



Letters of Jesus to the 7 Churches of Asia

A Vision of Christ's Ministry in the Church



Other churches of Asia were not mentioned but these 7 churches were selected to represent the different spiritual conditions of various types of local churches throughout church history so that the messages were not meant only for the mentioned churches but for churches in these end times, as well as our own personal lives today because each letter ends with a personal exhortation, “**He** who has an ear, let **him** hear what the Spirit says to the **churches**.”

Five Sections of Letter

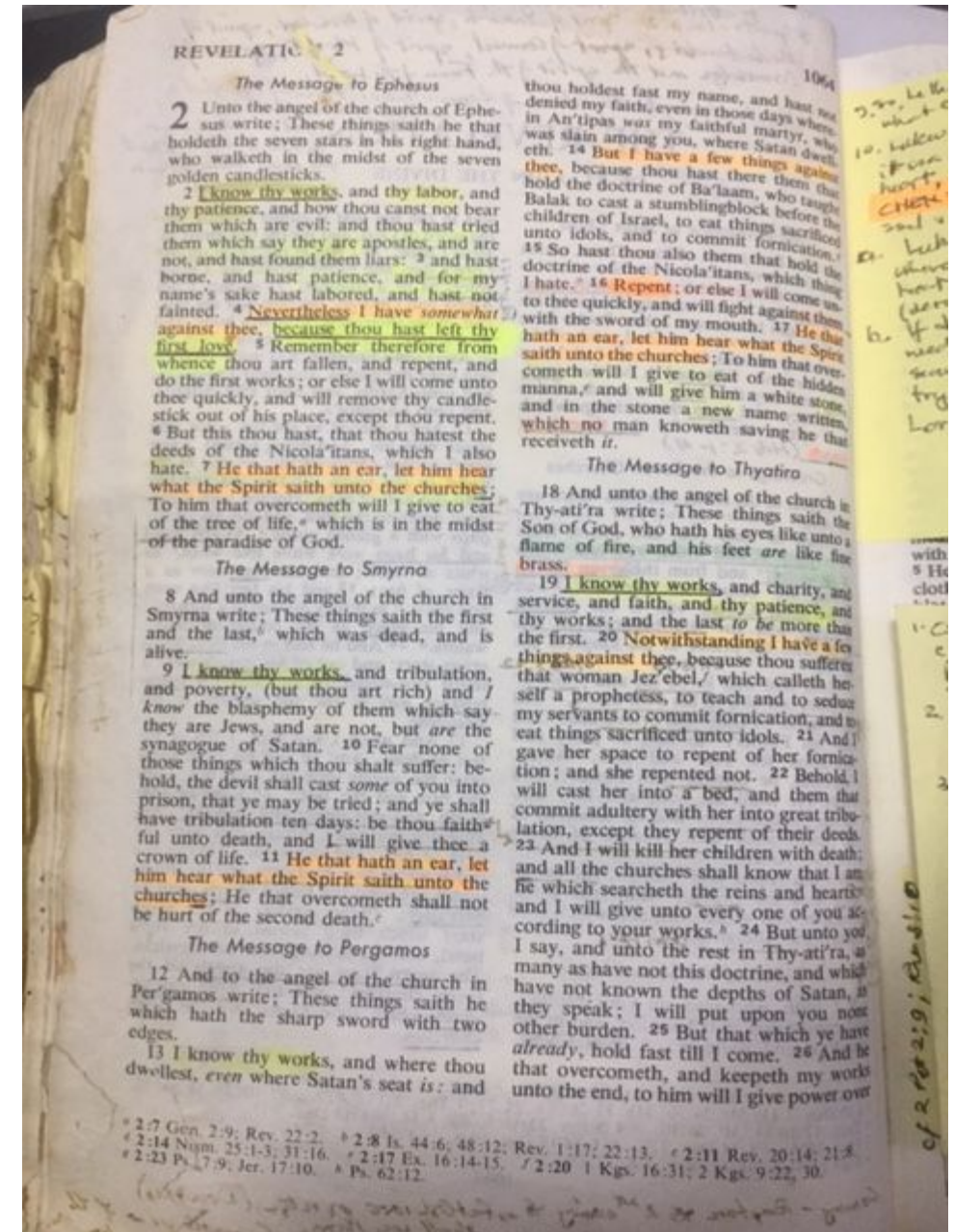
1. **Identification of the Author** – the Lord Jesus Christ
2. **Commendation** – affirms the good points of the church
3. **Admonition/Rebuke** –raises great concern about the church
4. **Appeal/Warning** – appeal to correct, or else...
5. **Promise** – a word of encouragement to remain faithful to the Lord
6. **Lesson to be learned**

Rev 2:1 “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.

Rev 2:2 “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.

Rev 2:3 I know you are enduring patiently
and bearing up for my name's sake, and
you have not grown weary.

Rev 2:4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

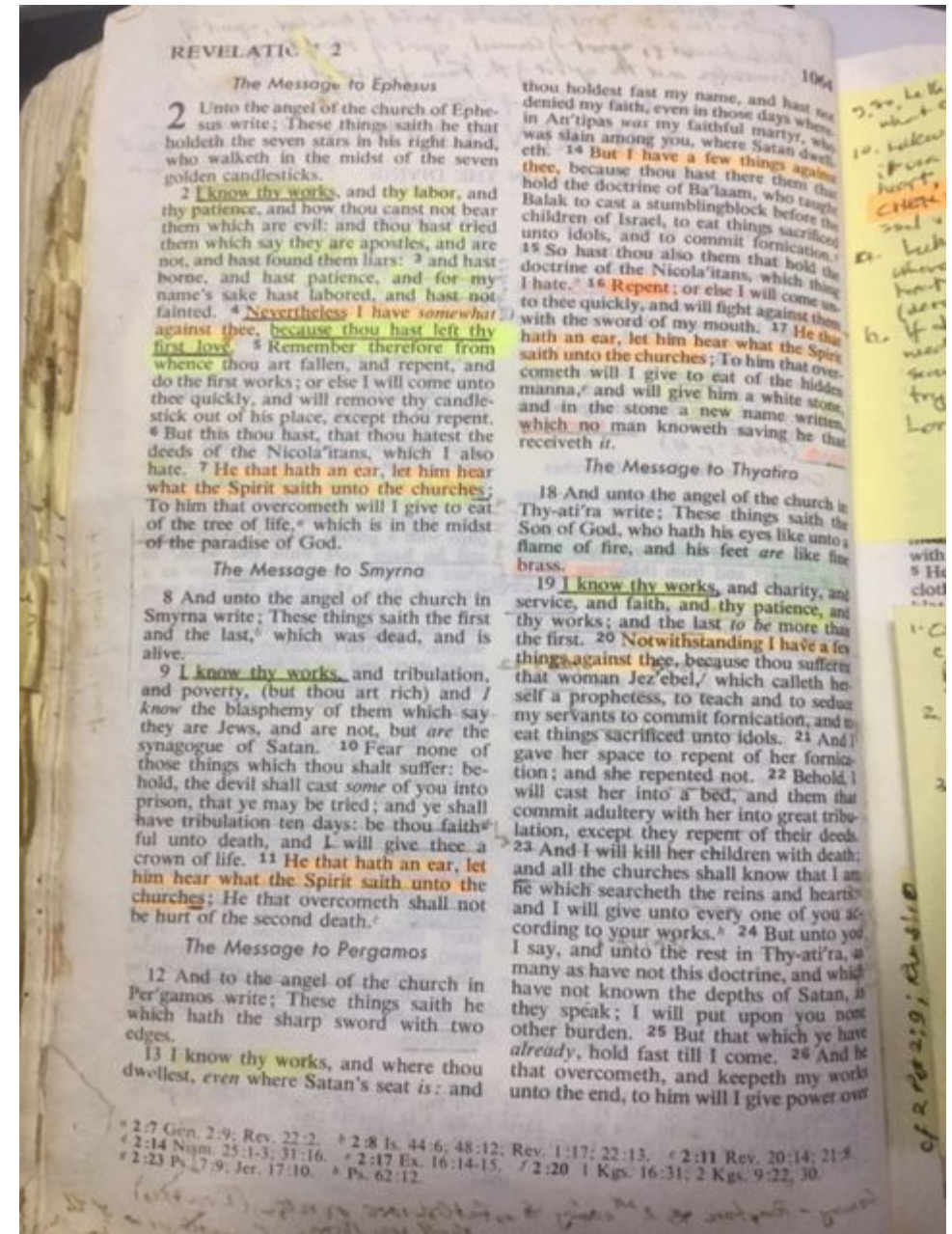


Message of the Lord to Ephesus

Rev 2:5 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.

