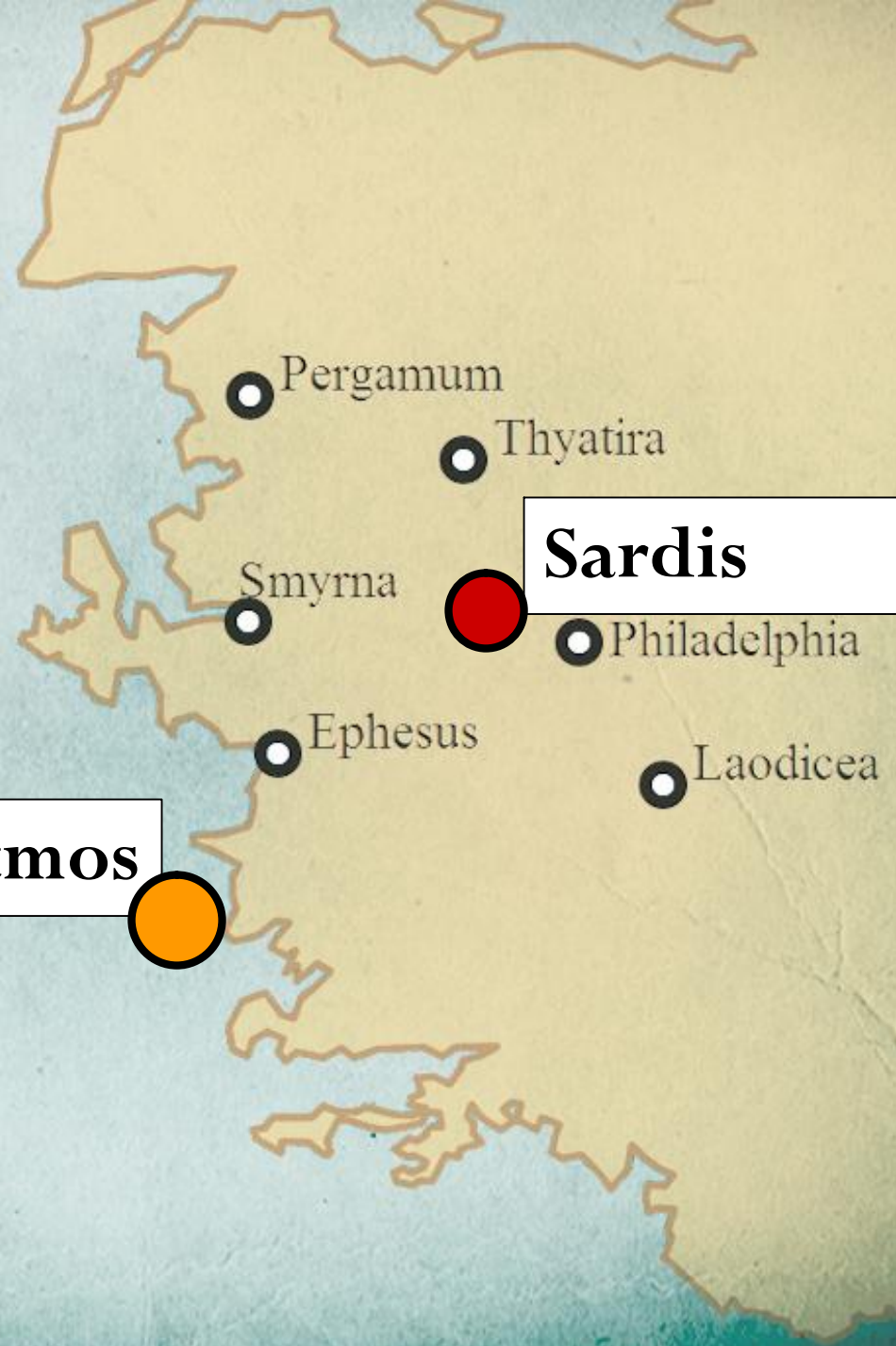


**7**  
**LETTERS**  
**FROM** **GOD**

**The Sleeping Church Revelation 3:1-6**  
**“Breathing Life Into A Dying Church”**

# Modern Day Country of Turkey



Patmos

Sardis

7  
LETTERS  
FROM GOD

# Sardis

- 1500 feet high, thought to be impregnable to attack. Hot springs supposedly raised the dead.
- Worship Emperor Tiberius and nature goddess Cybele. Temple of Artemis.
- Sardis claimed to have discovered how to dye wool.
- Large population of wealthy and influential religiously compromising Jews.
- Gold and silver coins were apparently first minted at Sardis.
- Many self sufficient and apathetic Christians with no persecution.



# Temple of Artemis, (Diana by Romans) Goddess of hunt, moon and fertility



# Acropolis of Sardis- “Upper City”



# **He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: Revelation 3:1**

**Isaiah 11:2 Seven fold work of Spirit.**

**The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him,  
The spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
The spirit of counsel and strength,  
The spirit of knowledge and the fear of  
the LORD.**



**Admit that we can be deceived  
into thinking our spiritual life is  
better than it is. Revelation 3:1**

*“I know your deeds, that you have a name  
that you are alive, but you are dead.”*

**Areas of potential deception:**

**Matthew 6:2-5; Matthew 7:3-5; Matthew 7:21-23**



# Matthew 6:2-4 My Giving

“So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. “But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.



# Matthew 6:4 My Prayer life.

“When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.



## **Matthew 7:3-5 Critical attitude**

**“Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? “Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye?  
“You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.**



## **Matthew 7:15 Spiritual teachers.**

**“Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.**



## **Matthew 7:21-23 Great service.**

**“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”**



# Warning Signs of Dying Church:

- Rest on our history more than future work.
- Liturgical forms rather than spiritual growth
- Cure social problems rather than spiritual transformation by Gospel of Jesus.
- More concerned with man's words than God's Word.
- Change God's Word to be accepted in today's changing values.
- Our buildings are more significant than our ministries.
- More concerned with the size of our congregation than the spiritual depth.



