

Dear Church...

EXPLORING THE LETTERS TO THE
SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



Why Revelation now? Why the 7 churches?



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When the world seems like it is turning
upside down and inside out,
people begin to wrestle with what is going on and ask how
does it relate to the ***'end times'*** or the ***'end of the world'***?

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What are the ***'end times'*** or the ***'end of the world'*** going to
look like....at least from a biblical understanding?

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We are going to '***dip our toe***' into understanding Revelation
and the coming judgment and redemptive activities of God
by looking at the messages in chapters 2 & 3
sent to the 7 churches concerning their condition.

Dear Church...

Revelation chapters 2 & 3





Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

First-Century Mediterranean World



First-Century Mediterranean World



Macedonia / Bulgaria

Black Sea

The Seven Churches of Revelation

Turkey

ASIA

Aegean Sea

Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Greece

Ephesus

Laodicea

Mediterranean Sea

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Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

1. Ephesus..... *The Loveless Church*



Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

1

- 1. Ephesus..... *The Loveless Church*
- 2. Smyrna..... *The Persecuted Church*



- 1. Ephesus..... *The Loveless Church*
- 2. Smyrna..... *The Persecuted Church*
- 3. Pergamum..... *The Compromising Church*



Pergamum



Thyatira



Smyrna



Sardis



Philadelphia

Ephesus



Laodicea

1. Ephesus..... *The Loveless Church*
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3. Pergamum..... *The Compromising Church*
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4. Thyatira..... *The Corrupt Church*
5. Sardis..... *The Dead Church*



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6. Philadelphia.... *The Faithful Church*



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7. Laodicea..... *The Lukewarm Church*



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Revelation 1

¹ The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending His angel to His servant John,
² who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.
³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.



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Revelation 1

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before His throne,

⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood

⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.



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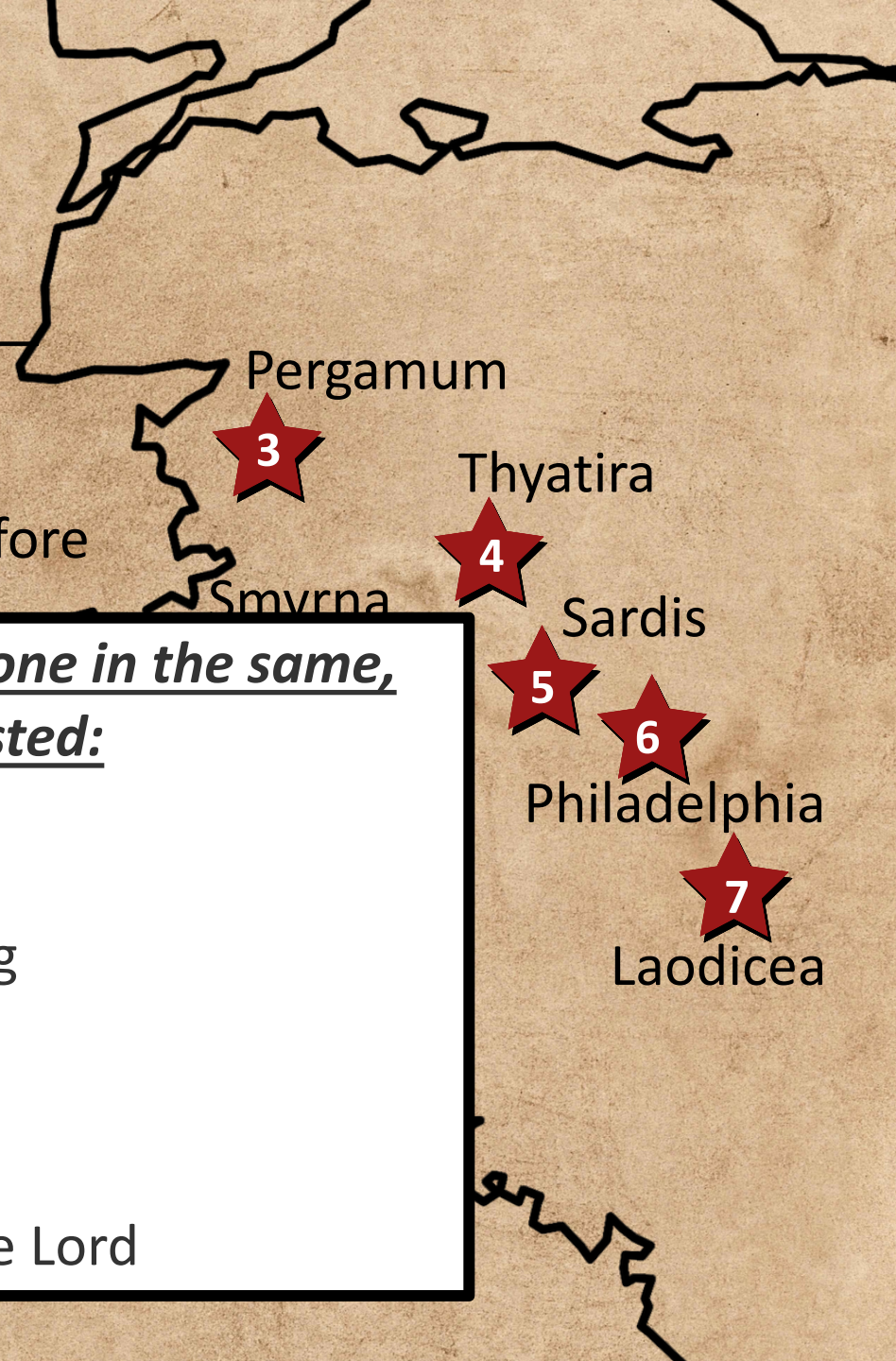
To Him who loves