Rev 2:6 Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Rev 2:7 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.'



The Church of Ephesus

AUTHOR

Jesus is identified as He who “holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.”

COMMENDATION

- hard-working group of believers full of determination
- gate-keepers of the truth and did not compromise with evildoers
- patient endurance in bearing up under hardship.
- doctrinal purity - hate the practices of the Nicolaitans

ADMONITION/REBUKE

“You have forsaken your first love.”

The Church of Ephesus

APPEAL/WARNING

Impending judgment if they did not repent - “I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place”

PROMISE

“To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” The Ephesian believers could look forward to the future eternal glory with the Lord.

LESSON

We can easily fall prey to a cold, mechanical observance of religion. Like the Ephesians, many tend to focus solely on doctrinal purity and hard work, to the exclusion of true love for Christ. No amount of zeal for the truth or moral rectitude can replace a heart full of love for Jesus.

Rev 2:8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.

Rev 2:9 “I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Rev 2:10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

REVELATION 2

The Message to Ephesus

2 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks.

3 I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: 4 and hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted.

5 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 6 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. 7 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 8 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

The Message to Smyrna

8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive.

9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. 10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. 11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

The Message to Pergamos

12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges.

13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and

thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days where in Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. 14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast them that hold the doctrine of Baalam, who taught Balak to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. 15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. 16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. 17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

The Message to Thyatira

18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass.

19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. 20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezabel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. 21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. 22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. 23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. 24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. 25 But that which ye have already, hold fast till I come. 26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over

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cf 2:10-2:9; Rev 1:10

* 2:7 Gen. 2:9; Rev. 22:2. * 2:8 Is. 44:6; 48:12; Rev. 1:17; 22:13. * 2:11 Rev. 20:14; 21:8.
* 2:14 Num. 25:1-3; 31:16. * 2:17 Ex. 16:14-15. * 2:20 1 Kgs. 16:31; 2 Kgs. 9:22, 30.
* 2:23 Ps. 7:9; Jer. 17:10. * Ps. 62:12.

2:7 Gen. 2:9; Rev. 22:2. * 2:8 Is. 44:6; 48:12; Rev. 1:17; 22:13. * 2:11 Rev. 20:14; 21:8.
* 2:14 Num. 25:1-3; 31:16. * 2:17 Ex. 16:14-15. * 2:20 1 Kgs. 16:31; 2 Kgs. 9:22, 30.
* 2:23 Ps. 7:9; Jer. 17:10. * Ps. 62:12.

The Church of Smyrna

AUTHOR

Jesus is “the First and the Last, which was dead and is alive.”

COMMENDATION

“I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not but are a synagogue of Satan” (Revelation 2:9).

ADONITION/REBUKE

(None)

APPEAL/WARNING

“You are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days” (Revelation 2:10). However, Jesus gives hope to His church: “Do not be afraid.”

The Church of Smyrna

PROMISE

- “Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10). “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.” (Matthew 5:11)
- “He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death” (Revelation 2:11).

LESSON

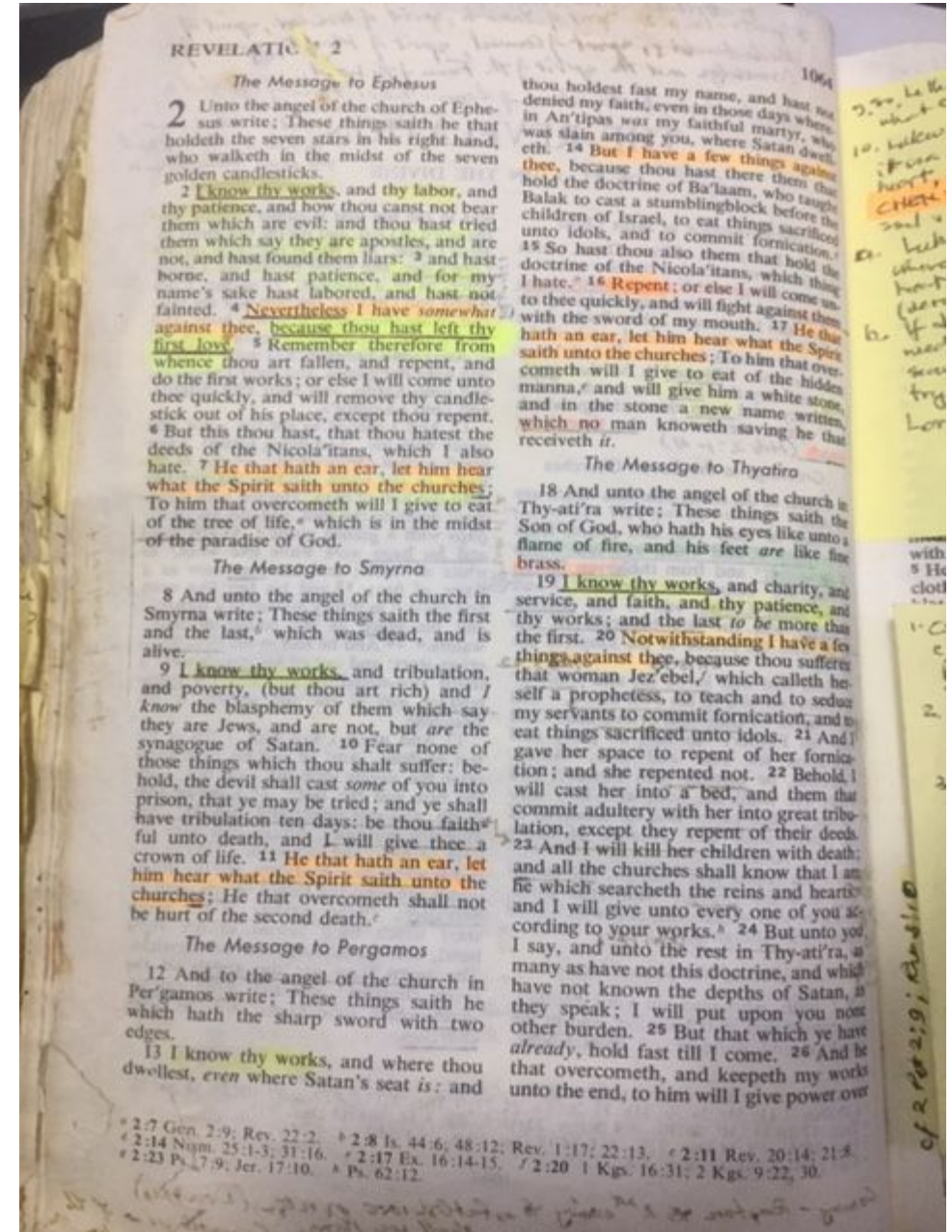
Like the church in Smyrna, Christians are persecuted worldwide in obvious and insidious ways. This letter warns all Christians that although we may suffer greatly, the length of tribulation will be short compared to the promise of eternal life.

Message of the Lord to Pergamum

Rev 2:12 “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: ‘The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.

