

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



## Revelation Backgrounds 12

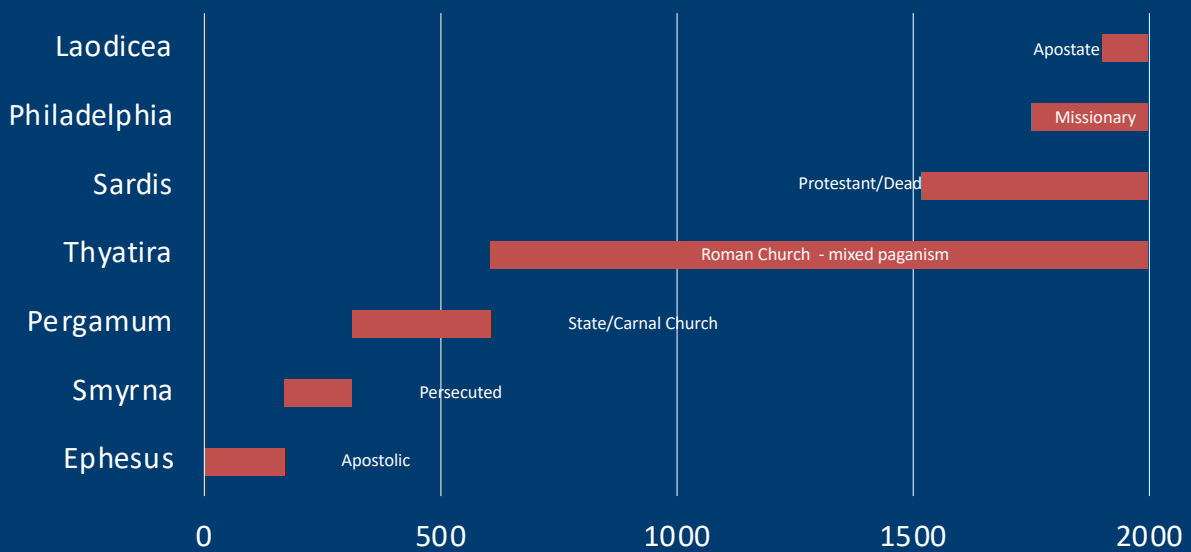
Laodicea III

Revelation 3:14-22



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## Does it fit? Church Age = Apostate/Worldly



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- 2 Th 2:3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the **rebellion** comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction
- 2Co 6:14-18 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? (15) What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? (16) What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (17) Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, (18) and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."



