



The
Revelation
of **Jesus Christ**

9. The Lord's message to the churches - Laodicea

Blessed is he who **reads** and those who **hear**
the words of this prophecy,
and **keep** those things which are written in it;
for the time is near.

(Revelation 1:3)

Are you ready?

“Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches...”

Ephesus

Smyrna

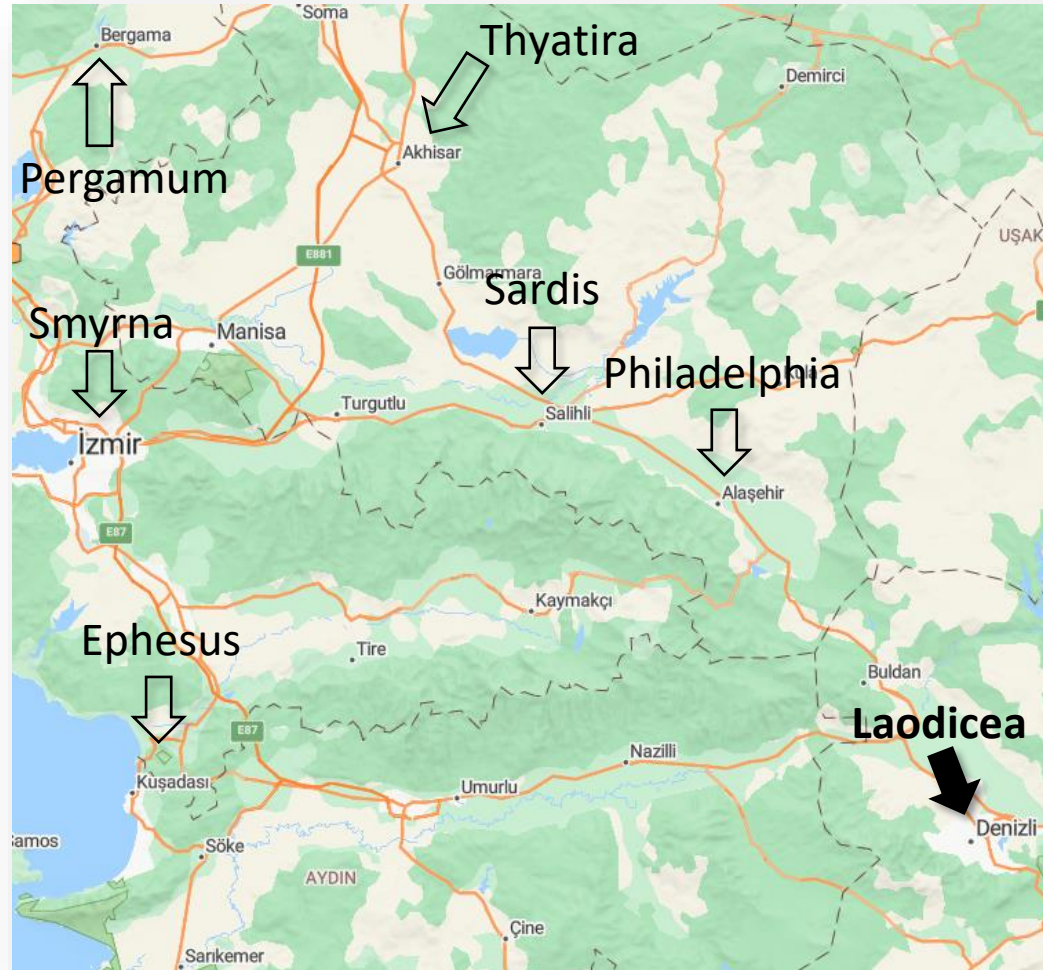
Pergamum

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea



Laodicea
(now Denizli)
-
160km east
of Ephesus
90km southeast
of Philadelphia

**To the messenger of
the church in Laodicea
write...**



Revelation 3:14-22

Laodicea in history

The city was founded c. 255 BC by the Greek king Antiochus II, and was named after his wife, Laodice. With **fertile soil** and situated on **trade routes**, it grew to be important and very **wealthy**. A strong **Greek** influence is evident and there was a large **Jewish** population. Laodicea was known for its trade in **black wool** and for medical products, even an **eye salve**.