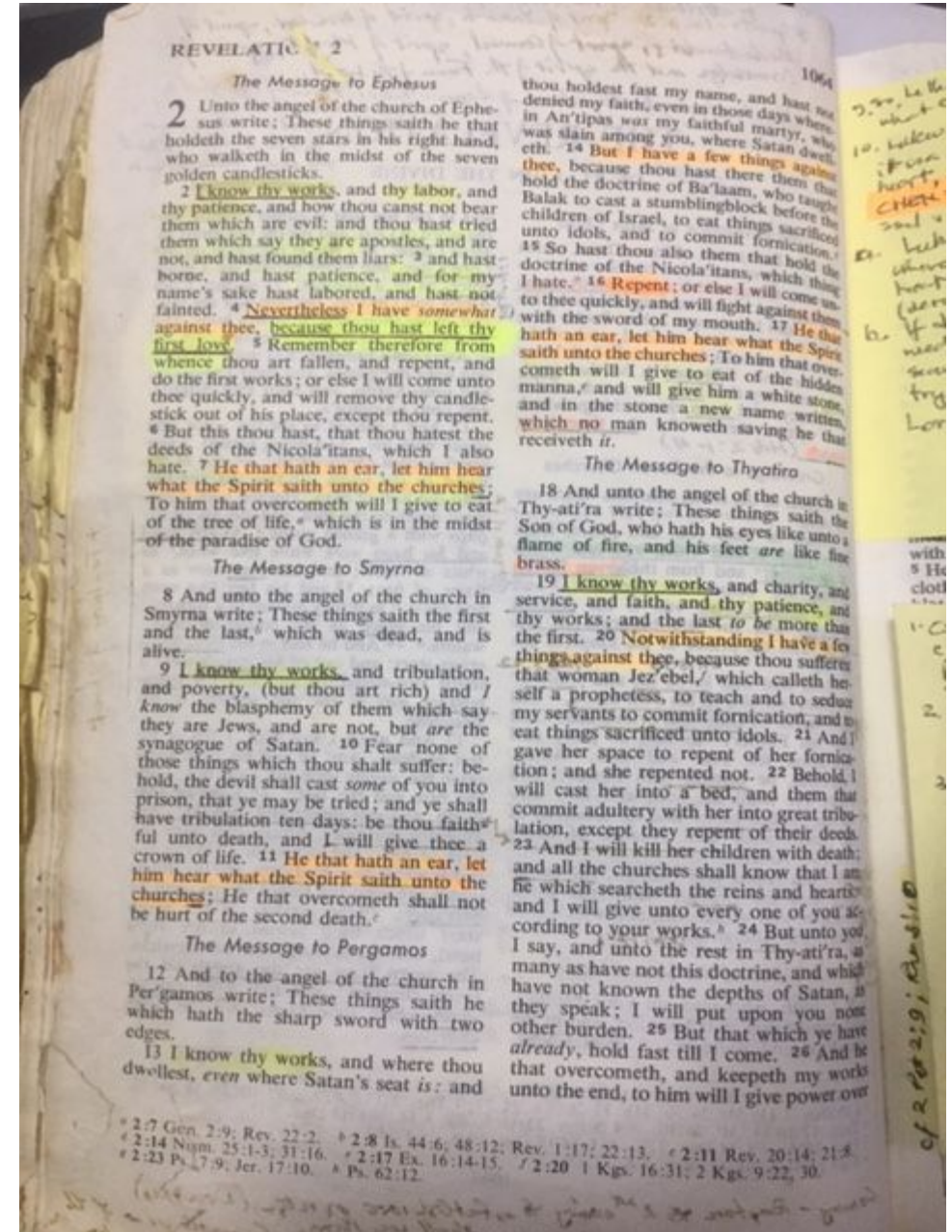
Rev 2:13 “I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

Rev 2:14 But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.



Message of the Lord to Pergamum

Rev 2:15 So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
Rev 2:16 Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.
Rev 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'



The Church of Pergamum

AUTHOR

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword” (Revelation 1:16; 2:12).

COMMENDATION

Jesus affirms the church’s positive actions: “I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives” (Revelation 2:13).

ADMONITION/REBUKE

.“Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.

The Church of Pergamum

APPEAL/WARNING

Jesus then issues a clarion call to repent of their sin: “Repent therefore!” (Revelation 2:16). Our Lord hates religious and moral compromise. He calls His people to live differently. Jesus notes the judgment that would take place if the church of Pergamum did not repent: “I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth” (Revelation 2:16b).

PROMISE.

Jesus makes a final promise to the believers in Pergamum: “To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it” (Revelation 2:17).

The Church of Pergamum

LESSON LEARNED

Like the Christians in Pergamum, if we drop our guard, it is easy for non-Christian behavior of those around us to influence and permeate our behavior and pollute our values (1Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”). But the Bible urges us to “not conform to the pattern of this world” but be transformed by the renewal of our mind in accordance with God’s Word (Romans 12:2).

The Altar of Satan Transferred from Pergamum to Berlin



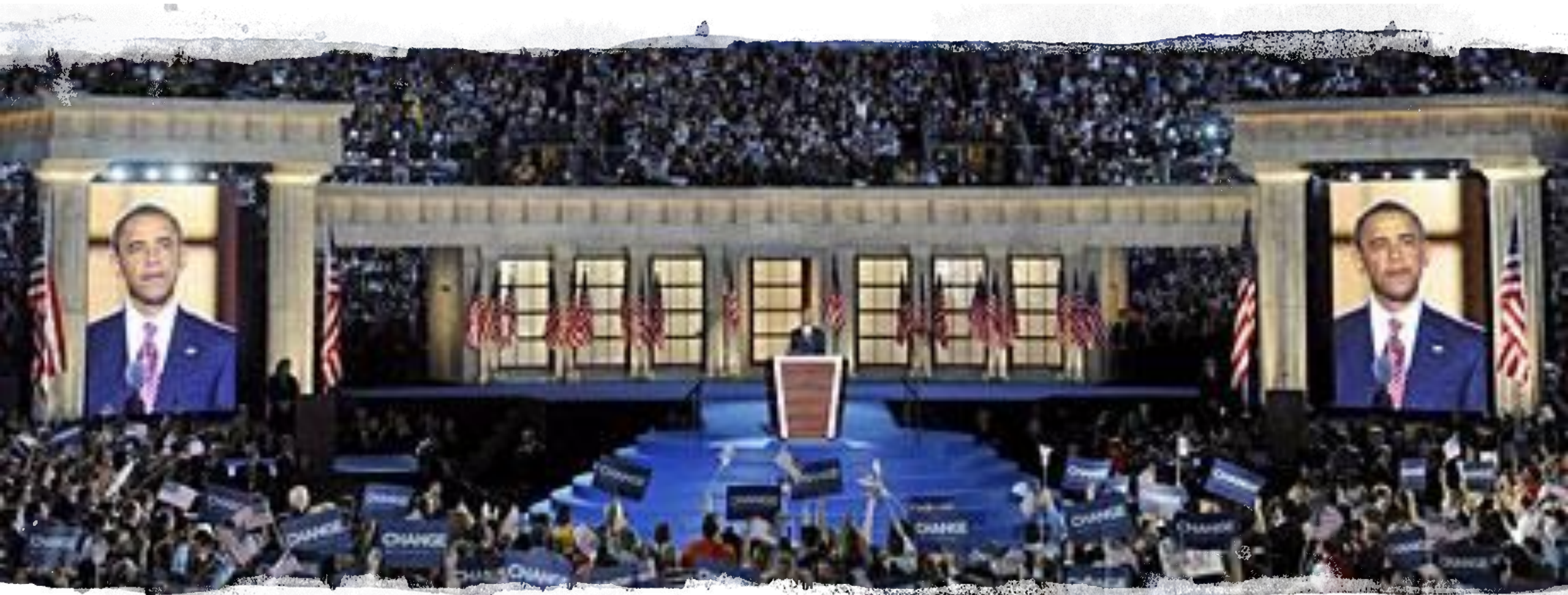
Stone by stone, the altar was excavated and taken to Berlin, where it was reassembled and placed in its own museum. The Pergamum Museum opened in 1930, with the altar as its centerpiece.

Hitlers Parade Grounds in Nuremberg



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-C12701
Foto: o. Ang. 1. September 1937

Eventually, the altar caught the eye of Albert Speer, the chief architect for the Nazi Party. Germany's new chancellor, Adolf Hitler, had commissioned him to design the parade grounds for the party rallies in Nuremberg.



DENVER (Reuters) - Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's (2008) big speech on Thursday night will be delivered from an elaborate columned stage resembling a miniature Greek temple.

