

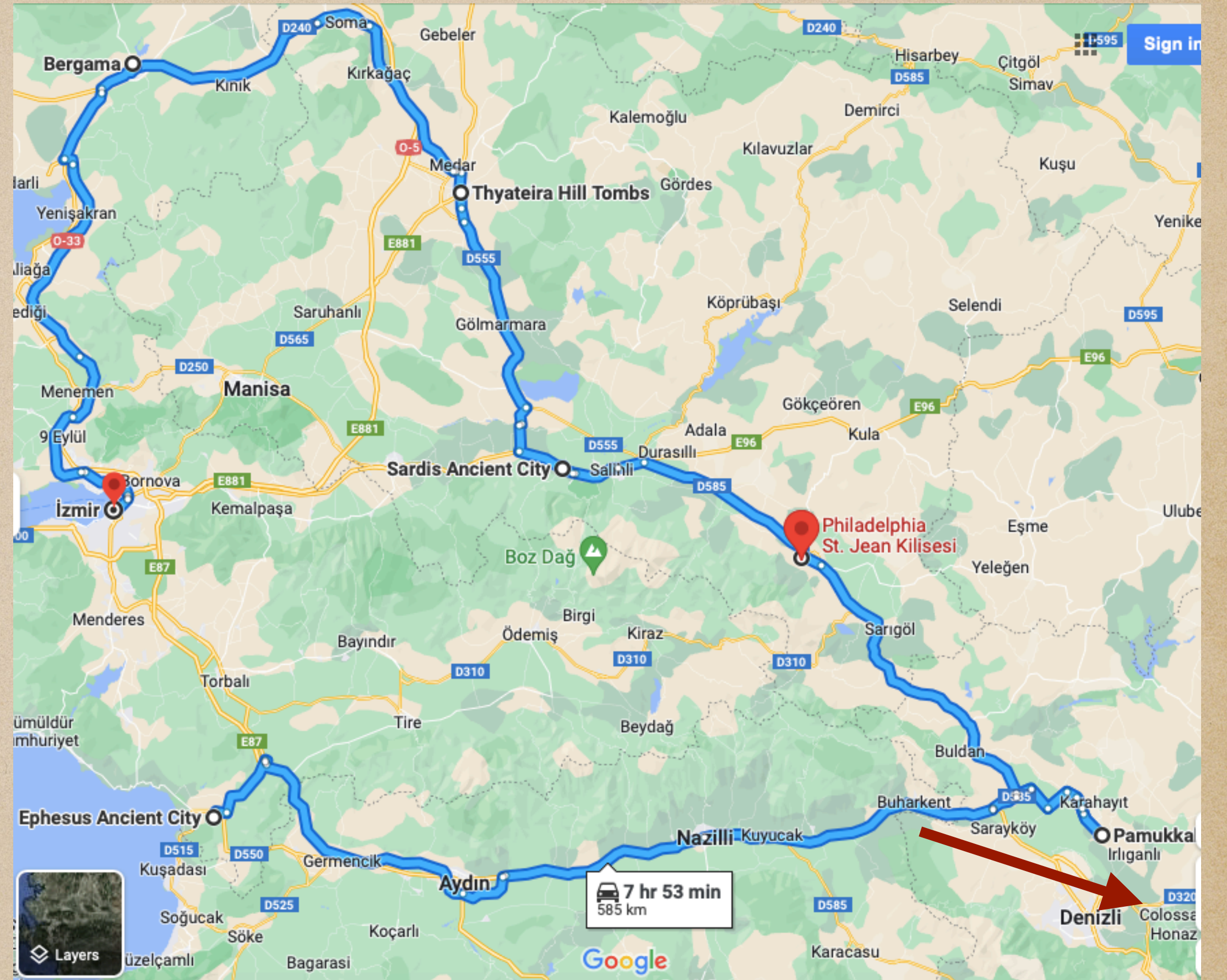
# To the Church at Laodicea

Luke warm yet still beloved

Revelation 3:14-22

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

Revelation 1:10,11



You are aware that all who  
are in Asia turned away  
from me, among whom are  
Phygelus and Hermogenes.

- 2 Timothy 1:15 ESV



And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning [archē] of God's creation.'

—Revelation 3:14



# The Amen

"Amen" means the acknowledgment of what is valid and binding in the OT and Judaism

"Amen" is a word for the human response to the divine action.

