

The image shows the interior of a large, ornate Gothic cathedral. The central aisle is paved with light-colored stone tiles and leads towards the altar. Rows of dark wooden pews are arranged on either side of the aisle. The walls are decorated with numerous stained glass windows in various colors, including blue, red, and gold. The ceiling is high and features intricate architectural details, including pointed arches and decorative elements. The overall atmosphere is one of grandeur and historical significance.

# The Seven Churches of Revelation Series

Dr. Michael Erickson

The image shows the interior of a grand Gothic cathedral. The architecture features high, vaulted ceilings with intricate ribbing and pointed arches. The walls are adorned with numerous colorful stained glass windows, including large rose windows and smaller lancet windows. The floor is made of polished stone tiles, reflecting the light. Rows of dark wooden pews are arranged on either side of a central aisle that leads towards the altar. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and religious solemnity.

**Four principles  
of interpretation  
for the Seven Churches.**

The image shows the interior of a grand Gothic cathedral. The architecture features high, vaulted ceilings with intricate ribbing and blue-painted sections. Stained glass windows in various shapes and sizes are set into the walls, allowing light to filter through. The floor is made of polished stone tiles, and rows of dark wooden pews are arranged on either side of a central aisle. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and spiritual significance.

**Historical interpretation**

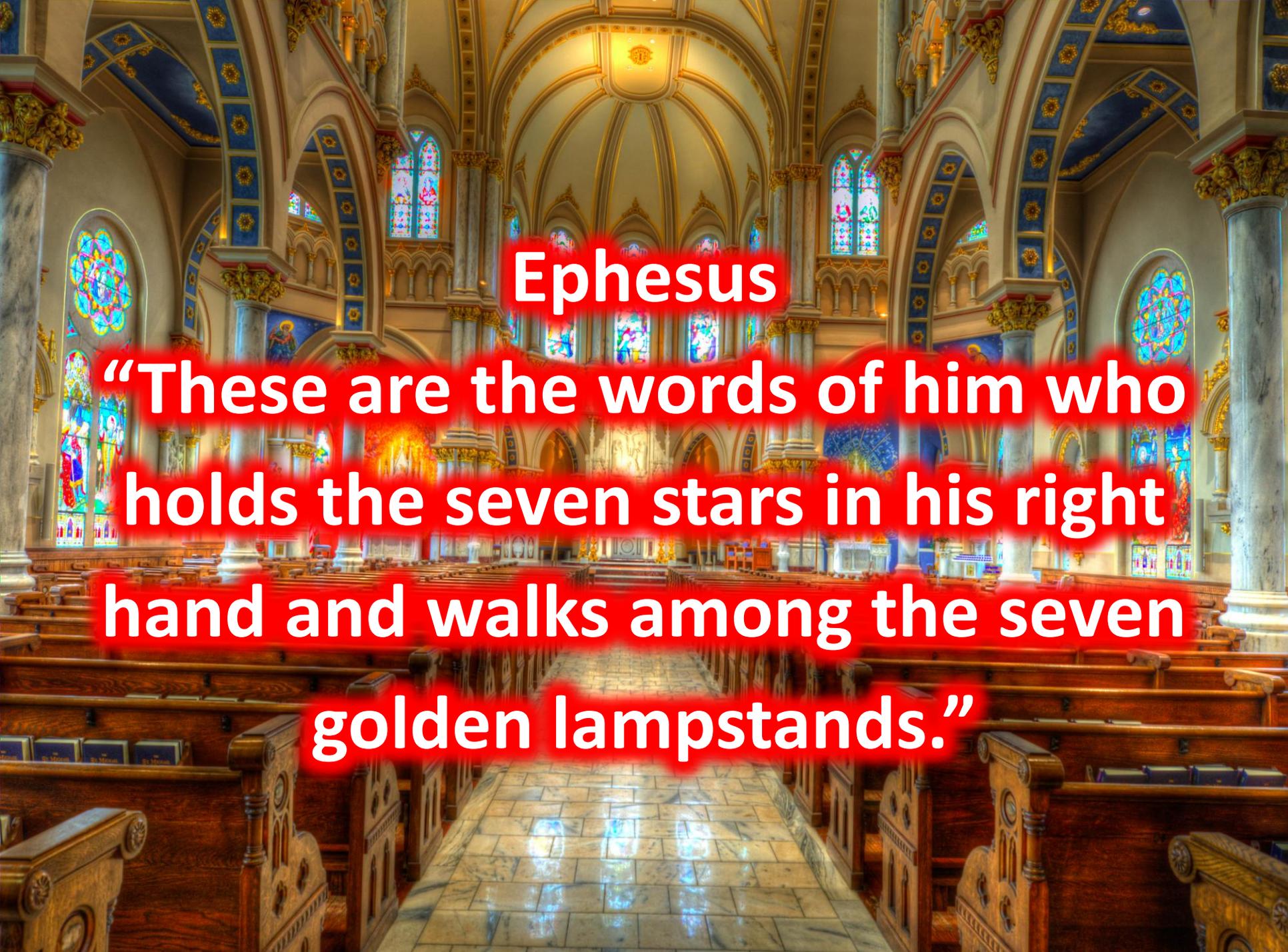
**Personal application**

**Spiritual significance**

**Prophetic purpose**

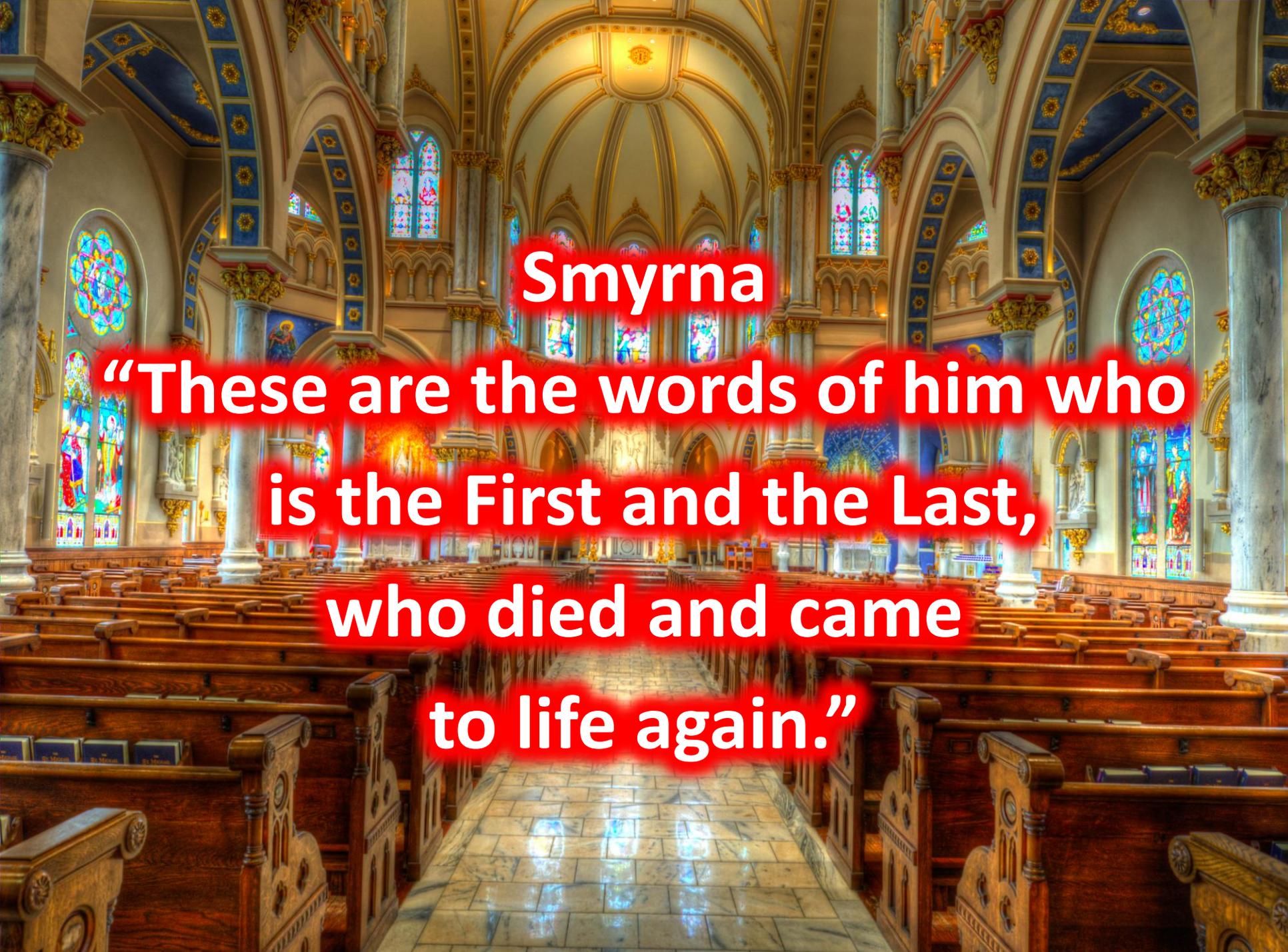
The image shows the interior of a Gothic cathedral, viewed from the back of the nave looking towards the altar. The architecture features high vaulted ceilings with blue and gold decorative patterns, tall columns, and numerous stained glass windows. The floor is made of polished stone tiles. The text "How Christ is revealed to the Seven Churches." is overlaid in the center in a bold, white font with a red shadow effect.

