

Letters to the Seven Churches

Smyrna

- **Large Commercial Center**
- **Center for Emperor/Roma Worship in Asia**
 - **Temple to Roma**
 - **Temple to emperor Tiberius**





Letters to the Seven Churches

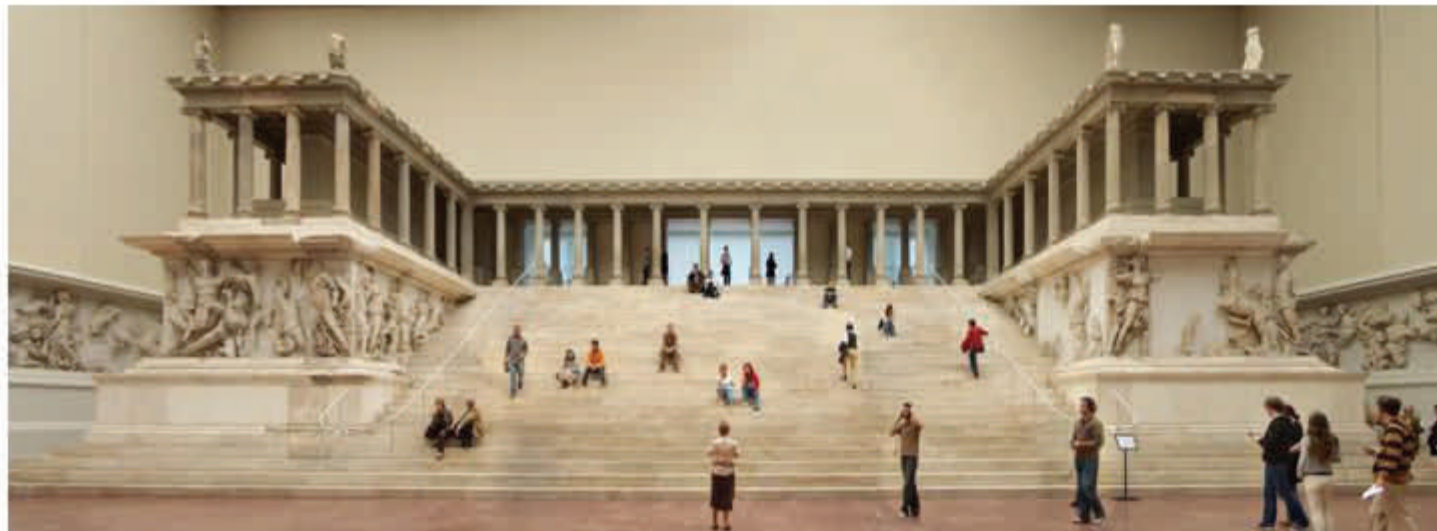
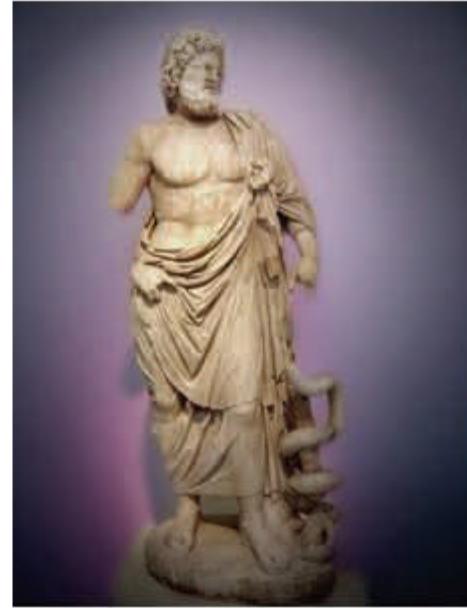
Message to Smyrna

- Words of 'the first and the last' – 2.8
- Words of Commendation & Concern
- Persecution
- Call to suffer imprisonment/death – 2.10
- Faithful receive 'crown of life'
- Won't taste the 'second death'
 - 20.6; 14-15; 21.8
 - Mt 10.28; Lk 12.4-5

Letters to the Seven Churches

Pergamum

- Capital of Roman Province of Asia
- Center of Pagan Worship
 - Altar to Zeus
 - Temple to Asclepius





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Message to Pergamum

- Words of 'sharp, two-edged sword' – 2.12
- Words of Commendation & Concern
- Recognizes the Difficulties
- Food sacrificed to idols/pagan worship
- Punishment without repentance – 2.16
- To the conquerors
 - Manna
 - White Stone

Letters to the Seven Churches

Thyatira

- Large commercial center
- Home to a number of trades and guilds
- Pagan Worship





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Message to Thyatira

•‘Eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze’ – 2.18

•Words of Commendation & Concern

•Love, faith, service, and patient endurance - 2.19

•Similar to Pergamum – 2.20-21

– Idol worship & fornication

– False prophetess – Jezebel (2 Ki 9.22; 1 Ki 16.31-33)

•To the conquerors

– Messianic Rule – 2.26

– Morning Star – 2.29