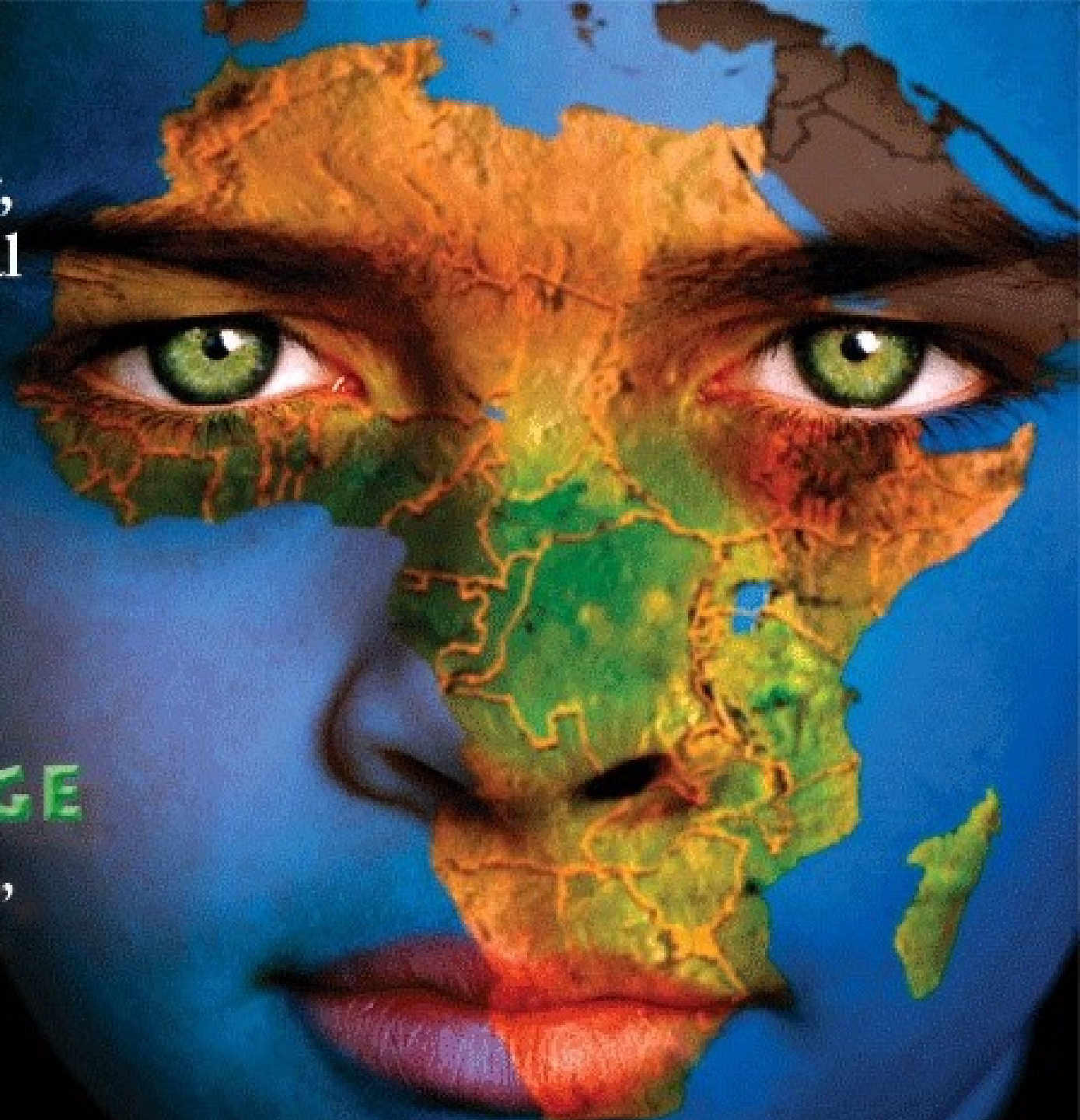
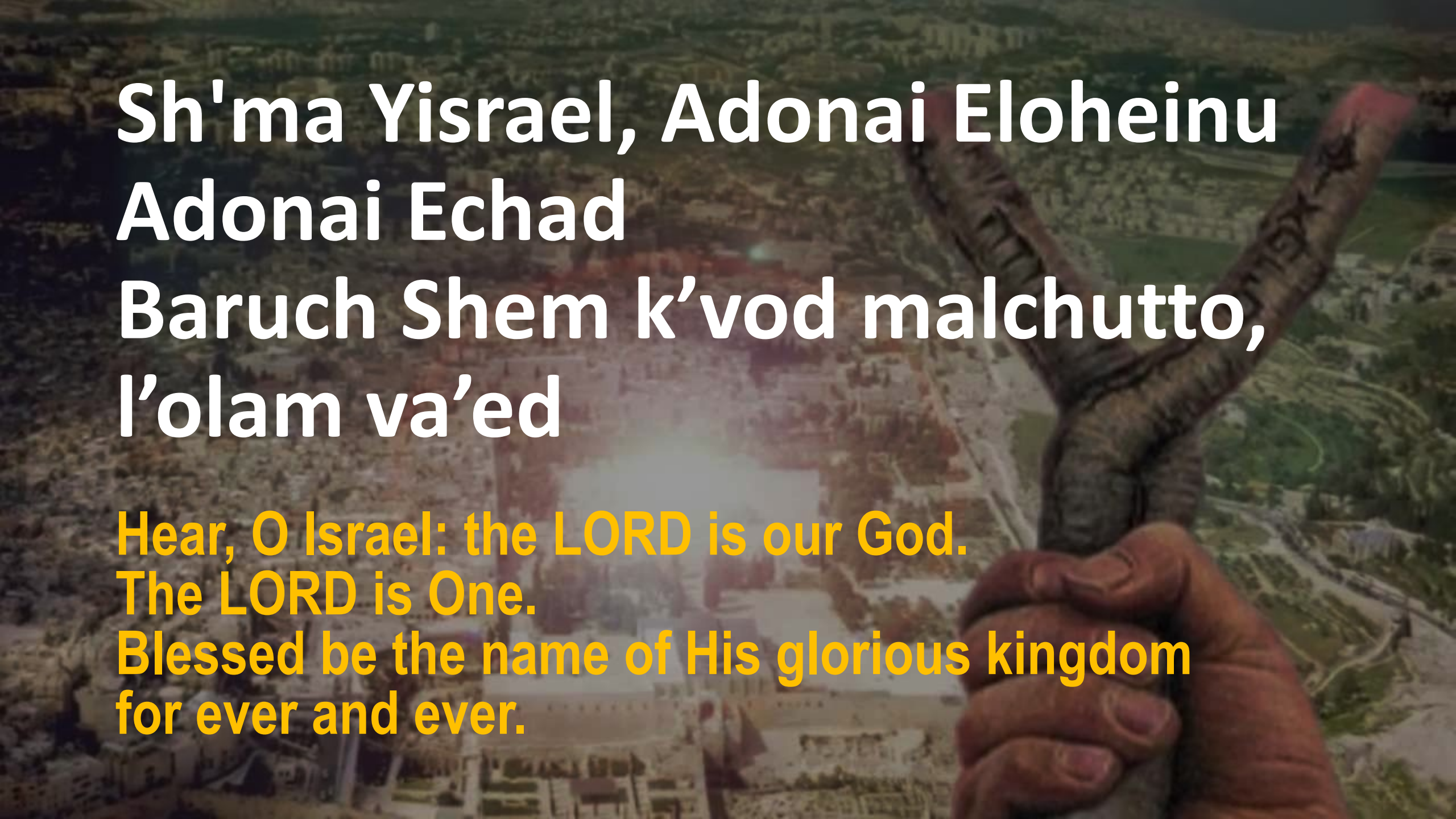


“Then I saw another
angel flying in midair,
and he had the eternal
gospel to proclaim to
those who live on the
earth — to every

NATION,
TRIBE,
LANGUAGE
and **PEOPLE.”**

— *Revelation 14:6*

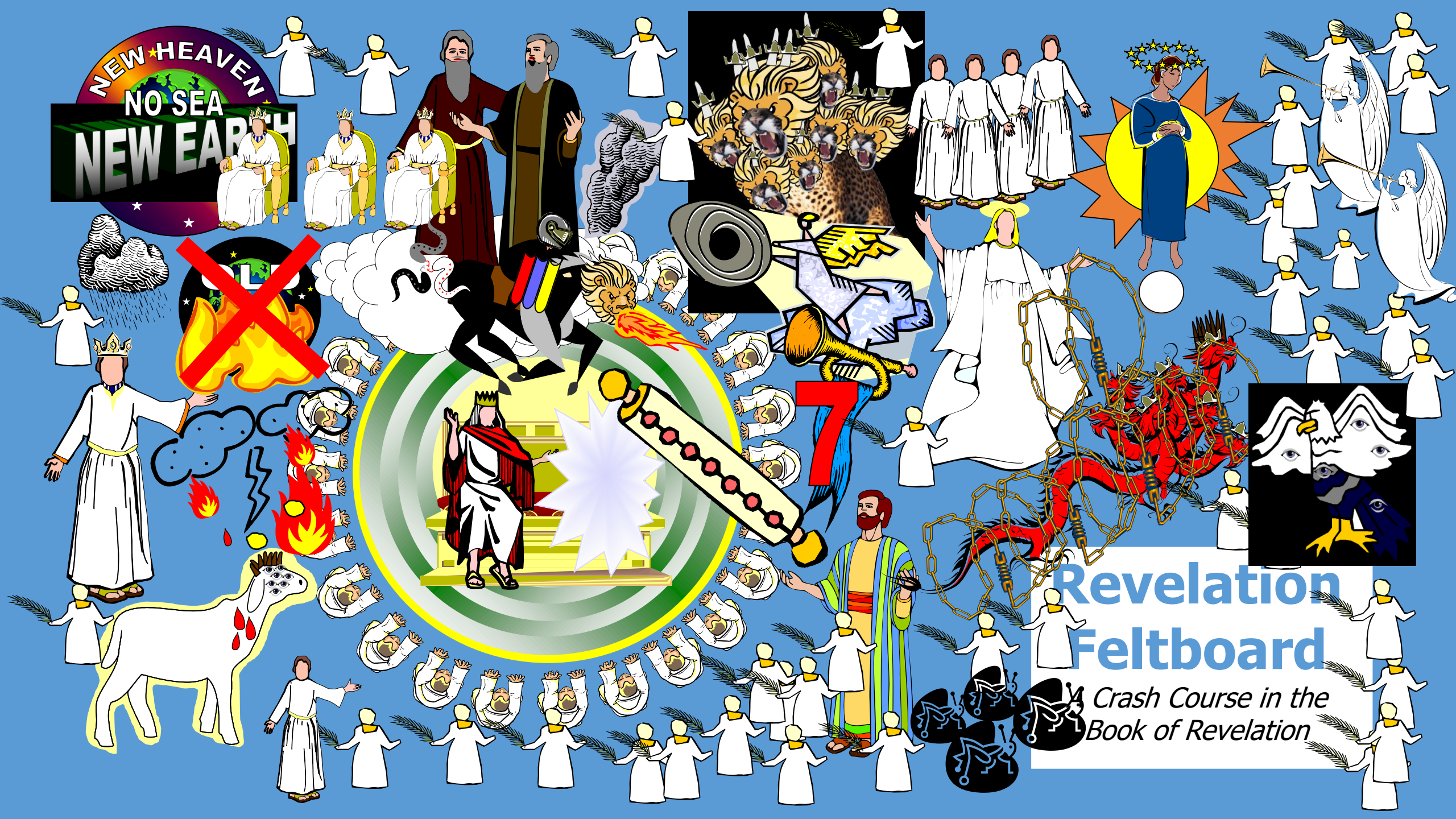


A close-up photograph of a hand holding a scroll with Hebrew text. The scroll is held taut, and the text is clearly visible. The background is a blurred aerial view of a city with buildings and greenery. The overall image has a dark, slightly desaturated color palette.

**Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu
Adonai Echad
Baruch Shem k'vod malchutto,
l'olam va'ed**

**Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God.
The LORD is One.
Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom
for ever and ever.**

NEW HEAVEN
NO SEA
NEW EARTH



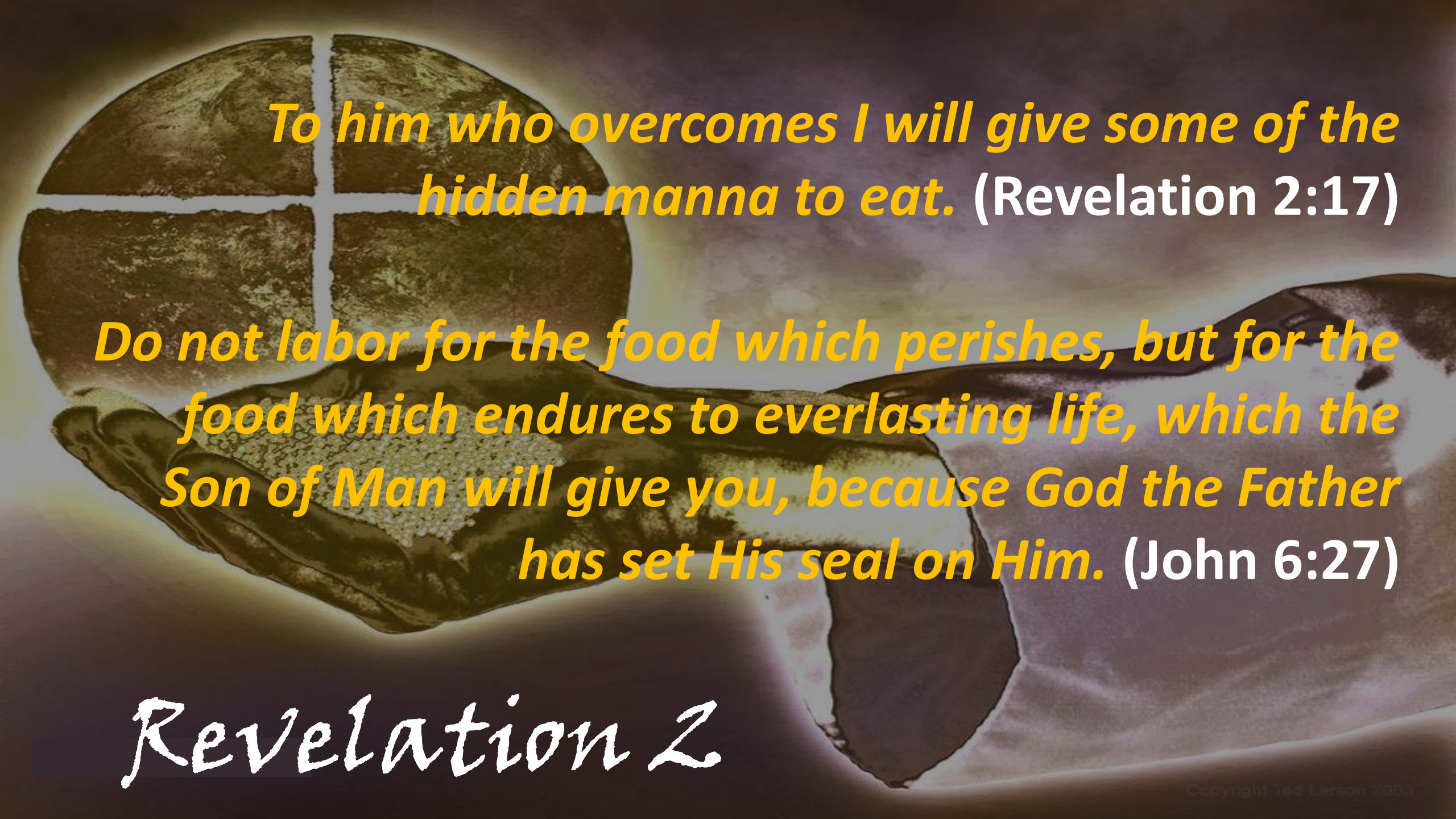
Revelation Feltboard

*Crash Course in the
Book of Revelation*



Chapter 1





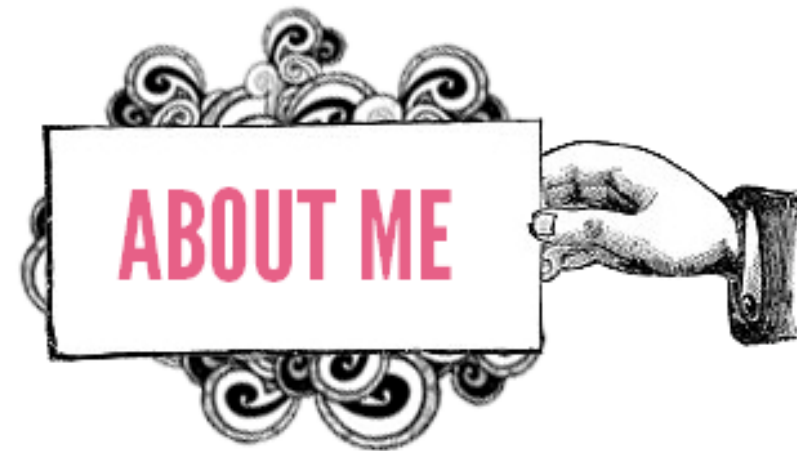
To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. (Revelation 2:17)

Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him. (John 6:27)

Revelation 2

INTRODUCTORY NOTES

- personal notes to 4 of 7 churches. (other 3 in Chapter 3)
- **begins with Ephesus**, closest to John on Patmos, (*circuit ending with Laodicia*)
- *Elohim is in EVERY detail!*
- sent to all the churches
- **Chapters 2 and 3 concern us personally the most**



Letters to the 7 churches all have a similar structure, with 7 components:

1. Name (relevant to theme for that church)
2. Title of Jesus (*part of description in Chapter 1, also relevant to that church*)
3. Commendation (*what they/we did/do well*)
4. Concern (*condemnation, criticism*)
5. Exhortation (*remedial action or...*)
6. Promise to overcomer
7. Closing "He who has an ear..."

- Interesting ...first three churches, promise to overcomer comes AFTER closing (items 6 and 7 above reversed). On last 4, promise is *before* closing.



Everything means
SOMETHING!!

- **WHY written:**
 1. actual churches, real needs and concerns.
 2. “hear... Churches” all 7 letters apply to all
 3. personal: “he who has an ear”
 4. Prophetic: In order lay out entire history of “ekklesia.” In any other order, would not work.
- **Be watchful:** what God is saying to churches today, and *to each of us.*
- **What is He saying to YOU personally?**
- **Look for prophecy present in each letter.**

¹“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: ² “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; ³ and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. ⁴ Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

⁵ 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. ⁶ But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

⁷ “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.” ’

⁸ “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: ⁹ “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.” ’

¹² “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: ¹³ “I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate...

¹⁶ Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

¹⁷ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.” ’

Letter to *ekklesia* at Ephesus...

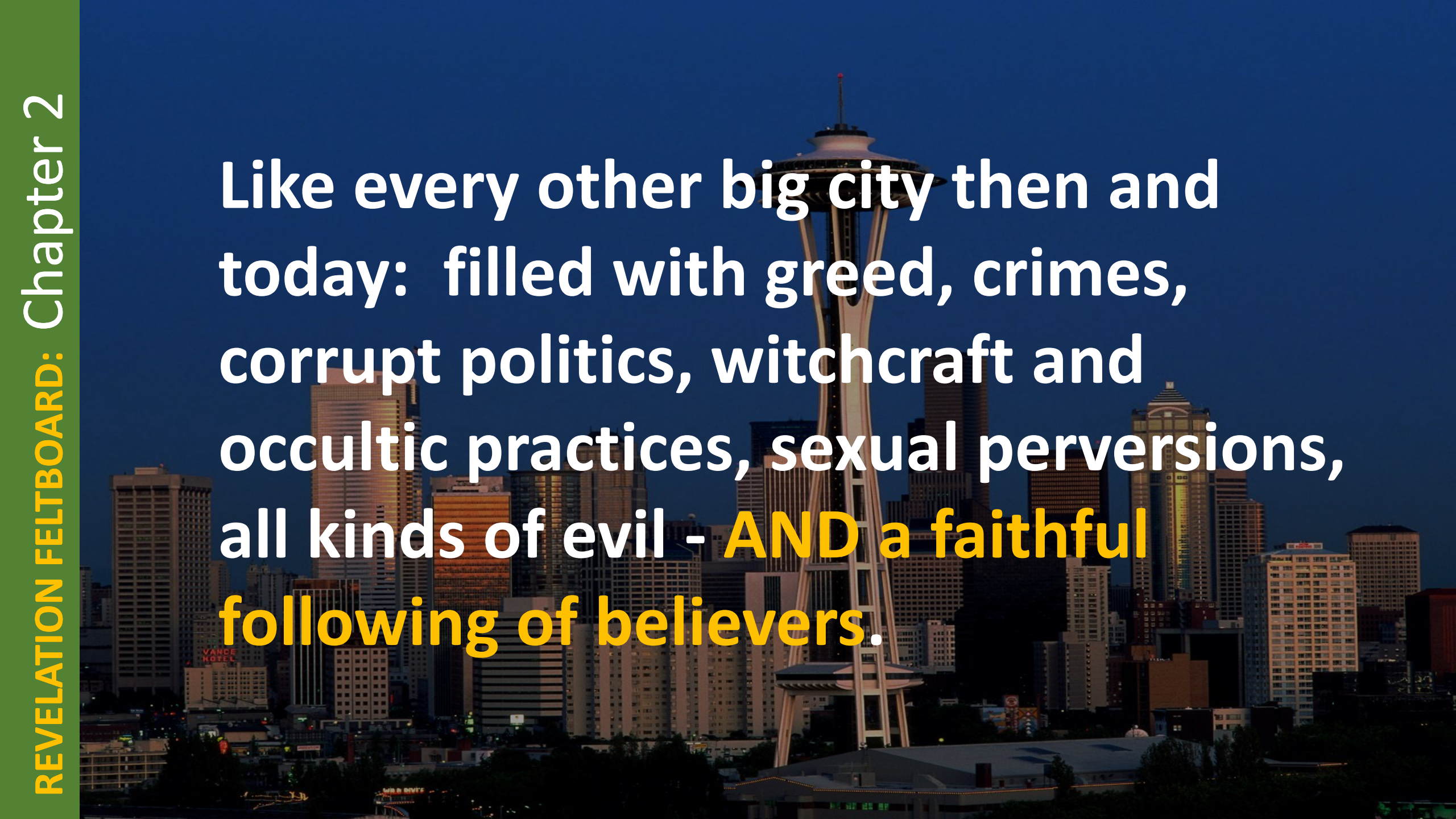
1“To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

- **Ephesus** = "*desired one*" (like *darling*)
- **Title/Description of Jesus:** "*He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands...*"
- What does that imply? **Authority, Presence, Awareness.**
- Remember lampstand \neq "The" light. It = BEARER of the Light. Jesus IS the Light.
- Holds us in His hand= **Protection, Guidance**

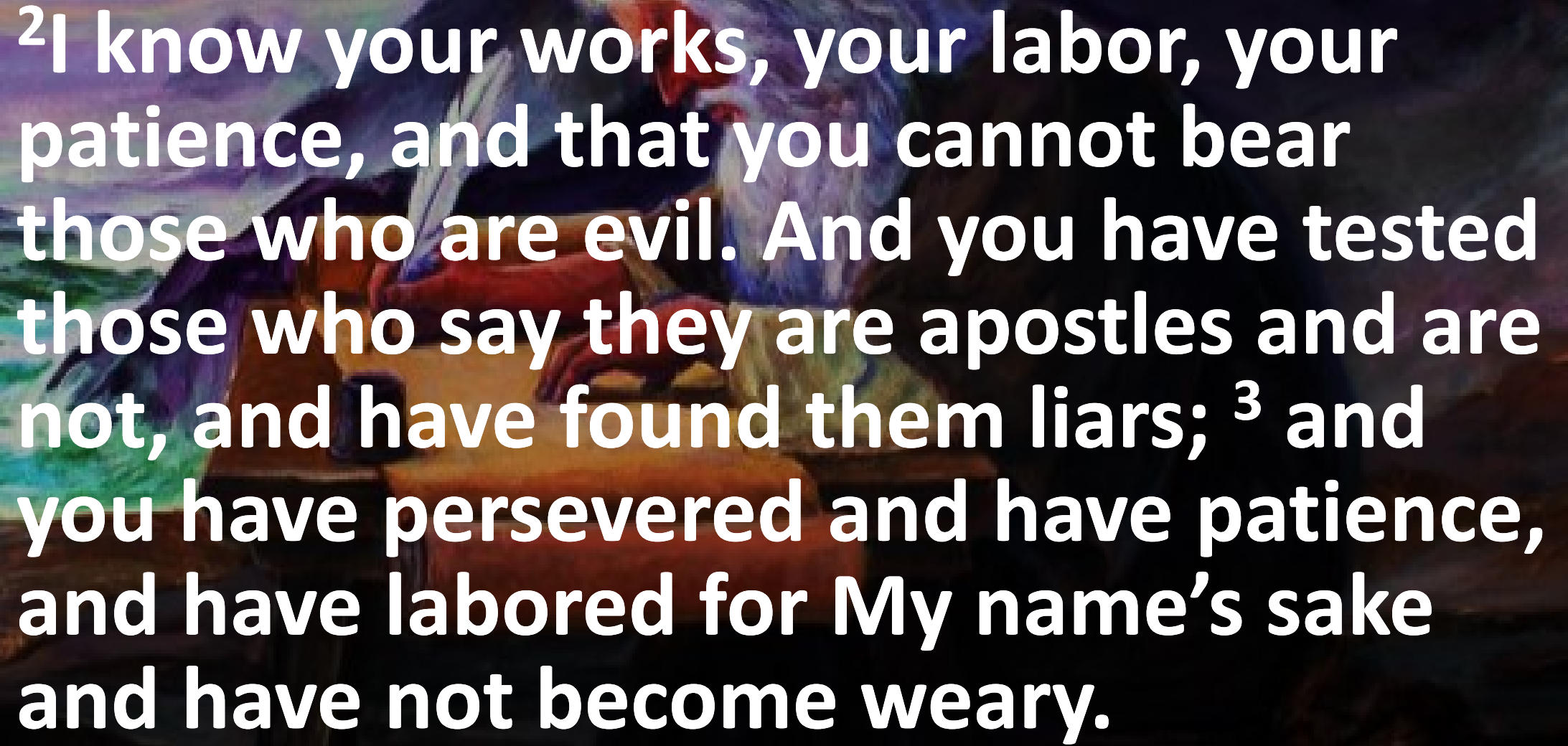
EPHESUS

- First on circuit
- Center of trading, commerce
- Assize town (free)
- Lots of diversity
- Large, political
- Temple of Artemis (Diana)
- Safe Zone
- “Mother” Church
- Center of magic arts (occult)
- Acts 18-20
- Love waned
- Ruins today



A photograph of the Seattle skyline at dusk, featuring the Space Needle prominently in the center. The city lights are visible against the darkening sky.

