



# THE APOCALYPSE

*EXPLORING THE BOOK OF REVELATION • Adult Bible Class • 9:00 A.M. Sundays • Bryce Self, Teacher*

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# THE LETTER TO PERGAMUM

THE CHURCH THAT COMPROMISED UNDER PRESSURE (Rev. 2:12-17)



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*PART I*  
**BACKGROUND  
OF PERGAMUM**

*THE CITY WHERE  
SATAN DWELLS*

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# FIRST IN POWER

- **Northernmost of the Seven Church Cities**
- **Centered on the 1,100-Ft.-High Acropolis**
- **March of the 10K Ended Here in 400 B.C.**
- **First Consolidated Kingdom of Asia Minor**
- **Last Holdout From Roman Power, 133 B.C.**
- **Original Capital of Roman Province of Asia**
- **'2nd Athens' a Center of Culture, Art, Power**
- **Info Explosion From Invention of 'parchment'**
- **Library Second to Alexandria (Ephesus 3rd)**







# CITY OF THE POWERS

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- **Royal Palaces = Gov's. Summer Residence**
- **Arsenal & Garrison of Roman Occupation**
- **Upper Agora for Commerce and Business**
- **Library-Schools = Education/Inculturation**
- **Theater = Entertainment/Media/Society**
- **Imperial Temples to Augustus and Trajan**
- **Athena & Dionysius = Technology/Luxury**
- **Asklepion = Health, Medicine, Life/Death**
- **Dr. Galen & Snake-Filled Sleep Chambers**





# SATAN'S THRONE

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- ***The Great Altar of Zeus as Focus of Powers***
- ***Anchor-Point of Entire Acropolis Complex***
- ***Dominant Vantage Point Over Lower City***
- ***Battle of Gods & Titans Sculpted all Around***
- ***Excavated by Germans Beginning in 1878***
- ***Housed in Temporary Museum From 1901***
- ***Permanent Museum Open 1930 To Present***
- ***Museum Also Houses Ishtar Gate of Babylon***
- ***Regarded by Hitler as Focus of Global Power***

