

THE VISION



FALL SERMON SERIES 2019

Revelation 1:1-8 The Prologue

WHY AM I HERE?

WHY AM I HERE?

... in this seat?

WHY AM I HERE?

... in this seat?

... in this community?

... in this world?

WHY AM I HERE?

... in this seat?

... in this community?

... in this world?

... in this job?

... in this career?

WHY AM I HERE?

... in this seat?

... in this community?

... in this world?

... in this job?

... in this career?

... in this family?

... in this relationship?

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WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR OUR HOPE?

- a) Am I founding my hope on God fulfilling my belief (expectations) in what the future should hold?
- b) Am I founding my hope on who Jesus Christ is, who He has made me to be, and what God is doing?

Preparing to Hear



Preparing to Hear



“Though John saw many strange monsters in his vision, he saw no creature so wild as one of his own commentators.”

(GK Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*, p29)

Preparing to Hear



4 Point Plan To Avoid the Ditches of Indifference and Infatuation

Preparing to Hear



4 Point Plan To Avoid the Ditches of Indifference and Infatuation

- 1) Remember the “writer”: the Apostle John
- 2) Appreciate the “age”: 1st century
- 3) Recognize the “genre”: apocalyptic/prophetic
- 4) Recall the “audience”: the 7 churches in Asia

Revelation 1:1-2 – *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, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.*

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THE AUTHOR → John's writings are rarely linear or chronological ...

- The accounts are less linear, more "recursive"
- The events are less a chronological record, more of a "cyclodrama" (seals, trumpets, bowls?)

Revelation 1:1-2 – *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, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.*

THE AGE → most likely written near the end of Roman Emperor Domitian's reign ...

- 81-96 AD
- The witness of the early church fathers
- Laodicea is identified as "rich"

Revelation 1:3 ... *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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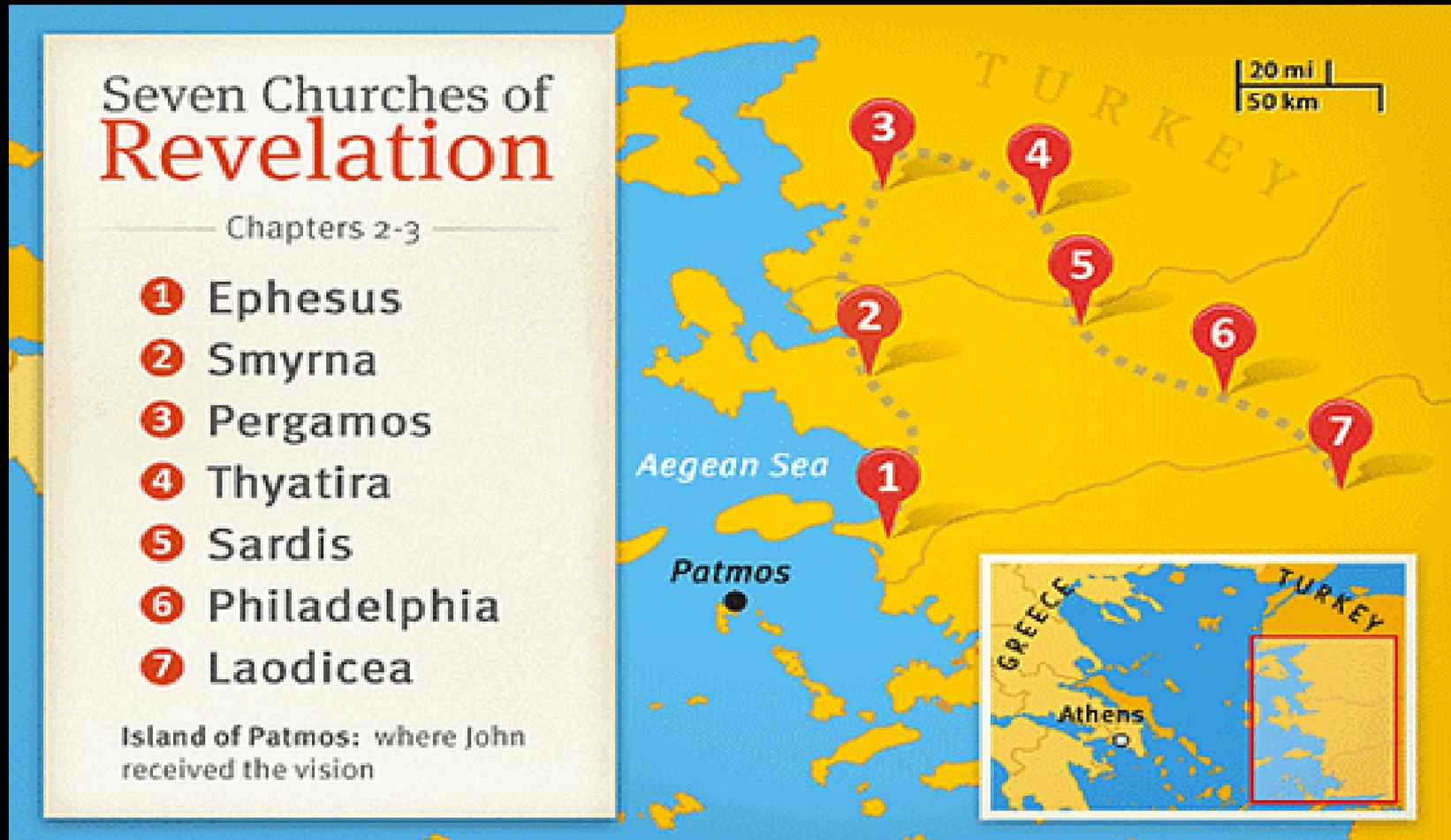
Prophetic = *virtually every line of the book echoes the OT witness. The fundamental reason some interpreters go astray is that they don't anchor their reading of Revelation the OT.* (Schreiner, p531)