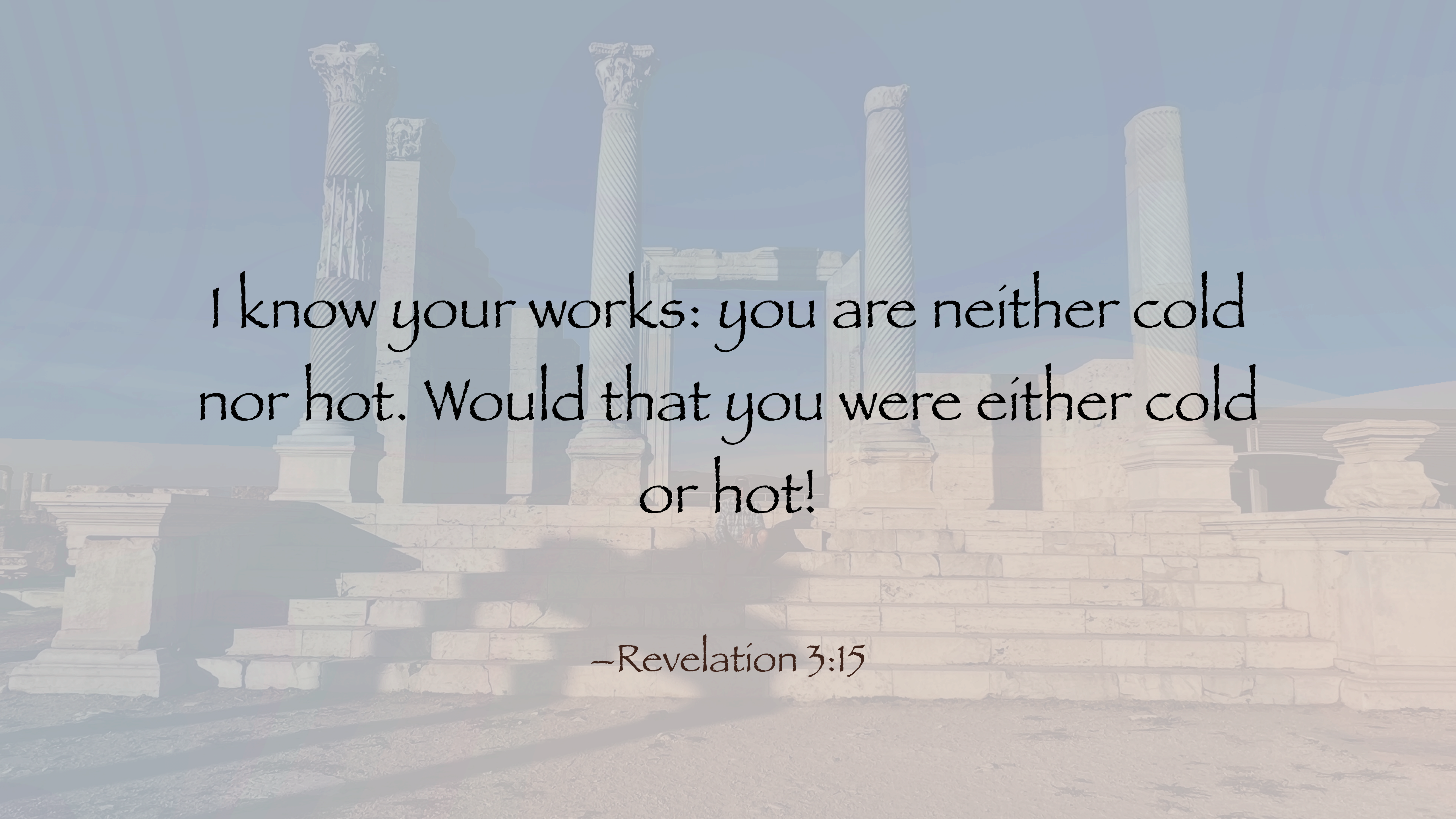
"Amen" is the perfect human response to God's truth and reality.

# The Archē

- ◆ beginning; of time, the commencement; of dignity, the first place; government, the highest dignitaries of the State; archē 746 relates to the dignity of the position...

Bullinger Lexicon

- ◆ “There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler [archē] of the Jews” - John 3:1



I know *your* works: you are neither cold  
nor hot. Would that you were either cold  
or hot!

