

**Beginning with the Living God!**  
**27 Weeks "to Grow/Prosper" This Year**

# Pray for "A Way Forward"



After a week of meetings in Chicago, **the Council of Bishops** of the United Methodist Church have come to a conclusion: Come 2019 when the denomination meets for its General Conference, they will recommend the UMC adopt the One Church Plan.

*May 7, 2018*



**Commission on "A Way Forward"**

**The One Church Plan** will effectively give individual churches the right to decide whether they will perform same-sex marriages and ordain LGBT people as clergy.

*For the future of Our Church*

*Let's talk about*

THE MICROSITE  
**CHURCH**

THE POWER OF  
*small*

Church size  
no barrier  
to thinking big



# Revelation 1:4-11

## The Gospel of the Later Days



### REVELATION: ROME & THE SEVEN CHURCHES

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# Messages for 7 Churches

# Revelation 1:4-11

## Can God Be Trusted?



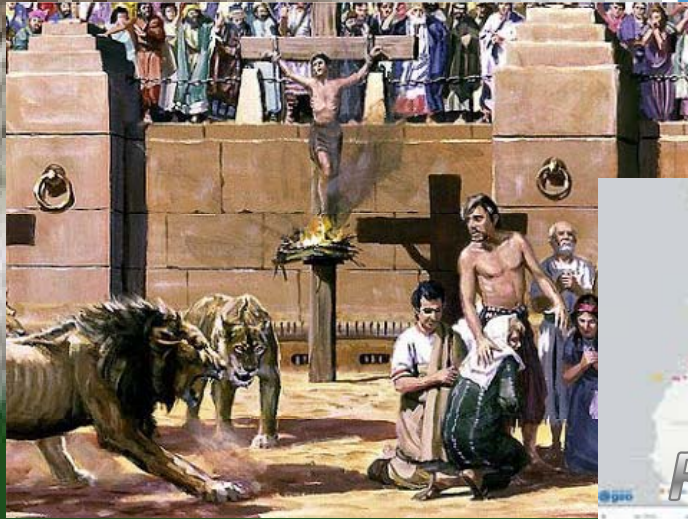
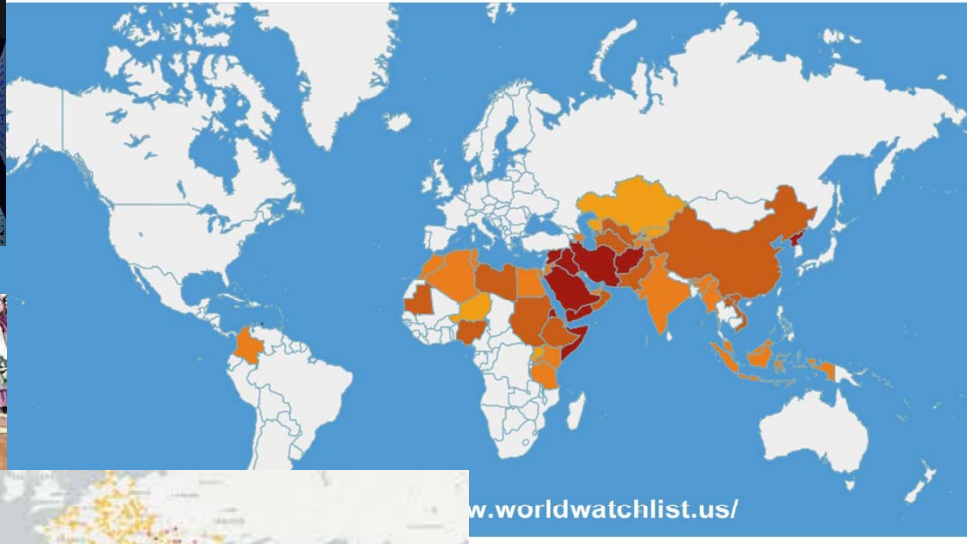
### 2013 Christian Persecution World Watch List

