



Black Sea

Constantinople

ASIA

- Pergamum
- Thyatira
- Sardis
- Philadelphia
- Smyrna
- Ephesus
- Laodicea

Aegean Sea

ACHAEA

CRETE

RHODES

CYPRUS

MESOPOTAMIA

SYRIA

Euphrates

BITHYNIA & PONTUS

LYCIA
&
PAMPHYLIA

GALATIA
&
CAPPADOCIA

ARMENIA

DACIA

MOESIA

Ister River

THRACIA

MACEDONIA

Three Key Principles: History and Christianity

1. The God of the Bible is the God who creates, supervises, directs, and controls history.
2. Only the Bible has in inseparable connection between historical-geographical events and key doctrines.
3. Denial of the space-time reality of these key events (Fall, Flood, call of Abraham, the exodus, the conquest, the death and resurrection of Christ) necessarily destroys the validity of the spiritual truths connected to those events.

Key Chronology

- 306 Maxentius & Constantine co-emperors
- 312 Oct. 28 - Battle of Milvian Bridge
- 313 Edict of Milan, legalized Christianity
- 324 Constantine makes Byzantium the new capital
- 325 Council of Nicea (the Deity of Christ, Arianism)
- 378 Battle of Adrianople, **FALL OF WESTERN ROME**
- 381 Council of Constantinople
- 431 Council of Ephesus
- 451 Council of Chalcedon

The Failure of Post-Nicene Christianity

- Early successes: evangelism, missions, doctrinal clarity (Ephesus, Smyrna, Philadelphia)
- Early warning signs: assimilation, compromise, complacency (Thyatira, Pergamon, Sardis, Laodicea)
- Assimilation with worldliness (HVP, paganism, philosophy, success)

Ephesus, Rev. 2:–7

Doctrinally astute, but lost their first love

Smyrna, Rev. 2:8–11

Persecution, martyrdom, crown of life

Pergamum, Rev. 2:12–17

Persecution, compromise, assimilation

Thyatira, Rev 2:17–29

**Increase of Divine Good; coupled with
tolerance of licentiousness, knowledge
of the deep things of Satan**

Sardis, Rev. 3:1–6

Self sufficiency; reliance on past achievements, compromise

Philadelphia, Rev. 3:7–13

Evangelistic, missions

Laodicea, Rev. 3:14–22

Lukewarm, blind, self-sufficient

Historical Judgment of a Failed Christianity

1. The rise and fall of civilizations is based on spiritual factors: God's sovereign plan; the spiritual status of the people; God's plan for Israel.
2. The Church has historically failed at the key points illustrated in Rev. 2–3: priorities, complacency, compromise, self-sufficiency.
3. As with Israel God has often judged a once flourishing area of Christian vitality with rank paganism, i.e., Islam in N. Africa, Turkey; Europe; New England.
4. The only way to survive the judgment is to fortify with doctrine.
5. But as long as we're alive, there is always hope: Nineveh, Judah under Hezekiah.