

# APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE a revelation of Jesus

- The Greek word for "revelation" in Revelation 1:1 is *apokalypsis*, which means a divine disclosure or revealing of what was, what is and what is to come.
- What does revelation reveal?

## APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE a revelation of Jesus

- This revelation is given to John by Jesus, who says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (Rev. 1:8). Therefore the revelation is both from Jesus and about Jesus.
- How is this revelation revealed to its readers?

# APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE a revelation of Jesus

- Apocalyptic Literature is marked by a vision or divine disclosure that makes use of vivid and strange imagery and symbols such as numbers and colors.
- How should this kind of literature be interpreted?

## FIVE INTERPRATIVE APPROACHES Zondervan Academic

- PRETERIST—emphasizes the historical context of Revelation and tries to understand it the way John's audience would have understood it
- HISTORICIST—treats Revelation as a map or outline of what has happened or will happen throughout church history from the first century until the return of Christ
- FUTURIST—considers most of the book related to future events immediately preceding the end of history.
- IDEALIST— doesn't interpret Revelation in terms of any particular reference to time, but rather relates it to the ongoing struggle between good and evil
- ECLECTIC—attempts to combine the strengths of several of the other approaches

# THE ECLECTIC APPROACH Zondervan Academic

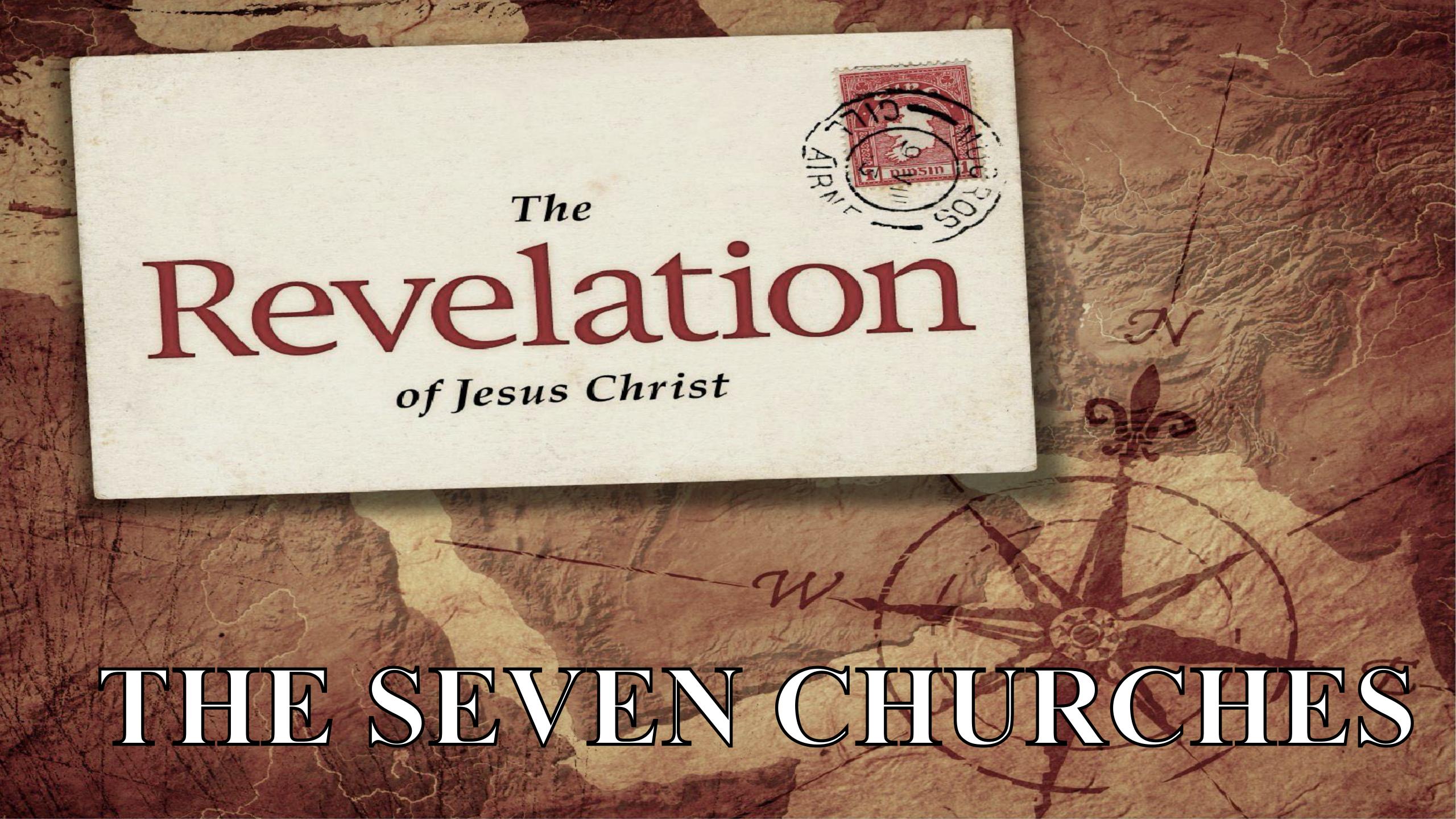
• Revelation seems to address the firstcentury Christians directly, so we should read Revelation the same way that we read every other book of the Bible—by taking its historical context seriously.

