

Today we continue in our Verse by Verse series on the Book of Revelation

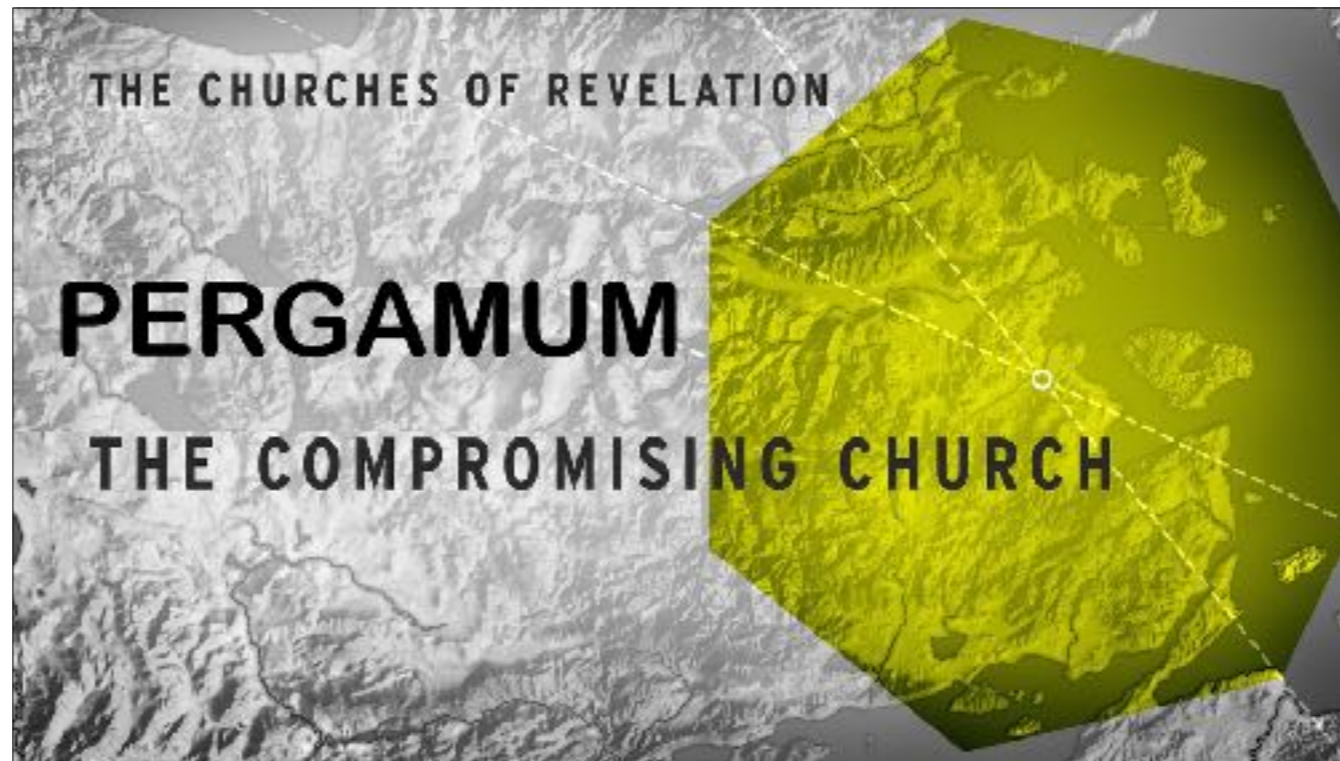
In our first week we looked at Chapter 1

As John was praying on the Sabbath day in The Spirit
and he has this vision of the Glorified Christ.

most people believe it was around 95 AD when John wrote the book of Revelation

IT WAS A TIME WHEN THE CHURCH WAS GOING THROUGH A LOT OF PERSECUTION

As a matter of fact John mentions in chapter one



Now lets take a look at the third letter written to the Church of PERGAMUM or some Bible translations calls it PERGAMUS. Either one is correct

Remember The first letter, was written to Ephesus, and while they were strict with doctrine this was the church that left its first love. They lost the zeal and passion that once burned bright

Jesus called them to repent or he would come and remove their candle stick.

The second letter was written to Smyrna, and this was the persecuted church.

Today we come to the third letter the third church on the mail route through ASiA Minor And this letter is written to a compromising church.

THIS IS THE CHURCH THAT HAD ONE FOOT IN THE CHURCH AND ONE FOOT IN THE WORLD.

THE CHURCH AS WE WILL SEE, WAS ONE FULL OF COMPROMISE



Pergos: A Tower — Gamos: Marriage Celebration

Remember When We Started Teaching ON The 7 Letters to 7 Churches

I shared with you that each letter to each church

Not only was the letter written to an existing congregation with real strengths & weaknesses

But when you closely examine the letters they also represent 7 time periods
from the day of Pentecost until the final hours that we are now living in .

Ephesus Representing: The Apostolic Age From AD 30-100

Smyrna the 2nd Church : From AD100-313

Now Today we come to the 3rd Church Pergamum

And This time period was REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TIME OF CONSTANTINE
FROM 313- 600AD a time WHEN THE CHURCH MARRIED THE STATE.