The Church of Pergamum

SPIRIT OF THE ANTICHRIST AT WORK

The “altar of satan” in Pergamum has been literally moved to the Pergamum Museum in Berlin. This “altar of satan” inspired Albert Speer, the architect of Nazi Germany, to design the parade ground of Hitler in Nuremberg. Lately, the DNC prepared a stage design also inspired by the “altar of satan”. This is what the apostle John said, “this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.” Paul also mentioned this in 2Thessalonians 2:7 as “the mystery of iniquity is already at work.”

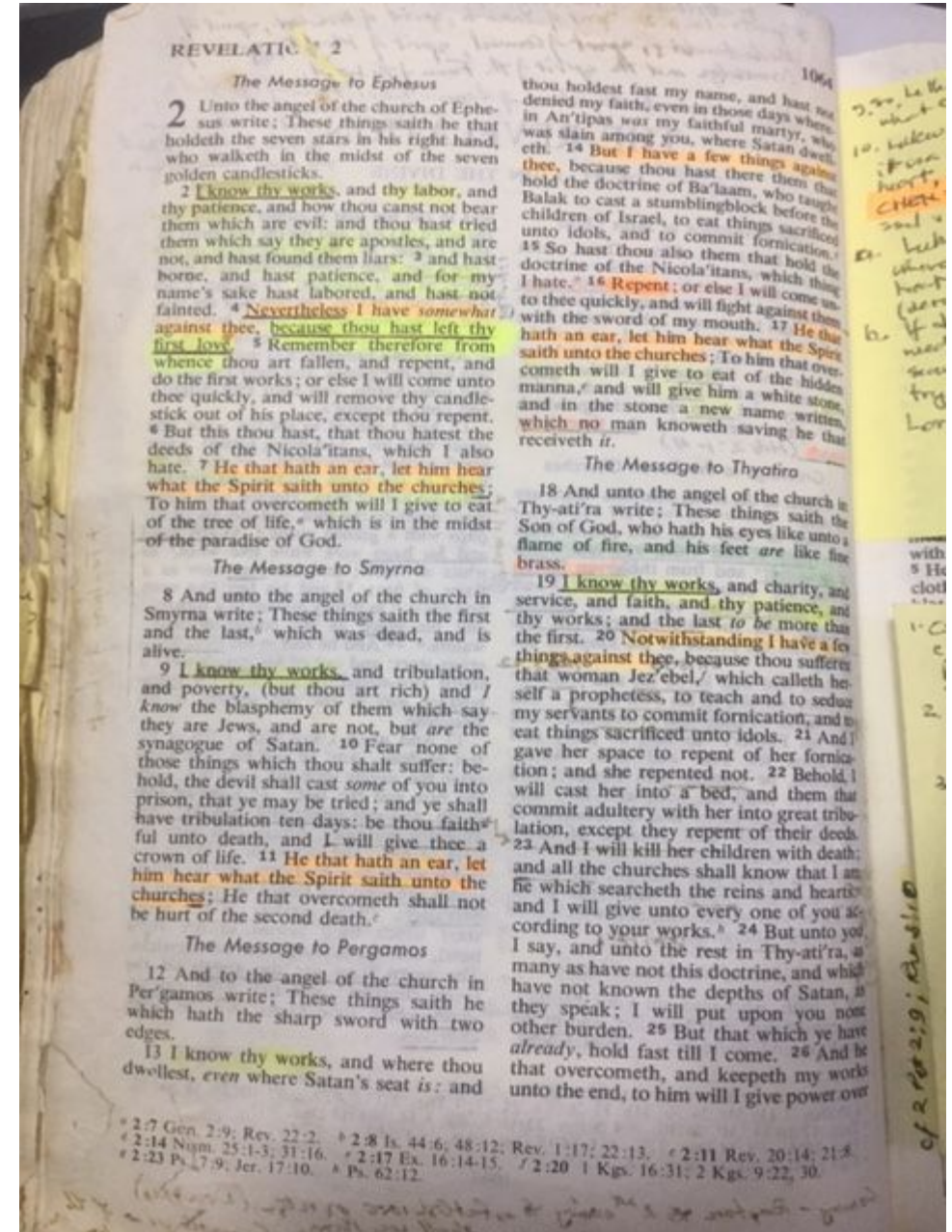
Message of the Lord to Thyatira

Rev 2:18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

Rev 2:19 "'I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.

Rev 2:20 But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.

Rev 2:21 I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality.

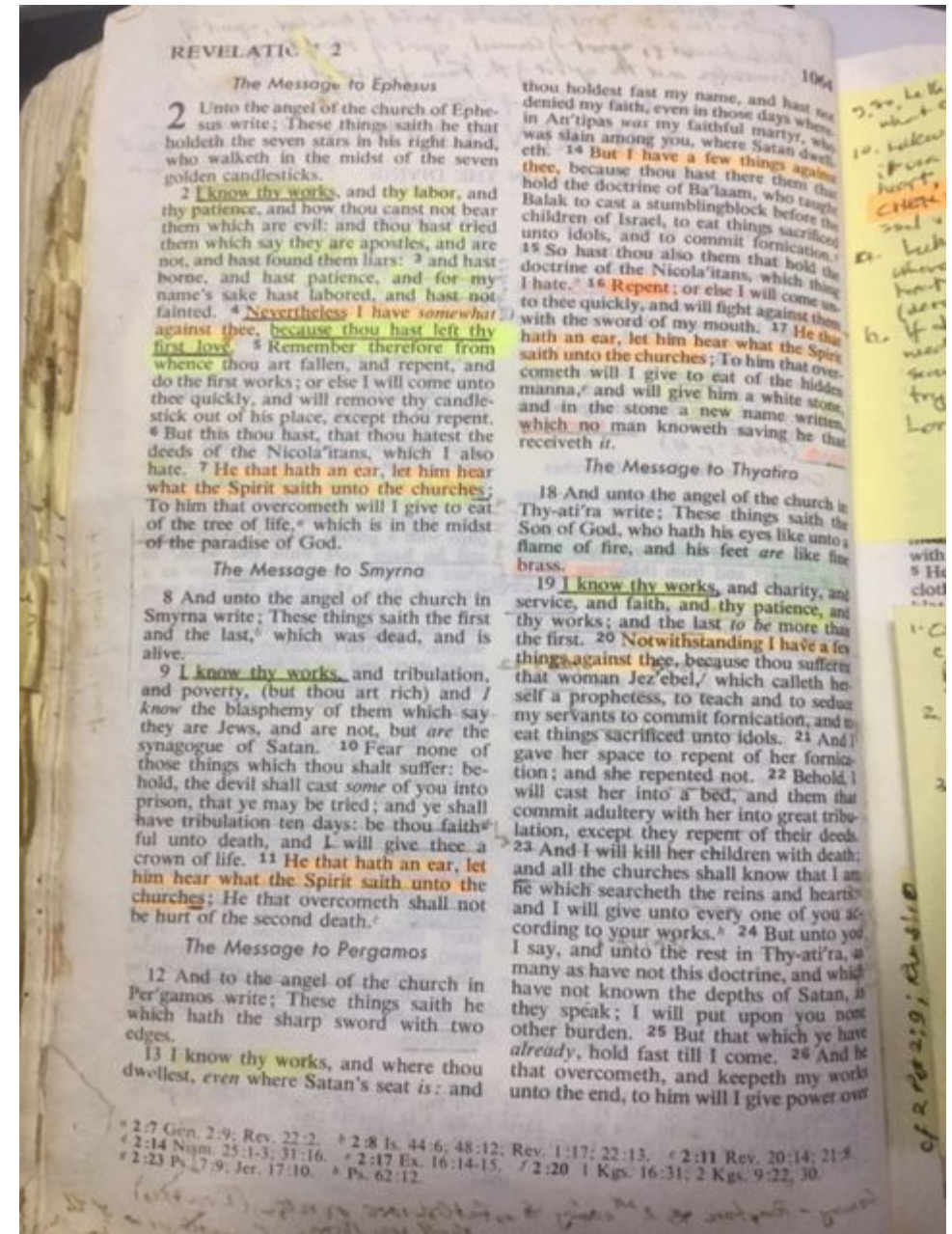


Message of the Lord to Thyatira

Rev 2:22 Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works,
Rev 2:23 and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

Rev 2:24 But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden.

