A scroll of parchment with a rough, torn edge, unrolled to reveal text. The parchment is a light tan color with some darker spots and a slightly textured appearance. The text is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered on the scroll. The scroll is shown from a slightly elevated perspective, with the left and right edges showing the rolled-up portions.

**Without looking
in your
Bible,
write the names
of the 7 churches
in order.**

of ESP

“All you need is a TSP

to Learn what you need
To be ready!”

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamum

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

Why these seven churches?





Preterist Historic Futurist
Pre-millennial Post-Millennial A-millennial
Pre-Tribulation Mid-Tribulation Post-Tribulation

**There are 3 major ways the book of
Revelation is interpreted.**

I AM THE ALPHA AND OMEGA

- 1. PAST:** the symbolic things in Revelation deal mainly with events that took place in first centuries dealing with Rome and destruction of the Temple.
- 2. PRESENT:** the symbolic things in Revelation represents different “ages” of church history with the Apologists representing Ephesus and modern church Laodicea.
- 3. FUTURE:** the symbolic things all refer to the “end times” and events yet to unfold.

**The application of Revelation—
“WHY” it was given—
is found in the letters to the churches.**

**THESE ARE ALL THE ISSUES
THAT ALL THE CHURCHES
OF ALL THE AGES**

**have faced, are facing, or will face
that will keep them from being ready
for Jesus when He comes.**

Why do I say that?

- 1. JESUS is the One speaking.**
- 2. There is no danger His people would encounter that He would not warn them of before it came; that was the very purpose of a prophet.**
- 3. The warnings given to the churches in Revelation are the SAME warnings that Jesus gave on earth as recorded in the Gospels.**
- 4. They are the SAME warnings repeated in the Epistles in non-figurative language.**
- 5. The purpose of Revelation isn't to read, hear, and study or explain the book...it is to HEED the warning!**

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamum

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

Why these seven churches?



Why these Seven?

- 1. Some have said: “John was familiar with these.” But Jesus is the One selecting them out.**
- 2. A couple of them seem obscure: like Thyatira and Philadelphia.**
- 3. They form a loop. First 3 up the coast, Last 4 down.**
- 4. An Idea: Possibly chosen for how they related to the Roman government and culture.**

Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum and Sardis were awarded the “neokoros” status. Thyatira had guilds. Philadelphia and Laodicea both received financial help from the government to rebuild their cities, but later Laodicea declined help.

The seven stars = the seven angels.

The seven lampstands = the seven churches.



Angel = messenger. In other places, it occasionally referred to a human agent, but elsewhere in Revelation it seems to be in reference to the heavenly beings. But why would a letter be written to an angelic being? And how would it be read to the churches?

(Angel) = the messenger responsible for the communication of the message from Jesus and the implementation of the action. Angels do the will of God “on earth as in heaven.”

Ephesus



The eternal flame from Olympus was lit on the hill and kept burning: “the heart of the city.”
KEEP the LAMP BURNING.

The eternal flame from Olympus was lit on the hill and kept burning: “the heart of the city.” **KEEP the LAMP BURNING.**

Paul was concerned about **FALSE TEACHERS.**

I Timothy 1:5 Goal is LOVE.

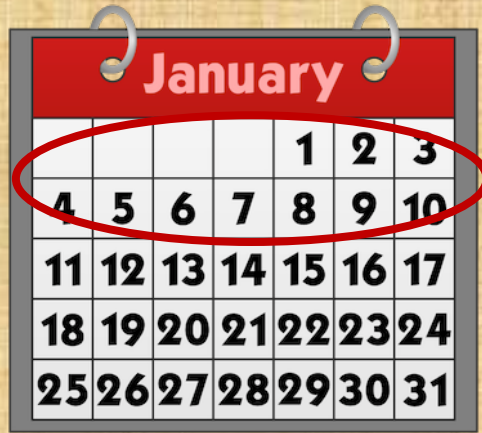
There were those wrangling over words, interpretations.

I JOHN 3:18 “Let us not love in word or talk, but in deed and in truth.”

What battle did they have to win?

COLDNESS, CRITICAL, INDIFFERENCE, INTELLECTUALISM.

Smyrna



Often in competition with Ephesus for Roman favors.
Intense poverty. Martyrdom.

Jesus is described as

“The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life.”

TEN DAYS.

Reward = not hurt by the second death.

