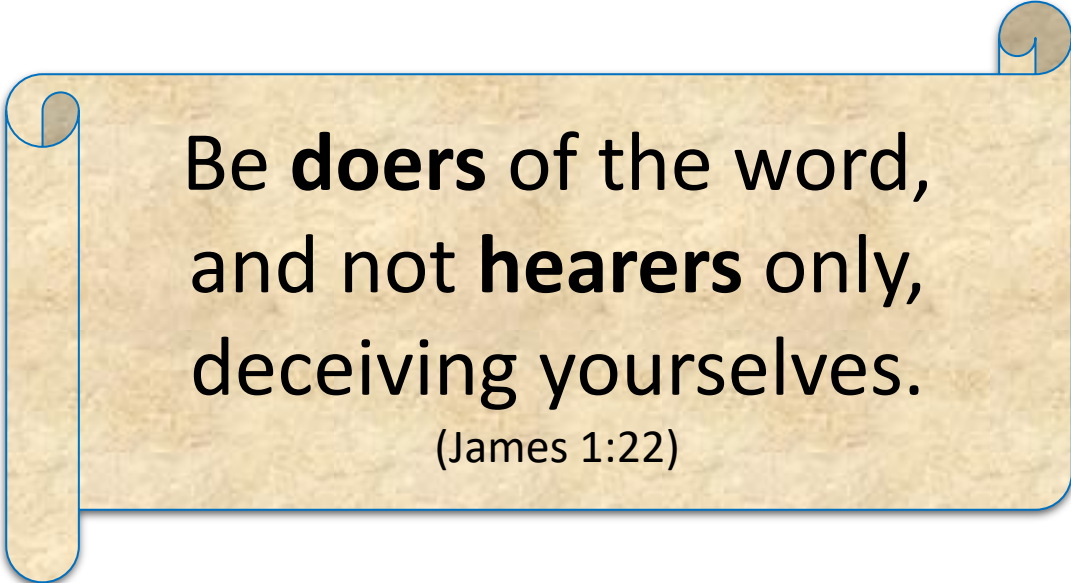




The
Revelation
of **Jesus Christ**

An overview

8. The Lord's message to Laodicea



Be **doers** of the word,
and not **hearers** only,
deceiving yourselves.

(James 1:22)

Overview of the first section

Chapter 1

- Introduction
- The first vision – Christ in the midst of the lampstands

Chapters 2 & 3

- **The Lord's messages to the seven churches**



Chapters 4 & 5

- All heaven worships God upon His throne
- The Lamb takes the sealed scroll and is worshipped

Chapters 6 & 7 and 8:1

- The scroll's seven seals are opened



The Lord's messages to the seven churches

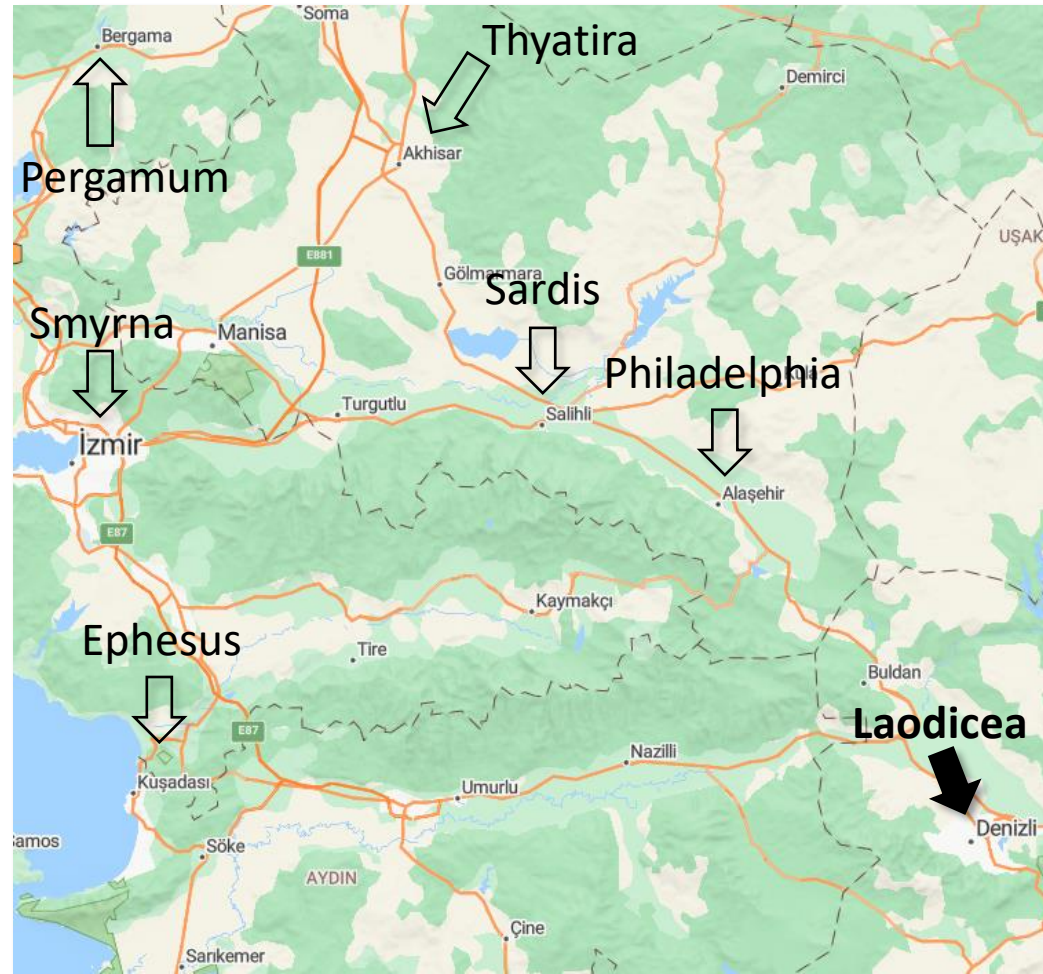
*"Write what you see in a book and
send it to the seven churches..."*

(Revelation 1:11)



“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write...”

