

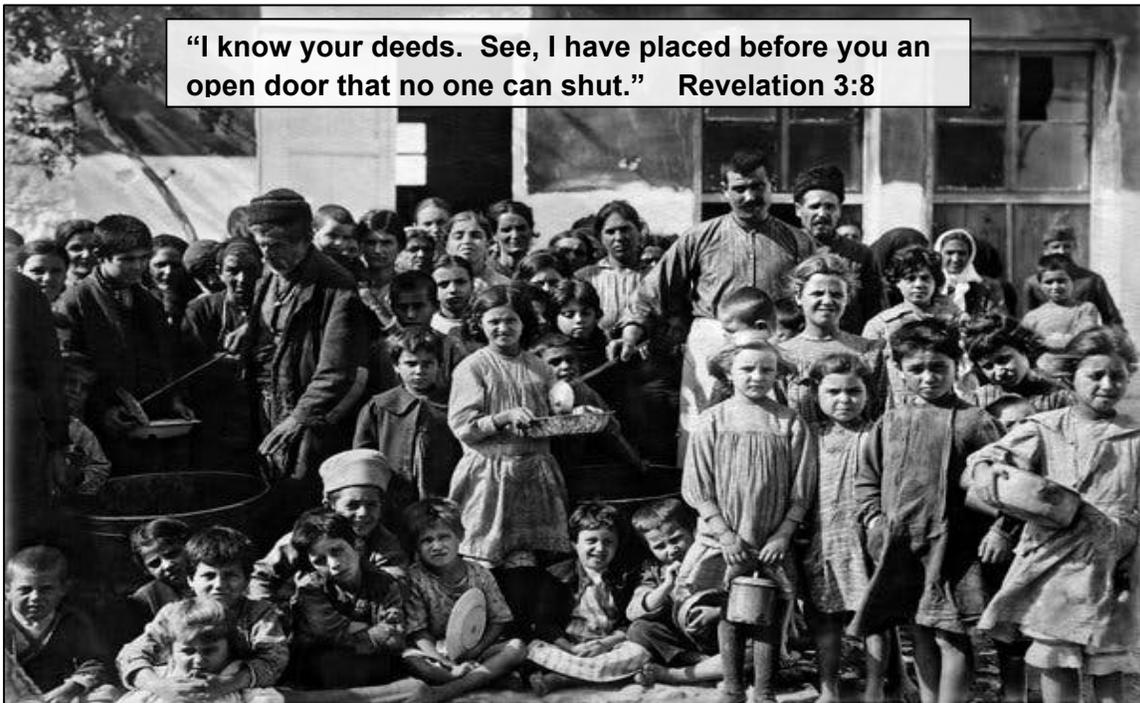


## **THE HISTORY OF THE SEVEN REVELATION CHURCHES ONLY THE PHILADELPHIA CHURCH SURVIVED ISLAM**

The author of Revelation is Jesus Christ. Revelation is the 27th and last Book in the New Testament. It is the 66th and last Book in the Bible. Revelation contains 22 chapters, 404 verses, and 12,000 words. The Book of Revelation contains more prophecy than the other 26 Books of the New Testament combined.

**Once understood, the Book of Revelation is the most significant Book in the New Testament for all the world today.**

Just think how much more faith people would have if they could see dozens of Revelation prophecies, given more than 1,925 years ago by Jesus Christ directly, precisely fulfilled in the world today. We need to give people this great message. The Philadelphia church is fulfilled prophecy!



**JESUS GAVE THE PHILADELPHIA CHURCH  
“AN OPEN DOOR NO ONE CAN SHUT”**

## THE REVELATION FROM JESUS CHRIST, TO SHOW HIS SERVANTS WHAT MUST SOON TAKE PLACE

While living in exile on the island of Patmos, John received the Revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to John, who testified everything he saw was the word of God and from Jesus Christ. The Book of Revelation has the highest divine authority and divine authorship of all the Books in the New Testament! We know the author with certainty because Jesus tells us (1:1) it is Christ Himself.

