

<sup>3</sup> 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 (NKJV)



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)

<sup>11</sup> saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."  
(Revelation 1:11)

**PERGAMOS**

**THYATIRA**

**SARDIS**

**PHILADELPHIA**

**LAODECIA**

**EPHESUS**

**PATMOS**

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Image Landsat / Copernicus

Google Earth

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## TO THE 7 CHURCHES WHICH ARE IN ASIA (CHAPTERS 2 & 3)



- **Ephesus** - Left Their First Love
- **Smyrna** - Poor-Rich Church
- **Pergamos** - Where Satan Dwells
- **Thyatira** - Compromising Church
- **Sardis** - Dead Church
- **Philadelphia** - An Open Door
- **Laodicea** - Lukewarm / Self-Sufficient Church

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## TO THE 7 CHURCHES WHICH ARE IN ASIA (CHAPTERS 2 & 3)



### ■ Systematic Pattern:

- ◆ 1) Salutation
- ◆ 2) Christ's Self Designation
- ◆ 3) Commendation
- ◆ 4) Complaint
- ◆ 5) Council; Warning & Exhortation
- ◆ 6) Promise of Reward For Overcomer's
- ◆ 7) Closing Invitation To Hear

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

SALUTATION: UNTO THE ANGEL OF THE CHURCH - (2:1,8,12,18; 3:1,7,14)



■ The word *angel* *angelos*  
(ἄγγελος, 32), **Lit. messenger**

❖ Matthew 11:10 (NKJV) . . .  
'Behold, I send My messenger  
before Your face,

❖ Luke 7:24 (NKJV) When the  
messengers of John had  
departed,

❖ Luke 9:52 (NKJV) and sent  
messengers before His  
face. . . . they entered a village  
of the Samaritans, to prepare  
for Him.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

SALUTATION: UNTO THE ANGEL OF THE CHURCH - (2:1,8,12,18; 3:1,7,14)



## Various interpretations given

- An angel, an actual heavenly being given charge of the church . . .
- Presiding bishop of the churches . . .
- The prevailing spirit of the churches . . .
- The evangelist of each church . . .

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## THE ONE SPEAKING TO THE CHURCHES

- 2:1 - He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands
- 2:8 - the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life
- 2:12 - He who has the sharp two-edged sword
- 2:18 - the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass
- 3:1 - He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars
- 3:7 - He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens"
- 3:14 - the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## COMMON STATEMENTS MADE



- **I know Your works - (2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15)**
- The Lord Jesus Christ is omniscient (Heb 4:13)
- We may deceive men, but we can't deceive the Lord (Ps 139:7-12)
- We shall be judged according to our works and their will be no cover ups (2 Cor. 5:10; Rev 14:13)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## COMMON STATEMENTS MADE



■ **To Him that overcomes - 2:7, 10,11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21**

◆ “Overcometh” – to conquer - hold fast their faith even unto death against the power of their foes, and temptations and persecutions (Thayer)

◆ The one that remains faithful to Christ to the very end thus gaining the victory, i.e. the rewards listed – eternal life! (2:10; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; 15:58; Rom 8:35-39; Col. 1:23)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## COMMON STATEMENTS MADE



■ **He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says - (2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22)**

■ The Lord does not force His will upon men - Matthew 11:15

■ The Lord will judge us individually (Rom 14:12; Matt 25:31-46)

■ We choose whether to HEAR and OBEY or disbelieve and reject the teachings of Christ (Matt. 7:24-27; John 7:17)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)

<sup>1</sup> “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: <sup>2</sup> ‘I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; <sup>3</sup> and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)

<sup>4</sup> Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. <sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. <sup>6</sup> But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. <sup>7</sup> “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)



## ■ Background Information of Ephesus

- ◆ Ephesus was an illustrious city in its day, capital of the Roman province of Asia with a population of about 250,000. An important commercial city.
- ◆ Magical arts were prevalent in Ephesus as evidenced by the number and value of books burned – (19:19)
- ◆ The temple erected to the goddess Diana {Artemis} - an entire industry had grown up around it, making and selling idols & “portable shrines.” – (19:23-41)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)

## ■ Background Information of Ephesus



*Temple of Diana (Artemis)*

- ◆ Made of marble
- ◆ 390 feet x 180 feet
- ◆ 127 massive ionic columns 60 feet tall.
- ◆ 4 times larger than the Parthenon in Athens
- ◆ Under construction in 333 BC when Alexander the Great arrived.
- ◆ One of the seven Wonders of the Ancient World,

