

04. Seven Letters to the Churches Rev. ch 2:12-17 Pergamos

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Introduction to

The Letter to Pergamos

Revelation 2:12-17

The City of the Serpent

- Ephesus, the great **political** centre;
- Smyrna was the great commercial centre;
- Pergamos, the great religious centre.

Pergamos is the Church known as the Married Church. Married to the World.

Background History: Pergamos

[Pergamos is the feminine form; Pergamum is the neuter form of the name; both were used.]

Pergamos was located 70 miles north of Smyrna. Smyrna was the great commercial centre;

Ephesus, the great political centre; Pergamos, the **great religious centre**.

Pergamos, wisely allying with Rome, became an extremely wealthy and prosper province of Asia. Lacking proximity to the key trade routes, it eventually yields economic advantages to its better located rival, Ephesus. Although not the seat of imperial and judicial authority, Pergamos became the centre of the official religion of emperor "Caesar" worship. Augustus inaugurated emperor worship in order to give the empire a bond of common sentiment, and the first temple of this cult was erected at **Pergamos in 27 B.C.** Under Vespasian and his successors, it became a test of one's faith if one would or would not offer incense to the statue of the emperor.

Pergamos is about 18 miles from the sea, about 80 miles north of Smyrna. The present city of Bergama has a population of only 20,000 (vs. almost 200,000 of old). The great **altar of Zeus** stood on a foundation 125 ft by 115 ft, over 50 ft high, set in a colonnaded enclosure (**Satan's throne? Rev 2:13**).

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Today, all that's left of the city of Pergamum, now in modern-day Turkey, are ruins. But when the Apostle John wrote his letter to the church there, it was one of the most influential cities in the Roman Empire.

"Pergamum (Pergamos) had a unique status that was different from any other city because it was the political centre, says Rick Renner, the author of "A Light in the Darkness," a study of the seven churches of Asia Minor. "It was from there that all the rulings were made that affected the whole of Asia Minor."

Its people were inventors and innovators. They perfected a parchment made out of calfskin and built the world's first psychiatric hospital.

It was also a well-known centre for the arts. The city's theatre seated ten thousand people a night. The acoustics were so good that a whisper on stage could be heard all the way in the top row.

The city's Acropolis rivalled Athens, and its library was the second largest in the ancient world. Its collection was so great that the Roman general Marc Antony presented it as a wedding gift to Cleopatra.

At the end of the first century, Pergamum was a thriving city. So why does the book of Revelation call it the **dwelling place of Satan**? The answer lies in the ruins of the city's temples.

"On one side, it was a very beautiful city," says Renner. "But on the flip side, it was one of the darkest, eeriest cities in the whole Roman Empire."

The people of Pergamum were known as the "Temple-keepers of Asia." The city had three temples dedicated to the worship of the Roman emperor, another for the goddess Athena, and the Great Altar of Zeus, the king of the Greek gods. Many scholars believe this altar is the "Throne of Satan" mentioned in **Revelation 2:13** and according to their history it was the birthplace to Zeus. In the letter it talks about Pergamos being **the seat of Satan**. This could refer to the fact that it was the original place where Zeus worship started.

"The word 'throne' was used in a personal private residence, and it was a chair for the lord of the house, the master of the house," says Renner. "The very fact that Jesus would use this word means that **Satan felt at home there**. He sat on a throne there. **It was his territory**. He was the master of that house."

Aesculapium—Health institutions before the scientific medical practice begun by Hippocrates—prospered for eight centuries. Functioning mostly by psychiatry and suggestion; sleep was induced and priests used their own methods (drugs and others) to

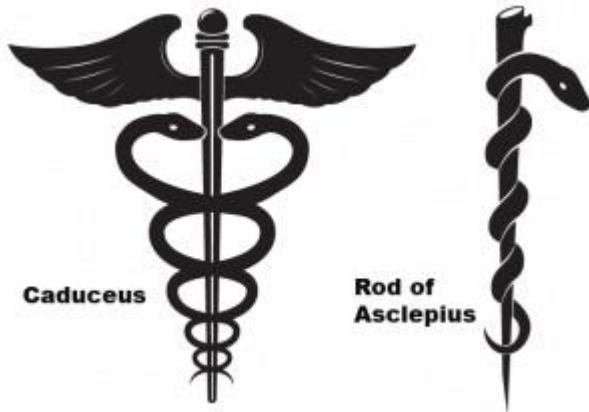
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cause patients to dream, and then interpret, etc. Bathing, whispered consultations, music, plays, and other techniques were employed as therapeutic aids.