**Revelation 1:1 The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,**

When is “soon?” Jesus says these events “*must soon take place.*” Soon does not take 2,000 years to see future events. Soon is a little over 500 years. Just some 515 years later, many of the prophecies started to unveil. In 610 AD, Mohammad received his first of more than 22 years of visitations and revelations (610-632 AD) from a demonic spirit calling himself the “Angel Gabriel.” The false gospel of the Qur’an precisely fulfilled Revelation chapter 22 (22:18-19), warnings about adding or taking away the Bible text. The Qur’an added, and it took away, exactly as Jesus said.

In Revelation chapter six, the four horsemen control one-quarter of the world’s population. This is another series of prophecies that would be “soon.” The four horsemen did not take 2,000 years to materialize. They were the first four Islamic leaders (Mohammad, Abu Bakr, Umar, and Uthman), and they swept across the Christian lands during 624-660 AD. Their Umayyad Caliphate would exercise authority over one-quarter of the world (Revelation 6:8), just as Jesus said they would.

In Revelation chapter two, John writes letters from Jesus to the churches at Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, and Thyatira. In Revelation chapter three, John writes letters from Jesus to the churches at Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. Jesus kept the Philadelphia church from the trial that the rest of the world has faced, Islam. Islam destroyed the other six Revelation churches.

The Islamic raiders and followers of Mohammad, the false prophet, DID NOT destroy Philadelphia, as Islam did to the other six churches of Revelation. This fulfills what Jesus said to Philadelphia: “*Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.*” (Revelation 3:10)

Philadelphia remained steadfastly Christian, and twice, in 1306 and 1324, it was besieged by the Islamic Seljuk Turks, but it retained its independence until after 1390, when it was controlled by the combined forces of the Turks and Christian Byzantines.

According to 1905 census data, the metropolis of Philadelphia (Ala-sehir) included 19 Orthodox communities, most all of them Turkish-speaking Christians, not ethnic Greeks, consisting of 14,003 people, 25 parishes and 23 priests. During World War I, the Turkish Christian population there was estimated to be 18,000 to 25,000. All the Christians were moved as a group in 1923 to a suburb of Athens, Greece called Nea Filadelfia (meaning “New Philadelphia”). They still worship Christ today.

## JESUS GIVES AN “OPEN DOOR NO ONE CAN SHUT” THE 1923 POPULATION EXCHANGE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY

Turkey killed more than 1 million Armenian Christians in 1915-16. Greece and Turkey fought a war from 1919 to 1922. The Christian Allies negotiated a new treaty with Turkey at the end of the war. Estimates are that from 1900 to 1922, various Turkish Islamic regimes killed from 3,500,000 to over 4,300,000 Christian Armenians, “Greeks”, and Assyrians. Thus, after the war it was very important to protect Christian populations from further Islamic genocide through a full population transfer.

The 1923 population exchange between Greece and Turkey was arranged by "Convention Concerning the Exchange of Greek and Turkish Populations" signed at Lausanne, Switzerland, on January 30, 1923, by the governments of Greece and Turkey. It involved at least 1.6 million people. There were 1.2 million Greek Orthodox Christians from Asia Minor, Eastern Thrace, the Pontic Alps, and the Caucasus, and 400,000 Muslims from Greece. **The exchange also included the entire Christian population of the Philadelphia church.** It was similar to Operation Ezra and Nehemiah between 1948 in 1951, as Jews miraculously left Islamic countries and migrated back to Israel.

In Philadelphia (Ala-şehir), the entire local Orthodox Christian element (estimated at more than 20,000 people in 1922) was evacuated in the Greek-Turkish population exchange of 1923. In many cases, their families had lived in Turkey for many centuries.

The new state of Turkey also envisioned the population exchange as a way to formalize and make permanent the flight of its native Christian Greek Orthodox peoples following their genocide (1900–1922).



### JESUS GAVE THE PHILADELPHIA CHURCH AN OPEN DOOR

The Christians were safely moved to a suburb of Athens, Greece. It was given a new name for them as *Nea Filadelfia* ("New Philadelphia"). Just as Jesus promised—Jesus spared the Philadelphia church from the coming trials of Islamic control and persecution.

This major compulsory population exchange, or agreed mutual expulsion, was based not on language or ethnicity, but upon religious identity, and involved nearly all the indigenous Orthodox Christian citizens of Turkey, including even long time native Turkish-speaking Orthodox Christians citizens.

