

**A church with a strong beginning, known for its faith and love – what does it look like after 20 years?**

Wouldn't it be nice to have a report of ourselves?



# Significance of 7, Especially Within Revelation

- 7 letters to churches
- 7 Seals
- 7 Trumpets
- 7 Bowls

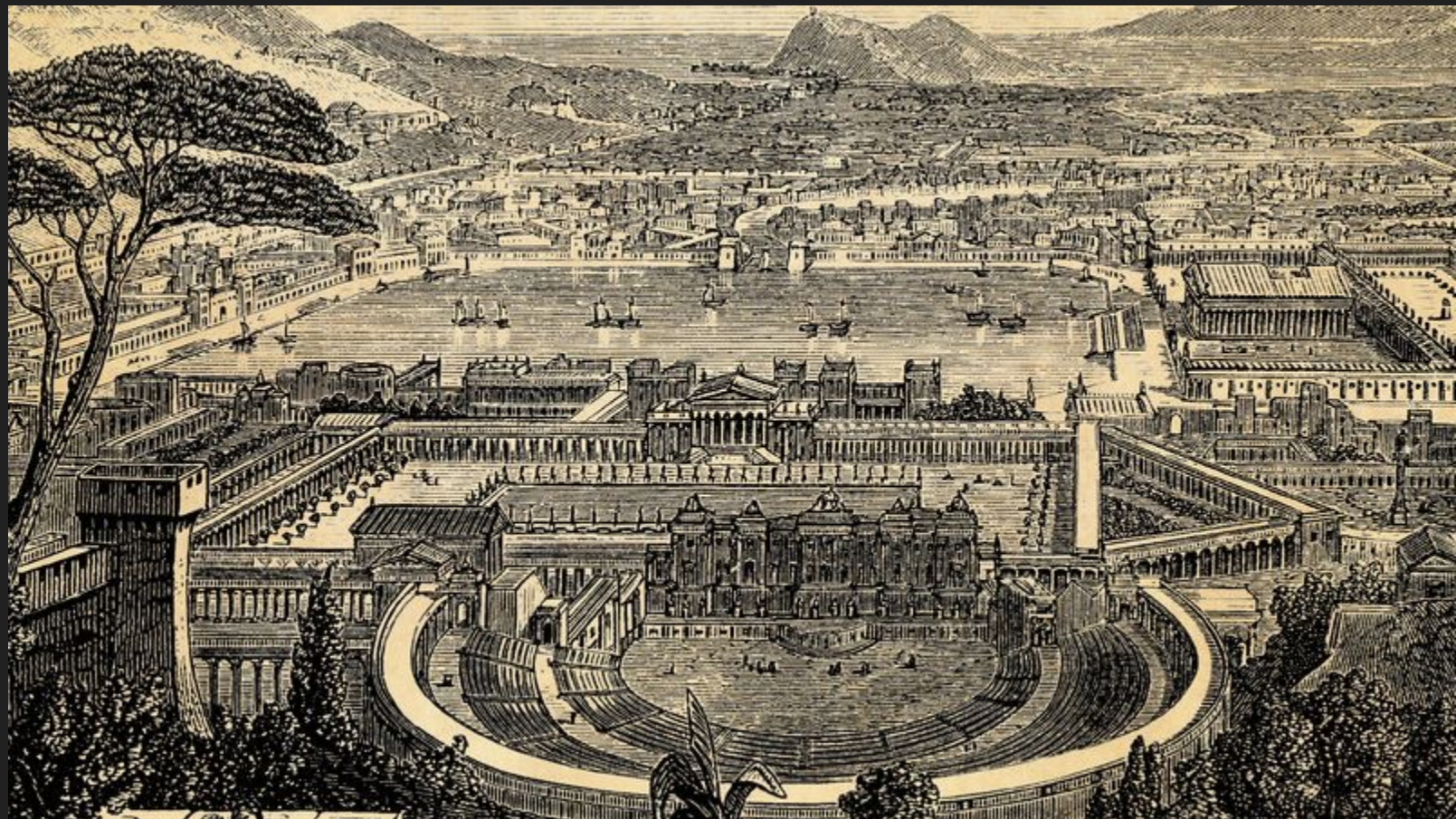


**Somewhere within these 7 letters is  
the monte vista congregation.**

Somewhere in these 7 letters is us, as disciples.