Rev 2:25 Only hold fast what you have until I come.



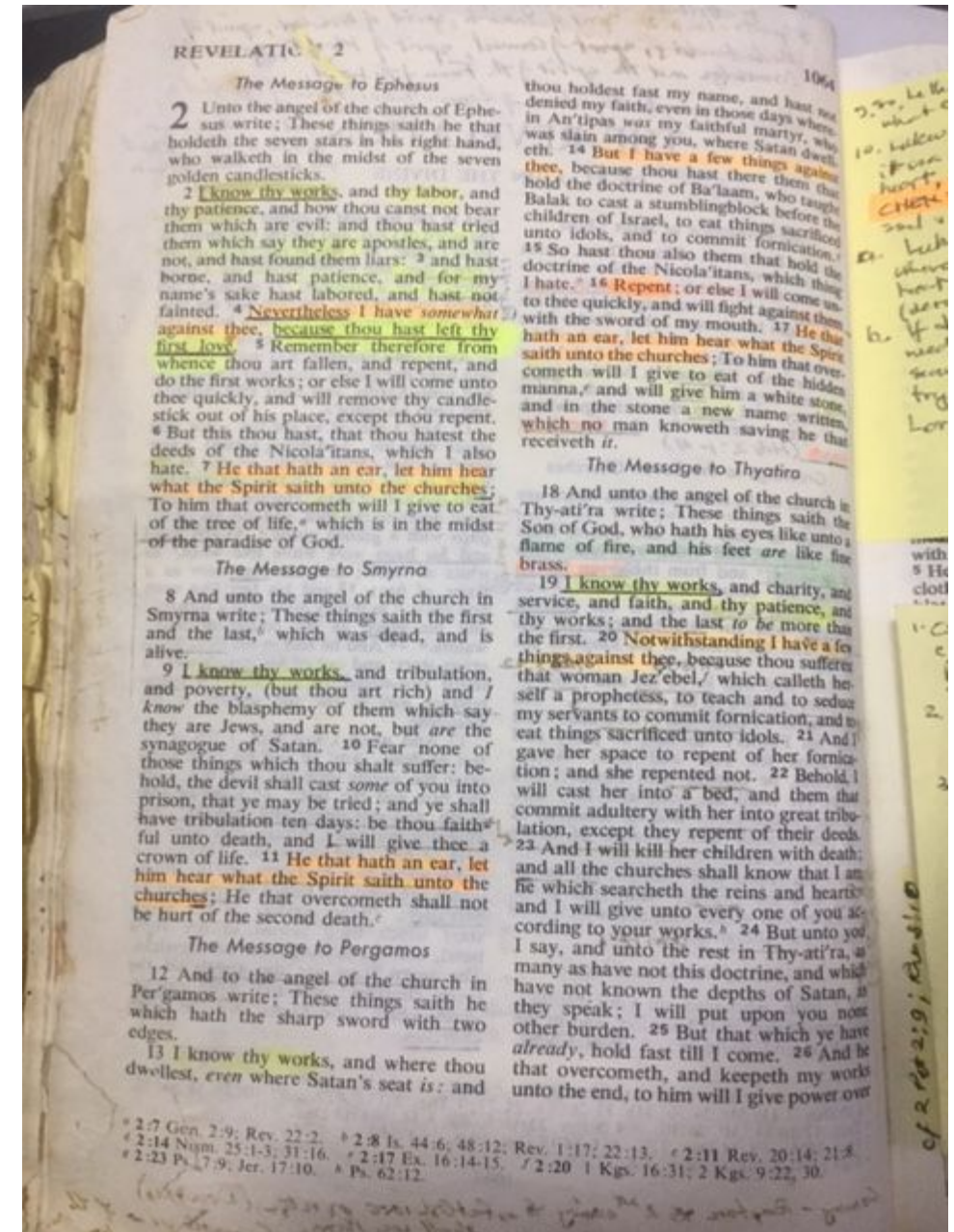
Message of the Lord to Thyatira

Rev 2:26 The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations,

Rev 2:27 and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.

Rev 2:28 And I will give him the morning star.

Rev 2:29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'



The Church of Thyatira

AUTHOR

The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. (Revelation 2:18)

COMMENDATION

“I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first” (Revelation 2:19). Five qualities are listed: 1) love, 2) faith, 3) service, 4), patient endurance, and 5) greater works.

ADMONITION/REBUKE

- “Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols” (Revelation 2:20).
- Jesus pronounces judgment on this “Jezebel” and calls the church of Thyatira to repent of their sin.

The Church of Thyatira

APPEAL/WARNING

Then Jesus encourages those who had remained faithful: “Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you): I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

PROMISE

“To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—‘He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery’—just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star” (Revelation 2:26-28).

LESSON LEARNED

Just as some in Thyatira’s church were led astray by a false prophet, Christians today fall prey to cult leaders, occult practices, and other false teachings. To share in Christ’s victory, we are to reject these “so-called deep secrets” of Satan (Revelation 2:24) and hold firm to Christ’s teachings.

Message of the Lord to Sardis

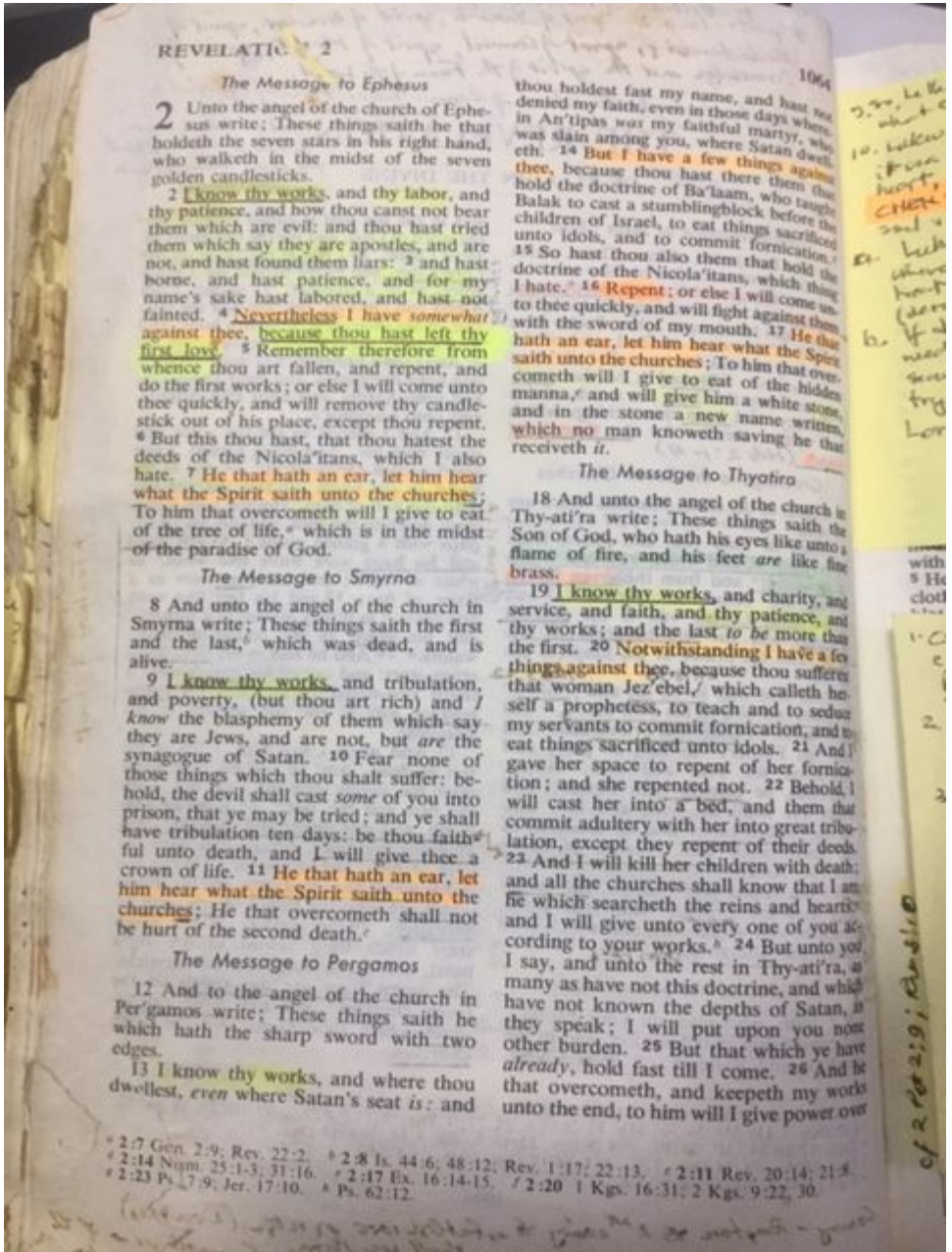
Rev 3:1 “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. “‘I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

Rev 3:2 Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.