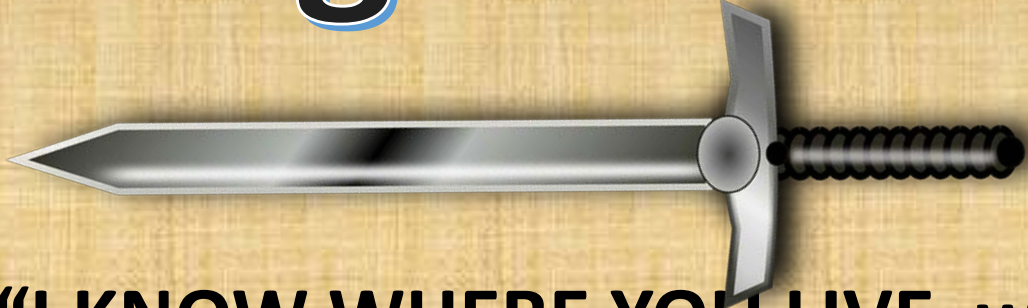
over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him

A THOUSAND YEARS. 20:4-6 “These present sufferings can’t compare...”

What battle did they have to win?

FEAR, STEADFAST through danger.

Pergamum



The acropolis was 1000 feet up and had temples to many gods. There was a prominent altar to Zeus overseeing the city.

“I KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE, where Satan has his throne.”...and I am there with you!

II Peter 2:4-10 The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation and keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment. Phil. 1:4 He who began a good work in you...

BALAAM!! Leaders led into idolatry and immorality: The Party!

Balaam gets the money. How is he killed? II Peter 2:14/Jude 11

What battle did they have to win?

IDOLATRY, IMMORALITY, “THE PARTY” when tired.

Thyatira

Jeze-bel



Many artisan workers were part of guilds that took care of them and acted even as “family.”

The guilds involved pagan feasts and immoral practices. In order to be part of a social network, you had to participate. The followers. False religion replaces the worship of the TRUE GOD, but the people follow along out of fear to stand up and confusion about the truth.

“I don’t do it, but I don’t have a problem with those who do.”

THE END RESULT of false doctrine is not intellectual—it is moral.

What battle did they have to win?

FALSE DOCTRINE, TOLERATION of those practicing immorality.

Sardis



Sardis was prominent during the Persian era. Twice it was conquered by stealth because the guards were lax or sleeping.

The baths and the synagogue are next door to each other. The shops have Roman, Jewish, and Christian symbols along the same street.

Haggai's message: "Temple isn't finished! Get moving!" (Parallel?)

- **"Pray that you not enter into temptation."**
- **"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course..."**
- **"Be sober! Be on the alert! Your adversary the devil prowls about..."**

What battle did they have to win?

STAYING ALERT, NOT STOPPING with "enough", COMPLACENCY

Philadelphia



Had been rebuilt with Roman help after a couple major earthquakes and changed its name.

Isaiah 22:22 Eliakim had authority for all that was in the royal palace.
Synagogue of Satan/those who say they are Jews but are not.

- Door #1 An Open Door
- Door #2 A Closed Door (at Laodicea)
- Door #3 An Open Door: “Come up here!”

Stephen saw Heaven opened as he was dying (parallel here?)

What battle did they have to win?

NOT QUITTING! “Almost there...HANG ON!!”

Laodicea



Was ½ between Hot Springs of Heirapolis and Cold Water of Colossae. Paul's letters read there. Cotton and Eye salve.

After the 60 AD earthquake they refused help from Rome because they could rebuild the city themselves. WEALTHY and INDEPENDENT.

- Door #2 A Closed Door (at Laodicea)

How did they get wealthy? Working with “the system” and being part of “the system.” If salt has lost its saltiness what is it good for? They weren't persecuted. God was there, but not “essential” to their lives.