⁶ and made us

to Him be glor

**The seven spirits and the Holy Spirit are one in the same,
and in Isaiah 11:2 they are listed:**

1. The Spirit of the wisdom
2. The Spirit of Lord
3. The Spirit of understanding
4. The Spirit of counsel
5. The Spirit of power
6. The Spirit of knowledge
7. The Spirit of the fear of the Lord



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Revelation 1

⁷ Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him. Even so. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."



Pergamum



Thyatira



Smyrna



Sardis



Philadelphia



Ephesus



Laodicea

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⁹ I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet

¹¹ saying, *"Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."*

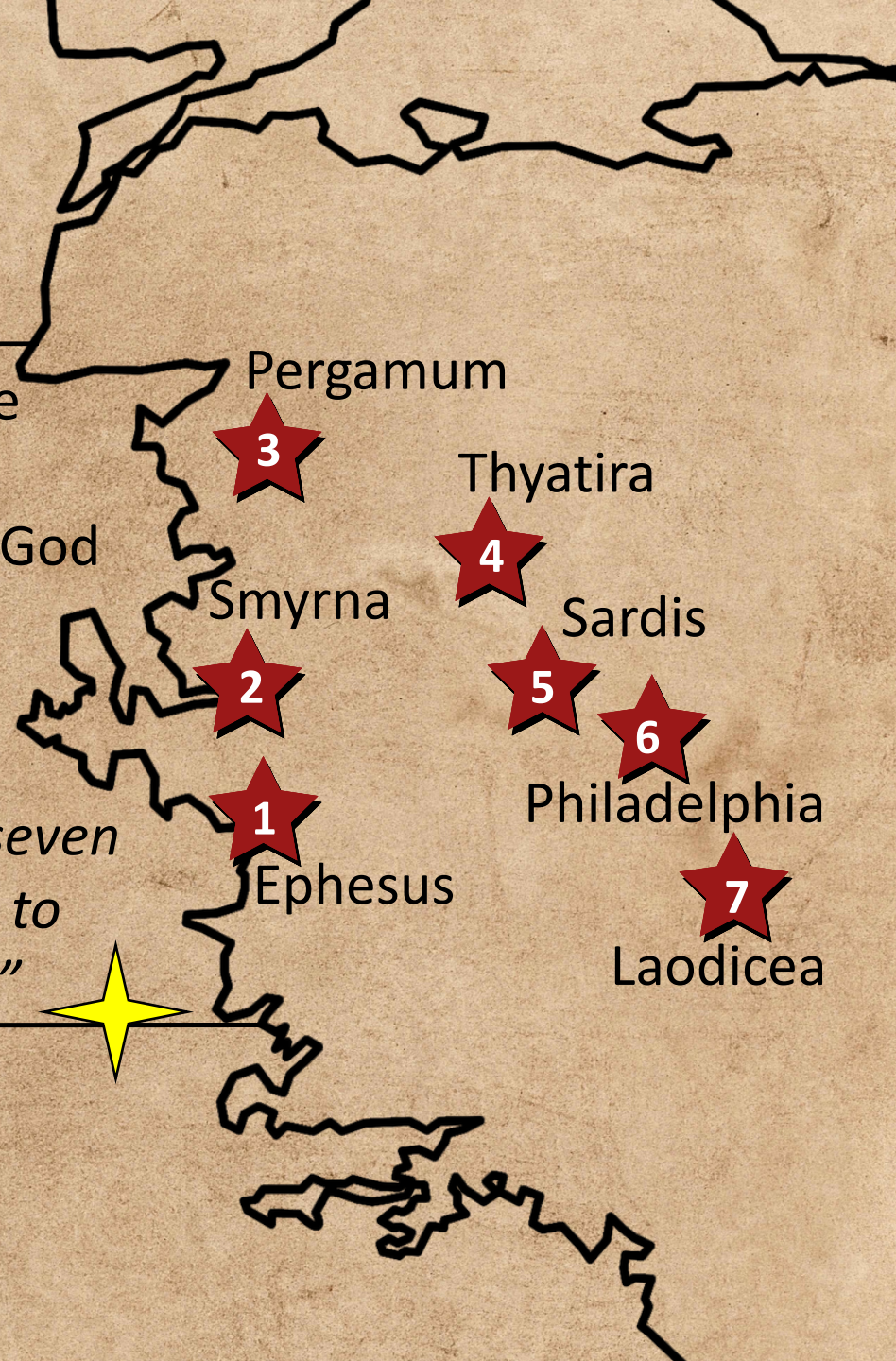


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Two proposed dates of writing:

- 69 AD (CE)- impacted by the persecution of the Roman Emperor Nero.
- **95 AD (CE)**- impacted by the persecution of Roman Emperor Domitian.

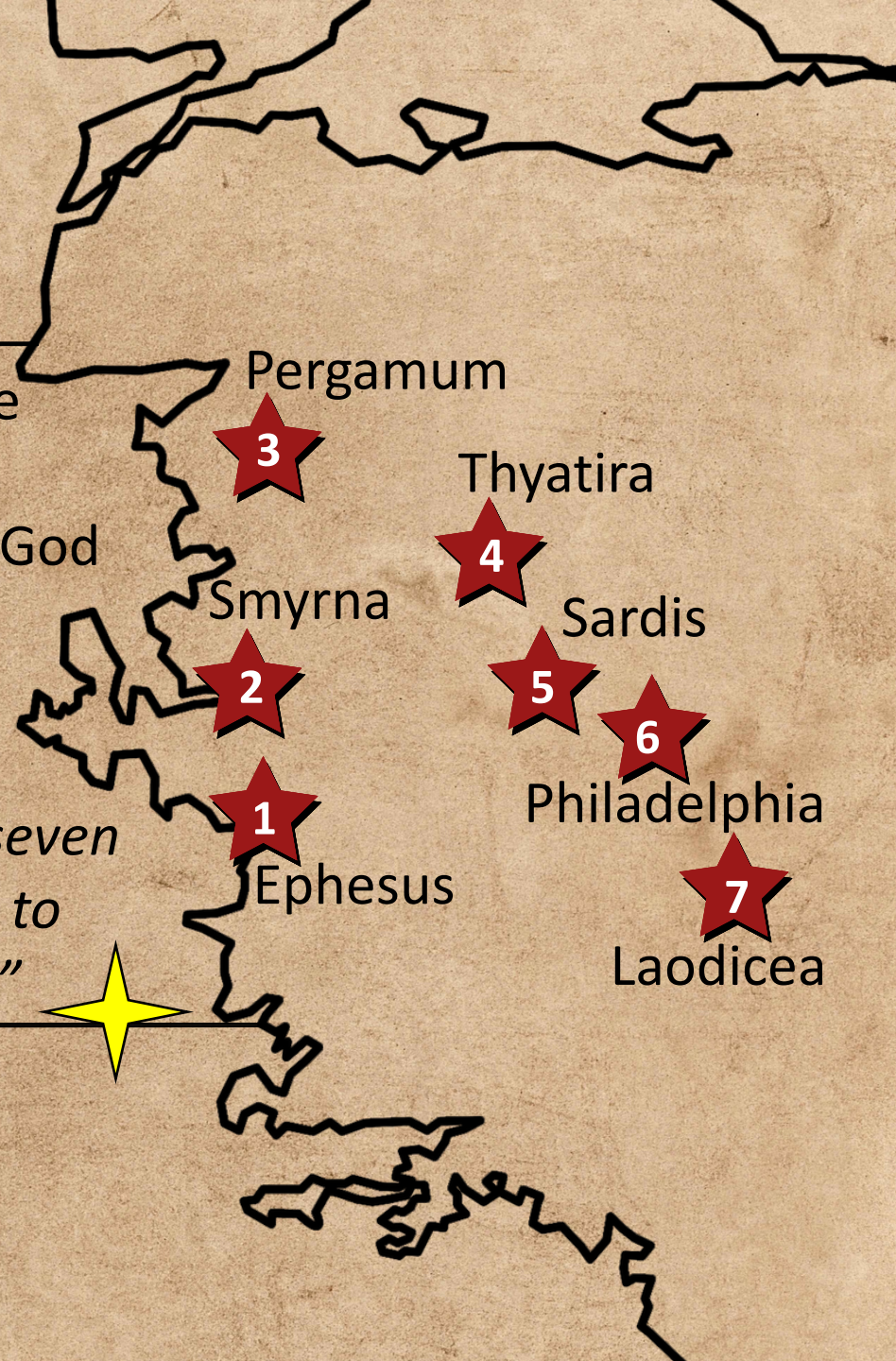


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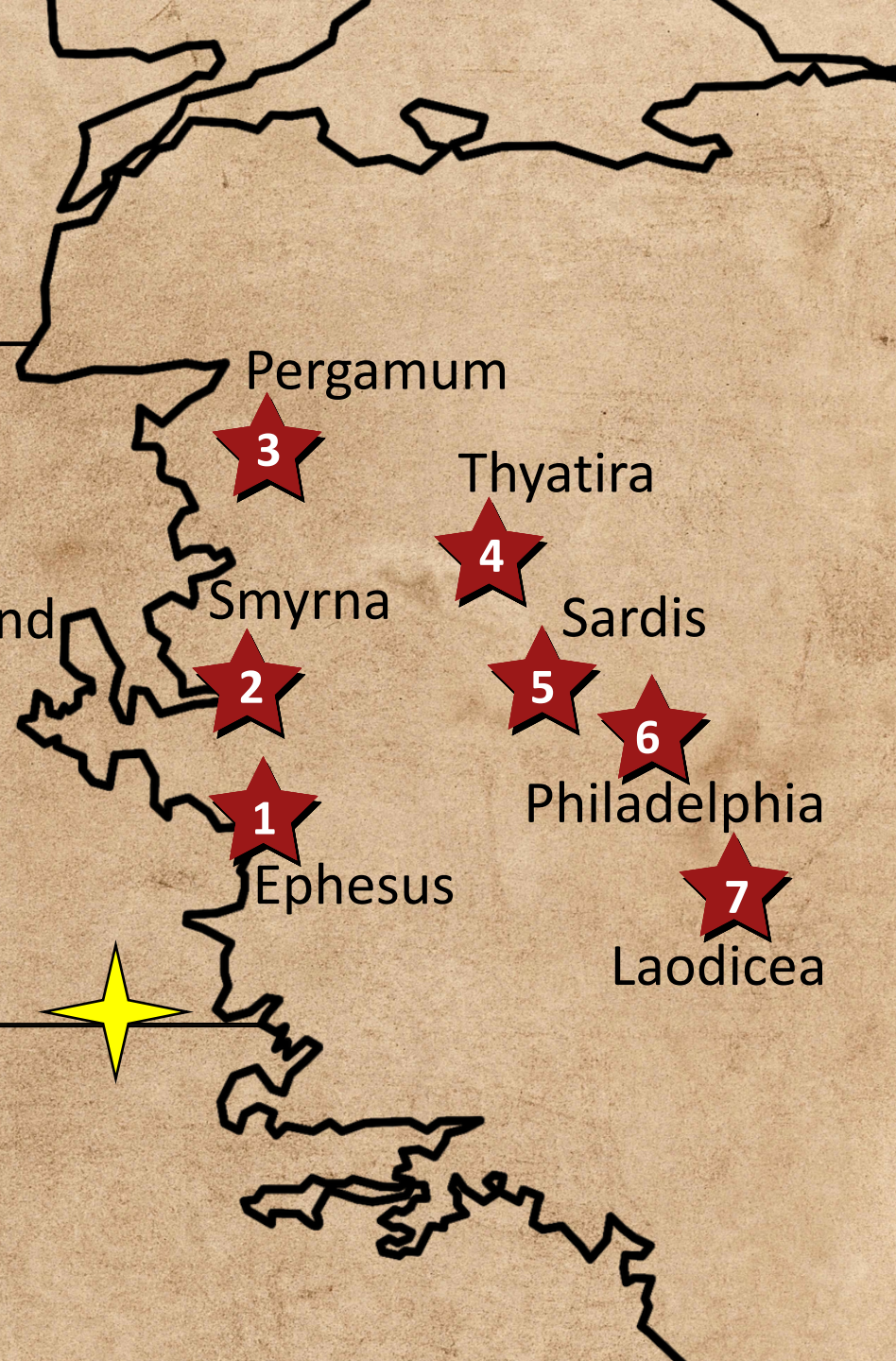
Revelation 1

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,

¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around His chest.

¹⁴ The hairs of His head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire,

¹⁵ His feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the roar of many waters.