# THE ECLECTIC APPROACH Zondervan Academic

• Revelation also presents timeless truths for surviving the struggle between good and evil. The visions of Revelation challenge us to forsake our complacency and stay faithful during times of persecution.

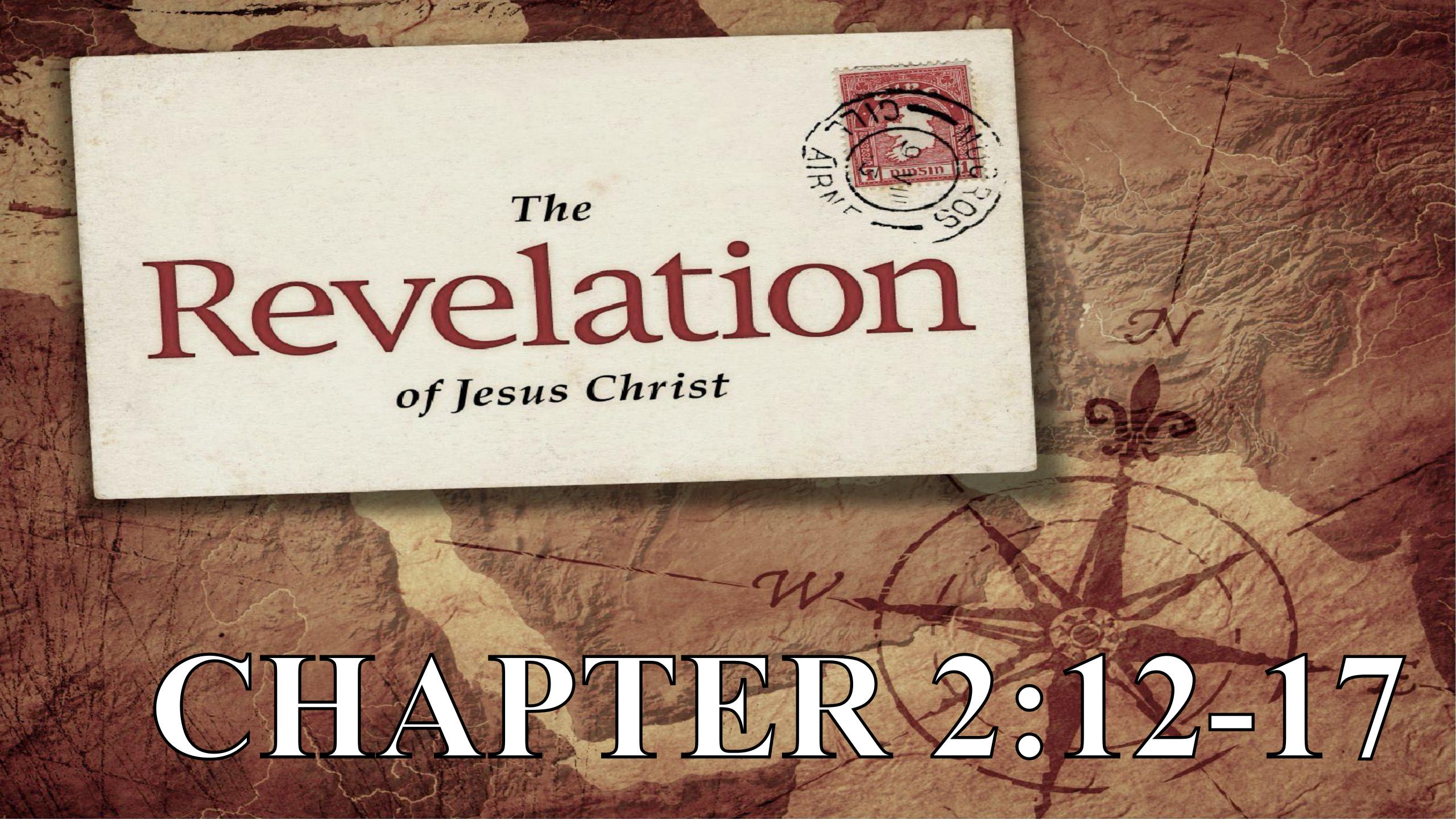
# THE ECLECTIC APPROACH Zondervan Academic

 Revelation also clearly has something to say about events still to come. Some events it describes await future fulfillment (such as the return of Christ, the great white throne judgment, and the arrival of the holy city).