The Asklepios is the same thing but spelt differently see internet. !!, The healing centre was built in honour of Asklepios, the Greek **serpent-god**. Aesculapius was the primary god of Pergamos, the god of medicine and healing.

Long before the New Testament days, Aesculapius (Asklepios) had been recognized as a god (the son of Apollo and the virgin Coronis). He was termed "Saviour" and it was claimed that he had the power to avert death.



He was originally represented by the Anatolians as a serpent, and the Greeks later depicted him holding Hermes' staff (the Caduceus) with the two-headed snake.

Doctors' **symbol**: A staff or rod with a snake curled around it. This is the Rod of Aesculapius (also called Asclepius), the ancient mythical god of **medicine**. ... It is the **symbol** of the American **Medical Association (AMA)** and many other **medical societies**. A similar **symbol**, the

caduceus, was the staff of the Greek god Hermes. Hermes was the ancient Greek god of trade, wealth, luck, fertility, animal husbandry, sleep, language, thieves, and travel.

The origin of this emblem is the Greeks interpretation of the story of the brazen serpent in Moses time. That's where healing became associated with the serpent. In **Numbers 21** we see the whole story.

6 Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

8 The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." 9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Numbers 21:6-9

"...fiery" = "brass." This makes no sense until Jesus explains to Nicodemus...

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ..."

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This is an example of a "macrocode": an anticipatory event (in the OT it was pointing to a future event - it was a foreshadowing of the cross.) This was explained by Christ in (**John 3:14**) "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness , even so must the Son of Man be lifted up.....

and leading to the most famous verse of all: **John 3:16**.

15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:14-16

We need to ask ourselves why God chose to use the symbol of a serpent on a pole. When we think of a serpent we think of Satan in the Garden tempting Eve.

The serpent is a symbol of sin. The brass represents judgement.

So the brazen (Brass) serpent on a pole represents sin judged.

So when Jesus was on that cross He was being judged for our sin. Through His death on the cross God was judging sin. Our sin. **2 Cor 5:21** He has made Him to be sin for us.....

So in the OT this emblem of a serpent on a pole eventually became a fetish and was destroyed as "Nehushtan"! 2 Kings 18:1-4

Hezekiah Reigns in Judah

1. Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign.
2. He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah.
3. And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done.
4. He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the **bronze serpent** that Moses had made; for until

those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it **Nehushtan**. **2 Kings 18:1-4**

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We see here that the emblem God gave to the people as a symbol of deliverance, a means of healing, eventually became an idol. Something they began to worship. This is not a coincidence that God is sending this message to Pergamos. We are now living in an age when Paganism is creeping into the church. And the letter to Pergamos represents the Church which has become worldly. Married to the world.

In order to understand the letter to Pergamos we need to **understand the background of Babylon and paganism. We need to know the account of Nimrod in Genesis 10:8-11.** First world emperor of ancient Babylon. Nimrod is the one who founded the original **Babylonian religion** which developed into the worship of his wife Semiramis.

Pergamos can be translated as "married to the tower" The name **Pergamos** is derived from two Greek words; "pergos" which means **tower** or elevation and "gamos" which means **married**. The words together mean **married to the tower**. This speaks of a time when the church was elevated to a place of power and was **married** to the world.

In some way Pergamos is tied to the tower of Babel. Nimrod was the originator of the **Babylonian Mystery Religion**. It later became the worship of Semiramis and Tammuz, her son. It was known around the world. She was known as Ashteroth, and Tammuz as Phoenicia, and Isis and Horus, Aphrodite and Eros, Venus and Cupid. It went all over the world that all the religions were founded in what Nimrod began. They all had their different names in different parts of the world but the common thing was that it was Mother and Child worship.

They all without exception worshipped a mother and child. And this comes originally from the Mystery Religion of Babylon.

Nimrod also introduced the Babylonian Priest Cult. This is where all this started. In Babylon.

This Priest cult system claimed to possess the highest wisdom to reveal the divine secrets of mysteries. It was a mystery religion. Before a member could be initiated, he had to confess to the Babylonian priest. Once admitted into this order they were no longer considered Babylonians, Egyptians, etc but were now members of a mystical brotherhood over whom was placed a Pontiff - a High Priest whose word was law.

From Babylon it went into Medo-Persia. The Babylonian Priest was given asylum at Pergamos in Asia Minor.