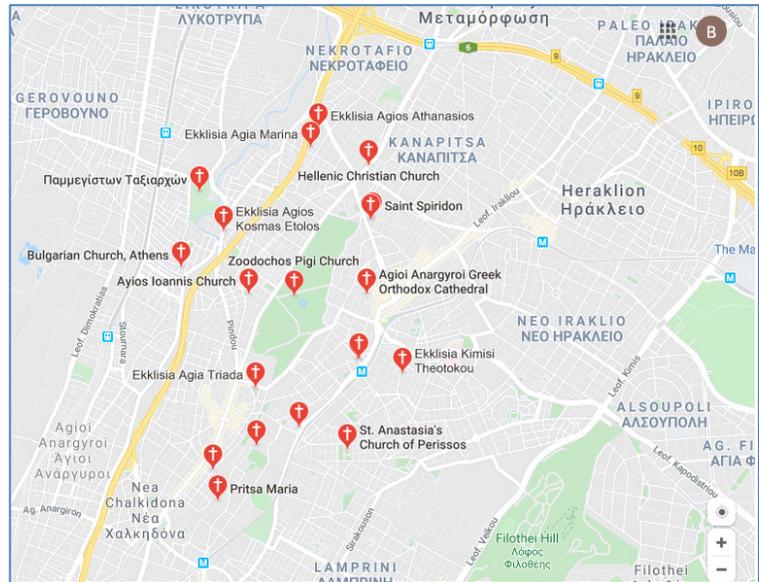
## THE PHILADELPHIA CHURCH TODAY STILL WORSHIPS CHRIST

Nea Filadelfeia (Greek: Νέα Φιλαδέλφεια, meaning “New Philadelphia”) is a suburb of Athens, Greece. It was named after the Anatolian Christian city Filadelfeia, now Ala-şehir in Turkey, and it was settled in 1923 by Greek refugees from Philadelphia after the Greek-Turkish war of 1919-1922.

The population of the Nea Filadelfeia area is about 25,000 people. They have many Christian churches in 2020, as the Google map demonstrates.

Today they fulfill what Jesus promised in Revelation 3:10:

**“Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.”**



**AN ACTIVE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN NEA FILADELFIA (“NEW PHILADELFIA”) TODAY**

**Revelation 3:7 To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.**

**Revelation 3:8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.**

**Revelation 3:9 I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.**

*“These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.”* Only Jesus, “*who is holy and true*” alone can unlock the hidden treasures of truth. The use of the phrase “*who holds the key of David*” points to Isaiah 22:22-24, and to a wider meaning. Jesus Christ has the true honor of the house of David. We learn this from Hebrews 3:2-4.

#### **Isaiah 22:22-24 (NIV)**

**I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I will drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a seat of honor for the house of his father. All the glory of his family will hang on him: its offspring and offshoots—all its lesser vessels, from the bowls to all the jars.**

#### **Hebrews 3:2-4**

**He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God’s house. Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.**

*“I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.”* The church at Philadelphia is the only church that does not receive condemnation from God. They are faithful to the Lord and find being faithful does not always produce results that are beneficial to the members. Yet despite the opposition and persecution, he has set before them an open door, and no earthly power can shut it. The Islamic armies of Mohammad will never dominate them!! They never closed the door!!

*“Have not denied my name.”* When Christians stood before Islamic magistrates in times of persecution, they were required to renounce the name of Christ, say the Shahada (the mark of the beast), and to disown Jesus, the Son of God, in public. The Muslim teacher Zakir Naik today has made videos on YouTube of Christians renouncing Jesus Christ as God. He then requires them to say the Shahada publicly. Amidst the persecutions that raged around them, no doubt members of the church at Philadelphia had faced similar such trials of faith, and they had stood the test firmly.

*"I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you."* Those imposing the solemn guise of Islamic religious worship are in reality carrying on Satan's cause and interest. (*"the synagogue of Satan"*).

Jesus again here tells us that there will be a re-appearance of the same troubles that afflicted the Church of Smyrna: the fixed and contemptuous exclusiveness of the "people of God" was their trial. It is not about trying to be ritualistic "Jewish." It is about claiming to be the only true people of God. Islam claims to be the only true religion of God. Qur'an 3:19, 3:85, 5:3 and 61:6 makes false claims the only true people of God are Muslims, and Islam is the true religion of God.