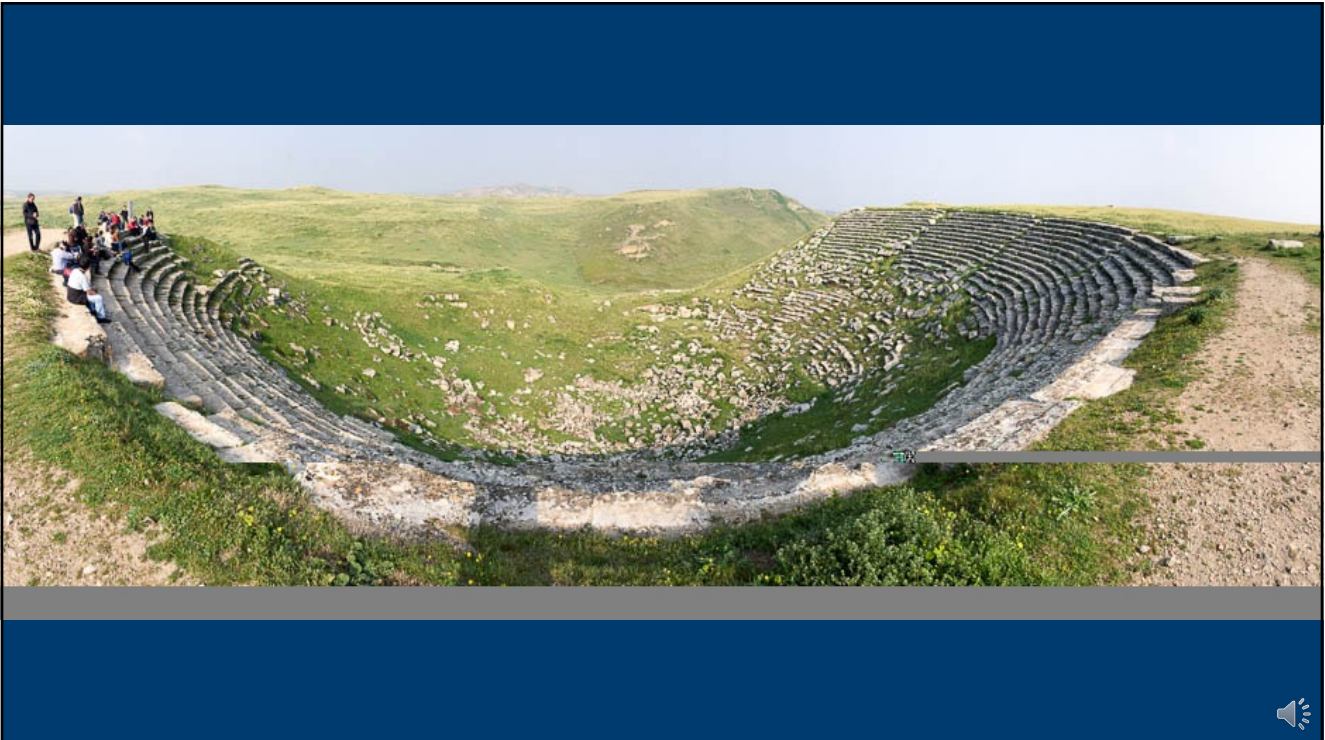
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## Higher Criticism/Documentary Hypothesis

- Denied inerrancy
- Moses didn't write the Books of Moses / Deutero-Isaiah theory
- The "prophecies" were written after the fact and made to look like prophecies
- Jesus only said about 20% of the things He's quoted as saying
- Led to divide between "fundamentalists" and "modernists", while those in lukewarm church stressed "unity" and "tolerance"



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## Parable: Laodicea = Dragnet

### Matthew 13

Mat 13:47-50 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. (48) When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. (49) So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous (50) and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### Explanation

Here we see the separation of the good and the bad (and note the good remain while the bad are thrown away).

Jesus explains the parable in verses 49-50.

Laodicea was given the opportunity to repent. Human nature tells us that likely only a small remnant did, while a vast majority went on their way and perished.

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## Paul: Laodicea = Colossians

- Col 1:13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
- Col 1:15-16 He is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn of all creation**. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.
- Col 2:4 I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.
- Col 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.



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## Paul: Laodicea = Colossians

- Col 2:16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.
  - It is usually taught that this verse is one that allows gentiles to eat anything, and it was "Judaizers" who were telling believers they must follow the Jewish law.
  - Wouldn't it be just as plausible, if not more likely, that the mostly Jewish assembly was trying to follow the Jewish dietary laws, Rosh Chodesh (a very minor holiday celebrating the first day of the month, which coincides with the arrival of the new moon), and keeping Shabbat in the face of pagan opposition?
  - Acts 17:11



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## Paul: Laodicea = Colossians

- Col 3:1-3 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (2) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (3) For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- Col 3:5-6 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (6) On account of these the wrath of God is coming.



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## Paul: Laodicea = Colossians

- Col 4:10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and **Mark** the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him),
  - Compare Act\_15:39 And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took **Mark** with him and sailed away to Cyprus,
  - Colossians was written after Acts 15
  - Mark was "redeemed"
- Col 4:14 Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does **Demas**.
  - Compare 2 Ti 4:10 For **Demas**, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.
  - Colossians was written BEFORE 2 Timothy
  - Demas, once a fellow worker (Phm 24), fell away
- Anyone can start well; an OVERCOMER finishes well



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