We can now begin to see some connections. This is amazing. The original **mystery** religion started in Babylon, went to Persia and when Persia fell they all fled to Pergamos. This is an important bit of History.

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The King of Pergamos at that time was called Pontifex Maximus

[Pontifex maximus - Wikipedia](#)

en.wikipedia.org › wiki › Pontifex_maximus

The **pontifex maximus** (Latin, "greatest priest") was the chief high priest of the College of Pontiffs (Collegium Pontificum) in ancient Rome. This was the most important position in the ancient Roman religion, open only to patricians until 254 BC, when a common person first occupied this post.

The Legacy of Attalus

Pergamon became independent in the third century B.C.; Philip E. Burnham describes how its last king, Attalus, bequeathed his territory to Rome, whence the Roman occupation of Asia began. Hence when Jesus came the land was occupied by the Romans.

When King Attalus 3rd of Pergamos ruled he was a King **and** a Priest of the mystery Babylonian religion and when he died in 133BC he bequeathed all his territory to Rome together with the title Pontifex Maximus.

In 74BC Julius Caesar was the first Roman Emperor to bring the Babylonian priests and their rites, to Rome. So from Pergamos, he brings the priests to Rome, and he takes on the title of Pontifex Maximus. He is now the head of the State and the head of the religion. The same religion that came from Babylon. Caesar became the civil leader, Emperor and high priest.

In Constantine's time, he supposedly converted to Christianity, though it appeared to be a political move. He declared Religious freedom and put Christians in high offices throughout the kingdom. Hedonism (the pursuit of pleasure , sensual self indulgence) was Christianised.

This means that Pagan temples became Christian temples, heathen festivals were converted to Christian ones. They were the same festivals but they were given Christian names. Pagan priests slipped into the office of Christian priests. So the priests that were over Babylon were now over the church so in effect the church was infiltrated by pagan priests who were so called christianised and their leader, Constantine was the Pontifex Maximus, the same leader of the mystery religion of Babylon.

The Emperors of Rome continued to exercise the office of supreme Pontifex Maximus. This connection continued up until the **Emperor Gratian (AD 375-383)**, who was the first **emperor to refuse the title** due to the changes to the State's religion and the growing influence of Christianity, it seems he was the first Christian Emperor.

Wikipedia

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The word "pontifex" and its derivative "pontiff" later became terms used for Catholic bishops, including the Bishop of Rome, and the title of "pontifex maximus" was applied within the Catholic Church to the pope as its chief bishop and appears on buildings, monuments and coins of popes of Renaissance and modern times.

In the 15th century, when the Renaissance stirred up new interest in ancient Rome, "Pontifex Maximus" became a regular title of honour for Popes.

Wanting to make Constantinople (built between 225 and 330 AD) a Christian city, Constantine confined the imperial title of Pontifex Maximus (Pontiff or high priest of the Babylonian mysteries) to pagan Rome. This title was finally transferred to Pope Leo I around 450 AD.

Every Pope since then has used this title. But this is very significant to our understanding of what lies behind the title. They are claiming to be the high priest of all Mystery Religions. The foundation of which is in Babylon. This explains a lot when we see in **Rev 17:5** the words in Capital letters MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

The Roman Catholic church calls herself the Mother Church.

The name Pergamos also means mixed marriage or perverted marriage.

In Greek Pergamos means "marriage," implying union, and "fortified tower." As a sign, the church in Pergamos prefigures the church which entered into a marriage union with the world and became a high fortified tower, equivalent to the great tree prophesied by the Lord in the parable of the mustard seed (**Matt. 13:31-32**). When Satan failed to destroy the church through the persecution of the Roman Empire in the first three centuries, he changed his strategy. He sought instead to corrupt her through Constantine's welcoming her as the state religion in the first part of the fourth century. Through Constantine's encouragement and political influence, multitudes of unbelieving ones were baptized into the "church," and the "church" became monstrously great. Since the church is a spouse to Christ as a chaste bride, her union with the world is considered spiritual fornication in the eyes of God.

We also see this happening over and over in the OT as the Jews committed spiritual fornication, turning to other gods and paganism.

Pergamos - mixed marriage or perverted marriage. So we have the idea that Pergamos = Married to the tower, (ie roots in tower of Babel) is a mixed or perverted marriage. Pergamos is the place where the church went from being persecuted and had the favour of

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God upon it, to being perverted, married to the world and making Christianity a state religion and incorporating into it **Pagan religion with all its rituals and rites.**

Per = mixed, objectionable (pervert, perturbation, etc.)

gamos = marriage (mono(1)gamy, bi(2)gamy, poly(many)gamy, etc.)

