All Creation Joins in Giving Praise to God and the Lamb

_A study of Revelation with focus on Earthcare_

Read the Bible verses and then read the summary. Decide what the challenge is for that church assigned to your group (assimilation, persecution, or complacency). You have fifteen minutes.

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Ephesus

Rev. 2:1-7. Ephesus was a major port city on the coast. It was a hub in the regions road system and a thriving community. Much Roman government business was conducted in this city because the Romans made it an administrative center. It was a cultural center with a spacious theater, stadium and many religious shrines.

As we read the message in Revelation, we hear a battle of two forms of the truth. It is about true and false teaching.

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Smyrna

Rev. 2:8-11. Smyrna was a harbor city that was thriving. The city had aqueducts and fountains and a theater. It claimed to be the birthplace of the poet, Homer and built a shrine in his honor. A library, gymnasiums, baths, and a stadium contributed to the cultural life.

As we read in Revelation, the church at Smyrna has true wealth, even though in poverty.
Pergamum

Rev 2:12-17. Pergamum was a major city in western Asia Minor in New Testament times. It lies in the valley, sixteen miles from the Aegean Sea in what is today the country of Turkey. It had impressive temples, a library, and medical facilities.

In Revelation we hear about the issue of eating food sacrificed to idols. It was part of the culture to sacrifice meat to idols and then to offer it in public settings or in the market. Eating that meat was part of social and economic life.

Thyatira

Rev. 2:18-29. Thyatira was located in what is today Turkey. It is in a fertile valley where trade routes passed.

In Revelation, it seems the question is, How far can you go? Pray to Jesus, but do what you want.

Sardis

Rev. 3:1-6. Sardis was in the seventh century B.C. the capital of Lydia. Gold was found in the river near Sardis and the kings who lived there were renowned for their wealth. The
Persians captured Sardis in the sixth century and made it their administrative center. It was connected with other Persian cities by what was known as the “royal road.” In New Testament times it was part of the Roman province of Asia.

Philadelphia

Rev. 3:7-13. Philadelphia lies in a valley at the foot of a mountainous plateau. The low dark hill in the center of the picture shows the area of the ancient city. The kings of Pergamum founded Philadelphia as an outpost of their realm in the second century B.C. It was located along important travel routes.

Laodicea

Rev. 3:14-22. Laodicea lies at a major crossroads in the valleys of Asia Minor. The city was situated on a hill overlooking fertile valleys and majestic mountains. Court cases from the region were heard in Laodicea and funds were placed in the banks for safekeeping.