

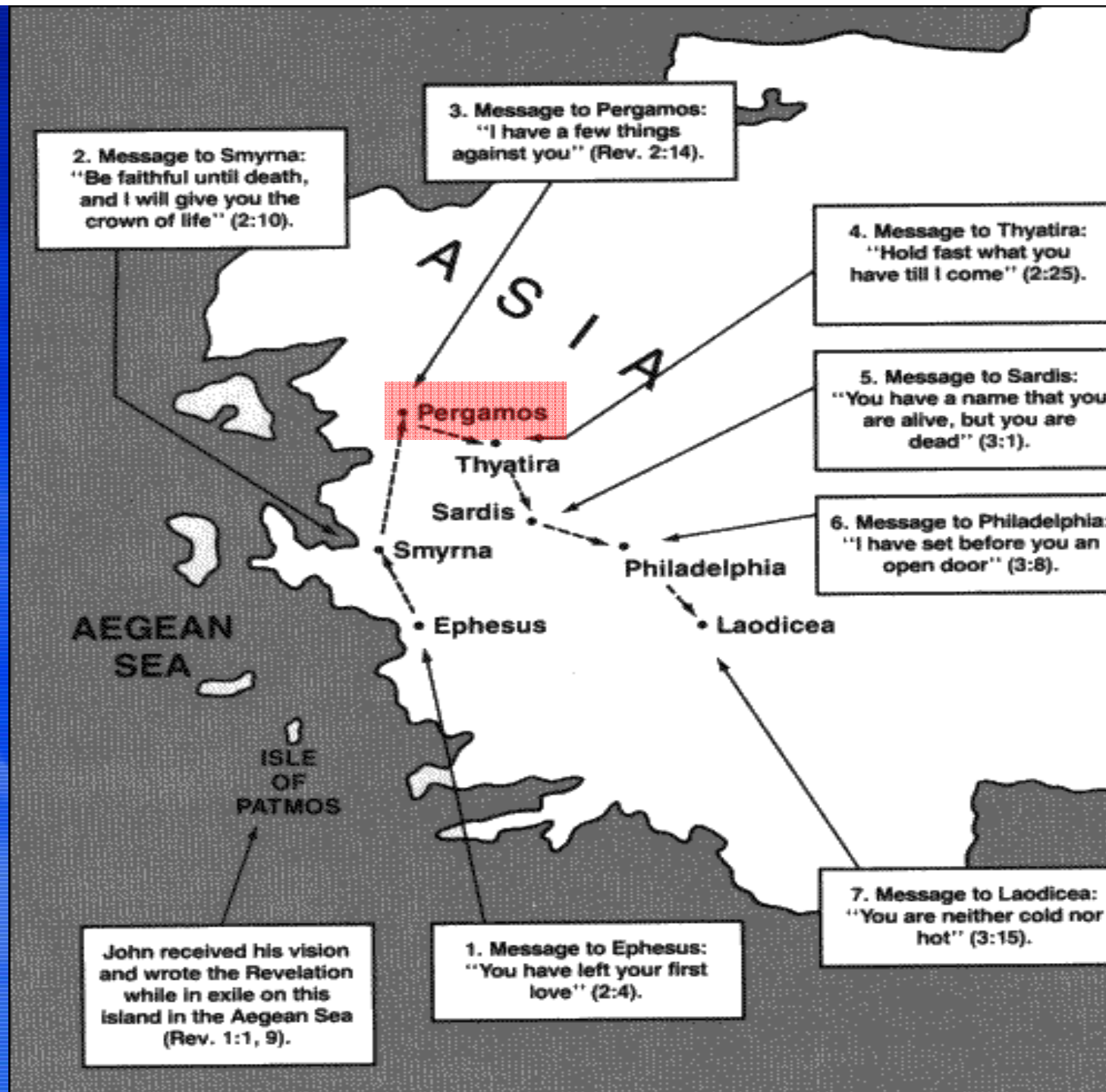
# The Compromising Church

**Revelation 12-17**

Series: What Type of Church Are We?



# The Seven Churches



# The Seven Churches Historically

<i>Church</i>	<i>Meaning of name</i>	<i>Symbolizing</i>
Ephesus	desire	the first century (apostolic)
Smyrna	persecution/death	the period of persecution
Pergamum	thoroughly married	the age of Constantine
Thyatira	continual sacrifice	the Middle Ages
Sardis	those escaping	the Reformation era
Philadelphia	brotherly love	the modern missionary movement
Laodicea	the people ruling	the apostate church of the last days



# Introduction

- **The Author - “The One who has the sharp, two-edged,”** Jesus is sending the message
- **The Recipients – The church at Pergamum – more particularly to the pastor**
- **Fault- Married to the world**
- **Pergamum(os) – married (particularly evil)**



# Introduction

- Pergamum was one of the most prominent cities of Asia, located in the western part of Asia-Minor, about 65 miles north of Smyrna and about 20 miles from the Aegean Sea (Johnson, 1981. 439) and now the modern village of Bergama, Turkey, covers part of the ancient site.
- Pergamum was a university town with a large library of 200,000 volumes given as a gift from Anthony to Cleopatra (Johnson, 1981. 440).
- A cultural center.



## Revelation 2:12-17 (HCSB)

12 “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: “The One who has the sharp, two-edged sword says:  
13 I know where you live—where Satan’s throne is! And you are holding on to My name and did not deny your faith in Me, even in the days of Antipas, My faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan lives.



## Revelation 2:12-17 (HCSB)

**14 But I have a few things against you. You have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to place a stumbling block in front of the sons of Israel: to eat meat sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality.**

**15 In the same way, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.**



## Revelation 2:12-17 (HCSB)

**16 Therefore repent! Otherwise, I will come to you quickly and fight against them with the sword of My mouth.**

**17 “Anyone who has an ear should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. I will give the victor some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name is inscribed that no one knows except the one who receives it.**



# I. THE FAITHFUL ONES

**13 I know ... you are holding on to My name and did not deny your faith in Me, even in the days of Antipas, My faithful witness,**

**Keys to faithfulness:**

**Remaining loyal to the Person of Jesus**

**Remaining committed to His Word**



## 2. The Compromising Ones

**14 But I have a few things against you. You have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam...to eat meat sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality. 15 In the same way, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.**

**Balaam's message corrupted the Israelites**



## 2. The Compromising Ones

He taught Balak to *"cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols."*

When we compromise our faith we become a stumbling block to the world, friends, and family.



### **3. The Feared One**

**16 Therefore repent! Otherwise, I will come to you quickly and fight against them with the sword of My mouth.**

**Jesus does not tolerate compromise or marriage of our soul with the world**



# 3. The Feared One

## Jeremiah 3

3 This is why the showers haven't come—why there has been no spring rain. You have the brazen look of a prostitute and refuse to be ashamed.

4 Have you not lately called Me: My Father, my youthful companion?



# 3. The Feared One

## Jeremiah 3

**12 Go, proclaim these words to the north, and say: Return, unfaithful Israel. I will not look on you with anger, for I am unfailing in My love. I will not be angry forever.**

**13 Only acknowledge your guilt—you have rebelled against the Lord your God. You have scattered your favors to strangers under every green tree and have not obeyed My voice. [This is] the Lord's declaration.**



# Compromising?

**16 Therefore repent!**

**God has never tolerated compromise**

**God has never honored sin**

**God demands faithfulness  
in His Church  
in Our Lives**