Like every other big city then and today: filled with greed, crimes, corrupt politics, witchcraft and occultic practices, sexual perversions, all kinds of evil - **AND a faithful following of believers.**



²I 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; ³ and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

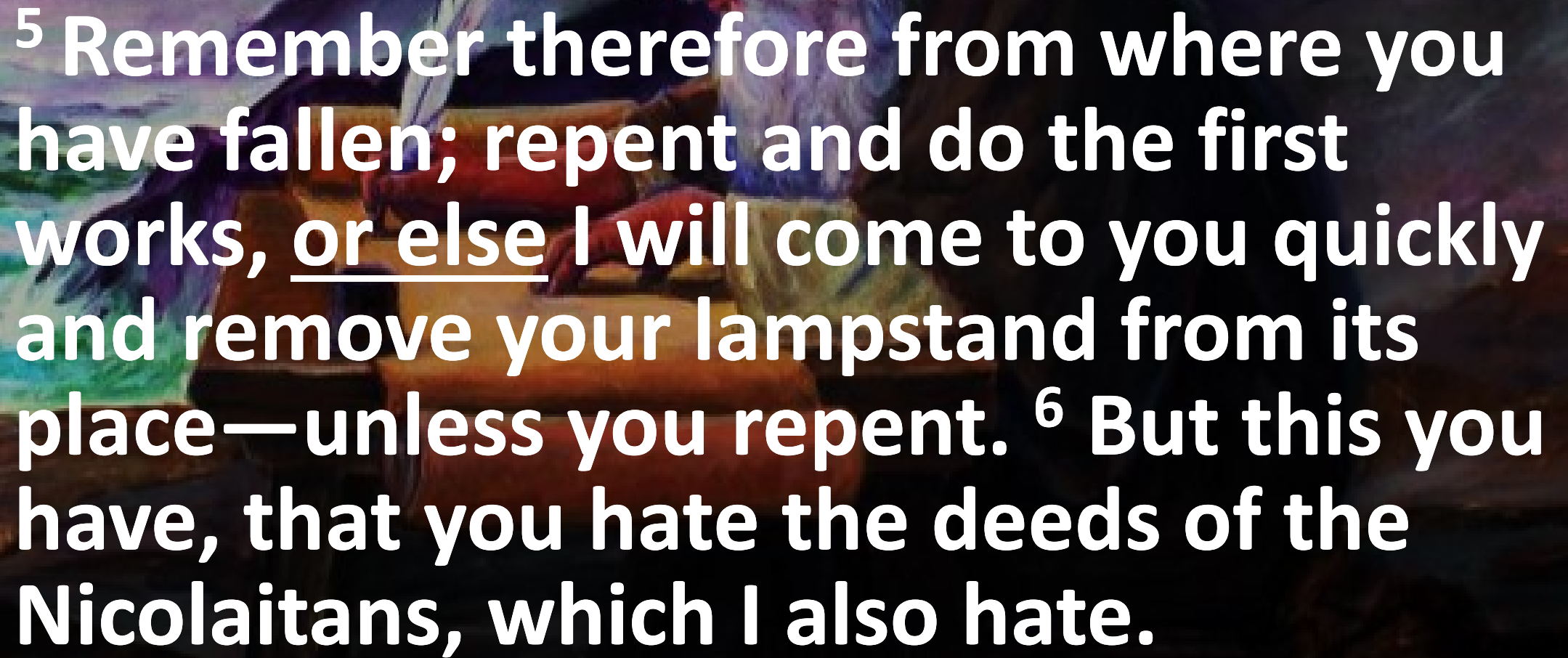
- **Commendation:** *(7 elements)* Jesus knows:
 1. works *(deeds they were doing for Him)*
 2. labor *(hard work they do for Him)*
 3. patience *(endurance)*
 4. they "cannot bear" those who are evil
 5. testing of false teachers, *(found to be liars)*
 6. perseverance *(continuing to follow despite difficulties)*
 7. labor for Him without weariness *(don't give up)*

- later (v. 6) adds one more commendation: they **hate practices of the Nicolaitans**, which Jesus also hates (*hates the practices, not the people*).
- **Nicolaitans:** ?? *Nikao* = to conquer. *Laos* = people. Possibly those who "Lord it over" people. Maybe church authority. (Or, sect founded by Nicolas of Antioch, gnostics ("libertines") indulged in undisciplined lusts.

An elderly man with a long, flowing white beard and hair is depicted in a dark, rocky landscape. He is wearing a dark, heavy robe and is seated at a wooden table. He is focused on writing on a scroll with a quill pen. Several other scrolls are visible on the table. The background shows a dramatic, mountainous landscape under a cloudy sky. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

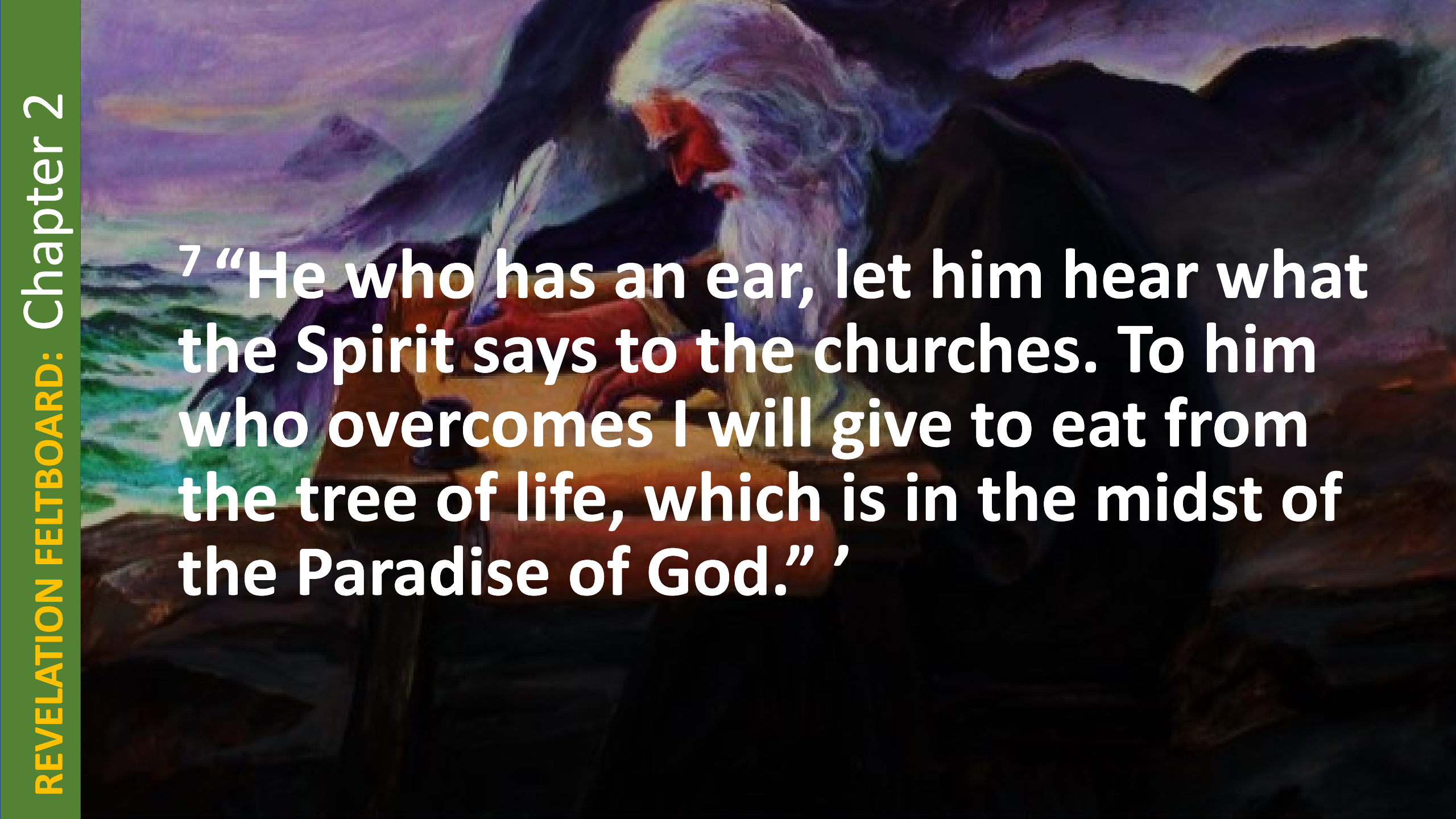
**4Nevertheless I have this against you,
that you have left your first love.**

- Watch out for the word "**nevertheless**"!!
- **Criticism** (Concern): "*...you have left your first love.*" Should pierce our own hearts!
- The heart of God = fellowship with us, love us, and have us love Him in return.
- God desires our love first. Ephesians experienced a great love story in the beginning, *but like many marriages*, became "commonplace." ***Passion lost!***
- **Wow! Are we paying attention?**



⁵ 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. ⁶ But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

- **The Exhortation** (remedial action):
 - 1) ***"remember therefore from where you have fallen"*** (how it felt when you first came to Him!)
 - 2) ***"repent"*** (ask forgiveness for falling away);
 - 3) ***"do the first works"*** (behave like you did in the beginning of our love story)
- **Or Else....** ***"I will remove your lampstand from its place...."*** (church will die, ***NOT about losing salvation***) Ephesus now in ruins. Church at Ephesus apparently did not heed this letter to her.

An elderly man with a long, flowing white beard and hair is depicted in a dark, atmospheric setting. He is wearing a dark, heavy robe and is seated at a desk, leaning forward as he writes in a large, open book with a quill pen. The background is dark and moody, with hints of a landscape or a cave. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the man's face and the book.

7 “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.” ’

- **Promise:** *"I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."*
- Lost our right to eat from Tree of Life. Will regain it in His Kingdom, in Paradise with Him.
INCORRUPTION!
- Church at Ephesus thought to **prophetically represent earliest church, apostolic church (age of apostles)**.
- All churches then and now, **individual believers and whole assemblies**, have the traits (*good and bad*) presented in these letters.

What does this letter say to you personally???

- Do you love Him now the same way you did when you first loved Him?
- Is He still your number one priority?
The One you live for? Are you
PASSIONATE about Him?

(Note contrast between Ephesus and Laodicia!)

Agape 

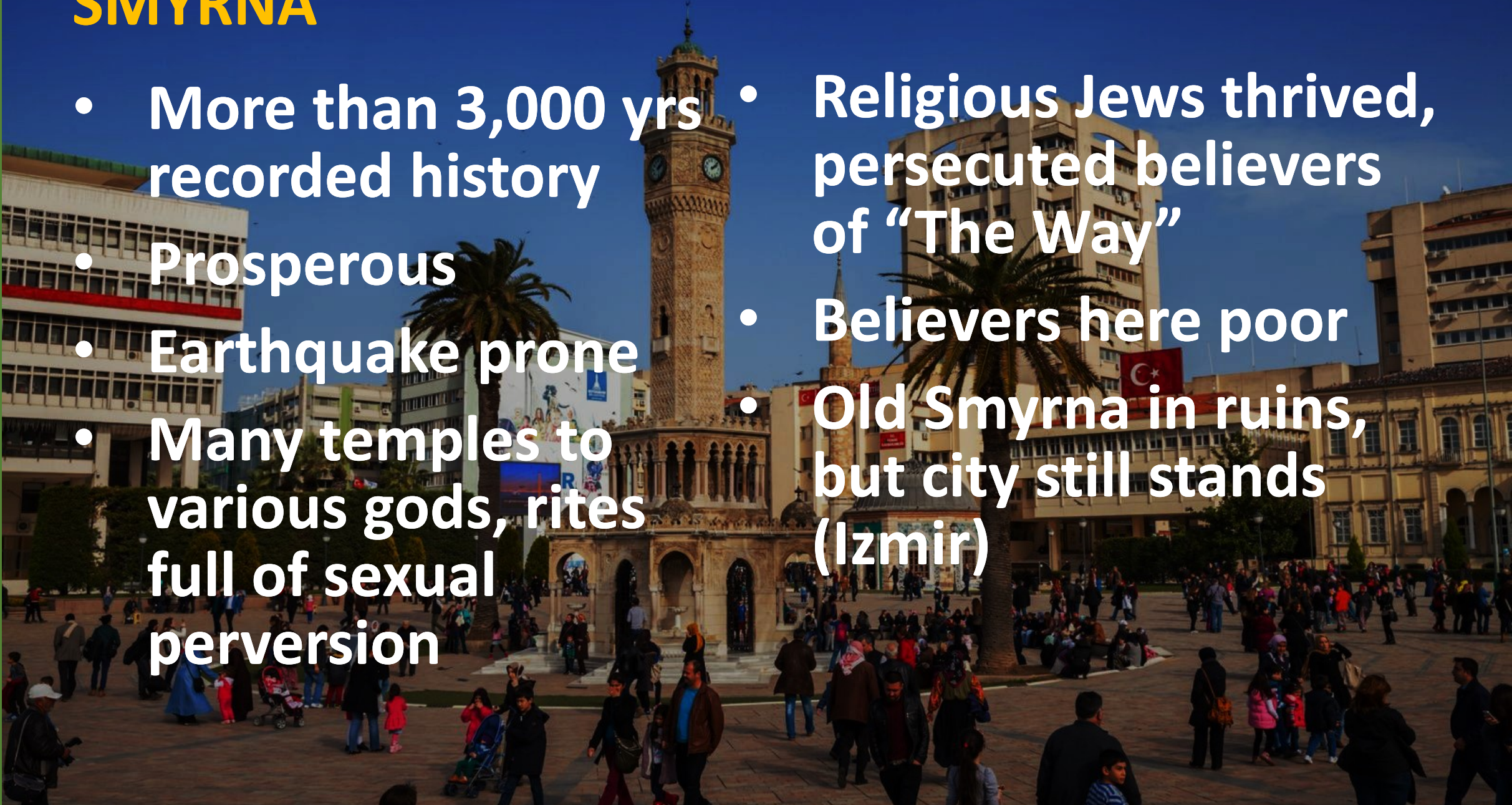
Letter to *ekklesia* at Smyrna...