—Revelation 3:15

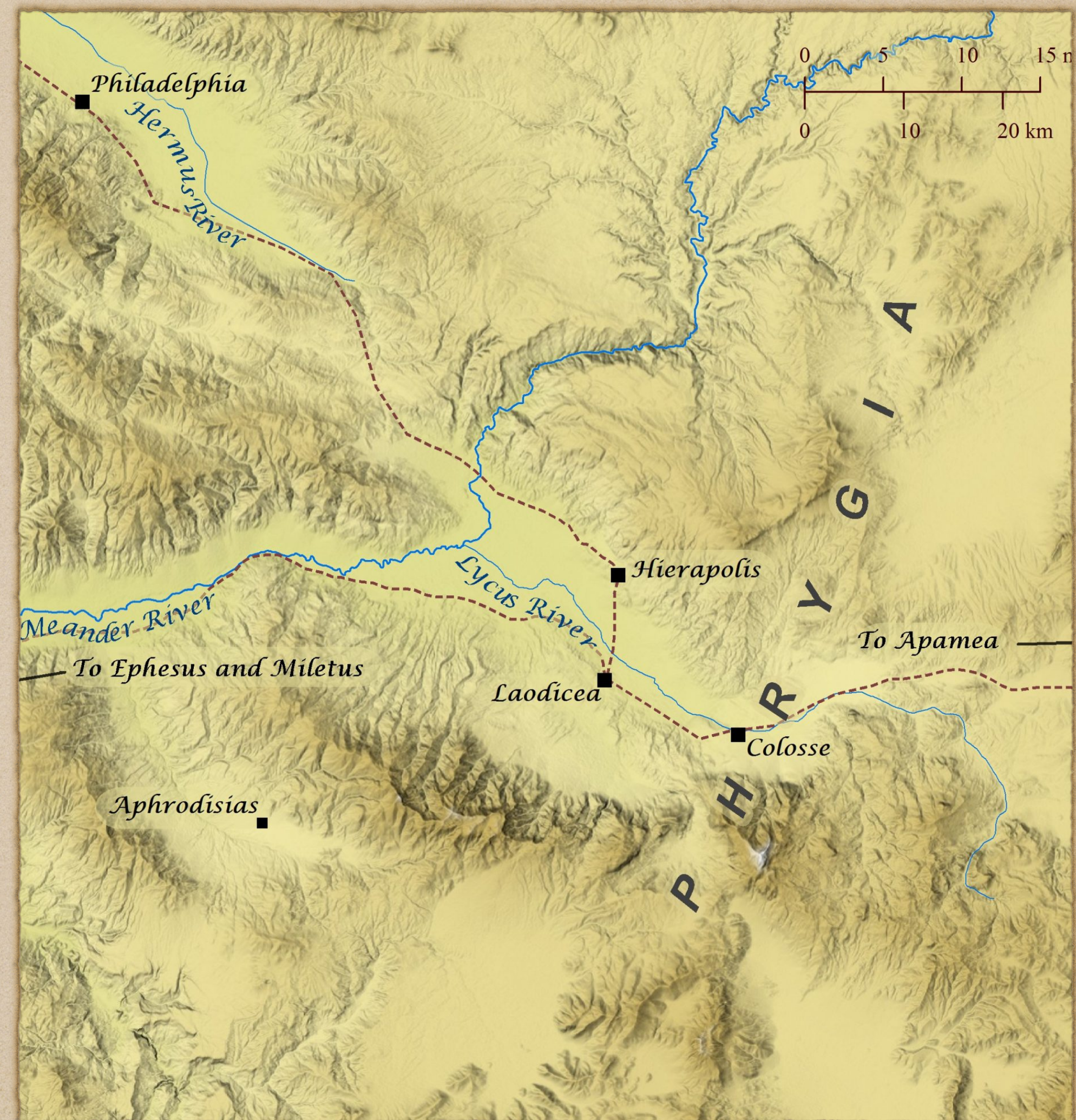
So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

—Revelation 3:16



And when this letter has  
been read among you,  
have it also read in the  
church of the Laodiceans;  
and see that you also read  
the letter from Laodicea.

