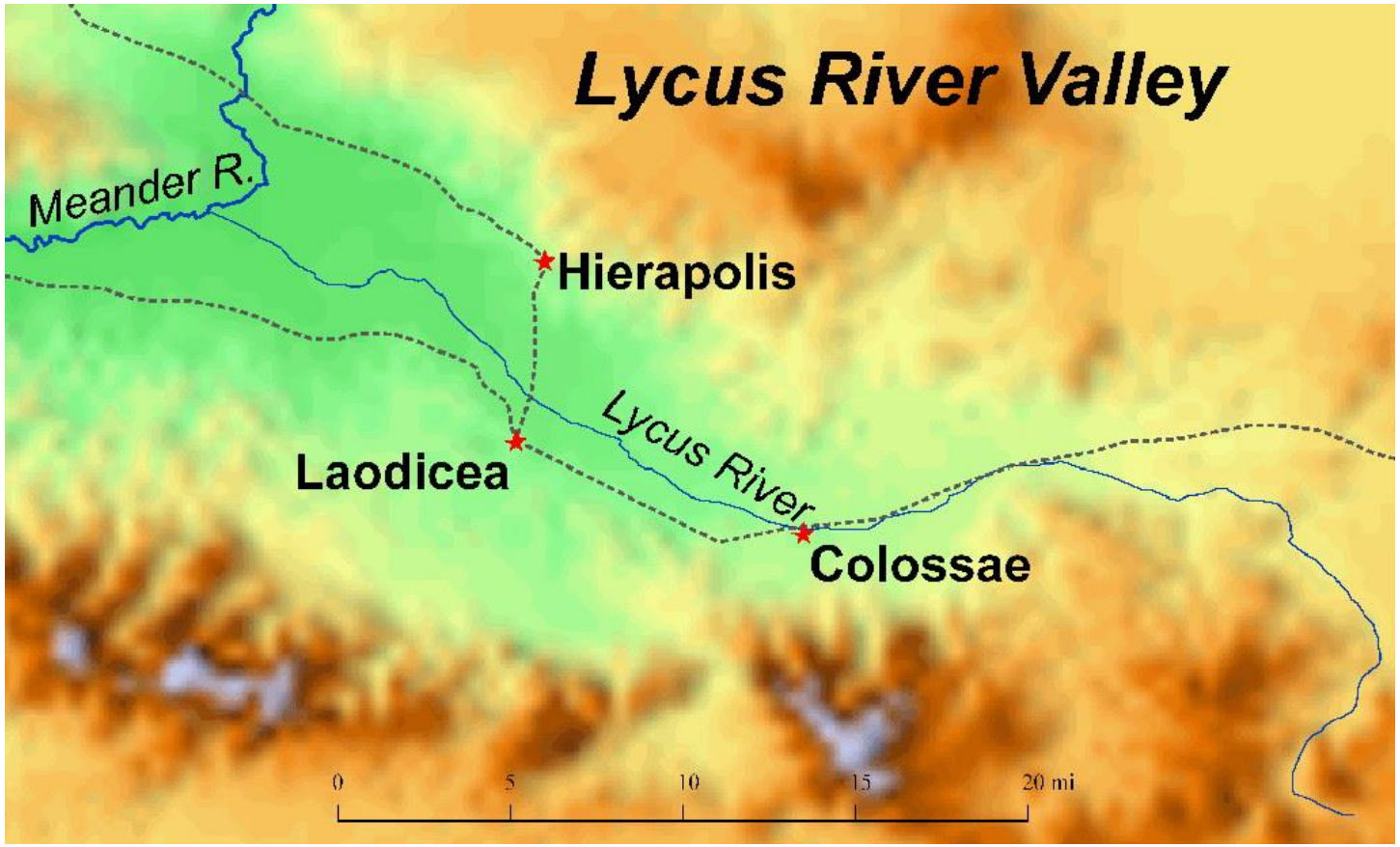
ἐμέω *vomit/throw up* Jesus feels strongly on this

cold toward God is clear disbelief vs. ***lukewarm*** portends to believe but is deluded

