

THE BOOK OF REVELATION
LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES
RSC SERMON SERIES






*To the Church
in Philadelphia...*



*To the Church
in Laodicea...*



A desert landscape at sunset. A large rock formation in the foreground has a natural archway through which the sun is shining, creating a bright glow. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of pink, purple, and blue. The ground is dark and silty, with rolling hills in the background.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega,"
says the Lord God, "who is, and who was,
and who is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 1:8

DailyVerses.net



Write, therefore, what you have seen (his personal experiences chp 1) **what is now** (present message of Christ to the 7 churches chp 2&3) **and what will take place later** (future chp 4 onwards)



modern day
TURKEY

Pergamos

Smyrna

Ephesus

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea



There are some remarkable similarities in comparing these letters to the seven churches to the movement of church history since the beginning of the apostolic church. For instance, Ephesus seems to characterise the apostolic church as a whole and Smyrna seems to depict the church in its early persecutions. However, the scriptures do not expressly authorise this interpretation, and it should be applied only where it fits naturally. After all, these churches all existed simultaneously in the first century.

In general these letters to the seven churches address problems inherent in churches throughout church history and are an incisive and comprehensive revelation of how Christ evaluates local churches.

John F Walvoord.



Common pattern....

- A statement about Christ – credentials
- Commendation – a compliment
- Rebuke – a criticism
- Exhortation – a command
- Promise – encouragement or invitation



Philadelphia.....



Laodicea...