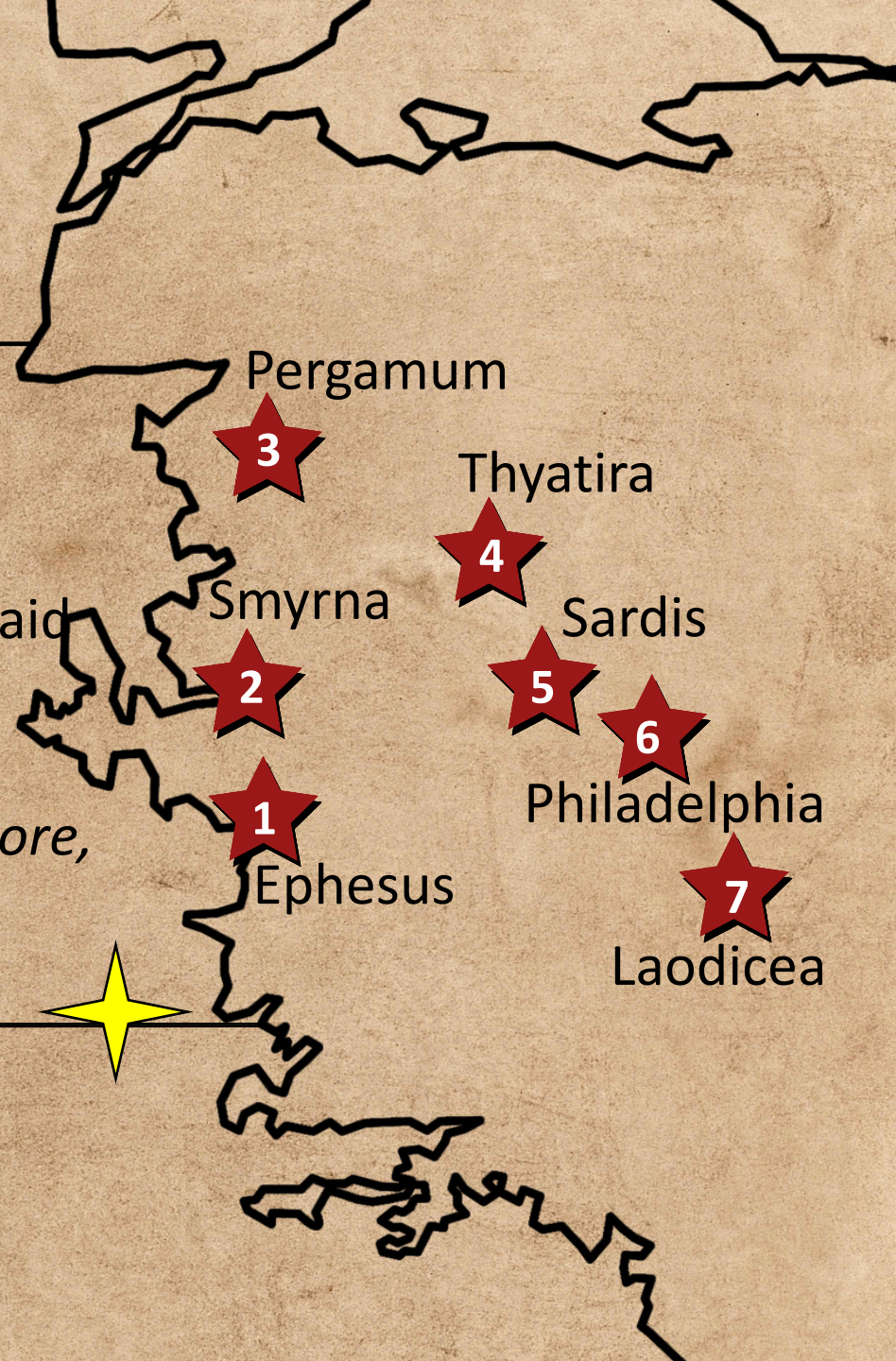
Revelation 1

¹⁶ In His right hand He held seven stars,
from His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword,
and His face was like the sun shining in full strength.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid
his right hand on me, saying,

“Fear not, I am the first and the last,

*¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore,
and I have the keys of Death and Hades.*



