



The Book of Revelation - Advanced Teaching Session 6 The Church at Pergamos

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Key things to keep in mind, the bible is an intentional written book from God Himself.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

This includes the book of revelation!

The Book of Revelation is about The Revelation or Unveiling of Jesus Christ and things which will soon take place.

The Book of Revelation is a message that Jesus Christ received from Father God that gives the unveiling of who Jesus Christ is along with future things to come.

Then Jesus gives the message to the Apostle John.

A Unique Promise

Revelation 1:3 tells us to “Read... Hear... understand and Keep” what is written in this book: This is the only book with a special promise if you do these three things.

Seven Design Elements or features In Each of the Letters

We will use seven design elements or features as we study these letters to the seven churches.

- **Name of the Church-** if you research the name of these churches it coincides with the condition of the church at the time of this writing.
- **Title Chosen of Jesus Christ** - For each church, there's a specific title that Jesus Christ uses that fits the condition of the Church. Who He would have to manifest as to take the church to the level where it should be.
- **Commendation-** most of the churches Jesus had something good to say about them.
- **Concern-** Jesus lays out the concern that He has about most of the churches.
- **Exhortation-** He encourages them to keep doing good, and in some cases to do better.
- **Promise to the Overcomer-** There is a promise attached to most of the letters if they overcome or hold fast to the faith.



- **The emphasis that the letters were written to everyone. “He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”**

The Book of Revelation

Session 6: The Letter to the Church at Pergamos Revelation 2:12-17

Pergamos, The Worldly Church: This church was the tolerant church. Although they refused to deny Christ, they allowed sin like idols, immorality, cults, and heresies to remain among them. Much like we see in the church today.

We said in past lessons that all seven of these churches mentioned in revelation, was churches in the country we call Turkey today?

- *Ephesus, the great political center of the region.*
- *Smyrna was the great commercial center of that region.*
- *Pergamos was considered by many to be the great religious center of that region.*

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 center; Ephesus, the great political center; Pergamos, the great religious center.

Pergamos wisely allied itself with Rome. Unlike Smyrna, Pergamos became an extremely wealthy and prosperous city, and for two centuries it became the official capital of the Roman 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 center 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). Zeus is said to have been born there. The great altar stood on a foundation 125 ft by 115 ft, over 50 ft high, set in a colonnaded enclosure (Satan’s throne? Rev 2:13).

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

Aesculapius



Long before the New Testament days, Aesculapius had been recognized as a god (the son of Apollo and the virgin Cornois). He was termed “Savior” and it was claimed that he represented by the Anatolians holding Hermes’ staff (the Caduceus) with the two-headed snake (see graphic, above).



Testament days, Aesculapius had been recognized and the virgin Cornois). He was termed “Savior” had the power to avert death. He was originally as a serpent, and the Greeks later depicted him Caduceus) with the two-headed snake (see

The Caduceus was the official emblem of the city. [Hermes is the god of commerce!] It originally emerged from the brazen serpent of Moses. This is an example of a “macrocode”: an anticipatory sememe, explained by Christ (John 3:14) and leading to the most famous verse of all: John 3:16. It became a fetish and was destroyed as “Nehushtan”!

Numbers 21:6-9 And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many people of Israel died. Therefore, the people came to Moses, and said, we have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said unto Moses, make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

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

John 3:14-17 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 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. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

2 Kings 18:1-4 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.

Aesculapius



*Friedlander surveyed 242 logos or insignias of American organizations relating to health or medicine in which the caduceus or staff of Aesculapius (left) formed an integral part dating from the late 1970s to early 1980s. He found that professional associations were more likely to use the staff of Aesculapius (62%) while commercial organizations were more likely to use the caduceus (76%). The exception is for hospitals, where only 37% used a staff of Aesculapius versus 63% for the caduceus (but remember that U.S. hospitals are usually commercial ventures). [Friedlander, Walter J., *The Golden Wand of Medicine: A History of the Caduceus Symbol in Medicine*, New York, Greenwood, 1992.]*

Letter to Pergamos

Name of the city

Pergamos was known as “The City of the Serpent” by many.

The word “Pergamos” implies an inappropriate marriage.

Like Smyrna, many gods were worshiped there.

Christians had perverted their relationship with Christ by worshipping other Gods while still worshipping Him.

Title of Christ (this is what Jesus Christ uses to describe himself to this church)

Revelation 2:12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

Jesus reminds this church that He is the one that has the two edge or double-edged sword.

“Two-edged Sword”

Hebrews 4:12-13 (Amplified Version) For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

The Word of God is like a sword that has two edges, cutting both ways and doing terrible damage to an attacker.

Jesus wanted this church to know that even though they have not denied Him, He knows that they have been unfaithful.