EXTREME PERSECUTION

SEVERE PERSECUTION

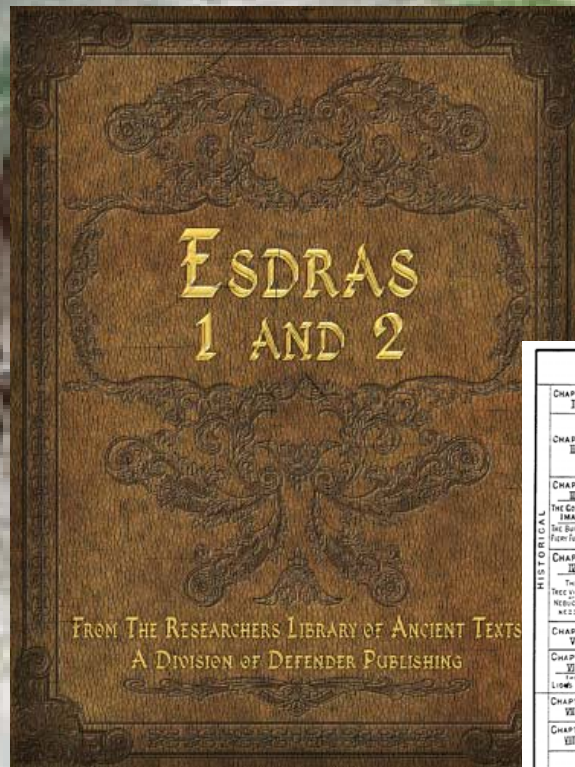
MODERATE PERSECUTION

SPARSE PERSECUTION

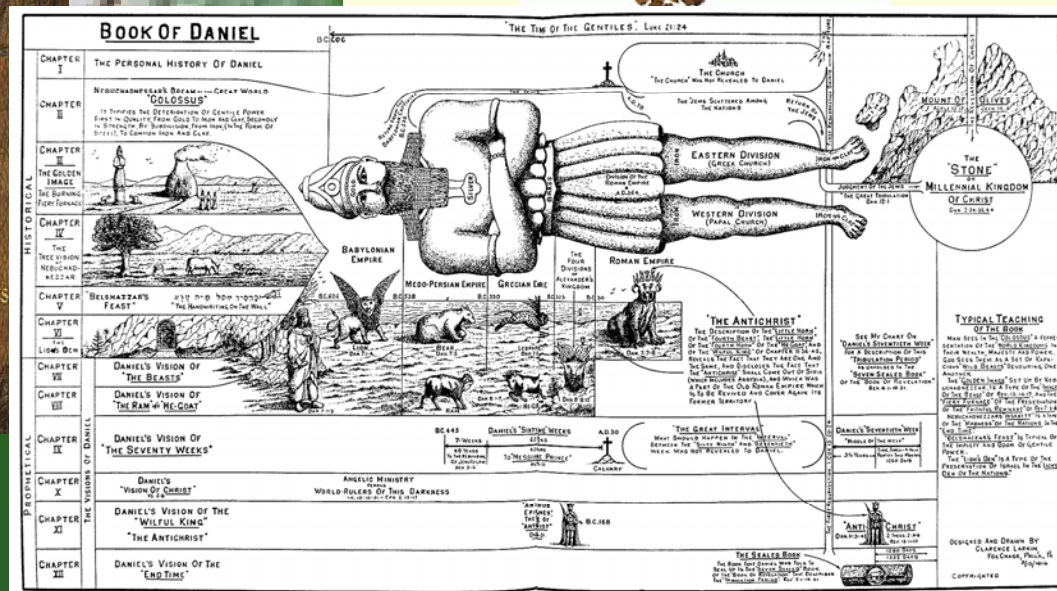


# Revelation 1:4-11

## Exit from the Present Troubles



## Apocalyptic literature



# Revelation 1:4-11

## Who Is God?

THEN GOD SAID,  
"LET US MAKE MAN  
IN OUR IMAGE,  
ACCORDING TO  
OUR LIKENESS;  
LET THEM HAVE DOMINION  
OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA,  
OVER THE BIRDS OF THE AIR,  
AND OVER THE CATTLE,  
OVER ALL THE EARTH  
& OVER EVERY CREEPING THING  
THAT CREEPS ON THE EARTH."

