

To the Church at Sardis

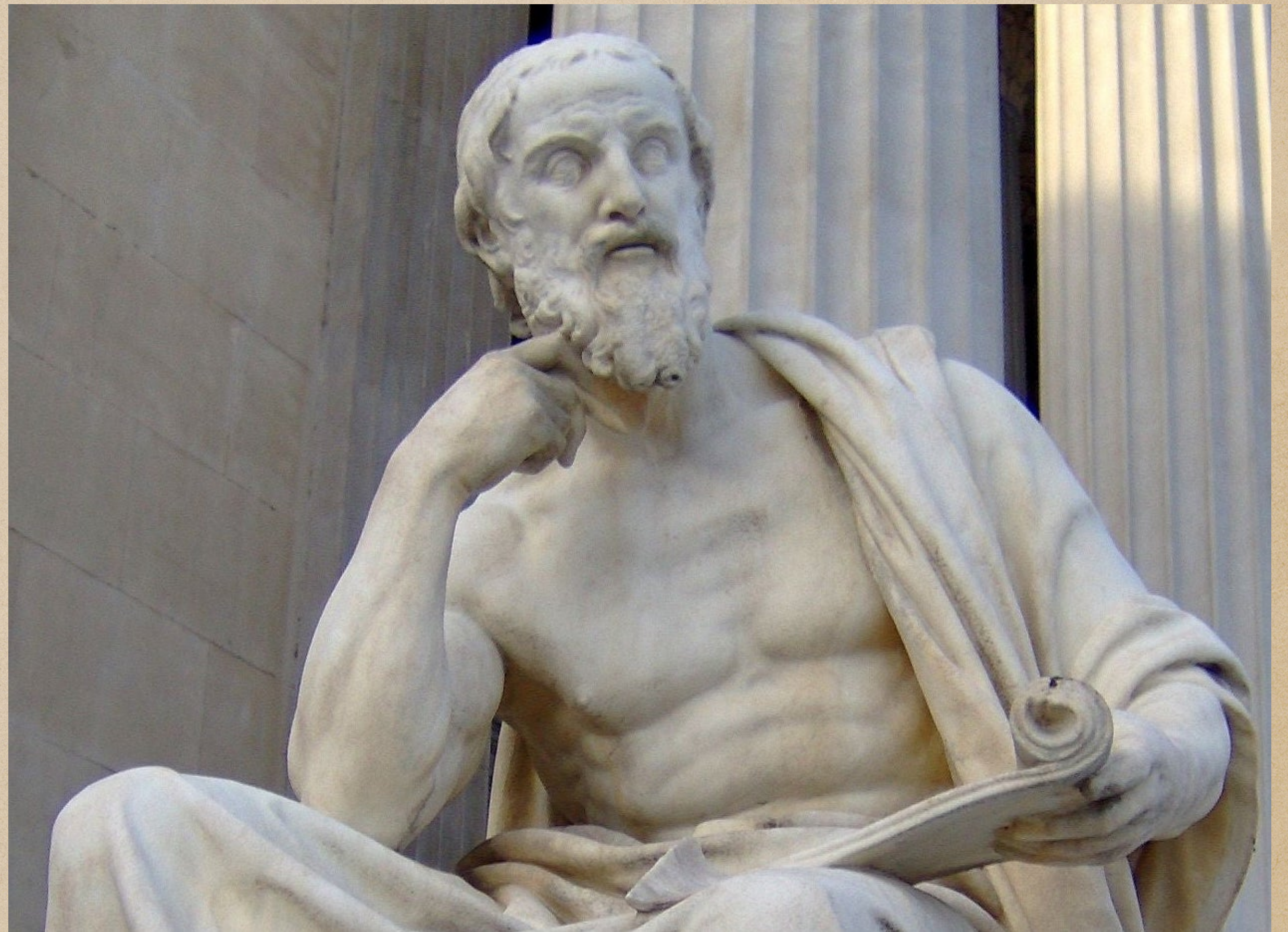
Revelation 3:1-6



Kingdom of Lydia under Croesus

Herodotus—
The Father of
History

Lived c. 484 – c. 425 BC
Wrote “The Histories”



“Rich as Croesus”

They [the Lydians] were the
first men whom we know who
coined and used gold and
silver currency
— Herodotus