Constantine and mother Helena became converts to Christianity, but their reign was a mixture of compromise and perversion of the truth.

CHRISTIANITY WAS MIXED WITH ALL THE PAGAN GODS AND WORSHIP ROME HAD EXPERIENCED FOR CENTURIES.

AND THIS WAS WHAT WAS HAPPENING AT PERGAUM

AS A MATTER OF FACT:

(CLICK)

THE NAME PERGAMUM IN GREEK IS A MIXTURE OF TWO GREEK WORDS

Pergos, (A TOWER) and Gamos WHICH WAS GREEK FOR MARRIAGE CELEBRATION

The literal translation of Pergamos therefore, is 'married to the high tower'.

The Seven Churches of Revelation Pergamum: Background

PERGAMUM

The City

Rome's Throne for Asia Minor

Had a large library 200,000 books

Had a medical school

Center for Pagan Worship

Dionysus, & Zeus & all sorts of Pagan Gods
Including Caesar Worship

Medical School in Pergamum, famous place of
Medicine involved with superstition.

Church is Not mentioned elsewhere in Scripture

Probably started by Paul

100 miles from Ephesus



It was the seat of Roman government for the province and the center of the imperial cult. So it was like the Washington DC of that day. And very elaborate and beautiful.

It is the Northern most city of all the 7 churches.

There is still a city there today in Northern Turkey and its Called Bergama

Like Pergama. What's strange is that the Arabs have trouble saying the P sound. So they pronounce it with a B.

Those of you who went to Israel with me REMEMBER CASEREA PHILIPI

WHICH IS also called Banias, Banias was the Temple of Pan, the God of the Forest who instilled fear in everybody by playing his Pan flute.

So instead of calling it Panias as the temple of Pan they Banias.

Just like when they go to the mall they BARK their car.

So today its Bergamu and the ancient ruins are all over.

(click)

Probably the most notable thing about Pergamum was that they this amazing large library that had over 200 thousand books



This is An Archeologist sketch of Pergamon in the first century.

And as you will see Pergamam (or Pergamon as it was also called) was the very center of Pagan Worship, and the Christians that lived here constantly dealt with evil on every side.

This is the city that Jesus says in Verse 13 : I know you live where Satan lives, and has his throne.

Usually in the Bible Satan is referred to as the prince of the power of the air, but here in this letter

Jesus actually gives a physical address for Satan. He told the church of Pergamum You Live where Satan lives and has his throne.

The Rich and The Pagans lived on the high places, this is where they built their temples to the pagan dieties, and paid their homage to Caesar. The common people lived down in the valleys.

At Pergamum it is plainly obvious what John, the beloved, is referring to as “the throne of Satan”.

Pergamum, like most ancient cities has the common people living below in the valley, and the elite and religious leaders living high in a temple fortress. In the Acropolis of Pergamum all the local leaders had their palaces, but even grander were the palaces of four major Roman deities. These included

Dionysus/also called Bacchus (next to amphitheatre);

Athena (Wisdom; whose temple is next to library);

Zeus (most powerful god);

Trajan (Roman Emperor from 138AD) on top of the mountain.

Surrounding the mountain were other minor deities.

Asclepius

The God of Medicine
& Healing



In Ancient Greek religion and Mythology Asklepios was the God of Medicine & Healing

What interesting is that The rod of Asclepius, a snake-entwined staff, and to this day it remains a symbol of medicine.

Look at the symbol of the American Medical Association

Its the rod of Aclepius with the snake wrapped around it.

NOW YOU LIKE SNAKES , but I find in Genesis Chapter 3

That Satan was hanging out in the body of a snake. And I can't stand those things

It just amazes me how much of Paganism and Greek Mythology has transferred over to our culture today. You will see what I mean when I share more about Asclepius and his So called School of Medicine



The Mysterious Healing Centre of Asklepiion in Pergamum

So in this city of PERGAMUS there was placed called the ASKLEPION dedicated this supposed God of Healing. ASCLEPIUS

AND IT WAS TO THIS MYSTERIOUS HEALING CENTRE WHERE PEOPLE WOULD come from all over to find healing. It was like a mystic hospital and health spa. EVEN THE EMPERORS Would come all the way from Rome to be treated.

AND A PART OF THAT TREATMENT WAS THEY WOULD allow themselves to have these snakes crawl all over them. You talk about the epitome of EVIL.

So The Greeks & The Romans worshipped these numerous pagan God's when Christianity comes on the scene, with its monotheistic beliefs. The Pagan Priests of Pergamum would viciously attack the Christians.

