

Dear Church...

EXPLORING THE LETTERS TO THE
SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION

Revelation
chapters 2 & 3



Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

PATMOS



Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

PATMOS

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



- 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
3
Thyatira
Smyrna
2
Sardis
1
Ephesus
Philadelphia
Laodicea
PATMOS

1. Ephesus..... *The Loveless Church*
2. Smyrna..... *The Persecuted Church*
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4. Thyatira..... *The Corrupt Church*



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2. Smyrna..... *The Persecuted Church*
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4. Thyatira..... *The Corrupt Church*
5. Sardis..... *The Dead Church*



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2. Smyrna..... *The Persecuted Church*
3. Pergamum..... *The Compromising Church*
4. Thyatira..... *The Corrupt Church*
5. Sardis..... *The Dead Church*
6. Philadelphia.... *The Faithful Church*



1. Ephesus..... *The Loveless Church*
2. Smyrna..... *The Persecuted Church*
3. Pergamum..... *The Compromising Church*
4. Thyatira..... *The Corrupt Church*
5. Sardis..... *The Dead Church*
6. Philadelphia.... *The Faithful Church*
7. Laodicea..... *The Lukewarm Church*



Revelation 3:7-13

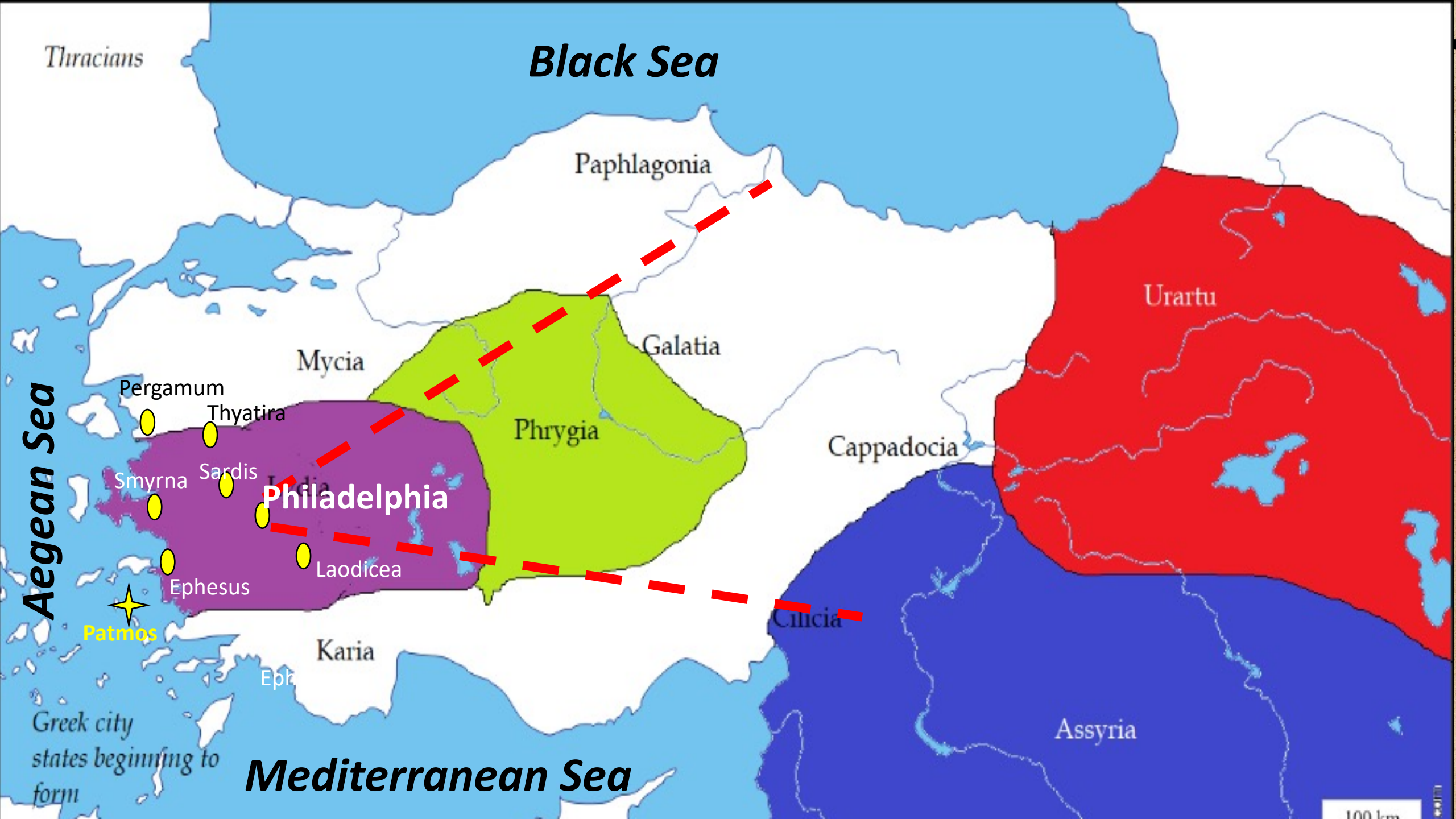
Philadelphia

The Faithful Church



The situation in Sardis is the historical context for this letter...

- Like Sardis, Philadelphia was flattened by a major earthquake in 17 A.D.
- Unlike Sardis, Philadelphia was a relatively young city, founded in approximately 180 BC by two brothers (Eumenes II and Attalus II).
- The Romans tried to turn these brothers against each other, but they remained loyal to one another, and Attalus earned the nickname “Philadelphus”, reflecting the ‘brotherly love’ that endured and remained.
- The city was strategically located at the junction of several major roads and became a gateway to Phrygia and eastward toward Galatia.



Thracians

Black Sea

Paphlagonia

Urartu

Aegean Sea

Mysia

Galatia

Pergamum

Thyatira

Phrygia

Cappadocia

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

Patmos

Karia

Cilicia

Greek city states beginning to form

Mediterranean Sea

Assyria

100 km

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- The city was strategically located at the junction of several major roads and became a gateway to Phrygia and eastward toward Galatia.
- The volcanic soil created an ideal environment for growing grapes; therefore grapes, vineyards, and wine production was a major factor then as well as now.

The four pieces of this letter:

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- Who the Author Is
- What the Author Knows
- What the Author Wants
- What the Author Does

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‘The words of the holy one, the true one,
who has the key of David,
who opens and no one will shut,
who shuts and no one opens.

⁸ ““I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door,
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Principles (guides) for a Biblical Hermeneutic / Interpretation

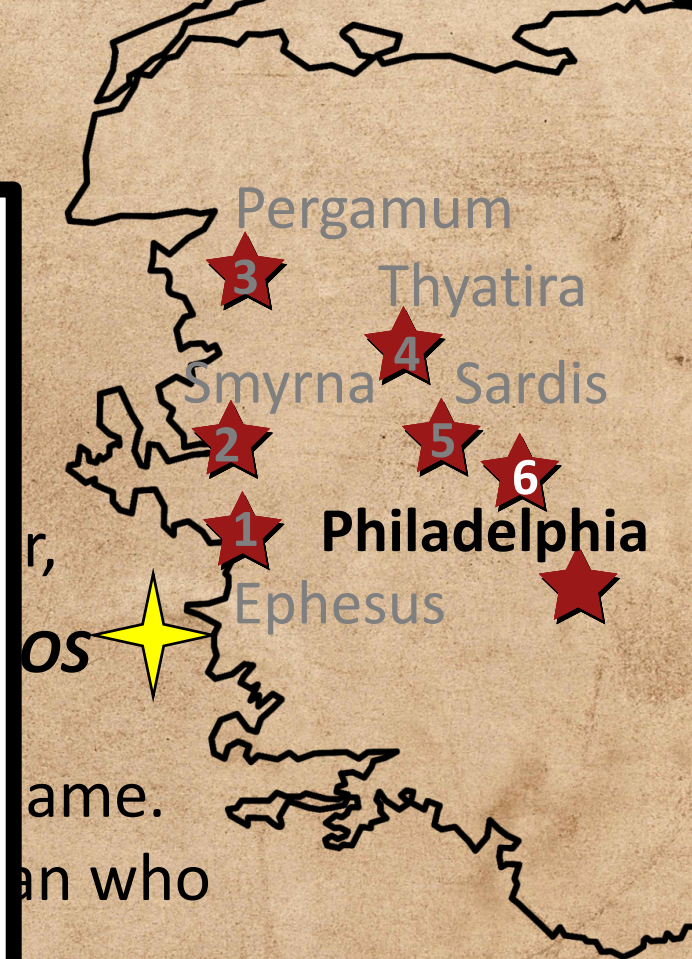
8

Historical: understand it in its historical and cultural setting first.

