






modern day
TURKEY


 Pergamos


 Smyrna

 Ephesus

 Thyatira

 Sardis

 Philadelphia

 Laodicea

7 Churches: Revelation 2-3



7 Lamps/Stars: Revelation 1

Revelation 1:19

Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.



Revelation

Preterist, Futurist, or Historicist?



Revelation 1:20


The mystery of the seven stars which 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 which you saw are the seven churches.








Jesus among His churches


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Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,





What is the Church?

Where is the church

- “... the church that is in their house.” Rm. 16:5
- “... your body is the temple...” 1 Cor. 6:19
- “... the church that is in his house.” Col. 4:15



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7 Churches: Located on an established trade route.

Letters to churches follow a similar pattern

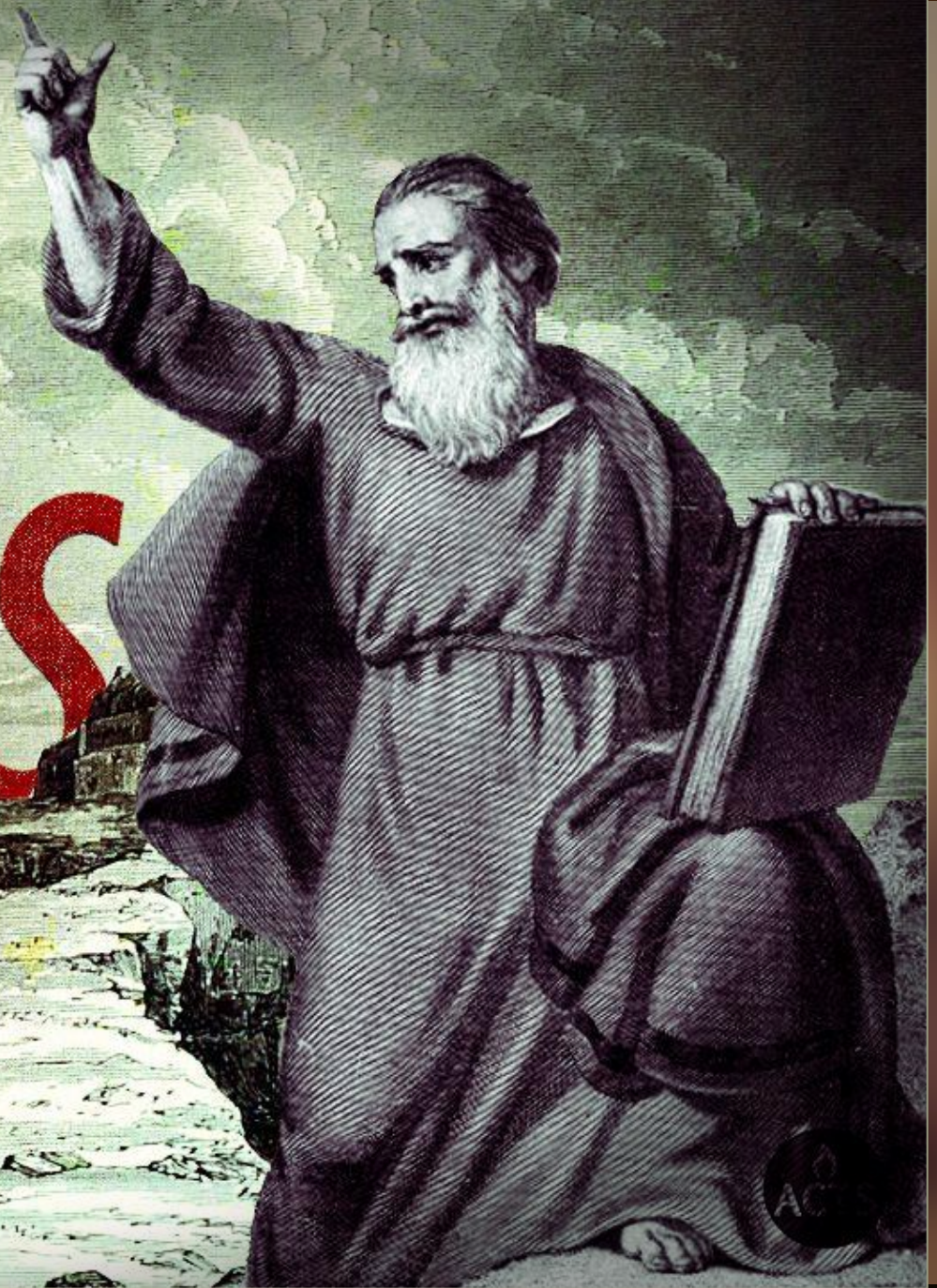
- **A salutation:** To the angel of the church at _____
- **A description:** of Jesus that relates to that particular church
- **An “I know” statement:** Jesus points out something about that church that He wants to emphasize

Letters to churches follow a similar pattern

- **A reproof or rebuke:** regarding some shortcoming in that church to 5 of 7 churches
- **An admonition:** Pay attention to this message
- **Promise of blessing or reward:** if the church continues to be faithful and overcomers

THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

Revelation 2:1-7



Revelation 2:1

“To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,
‘These things says He who holds the seven stars
in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the
seven golden lampstands:



Revelation 2:2

“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;



Revelation 2:3

and you have persevered and have patience,
and have labored for My name's sake and
have not become weary.