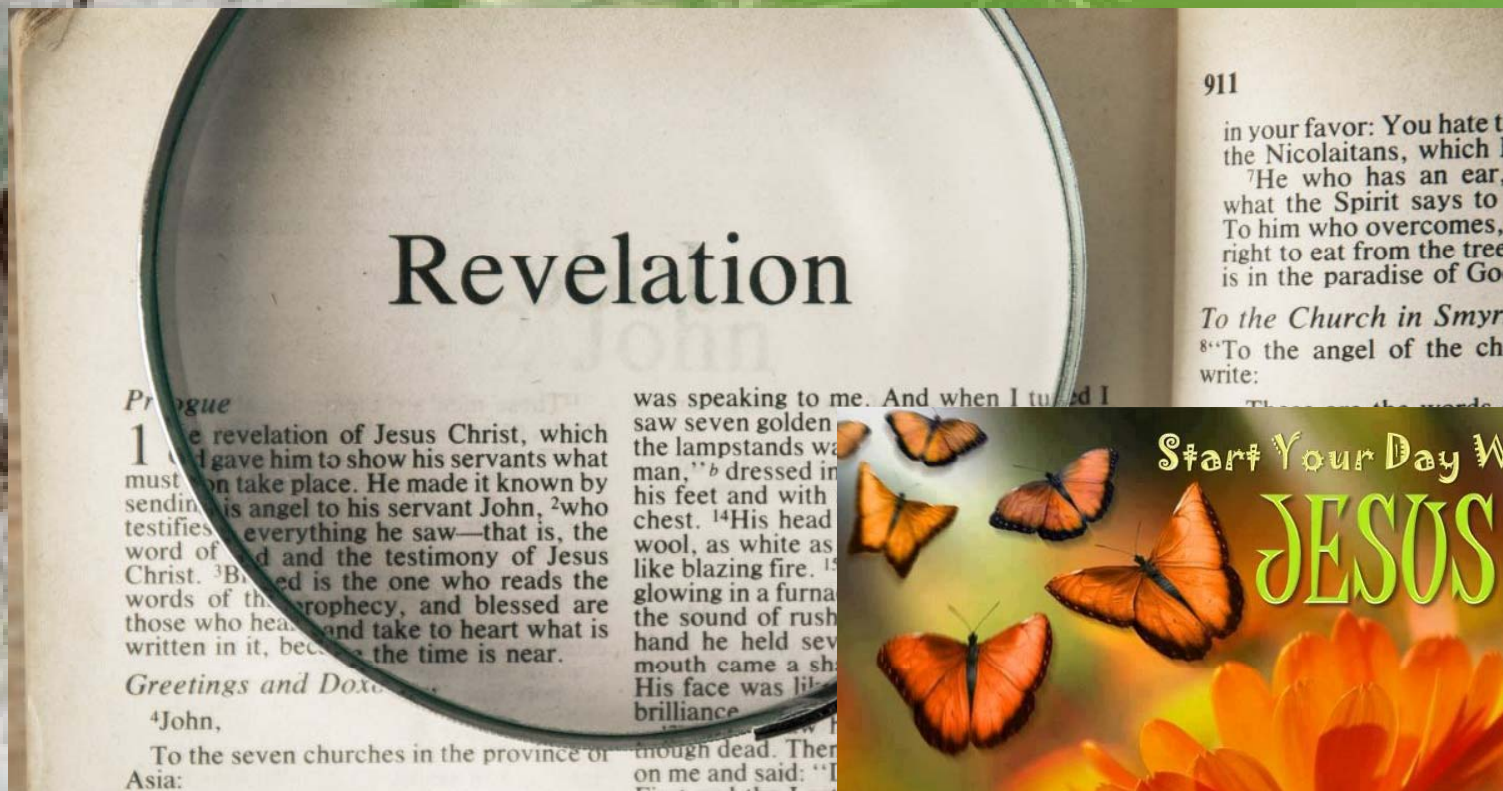
GENESIS 1:26

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# Revelation 1:4-11

## Jesus Brings A Future Hope



### Prologue

**1** The revelation of Jesus Christ, which must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, <sup>2</sup>who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of the Lord and the testimony of Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

### Greetings and Doxology

<sup>4</sup>John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

was speaking to me. And when I turned I

saw seven golden lampstands with a man, <sup>b</sup>dressed in his feet and with a sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>His head and hair were like white wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. <sup>15</sup>His feet were like polished bronze, glowing in a furnace. <sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, and the sound of rushing water came from his feet. <sup>17</sup>His face was like the sun, and his brilliance

though dead. Then he touched my feet and said: "Do not touch them, for I am like you, a man who has been made alive."

