

Part Six



revelation

[a•po•ca•lypse]



**SEVEN
LETTERS
REVELATION 2-3**

Revelation 1:19 ~

Things which you have seen ~ chapter 1

Things which are ~ chapters 2-3

**Things which will take place after this ~
chapters 4-22**

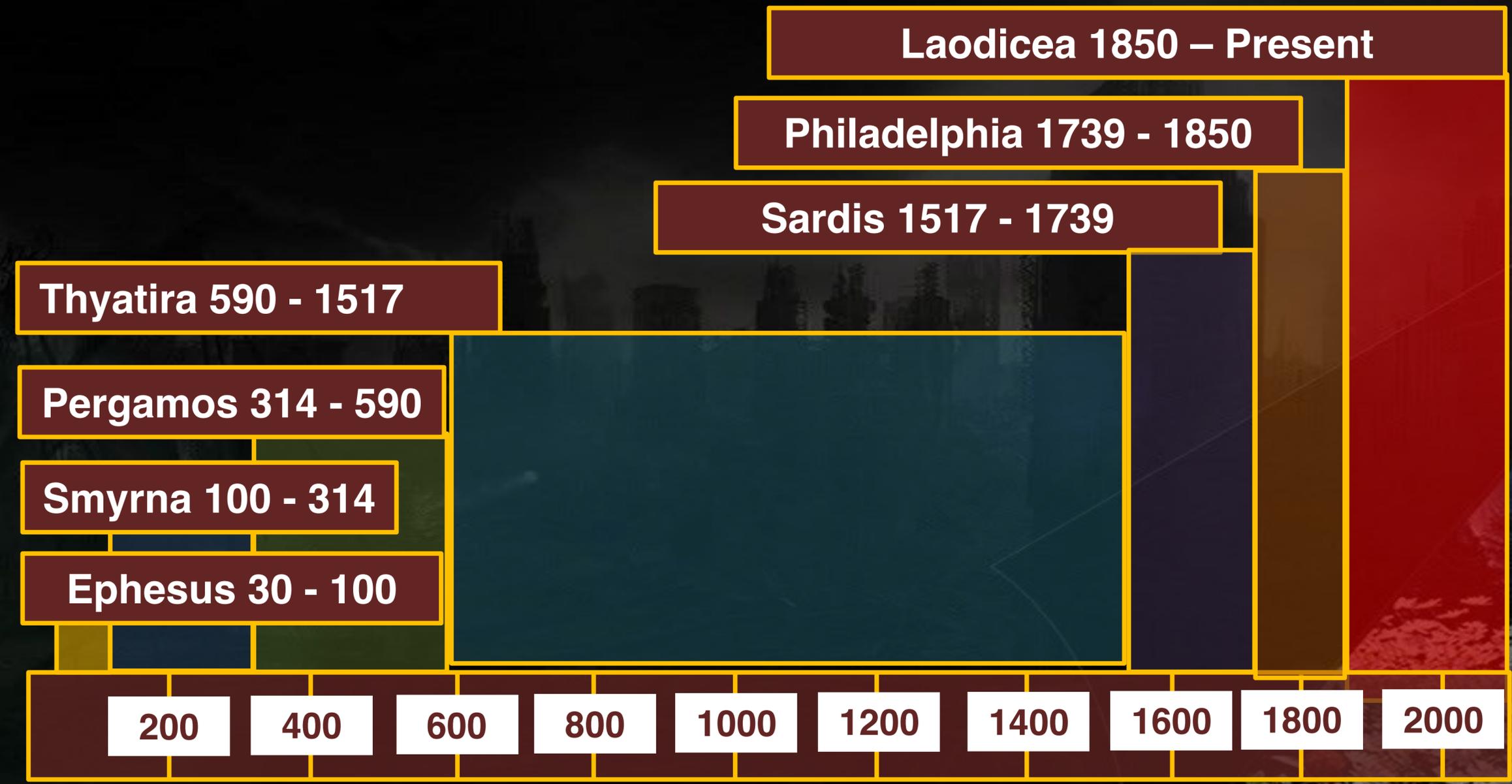
**Write, therefore, what you have
seen, what is now and what will
take place later.**

Format of all the letters



- ▣ 1. **Christ Identifies himself** with a part of the vision (specific to their need)
- ▣ 2. The Church is **Commended** for Good Points
- ▣ 3. The Church is **Corrected** for Faults
- ▣ 4. Given A **Call To Repent**
- ▣ 4. The **Promise** Given To The **Overcomers**

REVELATION 3.1-6



REVELATION 3.1-6



October 31, 1517

THE CHURCHES OF REVELATION

THE
DEAD
CHURCH
SARDIS

The Seven Churches of Revelation

SARDIS: Background

SARDIS

The City

- **Sardis was an important ancient city and capital of the kingdom of Lydia**
- Around 612 BCE, the greatest city in the world at that time
- Sardis was known for producing Gold & Silver in pure qualities. Known for their market-places & manufacturing products

Sardis Name Means: Escaping Ones
or those who came out



The Seven Churches of Revelation

Sardis: The Text (Revelation 3:1-6)

¹ “To the angel of the church in Sardis write:
He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars,
says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that
you are alive, but you are dead. ² 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.³ So remember what you have received and
heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not
wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at
what hour I will come to you.

The Seven Churches of Revelation

Sardis: The Text (Revelation 3:1-6)

⁴ But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. ⁶ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Jesus Is Identified with the Church

SARDIS: The Text (Revelation 3:1)



¹ “To the angel of the church in Sardis write:
He who has the seven Spirits of God and the
seven stars,



Revelation 3:1

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

Christ Identifies Himself:

He who has the
Seven Spirits of God

&

**The Seven
Stars**



SARDIS

The Bad

Revelation 3:1b-2



^{1b} I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but **you are dead.** ² Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for **I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.**



"The congregation in Sardis was the very reverse of the church in Smyrna. Smyrna was put to death and yet lived, Sardis appeared to be alive and yet was dead,"

–Marcus Lane

William Barclay ~ "A church is in danger of death when it begins to worship its own past; when it is more concerned with forms than with life; when it loves systems more than it loves Jesus; when it is more concerned with material than it is with spiritual things."