NOW LETS READ THE TEXT

The Seven Churches of Revelation

PERGAMUM: The Text (Revelation 2:12-17)

¹² “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

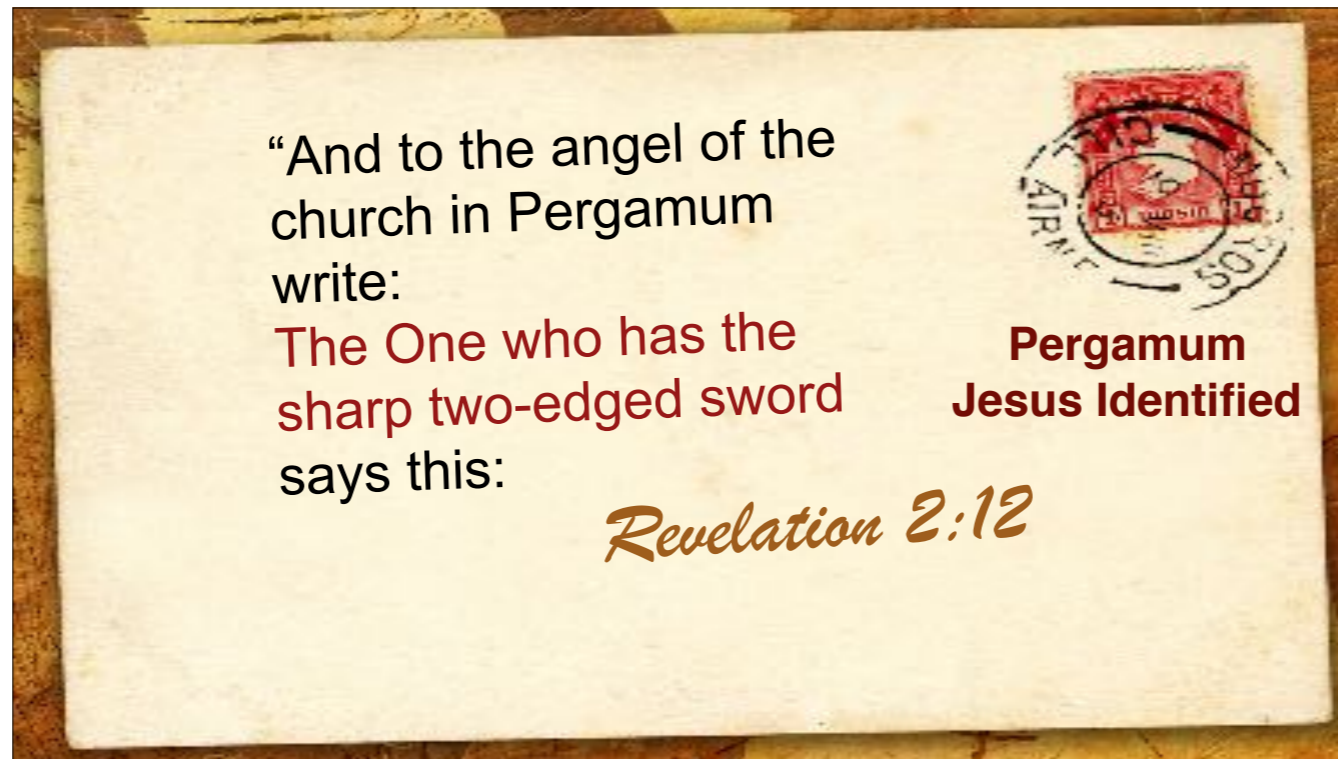
The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:

¹³ ‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality.

The Seven Churches of Revelation

PERGAMUM: The Text (Revelation 2:12-17)

¹⁵ So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.¹⁶ 'Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth. ¹⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'



as I HAVE SAID WITH THE OTHER TWO LETTERS
THEY ALWAYS BEGIN WITH A REFERENCE TO THE AUTHOR THAT IS UNIQUE TO THIS CHURCH

Now when look at the first two letters that we studied,
Ephesus and then Smyrna Both of those had a comforting Revelation of Jesus

TO Ephesus he was the **one who holds the seven stars in his hands and he walks among the 7 Golden candlesticks or lampstands.** COMFORTING BECAUSE IT SHOWS HIS PRESENCE EVEN THOUGH WE FACE DIFFICULT TIMES GOD IS ALWAYS THERE

AND THEN TO SMYRNA he said **The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life.**

And since they were facing death and persecution it's good to know he's been there he overcame death and he holds the keys to death and hades.

HERE JESUS IS SEEN AS THE ONE Who has the Sharp Two Edged Sword

not quite as comforting cause this is The Sword of Judgement that has come to yield,
against those who are teaching false doctrines and heresy.

REMEMBER IN CHAPTER 1 WHEN JOHN SEES THE VISION OF THE GLORIFIED
CHRIST IT SAYS **IN VERSE 16 In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword.**

WHAT COMES OUT THE MOUTH OF JESUS , ITS THE WORD OF GOD. Our most powerful weapon which is given to us in Ephesians chapter 6 to perform spiritual warfare

HEBREWS 4:12

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.