Grammatical: understand and appreciate the grammatical structure with which it is written.

Literal: understand that it means what it says unless it is clearly meant to be understood as metaphorical or allegorical.

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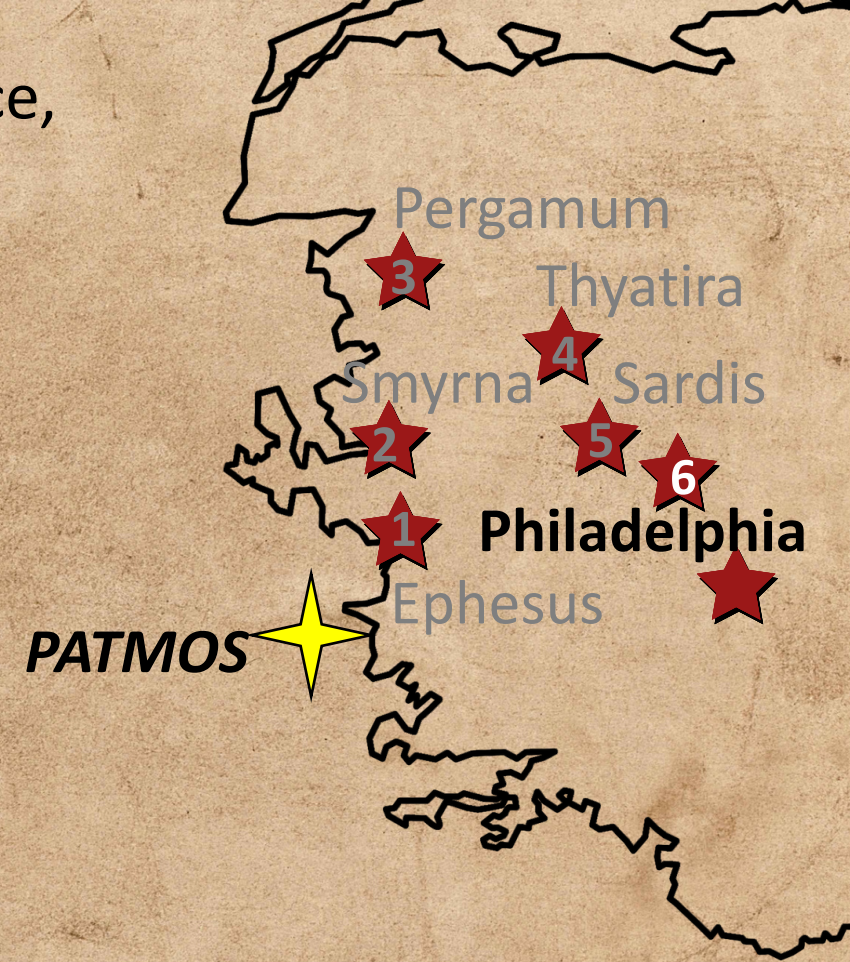


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**Who the
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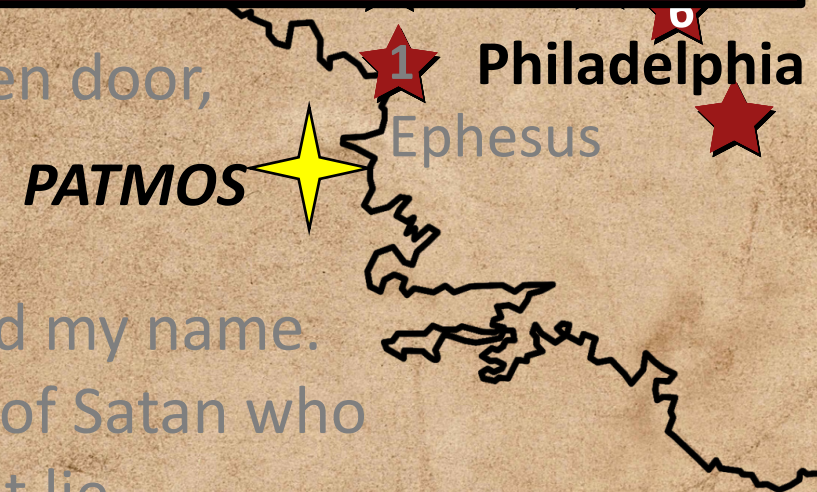
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Hosea 11:9

...I am God and not man,
the Holy One in your
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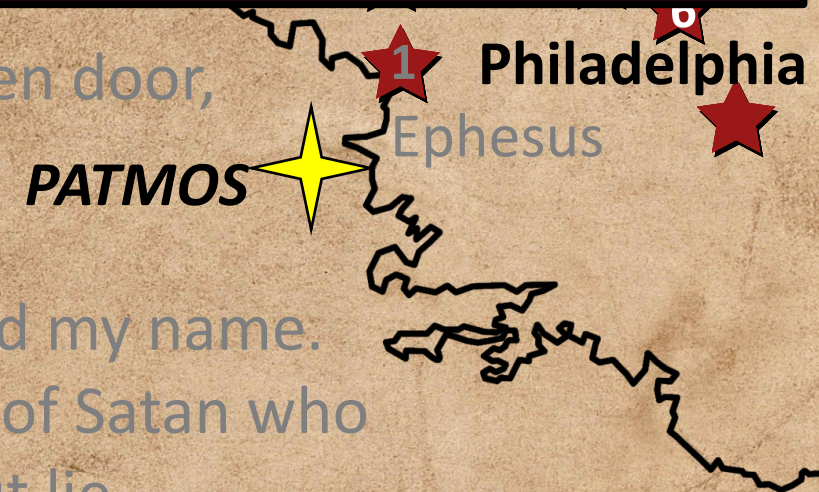
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“the wholly otherness of God”



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**Who the
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True One

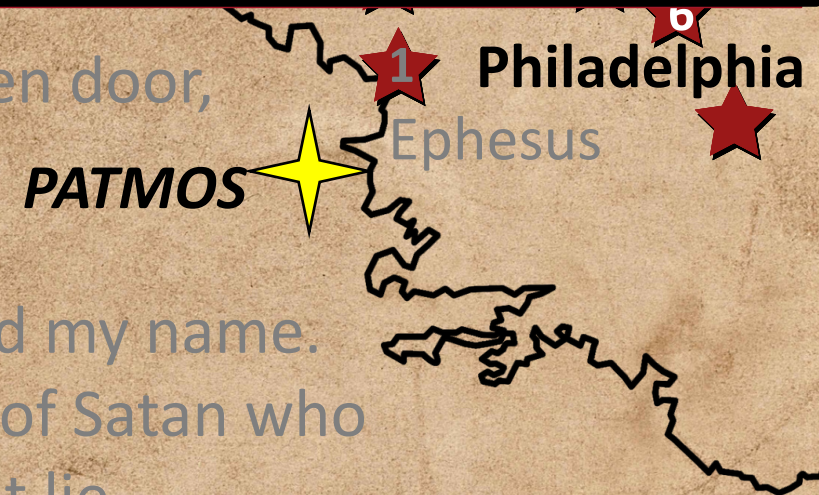
The one who is fully true
within Himself and,
therefore, with everything
and everyone else

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**Who the
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“has the Key of David”

...represents the power and authority in King David’s domain of Israel which was promised to the coming Messiah.