**How Christ is revealed to  
the Seven Churches.**



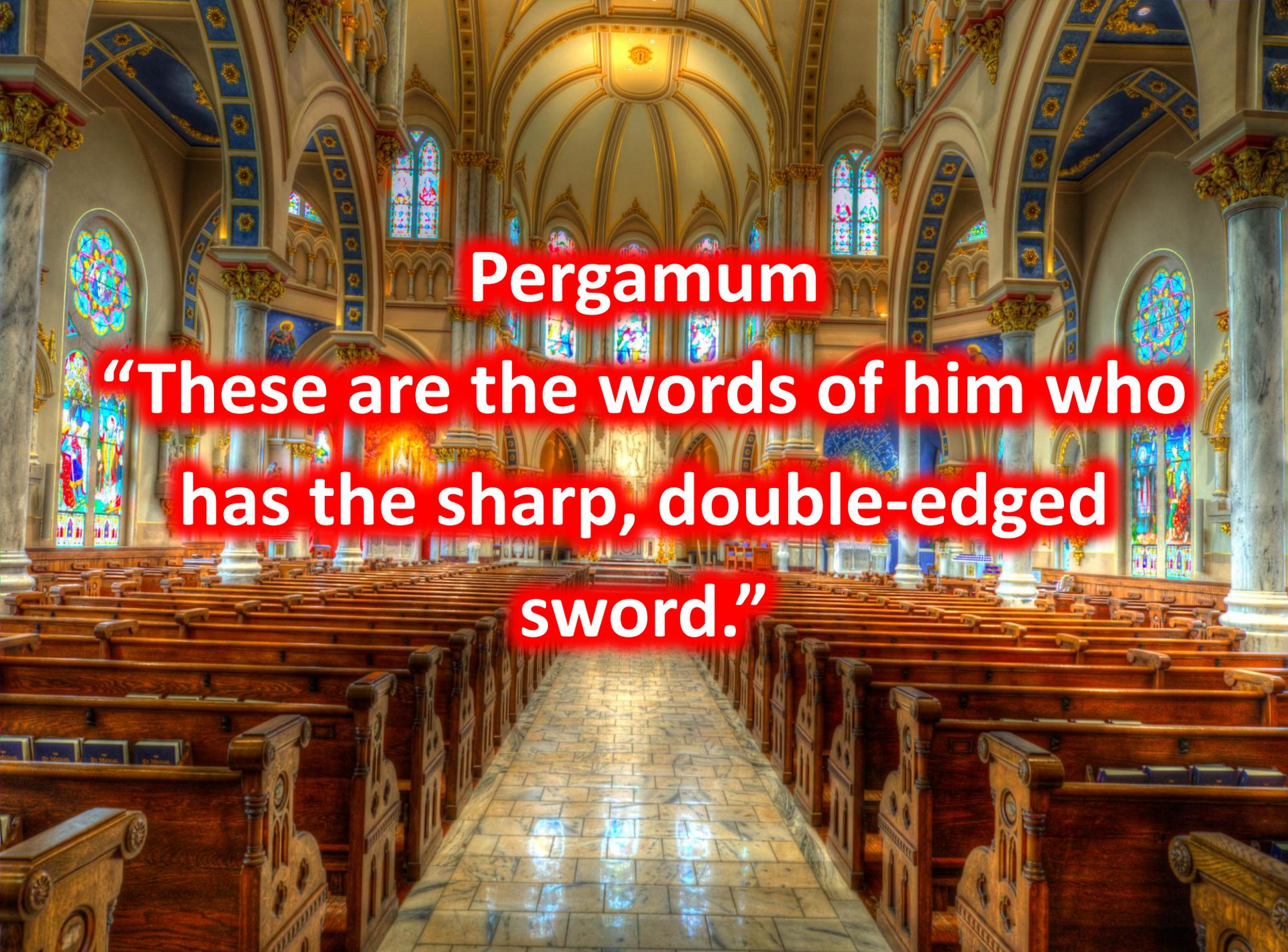
## Ephesus

**“These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.”**

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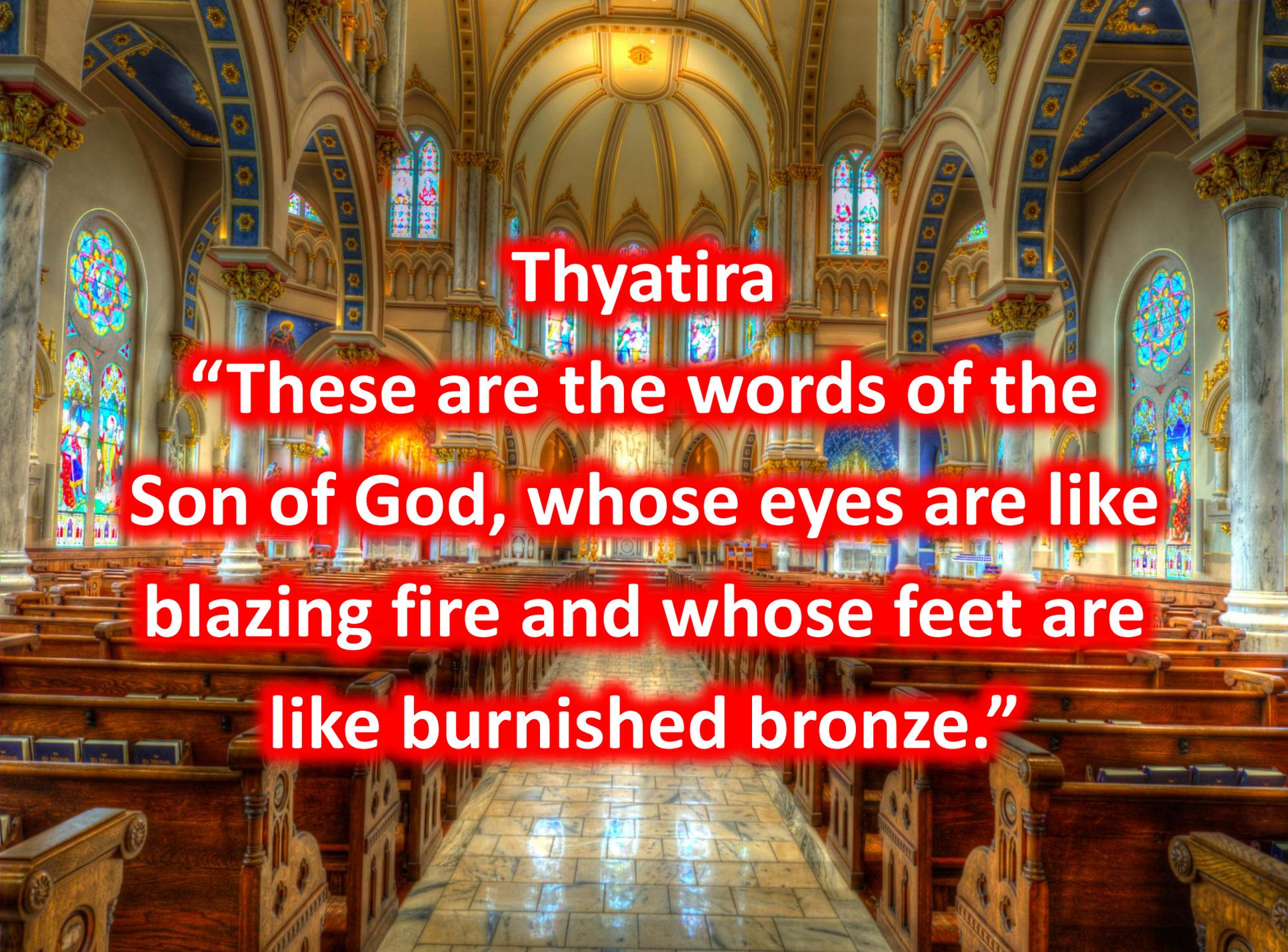
## Smyrna

**“These are the words of him who  
is the First and the Last,  
who died and came  
to life again.”**

The image shows the interior of a grand Gothic cathedral. A central aisle paved with light-colored stone tiles leads towards the altar. On either side of the aisle are rows of dark wooden pews with decorative carvings on their ends. The walls are white with blue and gold decorative elements, including pointed arches and stained glass windows. The ceiling is high and vaulted, with a central skylight. The lighting is warm and comes from the windows and the central skylight.

**Pergamum**

**“These are the words of him who  
has the sharp, double-edged  
sword.”**

The image shows the interior of a grand Gothic cathedral. The architecture features high, vaulted ceilings with intricate ribbing and blue-painted sections decorated with gold floral patterns. Numerous tall, narrow stained glass windows with colorful designs are set within pointed arches. The floor is made of polished, light-colored stone tiles that reflect the ambient light. Rows of dark wooden pews with decorative carvings line the central aisle, which leads towards the altar area in the distance. The overall atmosphere is one of majestic, historical grandeur.