***Ephesus, a church  
slipping into  
Phariseeism  
Rev. 2:1-7***





# Commended for their enduring doctrinal vigilance

- 1) "You cannot bear with those who are evil"
- 2) "Tested those who call themselves apostles and are not"
- 3) "You hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate"



**“I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.” Acts 20:29-30**

Some Background To Illustrate The Difficulty – Paul Predicted It Would Come From Within



**“Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons” – I Tim. 4:1**

Some Background To Illustrate The Difficulty – Paul Predicted It Would Come From Within



**“...remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine.”**

**I Timothy 1:3**

This is actually why Timothy was told to stay in Ephesus. Paul wanted someone there to protect the church from false teaching.



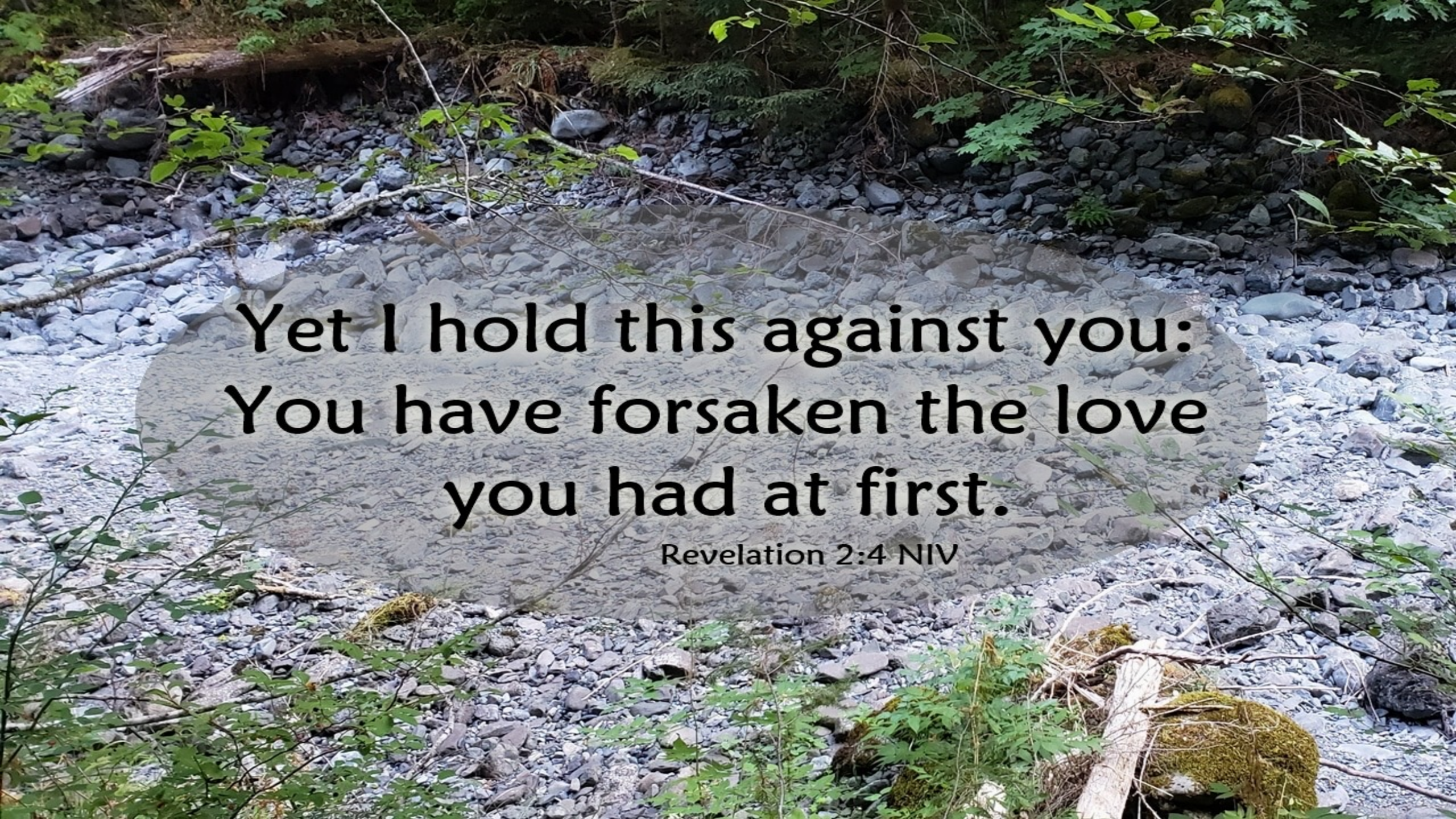
“...some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.”

I Timothy 1:19b - 20

This wasn't just a problem for the future, but it was happening even during Paul and Timothy's time around Ephesus.

**Will MV stay doctrinally pure although attacks might come from within?**



A photograph of a rocky stream bed with green foliage on the banks. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey oval in the center of the image.

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

Revelation 2:4 NIV