

History of
Türkiye

THE SEVEN CHURCHES LAODICEA

Laodicea: City of the Lukewarm Church

The ruins of Laodicea are located 6km north of the modern city of Denizli in Türkiye.

History

The city was originally built as a military base to guard the northern frontier of Antiochus II, the king of Syria's (262-264 B.C.) kingdom.

Many Jews, 20,000 or so, men, women, and children lived in Laodicea.

Laodicea was famous for its wealth. One writer refers to the city as the "home of millionaires." A school of medicine famed for the remedy for weak eyes was located some 21 km west of Laodicea.

John made a reference to eye-salve in his letter to the Laodiceans in Revelation 3:18. Laodicea lacked a supply of fresh water, thus water was piped from springs south of the city through a six mile long aqueduct. The city was destroyed by an earthquake in 60 A.D. rebuilt, and struck again in the seventh century A.D. by a devastating earthquake and subsequently abandoned.

The ancient ruins with traces of the aqueduct and other buildings cover about 2,5 square kilometre.

Biblical Times

Laodicea (like Colossae) was not evangelized by Paul but possibly by his disciple Epaphras (Col 4:12-13).

The Church at Laodicea is mentioned only in:

- Colossians 2:1
- Colossians 4:13, 15, 16
- Revelation 1:11
- Revelation 3:14

The Lord had no commendation for the church at Laodicea.

Source: Author: Donnie S. Barnes, Th.D.

<https://www.biblecharts.org/documents/>