Laodicea had no natural springs-streams-lakes water

Water came from Hierapolis [heavy minerals calcium-oxide hot springs]

and Colossae [clean cold drinking water from Lycus River]



Hierapolis heavy minerals hot springs white calcium-oxide ***Pamukkale***

Colossae Lycus River fresh cold drinking water melting snows Mt. Cadmus

Jesus *uses analogy that Laodicea could be either boiling hot undrinkable mineral rich water vs. Cold crisp refreshing clear water*







Revelation 3:17-18

because you say, ***I am rich*** *and* ***have become wealthy*** *and* ***need nothing***

Describes today's church in the End Times

yet you do not know that you are ***wretched*** ***miserable*** ***poor*** ***blind*** ***naked***

I advise you to buy from Me [true] *gold refined by fire so that you may become rich*

Spiritual riches vs. temporal wealth **Matt. 6:19-21** *treasures in Heaven*

1st Peter 1:7 *genuine faith is more precious than gold*

Psalm 19:9-10 *the rules of the Lord to be desired more than fine gold*

1st Tim. 6:17-19 *don't trust uncertain riches but be rich in good deeds*

Revelation 3:17-18

receive white garments to clothe yourself - that the shame of your ***nakedness***
will not be revealed - and eye salve to anoint your ***eyes so you may see***

- **These are all *Spiritual*** matters of apparent earthly temporal wealth sufficiency
  contrasted by ***Spiritually*** ***wretched miserable poor blind naked***
- Laodiceans do not recognize their terrible spiritual condition
  they truly believe they are fine and everything is okay
- **They need to** *remedy their* ***Spiritual emptiness*** direct from Jesus!!

Revelation 3:19-20

Those I love I reprove and discipline - so then be zealous and repent
because 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

This passage is ***always*** quoted out of context!!
Evangelists quote this re: unsaved people need to open door of their heart . . . . .

But that's NOT what Jesus is talking about

Jesus is ***OUTSIDE*** Laodicean church body that sees itself as fine but in bad spiritual shape
Jesus is ***KNOCKING*** on door of Laodicean church "Hey, let me back in"
Jesus is not knocking on the heart of an unbeliever to come to salvation!

HOW SAD Jesus has to go to this church as ***ASK*** to be allowed in!

Revelation 3:21-22

*he who overcomes I will grant to sit down with Me on **My throne***
*as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on **His throne***

Hebrews 1:3 8:1 12:2 *Jesus finished His work and sat at right of Father's throne*
Ephesians 1:20 Colossians 3:1 *God raised Jesus - seated Him on His right hand*
Psalm 110 *sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool*

In the same way Jesus finished His work and sat on Father's throne
Jesus makes similar offer that true believers will sit on His throne
Ruling and Reigning with Jesus in Millennium

he who has an ear let him HEAR what the Holy Spirit says to ALL the churches


T.C.
KÜLTÜR VE TURİZM BAKANLIĞI
KÜLTÜR VARLIKLARI VE MÜZELER
GENEL MÜDÜRLÜĞÜ
LAODIKEIA ÖREN YERİ




West Theatre
Fully restored
East Theatre
still a grassy
hillside bowl
ARCHAEOLOGY ILLUSTRATED






2015


2026
Laodicea Ancient Theatre



2nd Amphitheatre unexcavated



Laodicea Λαοδίκεια



















main entry gates
Syrian Road





Zeus? Apollo? Athena?





Nymphaeum of Trajan




ARCHAEOLOGY ILLUSTRATED


Agora / Forum






Stadium

What Happened to Laodicea?

- 3 major earthquakes in 17 AD 27 AD 60 AD
- ***Sassanid Persians*** raided-pillaged in early ***6th Century AD***
- ***Byzantine Empire*** military outpost ***11th 12th Centuries***
- ***13th Century*** end of any full-time occupants-inhabitants left in complete ruins
- ***2003*** start of archaeological site surveys + plans to restore
- Jesus knocked at its door …… the church missed that!