Turkey today



Laodicea
(now Denizli)

-
160km east
of Ephesus

90km southeast
of Philadelphia

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

Ephesus

“You have left your **first love**.”

Smyrna

“**Be faithful until death**, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Pergamum

“You **hold fast** My name... [Antipas died] But I have a few things against you...”

Thyatira

“I am He who searches mind and heart... **Hold fast** what you have until I come.”

Sardis

“You have the reputation of being alive, but **you are dead**.”

Philadelphia

“I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it.”

Laodicea

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write...”

***“To the angel of the church
in Laodicea write...”***



Revelation 3:14-22

Laodicea in history

It was founded c. 255 BC by the Greek king Antiochus II, and 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

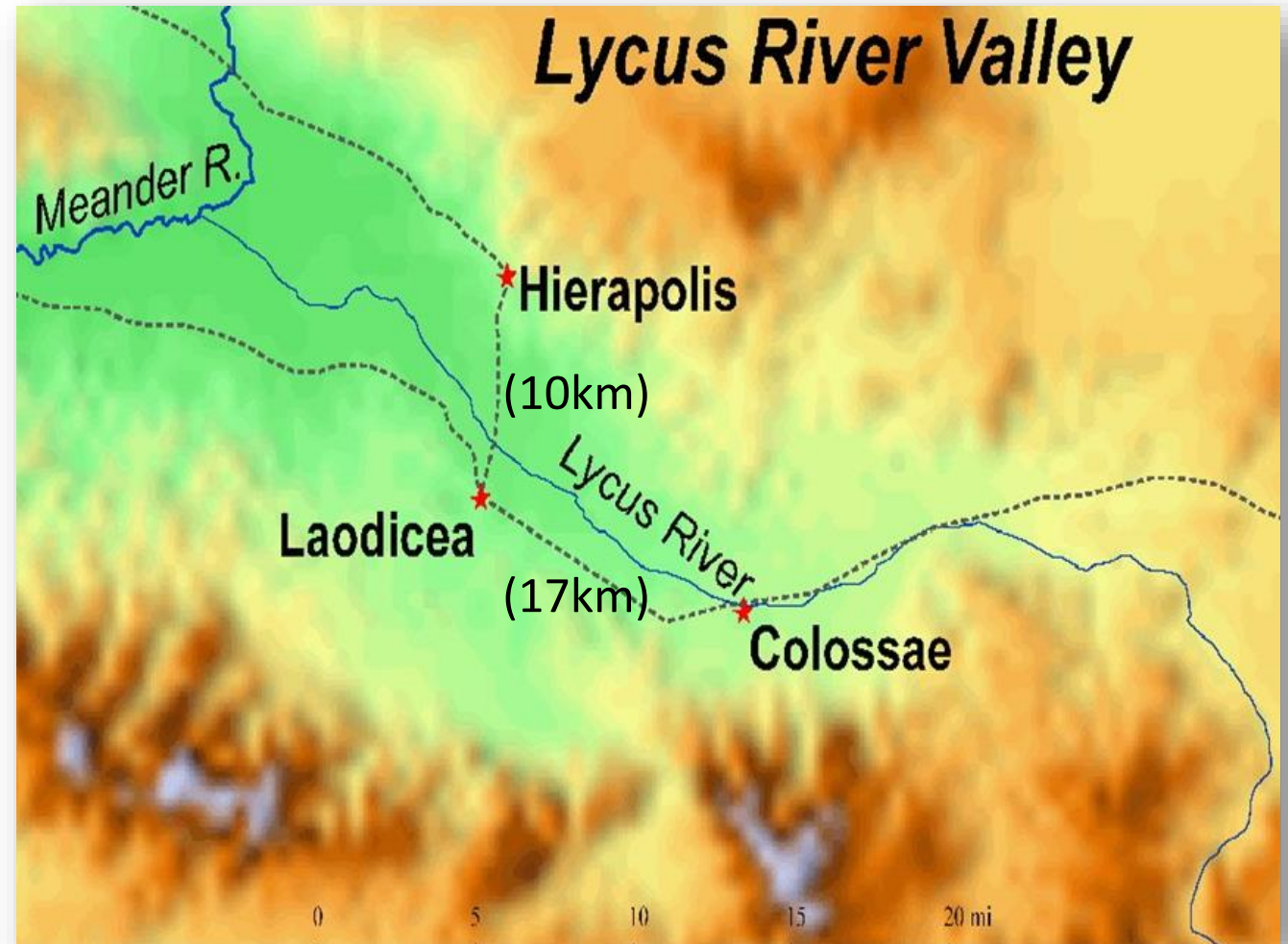
I want you to know
how great a struggle
I have for you and
for those at **Laodicea**...
(Colossians 2:1)

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

Give my greetings to 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 God’s creation...

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.
Would that you were cold or hot!

So, 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 I need nothing”—

not realizing that you are
**wretched, pitiable, poor,
blind, and naked...**

“By my own
efforts”



(Revelation 3:17)



The way forward...

Not command?

?

Wretched,
pitiable

Poor, blind,
and naked

I counsel you to buy from Me

- **gold** refined by fire, so that you may be rich
- **white garments**, so that you may clothe yourself,
and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen
- **eye salve** to anoint your eyes, so 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 reprove 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 eat 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)

The
Revelation
of **Jesus Christ**

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**.