The author of Hebrews said in Hebrews 4:12

NOW WHY IS JESUS IDENTIFIED TO THE PERGAMUM CHURCH AS THE ONE WITH THE DOUBLE EDGED SWORD.
BECAUSE THEIR STRUGGLE AS YOU WILL SEE, IS THE THEY COMPROMISED WHEN IT CAME TO GOD'S WORD. THEY TOLERATED FALSE DOCTRINE AND COMPROMISED

and if there is one thing God will not tolerate it is FALSE GODS AND FALSE DOCTRINE

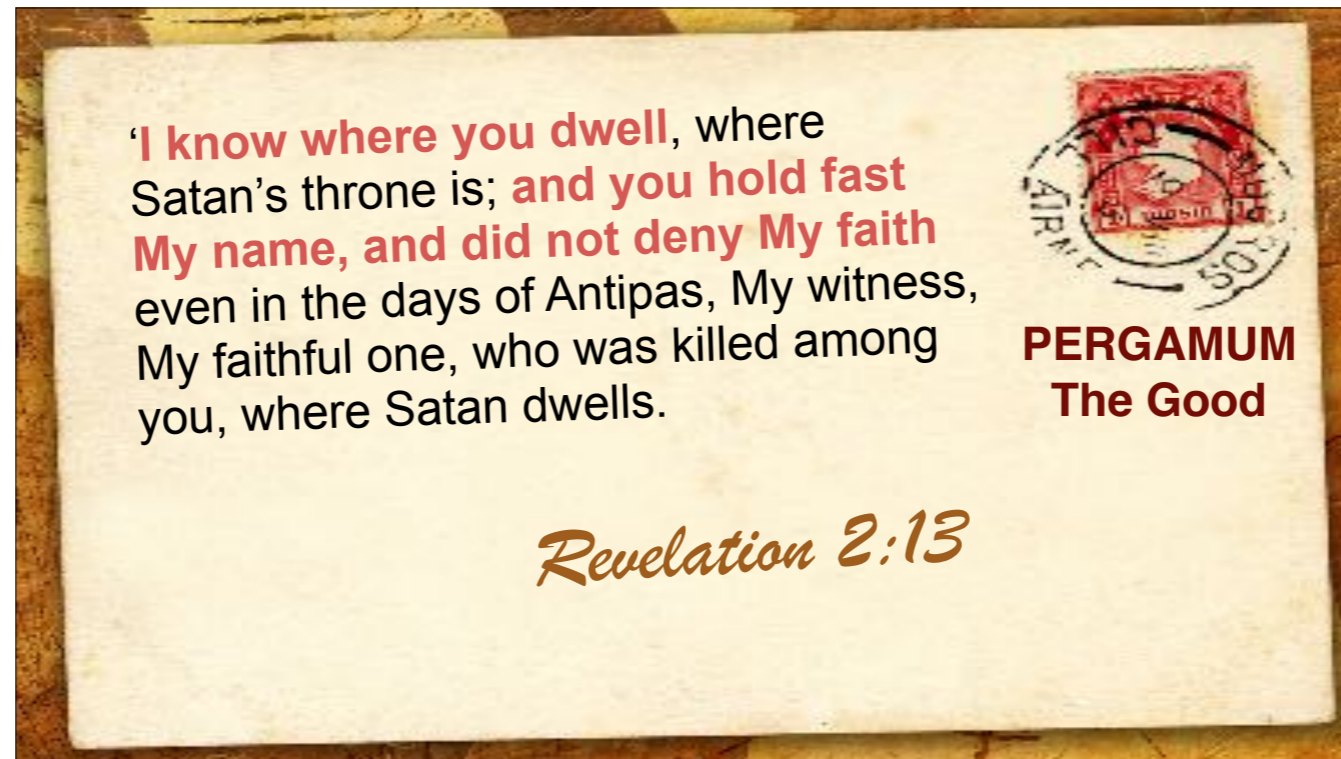


Now perhaps you say this morning PASTOR KEITH WHY IS DOCTRINE SO IMPORTANT
I would rather here something that makes me feel good.

BECAUSE SOUND DOCTRINE IS TRUTH, AND WHEN YOU KNOW THE TRUTH THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE.

I have seen churches where THEY DO NOT HAVE SOUND DOCTRINE, and they don't test teachings to see if they are true. Its the main reason why we don't have a lot of speakers, because taking a verse out of context someone can implant a false doctrine that can set you back in your faith.
I HAD IT HAPPEN BEFORE WHERE I HAD TO STOP A SPEAKER AND CORRECT WHAT HE SAID

PAUL SAID TO THE GALATIANS WHO HAS BEWITCHED YOU
You started out believing right , but now you have mixed in Grace and the LAW
If righteousness could be obtained through the law, then Christ died for nothing.



NOW LETS LOOK AT THE GOOD

FIRST THING HE SAYS TO THEM AFTER TELLING THEM WHO WHO IS HE SAYS I KNOW WHERE YOU DWELL.