Colossians 4:13

For I testify for Epaphras that he has a deep concern for you [in Colossae] *and for those who are in* ***Laodicea*** *and* ***Hierapolis***

- ***133 BC*** given to Rome by King Attalus III of Pergamum
- Constructed on white calcium-oxide travertine of Pamukkale *medicinal-healing spas*
- Population: Romans Greek-Macedonians Jews
- ***Plutonium*** sacred cave dedicated to Pluto *god of underworld*
  famous toxic carbon dioxide gas 'from Hades'
- ***50 AD*** Epictetus born there [famous Stoic philosopher later taken to Rome as a slave]
- ***80 AD*** Apostle Philip martyred there









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Italians start 1957
2009-2013 finished






Hades
[Pluto]



Revelation *1:9-11* *I John your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and **perseverance** which are in Jesus*

was on the island named Patmos νῆσος καλέω Πάτμος *naysos kaleo Patmos*

Widely-recognized historical location in 1st Century AD Roman Empire

WHY? *because of **Word of God** and **my testimony of Jesus*** Domitian had enough!

Last remaining eye-witness of Jesus!! Powerful Gospel + personal testimony

*I was **Taken in the Spirit** to the **Day of the Lord*** κυριακός ἡμέρα *kuriakos hemera!!*

and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet saying [2 things]:

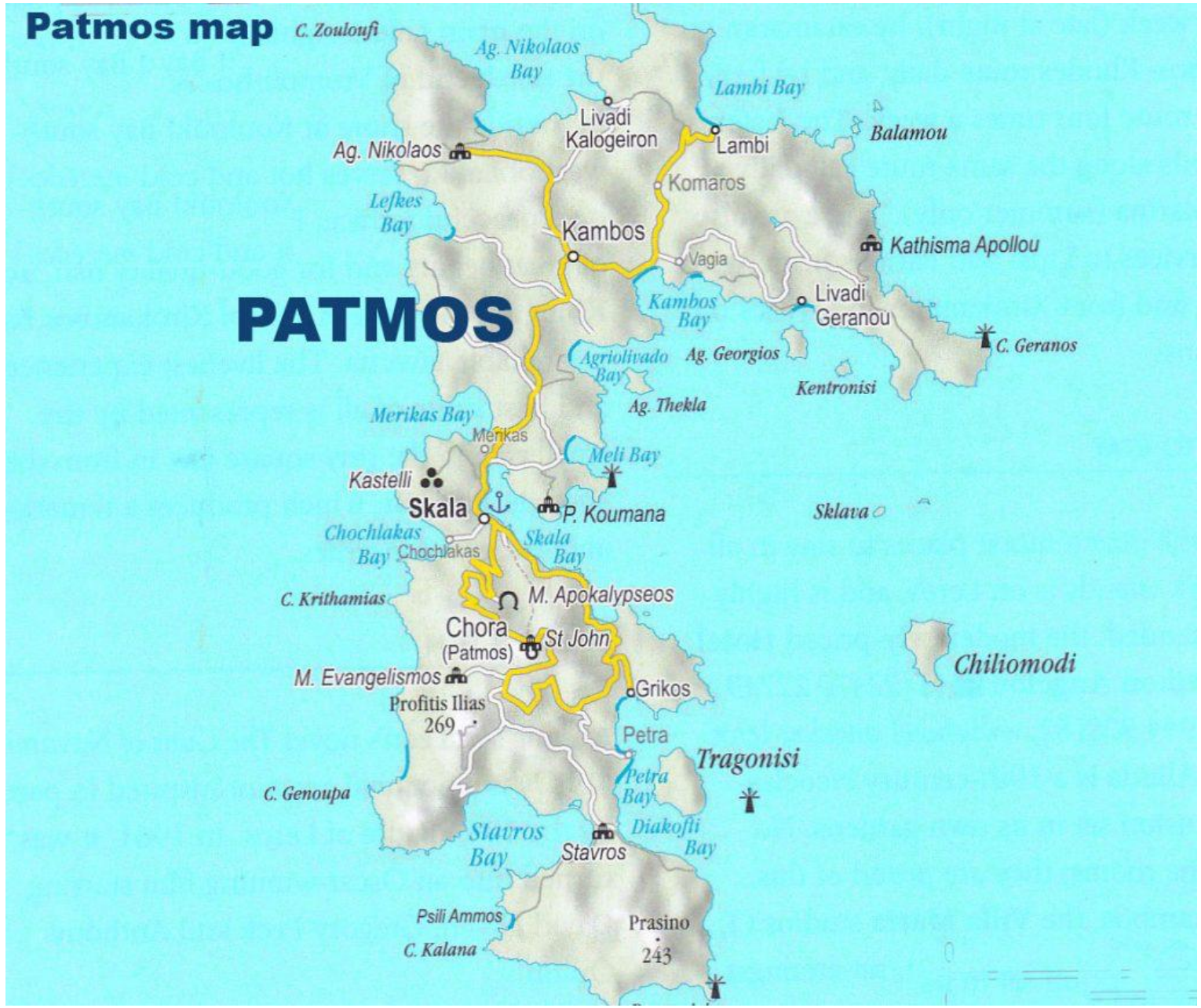
***Write** in a **Book** what you **See** and **Send** it to the 7 churches*