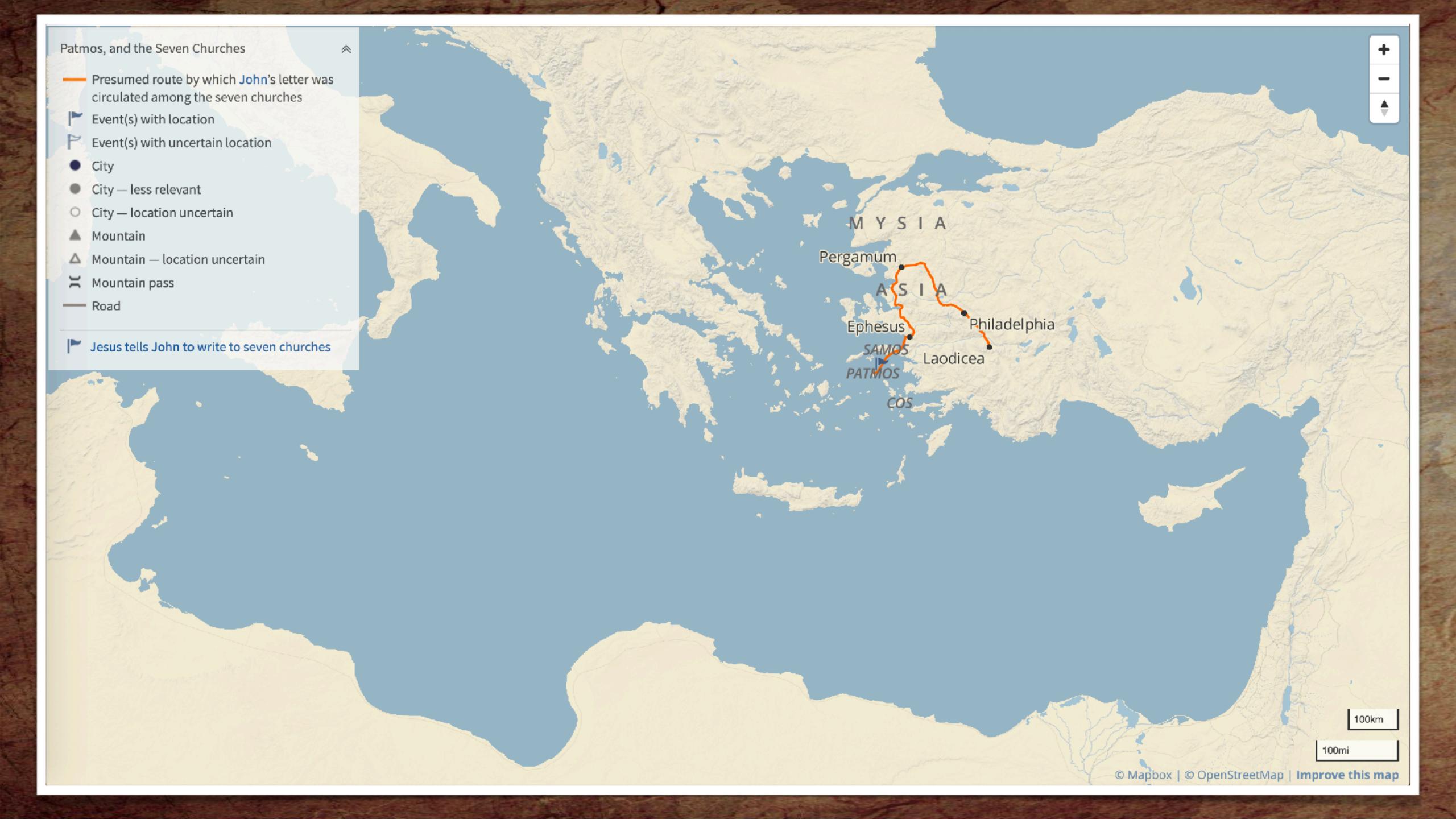


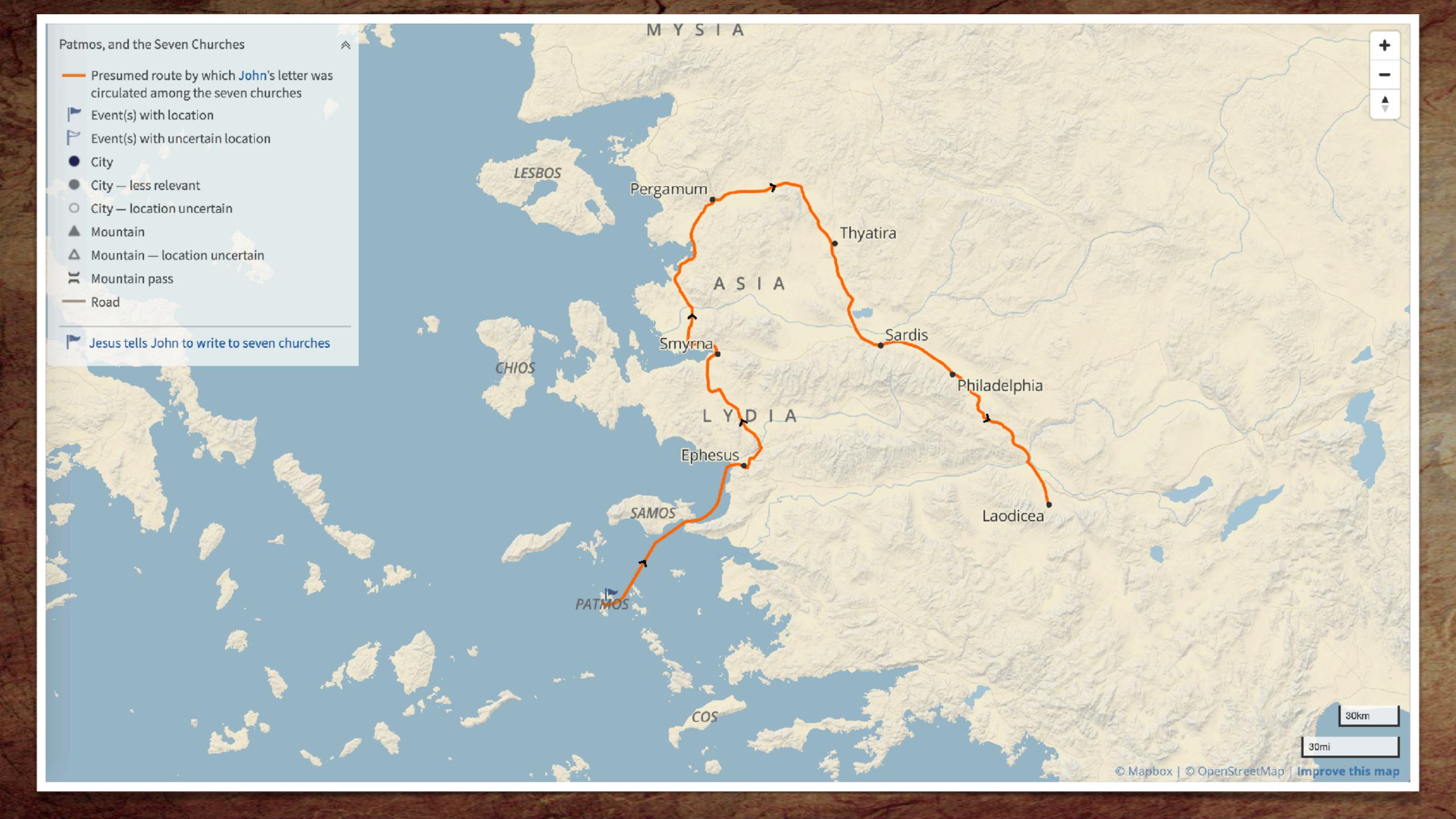
## THE SEVEN CHURCHES to whom Jesus' message is delivered...

- The Church in <u>Ephesus</u> had lost its first love, though they had persevered and called out wickedness and were high on truth.
- The Church in <u>Smyrna</u> was undergoing serious testing from the enemy (affliction, poverty, slander, suffering, persecution) yet they were rich in faith and were called persevere.



## WHEN ARE YOU COMPRONSI MOURIATIE?







- 12—These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.
- 16—Repent therefore!
  Otherwise, I will soon
  come to you and will fight
  against them with the
  sword of my mouth.



• 13—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, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city-where Satan lives.



• 14-15—Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

2 Peter 2:15, "They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness."

Jude 11, "Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion."



• 16—Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

1 Cor. 5:11-13, "But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people. What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. Expel the wicked person from among you.",



• 17 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

John 6:51, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

## Compromising our faith will bring about Christ's judgement.