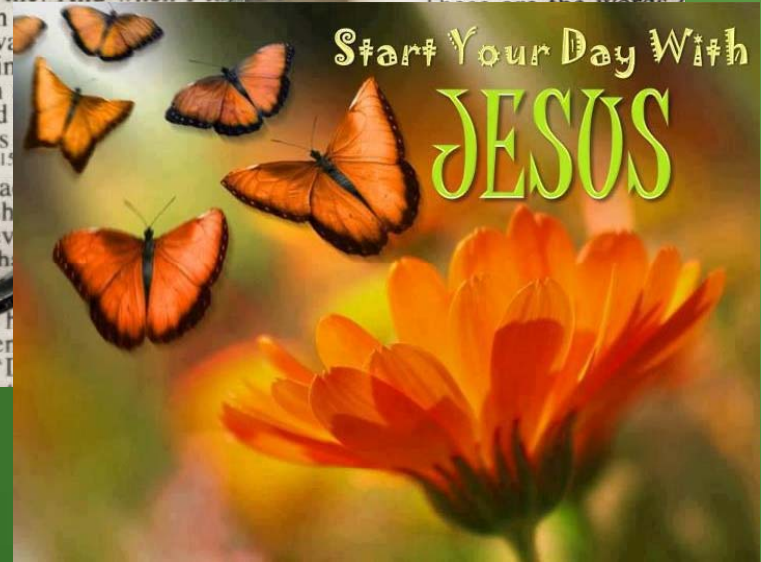
911

in your favor: You hate the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. <sup>7</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

To the Church in Smyrna

<sup>8</sup>"To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

Start Your Day With  
**JESUS**







1. God is living always and everywhere.

*Microsites to Thrive*  
2. *With the Alpha and the Omega*

1. God is living always and everywhere.



THE **GOD** WHO IS  
WHO WAS  
WHO IS TO COME  
REVELATION 1:4-8

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*2. With the Alpha and the Omega*

1. God is living always and everywhere.

**The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him.**

**Acts 3:13**

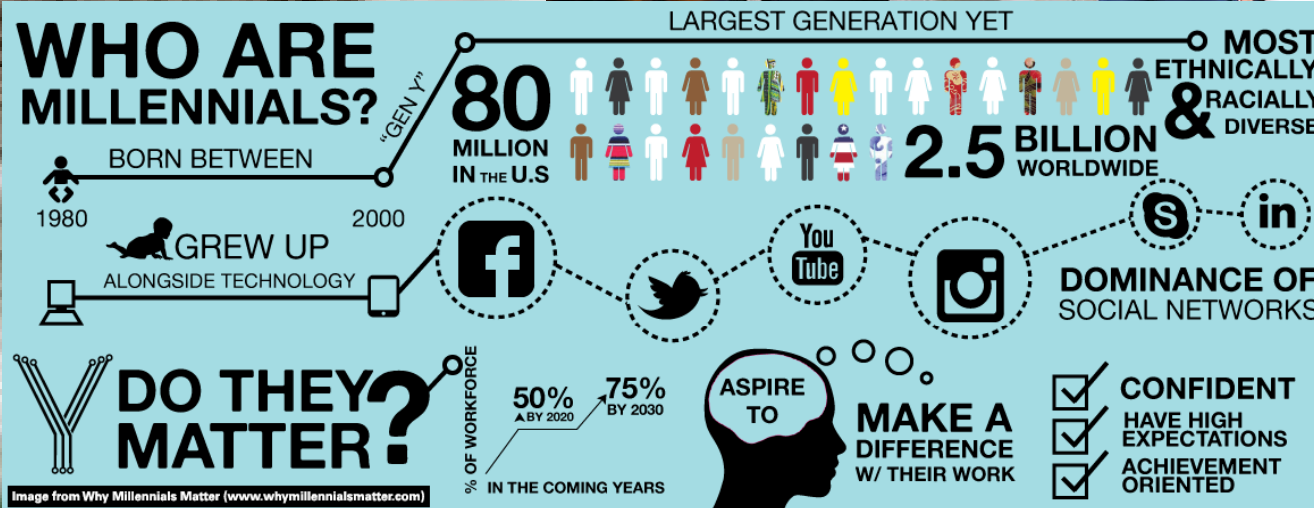


**God of our fathers, mothers...**

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*2. With the Alpha and the Omega*

# 1. God is living always and everywhere.



*Microsites to Thrive*

*2. With the Alpha and the Omega*

# 1. God is living always and everywhere.



God is everywhere and in everything  
and without Him we cannot exist.

