

A white lion and a white lamb are resting on a large, fluffy white cloud. The lion is on the left, looking towards the camera, and the lamb is on the right, looking slightly away. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

Glory to the Lamb

A study of the Book of Revelation

A white lion and a white lamb are resting on a large, fluffy white cloud. The lion is on the left, looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. The lamb is on the right, partially obscured by the lion's mane and looking towards the camera. The background is a bright blue sky filled with soft, white, scattered clouds.

Glory to the Lamb

Session #2: *Letters to the Seven Churches*

A lion's head is superimposed on a background of a blue sky with white, fluffy clouds. The lion's face is the central focus, looking directly forward. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Goals for Session #2

- To complete a simple outline of the teachings to the seven churches**
- To gain a basic understanding of the imagery used in these letters**
- To be able to geographically the cities addressed**
- To make application to our current situation**

Specific or Representative??

- **We don't know why these seven churches were selected**
 - Chosen for specific reasons?
 - Chosen to be representative of churches throughout the ages?
- **Letters all addressed to the “angel”**
- **Letters all have similar format**

A white lion with a lamb on a cloud background. The lion is in the foreground, looking slightly to the right. A small white lamb is nestled in the lion's mane. The background is a bright blue sky filled with fluffy white clouds.

For each church ...

- 1. Church name and its importance**
- 2. Description of Christ used**
- 3. Commendation given**
- 4. Reprimand given**
- 5. Exhortation given**
- 6. Promise given**



Ephesus (2:1-7)

Ephesus: Name and Importance

- **Located on mouth of Cayster River**
- **Important commercial and cultural center**
- **Home of the Temple of Diana (Acts 19)**
- **Notorious as the center for the “Ephesian Letters” (thought to be infalliable remedies for sickness)**
- **Founded by Paul**
- **Timothy was one of its pastors**

Ephesus: Description of Christ

“...him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.” (Revelation 2:1; cf 1:12-13)

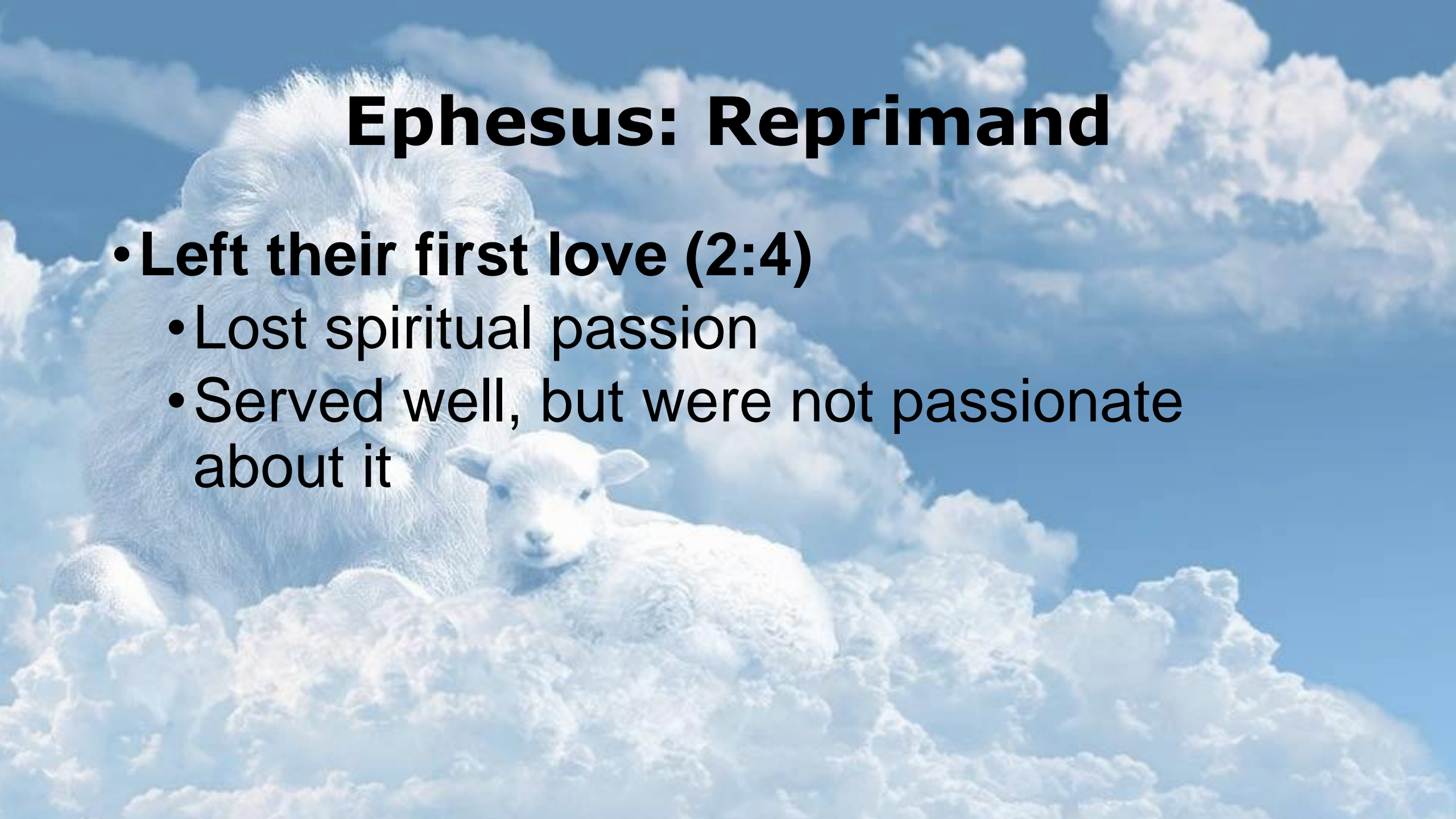
- **Suggests intimate knowledge**
 - Walks among them and holds them