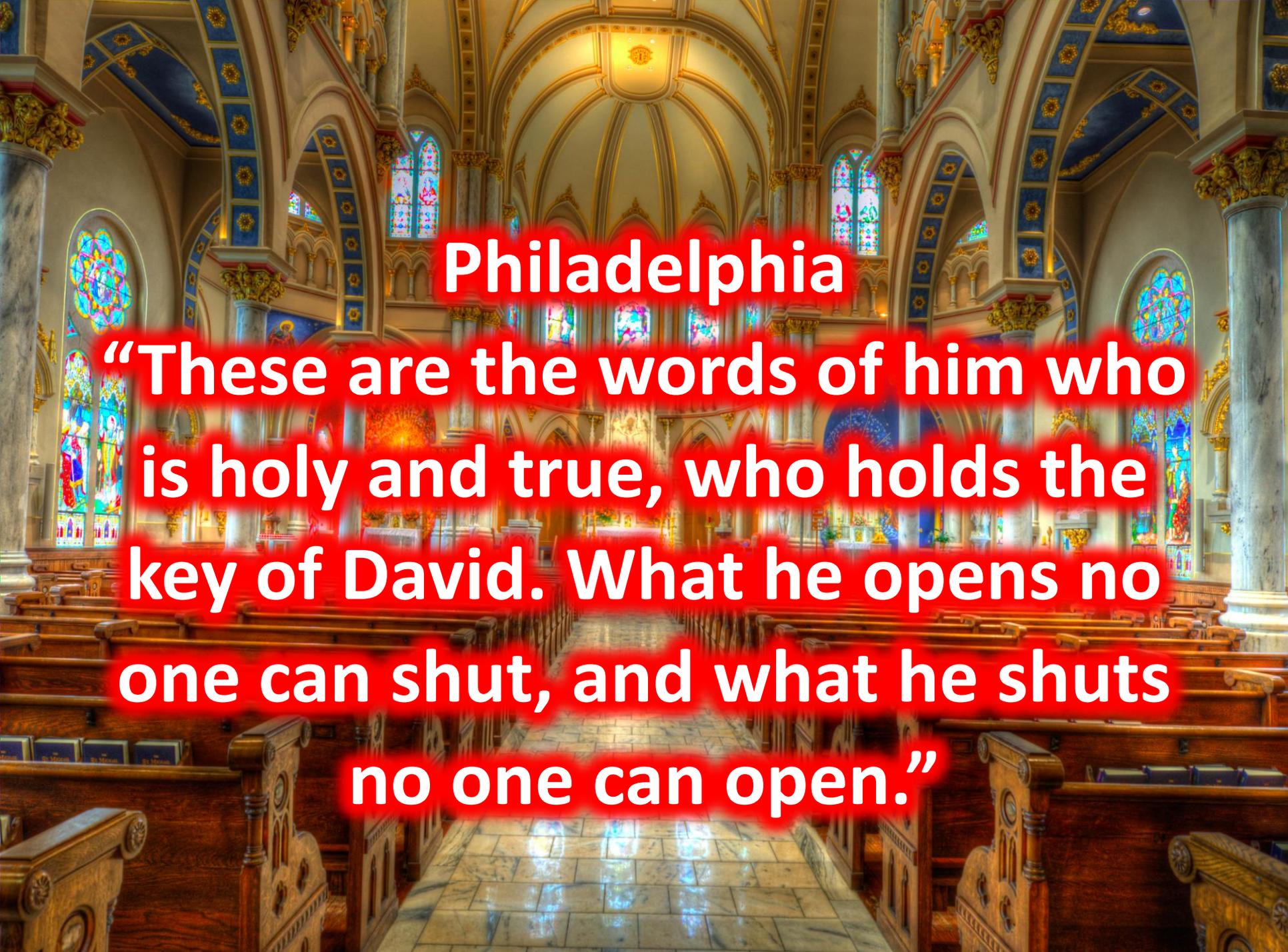
**Thyatira**

**“These are the words of the  
Son of God, whose eyes are like  
blazing fire and whose feet are  
like burnished bronze.”**

The image shows the interior of a large, ornate Gothic cathedral. The central aisle is paved with light-colored stone tiles and leads towards the altar. On either side of the aisle are rows of dark wooden pews. The walls are decorated with blue and gold patterns, and the ceiling is high with intricate arches. Stained glass windows are visible along the walls, and the overall atmosphere is one of grandeur and historical significance.

## Sardis

**“These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.”**



## Philadelphia

**“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.”**

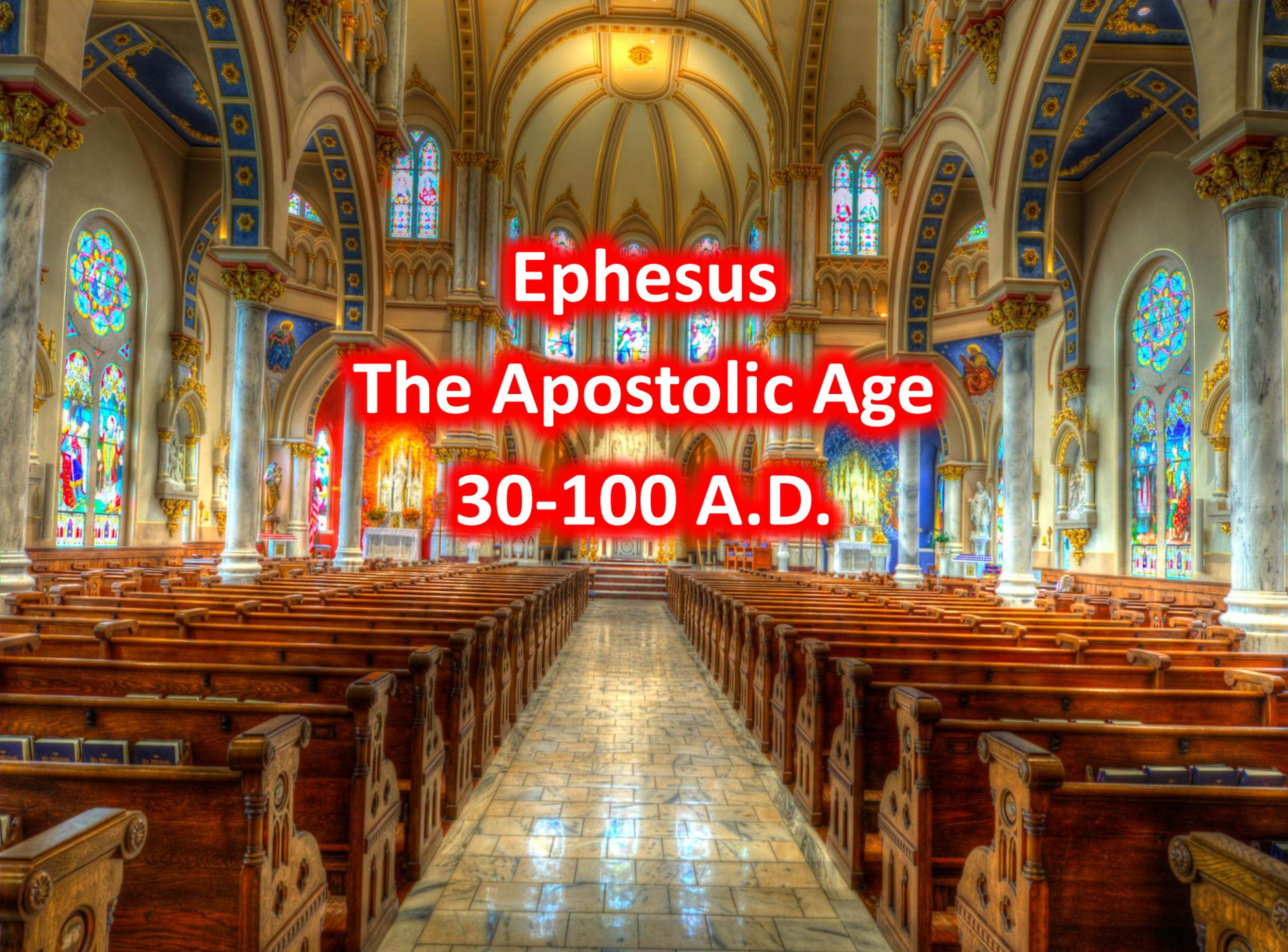
The image shows the interior of a grand Gothic cathedral. The architecture features high, vaulted ceilings with intricate ribbing and blue-painted sections. Stained glass windows in various shapes and sizes are set into the walls, allowing light to filter through. The floor is made of polished stone tiles, and rows of dark wooden pews are arranged on either side of a central aisle. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and religious solemnity.

**Laodicea**

**“These are the words of the  
Amen, the faithful and true  
witness, the ruler of God’s  
creation.”**

The image shows the interior of a grand Gothic cathedral. The architecture features high, vaulted ceilings with intricate ribbing and blue-painted sections decorated with gold floral patterns. Stained glass windows in various shapes, including large rose windows, are set into the walls, allowing light to filter through. The floor is made of polished stone tiles, and rows of dark wooden pews are arranged on either side of a central aisle. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and religious solemnity.

**The Seven Churches of  
Revelation chapters 2 and 3  
are prophetic pictures of  
the Church age.**

The image shows the interior of a large, ornate Gothic cathedral. The central aisle is paved with light-colored stone tiles and leads towards the altar. Rows of dark wooden pews with decorative carvings line both sides of the aisle. The walls are white with blue and gold decorative elements, including pointed arches and stained glass windows. The ceiling is high and vaulted, with blue and gold patterns. The lighting is warm and comes from the windows and ceiling fixtures.