— *Mother Teresa* —



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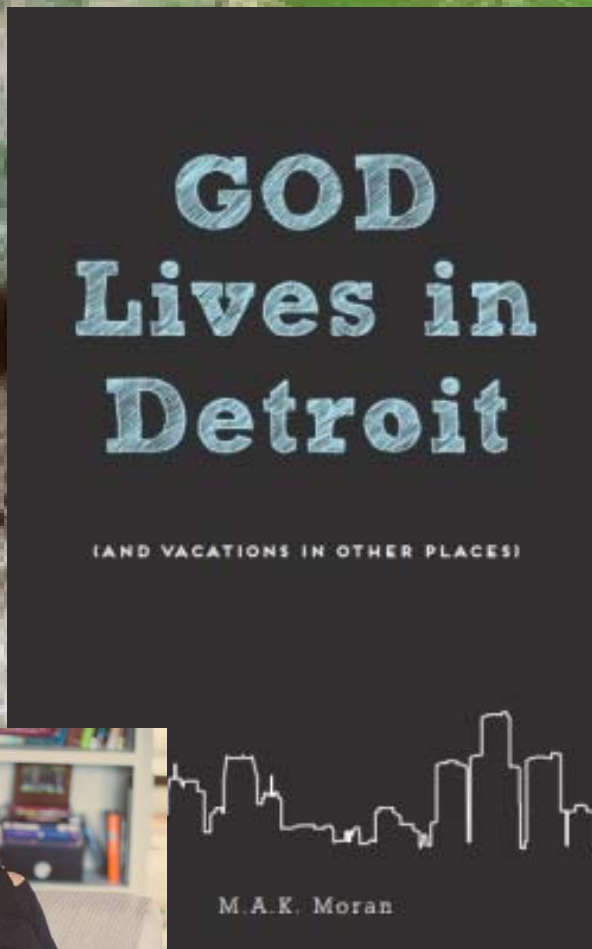
*2. With the Alpha and the Omega*

# 1. God is living always and everywhere.

*There are times and circumstances that generate a pain so deep, that even the most seasoned believer can feel separated from God. A pit so consuming and dark, the thought of finding Him again and feeling His touch, seems impossible. ..*

*In that despair, God gave me His address, so I would be able to come to the place He lives, and open the door to His heart...and my future.*

*God Lives in Detroit and Vacations in Other Places will help you take those first steps in reconnecting with God, even though you are certain He has abandoned you.*



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1. God is living always and everywhere.



*Microsites to Thrive*  
2. *With the Alpha and the Omega*



2. *Jesus has equipped us to be a kingdom and priests to his God.*

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2. *With the Alpha and the Omega*



2. *Jesus has equipped us to be a kingdom and priests to his God.*

**AND FROM JESUS CHRIST, WHO IS THE FAITHFUL  
WITNESS, THE FIRSTBORN FROM THE DEAD, AND  
THE RULER OF THE KINGS OF THE EARTH. TO HIM  
WHO LOVES US AND HAS FREED US FROM OUR SINS  
BY HIS BLOOD,  
REVELATION 1:5 NIV**

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2. *Jesus has equipped us to be a kingdom and priests to his God.*