Ephesus Smyrna Pergamum Thyatira Sardis Philadelphia Laodicea

Credible Evidence?



Patmos under Miletus governance 1st Century AD Rome



Credible Evidence? YES

- Roman records confirm exile political-religious dissidents to remote Aegean islands [*Relegatio in Insulam*] in **1st Century AD**
  Roman military stationed as advanced outpost for Miletus

- Archaeology inscriptions at ***Kastelli Acropolis*** and Temple to Artemis are Hellenist-Roman **1st Century AD** fit **Revelation** timing

- *Irenaeus* *Clement of Alexandria* *Eusebius* *Papias* *Polycarp*
  agree John exiled to Patmos by Emperor Domitian **95 AD**

- **Acts of John** [circa 400 AD] *John placed in cave on Patmos*

- ***1088 AD*** Christodoulos = *bond servant of Christ* founded Monastery of John above same cave local residents oral tradition since early **2nd Century AD**
  Artemis Temple ruins-stones used in monastery foundation and walls

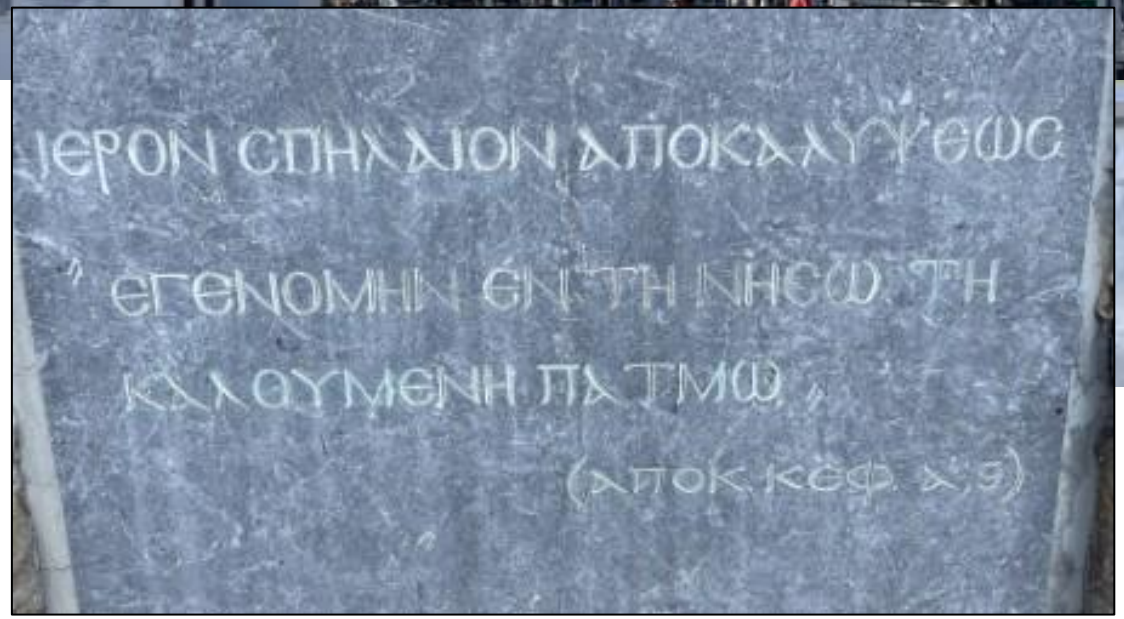

EGE PORT KUŞADASI
TAXI


saos ferries


Patmos






ΙΕΡΟΝ ΣΠΗΛΑΙΟΝ ΑΠΟΚΑΛΥΨΕΩΣ
ΕΓΕΝΟΜΗΝ ΕΝ ΤΗ ΝΗΣΩ ΤΗ
ΚΑΛΟΥΜΕΝΗ ΠΑΤΜΩ
(ΑΠΟΚ ΚΕΦ Α 9)