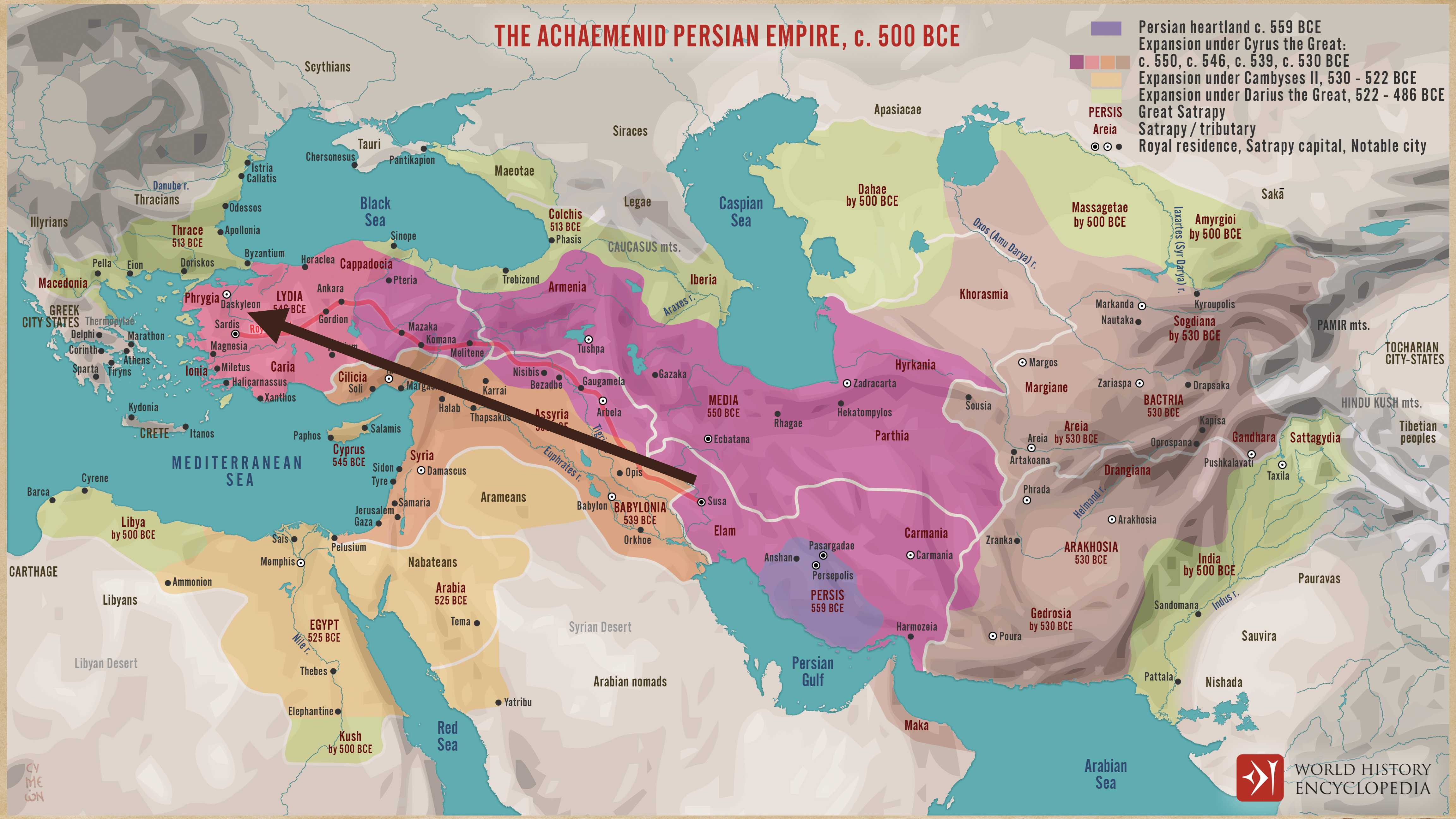
King Croesus
with
Solon the wise

Who is the happiest man alive?