Ephesus: Commendation

- **Loyalty in practice (2:2-3)**
 - Deeds, hard work, perseverance
- **Loyalty in doctrine (2:6)**
 - Hate the practices of the Nicolaitans

Ephesus: Reprimand

- **Left their first love (2:4)**
 - Lost spiritual passion
 - Served well, but were not passionate about it



Ephesus: Exhortation

- **Remember (2:5)**
 - Their love for Christ
- **Repent (2:5)**
 - Of their condition to serve without heart
 - Danger: removal of their candlestick

A lion and a lamb are depicted sitting together on a large, fluffy white cloud. The lion is on the left, looking towards the camera, and the lamb is on the right, also looking towards the camera. The background is a bright blue sky filled with soft, white clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and symbolic.

Ephesus: Promise

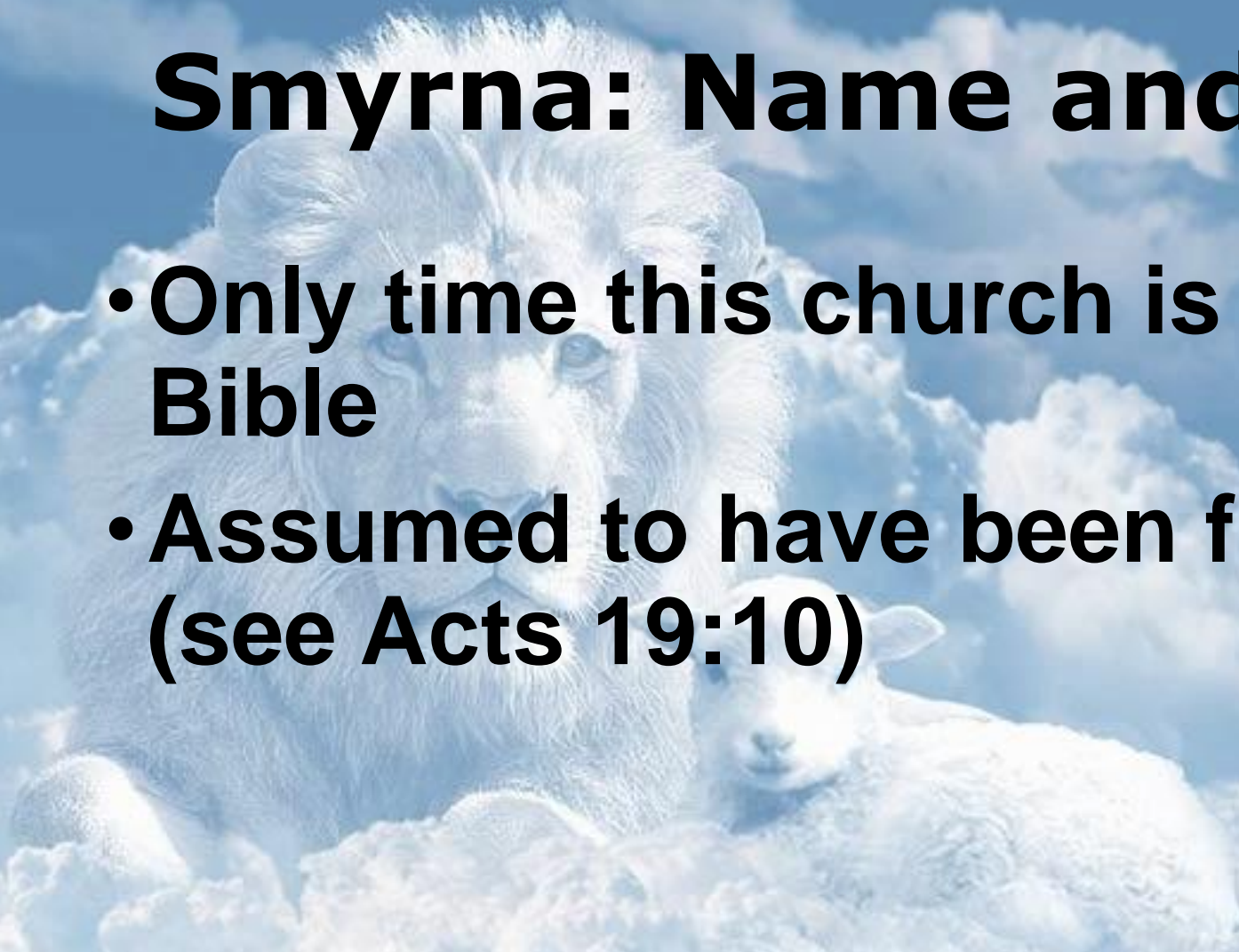
- **Right to eat from the tree of life**
 - Eternal life?
 - Spiritual sustenance?



Smyrna (2:8-11)

Smyrna: Name and Importance

- **Only time this church is mentioned in the Bible**
- **Assumed to have been founded by Paul (see Acts 19:10)**



Smyrna: Description of Christ

“...him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.” (Revelation 2:8; cf. 1:18)

- **Stresses His eternal nature**

Smyrna: Commendation

- **Remained rich in spirit despite persecution (2:9)**
 - Poverty likely due to Domitian's confiscation of Christian property
- **Not like the Jews (2:9)**