Qur'an 3:19 Truly the religion with Allah is Islam.

Qur'an 3:85 And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam it will never be accepted of him and in the hereafter he will be one of the losers.

Qur'an 5:3 This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favor upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion.

Qur'an 61:6 And remember when Jesus son of Mary said, "O children of Israel I am the messenger of Allah unto you."

It would seem from Revelation 3:9, that efforts had already been made to induce them to renounce the name of Christ. Those who professed to be the people of God (Jews) are really speaking for Satan. In Revelation chapter 13, Jesus tells us the false prophet Mohammad will be claiming to partner with Jesus (Jesus the mere prophet, the "messenger"), but will be speaking for Satan.

### **Revelation 13:11-12 (NIV)**

**Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.**

The "two horns like a lamb" are a prophecy about the Qur'an references to Jesus. There are some 37 references to Jesus in the Qur'an. But Mohammad was really speaking for Satan (the dragon), when Mohammad claimed Allah told him Jesus was not God, and was not crucified.

Qur'an 5:72 They do blaspheme who say: "God is Jesus the son of Mary." But said Jesus: "O Children of Israel! worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord." Whoever joins other gods with Allah,- Allah will forbid him the garden, and the hellfire will be his abode.

Qur'an 4:157 They said: "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah";-but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no certain knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, and for sure they did not kill him.

**Revelation 3:10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.**

Here we have a specific promise Jesus made this only to the Philadelphia church. Some take the passage out of context and use it for general support for the pretribulation rapture of the church. Indeed, the "hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth" is in the future, when given to John in 95 AD. The hour of trial is to the whole world, but the promise of protection is only to the church at Philadelphia. The hour of trial (tribulation) is not the same as the wrath of God. The trial is from Satan. The Bible tells us believers are saved from the wrath of God.

**Romans 5:9 (NIV)**

**Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!**

Jesus tells us to endure persecution patiently. The Philadelphia church had shown this in the trials which they had experienced; Jesus promises now, that in return, he will keep them safe in the future trials that shall come upon the world. One of the highest rewards of patience in one trial is the grace that God gives us to bear another. God does not leave those who they are faithful to him.

Note that Jesus says "*keep you from*" rather than deliver through. The safekeeping cannot be the rapture since the Philadelphia church did not see Jesus coming in the clouds, and yet Jesus protected them from the trials of Islam. Later on, we can learn more about patient endurance during the tribulation on the rest of the world in Revelation 13:10.

**Revelation 3:11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.**

**Revelation 3:12 The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.**

**Revelation 3:13 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

The Philadelphian Church is the only church of the seven in which there was nothing that Christ rebuked. The letter to the church reveals no recorded faults, either of morals or doctrine. Jesus tells them to keep doing what they are doing. Jesus promises in Revelation chapters 21 and 22 the new heaven and new earth. Jesus gave the Philadelphia church a door no one can shut.

We repeatedly have in this book the image of the divine name written on the foreheads of God's servants, in Revelation 7:3, Revelation 14:1, and Revelation 22:4. Inscribing the name is here means they will be children of God and have their name in the Book of Life. Jesus gives a mark of life; in contrast, the Islamic Shahada, the mark of the beast, is a mark of death.

## **JESUS REMOVED THEIR LAMPSTANDS ISLAM DESTROYED THE EPHESUS CHURCH**

Ephesus was an ancient Greek city on the coast of Ionia, just one mile from present-day Selçuk in İzmir Province, western Turkey. It was built in the 10th century BC on the site of the former Arzawan capital by Attic and Ionian Greek colonists. During the Classical Greek era, it was one of the twelve cities of the Ionian League. The city flourished after it came under the control of the Roman Republic in 129 BC. The Ephesus church received a strong warning from Jesus.

**Revelation 2:4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.**

**Revelation 2:5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.**

Muslims destroyed Ephesus. Ephesus was sacked by the followers of the Islamic Four Horsemen (Revelation chapter 6) in the year 654–655 AD by Islamic caliphs, and later again in 700 and 716 that hastened the decline further. When the Islamic Turks conquered Ephesus in 1090, it was an only small village. The town surrendered, in October 1304, to a Turkish Islamic warlord.