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)

## ■ Background Information of Ephesus



- ✦ Paul's first visit – Acts 18:19
- ✦ Aquila & Priscilla corrects Apollos in Ephesus – Act 18:24-28
- ✦ Paul returns to Ephesus: baptizes 12, teaches for 2 years in the school of Tyrannus; Riot / Many burned their books - Acts 19
- ✦ Paul returns staying 3 years – Acts 20:31

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)

## ■ Background Information of Ephesus



- ❖ Timothy in Ephesus - 1 Tim. 1:3, 20; 2 Tim. 1:15-18; 4:12, 14 19;
- ❖ Book of Ephesians written by Paul from prison in about 61 or 62 AD
- ❖ The Lord addresses the church - Revelation 2:1-7

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)



**Revelation 2:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

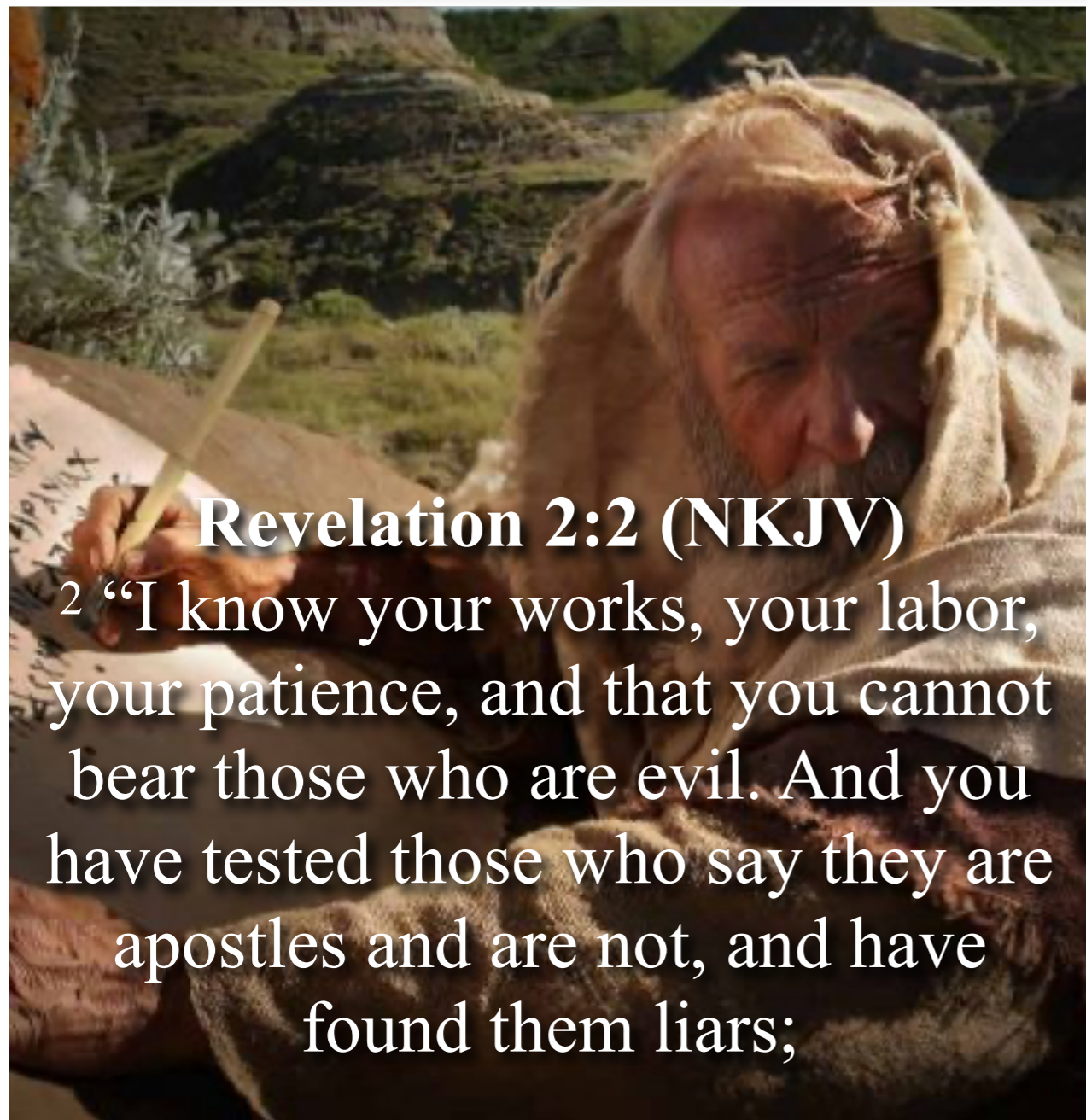


## SALUTATION

- ◆ Address to the messenger of the church of Ephesus in writing.
- ◆ Jesus holds the destiny of the church in His hands.
- ◆ Jesus walks in their midst, i.e., He is fully aware of what they are doing.
- ◆ Jesus is concerned about their spiritual welfare.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)



**Revelation 2:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;



## COMMENDATION



**Labor** – Toiled & sacrificed to carry out the work of God



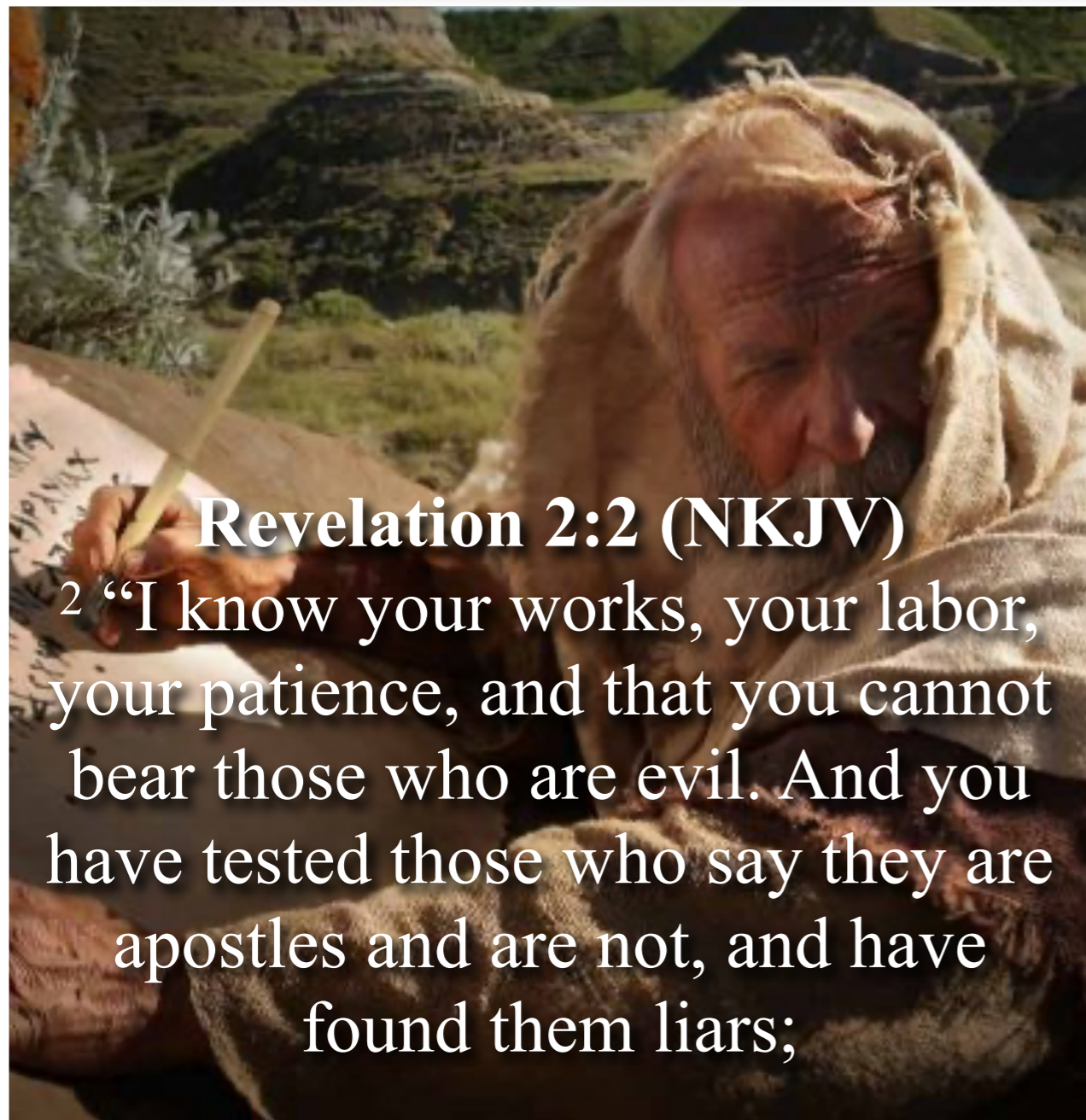
**Patience** – not giving up when things got tough -