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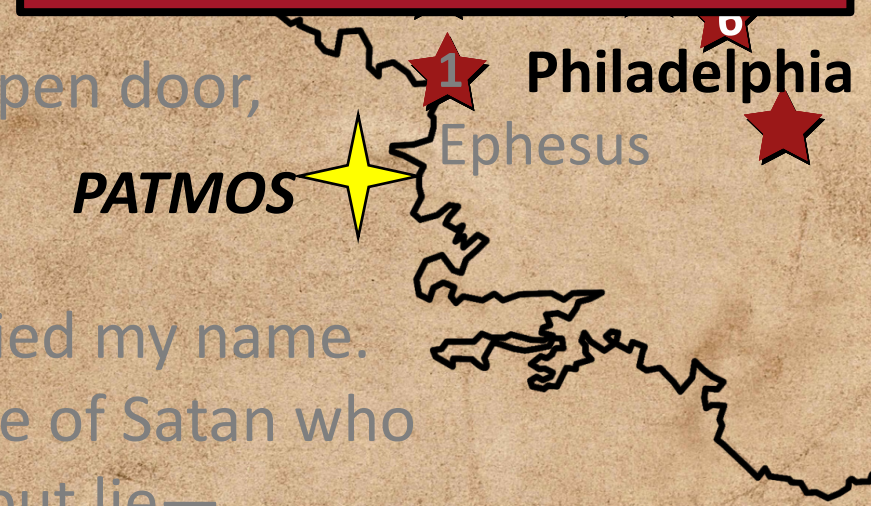
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PATMOS

1

Philadelphia

Ephesus



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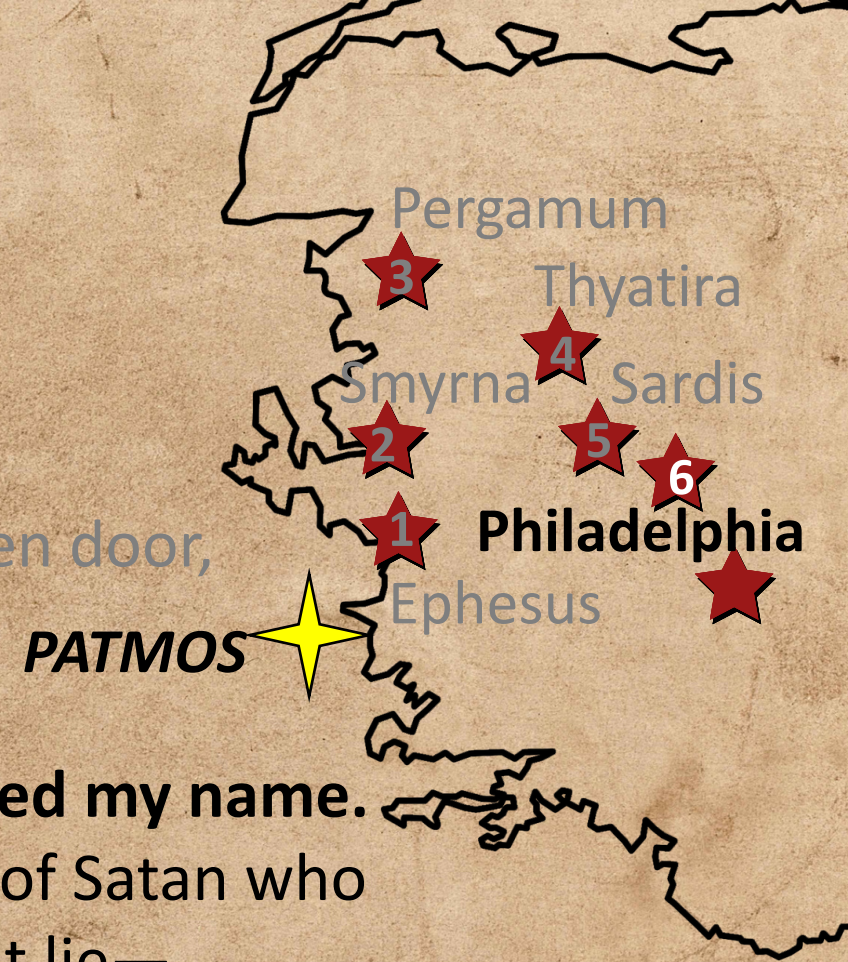


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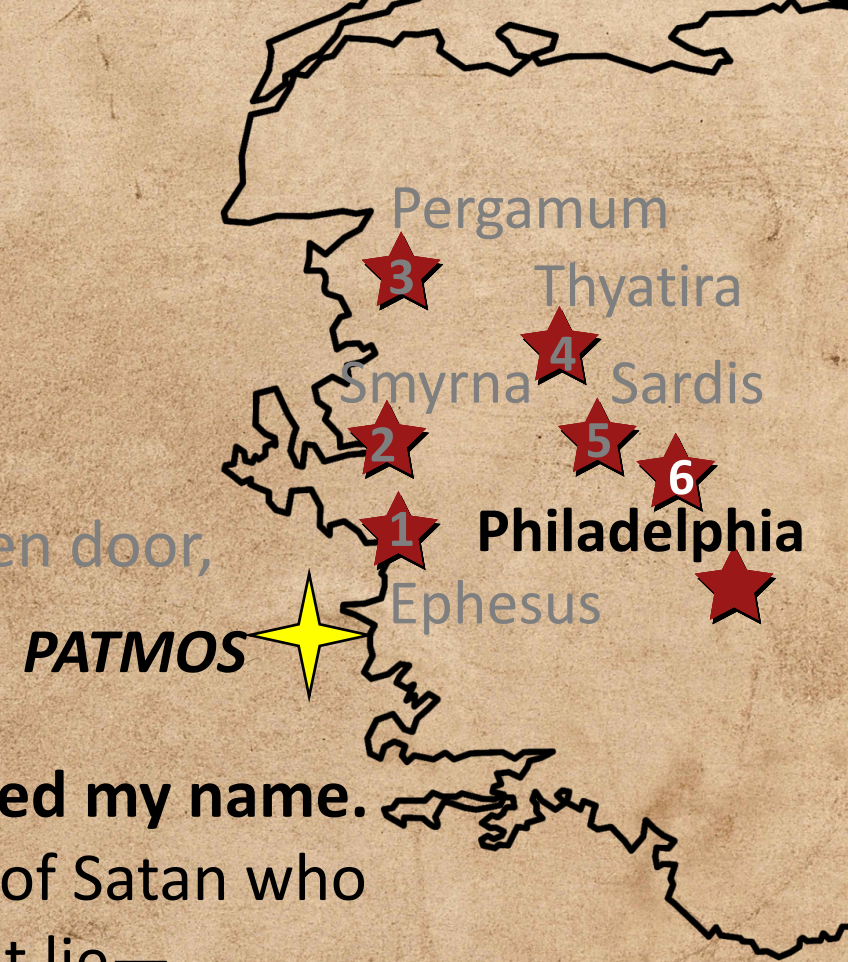
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John 17

