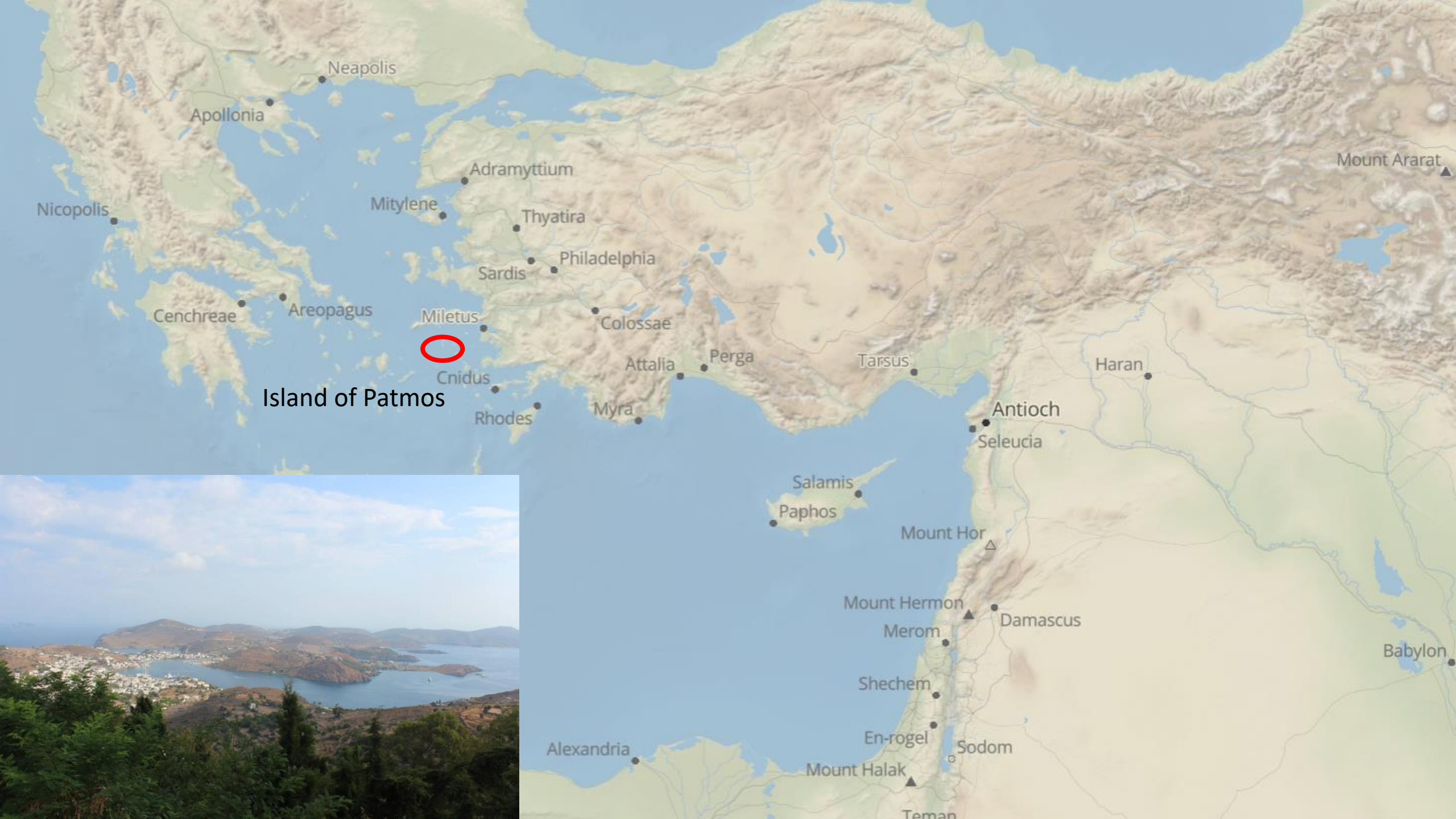


Revelation 4

- From Him who Loves us







Focusing on the Future

- If Jesus were to write a letter to your church, what would he condemn or commend?



Letters to the Churches— The Things That Are

- Letters to 7 churches on the roman postal route – in order
- Could loosely correspond to “Church Ages”
- Five of these churches rebuked for tolerating sin
- Modern churches can have a mixture of these characteristics, good and bad





Patterns of the Letters to the Churches

A greeting: 'To the angel of the church in ...'.