Rev 3:3 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

Rev 3:2 Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.

Rev 3:3 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

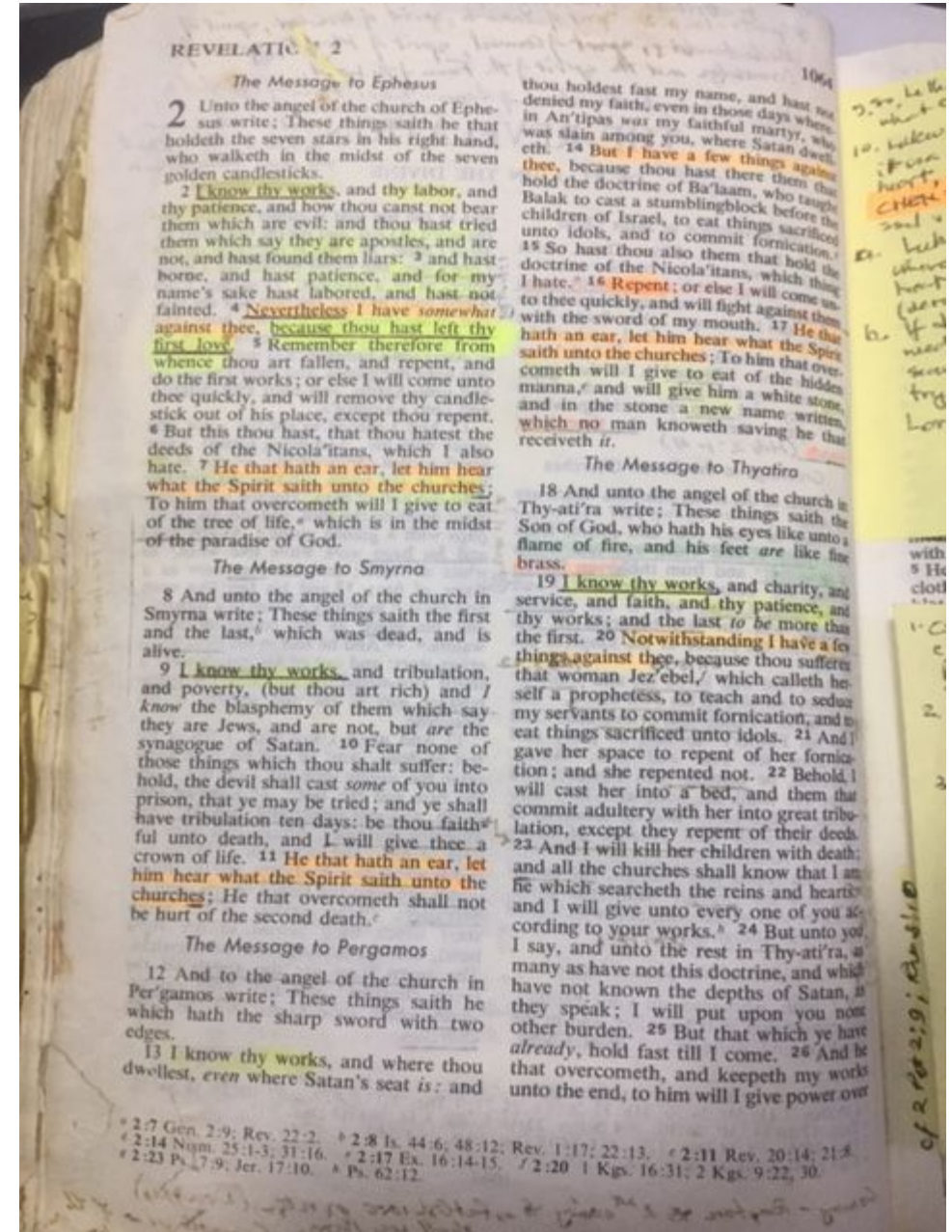


Message of the Lord to Sardis

Rev 3:4 Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.

Rev 3:5 The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

Rev 3:6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'



The Church of Sardis

- AUTHOR
- Jesus is identified as He “who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.”
- COMMENDATION
- (NONE)
- ADMONITION/REBUKE
- Jesus quickly and clearly condemns the lifeless state of the Church of Sardis: “I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead” (Revelation 3:2). The church was filled with unsaved people going through the motions of religion. There were many tares among the wheat



Wheat



Tare

Wheat and tares look exactly the same, they have the same color, grow in the same way and have the same seeds; the only difference is that one is always unfruitful, the Tares, which are sometimes referred to as bastard wheat.

The Church of Sardis

APPEAL/WARNING

- Jesus then calls them to repent of their sin: “Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you received and heard; obey it, and repent” (Revelation 3:2-3a).
- Jesus notes the judgment that would take place if they did not repent: “If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you” (Revelation 3:3b). A dead church, and one unrepentant in its deadness, will be disciplined by Jesus Himself.

PROMISE

- After the warning, Jesus encourages those in Sardis who had remained faithful: “Yet you have still a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy” (Revelation 3:4). The faithful remnant had not soiled their garments (participated in sin). They are “worthy.”
- Jesus makes a final promise to the believers in Sardis: “He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels” (Revelation 3:5).

The Church of Sardis

LESSON LEARNED

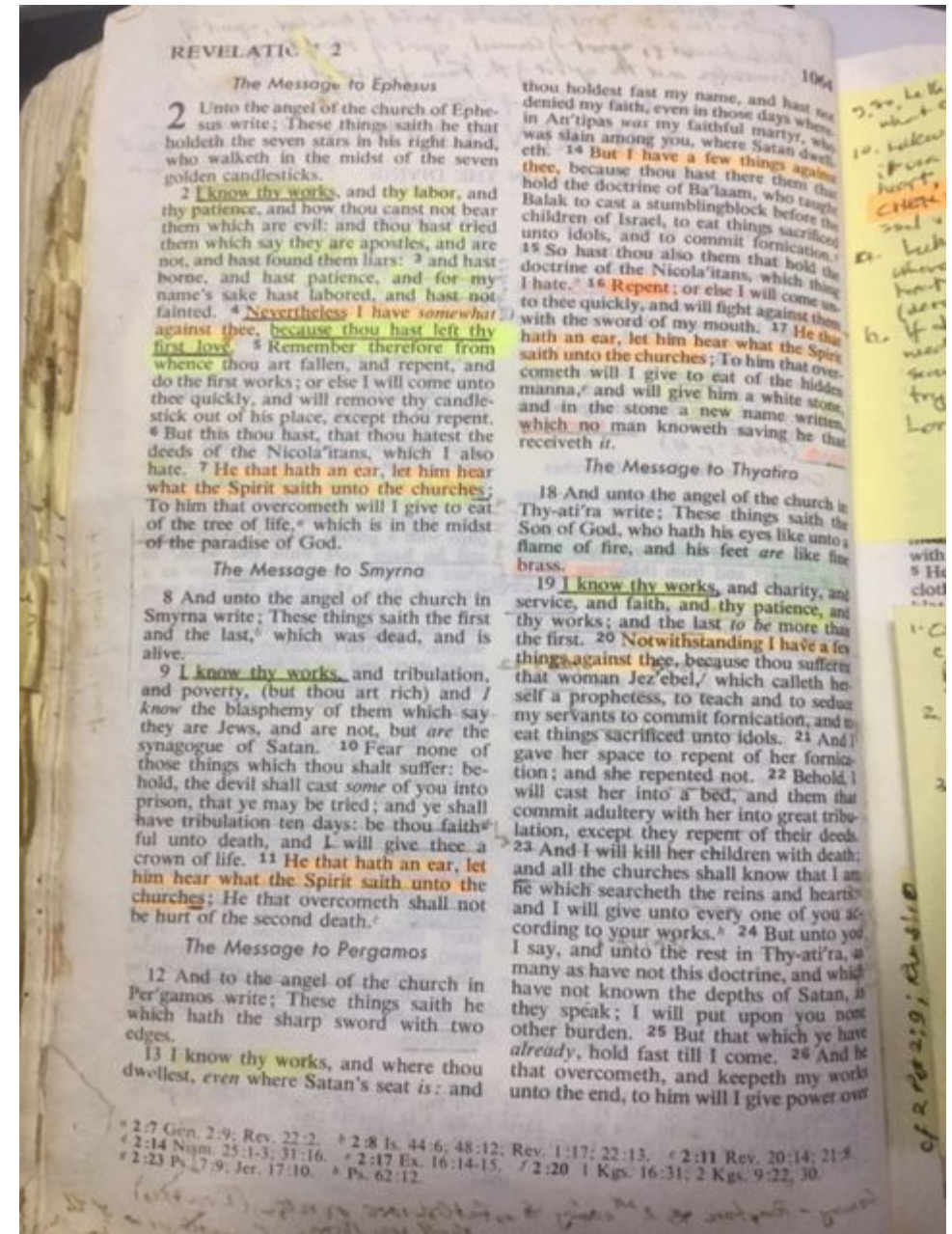
Today, Christians can fall into the trap that ensnared the church in Sardis if we merely go through the motions of practicing our faith without really feeding our spirit. We can avoid becoming “the living dead” by engaging in our faith through Bible study, prayer, and fellowship.