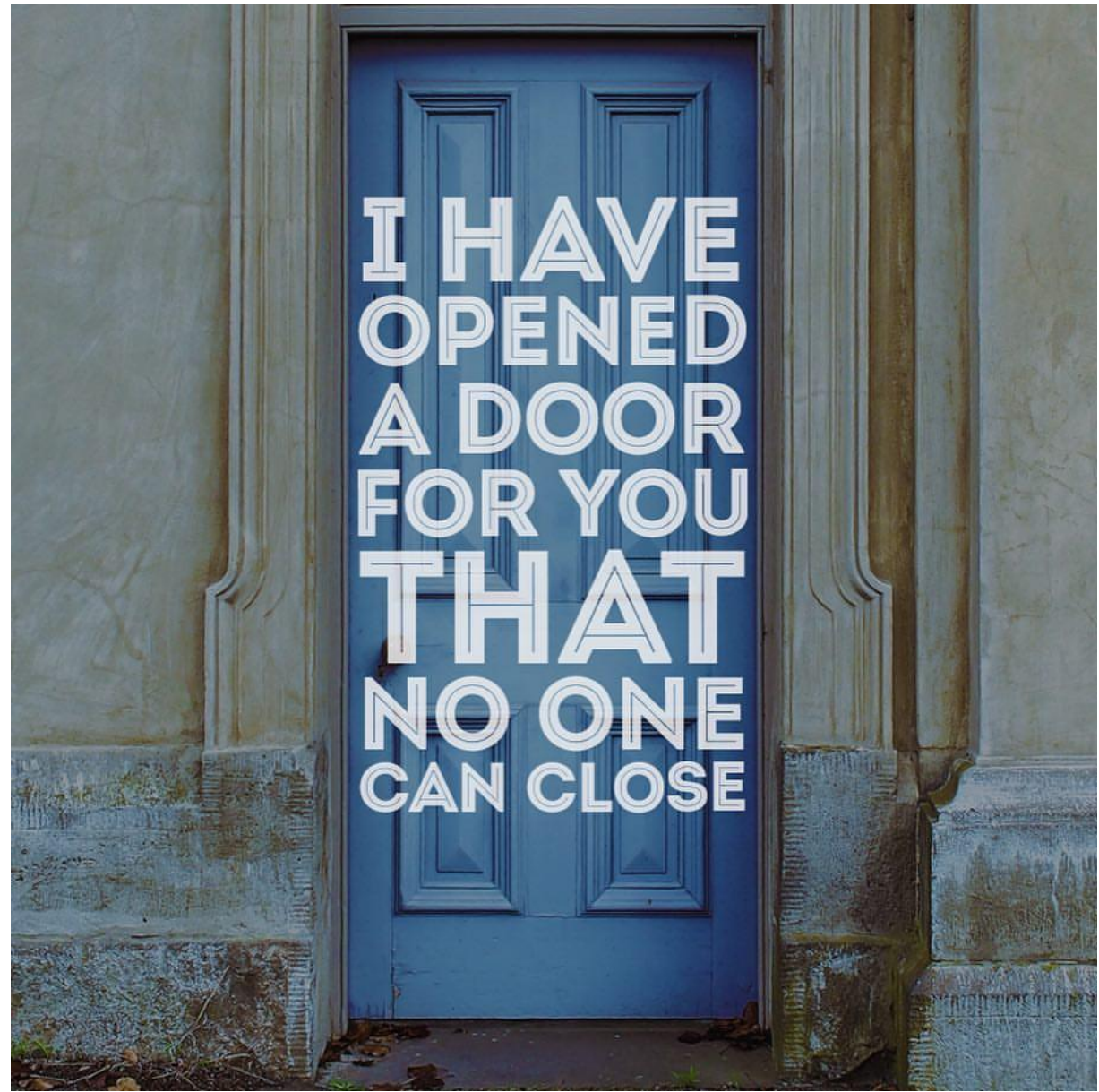
© Tom Brosnahan

Jesus Christ.....

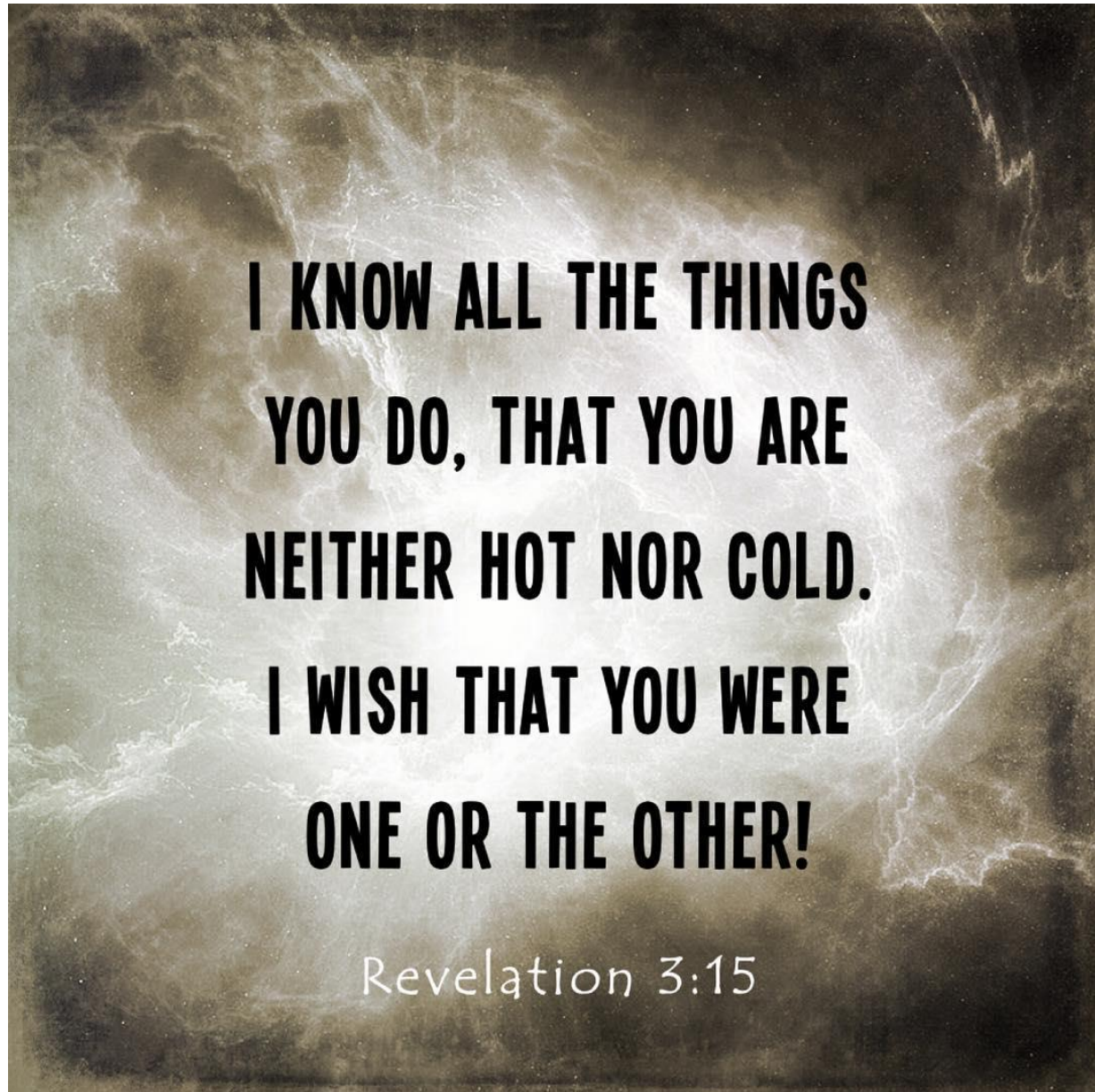
- the one who is holy - *“A true love of God must begin with a delight in his holiness, and not with a delight in any other attribute; for no other attribute is truly lovely without this.”*
- the one who is... true - *This Jesus Christ is the real God and eternal life” (1 John 5:20 GWT)*
- the one who has the key of David - *Jesus is indicating that he is truly the highest authority*
- the Amen - *he’s saying that he is the one who sees things through, who is true, certain, firm and unchanging*
- the faithful and true witness - *Jesus Christ is “the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).*



