

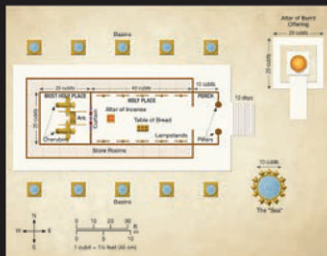
Deluxe THEN AND NOW® BIBLE MAPS

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**Modern-Day Map
(CLEAR PLASTIC
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Bible Map



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+ Journeys of Philip and Peter



Philip

- 1 Philip preaches the gospel throughout the region of Samaria.
Acts 8:4–13
- 2 Philip baptizes an Ethiopian official on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza.
Acts 8:26–38
- 3 Philip is "taken away" by the Holy Spirit and appears in Azotus.
Acts 8:39–40
- 4 Philip preaches the gospel from Azotus to Caesarea.
Acts 8:40

Peter

- 1 Peter and John confront Simon, a sorcerer in Samaria, then return to Jerusalem.
Acts 8:14–25
- 2 Peter heals Aeneas, a paralyzed man in Lydda.
Acts 9:32–35
- 3 Peter raises Tabitha (Dorcas) to life in Joppa.
Acts 9:36–43
- 4 Peter brings the gospel to Cornelius, a centurion and gentile in Caesarea.
Acts 10:1–48
- 5 Peter returns to Jerusalem.
Acts 11:1–2

The Seven Churches of Revelation

✦ Ephesus

Ephesus was located near the Aegean Sea, providing a major harbor and caravan gateway for trade to Asia Minor and beyond. (Today, Ephesus is further inland because of natural changes in the coastline.) The city was the main worship center of the goddess Artemis, known in Rome as Diana. The Temple of Artemis was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Much of the city life and its prestige revolved around the temple and its activities. All citizens, including Christians, probably experienced social, cultural, and legal pressure to conform to this pagan worship.

✦ Smyrna

Smyrna paralleled Ephesus in wealth, beauty, and commerce, and was also an important port city. Emperor worship was central, although the temple of Athena was also a source of city pride and a significant contributor to the city's economy. Smyrna had a large Jewish population, many of whom cooperated with the city leaders to persecute Christians, revealing by their actions that they opposed God ("a synagogue of Satan," Rev. 2:9).

✦ Pergamum

Pergamum was a center of learning, especially of medicine, and the site of the Sanctuary of Asclepius, the god of healing. This city contained the second largest library in the ancient world, smaller only than the library of Alexandria in Egypt. Pergamum was an administrative center for the province, famous for its emperor worship and great altar to Zeus. The three main cities in the Roman province of Asia Minor—Ephesus, Smyrna, and Pergamum—competed with each other for prominence.

✦ Thyatira

Thyatira was a commercial center known for its many trade guilds: craftsmen of wool and linen; makers of leather, bronze, and outer garments; dyers, potters, and bakers; and dealers in slaves. The trade guilds were tightly connected to the pagan religion of the area, so they likely opposed Christianity. This city was also the home of Lydia, a dealer of purple cloth and an early Christian believer (Acts 16:14, 40).

SEVEN LETTERS

The book of Revelation, penned by the apostle John, begins with seven letters from Jesus to seven churches. These churches were located in important cities in Asia Minor and connected by major travel routes. In the letters, Jesus addresses the strengths and weaknesses of the spiritual condition of each church and gives them instructions and promises for those who are victorious.

✦ Sardis

Sardis was built high above a plain, making it militarily important, and located on a major highway, making it a center of commerce. It was known for manufacturing carpets and woolen goods. It was also the source for nearly pure gold and silver coins and the start of modern currency. The city included a large synagogue and a bathhouse-gymnasium complex that covered more than five acres. While Sardis had a history of being very wealthy, an earthquake in ad 17 left the city with severe and lasting damage.

✦ Philadelphia

Founded about 150 years before Jesus, Philadelphia ("brotherly love") was a successful commercial city known for its many temples and religious festivals. It was situated at the entrance of a particularly fertile valley, but it was also close to an active volcanic region, making it prone to earthquakes. In ad 17, the city was completely destroyed by a devastating earthquake and had to be rebuilt.