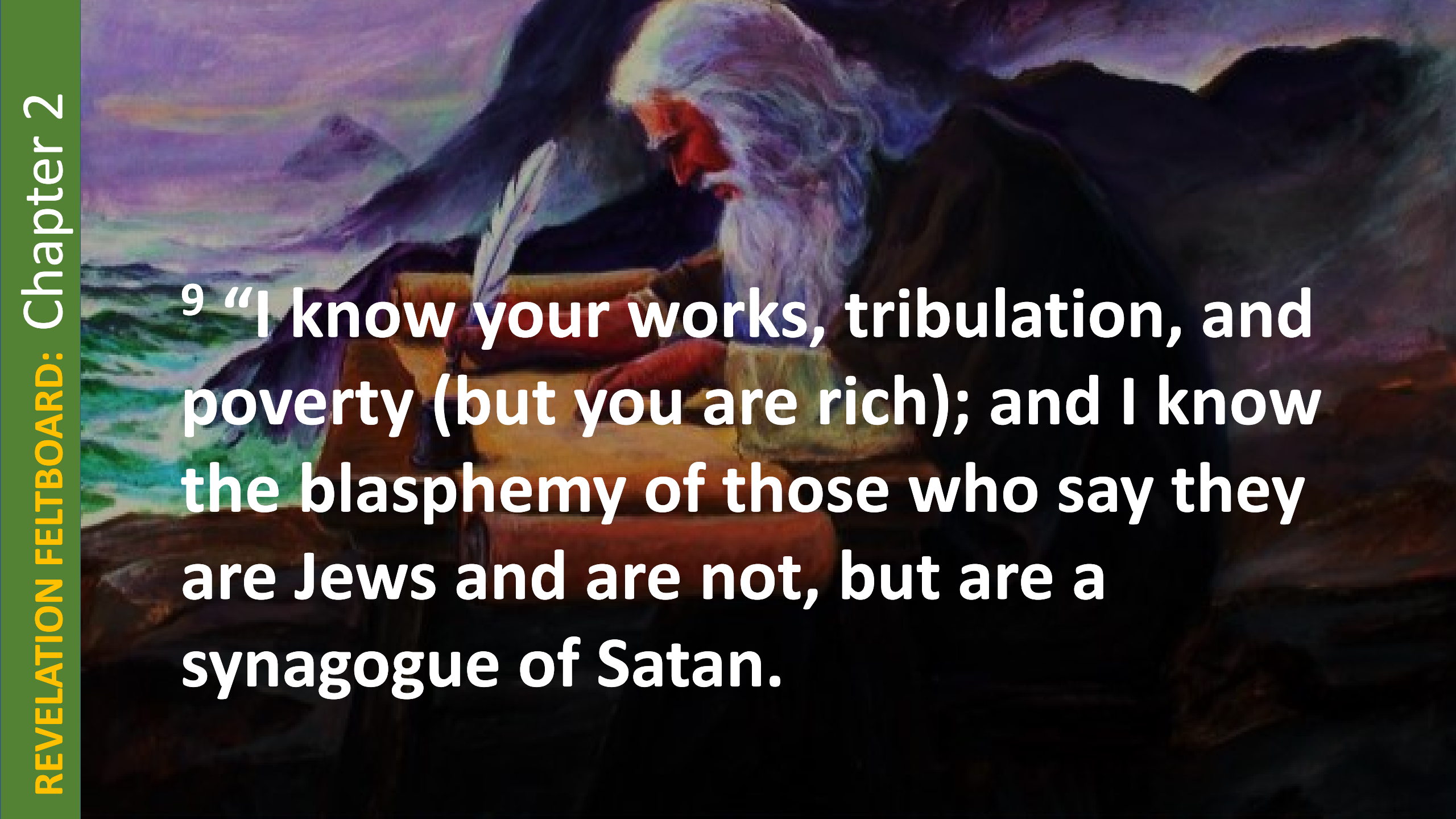
⁸ “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

- **Smyrna = "myrrh."** Bitter gum/costly perfume, *(also antiseptic, used in embalming or anointing the dead)*
- **Magi gifts:** Myrrh used to anoint Jesus' body at his death. Myrrh yields fragrance only after being crushed *(as Jesus was on cross)*.
- **Description/Title** of Jesus: *"First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life..."* appropriate, these believers under threat of death. Jesus conquered physical death.
- **Theme of death** running through this letter.

SMYRNA

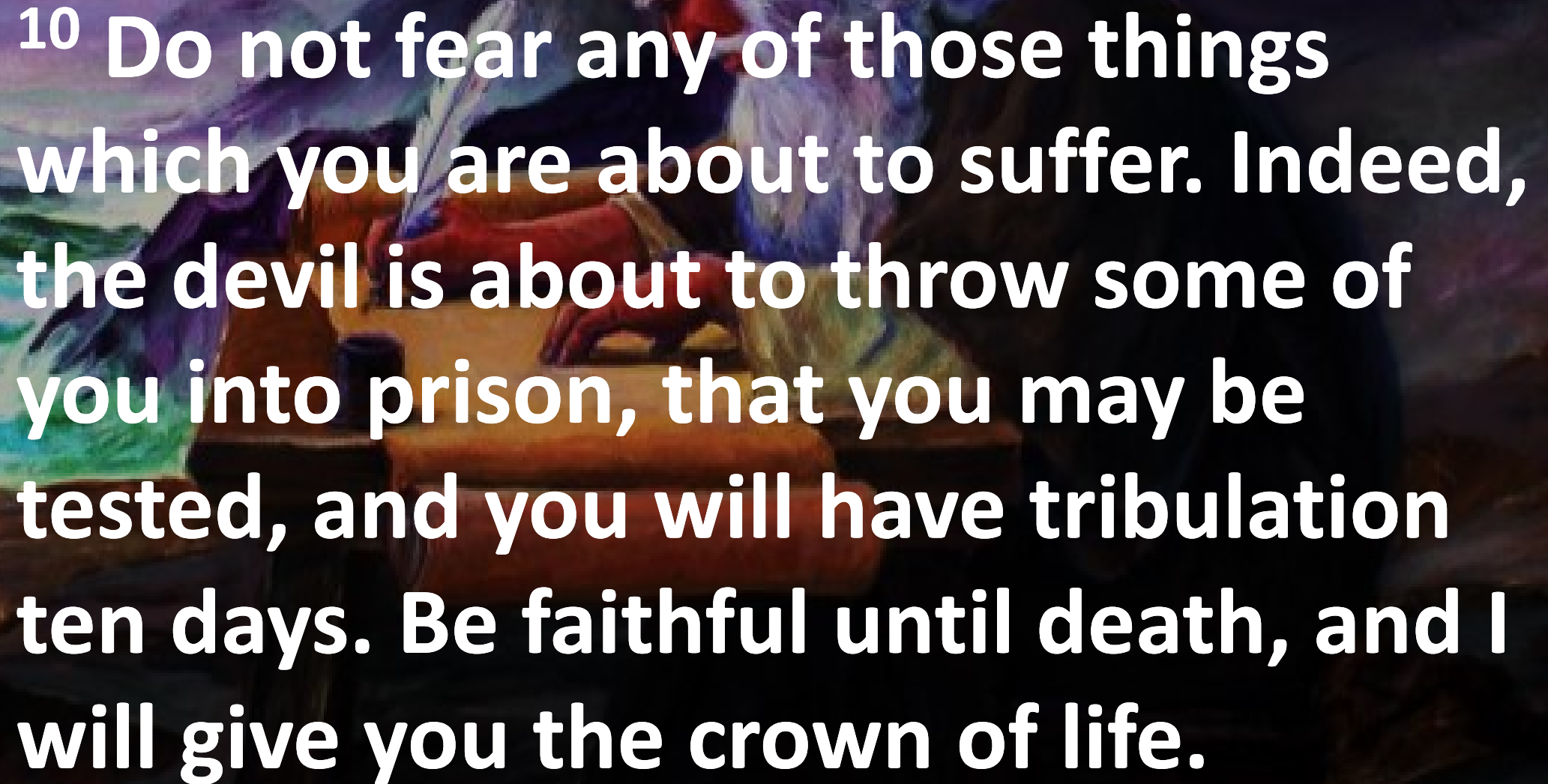
- More than 3,000 yrs recorded history
- Prosperous
- Earthquake prone
- Many temples to various gods, rites full of sexual perversion
- Religious Jews thrived, persecuted believers of “The Way”
- Believers here poor
- Old Smyrna in ruins, but city still stands (Izmir)



An elderly man with a long white beard and hair, wearing a dark robe, is seated and writing in a scroll with a quill. He is looking down at the scroll. The background is a dark, moody landscape with mountains and a sunset or sunrise sky in shades of purple and blue.

⁹ “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

- **Commendation:** Jesus knows their:
 1. works (*deeds they were doing for Him*)
 2. tribulation (*suffering they endured for Him*)
 3. poverty (having nothing, beggars of sorts, but are rich in spiritual things!)
- He also knew blasphemy from “Jews” – sought to persecute and kill them (*Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, martyred by Jewish leadership*).
- **Synagogue of Satan:** These Jews blinded by enemy, served the Father of Lies.



¹⁰ Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

- **Criticism** (Concern): **None!** (*One of only two churches where no criticism is given.*)
- **Exhortation** (encouragement):
 - (1) *"Do not fear ..."* Jews and Romans tried to kill off new believers, tribulation from all sides. Christians scapegoats/targets of persecution.
- **"10 days?"** lots of speculation, 10 often number for trial and testing. Also possible reference to terrible times for Christians under 10 specific Caesars over 250 years:

1. **Nero (54-68):** Paul beheaded, Peter crucified upside down after watching his wife die
2. **Domitian (95-96):** John exiled
3. **Trajan (104-117):** Ignatius burned at the stake
4. **Marcus Aurelius (161-180):** Polycarp martyred
5. **Septimus Severus (200-211):** Irenaeus killed
6. **Maximinus (235-237):** killed Ursula and Hippolytus
7. **Decius (249-251)**
8. **Valerian (257-260)**
9. **Aurelian (270-275)**
10. **Diocletian (303-313)**

(estimated over 5,000,000 Christians martyred in this time under these Roman Caesars)