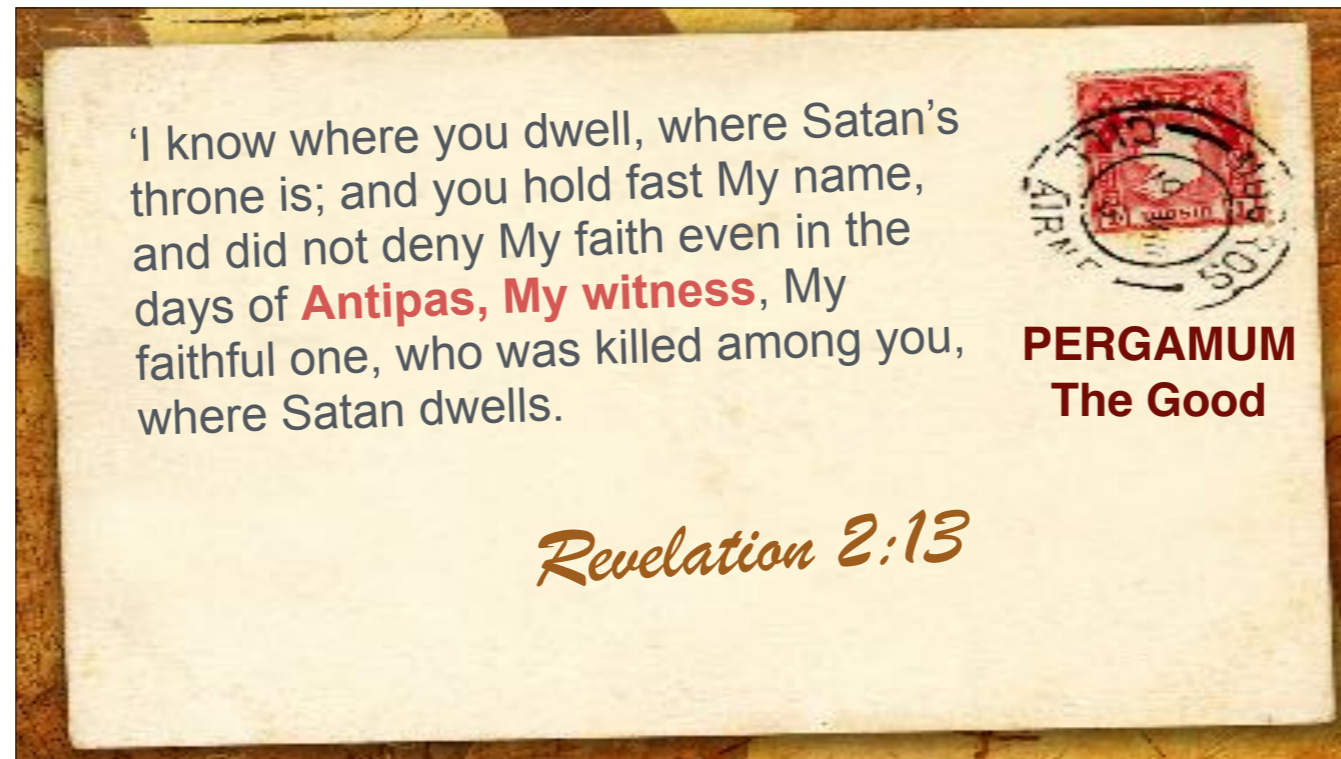
RICK RENNER, a greek scholar points out that this **phrase I know** that Jesus said here , is translated from the **Greek word oida, which means to see.**

Specifically, **it describes seeing with one's own eyes or firsthand knowledge. Therefore, when Christ said, "I know," He was testifying to what He had personally witnessed about the church in Pergamum**

JESUS knows what is going on with his church. He knew their faithfulness

He knew all about Antipas and he knew their struggle with Satan. He knew all the evil that was so prominent on that hillside in Pergamum.

The church which was the town where Satan called home



Antipas was most likely the pastor and Bishop of Pergamum, Jesus called him my faithful one, and he was martyred here in pergamum

He was the bishop of Pergamum, ordained by the Apostle John, and apparently his faith got the attention of the priests of Asklepios. (The So Called Healing Hospital that was filled with demons and snakes)

I'm sure Antipas had cast out many a demon from that demonic hillside that he got the attention of the priests there who no doubt complained **about this preacher who didn't worship Rome and their Gods.**

Church history records that, 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." Antipas refused.

He was sentenced to death on the Altar of Zeus.



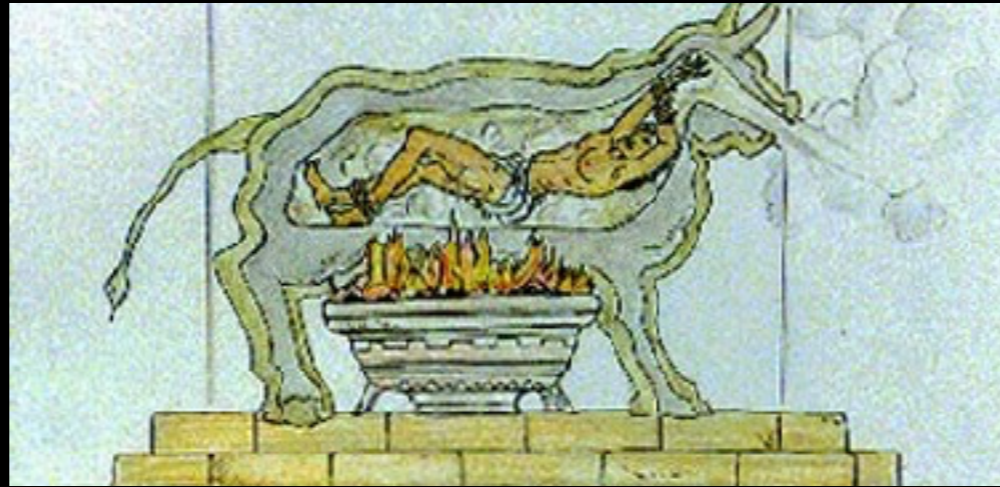
When Jesus referred Satan's throne IT is believed He was talking about the ALTER OF ZEUS which was on top the mountain I showed you in the picture at the beginning

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.

