



To Enjoy and Express the Freeing Radical Love of Jesus

[BrevardChurch.org](http://BrevardChurch.org)

EMPIRES AT WAR



LAODICEA  
PERGAMUM



SARDIS  
SMYRNA



**THE  
LETTERS  
OF REVELATION  
EMPIRES AT WAR**

**REVELATION 3:14-22**

**LAODICEA**

***“INSTRUMENTAL”***

**NOVEMBER 13**

<sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.



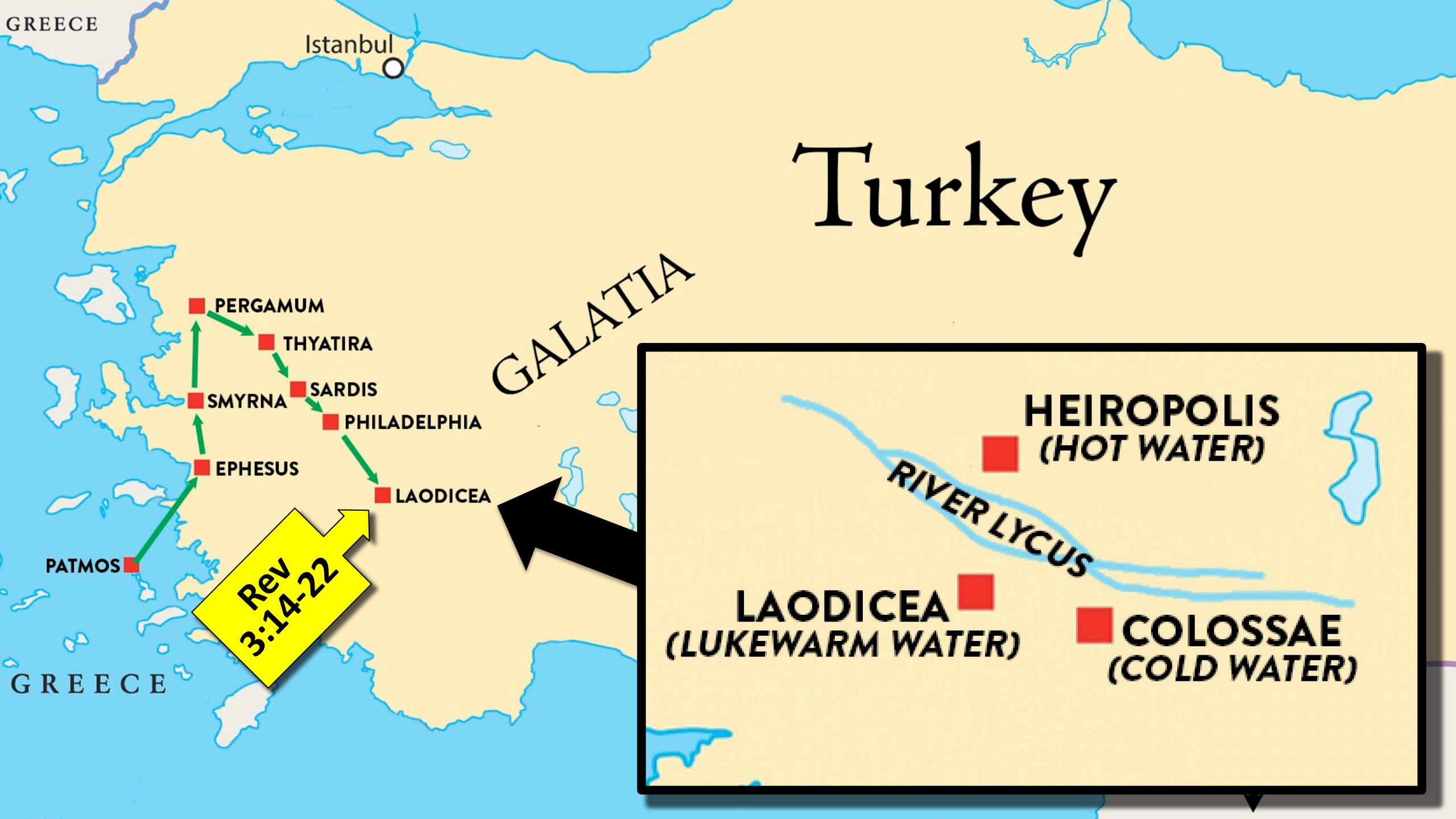
The Laodicea  
Culture



The Laodicea  
Church



The Laodicea  
Connection



# Turkey

GALATIA

Rev  
3:14-22

**HEIROPOLIS**  
(HOT WATER)

**RIVER LYCUS**

**LAODICEA**  
(LUKEWARM WATER)

**COLOSSAE**  
(COLD WATER)



# The Laodicea Culture

## *Hieropolis – Hot Waters that Heal*





# The Laodicea Culture

## *Hieropolis – Hot Waters that Heal*









# The Laodicea Culture

## *Hieropolis – Hot Waters that Heal*





# The Laodicea Culture

## *Colossae – Cold Waters that Give Life*



Mt. Cadmus - Highest Mountain in Western Turkey



# The Laodicea Culture





# The Laodicea Culture





# The Laodicea Culture





# The Laodicea Culture

- The region's banking center
- The premier eye-care center in the world
- Made a unique and expensive black wool
- Early adopters of the athletic games
- “Throne City” – Zeno Family
- Contaminated water





## Revelation 3:14-22

<sup>14</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.

<sup>15</sup> “‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.



<sup>19</sup> Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. <sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. <sup>21</sup> The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”



# The Laodicean Church

*House Church*



*Baptismal*



*Large Ornate Church*





# The Laodicea Church

“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot.  
Would that you were either cold or hot!  
<sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot  
nor cold, I will **spit you out (“vomit”)** of my mouth.”

*Hieropolis*



*Colossae*



*Laodicea*





# The Laodicea Church

“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot.  
Would that you were either cold or hot!  
<sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot  
nor cold, I will **spit you out (“vomit”)** of my mouth.”



The Laodicean Church was “providing neither refreshment for the spiritually weary, not healing for the spiritually sick. It was totally **ineffective**, and thus distasteful to its Lord.”\*

\* Rudwick & Green