A title of the risen Christ, usually taken from the description in chapter 1.

A section headed 'I know', introducing praise for what is good in the church's record (not in the case of Laodicea).

A criticism of the church (not in the case of Smyrna nor Philadelphia).

A warning.

An exhortation beginning, 'He who has an ear ...'.

A promise beginning with something like 'To him who overcomes I will give ...'.

In the last four letters the order of 6 and 7 is reversed.

The Church of Laodicea

7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. 21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

Q: What things did Jesus condemn?

A. Being lukewarm, not hot or cold; pride; thinking they were self-sufficient. Not realizing they are pitiable, poor, blind, and naked

Q: What things did Jesus commend?

A. Nothing!!!

Q: What is Jesus' response to the lukewarm?

A: He vomits them from His mouth. It makes him wretch!

Q: What does Jesus command them to do?

A Be zealous; Repent; Welcome discipline; Open your heart to Jesus

Q: What does sitting on the throne with Jesus mean?

A: We will reign and rule with Jesus

Q: How does Mathew 7:7 contrast with v.20?

A: Direction of the knock; could be indicative of the church in general



Jesus' Dire Warning Mathew 7

21 Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast our demons in your name, and do many mighty words in your name? 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you, depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

THE SEVEN LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Church	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Title(s) of the Messiah	The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand The One who walks among the seven golden lamp stands	The First and the Last He who was dead and came to life	He who has the sharp, two-edged sword	Son of God He Who searches minds and hearts	He Who has the Seven Spirits of God and the Seven Stars	He Who is Holy He Who is True He Who has the Key of David He Who opens and no one shuts and shuts and no one opens	The Amen The Faithful and True Witness The Beginning of God's creation
Commendations	Works in general (deeds) Labor to the point of exhaustion Perseverance (suffering of hardship and loss) Repelling those that are evil Testing of those that said they were Christians; turning from the common teaching of the Nicolaitans Patient Endurance for Jesus' sake	Works Tribulation (serious trouble, a crushing burden) Poverty – the strong word which means extreme poverty. Every legal action was taken towards Christians. Blaspheming by those who were born Jewish but were actually Satan's church sake	Holding fast to Jesus' name Not denying faith, even in the midst of intense Satanic persecution	Love – of which nothing is greater Faith – continuing trust in Jesus Service – expected by any master (Doulos/Curios) Patience – steady progress/improvement	A few who had not defiled their garments; remaining pure	Works through perseverance Keeping His Word, even when they had little strength	None
Condemnations	Abandoned their First Love	False Jews (Synagogue of Satan)	Doctrine of Balaam - Sacrifice to idols, sexual immorality Doctrine of Nicolaitans - False teaching (infestation of church with non-biblical ideals)	Following false prophetess Following the crowd Idolatry Sexual immorality	Having a good reputation but not living up to it Dead works	False Jews (Synagogue of Satan)	Being lukewarm Pride, thinking they were self-sufficient Not realizing they were pitiable, poor, blind, and naked
Commands	Repent (to turn 180 degrees); Break sharply with their evils Do the first works from when they first learned of the truth of Jesus	Be faithful unto death Don't embrace the world	Repent (turn 180 degrees, completely change your ways)	Hold fast until Jesus returns Keep His works until the end	Actively watch for His return (Not referring to His second coming, but the immediacy Christ could require our lives at any time) Repent; hold fast.	Be ready for His coming Hold fast until Jesus returns	Be zealous- get real wealth from Jesus Repent Expect discipline Open your heart to Jesus
Promise to the Overcomer	Ability to eat from the Tree of Life	Crown of Life (Victory Wreath) Shall not be hurt by the second death	Hidden manna White stone (victors stone)	Obtain the Morning Star - Eternity with Jesus Himself Authority over nations	Walking with Jesus in white garments Jesus confesses name to God the Father	Be kept from the tribulation Be a pillar in the temple of God Indelible with the the Name of God and the name of the City of God, New Jerusalem, and the new name of Jesus	Privilege and authority of Jesus (throne)
Nuggets	Written to all churches - Rev 2:7 Overcomer = True Christian - 1 John 5:5	Why suffer? For testing First death - physical Second death - eternal	Jesus fights with the Sword of His Mouth	Each one will be given according to their works	The Lambs Book of Life	The tribulation which is to test the whole world New names	Jesus is the author of creation Written to all churches



The Rapture

1 Thessalonians 4 –

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Next Up

What Is To Be...

