

SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



1 EPHESUS

2 SMYRNA

3 PERGAMOS

4 THYATIRA

5 SARDIS

6 PHILADELPHIA

7 LAODICEA

WHY THEY MATTER

The letters to the seven churches show
the **LORD'S PRIORITY** is **PURITY**
before **PROPHECY.**

thelandmark.church/REVELATION

DECODING THE TRIPLE LENS OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES



LITERAL (PAST)



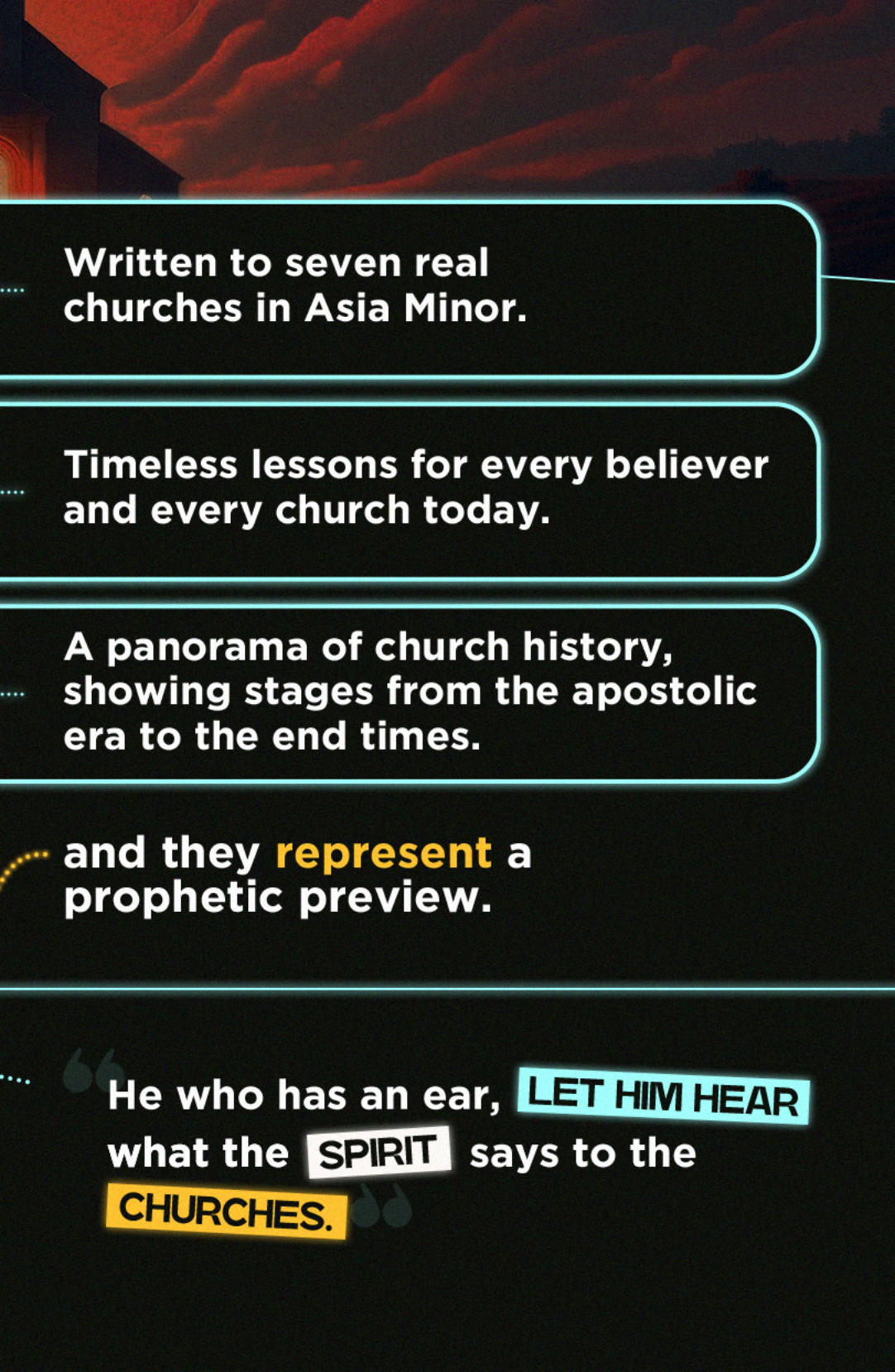
LOCAL (PRESENT)



LINEAL (PROPHETIC)

They were **real** churches,
they **reveal** recurring issues

REPEATED
REFRAIN



Written to seven real churches in Asia Minor.

Timeless lessons for every believer and every church today.

A panorama of church history, showing stages from the apostolic era to the end times.

and they **represent** a prophetic preview.