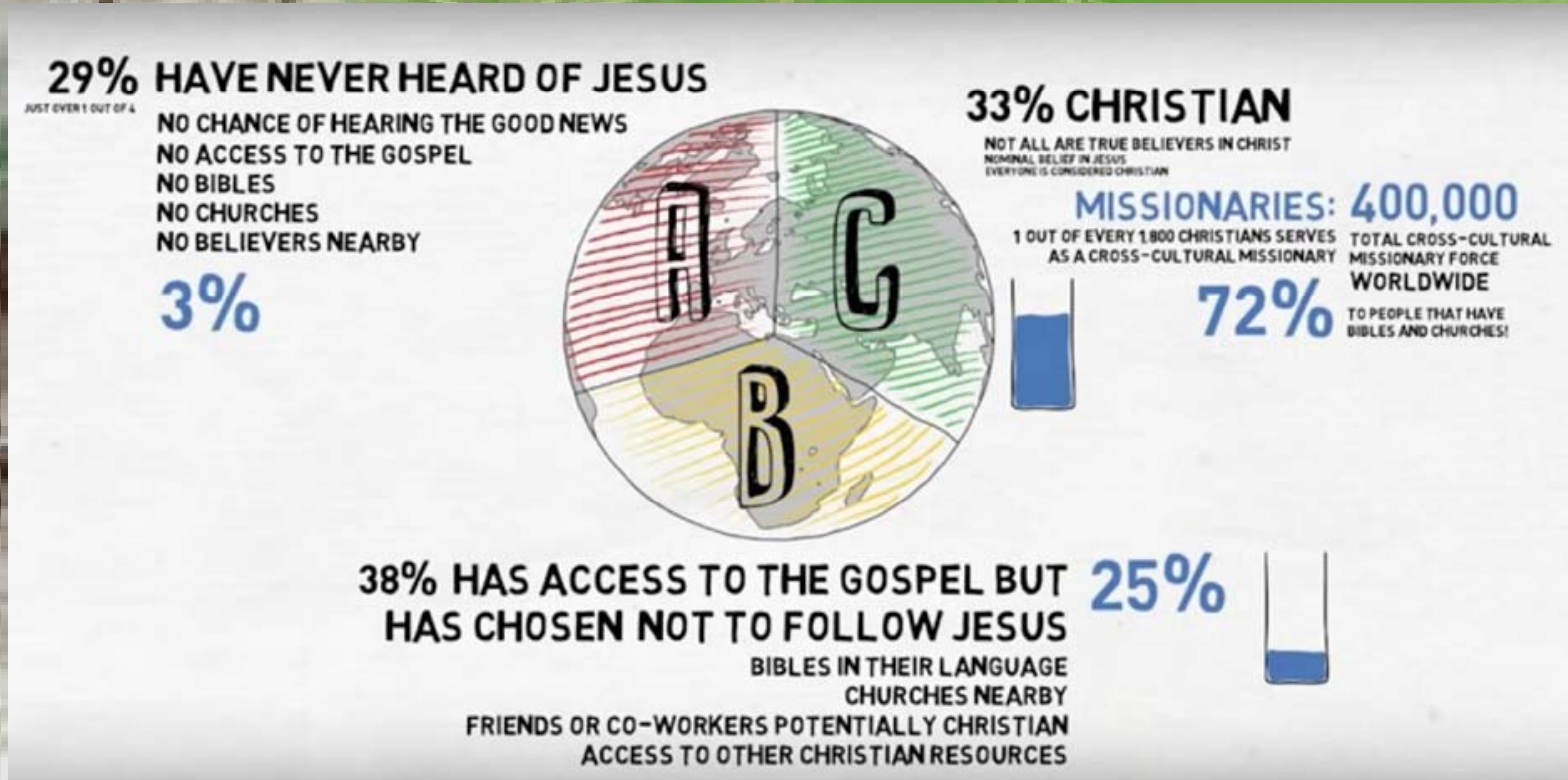
Jesus Christ...who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.

- Rev. 1:5-6

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*2. With the Alpha and the Omega*

## 2. Jesus has equipped us to be a kingdom and priests to his God.



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*2. With the Alpha and the Omega*

2. Jesus has equipped us to be a kingdom and priests to his God.

**YOU**

You are enough.  
You have influence.  
You are a genius.  
You have a contribution to make.  
You have a gift that others need.  
You are the change.  
Your actions define your impact.  
You matter.

**MATTER**

*From Angela Maier's "You Matter Manifesto"*

**YOU  
HAVE  
INFLUENCE.**

*right there  
right where you are*

**You matter to this era.**

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*2. With the Alpha and the Omega*

2. Jesus has equipped us to be a kingdom and priests to his God.

**The Beatitudes**  
Matthew 5:3-10

Blessed are the poor in spirit:  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn:  
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek:  
for they shall inherit the earth.

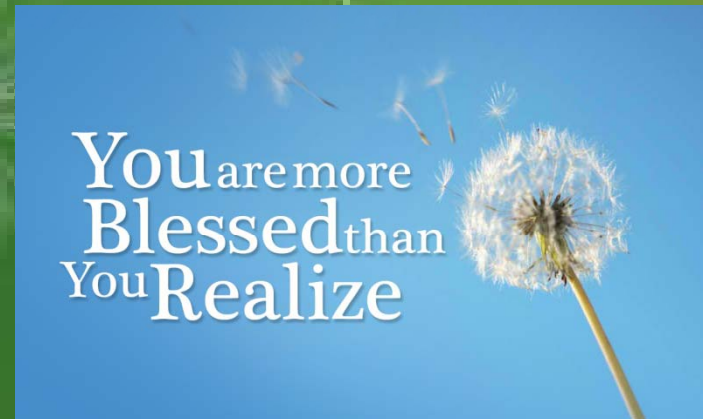
Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst  
after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful:  
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart:  
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers:  
for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for  
righteousness' sake: for theirs is the  
kingdom of heaven.