 - Jews were counterfeit, synagogues of Satan

Smyra: Reprimand

- **None given**



Smyrna: Exhortation

- **Do not fear!**
 - The devil was at work ... but it was limited



Smyrna: Promise

- **Crown of life (2:10)**
 - Symbol of complete victory
- **Immunity from the “second death” (2:11)**
- **NOTE: God does NOT promise to take away the persecution**



Pergamum (2:12-17)

Pergamum: Name and Importance

- **Center of emperor worship**
 - A major Temple to Caesar Augustus
- **Was a healing center**
 - Patients had poisonous snakes crawl over them!

Pergamum: Description of Christ

“... him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.”
(Revelation 2:12; cf. 1:16)

- **Swords are symbols of power, protection and judgment**

Pergamum: Commendation

- **Remained faithful in face of great persecution (2:13)**
 - Likely refused to proclaim “Caesar is Lord”
 - Example of Antipas

Pergamum: Reprimand

- **They were permitting heresy to remain unchecked (2:14)**
- **They were willing to make spiritual compromises in order to maintain their safety (2:15)**

Pergamum: Exhortation

- **Repent (2:16)**
 - Threatened with a judgmental appearance of the Lord



Pergamum: Promise

A lion and a lamb are depicted resting on a large, fluffy white cloud. The lion is on the left, looking towards the right, and the lamb is on the right, looking towards the left. The background is a bright blue sky filled with soft, white clouds.

