

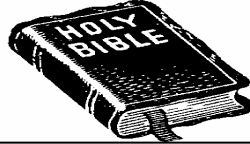
CLASS

\_\_\_\_\_

LESSON NUMBER

**39 A**

# THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



© 2004

MY NAME

\_\_\_\_\_

DATE

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES are written by Fred D. Whitelaw. They may be downloaded free of charge from our website: [www.tpbs.org](http://www.tpbs.org) Make as many copies as you desire. Use them freely. These lessons are designed to promote independent thought in classroom and individual studies. Hole punch and store in 3 Ring Binders. Copyright is to preserve integrity. Each lesson must be reproduced in its entirety. Changes or partial reproductions prohibited. For consistency, all quotes are from the KJV, unless otherwise noted. 11/05

## THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA MINOR - REVELATION 2 & 3

**Cities Of Asia Minor** The cities located on the Anatolian peninsula (modern-day Turkey). Cities of Asia Minor important to the New Testament accounts included: Alexandria--- Troas--- Assos---**Ephesus**-----  
---Miletus-----Patara-----**Smyrna**-----**Pergamum**-----**Sardis**-----**Thyatira** -----**Philadelphia**-----  
**Laodicea**-----Colossae-----Attali-----Pisidian Antioch-----Iconium-----Lystra-----Derbe-----  
Tarsus. The cities figured prominently in the Apostle Paul's missionary journeys. Several of the churches received epistles from him. Note: The churches we will be studying are in bold print.

- The Book Of Revelation** The Apostle John is the writer. Some think that the Book of Revelation was written about 95-96 AD but many are adamant that it was written before the Jerusalem fell in August, 70 AD. Where was it written (1:9)? \_\_\_\_\_ (See Chapter One)
- The Contents** It is about (1:1) "The \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ, which \_\_\_\_\_ gave unto him, to show unto his \_\_\_\_\_ things which must shortly come to pass." Also, (1:3) "Blessed is he that \_\_\_\_\_, and they that \_\_\_\_\_ the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are \_\_\_\_\_ therein: for the time is at hand." What does this indicate about the scope of time generally covered? \_\_\_\_\_
- Figurative Language** There is much symbolic language in Revelation. It contains many "word pictures." It is highly likely that it was purposefully written in a "code language" for communicating to the saints what they alone could understand. Unconverted detractors and persecutors would "be in the dark." The number *seven*, representing completion, or perfection, is found throughout the book. The ENG word "*overcometh*" is found 11X-10V KJV and 9V are in Revelation. What is the main purpose (Rev 2:10) of the book? \_\_\_\_\_ Is it not triumph and victory in Jesus despite persecution? \_\_\_\_\_
- The Seven Churches** (1:11) "Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_: and, What thou seest, write in a \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ it unto the \_\_\_\_\_ churches which are in Asia." **Ephesus** (2:1-7) What was to their credit (V2-3)? \_\_\_\_\_ To their detriment (V4)? \_\_\_\_\_ If one's "first love" is proper and it is discarded, is this a sign of fidelity, or of abandonment? \_\_\_\_\_ Can abandoning Christ-like principles ever be good? \_\_\_ The Ephesians hated (V6) the deeds of whom? \_\_\_\_\_

**NICOLAITANS** (Nihk oh lay' ituhs) Heretical group in the early church who taught immorality and idolatry. They are condemned in Revelation 2:6, 15 for their practices in Ephesus and Pergamon. Thyatira apparently had resisted the false prophecy they preached (Rev. 2:20-25). The Nicolaitans have been linked to the type of heresy taught by Balaam (Num. 25:1-2; 2 Pet. 2:15), especially the pagan feasts and orgies that they apparently propagated in the first-century church.