THE ACHAEMENID PERSIAN EMPIRE, c. 500 BCE

Persian heartland c. 559 BCE
 Expansion under Cyrus the Great: c. 550, c. 546, c. 539, c. 530 BCE
 Expansion under Cambyses II, 530 - 522 BCE
 Expansion under Darius the Great, 522 - 486 BCE
 Great Satrapy
 Satrapy / tributary
 Royal residence, Satrapy capital, Notable city



Croesus
brought before
Cyrus the Great

The conquest of Lydia by
Cyrus was in 546 BC



And to the angel of the church in Sardis write:
'The words of him who has the seven spirits of
God and the seven stars. "I know your works.
You have the reputation of being alive, but you
are dead.' Revelation 3:1

7 Spirits of God?

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit
of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of
wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of
counsel and of might, the Spirit of the
knowledge and fear of the Lord— Isaiah 11:1-2

Spirit
of
Knowledge

Spirit
of
Counsel

Spirit
of
Wisdom

Spirit
of
Understanding

Spirit
of
Strength

Spirit
of
Fear of
YHVH

Spirit of Yahweh

Isa 11:1,2

7 Spirits of God

- ◆ I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it.
- ◆ These seven are the eyes of the Lord, which range through the whole earth.

Zechariah 4:2b, 10b

7 Spirits of God

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Revelation 5:6

Lord Jesus now has the 7 spirits

- ◆ From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning **seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God**, Rev. 4:5
- ◆ And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and **with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth**. Revelation 5:6

7 Spirits and the 7 Stars

- ◆ 7 Spirits: Lord Jesus is saying he sees everything that is going on.
- ◆ 7 Stars: The messengers (angels) are held in his hand. They are from him.

'Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of
this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear,
and who keep what is written in it, for the time is
near.'

Revelation 1:3

And to the angel of the church in Sardis write:
'The words of him who has the seven spirits of
God and the seven stars. "I know your works.
You have the reputation of being alive, but you
are dead.'" Revelation 3:1

'Be constantly alert, 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.'

Revelation 3:2 NASB

“You” is singular, not plural

- ◆ The singular “you” would be the messenger or leader or reader— not y’all the congregation
- ◆ You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.
- ◆ You wake up... you strengthen...
- ◆ Your works not complete
- ◆ We should still examine ourselves against these admonitions

'And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.'

Matthew 24:10-13

'For by grace you have been saved through faith.

And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in

Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in

them.' Ephesians 2:8-10

'Remember, then, what you received and heard.
Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will
come like a thief, and you will not know at what
hour I will come against you.'

Revelation 3:3

Like a Thief

'Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.'

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2

Be awake not asleep!

For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8

Coming unexpected like a thief

Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night **the thief** was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 24:42-44

'Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.'

Revelation 3:4

For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. Hebrews 6:4-6 (ESV)

'The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.'

Revelation 3:5

Blot out of Book of Life?

31 So Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. 32 But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written." 33 But the Lord said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book. Exodus 32:31-33 [after golden calf incident]

The 2nd Resurrection not the 1st

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, **which is the book of life**. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. Revelation 20:12

'The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.'

Revelation 3:5

Confess him and he will confess us

- ◆ 'So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven
- ◆ "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.
- ◆ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:32-34,37-39

How to understand “blotting out”

- He says he will never do that with overcomers. Exodus had said that him who sins, I will blot out of my book.
- This can be viewed as a promise of mercy to those who repent. We have all soiled our garments to some extent.
- Ps 69. About people hating God's king without a cause. It applies to David and to Messiah. Those who oppose God's anointed king will be blotted out, 69:5, 7, 9 (quoted of Jesus), 27-29. Messiah Jesus has authority over who will be in his kingdom and their future rank.

How to understand “blotting out”

- Rev 20:12 is talking about the 2nd resurrection after the 1,000 years. Those in Christ have been raised long before this.
- Jesus explicitly says overcomers will not be blotted out. He does not say exactly what will happen to those who soiled their garments and do not repent. Were they even really born again?
- Not conclusive. Are we really looking for assurance that we could lose our faith and soil our garments and still not be blotted out?

' "I am the true vine, and my Father is the
vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not
bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that
does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more
fruit... If anyone does not abide in me he is
thrown away like a branch and withers; and the
branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and
burned. ' John 15:1-2,6

For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though **he himself will be saved**, but only as through fire. 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

'It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife... When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, **so that his spirit may be saved** in the day of the Lord.'

1 Corinthians 5:1,4-5

'even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.** God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.'

1 Corinthians 1:6-9

'He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ' 2 Corinthians 5:5,9-11

'The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.'

Revelation 3:5

'But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, Neither have entered into the heart of man, The things which God hath prepared for them that love him.'

1 Corinthians 2:9