



The Book of  
*Revelation*

Revelation 2:12-17

A Letter From Jesus to the Church, Part 3 - Pergamum.

# Pergamum.

- Pergamum was built on a 1,000 foot hill 20 miles from the Aegean Sea.
- It was an important religious center for Pagan cults:
  - Minerva (aka Athena - goddess of wisdom).
  - Asclepius (god of medicine - symbol of medicine).
  - Bacchus (aka Dionysius - god of Drunkenness).
  - Jupiter (aka Zeus - king of the gods).
- Pergamum had a theater with a capacity of 10,000.
- Pergamum had a library that held 200,000 books.

# Description of Jesus.

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

- Also mentioned in Revelation 1:16, 19:15, 19:21.
  - The sword comes out of the mouth of Jesus.
  - With it Jesus will strike down the nations.
  - The kings of the earth and their armies will be killed by Jesus with it at Jesus second coming.
- Comforting to His church, showing His protection.

*“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword...” Hebrews 4:12*

# Praise.

- Dwell where Satan's throne is.
  - Possibly a huge throne shaped altar to Zeus.
  - Possibly just pointing out the great number of cults.
  - Possibly a literal place where Satan ruled from.
- Hold fast the name of Jesus.
- Did not deny their faith even when Antipas was killed.
  - My witness (μαρτυρῶν μαρτυρῶν) - where we get our word martyr, a title also given to Jesus (Rev. 1:5).
  - Tradition - Antipas was once their Pastor and he was burned to death inside a brass bull.

# Criticism.

- The teaching of Balaam.
  - Numbers 22-25, Balaam was asked to curse Israel, but God wouldn't allow it, so he instead instructed Balak how to get the Israelites to defile themselves.
  - Eating things sacrificed to idols.
  - Acts of immorality.
- The teaching of the Nicolaitans - in context these seem to be similar to the teaching of Balaam.

# Repent; or else!

- Repent - to change ones mind or purpose, in this case of the teaching of Balaam and the Nicolaitans.
  - Eating things sacrificed to idols (1 Cor. 10:18-22)
  - Immorality (porneuo) - it is from the root word for prostitute and it means to commit fornication.
- fornicate - sex outside of marriage.

*“But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;” Eph. 5:3*
- If they don't repent Jesus will make war with them using the sword of His mouth.

# To Him Who Overcomes.

- The hidden manna - this was Israel's food for 40 years after they left Egypt, but Jesus now claims to be the "bread of life" (John 6:48-51).
- A white stone - this could be a ticket to a banquet, a sign of friendship, evidence of having been counted, or as acquittal of sin; all of which are a blessing.
- A new (secret) name - everything is given a new name: Israel (Is. 62:2), Jesus (Rev. 3:12), and us (Rev. 2:17).
  - Witness relocation program! 😊

# Who Overcomes?

- Answered in three ways in 1 John 5:4-5.
  1. *“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world;”*
  2. *“and this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith.”*
  3. *“Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”*

*“...**confess** with your mouth **Jesus as Lord**, and **believe** in your heart that **God raised Him from the dead**, you will **be saved...**”*

*Romans 10:9.*