¹³ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

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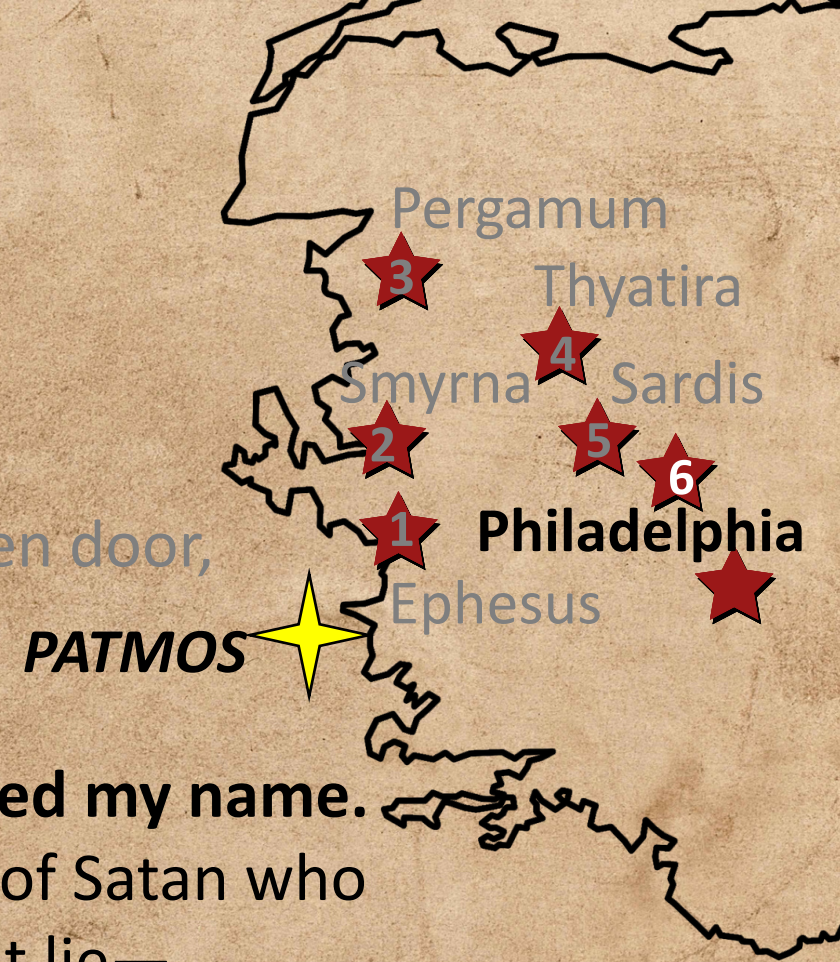
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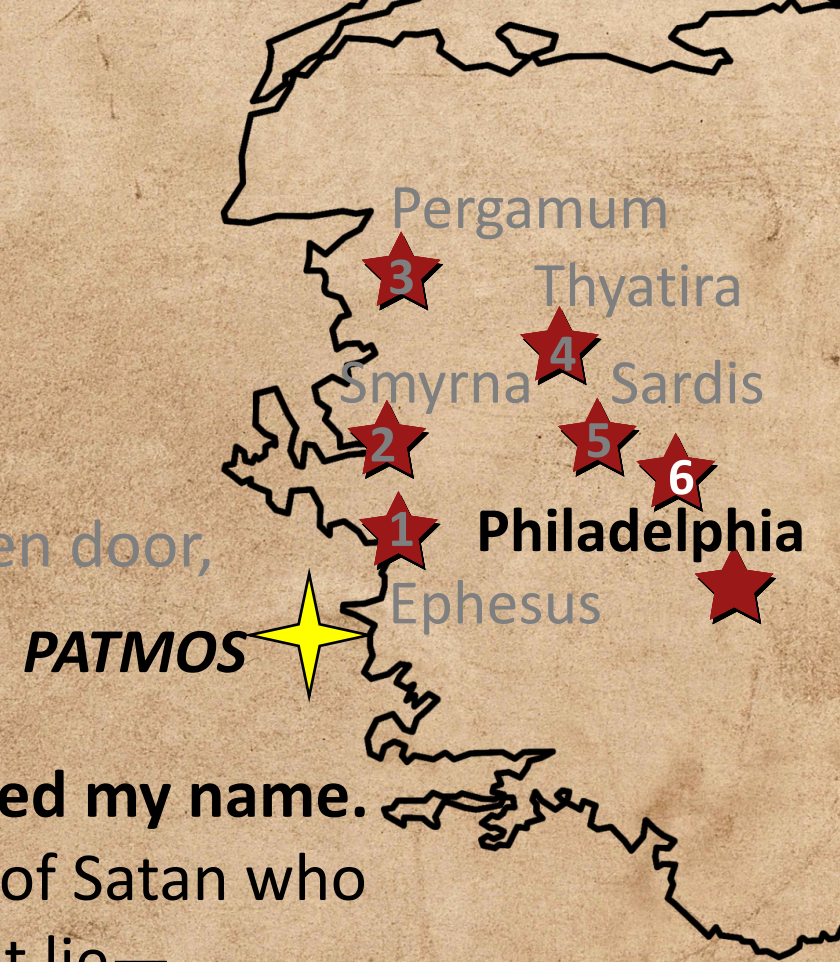
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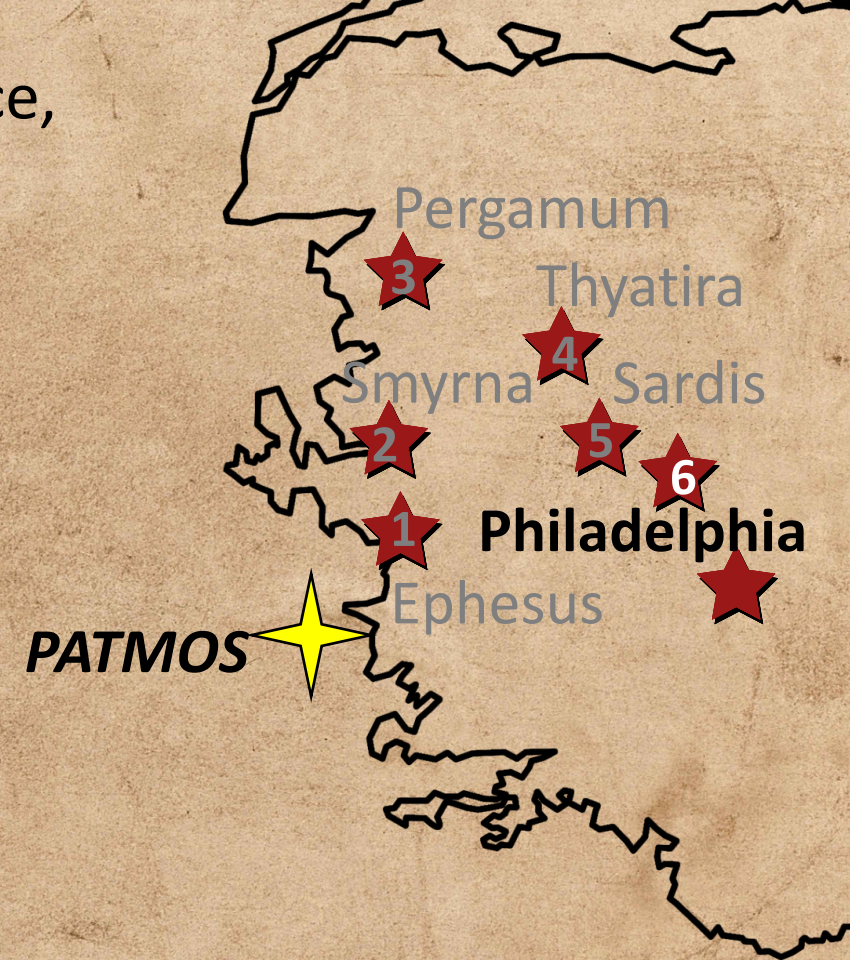


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I will keep you from the hour of trial
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so that no one may seize your crown.

¹² The one who conquers,
I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God.
Never shall he go out of it,
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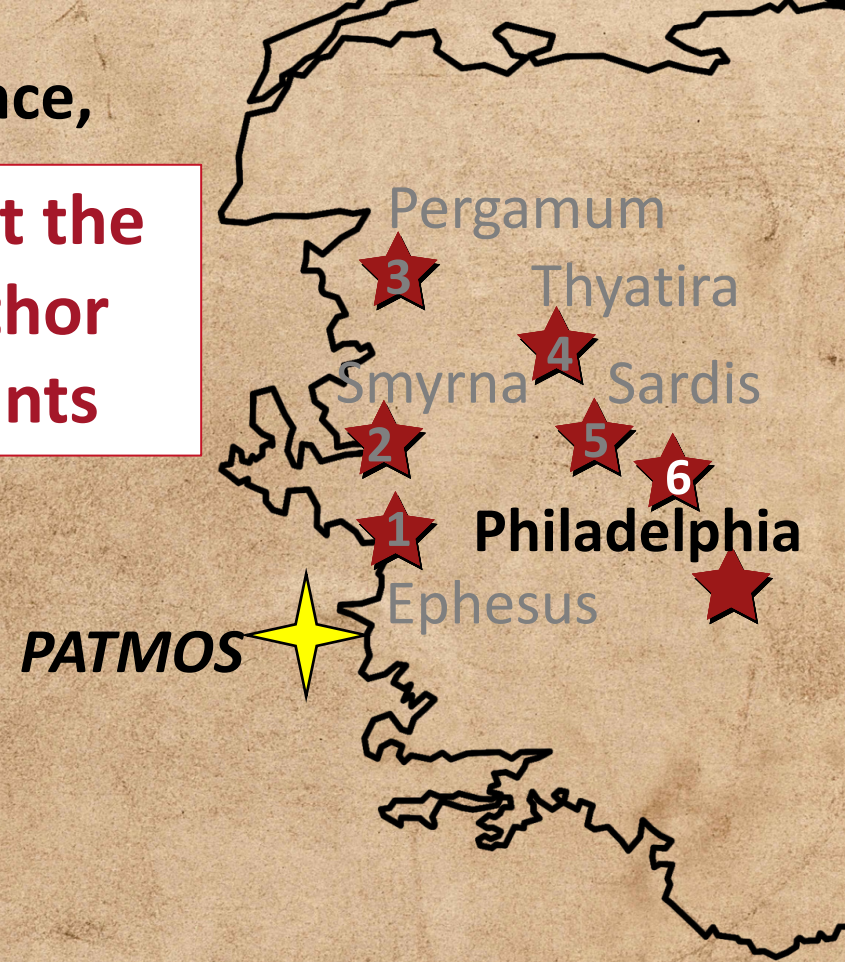