“He who has an ear, **LET HIM HEAR** what the **SPIRIT** says to the **CHURCHES.**”

THE SEVEN CHURCHES

AND THEIR TRIPLE LENSES

CHURCH	LITERAL (PAST)
THE LOVELESS CHURCH Ephesus ↳ MEANING: Desirable	Bustling port city, faithful yet waning in love
THE PERSECUTED CHURCH Smyrna ↳ MEANING: Myrrh	Church under crushing trials, yet faithful
THE COMPROMISING CHURCH Pergamos ↳ MEANING: Married	Surrounded by paganism, tolerated false teaching
THE CORRUPT CHURCH Thyatira ↳ MEANING: Continual Sacrifice	Trade guilds and Jezebel-like immorality
THE DEAD CHURCH Sardis ↳ MEANING: Remnant	Reputation of life, but spiritually dead
THE FAITHFUL CHURCH Philadelphia ↳ MEANING: Brotherly Love	Small but steadfast church
THE LUKEWARM CHURCH Laodicea ↳ MEANING: Rule of the People	Wealthy but spiritually blind and poor

JESUS' ASCENSION

EPHESUS
(30-100 AD)

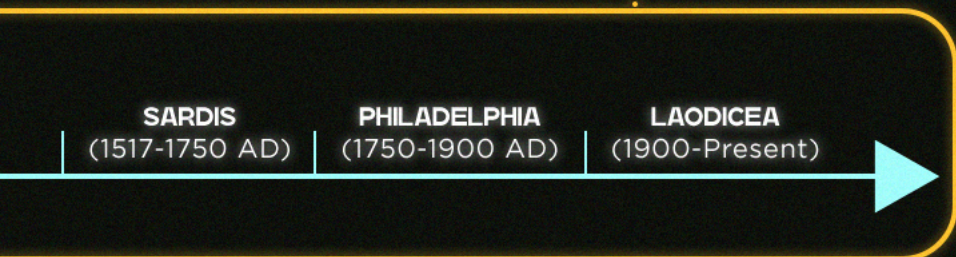
SMYRNA
(100-313 AD)

PERGAMOS
(313-590 AD)

THYATIRA
(590-1517
AD)



LOCAL (PRESENT)	LINEAL (PROPHETIC)
Orthodoxy without intimacy — don't lose your first love	Apostolic Age (30-100 AD), doctrine strong but love cold
Encouragement for believers facing opposition	Persecuted Church (100-313 AD), crushed yet unconquered
Warning against compromise with idols	Imperial Church (313-590 AD), wedded to the state
Call to resist moral corruption	Medieval Church (590-1517 AD), marked by idolatry and corruption
Warning to nominal Christians going through motions	Reformation Churches (1517-1750 AD), alive in name but often stagnant
Encouragement for remnant believers to hold fast	Missionary Church (1750-1900 AD), gospel spreading globally
Call to repent of self-sufficiency	End-Time Church (1900-Present), materialistic and complacent



THE COMMON PATTERN IN EVERY LETTER

- A **PORTRAIT** of Christ
- A **PRAISE** for what is good
- A **PROBLEM** that must be confronted

CHURCH	PORTRAIT	PRAISE
Ephesus	Holds seven stars, walks among lampstands	Works, labor, patience, tested false apostles
Smyrna	First & Last, who was dead & came to life	Faithful through tribulation & poverty (spiritually rich)
Pergamos	Has sharp two-edged sword	Held fast to Christ's name
Thyatira	Son of God; eyes like fire, feet like brass	Works, love, service, faith, patience (last works greater than first)
Sardis	Has seven Spirits of God & seven stars	A few undefiled garments
Philadelphia	Holy & true; holds key of David	Kept word, did not deny Christ, endured patiently
Laodicea	Faithful & true Witness; Beginning of creation	None

EVERY LETTER FOLLOWS
THE SAME FRAMEWORK

A **PRESCRIPTION** to correct it

A **PROMISE** to the overcomer

	PROBLEM	PRESCRIPTION	PROMISE
	Left first love	Remember, repent, do first works	Eat from Tree of Life (2:7)
	None	Be faithful unto death	Crown of life; not hurt by 2nd death (2:10-11)
	False doctrine (Balaam, Nicolaitans)	Repent or face Christ's sword	Hidden manna; white stone with new name (2:17)
	Tolerated Jezebel; immorality, idolatry	Repent; hold fast until Christ comes	Authority over nations; morning star (2:26-28)
	Reputation alive, but dead	Be watchful; strengthen; remember; repent	White garments; name not blotted out; confessed before Father (3:5)
	None	Hold fast what you have	Pillar in God's temple; God's name; Christ's new name (3:12)
	Lukewarm, wretched, poor, blind	Be zealous, repent, open door to Christ	Sit with Christ on His throne (3:21)



STICKY STATEMENT

JESUS comes to set **HIS HOUSE** in order
before He sets **THE WORLD** in order
—judgment begins at the **HOUSE OF GOD**