To go back a bit. Nimrod married his mother and has a supernaturally posthumously born son called Tammuz. After his death Nimrod became associated with the sun god known as Bel. He died during the winter solstice and was celebrated as being resurrected by Tammuz on December 25th.

Christmas is one of the pagan festivals that was Christianised by Constantine.

It was an adaption of the original rites of the worship of Tammuz the posthumous son of Nimrod.

False doctrines which originated from here.

- Celibacy of the priests.
- Images and relics were authorised to be worshipped in 78AD including the cross.
- The concept of purgatory. The Catholics say when you die you don't go to Heaven you go to Purgatory where you stay until you have earned the right to go to Heaven.
- The infallibility of the Popes. The pope is never wrong
- Maryology. Worship of Mary. Blasphemy In 431 AD this was established at the council of Ephesus. They called Mary the mother of God Is 9:6 unto us a Child is born..... it was based in Babylonian religion. The mother and child worship. Semiramis and Tammuz.

In 1834 AD the Immaculate Conception was reclaimed by Pope Pious 9th. It's the belief that Mary was born without sin. **Romans 3:23; Ps 51:5**

In 1931 Pope Pious 11th reaffirmed the doctrine that Mary is the Mother of God. And in 1950 the last dogma was proclaimed by Pope Pious 12th the assumption of the virgin Mary. So now its official that Mary never died, she ascended into Heaven like Jesus. The point of all this is that it's doctrine that comes straight out of the Babylonian Mystery religion and it has been slowly incorporated into the Catholic church. It's a false Church.

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The Aesculapium

In the first century, this healing centre was a cross between a hospital and a health spa, where patients could get everything from a mud bath to a major surgery.

Pergamos became the centre of Emperor worship. As we have already seen the first temple to this cult was built in 27BC. Pergamos was the epicentre of Paganism.

To enter the Aesculapium - An underground passage led to it so that the patients went down a short flight of steps into a tunnel: cubicles were located on either side of the passage and patients spent the night there.

Treatments included psychotherapy, massage, herbal remedies, mud and bathing treatments, surgeries and the drinking of water, which were prescribed according to what dreams the patient had experienced - it was believed that dreams recounted a visit by the god Asklepios, who held the key to curing all illness.

After the Patients entered through the underground tunnel they drank a sedative, and spent the night in the dormitories of the Asklepiion, while non-poisonous snakes crawled around them all night. They were told that the serpent-god Asklepios would speak to them in their dreams and give them a diagnosis.

"It was believed that the snakes carried the healing power of Asklepios," and if a snake slithered across you while you were sleeping at night, that was a divine sign that healing power was coming to you."

The next morning, the patients told their "dreams" to the priests, who prescribed their treatments. Finally, the patients made clay sculptures of the body parts that needed healing and offered them to Asklepios.

This is why Pergamos was called the city of the serpent. (which also represented Satan)

The people of Pergamum worshipped a myriad of Greek and Roman gods, but when Christianity arrived with the belief in just one God, the city's pagan priests went on the attack and their most famous victim was a man named Antipas.

In **Revelation ch 2:13**, Jesus called Antipas "**my faithful martyr**." He was the bishop of Pergamum, ordained by the Apostle John, and his faith got the attention of the priests of Asklepios.

"He had cast out so many devils that the demons had been complaining to pagans, saying, 'You've got to do something about this Antipas'," says Renner. He had an amazing ministry and as the city was a hotbed of devil worship it was filled with demons, and people who were possessed.

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The pagan priests went to the Roman governor and complained that the prayers of Antipas were driving their spirits out of the city and hindering the worship of their gods. This also demonstrates to us that no demon is stronger than Jesus. No demon could operate in the presence of this man.

As punishment, the governor ordered Antipas to offer a sacrifice of wine and incense to a statue of the Roman emperor and declare that the emperor was "lord and god." He tried to convince Antipas that the pagan religion was better than this new religion of Christianity. He said "don't you know the whole world is against you?" Antipas's reply was "Then I'm against the whole world."

Antipas refused to co-operate. He refused to take the pinch of incense and offer it at the altar.

"If you reject the divinity of the emperor, then that is the equivalent of rejecting the city of Rome," says Renner, "and believers were killed for this."