SARDIS

The Bad

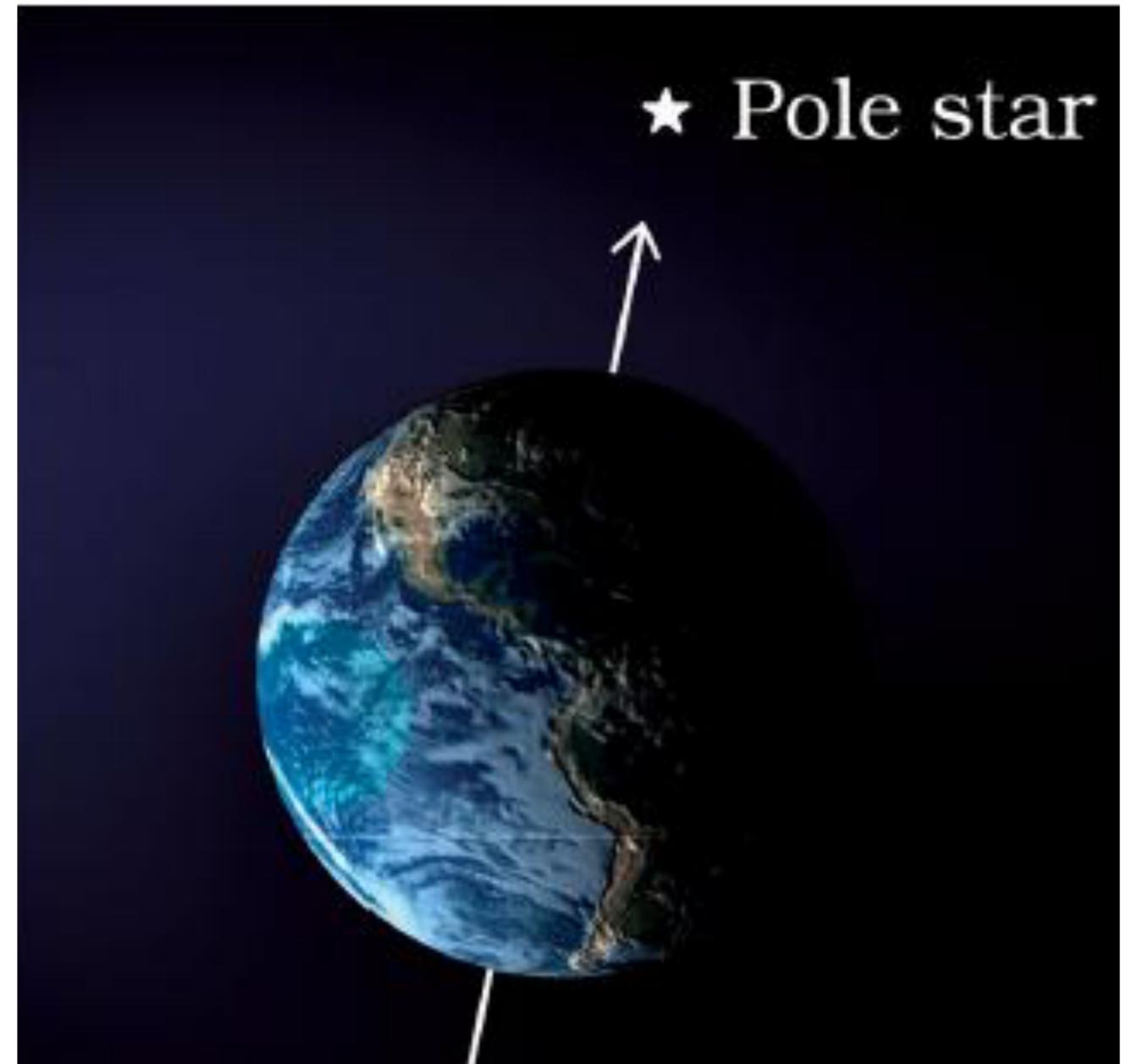
Matthew 23:27-28



²⁷“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean.²⁸ In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Reputation vs Reality

Astronomers tell us that the light from the polar star takes years to reach the earth. What that means is that star could have been plunged into darkness years ago and its light would still be pouring down to earth. It would be shining in the sky tonight as brightly as if nothing had happened. It could be a dead star, but we wouldn't know it was dead.



SARDIS

Revelation 3:3

Call To Repent



⁵ Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

זָכַר ZAKAR

The “Zakar” Principle

- **Deut. 7:17-19**
 - When afraid, Israel was to **remember** what God did to Pharaoh and all of Egypt.
- Remember “**Zakar**” – to recall something to mind in order to be moved by it.
- Memory is one way to create anchors.
- **I Samuel 17:31-36**
 - David used this principle to fight Goliath.

1 SAMUEL 17:33-37

Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth.”

But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

SARDIS

Revelation 3:3

Call To Repent

5 **Remember**, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

זָכַר ZAKAR

EPHESUS

Revelation 3:4

By The Way



⁴ Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.

Romans 11:2-5

2bDon't you know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel: 3“Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me” ? 4And what was God's answer to him? “I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” 5So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace.

EPHESUS

Overcomer

Revelation 3:5



⁵ He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.

Dressed in White



Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!
For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.”
(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

Revelation 19:7-8

EPHESUS

Revelation 3:6

He that has an ear



⁶ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.