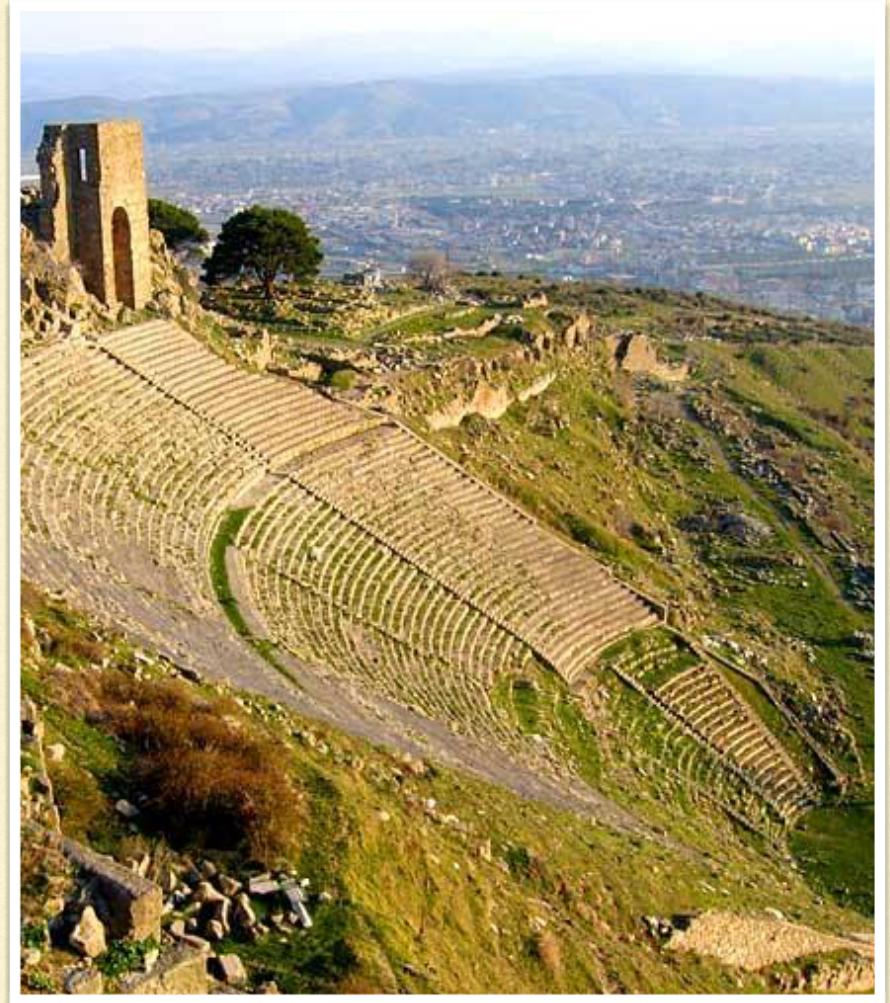


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*PART 2*  
**THE CHURCH  
AT PERGAMUM**

*PRESSURE TO CONFORM  
WITH THE WORLD*

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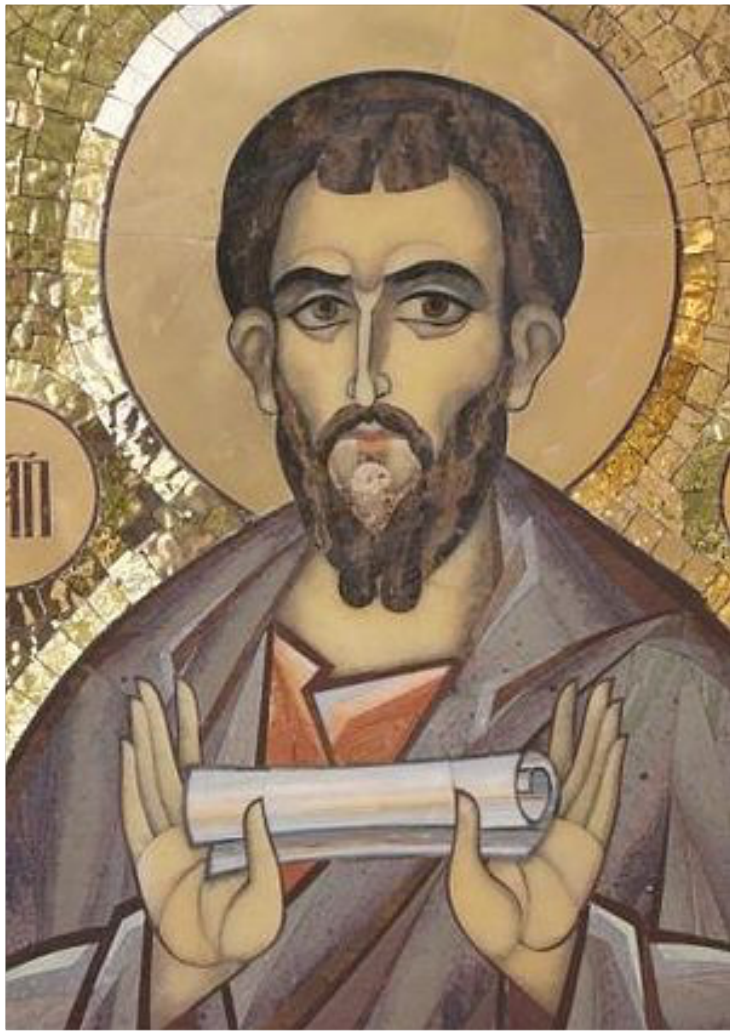




## ANTIPAS THE MARTYR

- ***1st Known Martyr Under Domitian A.D.92***
- ***Likely Converted Under Paul at Ephesus***
- ***First Pastor of the Church at Pergamum***
- ***Cast out Demons Worshipped by Locals***
- ***Burned Alive in a Brazen Bull-Shape Altar***
- ***At Temple of Egyptian Gods Isis & Serapis***
- ***Ruins of 'Red Basilica' Still Partly Stands***
- ***Jesus Connect his Death Directly to Pergamum Being Satan's Dwelling-Place***