ADOLF HITLER

ISN'T THAT INTERESTING THE SAME DEMONIC SPIRITS THAT MARTYRED ANTIPAS,
TRANSFERED ON TO HITLER WHO SLAUGHTERED MILLIONS OF JEWS.



Antipas Being Killed

I FOUND ONLINE A DRAWING OF THE BRONZE BULL,
THAT WAS LOCATED ON THE MOUNTAIN ON THE ALTER OF ZEUS.

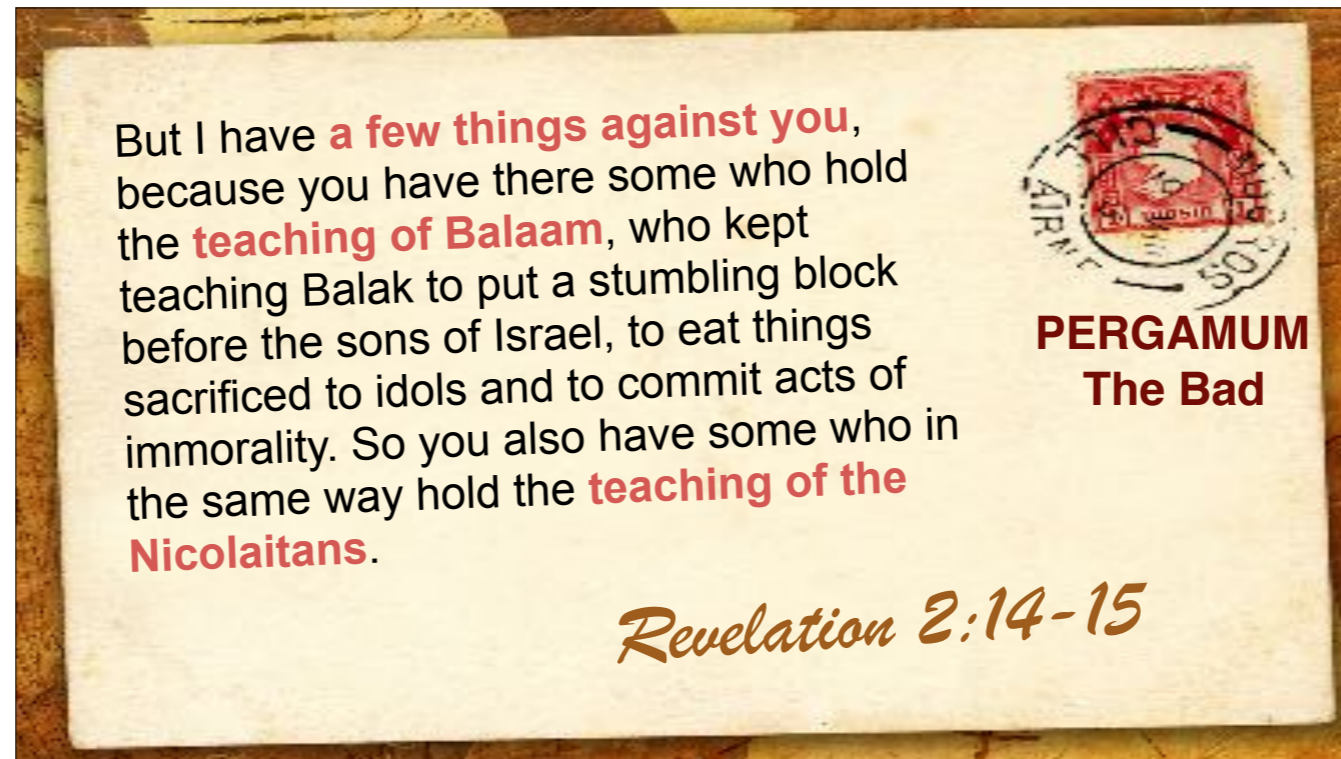
At the top of the altar was a hollow bronze bull, designed for human sacrifice.

Rick Renner: (A GREEK SCHOLAR FROM TULSA , I MET A FEW YEARS AGO) **HE documented how Antipas would have died in that day**

“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 year was AD 92.

NOW ONCE AGAIN: IF WE STOPPED THE LETTER AT THIS POINT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT LETTER. I KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE WHERE SATAN HAS HIS THROWN AND YET YOU HAVE REMAINED FAITHFUL THEN WE COME TO THAT NOTORIOUS WORD BUT



NOT JUST: HERE'S WHAT YOU'VE DONE WRONG
HE SAYS I HAVE A FEW THINGS AGAINST YOU. OOPS

God says let me tell you what you are doing wrong
Then he mentions two false teachings, that they were allowing
in the church of Pergamum.

BALAAM'S TEACHINGS AND THE TEACHINGS OF THE NICOLAITANS
(Thats what Ephesus was praised for they hated the teaching of the Nicolaitans)

JESUS points out two heresies.
One identified with an Old Testament character,
the other identified with a New Testament period character, anyway, by the name of Nicholas.