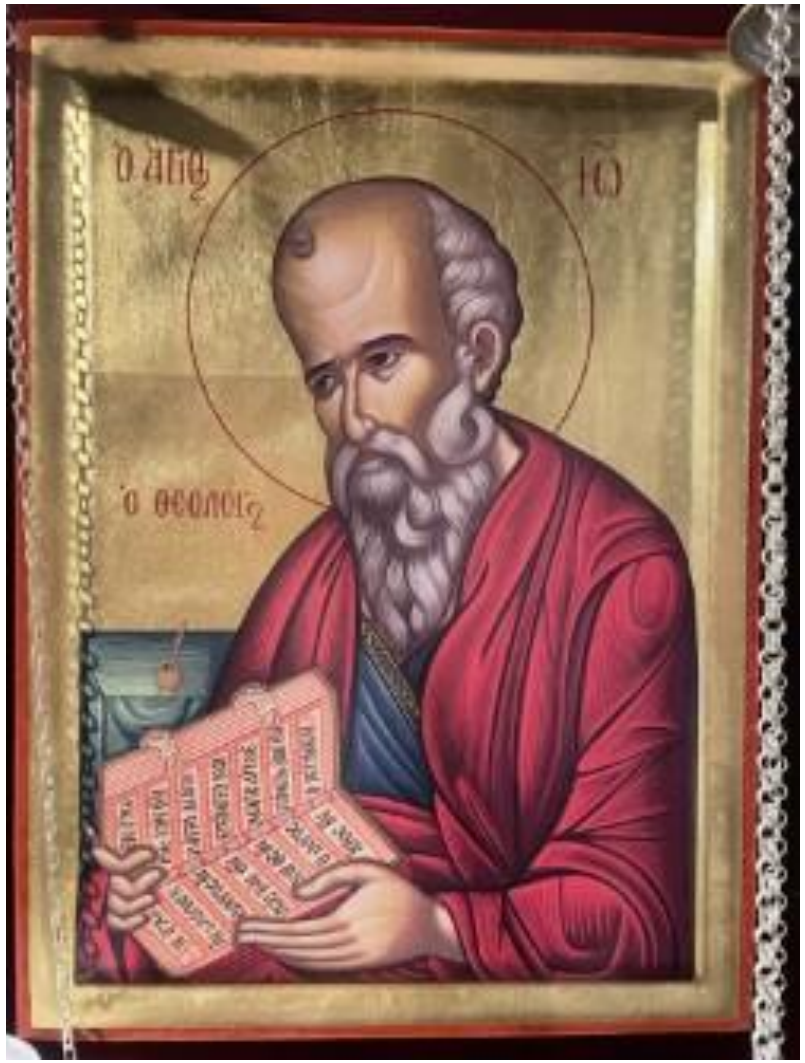






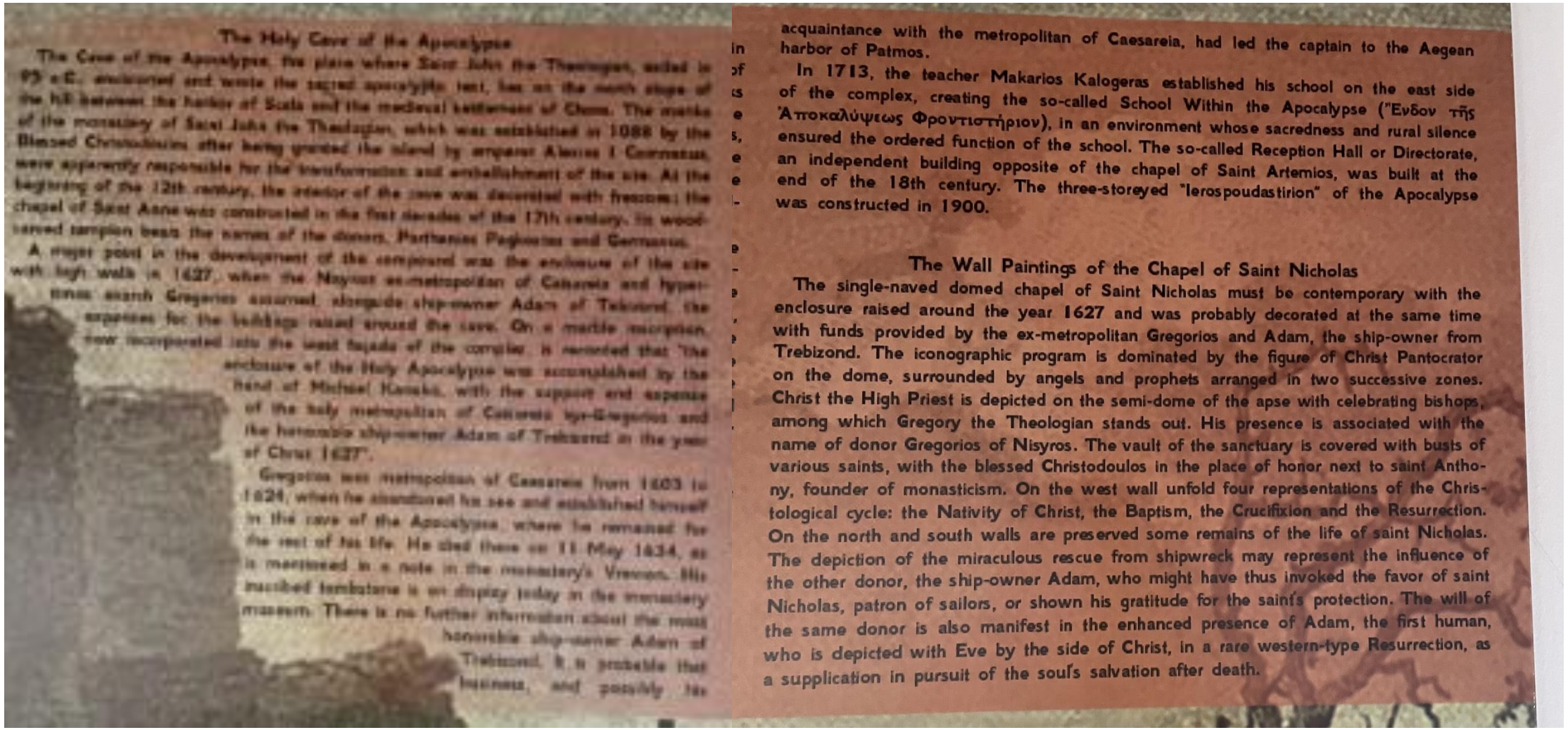





ὁ ἅγιος
Ἰω
ὁ θεολόγος


ὁ ἅγιος Ἰωάννης ὁ θεολόγος
ὁ ἅγ Πρόχορος

Revelation 1 Πάτμος Patmos



The Holy Cave of the Apocalypse

The Cave of the Apocalypse, the place where Saint John the Theologian, exiled in 95 a.C., envisioned and wrote the sacred apocalyptic text, lies on the north slope of the hill between the harbor of Scala and the medieval settlement of Chora. The monks of the monastery of Saint John the Theologian, which was established in 1088 by the Blessed Christodoulos after being granted the island by emperor Alexios I Comnenus, were apparently responsible for the transformation and embellishment of the site. At the beginning of the 12th century, the interior of the cave was decorated with frescoes; the chapel of Saint Anne was constructed in the first decades of the 17th century; its wood-carved templon bears the names of the donors, Parthenios Pegkostas and Germanos.

A major point in the development of the compound was the enclosure of the site with high walls in 1627, when the Nisyros ex-metropolitan of Caesareia and hyper-timos exarch Gregorios assumed, alongside ship-owner Adam of Trebizond, the expenses for the buildings raised around the cave. On a marble inscription, now incorporated into the west façade of the complex, is recorded that "the enclosure of the Holy Apocalypse was accomplished by the hand of Michael Kanakis, with the support and expense of the holy metropolitan of Caesareia kyr-Gregorios and the honorable ship-owner Adam of Trebizond in the year of Christ 1627".