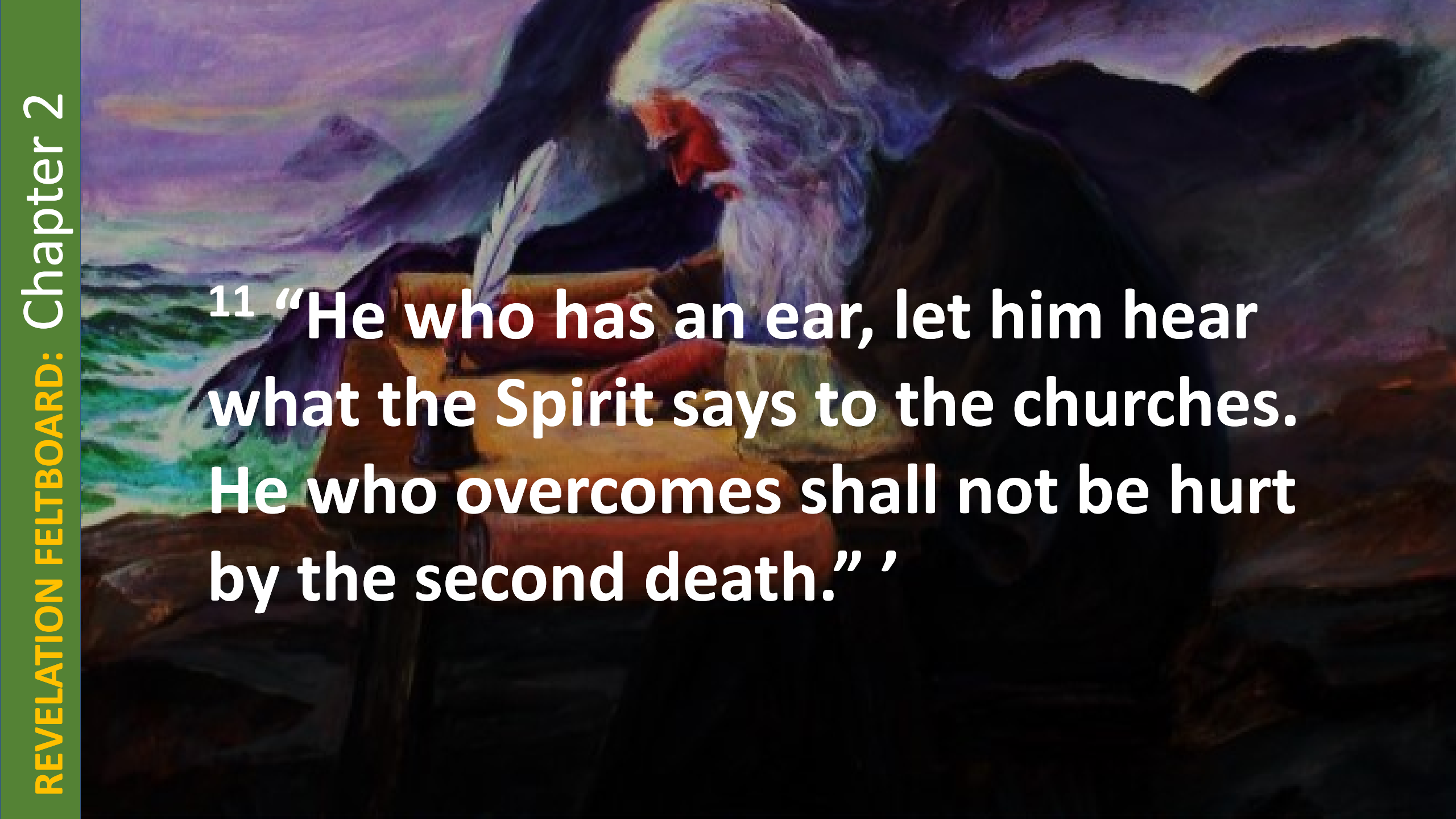
- **Number 10** used 242 X in scripture. "10th" used 79 times. Ten also viewed as a complete and perfect number, as is 3, 7 and 12.
- Made up of 4, number of the physical creation, and 6, number of man.
- 10 "God Said's" of Genesis
- 10 generations to Flood
- 10 Commandments
- 10 Plagues of Egypt
- 10th day of Nisan



- 10 toes and horns (Daniel and Revelation)
- Tithe (10th)
- Jesus' parables: 10 virgins, 10 lepers, 10 talents, 10 minas
- 10 signifies God's law and man's responsibility to Him, God's plan to redeem, and completeness of order. (*earthly*)
- In this case **may also** represent complete list of evil Roman Emperors who persecuted believers.

- (2) “...I will give you the crown of life.” These believers suffered much, many faithful, literally unto death.
- Death meant receiving crown of life, permanently.
- **Crown = "stephanos" victor's crown given to athletes (laurel leaves).**
- (NOT *diadem*, crown of royal authority - reserved for Yeshua!)





11 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.” ’

- **Promise:** *"He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."*
- "First death" = death of body (*physical death*)
- **Second death** spiritual; *not death of spirit*, but **eternal separation** from the **One who gave it life.**
- Church at Smyrna prophetically = **Persecuted Church** (age of Martyrs, 100-312 AD)

St. Polycarp was part of the 2nd generation of church leaders having studied under John the Apostle. As a holy man and bishop of Smyrna he countered the heresies and controversies by imitating Christ's life. He was martyred at age 86 sentenced to burn at the stake. Witnesses claim the flames arched around him.



What does this letter say to you personally???

- **Do you suffer for Him?**
- **Do you endure these sufferings patiently because you know what is waiting for you?**
- **Do you “count it all joy?”**
(James 1:2)

*"Patient
endurance
will
refine
our
character."
Romans 5:4
in due time*

Letter to *ekklesia* at Pergamos...

¹² And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

- **Not a pleasant picture of speaker!** Revelation 19:15 – *“Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations.”*
- Picture of Messiah’s **judgment**
- **Pergamos** - "Per" = mixed or objectionable (perverted) and "gamos" = marriage or "coming together" (*such as intercourse*). Church became married to paganism, perverted and mixed.
- Thus the need for a sharp two-edged sword of judgment.

PERGAMOS (PERGAMUM)

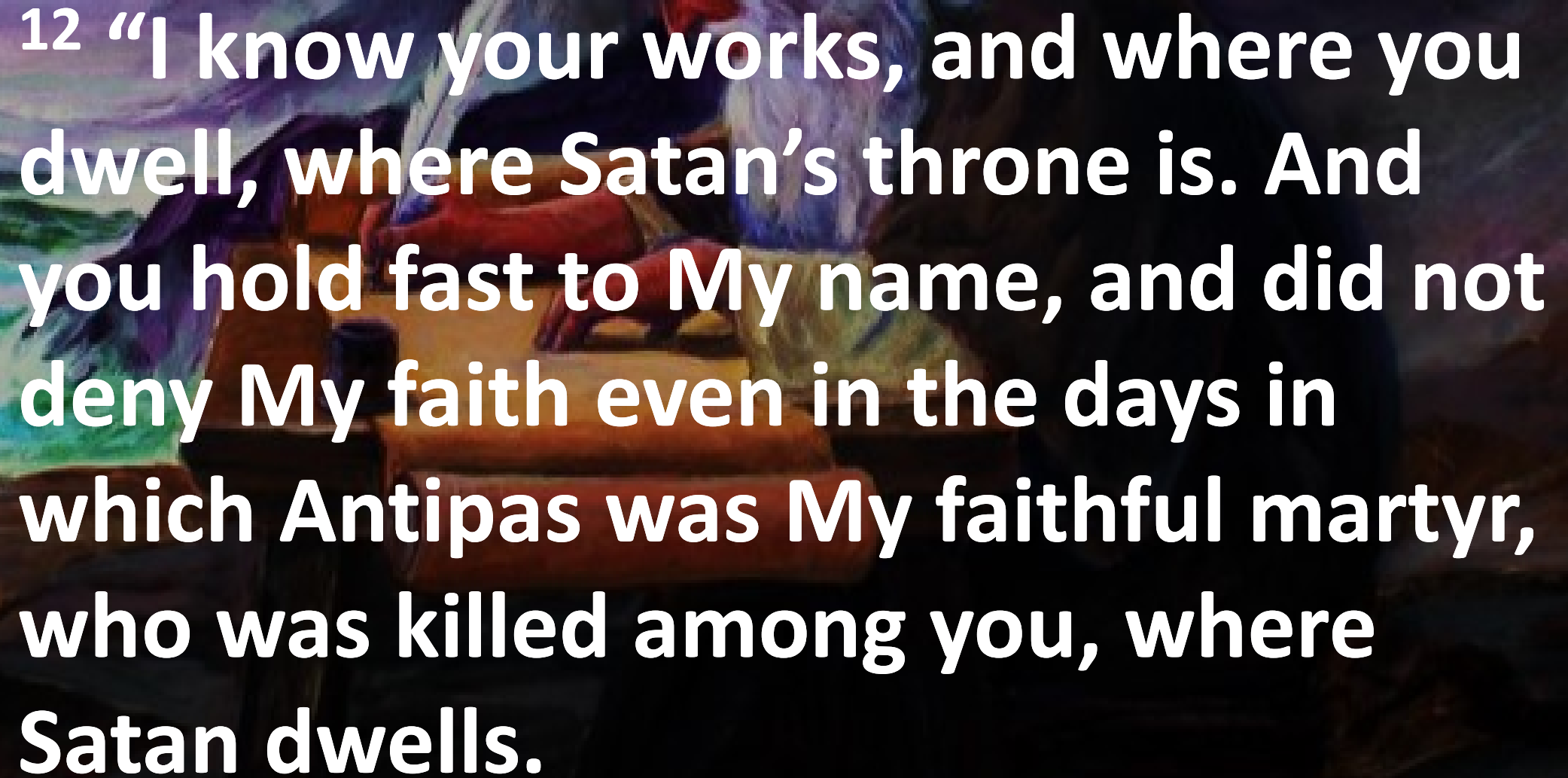
- Supposedly built by son of Hercules
- Capital of Asia Minor
- Parchment invented
- Caesar worship center (1st place to build Temple to Caesar)
- Large university/medical school
- Library of 200,000 volumes
- City of **academia and worldly pleasure**
- **Satanic throne**, seat of all perverse and pagan
- Church here “married” to paganism
- Small city Bergama remains

- **Description/Title** of Jesus used for this letter: "... ***He who has the sharp two-edged sword:...***"
- Hebrews 4:12: *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*
- Pergamos center of paganism ("*where Satan's throne is...*")



- Pergamos represents **beginnings of organized Roman Church**, (*Constantine to 1st Pope, 313-590 AD*)
- Constantine/Roman Church perverted Truth by paganizing Christianity. "Christian" label, but two-edged sword will **divide truth from false**.
- All pagan/occultic practices originated in

Babylon → Pergamos → Rome

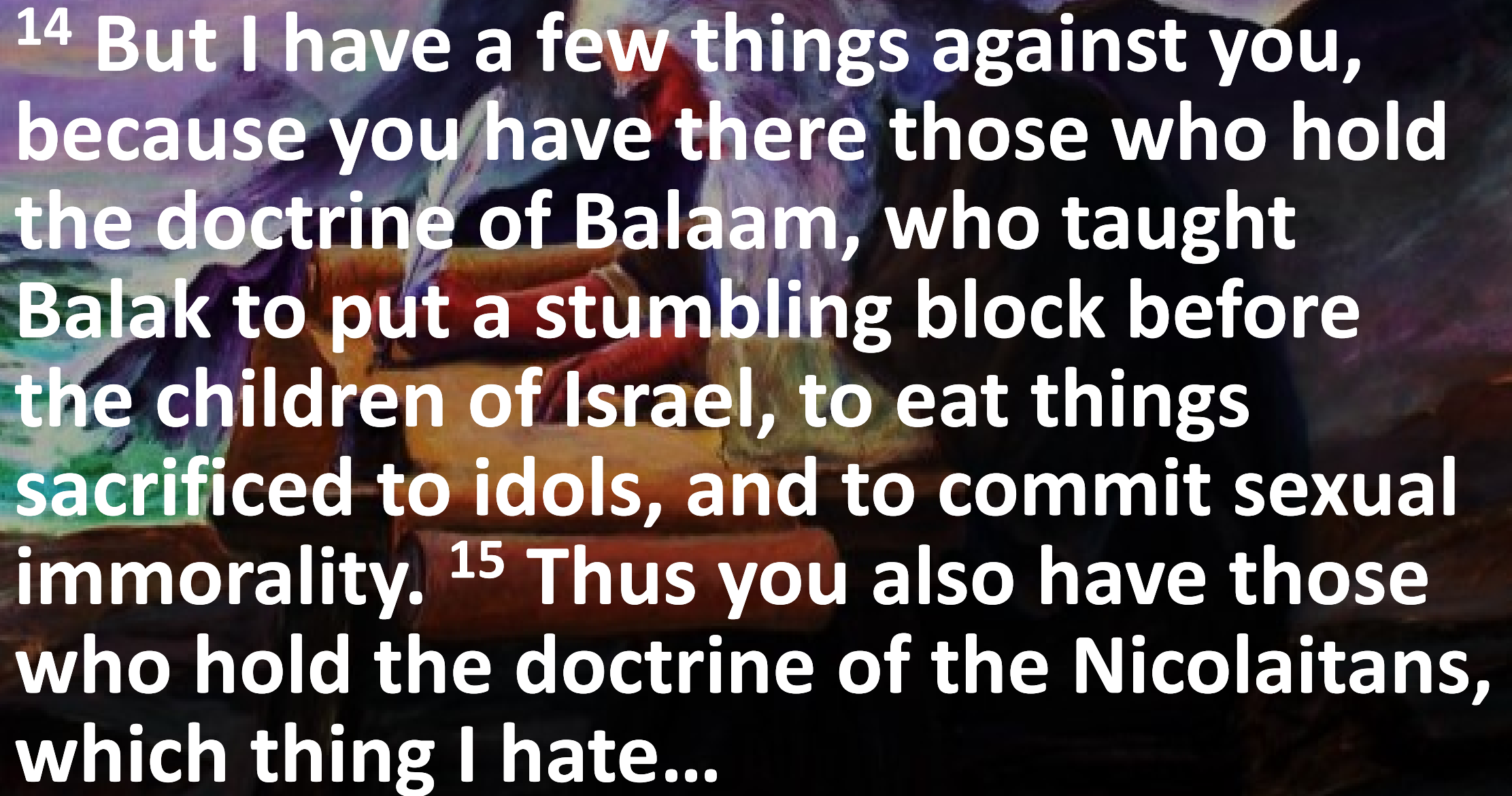


¹² “I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

- **Commendation:** Jesus knows:
 1. **their works** (*deeds they were doing for Him*)
 2. **where they live**, where Satan's throne is (*live in heart of enemy's stronghold*)
 3. **they held fast to His name**, did not deny His faith (*after Constantine, stood for truth in spite of Rome's perversion of Christianity. Didn't give up the truth to join the new official "Church."*)

- **Antipas** = “against all” - bishop of Pergamos during reign of Domitian in 83 AD. Might indicate he was standing alone for Jesus against forces of evil. *Also may be symbolic for all martyrs of this time.*
- Tradition and stories about his martyrdom, but Jesus validates him here.





¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate...

- **Criticism (Concern): FALSE TEACHINGS!**
- 1) *"...the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality."*
- Balaam **oracle for hire**, only wanted profit. Could not curse Israelites (*God prevented*) instead blessed them, but encouraged getting Israelites to intermarry with Moabites and Midianites (*against God's laws*) and turning their hearts away from God. *Did this for pay from Balak, king of Moab.*

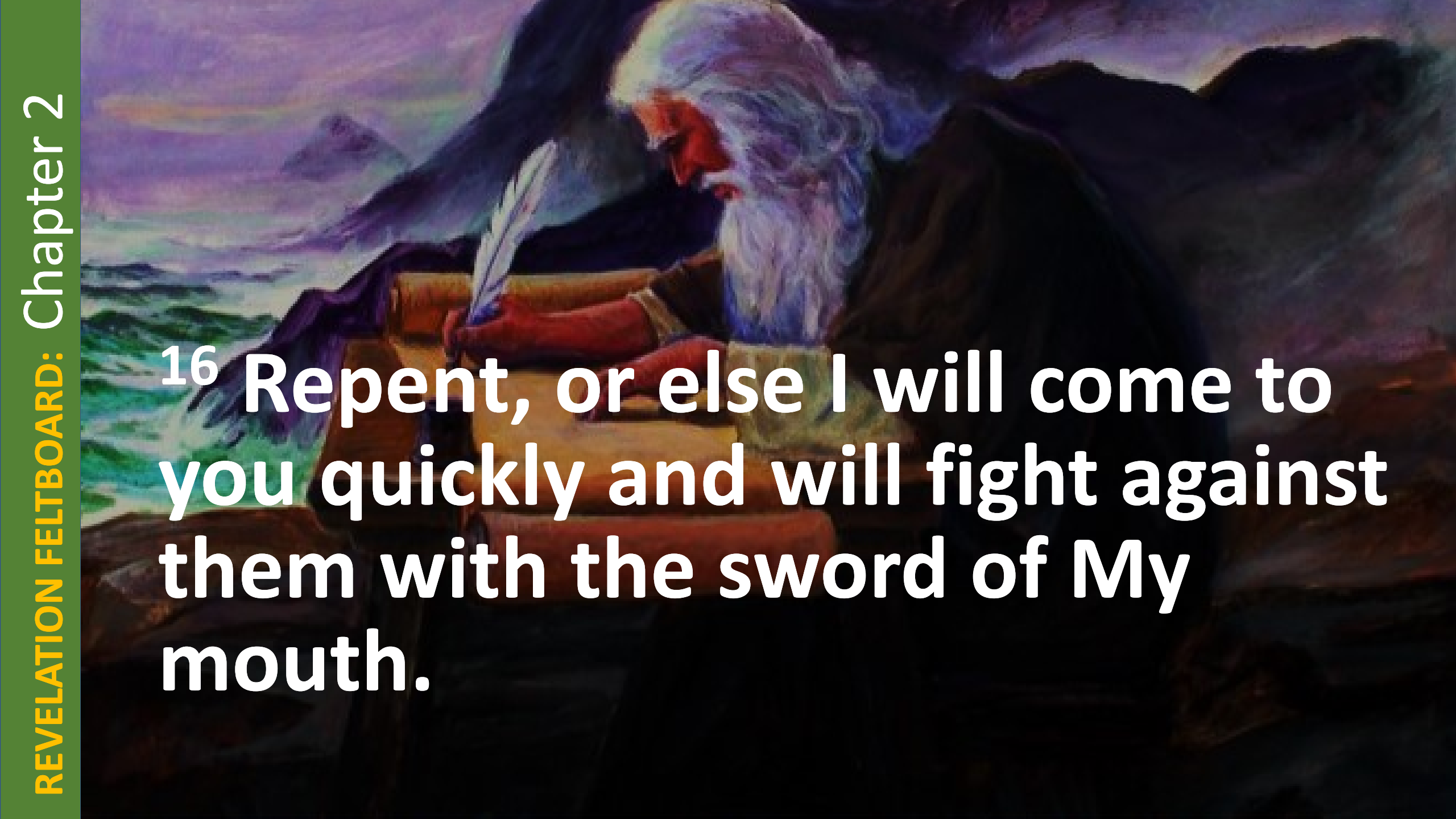
- The "doctrine of Balaam" = **spiritual prostitution**, marriage with world, with other "gods." Included sexual immorality.
- **Exchange of eternal riches for earthly gain and lusts.** Balaam eventually killed with the enemy.



NOTICE:

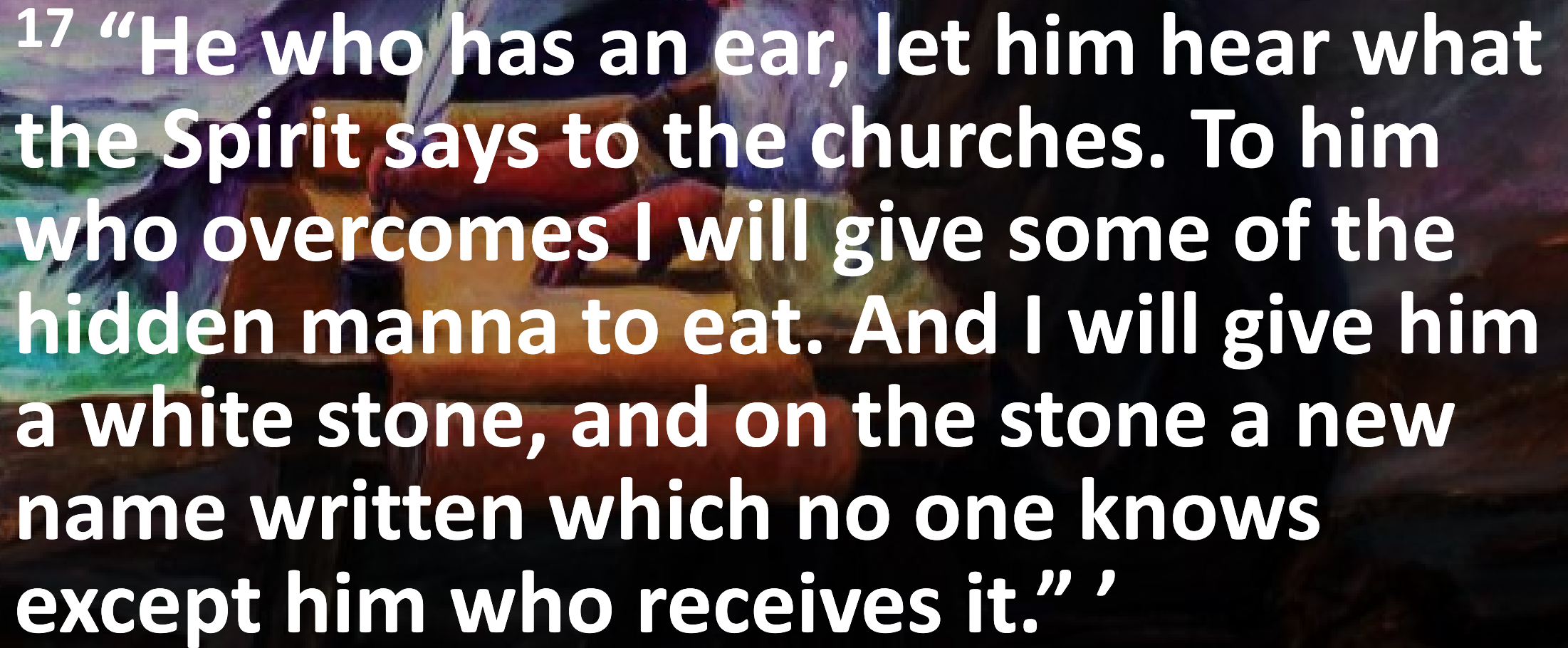
"You HAVE... I HATE..."

- 2) “...those who hold the doctrine of the *Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.*” 2nd time Jesus said He hated something - the practice of the Nicolaitans. Implied practice of clergy “lording it over the laity,” in the church.
- Pergamos = church of Rome from when they instituted **Nicolaitan system of separation of priests and laity**.
- Antipas represents opposition to excesses/false teachings of Rome and tradition of men - *led to Protestant Reformation*.

An elderly man with a long white beard and hair, wearing a dark robe, is seated and reading a scroll. He is positioned in the foreground, looking down at the scroll. The background shows a vast, hazy landscape with mountains and a body of water under a purple and blue sky. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

- **Exhortation** (encouragement): REPENT!
- **“Repent”** = "turn around" and go back [to God].
- Jesus says **He will fight against "them,"** not "you."
May mean those among them who are Nicolaitans, and falsehoods of Roman church, including marriage to the world (paganism).
- Perhaps local body of believers tempted to take on practices of new Roman church, which Jesus says He hated. *Pretty strong language for Jesus!*

An elderly man with a long white beard and hair, wearing a blue robe, is seated at a wooden desk. He is leaning forward, writing on a scroll with a quill pen. The background is a soft, painterly landscape with mountains and a sky in shades of purple and blue.

17 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.” ’

- **Promise:**
 1. **"Hidden manna"** = Bread from Heaven. Physical bread in wilderness = spiritual bread, nourishment for our spirits and souls.
 2. **"White stones"** (*several meanings in ancient cultures*)
White and dark stones used to vote or cast judgment.
Black = "no" or guilty vote.
White = "yes" or innocent.

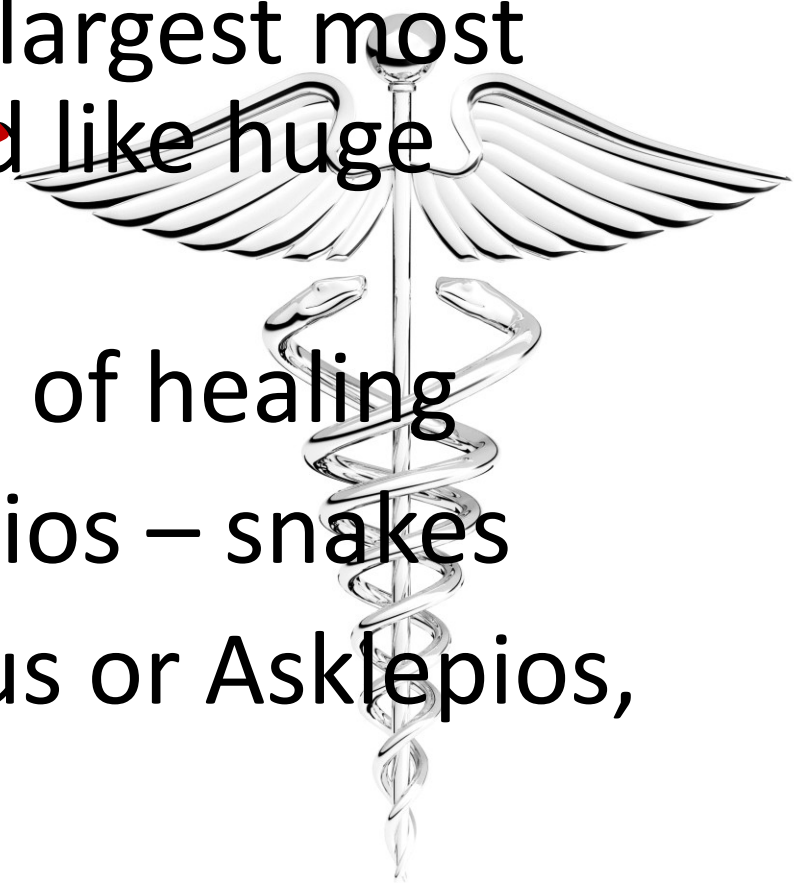


Innocent!
You're In!

- Overcomer given "**yes**" **vote**, judged non-guilty.
- White stones also used as entrance to special events (*type of free admission*). Overcomer given free admission to heaven.
- Stone used throughout Word = the **Rock of our Salvation, Jesus**.
- "...**a new name...**" God frequently gave new names. (Abram → Abraham, Sarai → Sarah, Jacob → Israel, Saul → Paul, etc.) Symbolic for new creature in Him.
- New name = change from what we were, to what we will be in Him. Uniquely crafted just for us. *No one else will share that name!*

What is Satan's throne in Pergamos?

- Caesar worship
- **Altar to Zeus** (head of all other gods, supreme pagan god) – (altar of Pergamos) largest most famous altar in the world. Shaped like huge throne, set on highest place
- Bizarre worship of **Asklepios**, god of healing
- Medical school, Temple of Asklepios – snakes
- Whether worshipping Caesar, Zeus or Asklepios, **the Serpent is there!**



REVELATION FELTBOARD: Chapter 2



- 1878 German engineer began excavations
- Remains given to Germany by Turkey
- Housed in museum in Berlin, 1930
- Emulated by Hitler (*and a former US president!*)
- Captured by Soviets, returned to East Germany
- Still in Berlin Museum, but **currently undergoing restoration** (*supposed to be open again late 2019 or 2020*). Hmmmm...?

REVELATION FELTBOARD: Chapter 2



¹⁸ “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, ‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: ¹⁹ “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.