Pergamum



Thyatira



Smyrna



Sardis



Philadelphia

Ephesus



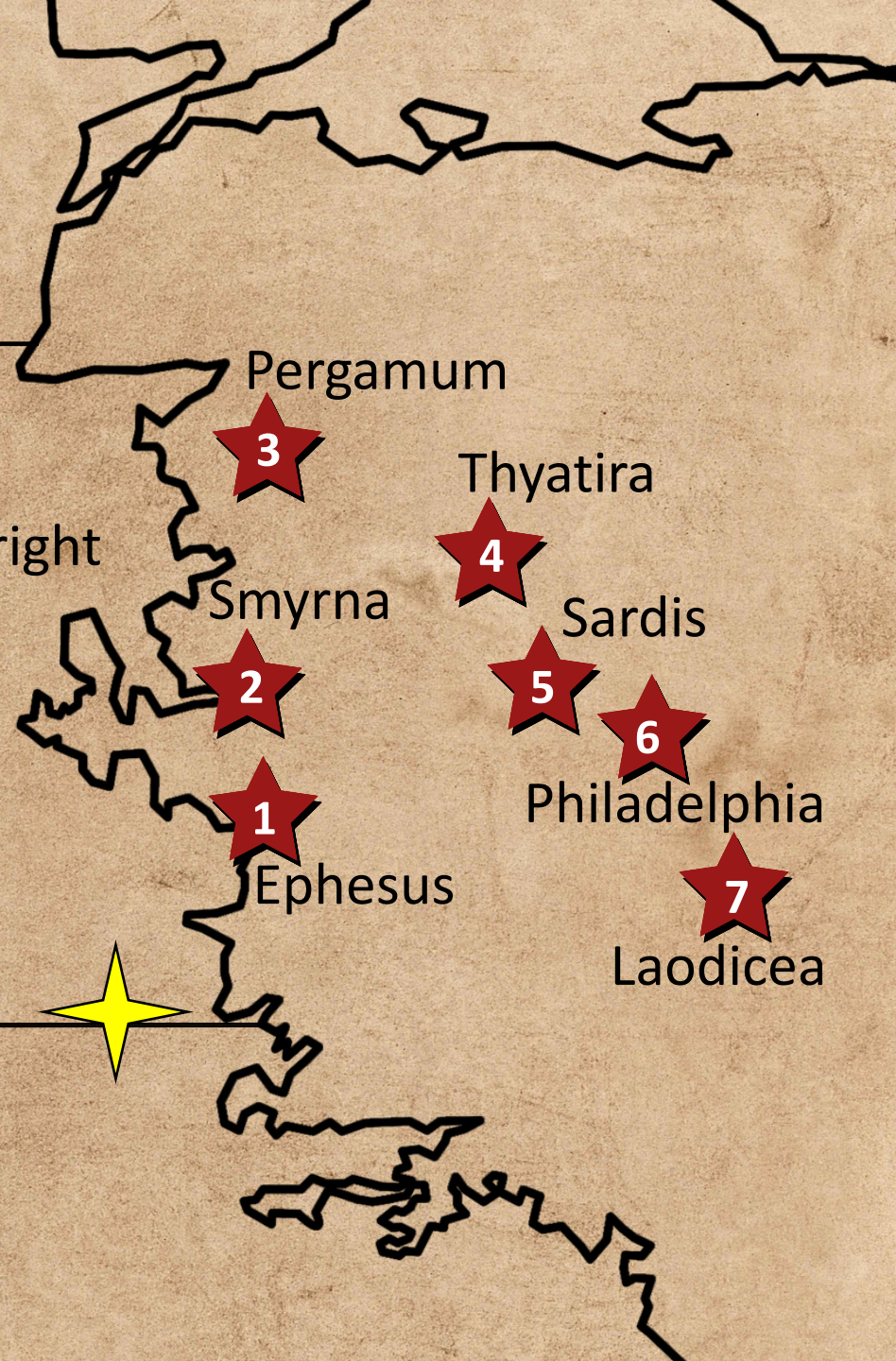
Laodicea



Revelation 1