Gregorios was metropolitan of Caesareia from 1603 to 1624, when he abandoned his see and established himself in the cave of the Apocalypse, where he remained for the rest of his life. He died there on 11 May 1634, as is mentioned in a note in the monastery's Vrevion. His inscribed tombstone is on display today in the monastery museum. There is no further information about the most honorable ship-owner Adam of Trebizond. It is probable that business, and possibly his acquaintance with the metropolitan of Caesareia, had led the captain to the Aegean harbor of Patmos.

In 1713, the teacher Makarios Kalogeras established his school on the east side of the complex, creating the so-called School Within the Apocalypse ("Ενδον τῆς Ἀποκαλύψεως Φροντιστήριον), in an environment whose sacredness and rural silence ensured the ordered function of the school. The so-called Reception Hall or Directorate, an independent building opposite of the chapel of Saint Artemios, was built at the end of the 18th century. The three-storeyed "Ierospoudastirion" of the Apocalypse was constructed in 1900.

The Wall Paintings of the Chapel of Saint Nicholas

The single-naved domed chapel of Saint Nicholas must be contemporary with the enclosure raised around the year 1627 and was probably decorated at the same time with funds provided by the ex-metropolitan Gregorios and Adam, the ship-owner from Trebizond. The iconographic program is dominated by the figure of Christ Pantocrator on the dome, surrounded by angels and prophets arranged in two successive zones. Christ the High Priest is depicted on the semi-dome of the apse with celebrating bishops, among which Gregory the Theologian stands out. His presence is associated with the name of donor Gregorios of Nisyros. The vault of the sanctuary is covered with busts of various saints, with the blessed Christodoulos in the place of honor next to saint Antho-ny, founder of monasticism. On the west wall unfold four representations of the Chris-tological cycle: the Nativity of Christ, the Baptism, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. On the north and south walls are preserved some remains of the life of saint Nicholas. The depiction of the miraculous rescue from shipwreck may represent the influence of the other donor, the ship-owner Adam, who might have thus invoked the favor of saint Nicholas, patron of sailors, or shown his gratitude for the saint's protection. The will of the same donor is also manifest in the enhanced presence of Adam, the first human, who is depicted with Eve by the side of Christ, in a rare western-type Resurrection, as a supplication in pursuit of the soul's salvation after death.