Both the Teachings of Balaam & The Teaching of the Nicolaitans
Both involved eating food sacrificed to idols and sexual imporality

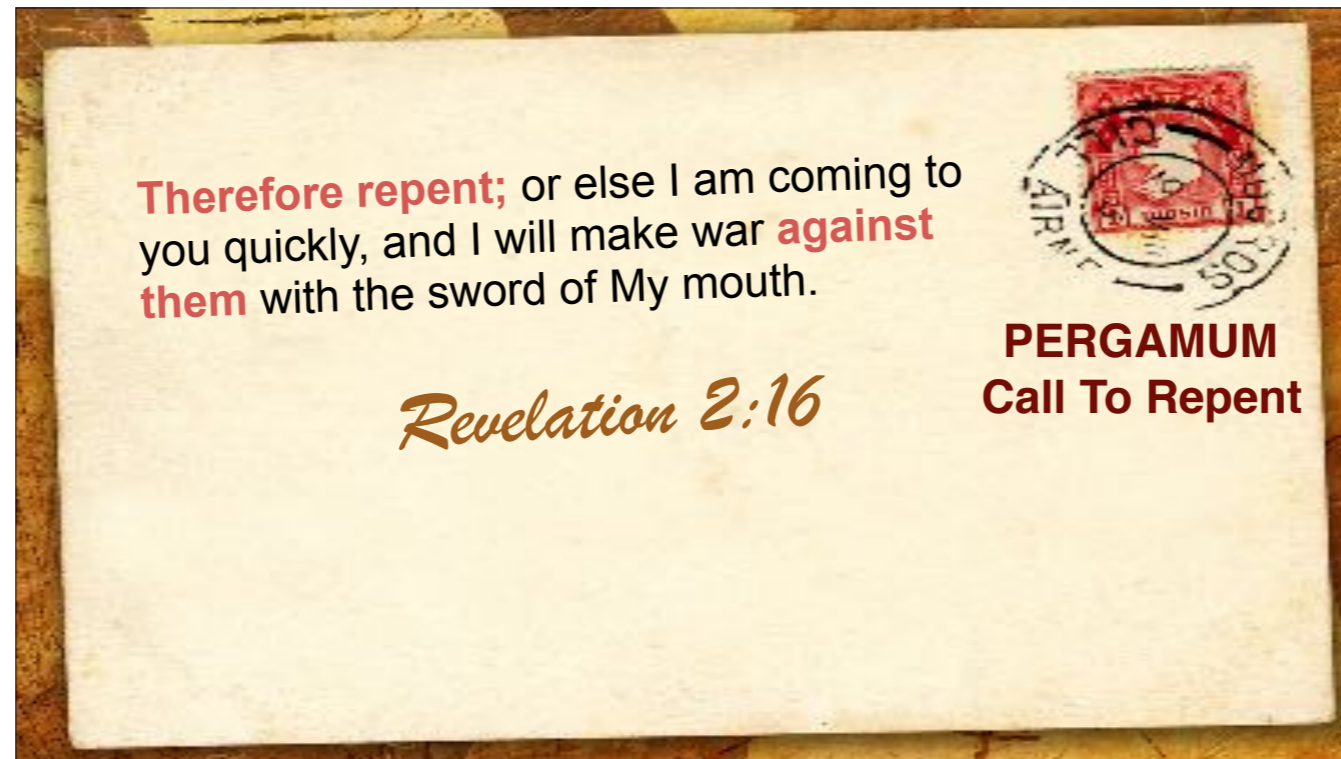


Col 1:27-28

God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

RON MCINTOSH IN HIS BOOK ORGANIC CHRISTIANITY
SAYS JESUS PLUS NOTHING EQUALS EVERYTHING

HIS GRACE IS ENOUGH FOR ME



Now we reach the THEREFORE and Jesus gives them an ultimatum

Jesus says REPENT

REMEMBER THE WORD REPENT DOESN'T MEAN TO SAY YOUR SORRY
IT MEANS CHANGE YOUR DIRECTION

NOTICE JESUS DIDN'T SAY IM COMING TO MAKE WAR AGAINST YOU
HE SAID AGAINST THEM

Those who have perverted his gospel:

Not all who say Lord Lord are going to enter in:

When we get to heaven: There will be some people you thought would surely be there, but they won't THEY WERE RELIGIOUS BUT
NOT RIGHTEOUS

WHEN WE GET TO HEAVEN, There will be some people will see there and you'll think How did they get here. BECAUSE THEY
BELIEVED IN THEIR HEART, and grace and faith saved them.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him **I will give some of the hidden manna**, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'