Message of the Lord to Philadelphia

Rev 3:7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘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.

Rev 3:8 “‘I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

Rev 3:9 Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you.



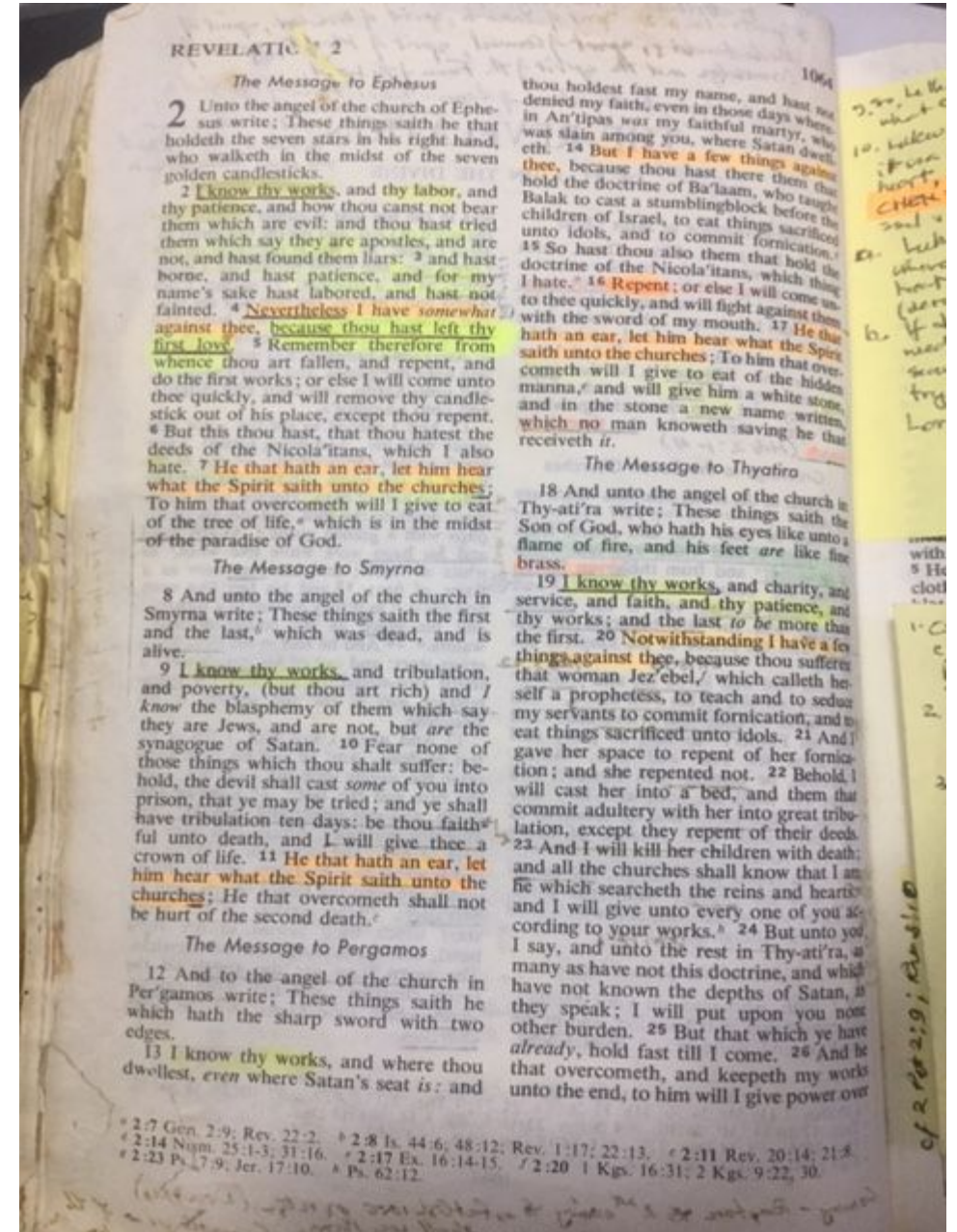
Message of the Lord to Philadelphia

Rev 3:10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

Rev 3:11 I am coming soon. Hold fast
what you have, so that no one may seize
your crown.

Rev 3:12 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.

Rev 3:13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'



The Church of Philadelphia

AUTHOR

Lord Jesus identifies Himself as “him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.”

• COMMENDATION

- Jesus affirms the church’s positive actions: “I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name” (Revelation 3:8)

ADMONITION/REBUKE

(NONE)

The Church of Philadelphia

APPEAL/WARNING

(NONE)

