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Assignment 6.3

Read Revelation 2-3 and list the 7 Churches that received a letter.

1.Ephesus

2.Smyrna

3.Pergamos

4.Thytira

5.Sardis

6.Philadelphia

7.Laodicea

These are all that received a letter

This is a Map of Asia Minor showing a possible route that the deliverer would have taken to deliver the 7 letters to the 7 Churches as written by the Apostle John.

REVELATION: ROME & THE SEVEN CHURCHES

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Today, it is Modern Day Turkey. But then it was South Western Asia Minor. He would have probably gone Ephesus, the nearest city to Patmos, then heading north to Smyrna, and Pergamum which is Pergamos, east to Thyatira, southwest to Sardis and Philadelphia and finally to Laodicea.

List of Laodicean facts

- 1. Laodicea was a prosperous centre for banking**
- 2. A place for the manufacture of clothing from the Raven black wool of sheep raised in that Region**
- 3. And a centre for medical studies**

- 4. Laodicea produced the famous Phrygian used to cure eye disease.**
- 5. So self-sufficient was Laodicea that after a destructive earthquake in AD 60 the city did not need financial aid that Rome gave to neighbouring cities for reconstruction.**
- 6. Laodicea was in the Roman province of Asia (Modern Day Turkey)**
- 7. It was located on the crossroads of 2 major trade routes**
- 8. It was built on the river Lycus**
- 9. It's original name was City of Zeus. Which is interesting because Zeus is the Greek god, and Laodicea had something to do with Rome when they refused Roman aid given to neighbouring cities back in AD. 60.**

Laodicea on the Lycus was a rich Ancient Greek City in Asia Minor now Turkey on the River Lycus. It was located in the Hellenistic regions of Caria and Lydia, which later became the Roman province of Phrygia Paca Tiana. It is now near the Modern city of Denizli, Turkey

Jesus condemned Laodicea because they were lukewarm. The Laodicean church was a Christian community established in the Ancient city of Laodicea and was one of the early centres of Christianity.

The Church was established in the Apostolic age, the earliest period of Christianity. It is best known for being one of the 7 Churches of Asia.

The Church in Laodicea is mentioned in the book of (Revelation 3:14-22) as being lukewarm neither hot or cold, a characteristic attributed to its self sufficiency and lack of spiritual zeal.

Jesus famously condemns the lukewarmness of the church of Laodicea and it is claimed that this refers to the Laodicean water supply. Since Laodicea had an aqueduct, the water that flow in the city must have been lukewarm and undesirable.

In contrast the nearby city of Hierapolis, was known for it's hot springs and mineral baths, while the city of Colossae seems to have had cold water sources. Both types of water would have been beneficial. (337, posted on internet by Thepolis October 3, 2016 by Peter Leithart.)

Laodicea was located near Hierapolis and Colosse mentioned in Paul's letter to the Colossians (Col 4:16)

The story of Laodicea serves as a cautionary account to all of us about spiritual lukewarmness and the importance of spiritual discernment (most of the information is from Wikipedia)

Jesus told the church at Laodicea that they were just like their water supply, lukewarm. The members of this church were indifferent and apathetic. They were going through the motions. Their focus was no longer on the Cross or the Scriptures or even reaching the lost!

(some of this information too has been from a survey of the New Testament by Robert H Grundy, 5th edition)

Laodicea was founded between 261-263 BCE by Antiochus 2nd who named his wife Laodice.

Laodicea became a wealthy centre for textile, medicine and banking and also for their lukewarm water supply hence Jesus metaphor of lukewarmness.

The church was supposedly planted by Epaphras, who was supposedly Apostle Paul's disciple. Also Colossae was one of Laodicea's close neighbours.

The church survived Domitian's Reign who declared himself as a god and persecuted Christians.

The city became a city for the Christians, the Bishops and the council was held there in the 4th Century.

The archaeologists have discovered about 20 Christian churches in Laodicea but the biggest was the Laodicean church that Jesus criticised.

The church faced east and was decorated with marble floors.

Laodicea had remained an important city up until it was struck by a devastating earthquake then it was abandoned.

Laodicea was connected to 2 important cities like Ephesus, Smyrna and Sardis. (Mark Farnchild March/April 2017 Biblical Archaeology)

Laodicea is the last church amongst the 7 and we are in that era up until the end of the church.

All the 7 churches are in the stages of the churches' history from the Apostolic church until now.

Jesus attacked the Laodicean church for being wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. (Rev 3:17)

This is a shocking testimony and an unwelcome attack to them. What made it so serious is that anyone in this position is usually unaware that he or she is in this position. In fact, the Laodicean message has frequently being used as a weapon to

attack the people of God and condemn them as apostate believers. This scripture does not indicate apostasy, but rather a state of misguided spiritual self-satisfaction.

Laodiceans had a lack of faith.

The complaint against Laodicea is that there was too little fear and trembling evident in regard to their personal spiritual attitude.

Christ counselled the Laodiceans “Buy from Me, gold, refined in the fire. (Rev 3:18) Spiritual gold is gold in its purest form. But how was their spiritual gold to be refined? It was to be refined through their faith in God.

White garments, that you may be clothed that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed. (Rev 3:18)

Christ declared that the Laodiceans were spiritually naked.

The art of putting on clothing refers to receiving by faith the righteousness of Christ. It is believing that Christ died as our substitute and that the perfect obedience be demonstrated while on earth. It is placed to our credit and imputed to us but it constitutes even more than that. Christ wanted the Laodiceans to have His righteousness that solely comes from Him and that alone fits every believer in the Laodicean time and in our time for the coming Kingdom.

Because Laodicea was a rich textile city, as was stated earlier, it was a prosperous centre for the manufacturer. From the Ravon black wool of sheep, Christ used the metaphor of white clothing because black must have been something they wore a lot.

“and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see” (Rev 3:18)

Christ also uses the term lukewarm to state that the Laodiceans are spiritually blind. They could not discern between good and evil and right and wrong.

But it was the city particularly known for its eye salve and it produced Phrygian eye salve used to cure eye diseases. Again, as a metaphor to tell the Laodiceans physically that they are can help cure eye problems on the outside but inside they can't see. They needed to see with their spiritual eyes which was their hearts. He called them spiritually blind.

Water, clothing and eyes were the metaphors Christ used to warn the Laodiceans. The city had lukewarm water and great physical knowledge when it came to curing eye problems and they must have taken pride in their appearance (wearing black dress) but the wrong sort of pride and Jesus wanted white refined with fire for them to be active with their heart and love Him.

(Most of this information is from an enduring vision Revelation revealed by Austin Cooke copyright 2014 Austin Cooke)

When the Apostle Paul was writing to the church in Colossae in Col 4:17 he mentions someone by the name of Archippus. He tells him to take heed to the ministry which he has received in the Lord so that he may fulfill it. It is thought that Archippus may have been a bishop in Laodicea. He may have become the first bishop. He is also associated with Martyrdom, possibly stoned to death in Laodicea. It was also suggested that he may have been one

of the seventy that Jesus sent out to preach the Gospel and to heal. We read of this in Luke 10:1 although the names of the seventy aren't mentioned.