**I need to wake up to areas of spiritual growth to prepare for Christ's return. Revelation 3:2, 3**

2 'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. 3 'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, **I will come like a thief**, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.



# I John 2:28, 3:2, 3

Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming ...Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. and everyone who has this **hope fixed on Him** purifies himself, just as He is pure



## 11 Timothy 4:7, 8

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have **loved His appearing.**



# Matthew 24:42,45-47

## Be alert in service

“Therefore be on the **alert**, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.... Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?

“Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. “Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.



# Acts 20:29-31

## Alert to false teaching

“I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the **alert**.”



# Romans 13:11-13 Alert to sins

Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to **awaken from sleep**; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy.



# I Thessalonians 5:1–6

## Alert to the times and Christ's return

1 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.



# I Thessalonians 5:1–6

## Alert to the times and Christ's return

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then **let us not sleep** as others do, but let us **be alert** and sober.



**1 Peter 5:8**

**Alert to Satanic attacks.**

Be of sober spirit, **be on the alert.**

Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.



# I need to wake up to areas of spiritual growth to prepare for Christ's return. Revelation 3:2, 3

- Strengthen them before they die. Be strong in them.
- Complete them as accountable to God. Be accountable for them.
- Remember what He has already given you. Be mindful of them.
- Keep them until He returns. Be faithful with them.
- Repent in areas that you have sinned. Be forgiven to grow in them.



**Join with those few who live a pure worthy life. Revelation 3:4**

“But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are **worthy**.”

**Worthy:** in balance with the holiness of God.



# Overcome so you can enjoy the promises of God. Revelation 3:5, 6

*“He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”*

- White garment, our purity in heaven.
- Not erase your name, our security in heaven.
- Confess his name before the Father, our praise in heaven.