Ephesus – the loveless church [A.D. 31-100]

- **Faithful to Christ**
- **Doctrine was pure:** tested speakers and rejected false teachers, resisted evil and apostasy
- **Hardworking**

Ephesus = the loveless church [A.D. 31-100]

- **Jesus commends** them for their labors
- **Active** in sharing Jesus throughout the then known world
- **Stalwarts** for the truths of the Word
- **Faith** to Christ's teachings

Revelation 2:4

Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.





Are we in
danger of
losing our first
love?



Revelation 2:5

Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.




Remember from where you have fallen

- **Remember** the peace that came with know Jesus
- **Think** about at time you felt closer to Christ
 - What was your prayer life like?
 - What was your Bible study and devotional life like?
 - How active were in you God's church?

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.



- 
- Turn off the Television
 - Remove or reduce social media
 - Spend time with Jesus in prayer and meditation

REMEMBER – REPENT - RETURN

Revelation 2:6

But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.





The Nicolaitans considered it “a matter of indifference to practice adultery, and to eat things sacrificed to idols”

-Irenaeus, 2nd century minister/historian

1 John 2:4

He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.



Matthew 7:21

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.



Matthew 7:21

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” ’



Overcome what?

Apathy?

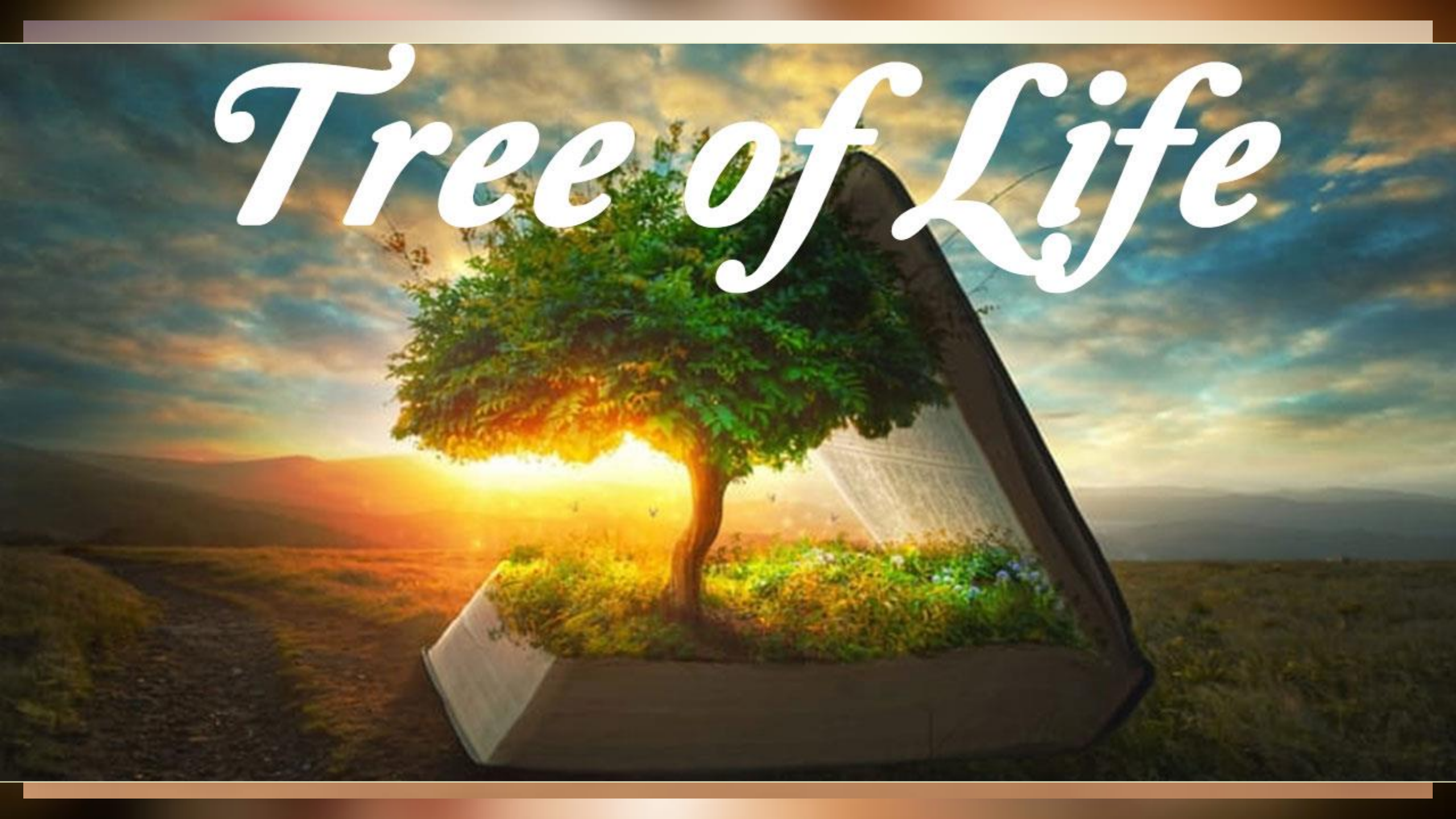
Spiritual complacency?