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3. The Lord God is the Almighty, who was, is and is to come.

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2. *With the Alpha and the Omega*

3. The Lord God is the Almighty, who was, is and is to come.

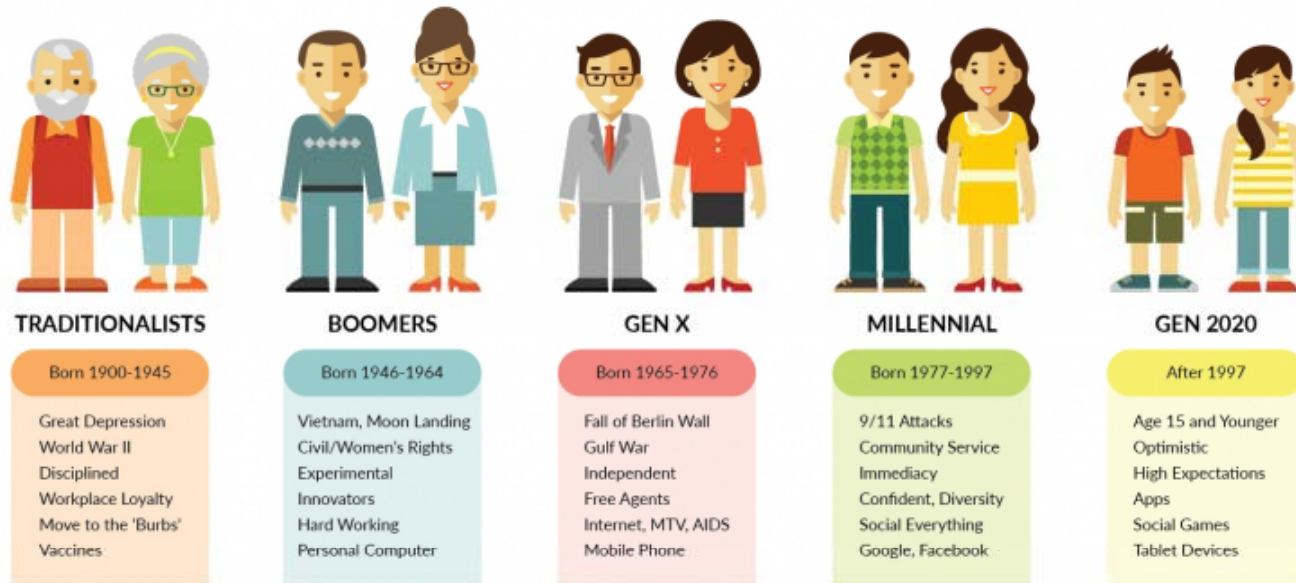
I am the **Alpha** and  
**Omega** the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. Revelation 1:8

[dailylifeverse.com](http://dailylifeverse.com)

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2. *With the Alpha and the Omega*

### 3. The Lord God is the Almighty, who was, is and is to come.

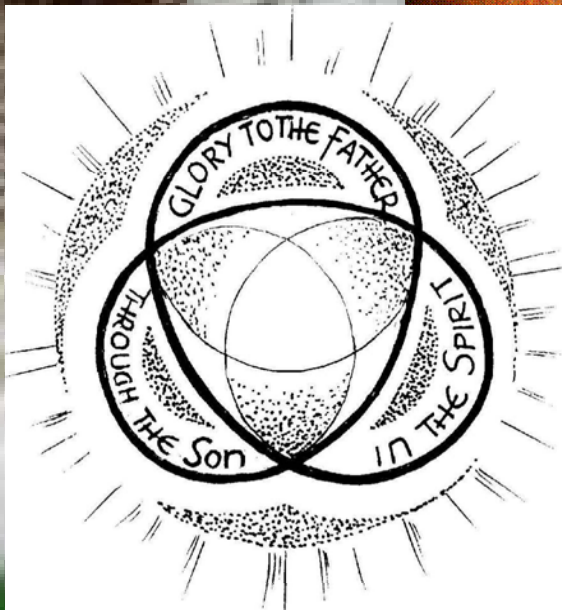
#### Five Generations Working Side by Side in 2020



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3. The Lord God is the Almighty, who was, is and is to come.



He who  
WAS, IS  
and EVER  
WILL BE

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4. On the Lord's Day praise, experience, serve,  
and share God!