Revelation 1:4 ... *John, to the seven churches that
are in Asia ...*

THE AUDIENCE → the “7 churches” in Asia

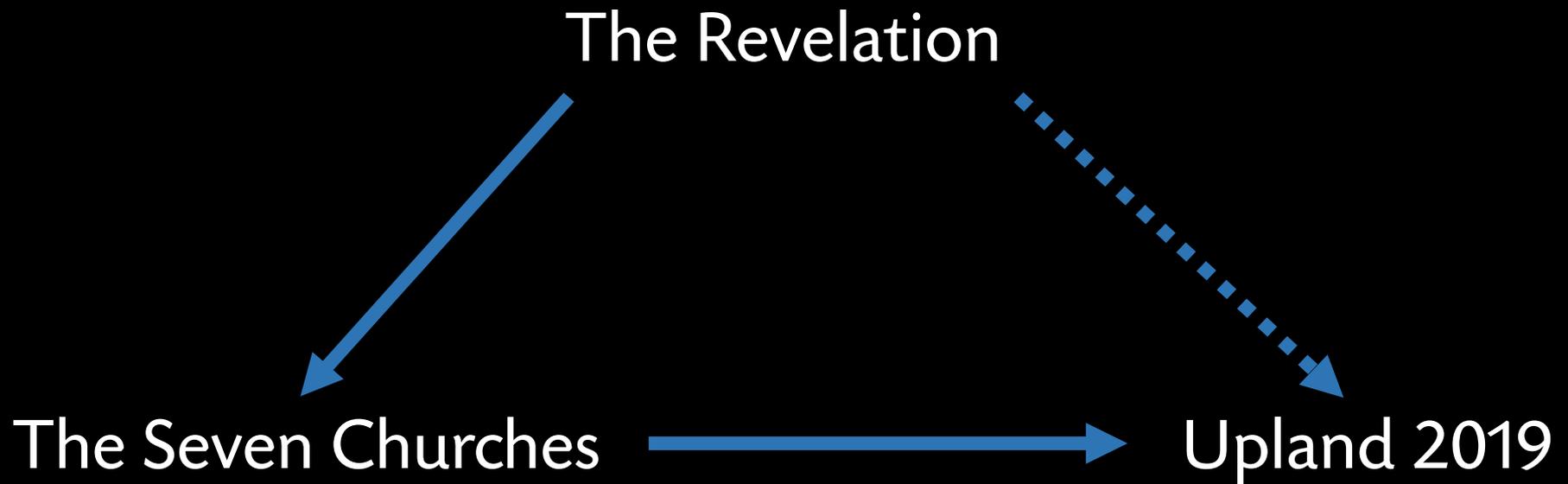
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A text cannot mean what it never meant!

Historic Interpretive Approaches



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- 3) FUTURIST = foretelling of specific events to come; “Left Behind Series” style ... dangerously egocentric?
- 4) IDEALIST = ageless pattern of struggle with evil; symbolic more than specific ... can become vague?

Hearing the Message ...

“Grace to you and Peace”



The SOURCE (v4b-5a) ...

Hearing the Message ...

“Grace to you and Peace”



The SOURCE (v4b-5a) ...

*... from Him who is and who was and who is to come (Father),
... and from the seven spirits who are before his throne (Spirit),
... and from Jesus Christ*

- 1) the faithful witness,*
- 2) the firstborn of the dead,*
- 3) and the ruler of kings on earth!*

Hearing the Message ...

“Grace to you and Peace”



An ASSURANCE (v5b-6) ... Amen!

... to him who loves us

... and has freed us from our sins by his blood

... and made us a kingdom

... (and) priests to his God and Father

To him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Hearing the Message ...

“Grace to you and Peace”



THE PROMISE (v7-8) ... *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.

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

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... not to earn a degree!

... not to raise a family!

not to find or fulfill a dream job!

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... not to find or fulfill a dream job!

... not to educate students!

... not to defend your country!

... not to cure cancer ...

eradicate poverty ... or

... inaugurate justice!

WHY AM I HERE?

You are here ...

- 1) Because of who Christ is ... *the ruler of all the kings of the earth!*
- 2) Because of who Christ has made you to be ... *a priest to the world in His kingdom!*
- 3) Because of what God is doing ... *as the One who owns all of time – this day and every day!*

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