**Intolerant** – of those who would not conform to the teachings of Jesus Christ. (2 John 1:10-11)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)



**Revelation 2:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;



## COMMENDATION



**Examined to prove** – those claiming to be apostles (Acts 17:11,12; 1 John 4:1; 2 Cor. 12:12)



**Exposed** – them for who and what they really were (2 Cor. 11:13)



**Identified error** — not contrary to love (2 Jn 6-11)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)



**Revelation 2:3 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.



## COMMENDATION



**Endurance** – through trials & persecutions (James 1:2-4)



**Toiled** – in magnifying the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, i.e., Holding Him up as LORD (Col. 3:17)



**Relentless** – they labored, without tiring from serving the Lord. (Gal 6:9; Heb 12:3)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)



**Revelation 2:6 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.



## COMMENDATION



**Hate?** – The Lord hates false doctrine and deeds that spring forth from false doctrine



**Hate?** – We should hate the same things the Lord hates. (Ps. 26:5; 101:3; 139:21,22)



**The Nicolaitans** – “A strong argument has been made for Gnosticism.”

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)



**Revelation 2:4 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.

## ■ COMPLAINT / REBUKE

- Seven glowing commendations, BUT, just one complaint is one too many! (James 2:10)
- They had “left their first love” — Something they previously had (Acts 19:19,20; 20:36-38; Ep 1:15)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)



**Revelation 2:4 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.



## COMPLAINT / REBUKE



They had had a change in their values, priorities, and motives – The Lord demands service & obedience from a pure and wholly devoted heart. (Mark 12:29-31; Ro 6:17,18; 1 Jn 5:3)



Mechanical routine, even if proper in its outward form, will not please God! (Mat 23:23; 1 Cor 13:13)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)



**Revelation 2:4 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.

## ■ COMPLAINT / REBUKE

- ❖ Correct actions are worthless if our motives are not genuine & pure (Ps 51:16,17; Isa. 1:11-17; Micah 6:6-8; 1 Cor. 13:1-3)
- ❖ The Lord does not only look at what we do but also takes note of our intent & motives (1 Sam 16:7)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)