¹⁹ Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

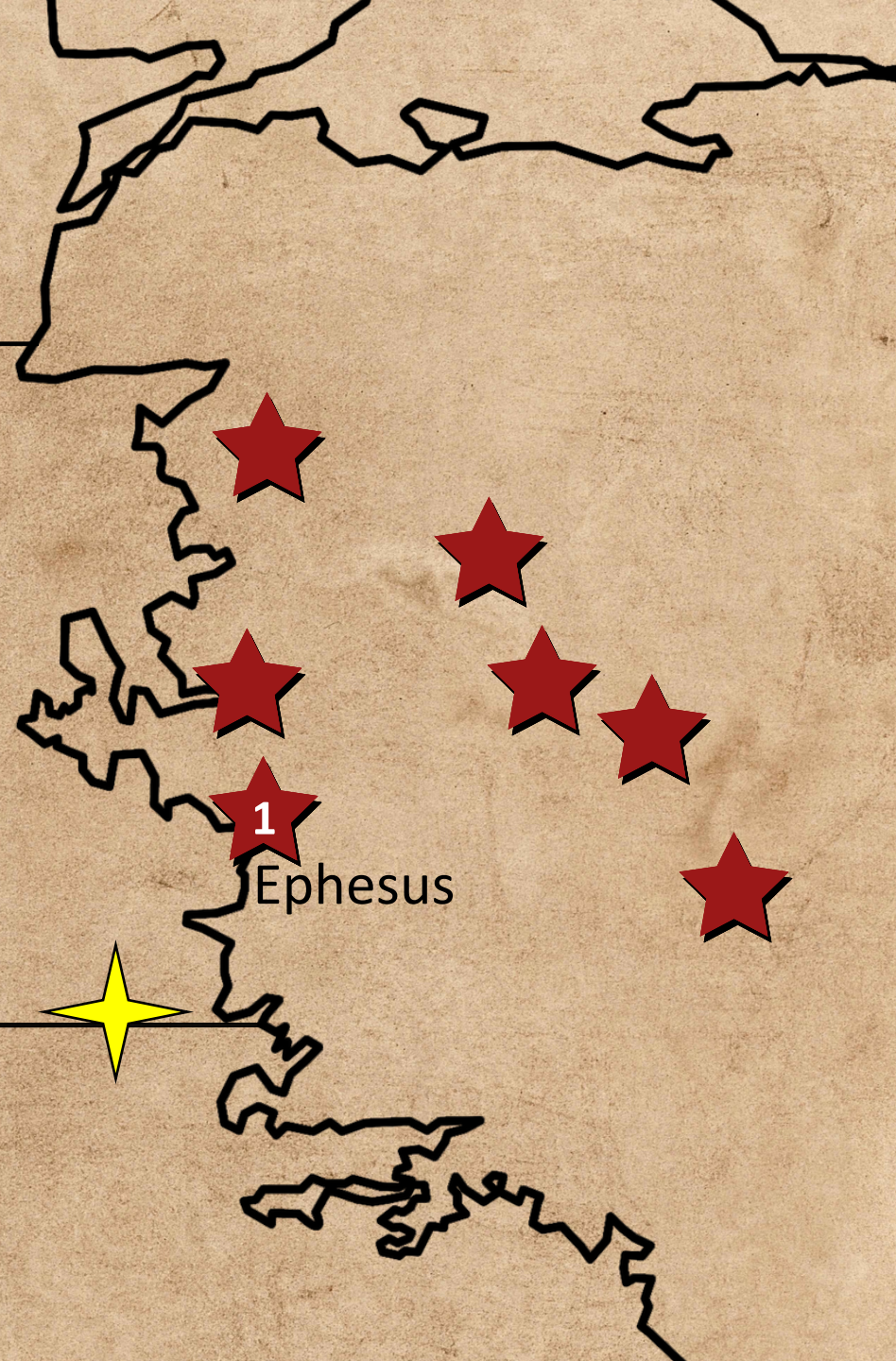
²⁰ As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.