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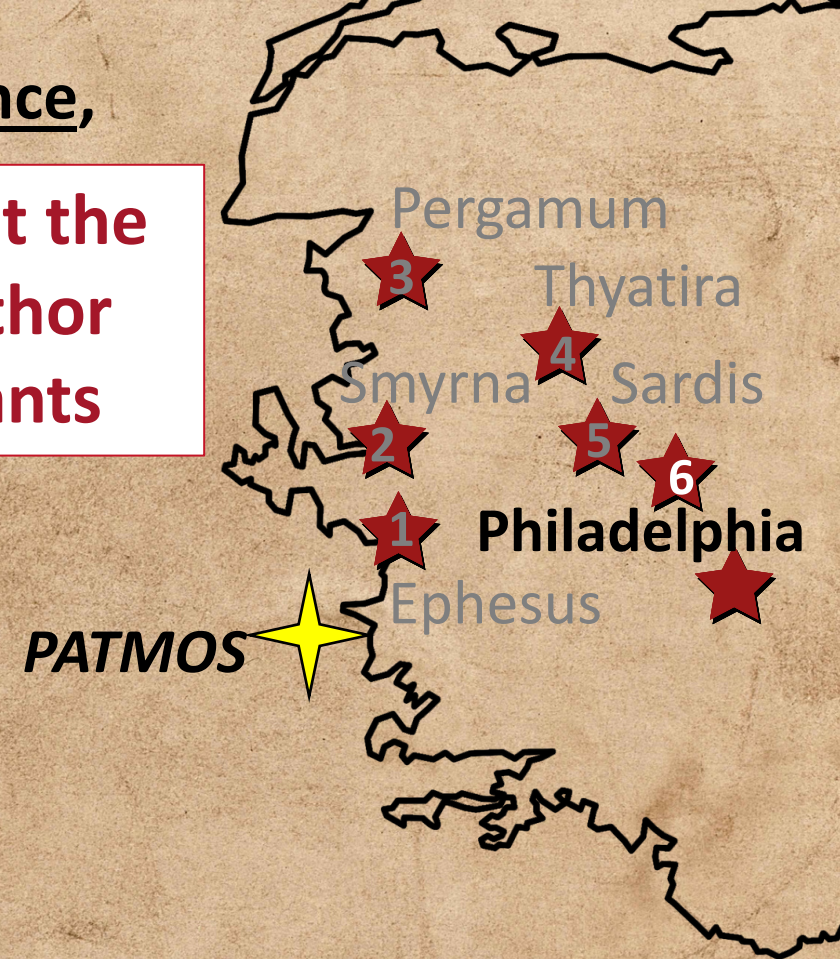
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Greek: hupomoné

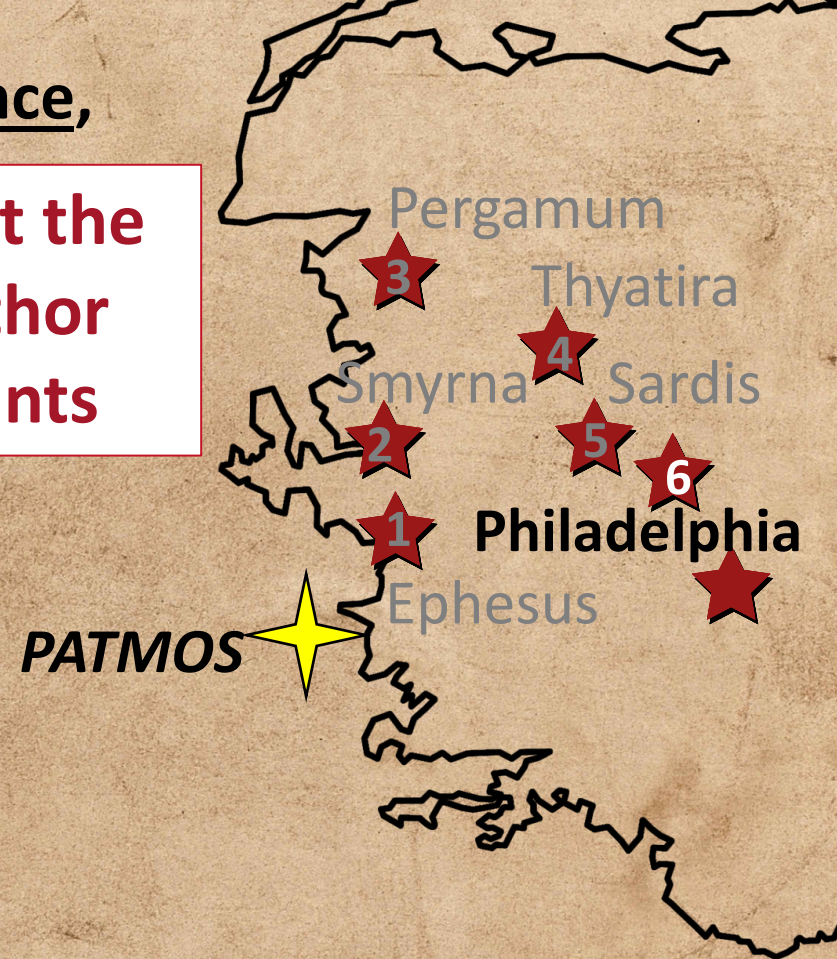
Definition: a remaining behind,
a patient enduring.

Usage: endurance, steadfastness, patiently waiting.