Antipas was sentenced to death on the Altar of Zeus. Most of that altar still survives today, and surrounding it are some of the world's most famous marble friezes. They depict the battle between the Greek gods and the giants. At the top of the altar was a hollow bronze bull, designed for human sacrifice.

Renner describes the method of execution suffered by Antipas.

"They would take the victim, place him inside the bull, and they would tie him in such a way that his head would go into the head of the bull. Then they would light a huge fire under the bull, and as the fire heated the bronze, the person inside of the bull would slowly begin to roast to death. As the victim would begin to moan and to cry out in pain, his cries would echo through the pipes in the head of the bull so it seemed to make the bull come alive."

Even in the midst of the flames, the elderly bishop Antipas died praying for his church. The people could hear his voice coming out of the horns of the bull which is where the smoke came out. He was glorifying God and thanking Him for considering him worthy to suffer in that way. The year was AD 92. and of all people Jesus gives credit to Antipas whose name means Anti - against Pas - Pope (which means Papa) Anti pope

A word on Bishops in the New Testament

Last week we heard about the Bishop Polycarp martyred for his faith and his refusal to acknowledge Caesar as Lord. Now in Pergamos we here about Antipas also a Bishop.

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In the New Testament the churches were administered by a group of elders appointed by Apostles. As the Apostles planted churches, they appointed elders to oversee them. **Acts 11:30; Acts 14:23; Acts 20:17; Phil 1:1; 1 Tim 3:1-7; Acts 20:28;** The word Bishop comes from the same word as Overseer. *Episkopos*. The term Bishop means overseer, Paul used these terms interchangeably. Titus 1:5-7 NKJV Qualified Elders

*⁵ For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and **appoint elders** in every city as I commanded you— ⁶ if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. ⁷ For a **bishop** must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,*

NIV interchanges the words elder v6 with overseer v7

Bishops then were nothing like the Bishops we have now. They were ordinary people working as overseers of the local churches.

Rev ch 2:12-17

Title of Christ

The Compromising Church

12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says **He who has the sharp two-edged sword:**

Jesus introduces Himself to this church as having a two edged sharp sword.

"Two-edged Sword" (Heb 4:12; cf. Rev 1).

Jus gladii: The "Right of the Sword"; the highest official authority; the power of life and death.

The Romans had 2 levels of administrators. Those who had the right of the sword and those who didn't. Those who had the right of the sword had the power of life and death.

Commendation

13 "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, **where Satan dwells.**

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Here we learn a few things about Satan.

Satan Is Real

- The Locality of Satan & his demons (not omnipresent) Job 1:7

Also demons are territorial they are in specific places. (Dan 10:12-20; Mark 5:8-10 So the location at the time was Pergamos. Satan had his home there. Satan likes to be in certain places on the earth.



square base was 35.64 meters wide and 33.4 meters long and included five steps surrounding

. Today, all that's left in Pergamos to remind us of all this is the foundation stone of the altar to Zeus; the **Altar of Zeus** is now more than a thousand miles away where it was taken to Berlin. In the 19th century, German engineers dismantled the altar and took it to Berlin. The so-called "**Throne of Satan**" went on display in the city's Pergamon Museum in 1930, just in time to inspire one of the most brutal dictators the world has ever seen.

The shape of the altar was almost a square. In this respect it followed [Ionic](#) models, which specified a wall enclosing the actual sacrificial altar on three sides. On the open side the altar could be accessed via a stairway. For cultic reasons such altars were usually oriented toward the east so that those bringing sacrifices entered the altar from the west. The Pergamene altar follows this tradition, but to a truly monumental extent. The huge, almost

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the entire structure. The stairway on the western side is almost 20 meters wide and intersects with the lower level, which itself is almost six meters high. The core of the foundation is composed of intersecting [tuff](#) walls arranged like a grating, which increased earthquake stability.



The interesting thing is that other remains have also been uprooted and taken to Berlin.

Ishtar Gate

When German archaeologists excavated in **Babylon** during the early 20th century, they dismantled the **Ishtar Gate** and packed it up to **take** with them to **Berlin**. It was meticulously reconstructed in the Pergamon Museum. The **gate** is 50 feet high, and the original foundations extended another 45 feet underground.

The gate was excavated between 1899 and 1917 by a German archaeological team led by Robert Koldewey. After World War I part of the gateway, the smaller antegate, was reconstructed in the Pergamon Museum in Berlin and is on public display. Additionally, the museum has the remains of the larger inner gate, which rose an estimated 25 meters (82 feet) off the ground from the roadway to the

top of its towers, writes Andrew George, a professor at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, in an article in the book "Babylon" (Oxford University Press, 2008). A passageway running 48 meters (157 feet) connected the two gates to form a single double gateway, writes researcher Joachim Marzahn in another article in "Babylon."

