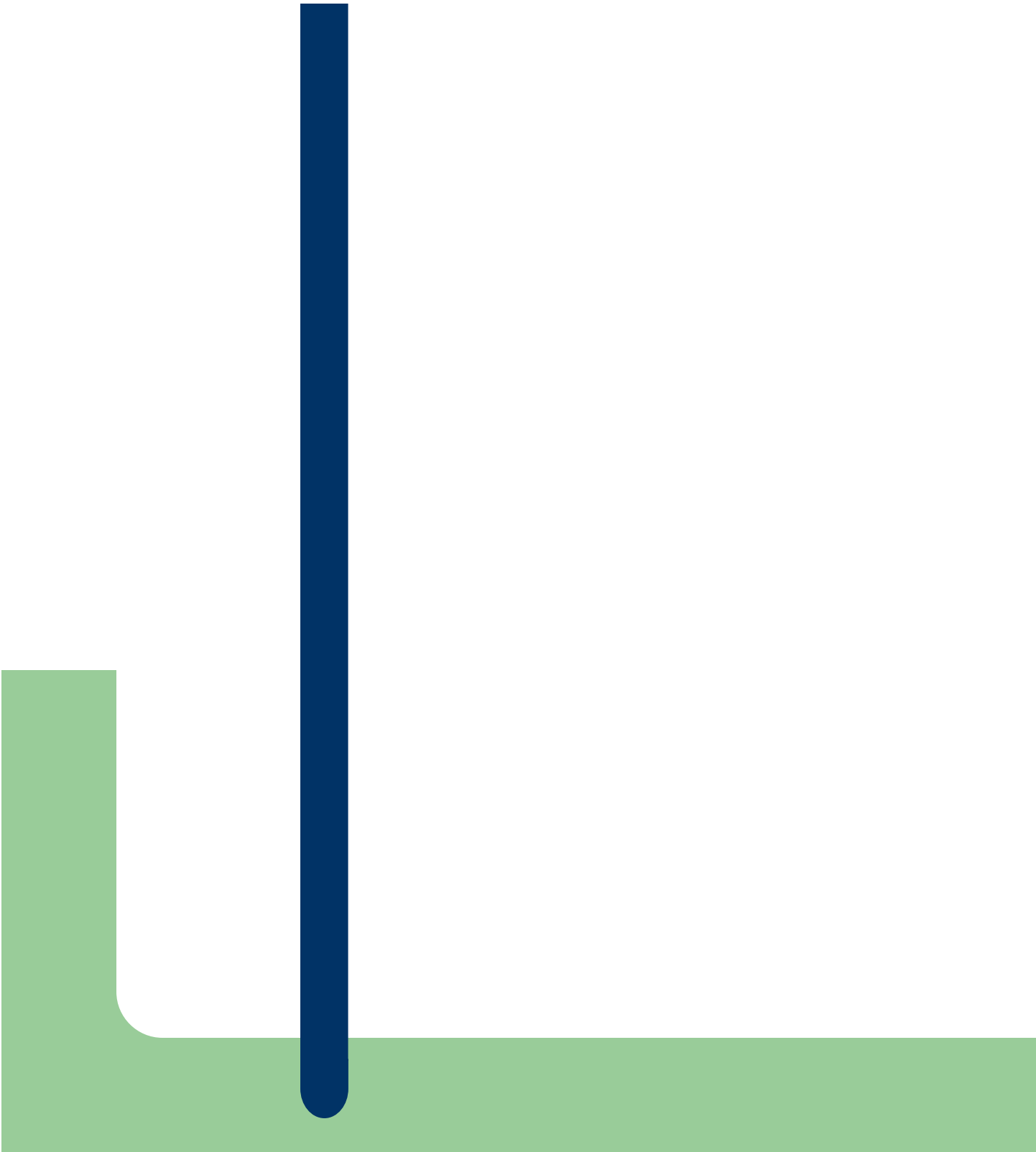




Revelation Chapters 1-3





Source and content of the Vision

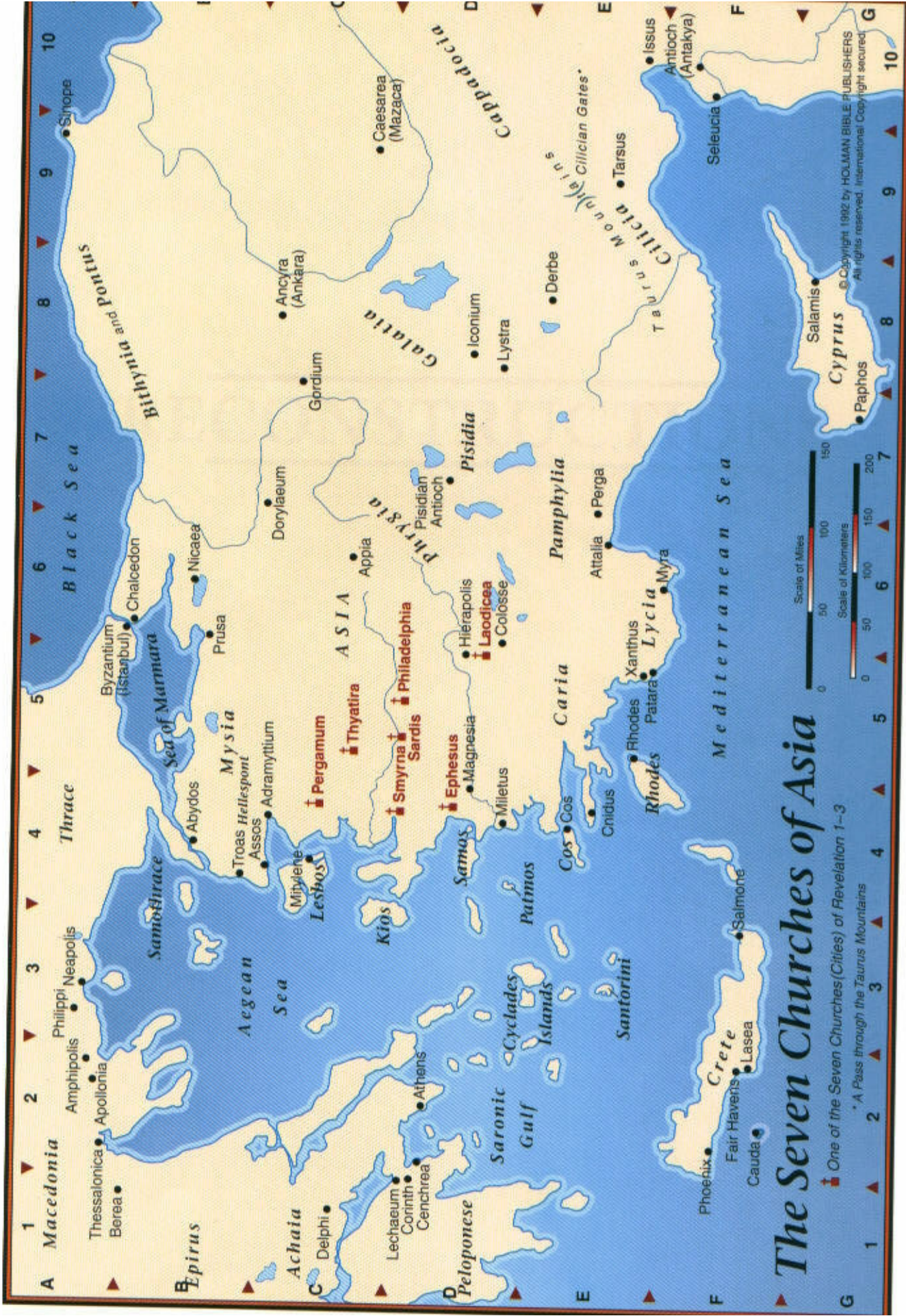
- Content: “ the revelation of Jesus Christ
- Source: God, gave to Jesus, through angel to his servant John.

Blessed

- 1:3- the first of 7 blessed saying in the book.
 - 1:3, 14:13,16:15,19:9,20:6,22:7,14.
- Who is blessed in 1:3?
 - Reads aloud
 - Hears
 - Keeps (1:3, 22:7,9,10)

The Audience

- 1:7- the 7 churches in Asia. Verse 11 lists them.
- Colossae and Hierapolis are not mentioned.



The Seven Churches of Asia

One of the Seven Churches (Cities) of Revelation 1-3

A Pass through the Taurus Mountains

The Blessing

I:4,5- From God the Father, the Holy Spirit and from Jesus. From the trinity.

Jesus is said to be: faithful witness, first-born from the dead and ruler of the kings on earth.

Him who loves us . Ongoing present love.

Love demonstrated in his death for us

He has made us a kingdom of priests.

The church as priests: I Peter 2:5-9, Rev., 5:10,20:6

Kingdom: The true kingdom. Not a political kingdom. One that is made up of priests. Exodus 19:6

2 contrasting groups of people

- Believers and unbelievers.
- Priests (believers) of 1:6 contrasted with unbelievers who wail at the coming of Christ in Judgment. The response of Believers in this book at the 2nd coming is always rejoicing.
- Unbelievers are those who pierced him by their rejection of him.
- Matthew 24: 29ff
- Revelation 6:16 ff

Old Testament titles given to Jesus

- 1:8- this refers to Jesus.
- I am (Yahweh)
- Alpha and Omega , Isaiah 44:6 (first and last)
- Lord
- God who is, was , is to come
- The Almighty (El Shaddai)

What we share in Christ

- The Tribulation (suffering, hardship, trials, persecution) John 16:33, Acts 14:22
- The kingdom – everlasting, true kingdom
- The patient endurance- steadfast, immovable until the end.