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2. *With the Alpha and the Omega*

4. On the Lord's Day praise, experience, serve,  
and share God!

Revelation 1:10-11

On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit,  
and I heard behind me a loud voice  
like a trumpet, which said:

"Write on a scroll what you see  
and send it to the seven churches:  
to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum,  
Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia  
and Laodicea."

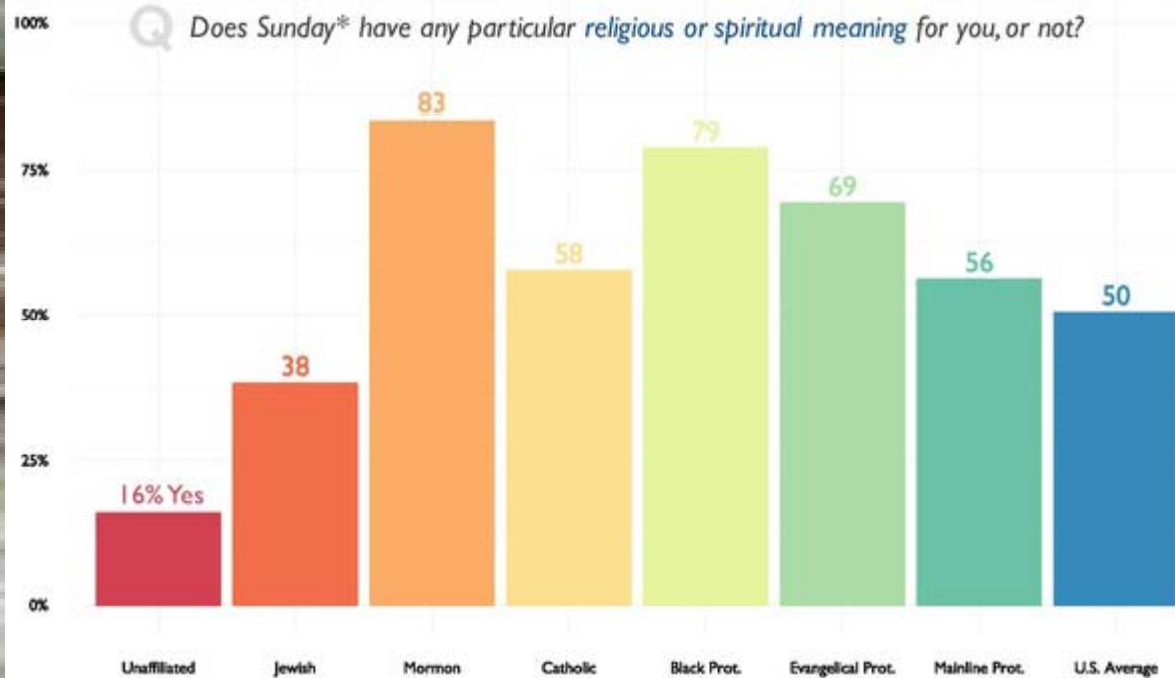
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## 4. On the Lord's Day praise, experience, serve, and share God!

### SABBATH IMPORTANCE BY RELIGIOUS TRADITION

Mormon, Black Prot. & Evangelical Prot. most likely to attach religious meaning. Unaffiliated & Jewish least likely.



\* Sunday was inserted as the default day. However, panelists who self-identified as Jewish, or Protestant and Adventist saw Saturday in these questions, and self-identified Muslims saw Friday.

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4. On the Lord's Day praise, experience, serve,  
and share God!

Observe the  
*Sabbath day*  
by keeping it HOLY.

Deuteronomy 5:12

THIS DAY  
IS THE DAY  
• T • H • E •  
LORD HAS  
MADE  
WE WILL  
*rejoice*  
&  
*be glad*  
IN IT  
• PSALM 118:24 •

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4. On the Lord's Day praise, experience, serve,  
and share God!

*Make Room on Sunday.*  
**SUNDAY SERVICE**  
*Make Room in Your Heart...*

Calendar: Sun, Mon, Tue  
3, 4, 5, 6, 7  
10, 11, 12, 13, 14  
17, 18, 19, 20, 21  
24, 25, 26, 27, 28  
31

Seven Churches of Revelation  
Chapters 2-3

- 1 Ephesus
- 2 Smyrna
- 3 Pergamos
- 4 Thyatira
- 5 Sardis
- 6 Philadelphia
- 7 Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision

Aegean Sea, Patmos, Greece, Turkey

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