**Ephesus**  
**The Apostolic Age**  
**30-100 A.D.**



**Smyrna**  
**The Persecuted Church**  
**100-312 A.D.**

The image shows the interior of a large, ornate Gothic cathedral. The central aisle is paved with light-colored stone tiles and leads towards the altar. On either side of the aisle are rows of dark wooden pews. The walls are decorated with intricate Gothic arches and stained glass windows. The ceiling is high and features a series of pointed arches. The overall atmosphere is one of grandeur and historical significance.

**Pergamum**  
**The Indulged Church**  
**312-606 A.D.**

The image shows the interior of a large, ornate Gothic cathedral. The central aisle is paved with light-colored stone tiles and leads towards the altar. Rows of dark wooden pews with decorative carvings line both sides of the aisle. The walls are white with blue and gold decorative elements, including pointed arches and stained glass windows. The ceiling is high and vaulted, with a central skylight. The overall atmosphere is bright and majestic.

**Thyatira**  
**The Pagan Church**  
**606 A.D. - Tribulation**

The image shows the interior of a large, ornate Gothic cathedral. The central aisle is paved with light-colored stone tiles and leads towards the altar. Rows of dark wooden pews with decorative carvings line both sides of the aisle. The walls are white with blue and gold decorative elements, including pointed arches and stained glass windows. The ceiling is high and vaulted, with blue and gold patterns. The lighting is warm, highlighting the architectural details.

**Sardis**  
**The Dead Church**  
**1520 A.D. - Tribulation**



**Philadelphia**  
**The Evangelical Church**  
**1750 A.D. – the Rapture**

The image shows the interior of a large, ornate Gothic cathedral. The central aisle is paved with light-colored stone tiles and leads towards the altar. Rows of dark wooden pews are arranged on either side of the aisle. The walls are decorated with intricate stained glass windows in various colors, including blue, red, and gold. The ceiling is high and features a complex network of ribbed vaults. The overall atmosphere is one of grandeur and historical significance.

**Laodicea**  
**The Apostate Church**  
**1900 A.D. – Tribulation**

The image shows the interior of a Gothic church, likely the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome, viewed from the back of the nave looking towards the altar. The architecture features high vaulted ceilings with blue and gold decorative patterns, tall columns, and numerous stained glass windows. The floor is made of polished stone tiles. The text is overlaid in a red banner with white text.

**The church at Pergamum**  
**Revelation 2:12-17**

The image shows the interior of a large, ornate Gothic cathedral. The central aisle is paved with light-colored stone tiles and leads towards the altar. On either side of the aisle are rows of dark wooden pews. The walls are decorated with blue and gold patterns, and the ceiling is high with intricate arches. Stained glass windows in various shapes and sizes are visible, including large rose windows. The overall atmosphere is one of grandeur and historical significance.

**Pergamum**  
**The Indulged Church**  
**312-606 A.D.**



**Pergamum**  
**Compromised, worldly**  
**type of churches**  
**supported by the**  
**government.**



**Revelation 2:13**

**“the place of Satan’s throne”**

**“where Satan lives”**

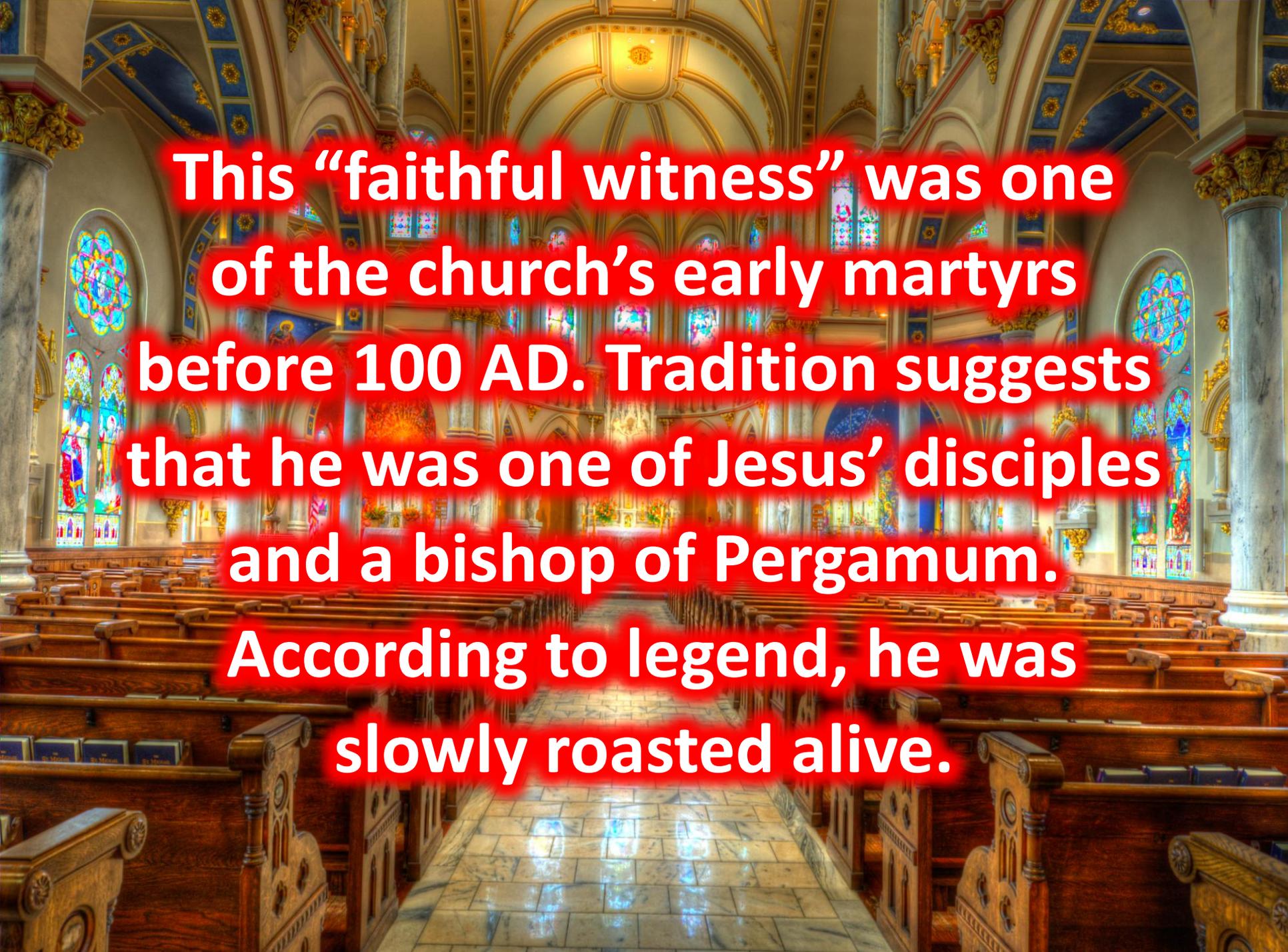
The image shows the interior of a large, ornate Gothic cathedral. The central aisle is paved with light-colored stone tiles and leads towards the altar. Rows of dark wooden pews with decorative carvings line both sides of the aisle. The walls are white with blue and gold decorative elements, and the ceiling is high with a vaulted structure. Numerous stained glass windows in various colors (red, blue, green, yellow) are set in the walls, allowing light to filter through. The overall atmosphere is one of grandeur and historical significance.