Laodicea in the New Testament

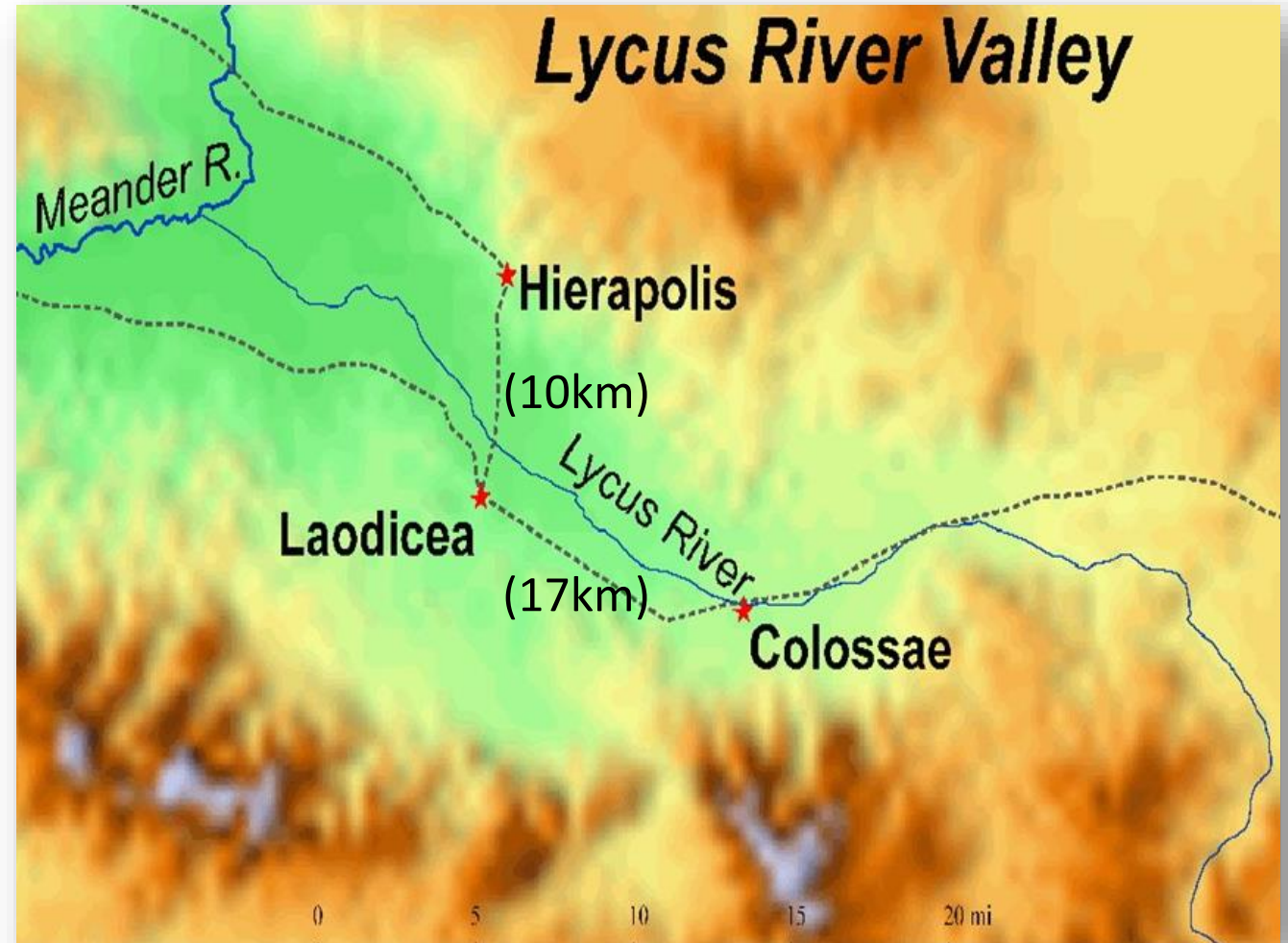
I want you to know
how great a struggle
I have for you and
for those at **Laodicea**...
(Colossians 2:1)

Epaphras, who is one of you...
has a great zeal for you,
and those who are in **Laodicea**,
and those in **Hierapolis**.
(Colossians 4:12-13)

Greet the brethren
who are in **Laodicea**...

When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the **Laodiceans**;
and see that you also read the letter from **Laodicea**.

(Colossians 4:15-16)



He who speaks...

“The God
of Amen”
(Isaiah 65:16)

To the messenger of
the church in Laodicea write...

Firm, sure,
trustworthy

These things says

- the **Amen**,
- the **Faithful** and **True Witness**,
- the **Beginning** of the creation of God...