Properly: *remaining under*, endurance;
steadfastness,

**...especially as God enables the believer to
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new Jerusalem,
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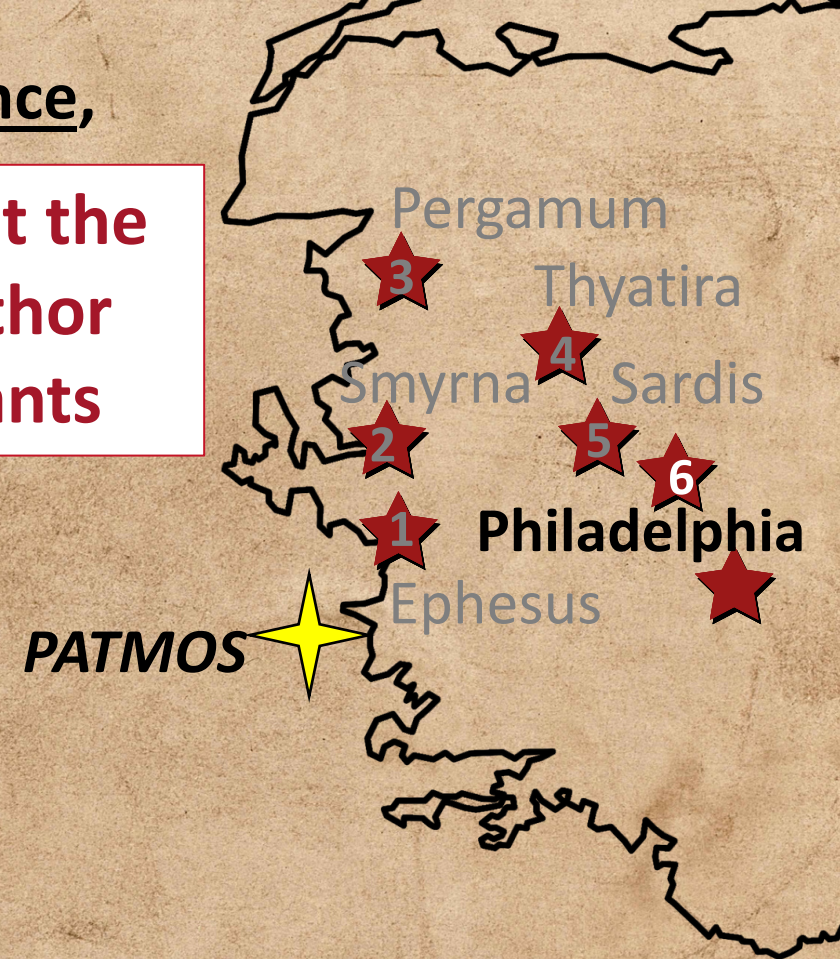
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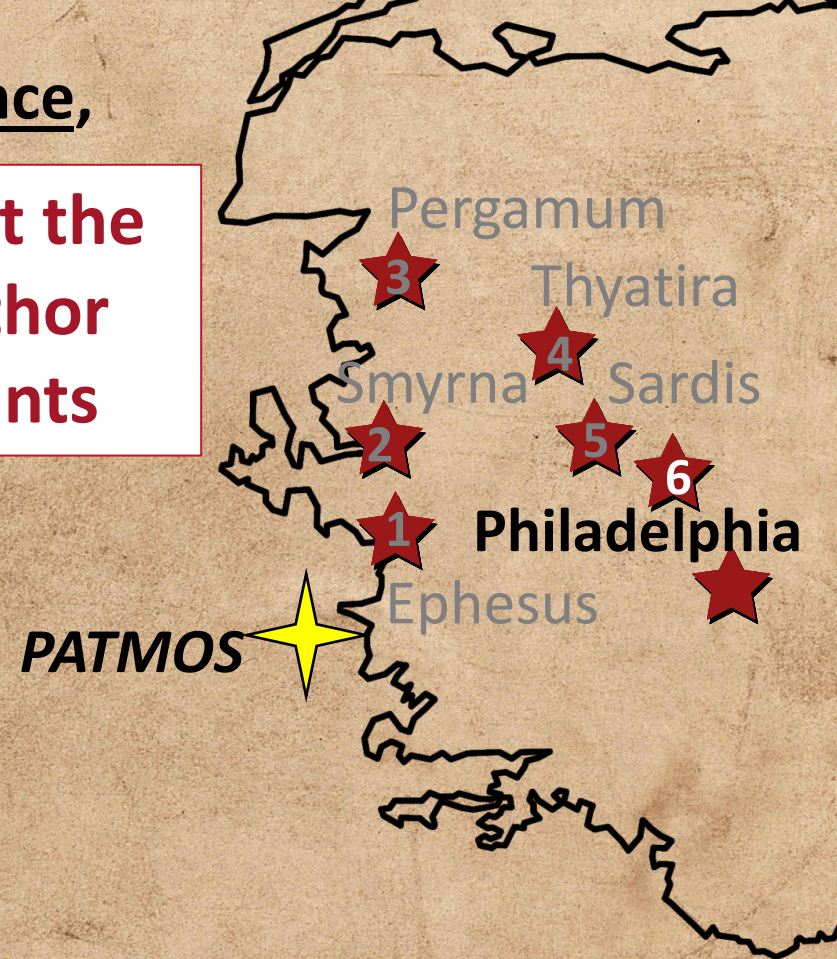
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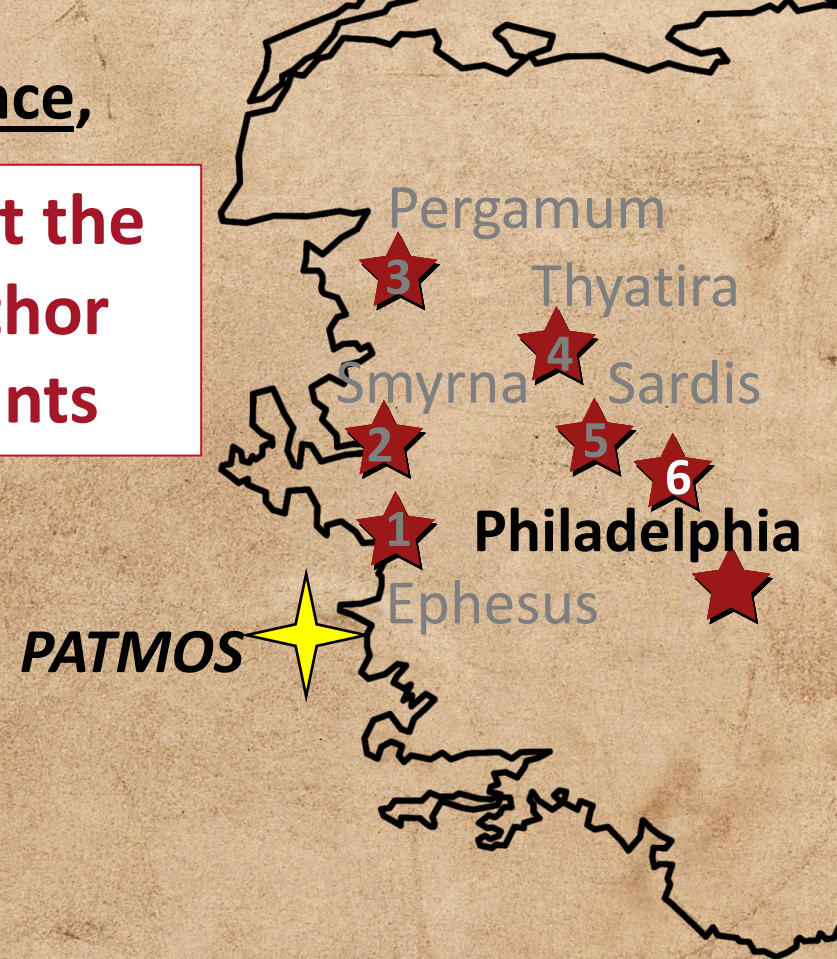
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...allots...

not just to allow... but to give or apportion to someone
as a share or task.

**What the
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new Jerusalem,
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to the churches.'

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I will keep you from the hour of trial**

that is coming on the whole world,
to try those who dwell on the earth.

**11 I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have,
so that no one may seize your crown.**

**12 The one who conquers,
I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God.**

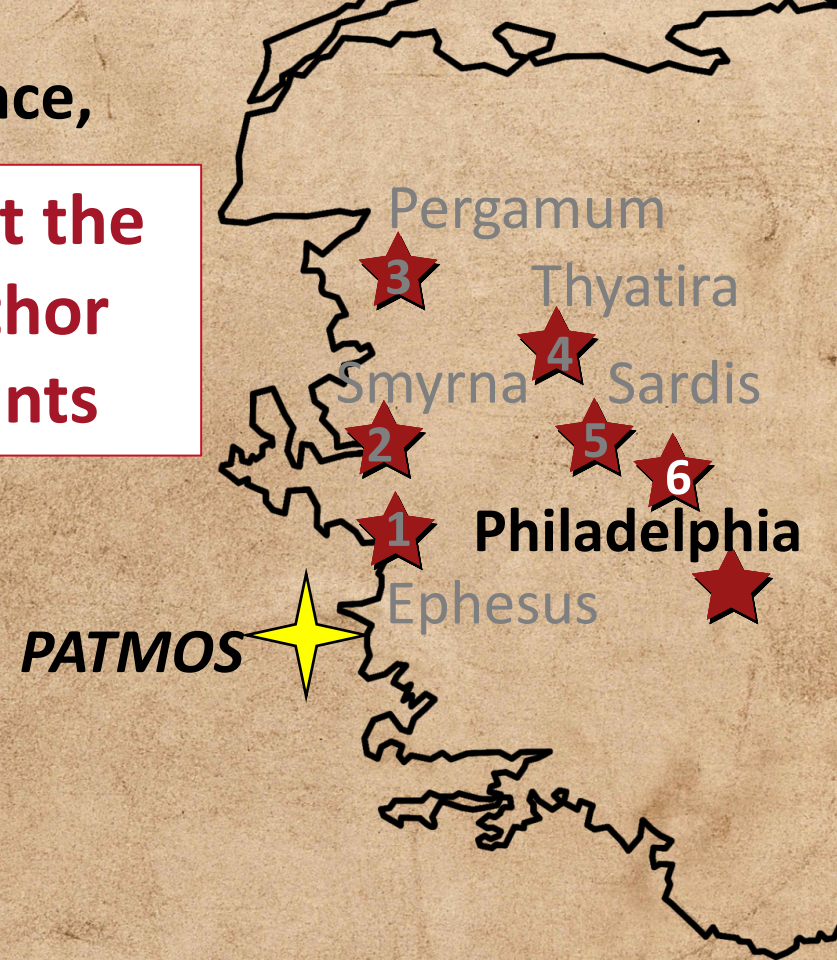
Never shall he go out of it,
and I will write on him

the name of my God,

and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem,
which comes down from my God out of heaven,
and my own new name.