PERGAMUM
The Overcomers

Revelation 2:17

1/2

THE FIRST GiFT PROMISED HERE TO THE OVERCOMER

a) Hidden manna

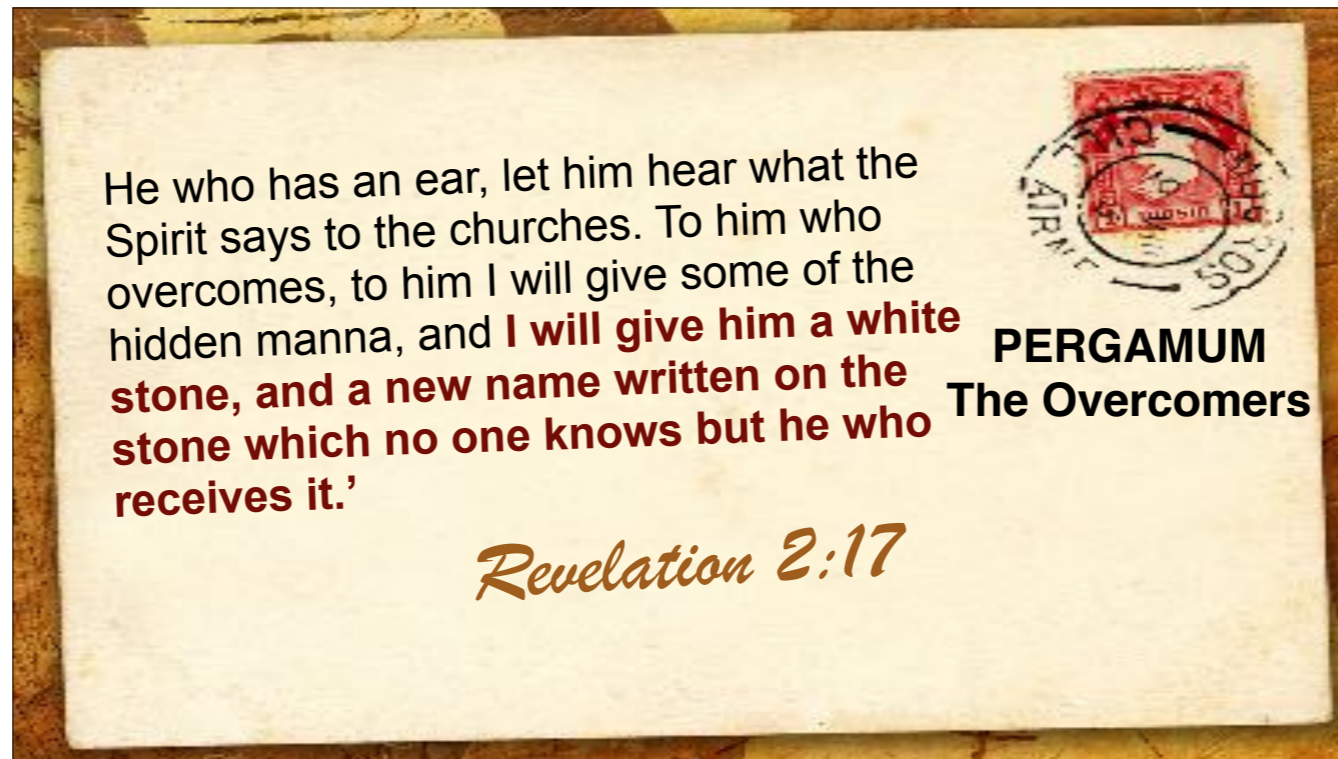
I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”

JOHN 6:48-51



The Hidden Manna is the the Manna that was hidden away in the ARK
Possibly but remember what Jesus said in John 6:48-51

HE SAID I AM THE LIVING BREAD THAT CAME DOWN OUT OF HEAVEN



2/2

A WHITE STONE AND A NEW NAME WRITTEN ON THE STONE

In Ancient Times when someone was at a trial and judgement was pronounced. The verdict was announced by one of the two stones. A small black stone was given to declare someone guilty or a white stone was given to Announce Aquital (Not Guilty)

When Jesus said here The Overcomers will be given a white stone
He is saying BECAUSE OF GRACE, you will be declared NOT GUILTY
on the Day of Judgement because All our Sin PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE
WAS PLACED UPON CHRIST AT THE CROSS.

And then we are given a NEW NAME that is written on the STONE
(Maybe you remember the old hymn song "THERE's a new name written down in glory and it's mine oh yes its mine,)

What's up with the new name. THERE are several TIMES in the Bible when God Transformed someones life, HE GAVE THEM A NEW NAME so they were no longer associated with their Past.

FOR SAUL IN THE NEW TESTAMENT HIS NAME BECAME PAUL
FOR ABRAM HIS NAME BECAME ABRAHAM (FATHER OF MANY NATIONS)
FOR JACOB (SURPLANTER OR DECIEVER) HIS NAME BECAME ISRAEL (PRINCE OF GOD)

**For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
And for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet,
Until her righteousness goes forth like brightness,
And her salvation like a torch that is burning.
The nations will see your righteousness,
And all kings your glory;
And you will be called by a new name
Which the mouth of the Lord will designate.**

ISAIAH 62:1-2



the new name Isaiah 62:1-2



So what lesson can we take from Pergamum

THERE IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE THE TEMPTATION TO COMPROMISE
but Jesus does not Tolerate Compromise

Here in the church of Pergamum we see a strange marriage of The Christian church and pagan state, which was pressuring the Christians to conform to the new form of the church that God was very unhappy with.

We have to very careful when our governmentt tries to interfere with the church, tell us what we can and cannot do.