- **Hidden manna**
 - Reminder that God supplies their needs (Exodus 16:32-34)
- **White stone**
 - Given to a victor



Thyatira (2:18-29)

Thyatira: Name and Importance

- **City produced purple dye**
- **Was the hometown of Lydia (the seller of purple) (Acts 16)**
- **Founder of the church is unknown – likely associates of Paul**

Thyatira: Description of Christ

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

(Revelation 2:18; cf. 1:14-15)

- All symbols of judgment

Thyatira: Commendation

- **Their efforts (2:19)**
 - Love for Christ (something lacked by Ephesus)
 - Faith
 - Service
 - Patient endurance
 - Progress



Thyatira: Reprimand

- **Tolerance of Jezebel the prophetess (2:20-21)**
 - Called the same name as wife of King Ahab – a name associated with wickedness
 - “Children” are her spiritual offspring
 - Sickbed instead of bed of adultery
 - Some think she was the pastor’s wife!

Thyatira: Exhortation

- **Hold fast (2:25)**





Thyatira: Promise

- **Authority over the nations**
 - Iron scepter
 - Smashing pots
- **The Morning Star**
 - Glory in victory



Sardis (3:1-6)

Sardis: Name and Importance

- **City had a citadel that was captured by its enemies on two different occasions due to a lack of diligence by the citizens**
- **Founder of the church is unknown**