13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

**What the
Author
Wants**



¹⁰ **Because you have kept my word about patient endurance,
I will keep you from the hour of trial**

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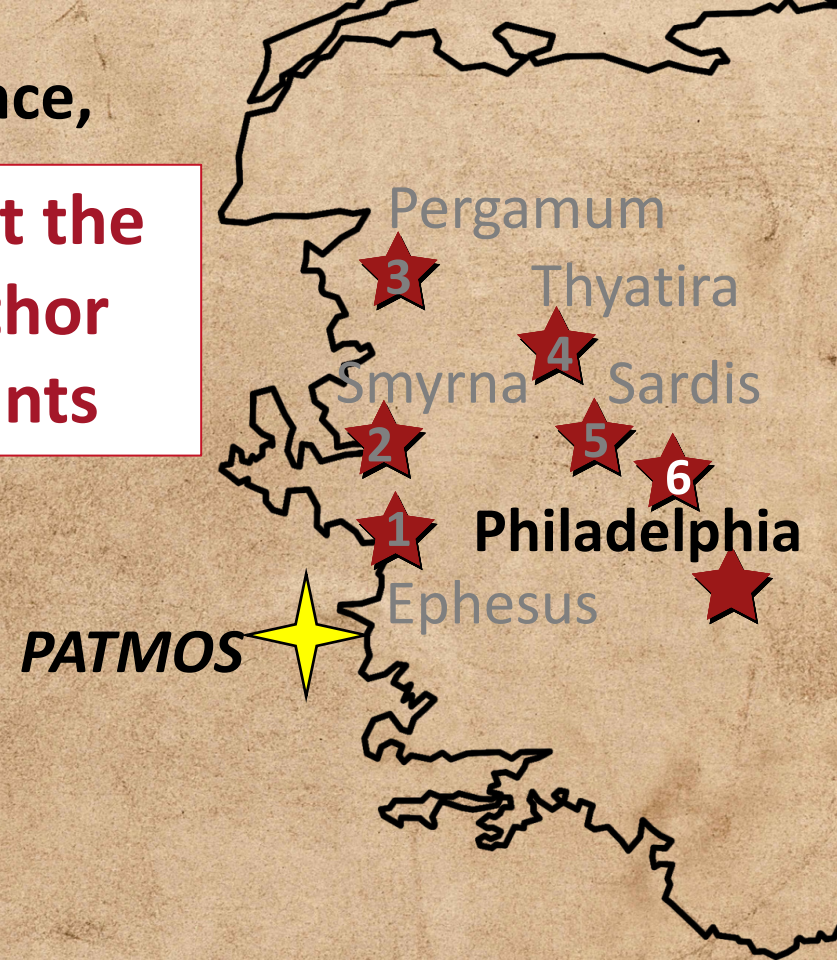
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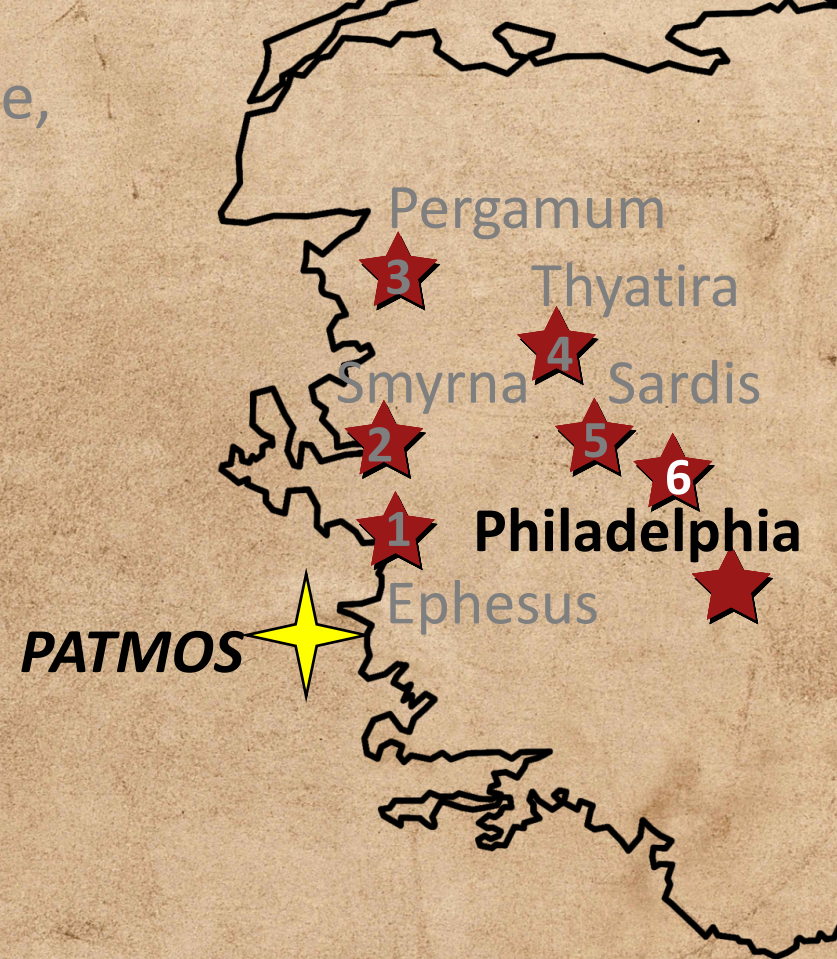
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**What the
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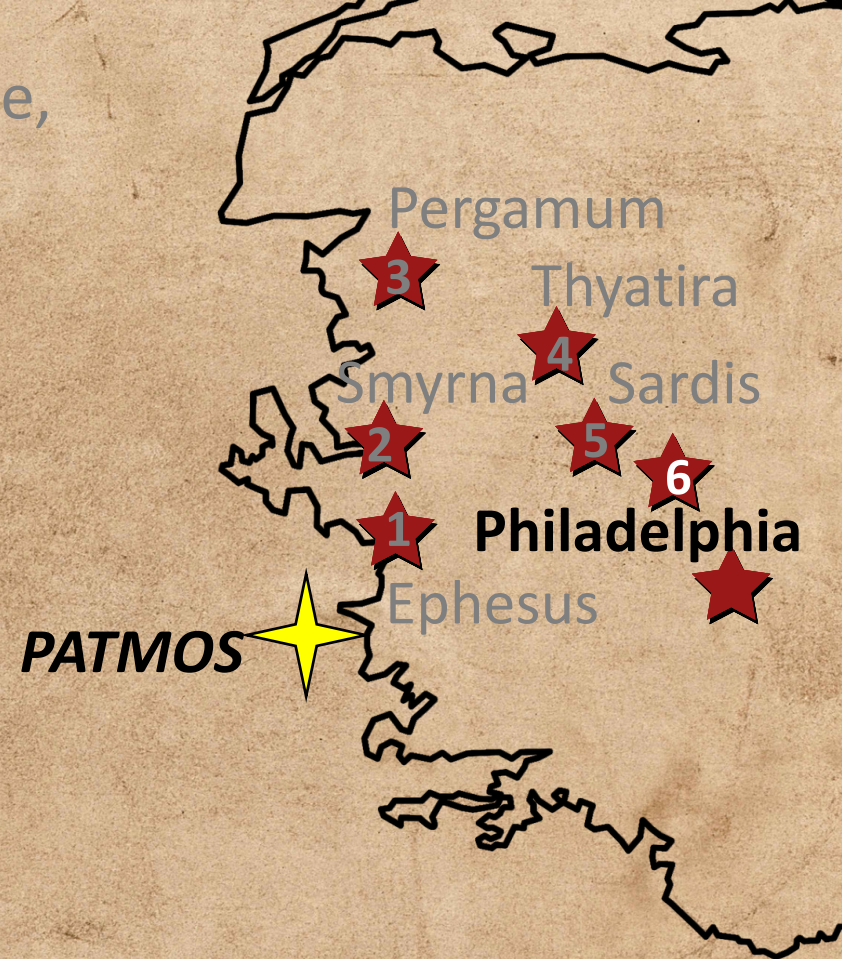
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¹² **The one who conquers,** ...the one who remains in the battle until victory.

I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God.