✦ Laodicea

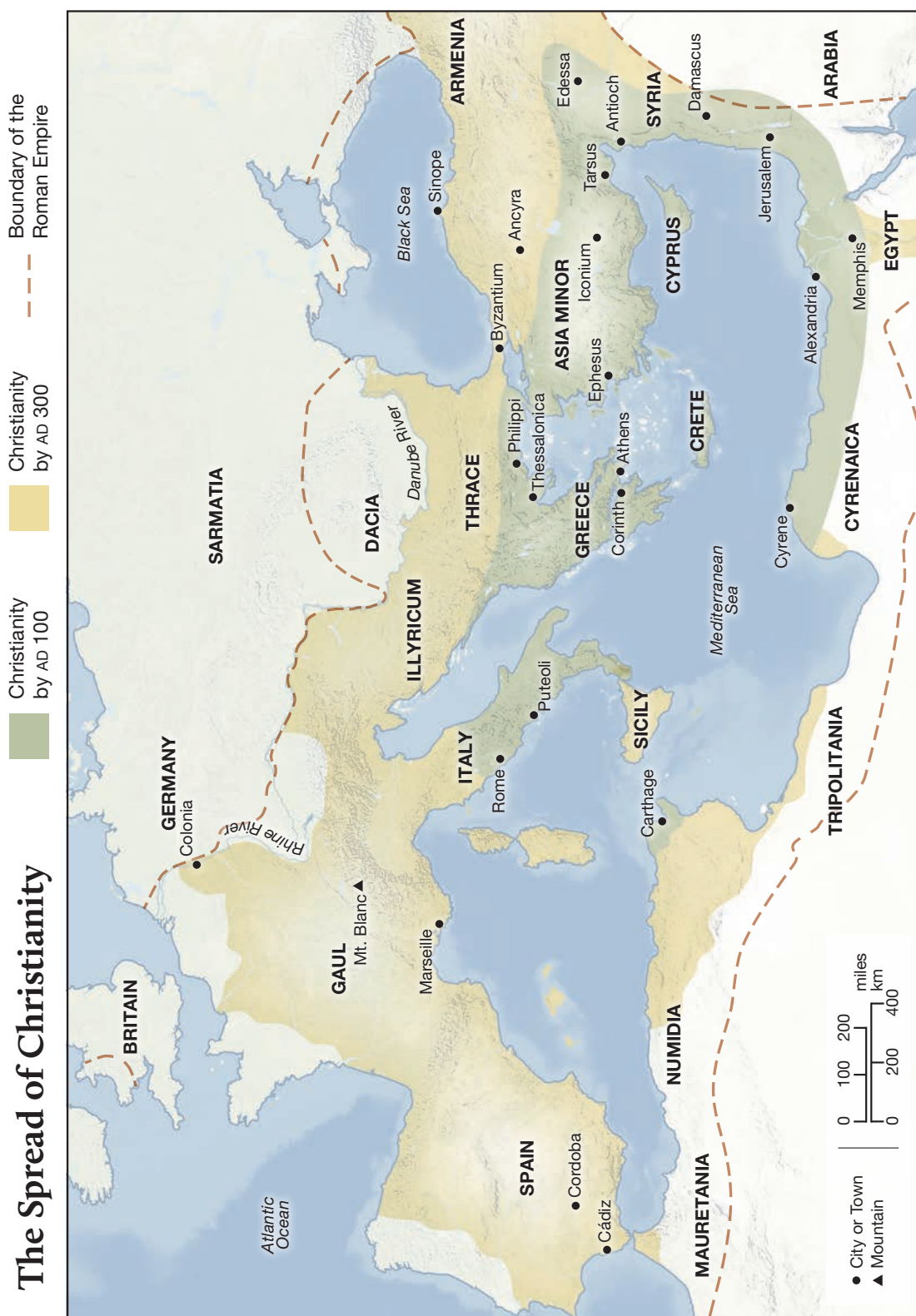
Laodicea was a strategic city located at the crossroads of two crucial trading routes. It was a prosperous commercial center, known for its banking, textile industry (especially black wool), and a school of ophthalmology (noted for an eye salve it developed). The city lacked its own water supply, so an aqueduct was built to bring in water. Laodicea was so financially strong that after an earthquake destroyed the city in ad 60, it was rebuilt without imperial aid.

The Seven Churches of Revelation ✚



CHURCH	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	INSTRUCTIONS	PROMISES
EPHESUS Rev. 2:1–7	Perseverance; reject false apostles	Forsaken their first lov	Do the things they did at firs	Eat from the tree of life
SMYRNA Rev. 2:8–11	Endure suffering and poverty, yet are rich	None	Be faithful to the point of death	Receive life as a victor's crown
PERGAMUM Rev. 2:12–17	Remain true to Christ's name	Tolerate false teachers	Repent	Hidden manna; a new name
THYATIRA Rev. 2:18–29	Deeds, love, faith, and service	Tolerate false prophets	Hold on to what they have	Authority; the morning star
SARDIS Rev. 3:1–6	Some have remained faithful	Deadness	Strengthen what remains; wake up	Walk with Jesus; name in the book of life
PHILADELPHIA Rev. 3:7–13	Kept Christ's word; not denied his name	None	Hold on to what they have	Kept from the hour of trial; pillar in God's temple
LAODICEA Rev. 3:14–22	None	Neither hot nor cold; trust in wealth	Open the door to Christ; buy riches from Christ	Sit with Christ on God's throne