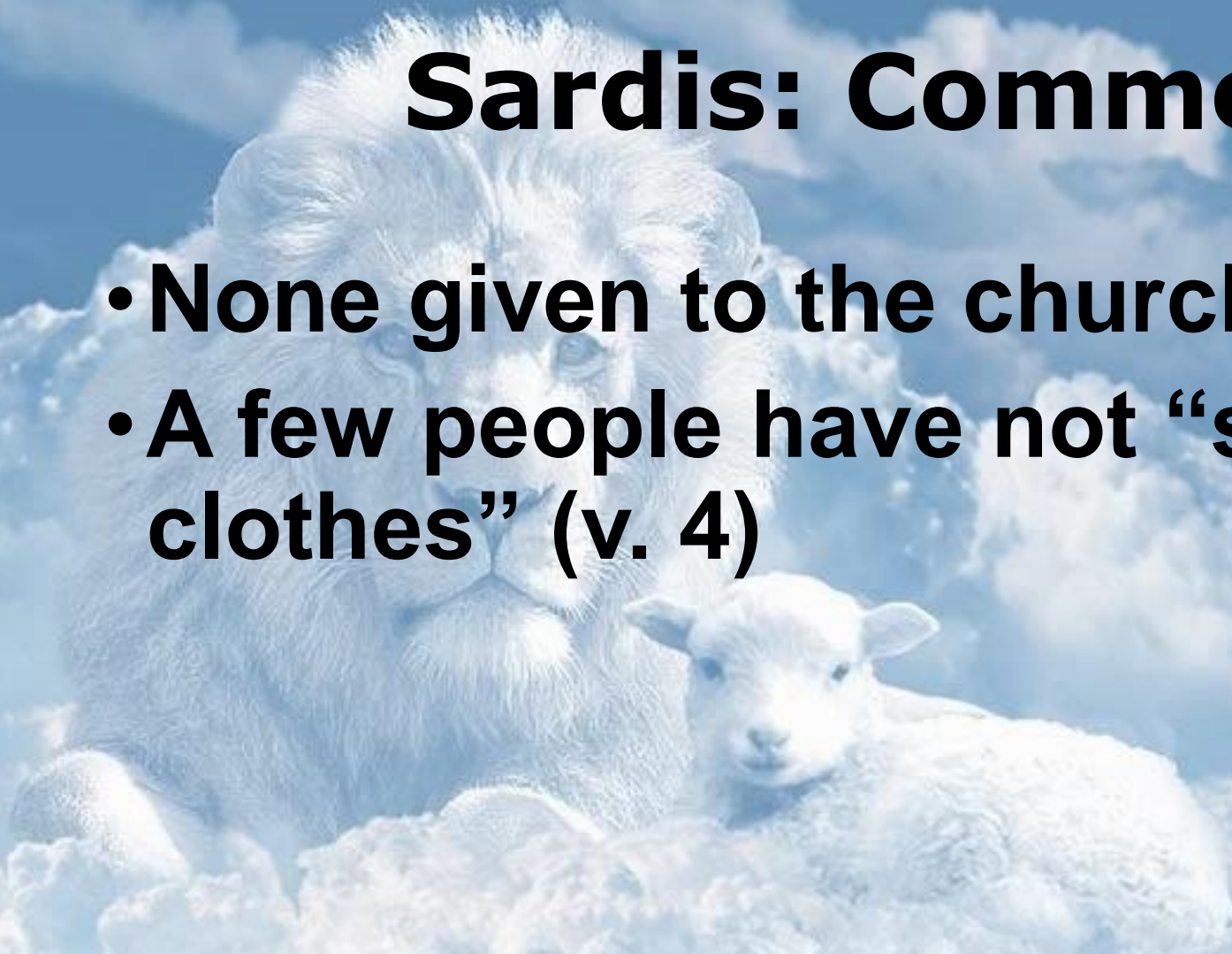
Sardis: Description of Christ

“... him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.” (Revelation 3:1; cf. 1:4, 20)

- Similar to Ephesus**
- Symbolic of Christ’s control and intimacy with the church’s leaders**

Sardis: Commendation

- **None given to the church**
- **A few people have not “soiled their clothes” (v. 4)**



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Sardis: Reprimand

- **They were spiritually dead (3:1)**
 - Gave an appearance of life
- **No specific sins named**

Sardis: Exhortation

- **Wake up!**
- **Strengthen what remains**
- **Remember what you have received**
- **Repent**





Sardis: Promise

- **White robes of victory**
- **Names listed in the Book of Life**
- **Personal acknowledgement by Christ**



Philadelphia (3:7-13)

Philadelphia: Name and Importance

- **Was recognized as a city of great opportunities**
- **Known for its grape industry**
- **Founder of the church is not known**

Philadelphia: Description of Christ

“... 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 3:7; cf. 1:18)

- Holy one = Messiah
- True one = Faithful to His Word
- Keys of David = Affirmation of prophecy

Philadelphia: Commendation

- **They have an open door that no one can close**
 - Faithful despite their weaknesses
 - Had not denied Name of Jesus
 - Missionary opportunities to the Jews
 - Christ is the “door”

Philadelphia: Reprimand

- **None given**



Philadelphia: Exhortation

- **Hold fast (Christ will return soon)**



Philadelphia: Promise

- **They will be made a pillar in the temple**
 - Important to the entire structure
- **They will have God's Name tattooed on them**
 - Ownership





Philadelphia (3:7-13)

Laodicea: Name and Importance

- **A city with great commercial significance**
- **Raising sheep was the primary commodity**
- **Site of a medical school which marketed an eye salve known as “Phrygian powder.”**
- **Church was started by Epaphras**

Laodicea: Description of Christ

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

(Revelation 3:14; cf. 1:5)

- Amen: So be it. Final word.
- Faithful, true witness: trustworthy
- Ruler of creation: He is the agent of all that has been created

Laodicea: Commendation

- None



A lion is lying on a bed of white, fluffy clouds against a clear blue sky. The lion's head is in the upper left, and its body extends towards the right. The overall scene is bright and airy.

Laodicea: Reprimand

- **They were lukewarm**
- **They were arrogant**
 - They took credit for what they had
- **They were blind**
 - Because of their wealth and self-sufficiency
 - Spiritually blind

Laodicea: Exhortation

- Buy gold
- Buy white garments
- Buy eye salve
- Be zealous
- Repent



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Laodicea: Promise

- **Limited to only those who will conquer**
- **Right to sit with Jesus on His throne**



Homework

Read Revelation 4:1 - 5:14

Your First Glimpse of Heaven