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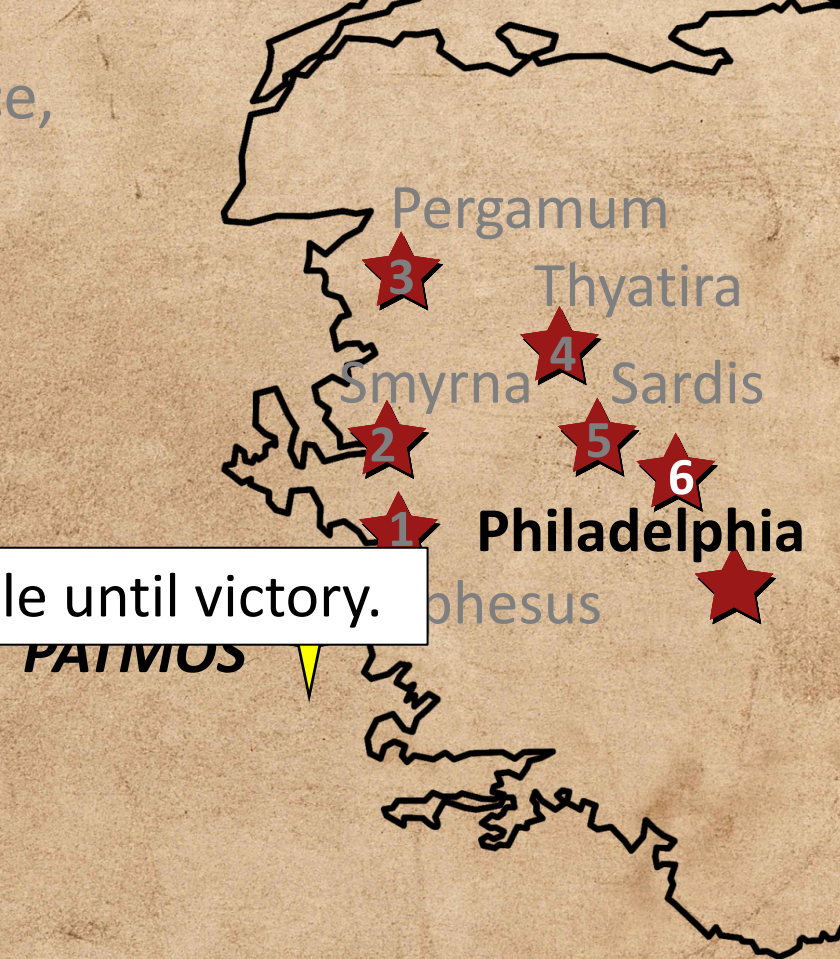
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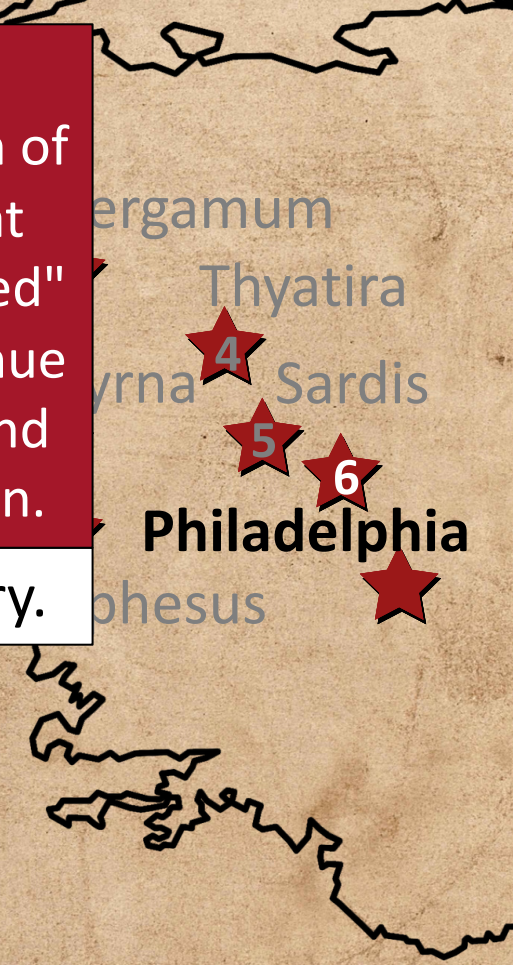
**What the
Author
Does**

¹⁰ Because you have kept my commandments, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming upon the world, and I will try those who claim to know me but do not. I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who remains so that no one will take his name away.

¹² **The one who conquers,** I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, 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 from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

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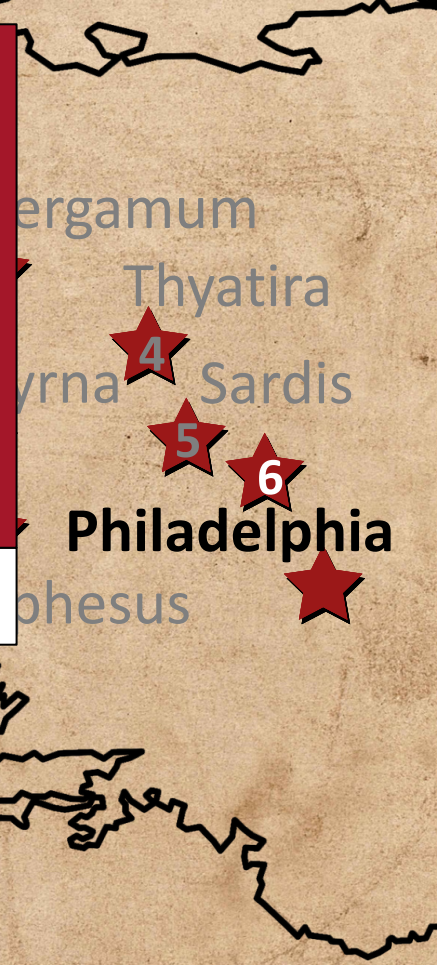
...perseverance of the saints.
Perseverance of the saints (also called preservation of the saints) is the biblical teaching that asserts that once people are truly "born of God" or "regenerated" by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, they will continue doing good works and believing in God until the end of their lives... here it means through thick and thin.
...the one who remains in the battle until victory.



¹³ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

¹⁰ Because you have kept my commandments,
I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming upon the world to try those who respect the Sabbath.
¹¹ I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the commandments of the book of prophecy, so that no one will be harmed.

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What the Author Does

¹³ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

¹⁰ Because you have kept my commandments that I have written in this book, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming upon the world to try those who desire to keep their garments white. I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this book. ¹¹ So that no one will be deceived, let the one who hears say, 'Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this book.'

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PATMOS

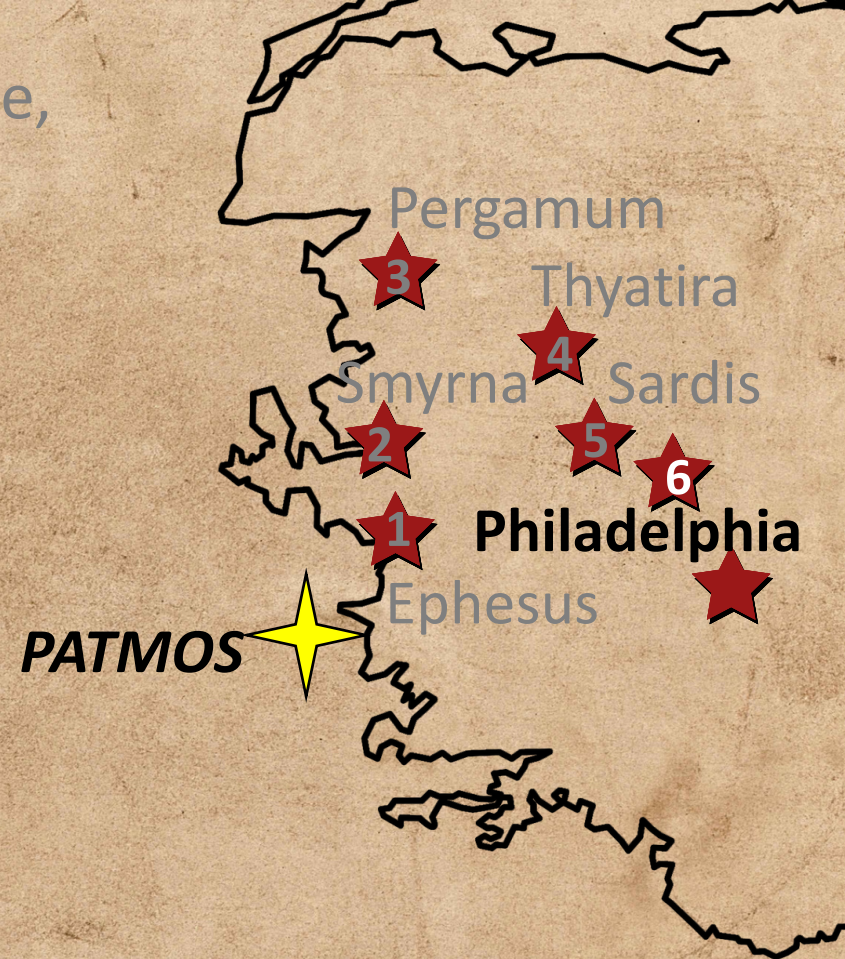
Ephesus
Thyatira
Sardis
Philadelphia
Laodicea



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¹³ **He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'**

So...therefore...what now?

*Jesus, the Christ, who is holy and true
and holds the key to the eternal Kingdom...*

*...knows who we are and what we are faithfully doing
by keeping His word,
not denying His name,*

and waiting patiently in the midst of what He allots in our lives.

He exhorts us to courageously hold on to what we have.

*He will establish each one of us individually
and together as a church*

as unshakable pillars in eternity.

and He gives us His name by which we are identified with Him forever.

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Ephesians 2

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

*as unshakable pillars in eternity
and gives us His name by which we are identified with Him forever.*

Dear Church...



See you in

Laodicea

next week!