A form of religion?

Lack of spirituality?

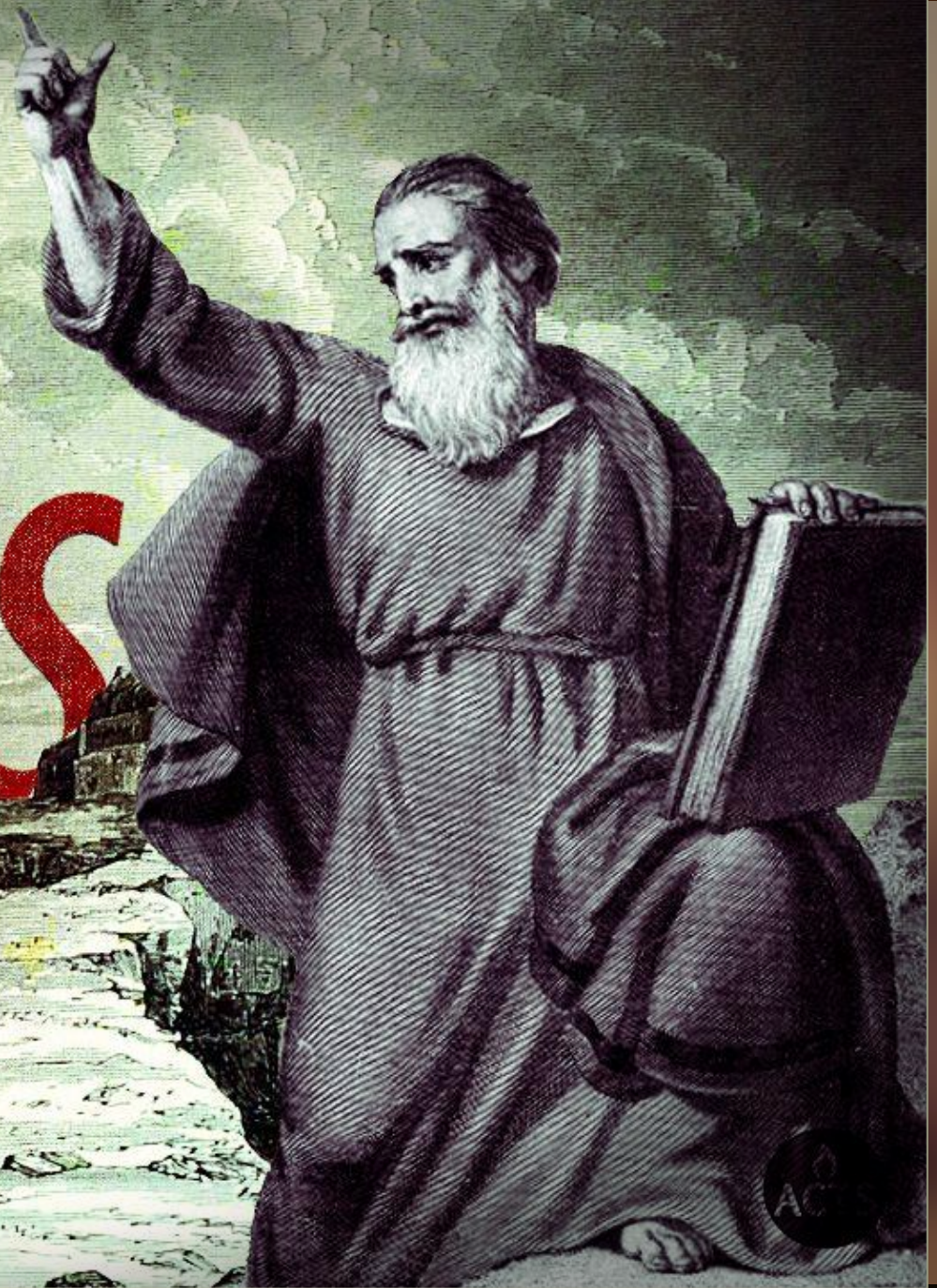


Tree of Life



THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

Revelation 2:1-7






THE CHURCHES OF REVELATION


SMYRNA


**THE
PERSECUTED
CHURCH**


NEXT TIME: Revelation 2:8-11


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