



# CHURCHES

OF REVELATION

# THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF THE ROMAN PROVINCE OF ASIA





*Church of the  
Closed Door*

**LAODICEA**

“Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis.”

**(Colossians 4:12-13)**



“Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea... And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.”

**(Colossians 4:15-16)**





**Laodicea**



Laodicea is a wealthy, rising city that  
takes great pride in its SELF-  
SUFFICIENCY.



“Look, I have  
set before you  
an open door,  
which no one  
is able to  
shut.”



“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.”

**(Revelation 3:20)**



“I slept, but my heart was awake. A sound! My beloved is knocking. ‘Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one, for my head is wet with dew, my locks with the drops of the night.’” (Song of Songs 5:2)



“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

**(Matthew 16:19)**



**“Lucy, I’m  
home!”**



“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.” (Luke 12:35-37)



## Revelation 3:14 (ESV)

14 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.”



## Revelation 3:15-16 (ESV)

15 “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! 16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.”

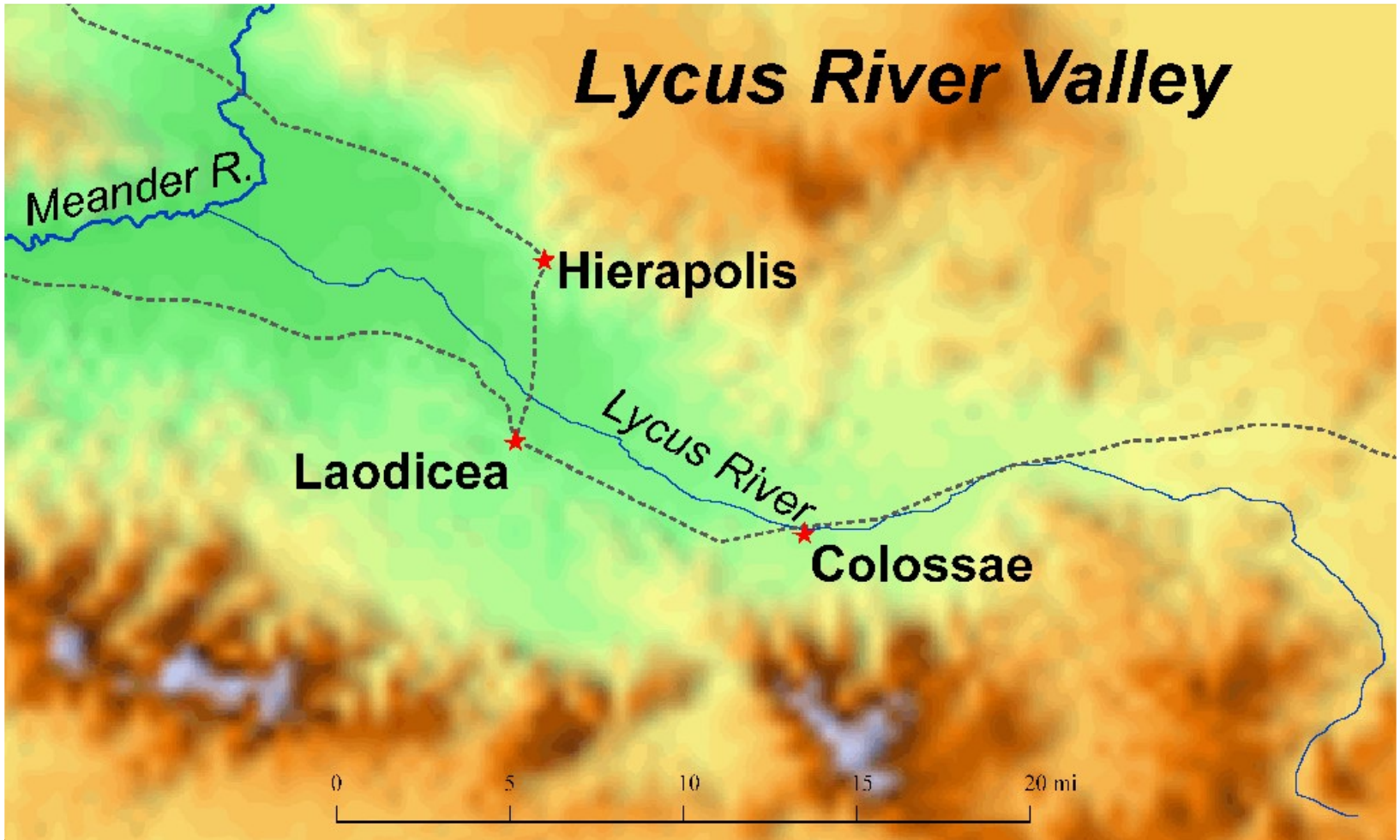


## Revelation 3:9 (ESV)

9 “See, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—look, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you.”



# *Lycus River Valley*



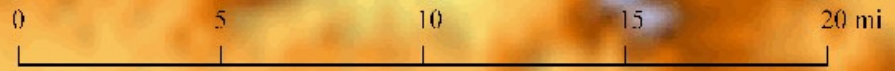
Meander R.

Hierapolis

Laodicea

Lycus River

Colossae





**Colossae**  
**cold spring ↓**

**Hierapolis**  
**hot spring ↑**





**Water pipes**

What has rendered the Laodicean  
believers lukewarm and  
INEFFECTIVE in Christ's eyes?



## Revelation 3:17-18 (ESV)

17 “For you say, ‘I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing,’ not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. 18 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.”



“Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, ‘Who is the Lord YHWH?’ or lest I be poor and steal and profane your name.”

**(Proverbs 30:8-9)**



## Revelation 3:19-21 (ESV)

19 "Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. 20 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. 21 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."



## Revelation 3:22 (ESV)

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



- Does your faith and witness have a healthy effect—either hot or cold—on those who live around you?
- How would Jesus assess your spiritual state? Would His perspective differ sharply from your own? What would He identify as your deep needs?



- Can you recognize ways in which your friendship with the world has render you ineffective for God's kingdom purposes?
- How might you be locking Jesus out of your life? How might we be preventing Jesus' entry into and leadership within His church?



**Heed Christ's call to be ZEALOUS  
and REPENT.**



“You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” (James 4:4)



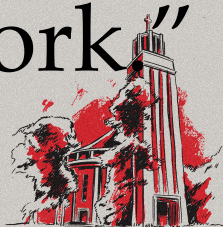
“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.”

**(1 John 2:15-16)**



“Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also those of wood and clay; some for honorable use and some for dishonorable. So if anyone purifies himself from anything dishonorable, he will be a special instrument, set apart, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.”

**(2 Timothy 2:20-21)**



“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.”

**(Revelation 3:20)**