Patmos and John's exile

- Patmos: Just off the coast from Miletus.
- Granite quarries. 6 miles wide, 10 miles long.
- John a political prisoner. Eusebius says John was exiled under Domitian and released by Nerva. 2 possibilities.
- Exiles remained in exile until either the emperor died or the prisoner died.

Vision on the Lord's Day

- In **the spirit** on the Lord's Day.
- What would John be thinking of on the Lord's Day?
- Sees Jesus (verse 12) in the midst of the church.
 - Where is Jesus? An encouragement to John. You are not with the churches but I am. So relax.
 - Where does he hang out?
 - Who does he want to be with?
 - Illustration: True Stories of Encounters with Jesus, G. Scott Sparrow, Ed.D. Dream of A. J. Gordon in 1895, page xiii

Description of Christ

- Dressed like a High Priest.
- Description is one of majesty, glory, holiness , power and overwhelming brightness.
 - Sun shining at full strength.(Blinded Paul)
- John's response: fell at his feet as though dead.

Description of Christ

- 7 things mentioned in the description: head, eyes, feet, voice, right hand, mouth, face.
- Verse 17: First and last, living one, died and alive forever more. I have the keys of death and hades.
 - Keys (he is in control)
 - He is in control of death and the grave. He conquered them by his resurrection.

Mysteries revealed

- 1:20- **seven stars** in right hand= are the **angels** of the seven churches.
 - Angels can be messengers.
 - Paul in Galatians 4:14
 - Human messengers, the person who carried the letter?
 - Each letter is addressed to the angel. Most likely a human not a heavenly being.
- **Seven golden lampstands** are the **seven churches**.
 - Symbol to communicate that the church is light.
 - Philippians 2:15,16
 - John 1:5

One aspect of Christ is emphasized for each Church.

- An aspect that the church needs to see for comfort or correction.
 - Smyrna 2:8 “the words of the first and the last who died and came to life”. Comfort for a persecuted church.
 - Pergamum 2:12- “him who has the sharp two-edged sword.” A correction for this church.

Stylized format of the Letters

- Each letter has a pattern, format ,with 7 parts.
- See Wall chart of the 7 parts.

All heard what was said to the other churches

- Why?

The promises

- Each church is given a promise to those who overcome, conquer.
- Promises defined usually later in the book.
 - Ephesus 2:7(eat of the tree of life.- 22:2,24 (eternal life)
 - Smyrna 2:11(not hurt by 2nd death- 20:14 (lake of fire)
- Does only the church in Ephesus get eternal life? Does only the church in Smyrna have the promise of not being hurt by the second death?
- What are these promises of?
 - Revelation 21:7

Brief Notes on the 7 Churches

- Ephesus:
- Nicolaitans-involved in immorality, food offered to idols(must be involved in idolatrous ceremonies) and doctrine off(Gnostic)
- Faithful in dealing with false Prophets.
- Warning to return to the love that they had at first.
 - Love for one another.

Smyrna

- Battling against emperor worship and a temple to Zeus. Persecuted by Jews
- No correction for this persecuted church.
- Experiencing tribulation (not wrath: I Thes. 1:10, I Thes. 5:9, John 3:36, Romans 5:9)
- Poor, destitute
- Many martyrs in this city.
 - Polycarp(pupil of John burned in 155 A.D.

Pergamum

- Lots of false worship: Asclepius (god of healing, symbol the snake. The snake is healer. Altar to Zeus. Emperor worship. Thus the phrase “ where Satan’s throne is.”
- One martyr already- Antipas
- Battling the Nicolaitians
- Doctrinal Laxity: Teaching of Balaam.

Thyatira

- Have many good qualities.
- But tolerate Jezebel: who teaches the deep things of Satan.
- Not everyone is involved in the false teaching.

Sardis

- Needs a fresh move of the Spirit.
- Reputation is not reality.
- 3:4 some in Sardis are faithful.

Philadelphia

- No correction for the persecuted church.
- Little power but faithful. 3:8
- Will make the Jews bow down at your feet and learn that I have loved you. A reversal of Old Testament prophecies: Isaiah 60:14, 45:14.
- Key of David and Door no one can shut= they have entrance into the kingdom and the persecutors can not shut them out.

Laodicea

- Pride in their banking system, clothing (famous for a black wool) and medicine (eye salve.) But Jesus says you are poor, naked and blind.
 - Their sin is self sufficiency-” I need Nothing” 3:17.
 - Two springs (Hierapolis (north) Hot springs
 - Colossae (South) cold springs.
- Their greatest need is Jesus- to open once again to him and depend on him. Self sufficiency is a great threat.

Summary of Letters

- Some are bright lights. Some are flickering and one is almost extinguished.
- But Christ is in their midst to love and reprove them so that they become conquerors.
 - Conquer false doctrine, false lifestyle, false kingdoms.
 - The promise to each is of eternal fellowship with the one who loves them.
 - Read Colosseum illustration.