**Revelation 2:5 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.



## WARNING & EXHORTATION



**Remember** - Virtue of Recall  
– Luke 15:17-21; Eph 1:3-14



**Honesty** - self investigation –  
2 Cor. 13:5



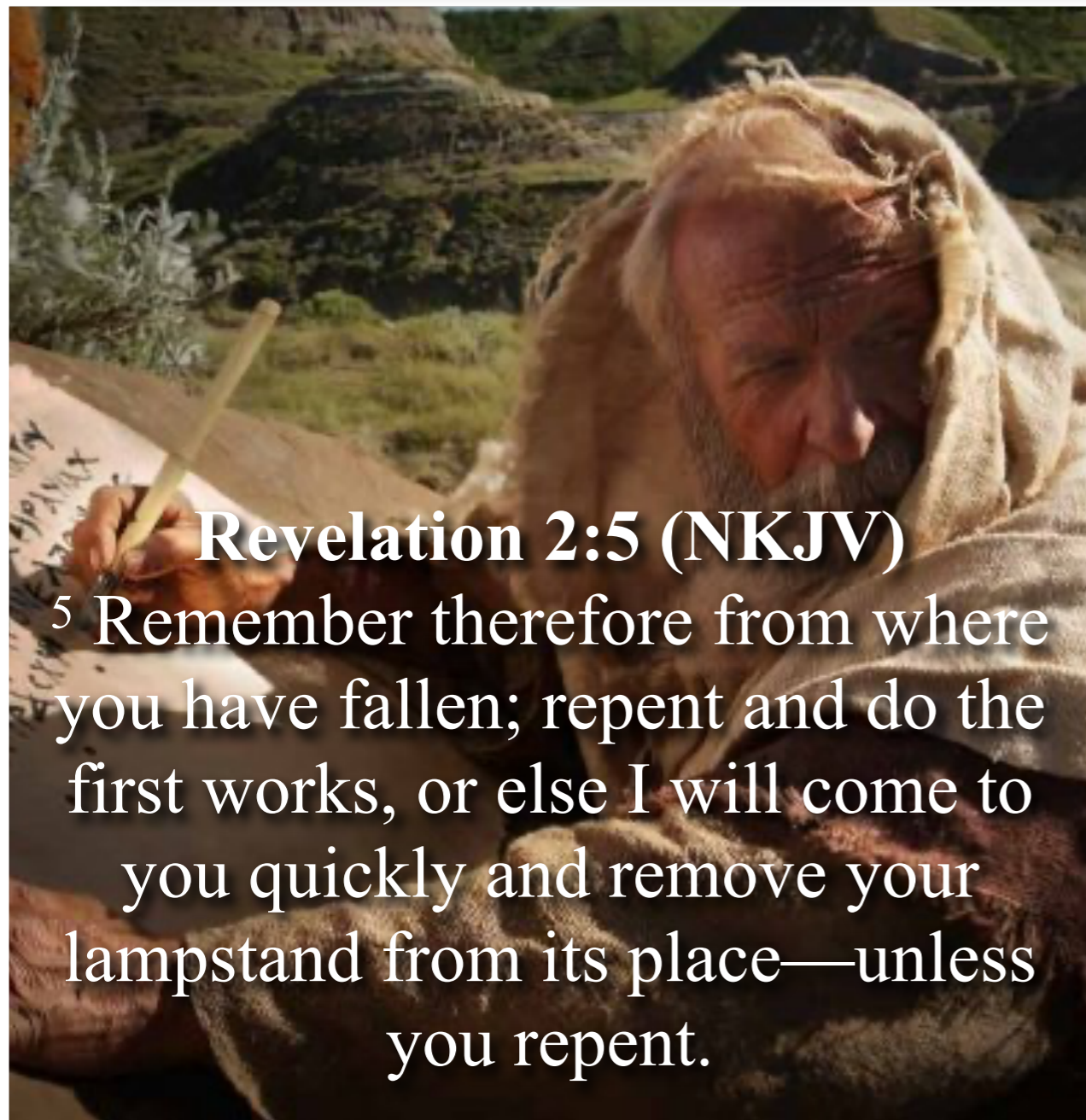
**Repent** - Change of mind /  
heart (Acts 17:30)



**Return** - put the Lord first /  
His will / His work / His  
purposes (Mark 12:29-31)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)



**Revelation 2:5 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.



## WARNING & EXHORTATION



Repent or be removed -  
Indicates Christ rejection -



Loss of fellowship – no  
longer “of the Lord!”



Only ONE thing put them  
in danger and only one  
thing could restore them to  
their previous state –

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)



**Revelation 2:7 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” ’

## ■ INVITATION

- ❖ **Choose life** - we decide to accept or reject God’s grace (Deut 30:19; Rev 22:17)
- ❖ **Conditional** - hear & comply (Mat 7:21-27; Acts 3:19)
- ❖ **Overcome** - strength & victory is found ONLY in harmony w/ Christ (21:7; Rom 8:28-37; Phili 4:13)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)

## Praise

Labor –

Patience –

Intolerance –

Unveiling false teachers –

Endurance –

Toil –

Relentless –

## Complaint

Left their first love

NO MIDDLE GROUND

Can't serve two masters  
(Mat 6:24)

Must choose between God  
or the world (1 John 2:15-17;  
James 4:4)

Must serve w/ whole heart  
(Mk 12:29-31; Rom 6:17,18)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE” (2:1-7)

A person with long hair and a beard, wearing a light-colored robe, is shown in a desert-like environment. They are holding a scroll or book. The text is overlaid on the image.

**Hear the gospel  
Believe the gospel  
Repent & Confess  
Be baptized into Christ  
for the remission of  
your sins**

**Be faithful /  
submitting to, serving  
& trusting Jesus**

**Revelation 22:14  
(NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.



*"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which  
God gave Him to show His servants—  
things which must shortly take place."*

*Revelation 1:1*

## **Charts by Don McClain**

Preached February 27, 2022

West 65th Street church of Christ – P.O. Box 190062 – Little Rock AR  
72219 – Phone — 501-568-1062 — Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

Prepared using Keynote

More Keynote, PPT & Audio Sermons:

<https://www.w65stchurchofchrist.com>

# THE BOOK OF **REVELATION**

**"A CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE" (2:1-7)**

# Ephesians 1:1–3 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,