**Pergamum is therefore the most difficult place especially for spiritual warfare.**

The image shows the interior of a grand Gothic cathedral. The architecture features high, vaulted ceilings with intricate ribbing and blue-painted sections decorated with gold floral patterns. The walls are lined with tall, narrow stained glass windows in various colors, including red, blue, and yellow. The floor is made of polished, light-colored stone tiles that reflect the light. A central aisle, paved with the same stone, leads from the foreground towards the altar area in the distance. On either side of the aisle are rows of dark wooden pews with decorative carvings on their ends. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and religious solemnity.

**Revelation 2:13**

**“Antipas my faithful witness”**

The image shows the interior of a large, ornate Gothic cathedral. The central aisle is paved with light-colored stone tiles, flanked by rows of dark wooden pews. The walls are decorated with intricate stained glass windows in various colors, including blues, reds, and greens. The ceiling is high and features a complex network of vaulted arches and ribs, with some sections painted in blue and gold. The overall atmosphere is one of grandeur and historical significance.

**This “faithful witness” was one of the church’s early martyrs before 100 AD. Tradition suggests that he was one of Jesus’ disciples and a bishop of Pergamum. According to legend, he was slowly roasted alive.**

The image shows the interior of a grand Gothic cathedral. The architecture features high, vaulted ceilings with intricate ribbing and pointed arches. The walls are adorned with numerous colorful stained glass windows, including large rose windows and smaller lancet windows. The floor is made of polished stone tiles, and the pews are made of dark wood. The lighting is warm and dramatic, highlighting the architectural details and the vibrant colors of the stained glass.

**“Teaching of Balaam”**

**Revelation 2:14**

**II Peter 2:15-22**

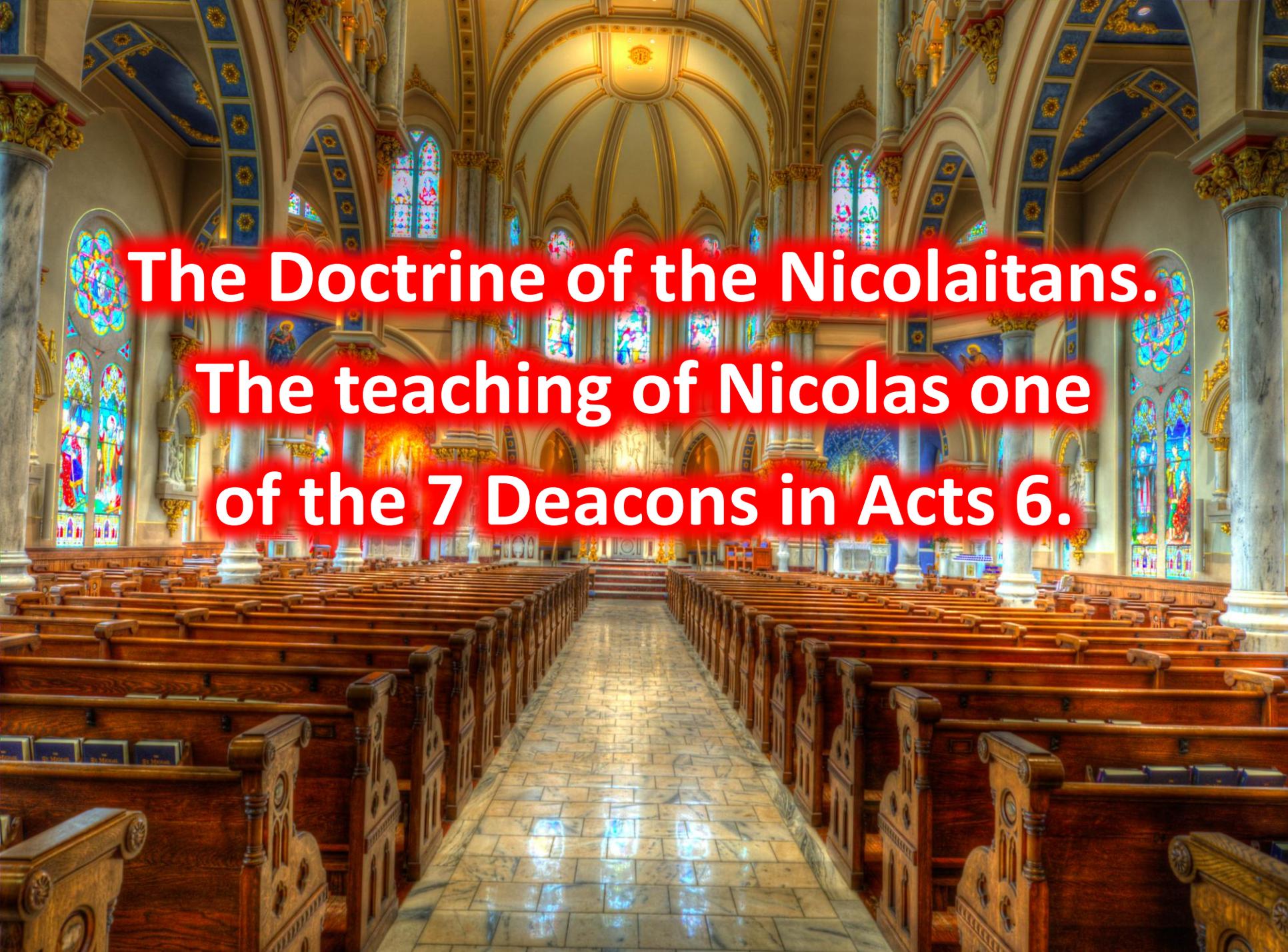
**Jude 11-13**

The image shows the interior of a grand Gothic cathedral. The architecture features high, vaulted ceilings with intricate ribbing and blue-painted sections decorated with gold floral patterns. Large, colorful stained glass windows are set within pointed arches, allowing light to filter through. The floor is made of polished, light-colored stone tiles that reflect the ambient light. Rows of dark wooden pews with decorative carvings line a central aisle that leads towards the altar area in the distance. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and religious solemnity.

**The sin of Peor**  
**Numbers 25:1-9**  
**Numbers 31:15-16**

The image shows the interior of a grand Gothic cathedral. The architecture features high, vaulted ceilings with intricate ribbing and decorative elements. The walls are adorned with numerous stained glass windows of various shapes and sizes, including large rose windows and smaller lancet windows. The floor is made of polished stone tiles, and the central aisle is flanked by rows of dark wooden pews. The lighting is warm and dramatic, highlighting the architectural details and the vibrant colors of the stained glass. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and religious solemnity.