Compliment...



Criticism...



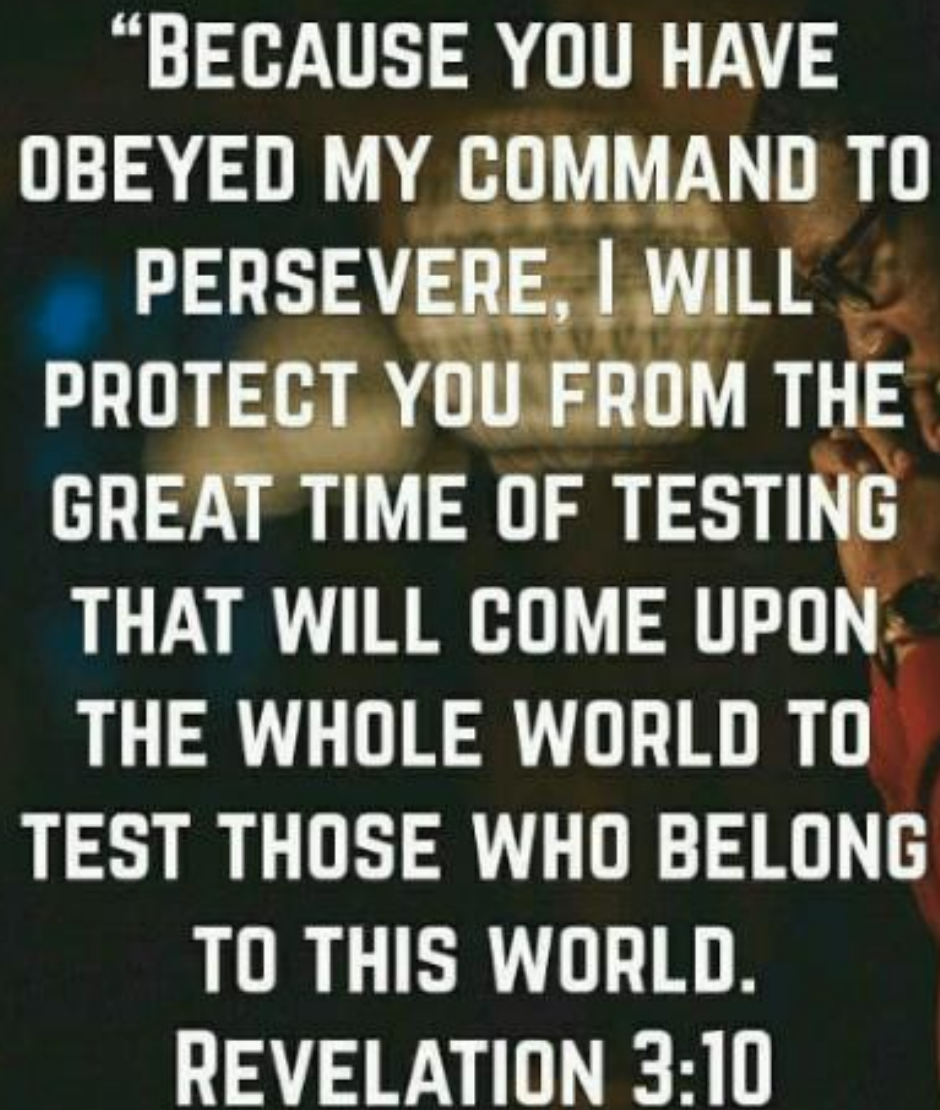
Jesus makes three
commitments or promises to
this congregation



**Your love for one another
will prove to the world
that you are my disciples.**

John 13:35 (New Living Translation)



A person wearing a red shirt and glasses is looking intently at a glowing, golden orb. The background is dark, and the orb has a textured, crystalline appearance. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**“BECAUSE YOU HAVE
OBEYED MY COMMAND TO
PERSEVERE, I WILL
PROTECT YOU FROM THE
GREAT TIME OF TESTING
THAT WILL COME UPON
THE WHOLE WORLD TO
TEST THOSE WHO BELONG
TO THIS WORLD.
REVELATION 3:10**