²⁰ Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. ²¹ And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

²² Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. ²³ I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

²⁴ “Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. ²⁵ But hold fast what you have till I come. ²⁶ And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—

²⁷ 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'—as I also have received from My Father; ²⁸ and I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." '

Letter to *ekklesia* at Thyatira...

¹⁸ “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, ‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:

- **Thyatira** - Different opinions about origin; similar Greek word (*thygater*) for "daughter."
Appropriate: Jezebel, daughter of the Priest of Astarte (Babylonian goddess), the King of Sidon (see 1 Kings). "Daughter of Zion" also used throughout scripture to indicate God's people.
- **Women associated with sexual immorality**, often seen as seductresses (Eve). A "woman" plays a starring role here. (4 "*women*" in revelation)
- Others: name from a Greek root word = to "**sacrifice.**" Also relevant for this city's letter.

THYATIRA

- Not important or beautiful, inland
- Built/dedicated to protecting Pergamos (sacrificed if needed)
- Manufacturing/trades
- Trade guilds
- Orgies to pagan gods
- “Jezebel” (Gnosticism)
- Threat not so much OUTSIDE, but inside
- **Compromise**
- False teachers/leaders
- Toleration

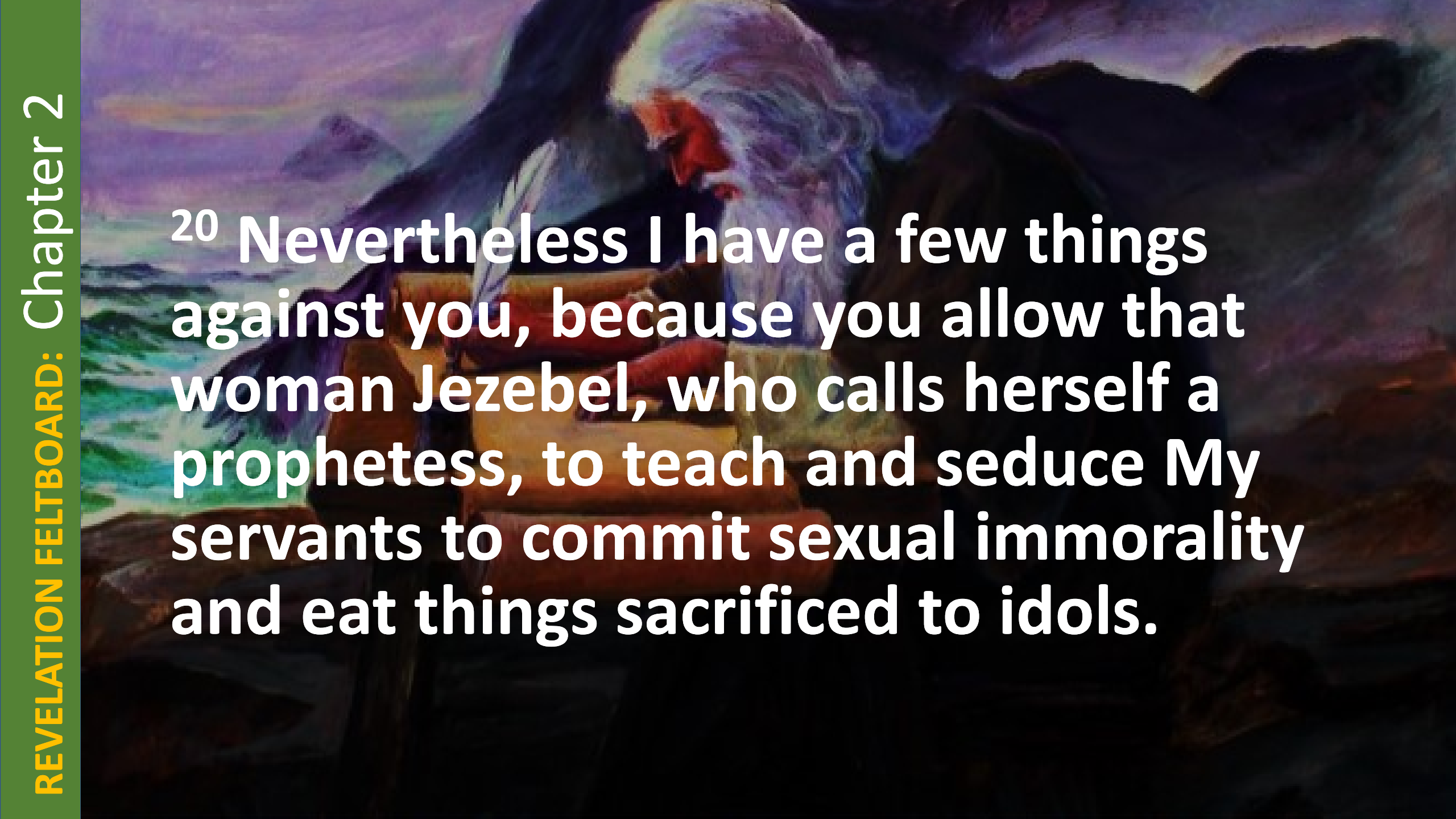


- **Description/Title of Jesus:** "... the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass..."
 - *Son of God* = Almighty God Himself (Judge)
 - eyes like a flame of fire = anger, indignation, all-seeing, all knowing
 - blazing feet "like fine brass" (furnace, white hot, brass = judgment)
- **The All-Seeing, All Knowing One**, Judge of all sin, full of righteous anger! What was happening in Thyatira to HIS daughter (Church) cause for **righteous indignation!**



19 “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.

- **Commendation:** Jesus knows their:
 1. works (*deeds they were doing for Him*)
 2. love (*faith not just a label, had relationship*)
 3. service (*were serving God, not man*)
 4. faith (*continued to believe steadfastly*)
 5. patience (*enduring in midst of paganism, and pressure to conform to the world*)
 6. increasing works (*continue to do more for Him*)



²⁰ Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Jezebel?

- Northern Kingdom, Jezebel + King Ahab = worst time in OT period of split kingdoms. Incredibly wicked, above all other women in scripture, Jezebel most pagan, evil, cunning, daring and unscrupulous.
- Led Ahab to evil also. Murdered, eaten by dogs.
- Woman referenced here has same name. ***Who is this?***

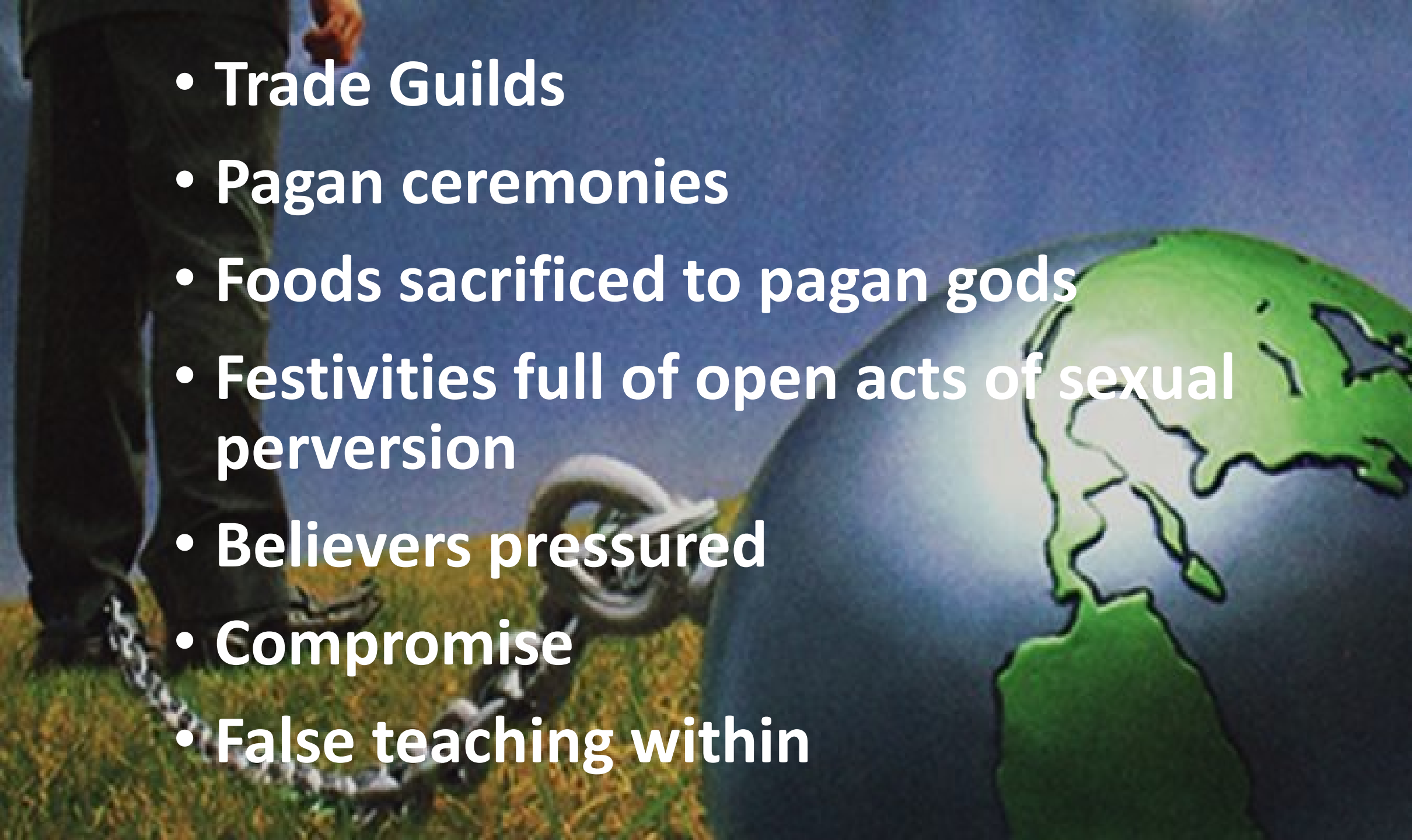


Options...

- common name, person's real name
- name used deliberately, equate to original seductress
- general seduction of believers away from God as work of a "Jezebel"

Behavior of this current Jezebel as bad in God's eyes as original - **leading church astray.**

- Trade Guilds
- Pagan ceremonies
- Foods sacrificed to pagan gods
- Festivities full of open acts of sexual perversion
- Believers pressured
- Compromise
- False teaching within