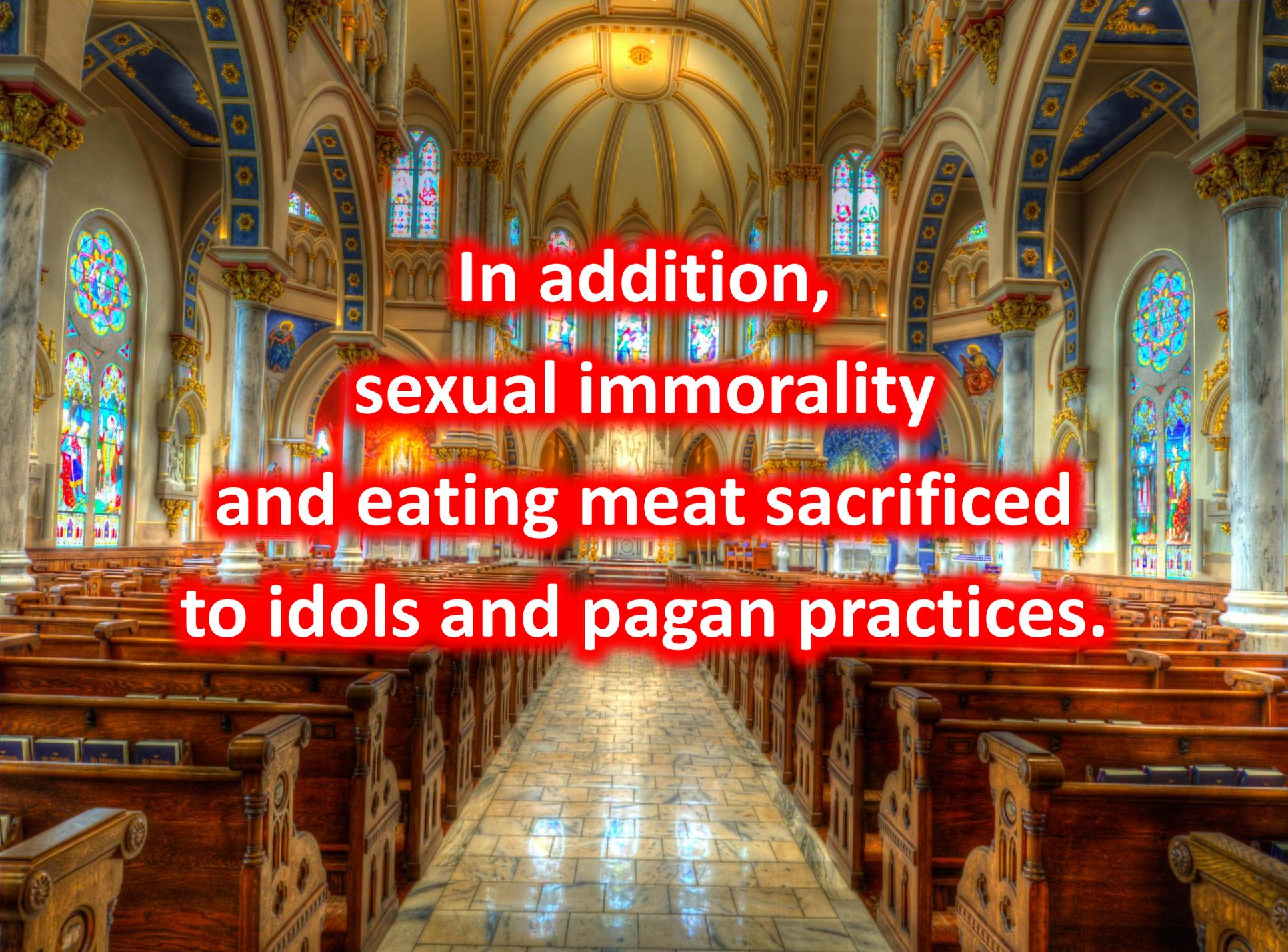
**“Teaching of the Nicolaitans”**  
**Revelation 2:6,15**

The image shows the interior of a grand Gothic cathedral. The architecture features high, vaulted ceilings with intricate ribbing and pointed arches. The walls are adorned with numerous colorful stained glass windows, some depicting religious scenes. The floor is made of polished stone tiles, and the nave is filled with rows of dark wooden pews. The lighting is warm and dramatic, highlighting the architectural details and the vibrant colors of the glass. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and spiritual significance.

**The Doctrine of the Nicolaitans.  
The teaching of Nicolas one  
of the 7 Deacons in Acts 6.**



**Nicolas**  
**“conqueror of the people”**  
**to subjugate and control**  
**people through**  
**religious practices.**

The image shows the interior of a grand Gothic cathedral. The architecture features high, vaulted ceilings with intricate ribbing and blue-painted sections decorated with gold floral patterns. Large, colorful stained glass windows are set within pointed arches, allowing light to filter through. The floor is made of polished stone tiles, reflecting the ambient light. Rows of dark wooden pews with decorative carvings line a central aisle that leads towards the altar area in the distance. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and religious solemnity.

**In addition,  
sexual immorality  
and eating meat sacrificed  
to idols and pagan practices.**

The image shows the interior of a grand Gothic cathedral. A central aisle paved with light-colored stone tiles leads from the foreground towards the altar. On either side of the aisle are rows of dark wooden pews with decorative carvings on their ends. The walls are white with blue and gold decorative elements, including pointed arches and stained glass windows. The ceiling is high and vaulted, with a central skylight. The altar area at the far end is ornate, featuring a large stained glass window and a golden structure. The overall atmosphere is bright and majestic.

**Repentance in the  
book of Revelation**

The image shows the interior of a Gothic cathedral, viewed from the perspective of the nave looking towards the altar. The architecture features high vaulted ceilings with blue and gold decorative patterns, tall columns, and numerous stained glass windows. The floor is made of polished stone tiles. The text "Repentance in the book of Revelation" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white font with a red shadow effect.

**Repentance in the  
book of Revelation**

The image shows the interior of a grand Gothic cathedral. The architecture features high, vaulted ceilings with intricate ribbing and blue-painted sections decorated with gold floral patterns. Numerous tall, narrow stained glass windows with colorful designs are set within pointed arches. The floor is made of polished, light-colored stone tiles that reflect the ambient light. Rows of dark wooden pews with decorative carvings line a central aisle that leads towards an ornate altar at the far end. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and religious solemnity.

**11 references to  
“repentance” in Revelation**

The image shows the interior of a grand Gothic cathedral. The architecture features high, vaulted ceilings with intricate ribbing and blue-painted sections. Stained glass windows in various shapes, including large rose windows, are set into the walls, allowing light to filter through. The floor is made of polished stone tiles, and the central aisle is flanked by rows of dark wooden pews. In the background, an ornate altar is visible, and the overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and religious solemnity.