Ephesians 6:17 calls it **“the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”**. As noted, the term “word” is taken from the Greek word *rhema*, which describes *something that is spoken clearly, vividly, in unmistakable terms and undeniable language.*



In the New Testament, the word *rhema* carries the idea of a *quicken word*. The right word for a specific situation. The “Right of the Sword”; the highest official authority; the power of life and death.

Commendation

Revelation 2:13 "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.

Sounds as if Jesus is commending this church very well and He is.

"I know your works, we are reminded here once again that Jesus Christ knows our works, whether good or bad.

Just like we said in past sessions, Heaven is recording our works.

Jesus said that He was called to do work. ***John 9:4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.***

All believers who lived on the earth will be rewarded for their works. 2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Revelation 22:12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work.

Jesus knows our works better than we do.

He knows the motive of our works while we do what we do. We may fool ourselves, but we can never fool him.

"Where you dwell, where Satan's throne is"- In these days, Pergamos was the place where Satan actually had his throne, his headquarters.

Can you imagine the unseen demonic activity that was going on in this place, Pergamos?

Spiritual Geography

The *Locality* of Satan & his demons, (they are not omnipresent), they are territorial (**Dan 10; Rev 9:14; 16:12**).

Demonic spirits. Evil forces and evil entities all territorial.

That also goes for angels and spiritual hosts as well. All have an assigned territory and assigned test to accomplish,

Only God is omnipresent.

The Migration of the seat of satan: from Babylon to Pergamos to Rome etc. Maybe the USA today.

"Hold fast to my name": always singular; notice that God always uses His name in singular form "Elohim".

He is one God in three person. 1 in 3 and 3 in 1. ***This truth Must be received and believed by faith.***



Just like the church. One church who is the bride of Christ. He doesn't have many brides. Only One. *We are more like him than you may think.*

You must believe it by faith.

The reality of Satan: Satan Is Real

In Character he is a: murderer (John 8:44); deceiver (Rev 12:9; 2 Cor 11:3); liar (John 8:44); sinner (1 John 3:8).

Satan's Titles

“adversary” *this is what the word satan means.*

“accuser of the Brethren” *I want all ministry leaders to hear this. Stop tearing each other apart over doctrinal differences. Speak what you believe to be true and Jesus will straighten it all out when he comes.*

“god of this world”

“prince of the power of the air” *this I believe includes the airways of this age.*

“the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience” *Don't fight people, they are not our real problem.*

“the enemy that sowed tares” *He has those who are like him walking physically among us.*

“the wicked one” 6X

He has a Domain: vast demonic kingdom (Mt 25:41; Rev 12:7).

He is the god of this world System (1 John 5:19) that is seen and unseen.

Satan's dominion is territorial, under restraints, and everything he does must be Father filtered.

Antipas which means “Against All”: Symbolical, meaning one standing out “against all” for Christ.

Legend has it Antipas, was murdered by being shut up in a red-hot brazen bull and ended his life in there still giving thanksgiving and prayers to God.

Like Antipas, we must be ready to stand up for Christ no matter how perverted the culture may become.

Concern

Revelation 2:14-15 *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.

The Prophet Balaam

Balaam was a Gentile “soothsayer” (**Josh 13:22**)

He is from Mesopotamia (**Deut 23:4,5**) by Euphrates in Aram (**Num 22:5; 23:7**)

He was hired by Balak, King of Moab.

Balaam was rebuked by his donkey (Num 22)

He refused to curse Israel (Num 23, 24)

But taught how to defeat Israel (Num 31:16).

“Doctrine of Balaam”

Spiritually unchaste; wanting to date the world, while trying to Be faithful to Christ. Polygamy.

“Way of Balaam”

Balaam became a Hireling. Making a “market” for his gift.

“Error of Balaam”

Sacrificing eternal riches for temporal gain.

Exhortation

Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Jesus telling the church to repent.

Jesus tells this church if they don't repent, He will be their enemy and fight against them.

Promise to the Overcomer

Revelation 2:17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. As we said in prior teachings. This information is not only for the seven churches of this time but it's for all of those who would study it down through the years. This includes us.

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."

Notice that the “Promise to the Overcomer” comes after the “Hear that hath an ear” phrase.

Hidden Manna

The word manna means “What is it?”



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**) Jesus speaking of Himself.

Hidden manna is the revelation of who Jesus is and what He taught be revealed By God.

No man can discern it on their own.

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.”

I have no clue what the white stone is.

The new name is a name that we will be given in heaven and when we receive it we will know exactly what it means and how it relates to us

Who is the “Overcomer”?

1 John 5:4-5 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?

This has more to do with capability than the status of being.

State of being- we have overcome the world.

Capability- we have the capacity to overcome any obstacle any situation or any circumstance that the world or satan may throw at us.