

**1-5-20**

**Chapter 2:12-17**

**Letter to Pergamos**

**By Martin Saine**

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

**Rev 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.

**Rev 2:14** 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.

**Rev 2:15** Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

**Rev 2:16** Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

**Rev 2:17** "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.*" '

**History**

**Ephesus was the political center of Asia**

**Smyrna was the commercial center,**

**Pergamos was the religious center.**

**Located roughly 70 miles North of Smyrna, and 18 miles from the coast. It was an ancient city with evidence of being inhabited as early as the Bronze age, but until approx 300 B.C. it was little more than a fortified castle on a hill.**

**In 301 B.C. Antigonus was defeated and Northwest Asia Minor was incorporated into the Thracian kingdom of Lysimachus and was useful as a treasury due to it's impregnable nature. Shortly thereafter Philetaerus sided with Lysimachus's rival, Seluecus.**

**Subsiquent rulers established the city as a very powerful center of Hellenistic culture and religious worship.**

**As Rome was rising in power, they allied with Rome and became a very prosperous city as well.**

**For two centuries Pergamos was the capital of the Roman province of Asia and became extremely wealthy. However, lacking access to key trade routes, Pergamos lost economic advantage to its rival city, Ephesus.**

**Although Pergamos lost the economic advantage, it maintained its religious impact.**

**Zeus was said to have been born there. The great altar of Zeus was built there on a massive foundation 150' x 115' x 50' tall surrounded by colonnades. This altar was later transferred to the Berlin museum.**

**Pergamos is also known as the "City of the Serpent".**

**Prior to scientific health practices instituted by Hippocrates, health treatment centers were called "Aesculapium". They treated patients with psychiatry, sleep treatments (induced sleep through hypnosis, drugs, and various other methods), inducing of dreams for interpretation, bathing rituals, silent meditations, "whisper consultations", music therapy, and suggestion therapy along with other psychiatric methods.**

**Patients were brought in through underground tunnels, given sedatives, and told to sleep in a chamber full of snakes which were supposed to carry the healing power of Asklepios, the Greek serpent god. They were told that Asklepios would speak to them in their dreams and give them a diagnosis. If a serpent slithered over you while you were sleeping it was reported that healing power was going to come to you from the Asklepios. Patients would wake and tell their dreams to the priest who would prescribe treatment. Then they were told to sculpt the body part that needed healing in clay and offer it to Askelepios. This treatment was founded by Aesculapius who was considered a god. He was reported to be the son of Apollo and the virgin Cornois, and was considered by many to be a savior who could cure death.**

**The Anatolians depicted him as a serpent. Later the Greeks**

portrayed him holding Hermes' staff with the two headed snake (the Caduceus). *Numbers 21:8-9, John 3:14*

Aesculapius was just like Phaethon - Nimrod - who founded the original Babylonian religion which developed into the worship of his wife Semiramis and her son, (*also seen in the Ashteroth and Tammuz of Phoenicia, Isis and Horus of Egypt, Aphrodite and Eros of Greece, Venus and Cupid of Rome*).

Much earlier after defeating Babylonian the persian conqueror, Cyrus, founded a new religious center at Pergamos and established it's king as Pontifex Maximus, High priest. Historians trace this cult transferring from Pergamos to Rome and subsiquently into the Caesar worship system until finally in 378 A.D. when the Bishop of Rome was solidified as both Religious and Governmental leader - King and High Priest.

Pergamos became the center of Roman religion of Caesar worship, and it was there the first temple of this cult was erected in 27 B.C. *Test of loyalty to offer incense to the statue...*

Pergamos was also inventive, innovative, and a wonder of architecture with the second largest library in the ancient world. In fact, the Roman general Marc Antony gave it to Cleopatra as a wedding present!

At the time of Jesus' epistle to the church at Pergamos the city was a thriving, beautiful, and insidious mess! There were three temples dedicated to Caesar worship, another to the Greek goddess Athena, and the Great Altar of Zeus, the king of the Greek gods.

It was in this city, under this influence, and surrounded by demonic mystical powers that the church of Pergamos existed.

## Exposition

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

**Per= mixed, objectionable (pervert, perversion, etc.)**

**gamos= marriage**

**Pergamos was the church that married the world!**

**Sharp two-edged sword- Ultimate authority over life and death:**

**Heb 4:12** *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

**Rom 13:1** *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*

**Rom 13:2** *Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.*

**Rom 13:3** *For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.*

**Rom 13:4** *For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.*

## Communion Service

**See Matthew 26:20-29**

**Scriptural mandate vs Tradition...**

**Even Communion has been perverted into falsehood by the traditions of men!**