

# DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES

## PRACTICAL

## SPIRITUAL

### EPHESUS

LARGE

MAIN TRADE ROUTE

SELF-GOVERNING

NOTORIOUS FOR PAGAN SUPERSTITION & IMMORALITY (ACTS 19:13-19)

(S) LABORED WELL

(W) LOST LOVE FOR CHRIST & EACH OTHER (I COR 13:1)

### SMYRNA

MOST BEAUTIFUL CITY IN ASIA

MANY PAGAN TEMPLES

PROSPEROUS & INFLUENTIAL

FREE CITY

LARGE JEWISH POPULATION

→ "TEN-DAY" TEST (DAN 1:12, 14)

→ JEWIS/ROMANS COLLABORATE TO PERSECUTE

(S) POVERTY/BELIEVERS FROM LOWER CLASS OR BECAME

POOR DUE TO STAND FOR CHRIST/TRUE RICHES (HEB 10:34)

(S) NO COMMAND TO REPENT

### PERGAMOS

CAPITAL OF ROMAN ASIA

GREAT POLITICAL INFLUENCE

IMPRESSIVE LIBRARY

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER FOR EMPEROR WORSHIP

SHRINE OF ZEUS (AMONG OTHERS)

CENTER OF HELLENISTIC CULTURE

(S) POWERFUL WITNESS/MARTYRDOM

(W) TOLERANCE OF COMPROMISE

(W) POOR DISCERNMENT

### THYATIRA

COMMERCIAL CENTER

CENTER OF TRADE GUILDS (CHILTON P112)

(W) IMMORALITY & IDOLATRY TOLERATED

(S) SPIRITUAL GROWTH OCCURRING

### SARDIS

CITY WITH A GLORIOUS PAST WHOSE SPLENDOR HAD DEPARTED

CENTER FOR WOOLEN INDUSTRY

(W) ALIVE IN REPUTATION ONLY

(W) CHURCH LIFE INACTIVE

(W) NO FALSE TEACHING FOR NOT EVEN WORTHWHILE TO BE ATTACKED

(S) REMNANT WHO POSSESS MORAL CHARACTER & WHITE ROBES SHOW TO BE TRUE WORSHIPPERS

## PHILADELPHIA

BASE TO SPREAD LANGUAGE & LIT  
OF GREECE INTO ASIA

(S) COMMENDED FOR FAITHFUL-  
NESS

EXPERIENCED FREQUENT EARTH-  
QUAKES

(S) NO COMMAND TO REPENT

JEWISH OPPOSITION

SEVERE TRIAL LOOMS ON HORIZON  
(AS IN SMYRNA)

MAY NOT HAVE MUCH FINANCIALLY

↳ "LITTLE STRENGTH" MAY = "FEW  
POSSESSIONS"

## LAODICEA (AFFLUENT SOCIETY)

(W) SELF-SUFFICIENCY CONDEMNED

WEALTHY & DISTINGUISHED CITY

(W) NOTHING GOOD AT ALL TO  
PRAISE!

LOCATED AT CROSSING POINT OF IMPORTANT  
ROADS

FOREMOST BANKING CENTERS OF WORLD

SO WEALTHY THAT REBUILT CITY AFTER  
EARTHQUAKE W/O GOVT AID (SELF-SUFFI-  
CIENCY = DEUT

CENTER FOR SPECIAL CLOTHING  
FROM LOCAL BREED OF SHEEP  
8:17)

FAMOUS FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL THAT  
PRODUCED EAR & EYE OINTMENT

PROBLEMS WITH ITS WATER SUPPLY  
(IT ABSORBED LIME & BECAME TEPID)  
[GUTHRIE p84]