- Colossians 4:16



- ◆ Colosse had cool mountain water
- ◆ Hierapolis had hot springs
- ◆ Laodicea had bad water piped in



For you say, "I am rich,  
I have prospered, and  
I need nothing,"

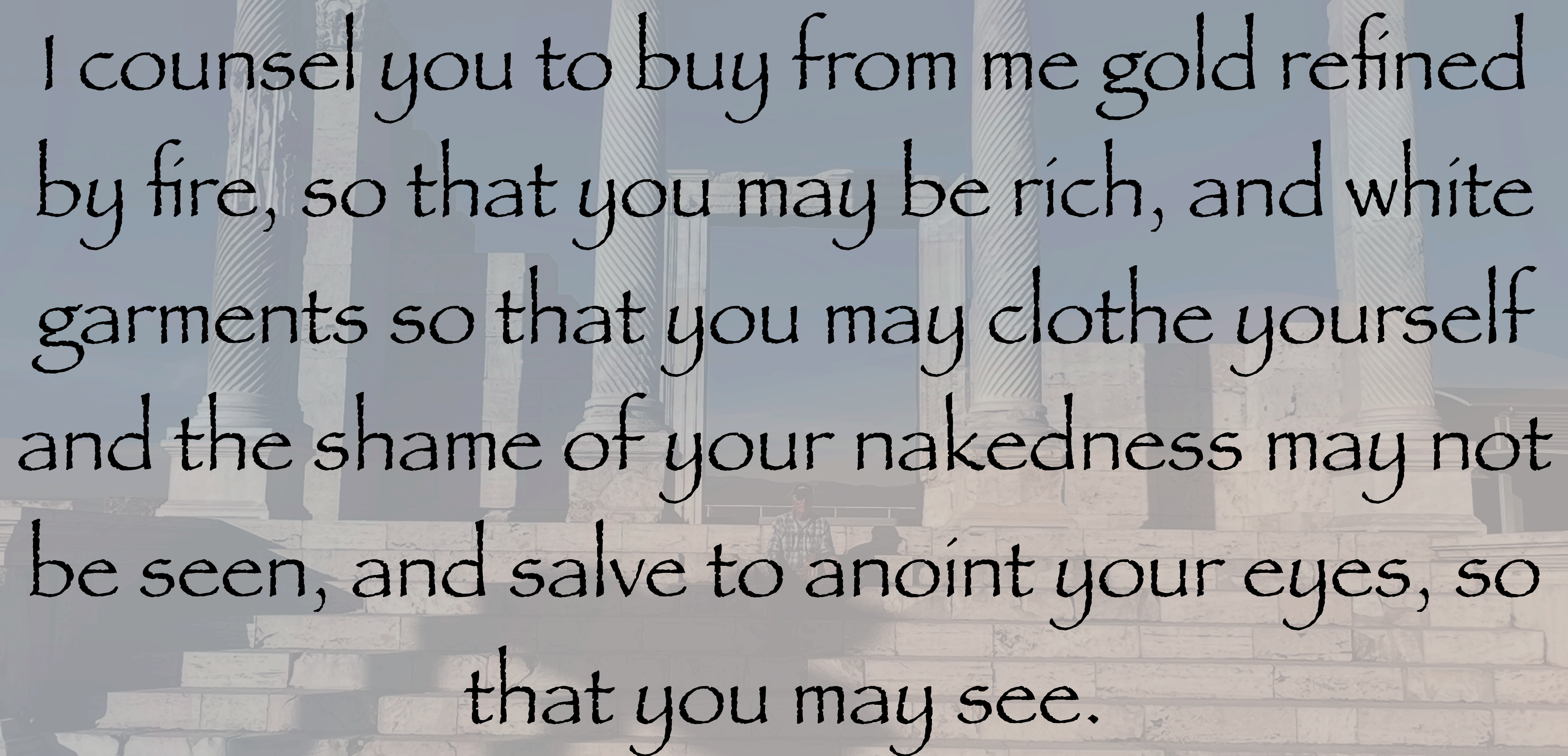
-Revelation 3:17a



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

-Revelation 3:17b





I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

—Revelation 3:18

# Gold refined with fire

'that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: '

- 1 Peter 1:7 KJV

# White Garments

'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. The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments...'

- Revelation 3:4-5a

# White Garments



# White Garments

'Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure" — for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.'

- Revelation 19:7-8

# Salve to anoint *your eyes*

The famous salve from Laodicea, referred to in Revelation 3:18, was known as "Phrygian powder" or kollyrion, a renowned eye ointment produced by the city's medical school. It was made from local minerals, specifically "Phrygian stone," mixed with oil to treat eye diseases. This product was a major source of wealth and reputation for the city.