Contrary to the terms of the surrender, the Islamic Turks pillaged the church of Saint John and deported most of the local population. During these events, many of the remaining inhabitants were massacred, and the city ceased to exist from then onward. Ephesus was abandoned by the 15th century. Islam killed the Ephesus church.

### **WHY DOES JESUS HATE THE PRACTICES OF THE NICOLAITANS?**

**Revelation 2:6 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.**

The Greek word for Nicolaitans is composed of two words meaning "**subduing**" and "**the people**." "Islam" in Arabic means "**submission of the people**" to Allah. Thus, it is likely the Nicolaitans taught people to pray and worship the Blackstone (and demonic spirits) at the temple of Artemis; thus being subdued by it or in submission to it. Since Satan's throne was in Pergamum, the people were in submission to Satan. The Nicolaitans were doing what Mohammad would later teach the world.

The only other thing that Pergamum and Ephesus had in common was they both worshipped a Blackstone meteorite that fell from heaven. They both associated this Blackstone with the female goddess Artemis and Cybele. We are told (Revelation 2:13) Satan's throne was at Pergamum at the time when Revelation was written. Some commentators believe the Nicolaitans encouraged each other to commit sexual immorality and to eat things offered to idols. Spiritual adultery and prayer to a false god is worse. The deeds of the Nicolaitans were undoubtedly an abomination to Christ. They, like the Gnostics and other false teachers, abused the doctrine of grace and tried to introduce Satanic false belief in its place (2 Peter 2:15, 19; Jude 1:4).

## ISLAM DESTROYED THE SMYRNA CHURCH

Smyrna was a Greek city founded in antiquity located at a central and strategic point on the Aegean coast of Anatolia (Western Turkey). Since 1930, the modern town located there has been known in English as İzmir, in Turkey. Smyrna rose to prominence due to its advantageous port conditions, its ease of defense, and its good inland connections.

The church at Smyrna faced great tribulation. In his letter to Smyrna, Jesus speaking to them under their great tribulation and persecution, describes himself accurately to provide their hope and comfort.

Smyrna was taken over by Islam—the followers of Mohammad. The Islamic Seljuk commander Tzachas seized Smyrna in 1084 AD. The city was ravaged several times by the Turks. In 1402 AD, Tamerlane stormed the town and massacred almost all the inhabitants.

The Mongol conquest was only temporary. The Islamic Turks under the Ottomans seized control of Smyrna when the Ottomans took over these lands after 1425 AD. Some Greek Christian influence persisted, and for a time, it was called by the Turks the “Smyrna of the infidels.” Today Smyrna is 99.5% Islamic.