This certainly gives us pause for thought. The Altar of Zeus was known as the Throne of Satan. It was removed from Turkey and placed in Berlin in the late 1800's. This Altar which was in Pergamos and which Jesus referred to as the Throne of Satan is now in Berlin !! Strange that it was taken there before Hitlers rise to power and the outbreak of WW2. It is still there.

This altar represents a move of the Satanic spirit from Pergamos to Berlin. That spirit has to be there still because the altar is there. You can go and see it. The same stone steps and buildings surrounding the stone altar. The actual altar was reconstructed in 1902 and celebrated with an extravagant festival to the pagan gods. !!

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Hitlers architect Albert Speer so loved the Pergamon Altar that he modelled the The Nazi party rally grounds on it which covered about 11 square kilometres in the southeast of Nuremburg. This edifice based on the altar was the place where Hitler stood to make his speeches. The seat of Satan.

Pergamos was the heart of Emperor worship. Remember how the crowds gathered to worship Hitler.

Will history repeat itself?

Satan

In Character: murderer (John 8:44);

deceiver (Rev 12:9; 2 Cor 11:3);

liar (John 8:44);

sinner (1 John 3:8)

and Domain:

vast demonic kingdom (Matt 25:41; Rev12:7);

world System (1 John 5:19); local; not omnipresent.

Satan's Titles

"adversary" 1 Tim 5:14; 1 Pet 5:8

"accuser of the Brethren" Rev 12:10

"god of this world" 2 Cor 4:4

"prince of the power of the air" Eph 2:2

"the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience" Eph 2:2

"the enemy that sowed tares" Matt 13:39

"the wicked one" 6 times

Spiritual Geography

• The Migration: from Babylon to Pergamos to Rome.

• "Hold fast my name": always singular;

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Concern

14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

Balaam: **Num 22 & 23**. Note, too: Nicolaitans have become doctrine! Compare "the counsel of Balaam," **Num 31:16**.

Exhortation

16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

The Prophet Balaam

Balaam was a Gentile "soothsayer" (**Josh 13:22**) from Mesopotamia (**Deut 23:4,5**) by Euphrates, Aram (**Num 22:5; 23:7**) who was hired by Balak, King of Moab. Balaam was rebuked by his donkey (**Num 22**) and refused to curse Israel (**Num 23, 24**) but taught how to defeat Israel (**Num 31:16**).

- "Doctrine of Balaam" **Rev 2:14**
 - Spiritually unchaste; marriage with the world.
- "Way of Balaam" **2 Pet 2:15**
 - Hireling = making a "market" for his gift.
- "Error of Balaam" **Jude 11**
 - Sacrificing eternal riches for temporal gain.

Promise to the Overcomer

17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

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Notice that the "Promise to the Overcomer" comes after the "Hear that hath an ear" phrase.
Roman entrance ticket: white stone with name written on it(?)

Manna

- "What is it?"
- Collected daily for 6 days only (Ex 16).
- Described poetically, "food from heaven" & "bread of the mighty" (Ps 78:24) and "bread of heaven" (Ps 105:40).
- "I Am the Bread of Life" (John 6:26-58).

40 years of manna biscuits, manna muffins, manna pancakes, mannacoti

Admonitory Level (to all churches)

- Ephesus Devotion, not just doctrine
- Smyrna Endure persecution
- Pergamos Purify ambassadorship
- Thyatira ...
- Sardis ...
- Philadelphia ...
- Laodicea ...

Stand fast against the world!

Personal Level (Homiletics)

- Ephesus Neglected priorities
- Smyrna Satanic opposition
- Pergamos Spiritual compromise
- Thyatira ...
- Sardis ...
- Philadelphia ...
- Laodicea ...

Strengthen, purify your Ambassadorship: accurately represent your King!

04. Seven Letters to the Churches Rev. ch 2:12-17 Pergamos

Student copy

Promises to the Overcomer

- Ephesus Eat of the Tree of Life
- Smyrna Not hurt of the Second Death
- Pergamos Manna, Stone, New Name
- Thyatira ...
- Sardis ...
- Philadelphia ...
- Laodicea ...

Who is the "Overcomer"?

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:4,5

Prophetic Profile Pergamos represents the "Married Church" (married to the World)

End of audio file 04