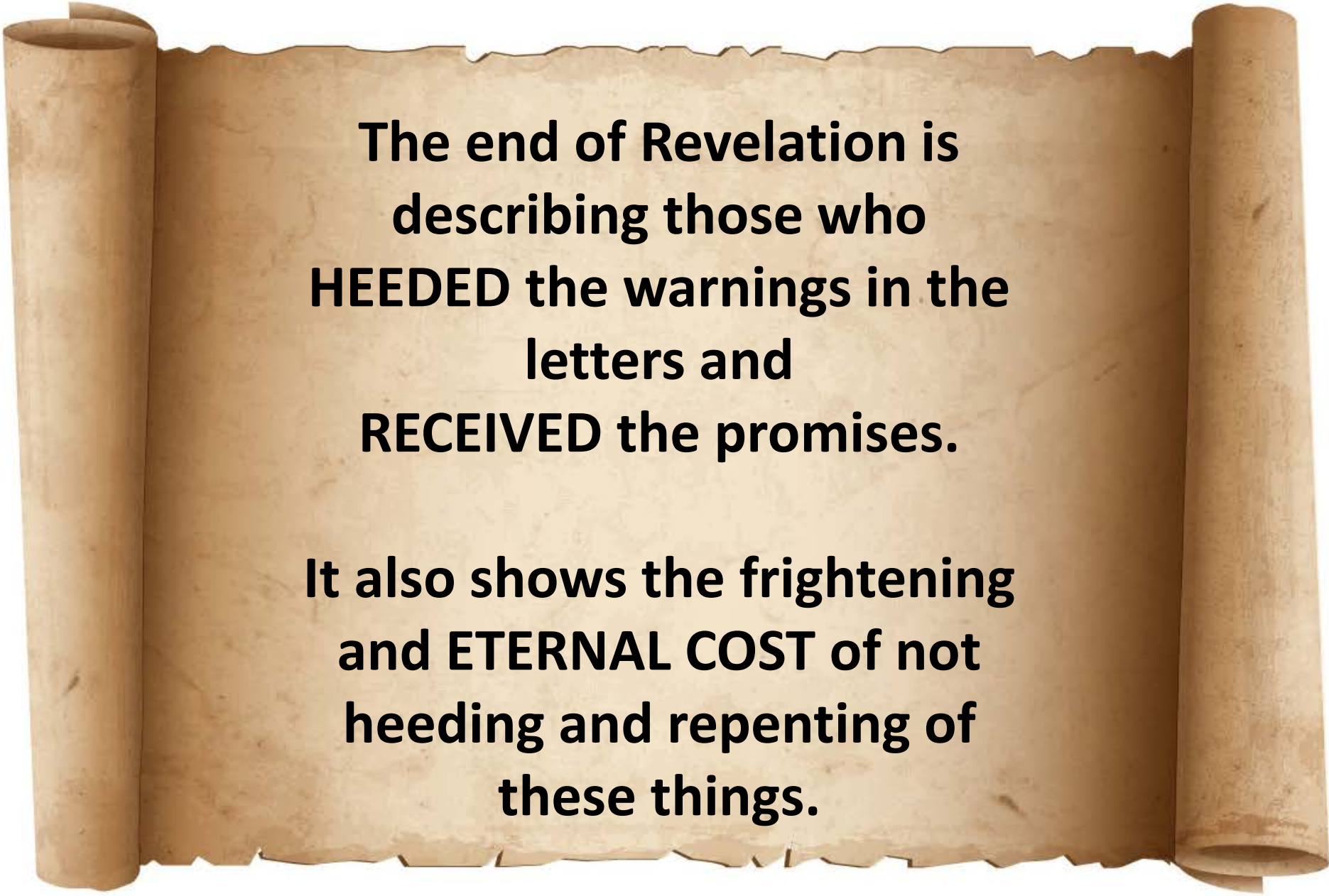
What battle did they have to win?

DECEPTIVE WEALTH, SELF-SUFFICIENCY, COMPLETE INTEGRATION



Connections to the Seven Churches

Jesus Described	Church	Message:	At the end of Revelation
	Introduction	1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.	Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book. 22:7
The One who walks among the lampstands	Ephesus	To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.' 2:7	On either side of the river was the tree of life. 22:2-4
The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life	Smyrna	the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan 2:9 He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death. 2:11	And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless. 14:1, 4-5 over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years. 20:4-6
The One who has the sharp two-edged sword	Pergamum	The One who has the sharp two-edged sword	From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations. 19:15 And the rest were killed with the sword. 19:20-21
The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze 2:18	Thyatira	'Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation 2:21-22 He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations 2:26	His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 19:11-12 "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues; 18:3-4 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. 20:4
He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars	Sardis	He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life 3:5	only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. 21:27
He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens	Philadelphia	because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 'Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie 3:8-9 I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name 3:12	And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless. 14:1, 4-5 and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." 21:8 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying. 22:15 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. and they will reign forever and ever. 22:3-5
The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God	Laodicea	The Amen, the faithful and true Witness 3:14 He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne 3:21	And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 19:11

An open scroll with a light brown, textured surface. The scroll is unrolled in the center, showing two pages. The text is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The top page has a decorative, torn edge at the top. The scroll is set against a plain white background.

**The end of Revelation is
describing those who
HEEDED the warnings in the
letters and
RECEIVED the promises.**

**It also shows the frightening
and ETERNAL COST of not
heeding and repenting of
these things.**