The opposite of
fictitious, counterfeit,
imaginary, simulated,
pretended, frail,
imperfect and uncertain

(Revelation 3:14)

archē = beginning, ruler,
originator, first cause

John 1:1-3

I know your works...

I know your works,
that you are neither cold nor hot.
I could wish you were cold or hot.

So then, because you are **lukewarm**,
and neither cold nor hot,
I will vomit you out of My mouth.

(Revelation 3:15-16)

I am about to



Colossae



Hierapolis

You are lukewarm...

Because you say,
“I am rich, have become wealthy,
and have need of nothing” —
and **do not know** that you are
**wretched, pitiable,
poor, blind, and naked...**

“By my own
efforts”



(Revelation 3:17)



The way forward...

Not command?

?

Wretched,
pitiabile

Poor, blind,
and naked

I counsel you to buy from Me

- **gold** refined in the fire, that you may be rich
- **white garments**, that you may be clothed,
that the shame of your nakedness will not be seen
- **eye salve** to anoint your eyes, that you may see.

(Revelation 3:18)

The way forward...

- **Gold** that you may be rich
- **White garments** that you may be clothed
- **Eye salve** that you may see

Buy from Me

True riches

...the tested genuineness of your faith—
more precious than gold...

(1 Peter 1:7)

True righteousness

In Christ Jesus ... faith **working** through love.

(Galatians 5:6)

True vision

The anointing ... teaches you about everything,
and is true, and is no lie...

(1 John 2:27)

The way forward...

Those whom **I love**,
I rebuke and discipline,
so be zealous and repent.

(Revelation 3:19)

paideuō =
to train a child,
chasten, instruct

Change your
direction

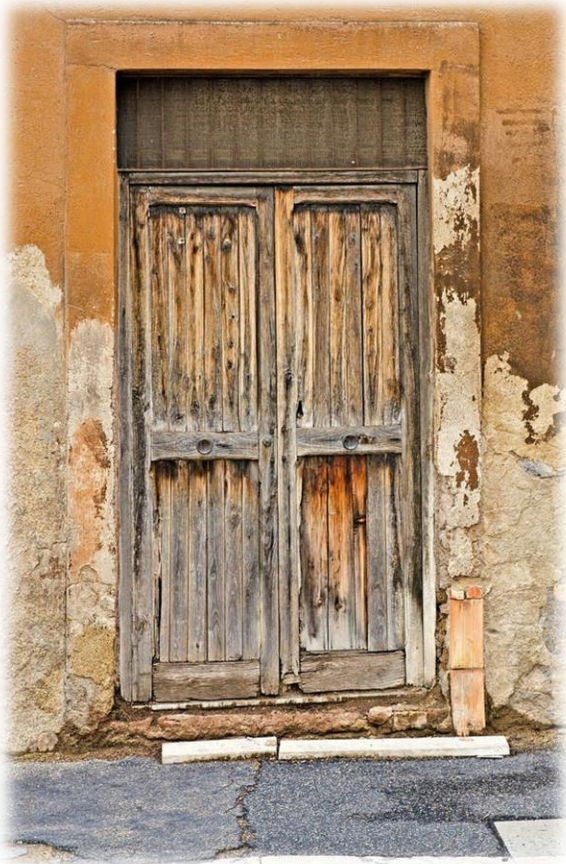
Not lukewarm...

The way forward...

I will never leave you
or forsake you...

Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

If anyone **hears My voice** and opens the door,
I will come in to him
and dine with him, and he with Me.
(Revelation 3:20)



The way forward...

- ✓ **Hear His voice**
- ✓ **Be zealous and repent**
- ✓ **Buy from Him**
 - Gold
 - White garments
 - Eye salve

The promise...

What must be overcome?

I am the Root and the Offspring of David...
(Revelation 22:16)

The faithful and true witness

To him who overcomes
I will grant to sit with Me on My throne,
as **I also overcame** and sat down
with My Father on His throne.

(Revelation 3:21)

If anyone hears My voice...

*Can you
hear?*

He who has an ear,
let him hear what **the Spirit**
says to **the churches**.

(Revelation 3:22)

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Revelation 3:14-22

What do we see in Laodicea?

- **Amazing love**
- **Serious intent**
- **Great encouragement**

The
Revelation
of **Jesus Christ**

He who has an ear, **let him hear**
what **the Spirit** says to ^{*all*} **the churches**.