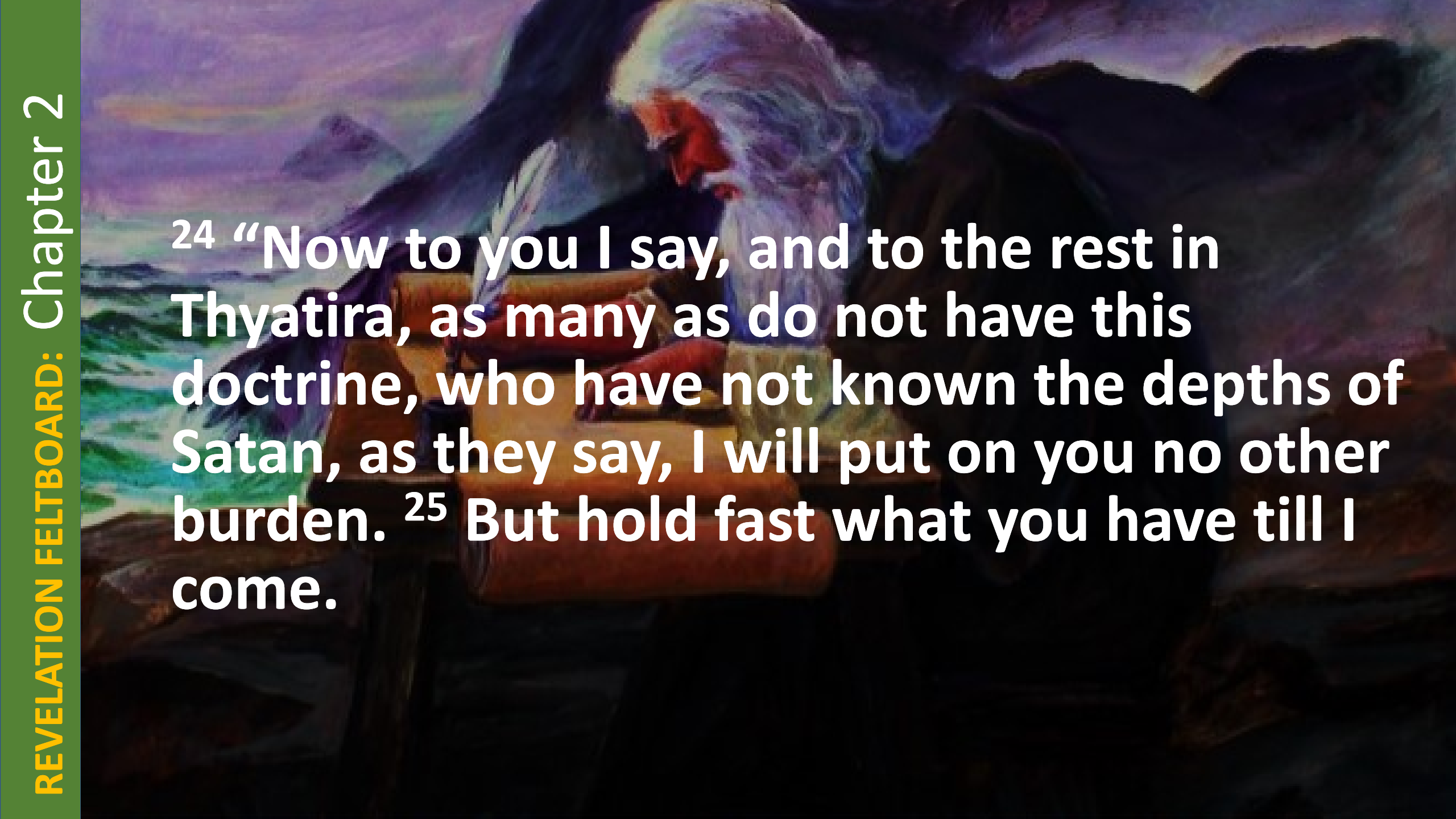


21 And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. 23 I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

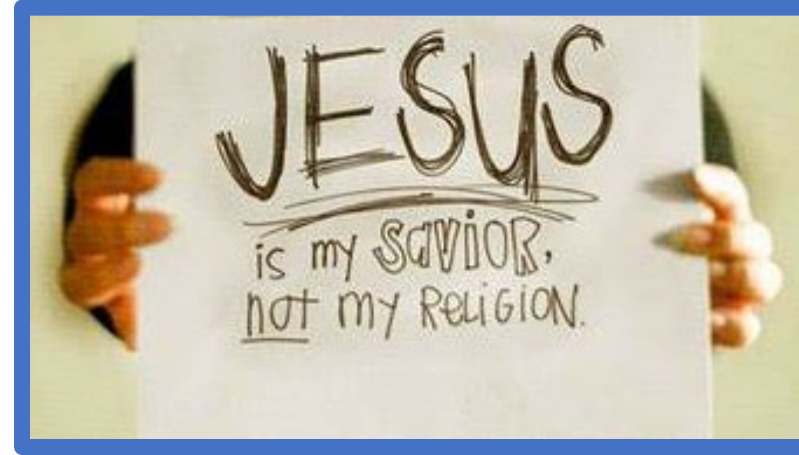
- Literal fornication, also used *spiritually* throughout scripture = intimacy with false gods instead of the One True God.
- Apparently warned, ***but did not repent.***
- Given "great tribulation" AND sickness. May be physical (STDs, etc.) spiritual, or both.
- ***THE Tribulation??***
- ***“According to your works...”*** those who do not repent will be judged by works (*as measured against Law?*), not by grace.

- *"her children..., and all the churches shall know..."* may indicate "children" of Jezebel who tempted God's people away, and "spiritual" children of original group of believers.
- Also "children" (offspring) **of original church**. May reference denominations, sects and branches of Christianity, instead of one united Body of Messiah.
- More meaning in Revelation 17 and 18, **judgment of Babylon**.

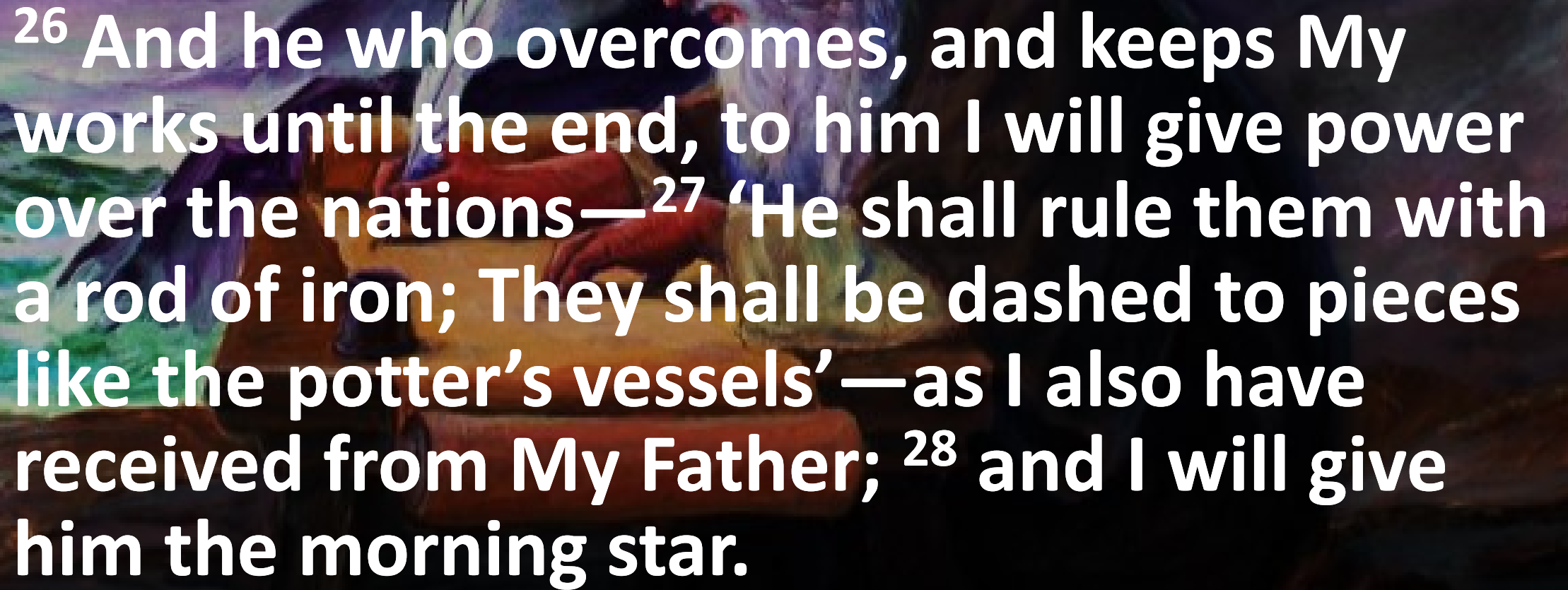


²⁴ “Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. ²⁵ But hold fast what you have till I come.

- Were faithful believers in Thyatira, did not fall to evil practices and perversion of God's Word.
- ***“depths of Satan...”*** this kind of seduction, “prostitution” of God's people. *Pretty serious!*
- Practicing pure Word, not man's religion.
- Would **not “be burdened”** with anything else from Jesus.
- Told to **hold fast to what they now have** - faith untouched by enemy's perversion.



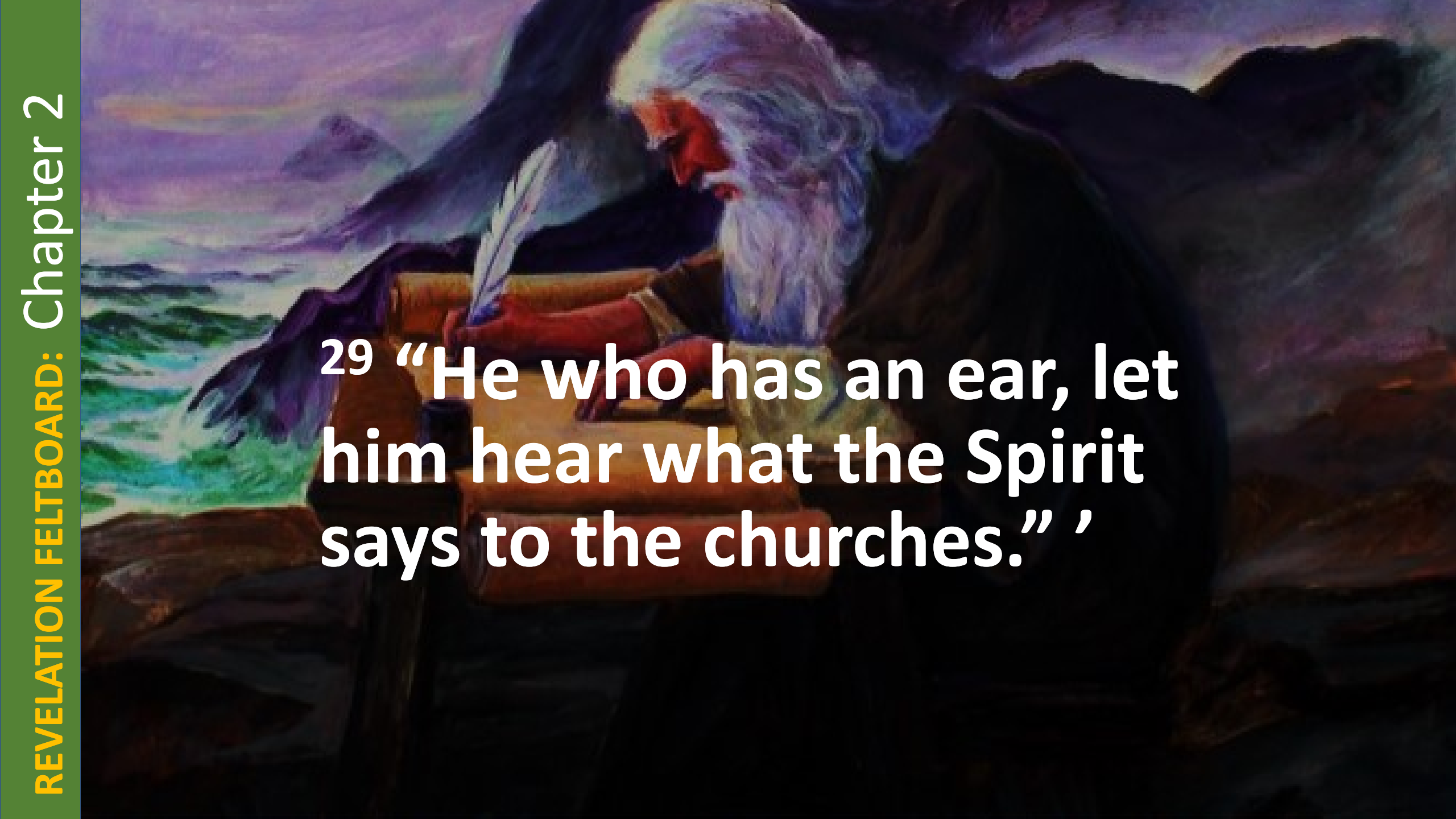
It's about
RELATIONSHIP
not
Religion!



²⁶ And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—²⁷ ‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’—as I also have received from My Father; ²⁸ and I will give him the morning star.

- **Promise:**
- True believers rewarded with **true power** from God, HIS power over the nations (*not like Nicolaitans*)
- Believers reign with Yeshua during Millennium. Share power with Him. *Awesome thought!*
- Jesus (speaker) quotes **Psalm 2** (*Godhead talking*) Millennium, all at peace, but enforced!
- Those not *fully redeemed*, under "**rod of iron**" (*see also Psalm 110:2, Hebrews 1:8*)
- "*dashed to pieces*" if don't comply. Jesus has received this power from His Father.

- "...and I will give him the morning star." - seen before sunrise. Promise of dawn (redemption)
- **Jesus = Morning Star**
22:16. (See also 2 Peter 1:19 and Numbers 24:17)

An elderly man with a long, flowing white beard and hair is depicted in a dark, atmospheric setting. He is wearing a dark, heavy robe and is seated at a wooden desk. He is focused on writing in a large, open scroll with a quill pen. The background is dark and moody, with a hint of a landscape or sky in shades of purple and blue. The overall tone is solemn and contemplative.

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

- Thyatira, + remaining 3 churches, closing statement now AFTER message to overcomer.
- First 3 before promise. May indicate first 3 churches (*actual and throughout history*), still capable of repenting and restoring (*as a church*).
- From Thyatira onward (*Dark Ages to today*) seems "Church" (*organized religion*) would not repent, but **promises applicable to remnant of true believers** (individuals) who *would* hear and repent
- Last 4 letters, messages to overcomer associated with **second coming.**

- Thyatira prophetically = "Dark Ages." Medieval papacy ~ 600 to 1500 AD
- **Historical note:** 378 AD, Damasus, bishop of Rome (pope) took title and office of **Pontifex Maximus** (high priest of Babylonian religion). Previously reserved for Roman Emperor.
- **Roman church now officially combined with paganism, never been separated.**
- "Church" at that time steeped in mysticism and paganism

- Rites, rituals and ceremonies,
- Titles
- Vestments
- celibacy of priests
- image worship
- veneration of saints
- adoration of “host”
- papal infallibility
- transubstantiation
- other "mysteries"



All from
pagan
religious
rites
originated
in
Babylon,
moved to
Pergamos,
settled in
Rome

- “Church” no longer separate. Roman influence a stumbling block.
- Historical Roman church shows “bad marriage” (“*Pergamos*”) as pagan influence and gospel of Jesus now side by side.
- Yet “ekklesia” has always had true worshippers, those who held/hold fast to truth of Jesus
- **Relationship NOT Ritual!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

- **Do not mean to offend!** Facts reveal truth of organized religion.
- Preparation for understanding Revelation 17 (Harlot)
- As letters progress, *as church progresses in history,* church gets farther away from truth and away from God.
- John's vision in chapter 17 (The Harlot) stuns him. Must be aware of what history has to say about the church to understand. *Not pretty at times.*



*Yevarekh-kha Adonai
veyishmerekha*

May the LORD bless you and keep you

*Ya'er Adonai panav elekha
viḥunneka*

May the LORD make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you

*Yissa Adonai panav elekha
viyasem lekha shalom.*

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you
and give you peace.