Revelation 2:1-7

Ephesus

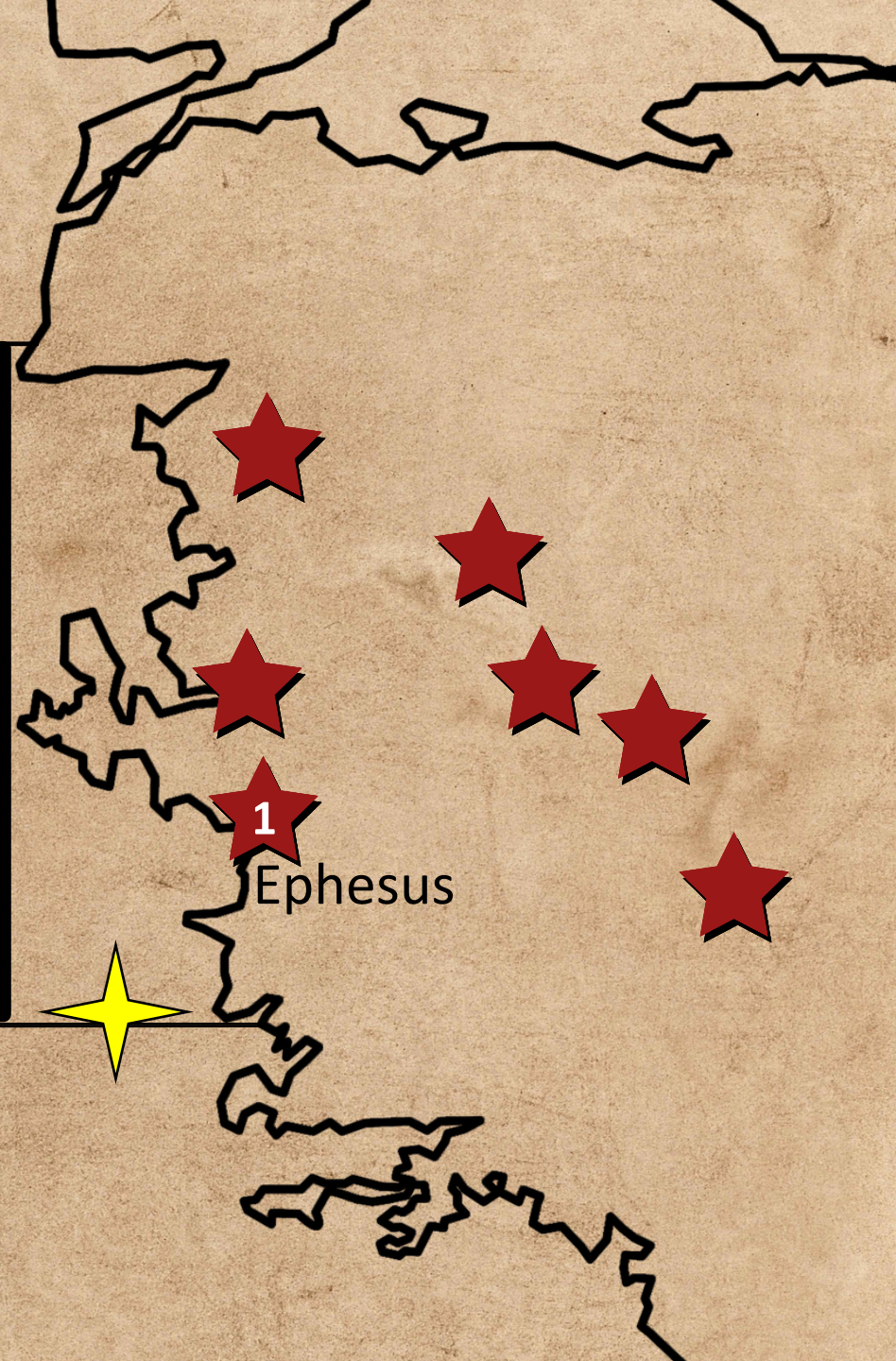
The Loveless Church



The culture in Ephesus was decidedly anti-Christian.

Ephesus was a world-class city of 250,000 people with an intensely charged multi-religious and immoral environment:

- Caesar worship...even to enter into the Agora (marketplace).
- 14 Temples for worship of various Greek and Roman gods and goddesses.
- Temple to the Greek goddess **Artemis** (Roman Diana)- goddess of the hunt, the wilderness, the moon, fertility, childbirth and of fertility.....hundreds of temple prostitutes, both male and female.
- Demon worship at the temple of Didymus.









1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

'The words of Him who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

2 "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.

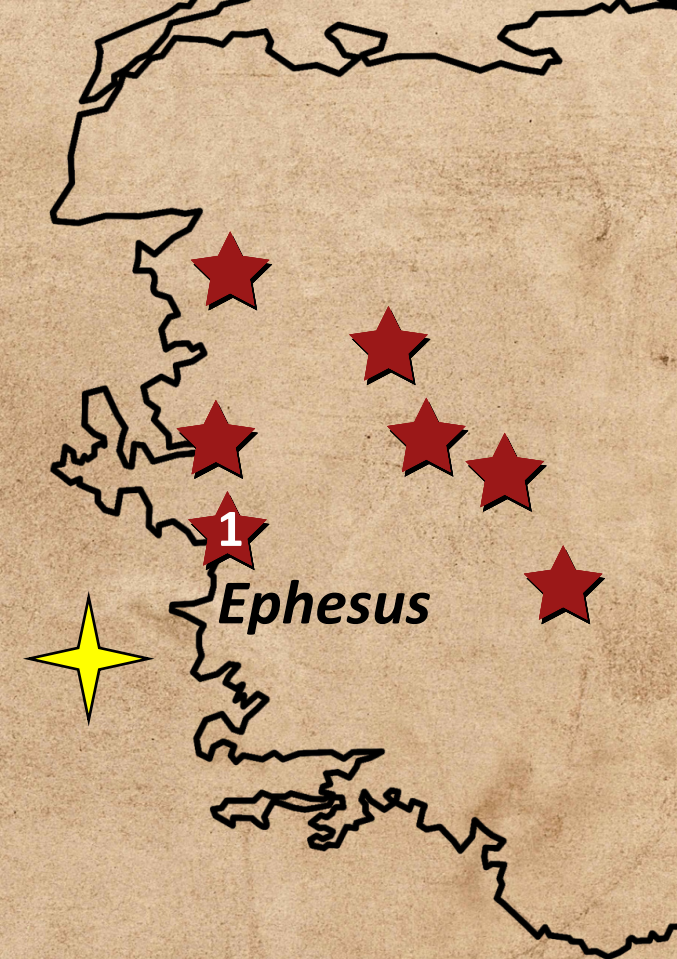
3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.

4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

6 Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'



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Dear Church... So... therefore... what now?



So....therefore....what now?

A letter to the church in

Ephesus

So....therefore....what now?

A letter to the church in

America

So....therefore....what now?

A letter to the church in

Wildwood

So....therefore....what now?

A letter to the church called

Quest

Dear Church... So... therefore... what now?



1

2

Dear Church... So....therefore....what now?



1

Renew, recommit, refresh the love you had at first for God's amazing grace, the exhilaration of being in the body of Christ, and to see the people around you with the eyes of Christ.

2

Dear Church... So....therefore....what now?



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Renew, recommit, refresh the love you had at first for God's amazing grace, the exhilaration of being in the body of Christ, and to see the people around you with the eyes of Christ.

2

Remain tenacious in your commitment to the truth while making sure it is seasoned with a grace that reflects the unconditional kindness of God that is unknown in a culture that is angry and divisive.