## GAIUS OF PERGAMUM

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- ***Personal Convert & Disciple of Apostle John***
- ***Appointed by John After Death of Antipas***
- ***Diotrophes Split Church Vying for Leadership***
- ***Letter of 3rd John Written to Pastor Gaius***
- ***Relatively Young, but Mature and Wealthy***
- ***Charitable to Travelers & Home Folk Alike***
- ***Commended in Character, Deed, Testimony***
- ***Demetrius Leader in Philadelphia Church***
- ***Revelation Sent To Gaius as Pastor/‘Angel’***



# IMPRESSIONS OF PERGAMUM

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***“Beyond all other sites in Asia Minor it gives the traveller the impression of a royal city, the home of authority: the rocky hill on which it stands is so huge, and dominates the broad plain below so proudly and boldly. The rock rules over and as it were plants its foot upon a great valley; and its summit looks over the southern mountains which bound the valley. Far beneath lies the sea, quite fifteen miles away.***

***“The view of other lands, the presence of hostile powers, the need of constant care and watchfulness, all the duties of kingship are forced on the attention of him who sits enthroned on that huge rock. There is here nothing to suggest evanescence, mutability, and uncertainty; the inevitable impression is of permanence, strength, sure authority and great size.***

***“Something of the personal and subjective element must be mixed up with such impressions; but in none of the Seven Cities does the impression seem more universal and unavoidable than in Pergamum.”***

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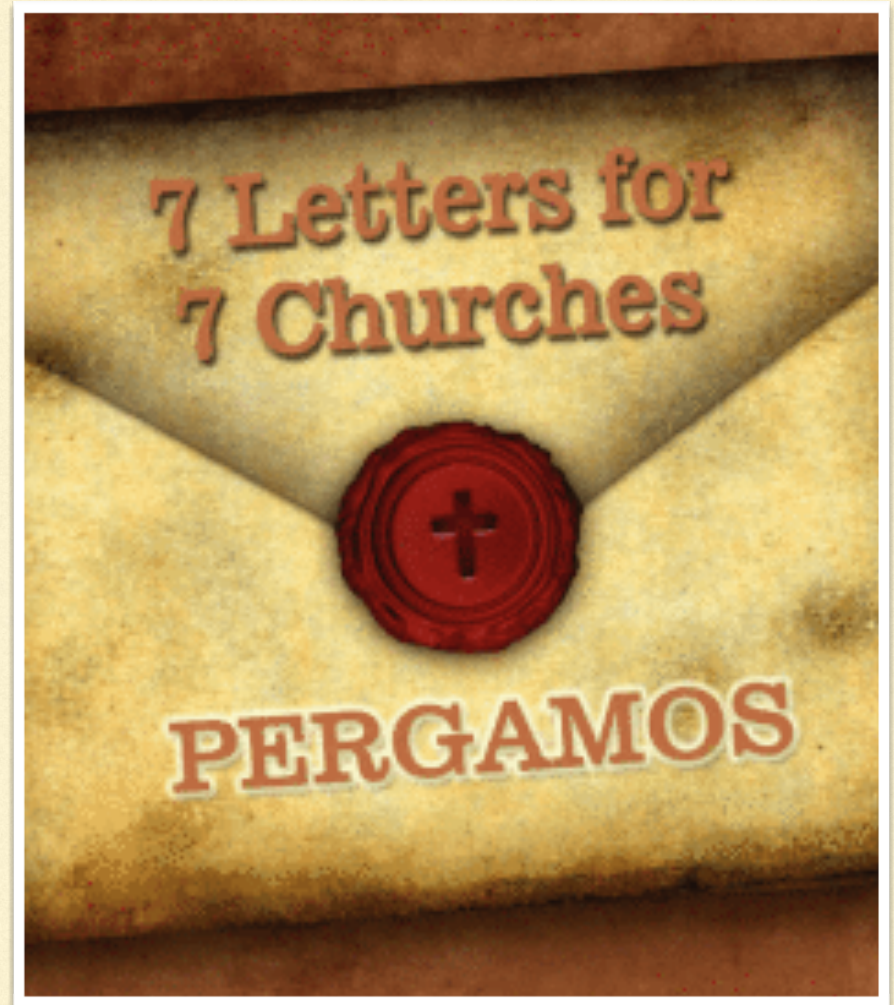