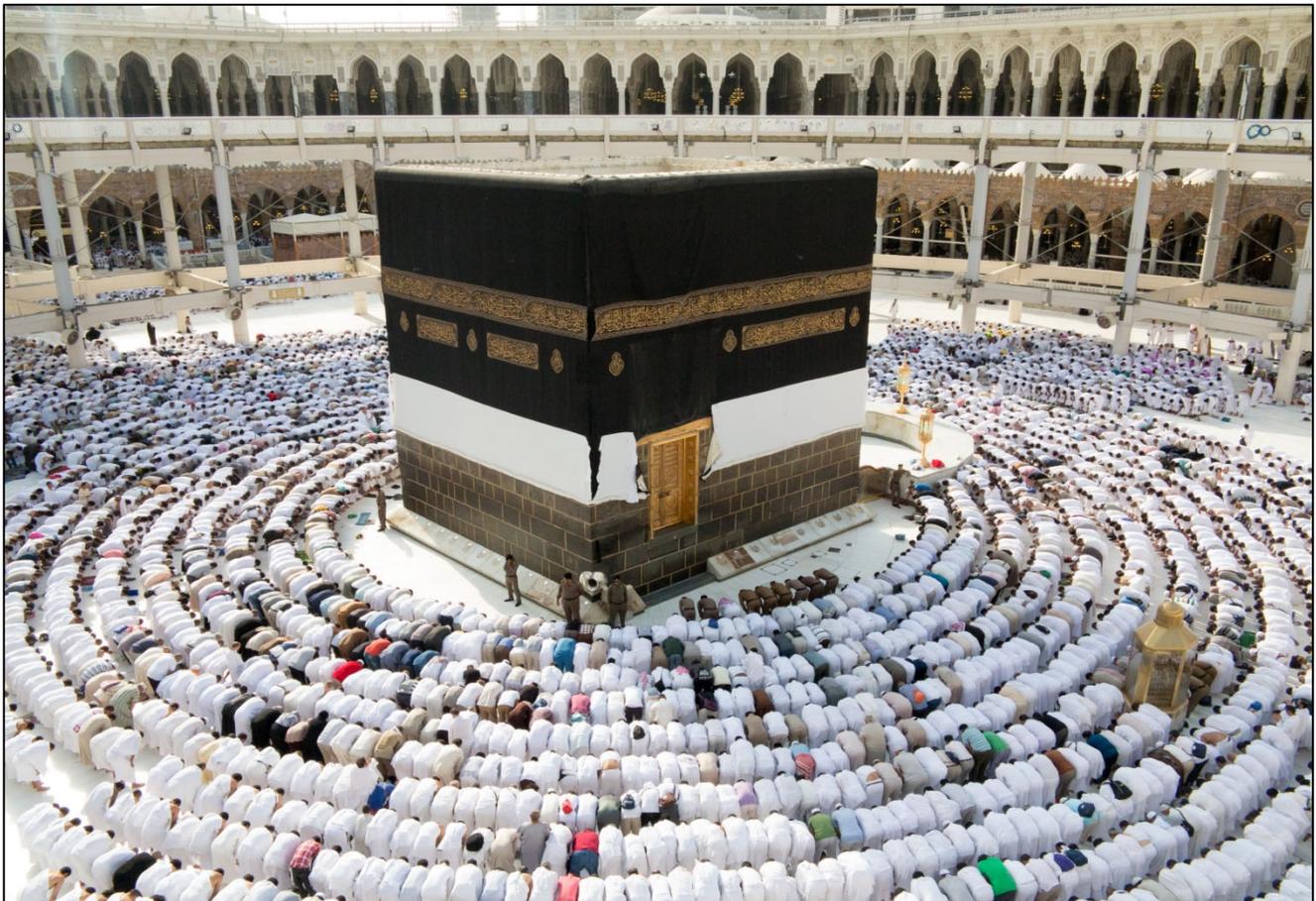
**TURKISH ISLAMIC TROOPS CAPTURE SMYRNA 1922**

## ISLAM DESTROYED THE PERGAMUM CHURCH

The followers of the false prophet Mohammad soon brought pain and false doctrine to Pergamum. In 663 AD, Pergamum was captured by raiding Islamic Arabs for the first time. Many battles were fought here for control over the next several centuries. Pergamum was sacked again by the armies of the Islamic leader al-Malik. It was again rebuilt and refortified after the Arabs abandoned their Siege of Constantinople in 717–718 AD. It suffered from the attacks of the Islamic Seljuks on western Anatolia after the Battle of Manzikert in 1071 AD, and after attacks in 1109 and 1113, final destruction came to Pergamum. With the expansion of the Anatolian Islamic armies, Pergamum was absorbed into the Islamic orbit shortly after 1300 AD, and then conquered by the Islamic Ottomans. It has been in Islamic hands ever since.

**Revelation 2:15 Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.**

The Nicolaitans were previously mentioned by Jesus at the Ephesus church. Both Pergamum and Ephesus were connected to the false god Artemis (Cybele), and both worshiped a Blackstone that “fell from heaven.” They are connected to the worship of Baal. The Blackstone today is in the Kaaba in the great city of Mecca. Baal is the beast of Revelation and Baal dwells in the Kaaba, in the “Great City” (Revelation chapters 17-18) of Mecca, Saudi Arabia.



**WORSHIPPING BAAL THE BEAST TODAY AT THE BLACKSTONE IN THE KAABA**

## **ISLAM DESTROYED THE THYATIRA CHURCH**

Thyatira was the name of an ancient Greek city in Asia Minor, now the modern Turkish town of Akhisar (“white castle”). It lies in the far west of Turkey, south of Istanbul, and almost due east of Athens. It is about 50 miles from the Aegean Sea.

