# CONTEXT

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw...John to the seven churches that are in Asia.

Revelation 1:1-4

#### **Apocalyptic-Prophetic Letter**

- 1. Set the present in light of the unseen realities of the future.
- 2. Set the present in light of the invisible realities of the present.

#### Pattern of seven prophecies:

- Vision of Christ
- Affirmation
- Correction
- Invitation to wholeness
- Promise

## VISION OF CHRIST

## **AFFIRMATION**

- 1. Hard Work
- 2. Perseverance in Suffering
- 3. Holiness
- 4.Doctrine
- 5. Faithfulness

# CORRECTION

#### You have abandoned your first love

I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown...for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Jeremiah 2:2, 13

#### Broken cisterns:

- Gifted Leadership
- Miraculous Power
- Sound Doctrine
- Missional Impact

- 1.Busyness
- 2. Shift in focus
- 3. Suffering
- 4. Developmental

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#### **Organizational Life Cycle\*** Prime "Continuous reorganizing, optimizing and innovating" Maturity "Over the hill" Adolescence premature aging "Getting organized or focused" Aristocracy split between founders and administrators "Resting on our laurels" Go-Go "Random over-expansion expansion" **Early Bureaucracy** "Bad News" Performance Infancy founder's trap "Start up" Bureacracy under-resourced Idea "Conception" Death Time



# INVITATION

- Remember
- Repent
- Return to practices of love

# **PROMISE**