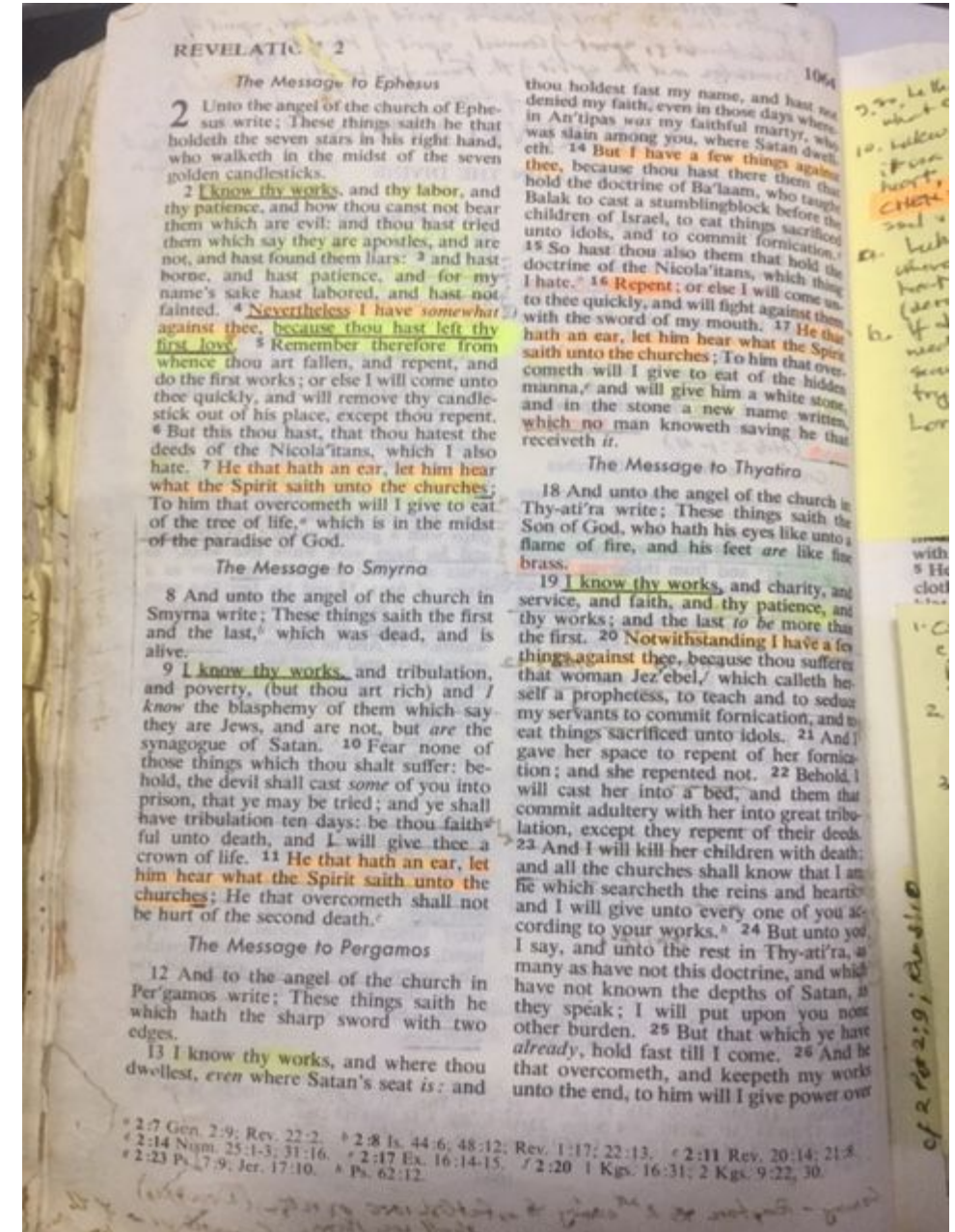
PROMISE

- The promise to the Philadelphian believers is in regard to the Lord's coming to rapture the church: "Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is coming upon the whole world to test those who are on earth."
- "Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down from out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name" (Revelation 3:12).

LESSON

The message to Philadelphia shows us the blessings that come when we maintain our faith despite life's tribulations. In fact, those who persevere despite weaknesses will stand strong as pillars in Heaven.

Rev 3:17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.



Message of the Lord to Laodicea

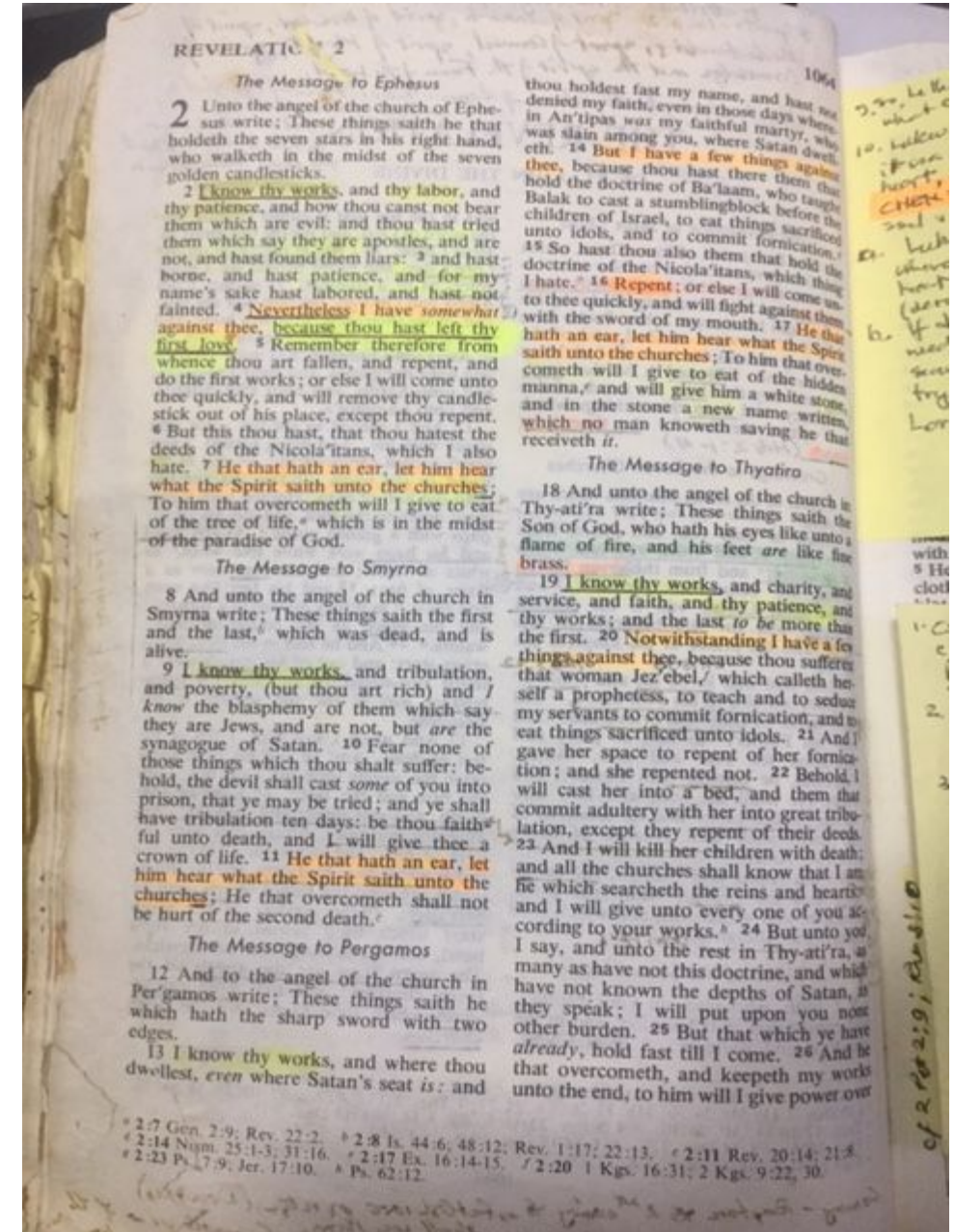
Rev 3:18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

Rev 3:19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

Rev 3:20 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.

Rev 3:21 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.

Rev 3:22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”



The Church of Laodicea

AUTHOR

Jesus identifies Himself as “The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation.”

COMMENDATION

(NONE)

ADMONITION/REBUKE

- Jesus begins the message with condemnation: “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.
- You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked” (Revelation 3:15-17).

The Church of Laodicea

APPEAL/WARNING

Counsel of the Lord for cure of lukewarmness. Buy of me:

- “gold tried in fire that thou mayest be rich”;
- “white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear”; and,
- “anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.”

PROMISE

“To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne” (Revelation 3:21).

The Church of Laodicea

LESSON

Lukewarmness is a great sin. It is not weakness. It is a horrible sin. It is so great that it makes the Lord nauseous. If the greatest commandment is to love the Lord with all of our heart with all of our soul and with all of our strength, the greatest sin is to be lukewarm, i.e., to love him with half of your heart, half of your soul, and half of your strength. CHECK UP: Ask yourself now, do I love the Lord Jesus with all of my heart? If not, am I willing to repent. If you don't, the Lord will chasten you. Am I scaring you? Yes, if it would scare you out of hell.

Letters of Jesus to the 7 Churches of Asia

- Our study on the 7 Churches should guide us in our self-examination to prepare us for the soon coming of Jesus to rapture His church.

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” (1Thessalonians 4:16-18)

- He is coming as a thief in the night. If you have Jesus reigning in your heart, He has not appointed you to wrath in the tribulation period but Christ has obtain salvation for you. He said, “Behold I am coming soon. Are you ready to meet Jesus in the air to be with Him forever?”