**Revelation 2:5,16,21-22**

**3:3,19 / 9:20-21**

**16:9,11**

The image shows the interior of a Gothic church, likely the Church of the Holy Spirit in Thyatira. The view is from the back of the sanctuary looking down a central aisle paved with light-colored stone tiles. On either side of the aisle are rows of dark wood pews with decorative carvings on the ends. The church features high, vaulted ceilings with blue and gold decorative patterns. Numerous stained glass windows in various shapes and sizes, including large rose windows, are set into the walls, allowing light to filter through. The altar area at the far end is ornate, with a central altar table and several statues. The overall atmosphere is one of grandeur and historical significance.

**The church at Thyatira**  
**Revelation 2:18-29**

The image shows the interior of a large, ornate Gothic cathedral. The central aisle is paved with light-colored stone tiles and leads towards the altar. Rows of dark wooden pews with decorative carvings line both sides of the aisle. The walls are white with blue and gold decorative elements, including pointed arches and stained glass windows. The ceiling is high and vaulted, with gold leaf accents. The overall atmosphere is one of grandeur and historical significance.

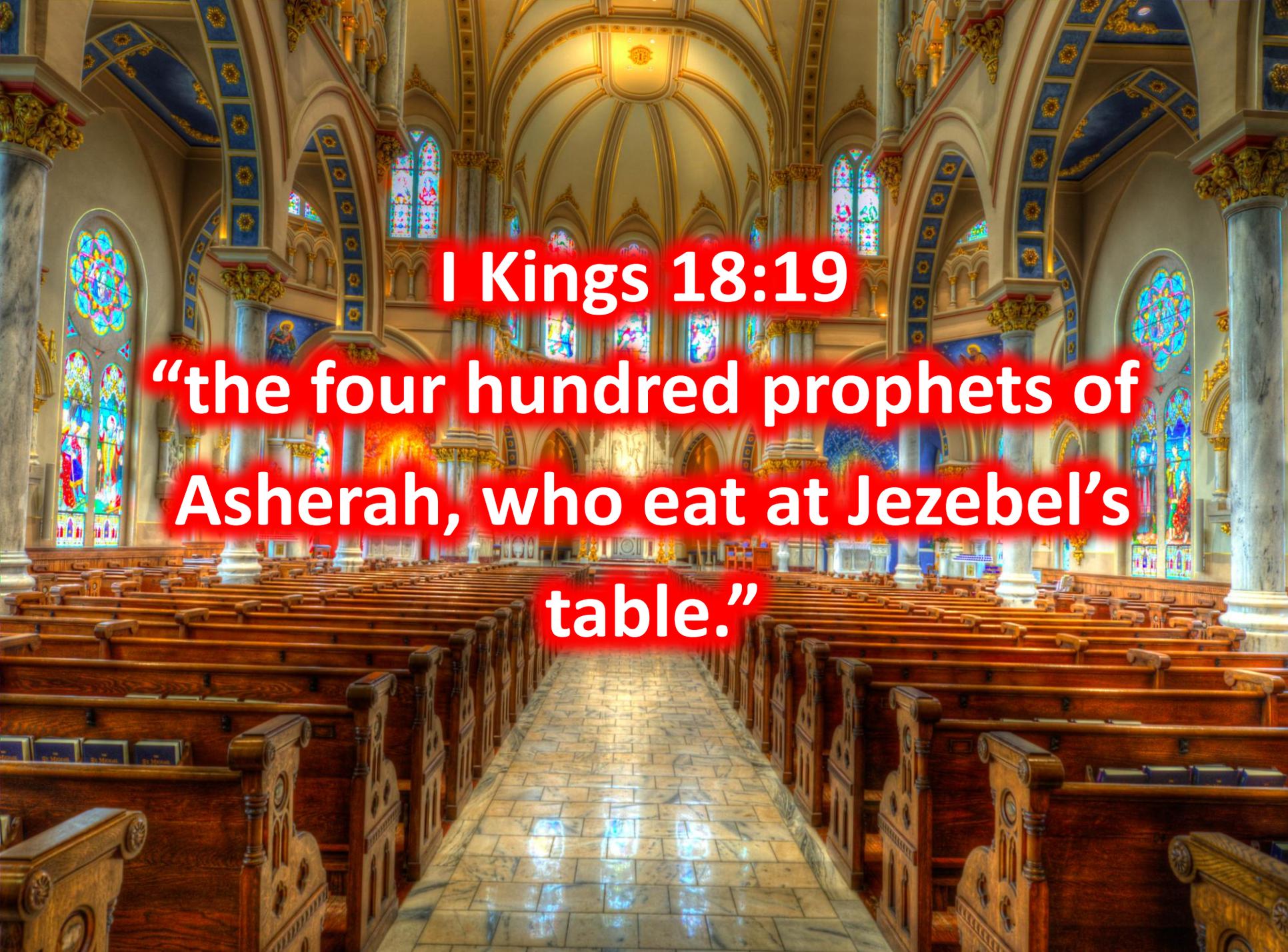
**Thyatira**  
**The Pagan Church**  
**606 A.D. - Tribulation**

The image shows the interior of a large, ornate Gothic cathedral. The central aisle is paved with light-colored stone tiles, flanked by rows of dark wooden pews. The walls are white with blue and gold decorative elements, and the ceiling is high with a vaulted structure. Stained glass windows are visible on both sides, and the overall atmosphere is bright and majestic.

**Revelation 2:19**  
**Thyatira's good qualities.**  
**Progressively improving .**

The image shows the interior of a Gothic cathedral, viewed from the back of the nave looking towards the altar. The architecture features high vaulted ceilings with blue and gold decorative patterns, tall columns, and numerous stained-glass windows. The floor is made of polished stone tiles. The text is overlaid in a red, semi-transparent box in the center of the image.

**The teaching of Jezebel**  
**Revelation 2:20**



**1 Kings 18:19**

**“the four hundred prophets of  
Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s  
table.”**

The image shows the interior of a Gothic cathedral, viewed from the back of the nave looking towards the altar. The architecture features high vaulted ceilings with blue and gold decorative patterns, tall white columns with gold capitals, and numerous colorful stained-glass windows. The floor is made of polished stone tiles. The text is overlaid in the center of the image, with a red glow effect.

**Sexual immorality**  
**idol worship**  
**unrepentant**  
**rebellious**



**Revelation 2:25**

**“Only hold on to what you  
have until I come.”**

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**The promise to the  
“overcomer” in the  
book of Revelation.**

The image shows the interior of a grand Gothic cathedral. The architecture features high, vaulted ceilings with intricate ribbing and blue-painted sections decorated with gold floral patterns. Stained glass windows in various shapes, including large rose windows, are set within pointed arches. The nave is filled with rows of dark wooden pews, and a central aisle paved with light-colored stone tiles leads towards the altar area. The lighting is warm and dramatic, highlighting the architectural details and the vibrant colors of the stained glass.

**10 passages**

**Revelation 2:7,11,17,26**

**3:5,12,21 / 12:11 / 17:14**

**21:7**



# The Seven Churches of Revelation Series

Dr. Michael Erickson