# Ethelbert William Bullinger

(15 December 1837 – 6 June 1913) was  
an Anglican clergyman, biblical  
scholar, and ultradispensationalist  
theologian. — Wikipedia



# Bullinger's Theory on Revelation

“Our great fundamental proposition— which we may  
as well state at once— is, that  
The Church is not the subject of the Apocalypse”

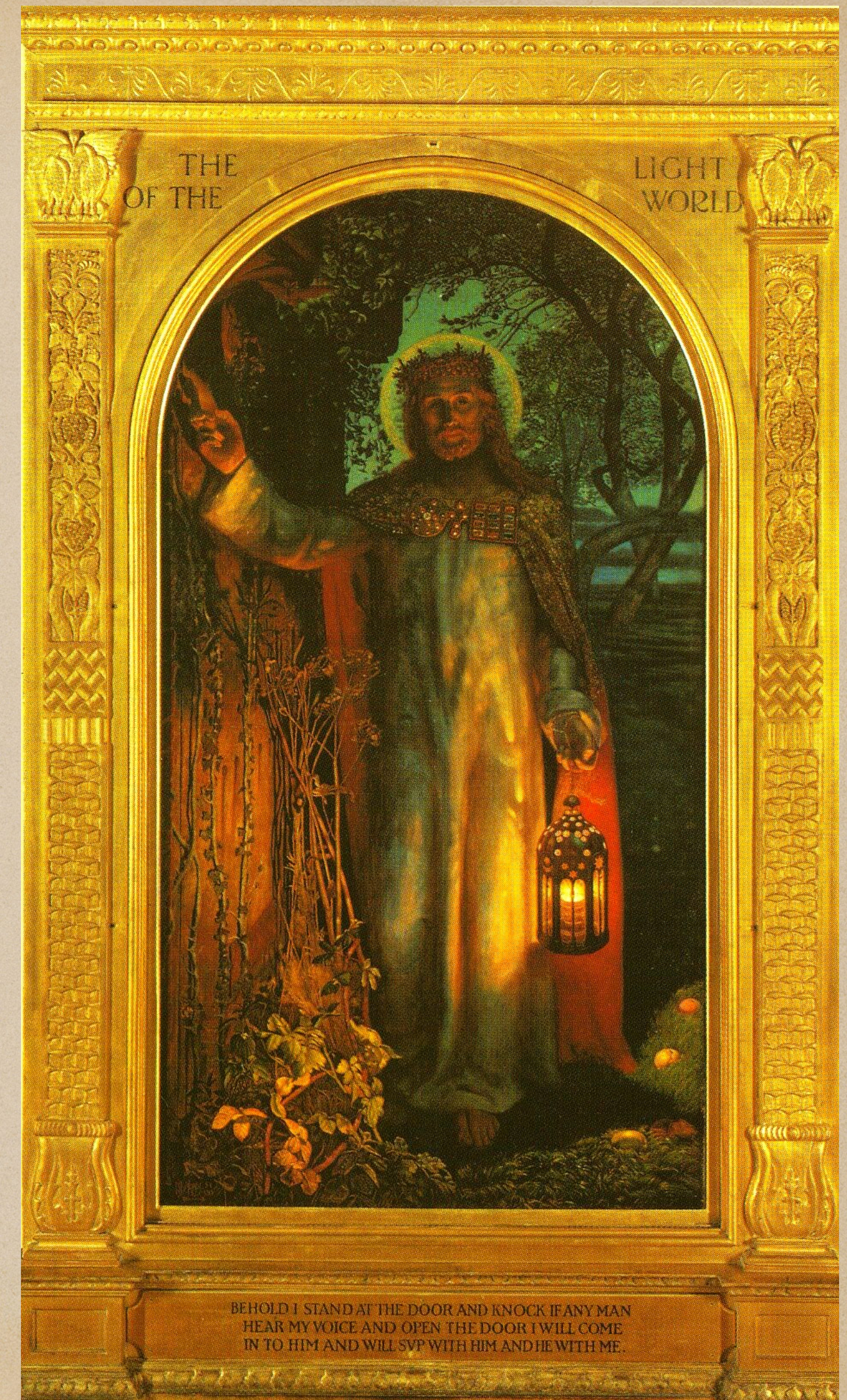
Bullinger, E.W., Commentary on Revelation, p.3

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

-Revelation 3:19

'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 one who conquers, I  
will grant him to sit with  
me on my throne, as I also  
conquered and sat down  
with my Father on his  
throne.

-Revelation 3:21





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

-Revelation 3:22

# Conclusion

- ◆ You think *you* are doing great
- ◆ You are doing horrible—the worst of any of the churches
- ◆ I reprove those I love and I am reproving *you*
- ◆ Repent and be zealous
- ◆ Ask me into *your* heart for an intimate relationship
- ◆ I can give *you* the highest of honors—to sit on my throne