In the book of Acts, Lydia was a wealthy benefactress and converted to Christianity. A seller of purple cloth, Lydia’s original home was the city of Thyatira. The ancient coins of Thyatira show a multitude of guilds, including linen weavers, bronze workers, potters, and bakers. Thyatira was the only city of the Seven churches built on flat ground without natural defenses, making it vulnerable to attack.

After the partition of the Roman Empire in 395 AD, and Islam coming to demonic power in the 7th century, raids by Islamic Arabs resulted in considerable loss of land for Byzantium, and the region of Thyatira witnessed many battles between Eastern Roman Byzantine and Islamic forces. In the 12th century, a large-scale inflow of Islamic Turkish tribes came to the area. Thyatira swayed back and forth between Eastern Roman Byzantine and Islamic Turkish rulers during the next two centuries.

In the 14th century, Islamic Turks regained all Western Anatolian lands, and Thyatira went under Turkish Islamic rule in 1307. In August 1922, because of the capture of the city by the Islamic Turkish nationalist army, the last remaining local Christian “Greeks” were killed. Since then, there has been no Christian community in Thyatira. The ancient church site is an Islamic mosque today.

## **ISLAM DESTROYED THE SARDIS CHURCH**

The city of Sardis was located in West Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), about 50 miles east of Smyrna and 30 miles southeast of Thyatira. Sardis was about 40 miles from Laodicea. Sardis was the capital of the ancient kingdom of Lydia, one of the principal cities of the Persian Empire, the seat of a Seleucid Satrap, and the place of a proconsul under the Roman Empire.

Ancient Sardis had an extensive and prosperous Jewish community, which produced the largest ancient synagogue outside of Palestine. Christianity arrived in the 1st century AD and Sardis was one of the seven churches of Revelation. Sardis now lies entirely in ruins and is only an archaeological site in the village of Sartmahmut with ongoing excavations.

Sardis was very prosperous, but in the year 616 AD, Sardis’ life came to an end. A pre-Islamic Persian army penetrated the defensive lines set up previously in eastern Turkey. Soon after, part of that region fell to the Persians, including Sardis. The city fortifications could not do much to stop the Persian troops, and Sardis was sacked and devastated so completely that no documented attempt occurred to restore the city. This incident constituted the end of Sardis’ civic life.

A military detachment regained the citadel in 660 AD. Still, the town itself remained empty, and all subsequent references to Sardis are only to a castle on the hill, never to the city. The Islamic forces of the false prophet Mohammad conquered Sardis in 716 AD, followed by the invasion of the Islamic Ottoman Turks in 1306 AD, and the city has been under continuous Islamic oppression since 716 AD.

## AN EARTHQUAKE AND ISLAM DESTROYED THE LAODICEA CHURCH

Laodicea on the Lycus (modern Turkish: Laodikeia) was an ancient city built on the river Lycus in western Turkey. The ruins of Laodicea are near modern Denizli, Turkey. Many of Laodicea's inhabitants were Jews, and Cicero records that Flaccus confiscated the considerable sum of 9 kilograms (20 lb) of gold, which was being sent annually to Jerusalem by the local Jewish community for the Temple (Pro Flacco 28-68).

With its large Jewish community, very early Laodicea became a seat of Christianity. The Epistle to the Colossians (*"I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally."* Colossians 2:1) mentions Laodicea as one of the communities of concern for Paul the Apostle.

By the end of 5th century AD a powerful earthquake destroyed the city, after which the city lost its importance and could never get back to its former prosperity. Laodicea has never been rebuilt after this natural disaster, and its inhabitants moved to other cities nearby. The area around it today is dominated by the city of Denizli, a city of 650,000, just four miles away.

Islam became nearly universal in Turkey (other than Philadelphia) after the invasion of the Islamic Ottoman Turks, and the Laodicea area has been under continuous Islamic oppression to this day. Denizli is mostly Islamic, and the Laodicea church is no more.



**ANCIENT LAODICEA MAIN STREET**