# The Laodicea Church

<sup>17</sup> For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

How They Saw Themselves
Success Self-Made Self-Sufficient



# The Laodicea Church

<sup>17</sup> For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

## How They Saw Themselves

Success  
Self-Made  
Self-Sufficient

## How They Actually Were

Destitute  
Ignorant  
Vulnerable



# The Laodicea Church

<sup>17</sup> For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

## How They Saw Themselves

Success  
Self-Made  
Self-Sufficient

## How They Actually Were

Destitute  
Ignorant  
Vulnerable

Christians without Christ



# The Laodicean Connection

<sup>17</sup> For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

## Mistaking Worldly & Spiritual:

- Wealth
- Wisdom
- Glory



# The Laodicean Connection

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## Mistaking Worldly & Spiritual:

- Wealth
- Wisdom
- Glory

Self-Sufficiency

Self-Instrumentality

God wants more for us, not to push us down



# The Laodicean Connection

<sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

## Gospel Riches

Philippians 4:19  
And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Eph 3  
<sup>8</sup>...unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>16</sup>...the riches of his glory

## Gospel Wisdom

Colossians 2:2  
to reach all the **riches** of full assurance of understanding and the **knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,**

1Co 2:2  
...to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

## Gospel Glory

Isa 61:10  
...for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.



<sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.



William Holman Hunt's  
"Behold, I stand at the  
door and knock"



## Pursuing His People

<sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.





19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

Zealous = “boil over”; “heated”

Repent = See, Stop, Turn, Walk

See the fleeting emptiness of façade-satisfaction;  
See the eternal richness of gospel-satisfaction.







The words of the Amen,  
the faithful and true witness,  
the beginning of God's creation.

### Colossians 1

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

<sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>  
And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.



<sup>21</sup> The one who **conquers**, I will grant him to sit with me on my **throne**, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