✦ The Spread of Christianity: AD 100–300



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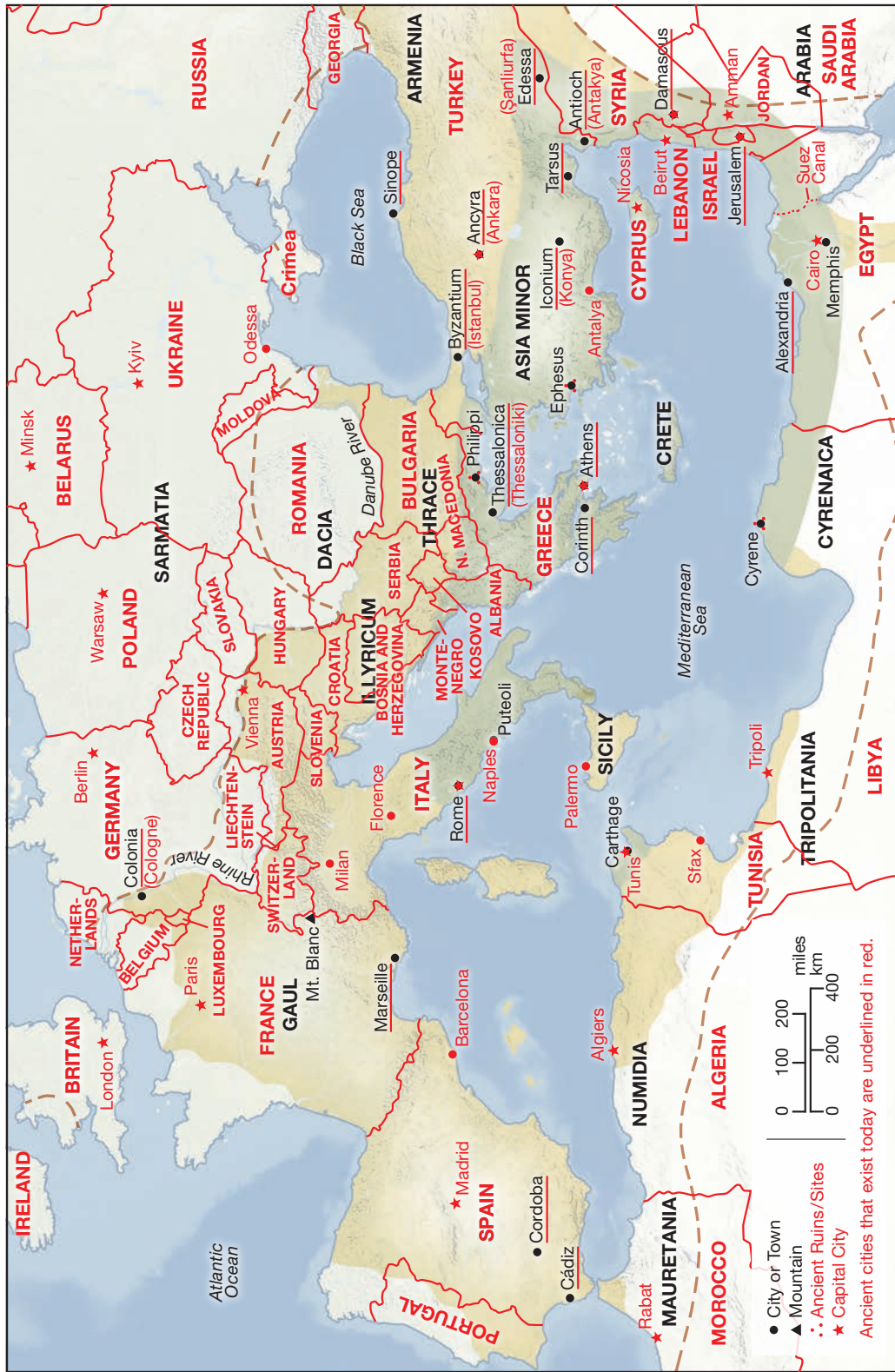
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The Spread of Christianity

Christianity by AD 100

Christianity by AD 300

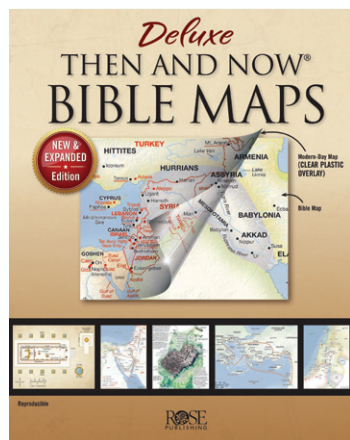
Boundary of the Roman Empire



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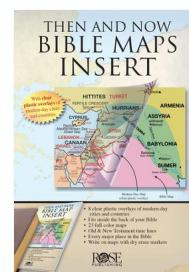


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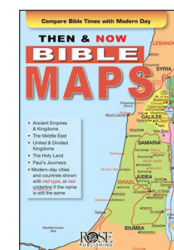
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