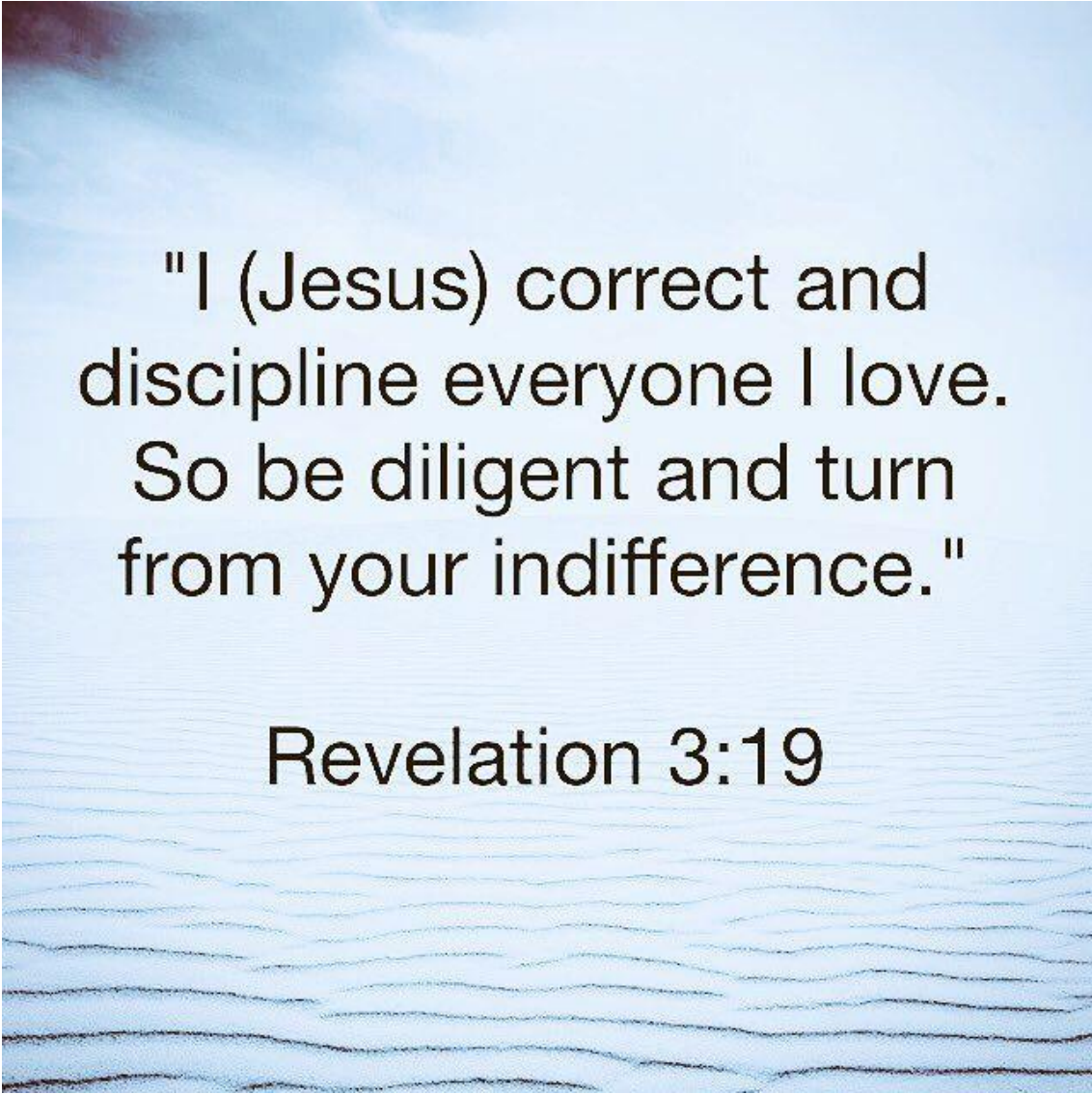
www.HolyLandPhotos.org



The City of Laodicea

- Very wealthy city
- Located on trade route from Ephesus to the east
- Three major businesses:
 - banking
 - black wool
 - eye salve





"I (Jesus) correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference."

Revelation 3:19





Look! I stand at the door and knock.

*If you hear my
voice and open
the door, I will
come in, and
we will share a
meal together
as friends.*

Revelation 3:20 