

1



2

Pattern of Letters to 7 Churches

- 1. Description of the Divine Author (Jesus) using descriptions given in chapter 1.**
- 2. 'I know' introduces His diagnosis of each church's spiritual condition**
- 3. Comfort and/or Correction flow from diagnosis**
- 4. Commanded to hear and obey all the letter**
- 5. A blessing is promised to those who overcome (conquer)**

3

3 INTERPRETATIONS OF 7 CHURCHES

- The historical interpretation**
- The representative interpretation**
- The prophetic interpretation
(dispensational)**

4

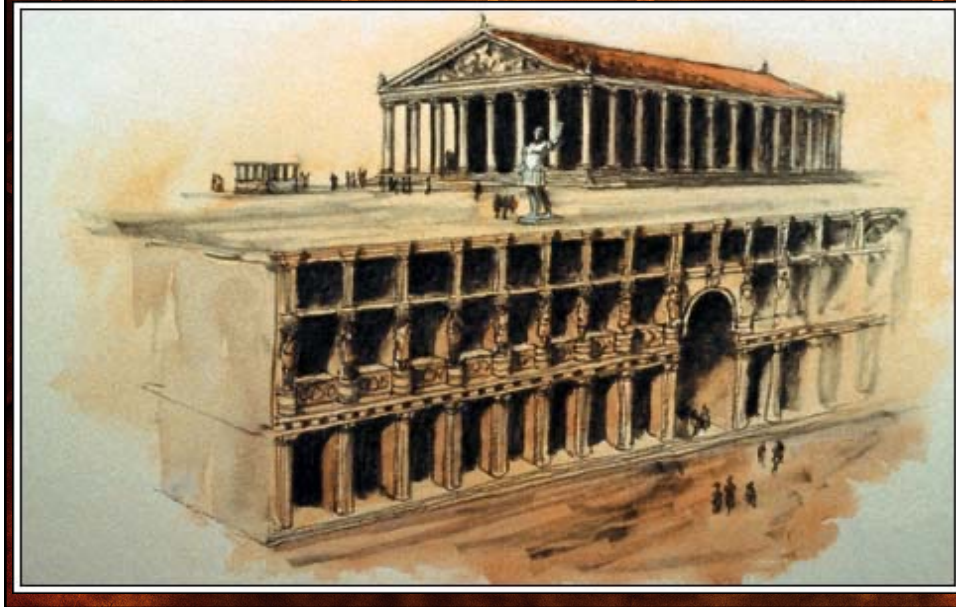
7 Stages of Church History

Church	Era	Years
Ephesus	Apostolic Era	33-64
Smyrna	Period of Persecution	64-313
Pergamum	Era of Official Patronage	313-606
Thyatira	Middle Ages	606-1520
Sardis	Protestant Reformation	1520-1750
Philadelphia	Missionary Era	1750-1900
Laodicea	Modern Period	1900-?

5



6

TEMPLE TO DOMITIAN AT EPHESUS

7

*I remember your devotion
when you were young; how,
as a bride, you loved me;
how you followed me
through the desert, through
a land not sown, (Jer 2:2)*

8

Smyrna Marketplace



9

Smyrna

- *2.Smyrna means 'myrrh' – sweet fragrance - used for medicine to deaden pain, – anointing oil – preparing a bride (Esther 2:12, Rev. 5:8)- also embalming - coming persecution – myrrh must be crushed to give off it's aroma, so the church will be crushed through tribulation.*
- *Note – in scripture, it is always used as a anointing oil mix, drink(with wine), or perfume (especially for lovers), except one time in John 19:39 to embalm Jesus.*

10

A Church Being Stirred!

- *Instead of continually trying to establish a church according to what people want, or think they need, many are stirred to ask, "Lord what do you want?" And then do that!*
- *Stirred to go back to scripture and look for what was the true intent the Lord had for the church as revealed in the early chapters of Acts.*

11

LETTERS TO THE CHURCH-Francis Chan

"We've strayed so far from what God calls the church. we all know it. We know that what we're experiencing is radically different from the Church in Scripture. For decades, church leaders like myself have lost sight of the inherent mystery of the church."

12

LETTERS TO THE CHURCH-Francis Chan

- *We have trained people sitting in the pews to become addicted to lesser things. It is time for things to change.*
- *If the Bible were your only reference for a church model, do you think your church would look different?*