Credible Evidence? NO

- Based solely on **Acts of John** [circa 400 AD] *accompanied John in exile*
- **Acts 6:5** *seven men chosen in Jerusalem* - *one is Prochorus*
- **32 AD** Jesus born 2 BC ministry starts 29 AD [age 30]
  Crucified April 10 / Nisan 14 on Passover 32 AD [age 32 ½]
  Acts 2 Pentecost **32 AD** [49 days / 7 weeks after Passover]
  Probably chose "7" by end of **32** or in **33 AD**
- Prochorus probably at least in 20s when chosen in **Acts 6**
  all "7" maybe age 30 to qualify? [**Numbers 4:3**]
  whether in 20s or age 30 would be ***over 90*** *during John's exile!*
  NOT young amanuensis-secretary as per Greek etchings

Everything from later Christian tradition Eastern Orthodox Church

- Travel companion of John the Apostle
- Follows him to Ephesus
- Exiled with John as *amanuensis*
- Colorful legendary oral + written tradition of old visionary + young scribe
- John received and Prochorus wrote it down
- John then appoints him bishop *epi-skopas* of Nicomedia [Smyrna / Izmir]
- Martyred at Syrian Antioch

- ***44 AD*** **Acts 12:1-2** Herod Agrippa executed James bar-Zebedee
John forced to leave Jerusalem

- ***81-96 AD*** Domitian son of Vespasian - Emperor after brother Titus sudden death

Why exile John?

- Domitian called himself ***Lord and God***
- All citizens compulsory sacrifices once a year
- John bar-Zebedee last eyewitness of Jesus
refused pagan Emperor worship
- John put in boiling oil by Domitian [Tertullian says Nero ***54-68 AD***]

- ***96-98*** Nerva released John [back to Ephesus in 96 AD]

- **7 Churches are REAL HISTORICAL CREDIBLE**

- Extra-Biblical sources support each church description

- ***Credible*** commentary on 1st Century AD church "issues"

- ***Intriguing*** parallels of 7 churches sequence and *foreshadowing* church history 32 AD to today

- ***Credible*** preface and foundation for Revelation prophecies

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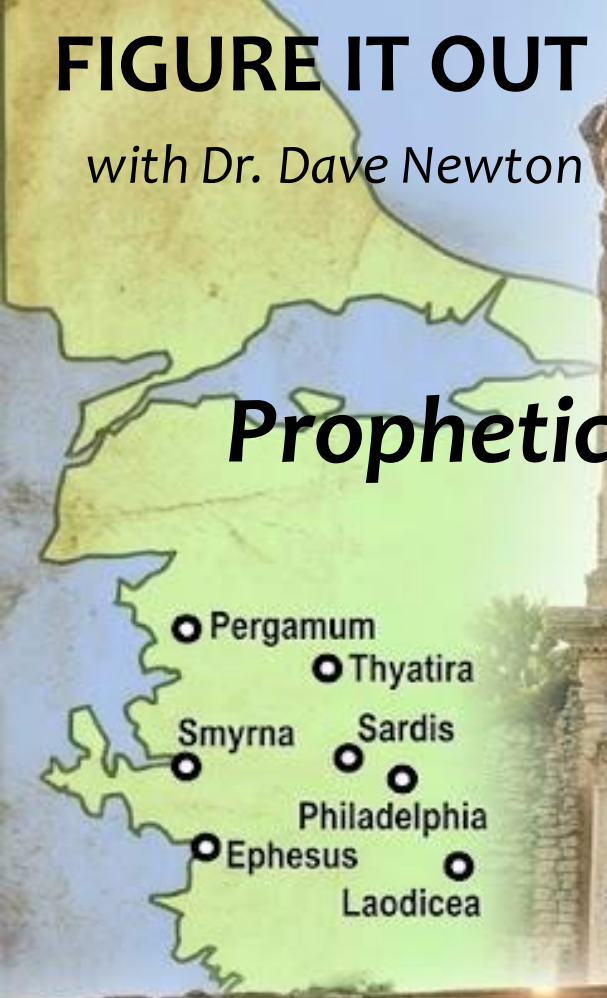

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