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PART 3  
**THE LETTER  
TO PEGAMUM**

LIFE AT THE PLACE  
OF SATAN'S THRONE

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# CHARACTER & RELATIONSHIP

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***“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write,***

***‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword...’”***

- ***Here the ‘Angel’ Is Gaius, Maybe Also a Spirit &/or the Entire Church***
- ***The Two-Edged Sword Is the Word of God According to Hebrews 4:12***
- ***Description From John’s Initial Vision Includes his ‘Face Like the Sun’***
- ***Symbolizing the Nature of the Gospel Bringing Both Death and Life***
- ***Christ’s Weapon Over the Beast and his Armies in Rev. 19:15 & 21***
- ***Shortly To Begin Being Used Against his Enemies in This Very Church!***
- ***This Letter Itself the Lord’s Word Entering To Begin Judgement Now***



# APPROVAL & AFFIRMATION

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***“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.”***

- ***‘Works’ = ‘ergon’ = Acts, Things Done, Difficult Tasks Accomplished***
- ***‘Where You Dwell, Where Satan Dwells’ = a Designed Confrontation!***
- ***‘Satan’s Throne’ = Surely the Great Altar of ‘Zeus Savior’ on Acropolis***
- ***Currently Holding Fast, Did Not Deny in the Past, but What of Future?***
- ***Antipas Killed for Directly Opposing Evil Spirit Powers of Pergamum***
- ***Without Pastor or Power the Church Yet Survived Satanic Onslaught***
- ***‘Martyr’ Is all Witness: From Verbal Testimony to Laying Down Life***



# CORRECTION & DISCIPLINE

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***“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.”***

- ***‘A Few Things’ = a Longer, More Detailed Correction Than to Others***
- ***Balaam (Num.22-25) False Prophet, Enticing To Idolatry & Fornication***
- ***Hired for the Purpose of Cursing Israel by a Threatened ‘World Ruler’***
- ***He Counsels Balak To Corrupt Israel Thru False Worship & Sexual Sin***
- ***Pressure at Pergamum To Compromise With ‘the Powers That be’***
- ***Seemingly Must Compromise With the World in Order To Survive***
- ***Spiritual Adultery Inevitably Leads to Outward Sins (Often Sexual)***



# CONTINUED ADMONITION

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***“Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.”***

- ***Previously as Group Whose Doctrine Was Hated at Ephesus & by Jesus***
- ***Named After Nicholas of Antioch, a Deacon of Jerusalem (Acts Ch.6)***
- ***He Later Became Heretic, Teaching Bodily Sins Do Not Harm Spirit***
- ***Means ‘Victory of the People’ So Taken as ‘Democratic’ Movement?***
- ***Surely Not Unrelated To Rebellion of Diotrephes Against Gaius/John***
- ***John Promised a Visit To Set Things Right, Now Jesus Does the Same!***
- ***The Lord’s First Enemies To Be Dealt With Are Within the Church***



# MOTIVATION & PROMISE

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***“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.” ’***

- ***One Who Hears, Really Hears, Takes to Heart, and Obeys the Word***
- ***United Voice of Father-Jesus-Spirit, Impartation by the Entire Trinity***
- ***‘Hidden Manna’ = Pot of Manna Reserved in Ark of the Covenant***
- ***Miraculous Provision of an Exclusive Portion of Sustenance From God***
- ***“You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord will name.” (Isa 62:2) = Promise of a Portion in the the New Jerusalem***
- ***White Stone of Acquittal and Approval in Public Trials for Crimes***



