

Jesus Evaluates His Churches, Part 5
Pergamos – The Evil Marriage of “church” & “State”
Revelation Chapter 2:12-17– 03/06/2016
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP
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Today’s TEXTs: Revelation 2:12-17

PERGAMOS or PERGAMUM – Bad / High / “Sham” / “For Show” -- “Marriage”
(Ancient Archaeological Site and modern day Turkish City of Bergama)

¹² “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write,

‘These things says He who has **the sharp two-edged sword**: 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**. 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. ¹⁵ Thus you also have those who hold the **doctrine of the Nicolaitans**, which thing I HATE. ¹⁶ **REPENT**, or else I will come to you quickly and will **FIGHT 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** 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.”

Let’s dissect the Name “Pergamum”, “Pergamon”, “Pergamos”, or “Pergamus”
It is made up of two Greek word-parts ... “PER” and “GAMOS” ...

→ “GAMOS” – relates to “Marriage” ... that was easy ...

such as in the words → “monoGAMOUS” “biGAMOUS” and “polyGAMOUS”

→ “PER” – can come from two different lines of Greek Word Roots ...

both roots influence the flavor of the overall meaning of “Pergamum” as a whole

“Pergos” = “tower” or “high”

“Peran” = “beyond” or “on the other side” or “from the other side”

[e.g.: they’re from the other side of the “tracks”]

→ When combined into **one word**, we get either “**high** (publicly seen, popular) **marriage**” or “**mixed/corrupted marriage**” which carries the multiple nuances of meaning that shouts extremely loudly → “**this marriage should never had happened!**” It gives the idea that this was a public, popular, or “high” marriage, in the sense that it was **not** done in secret and was received by the “*powerful people*” with a good reception. It was a “mixed” or “corrupted” marriage, in the sense that this marriage was **doomed from the start** and it was **bad for both husband and wife**... both spouses coming from completely different “worlds.”

MARRIAGE of CONVENIENCE ... MARRIAGE for the Wrong Reasons ...

1. **Jesus introduces Himself** as the one with “**the one who has the SHARP two-edged sword ...**” in His Mouth ... (see verses 12 & 16 above)!!! (ref. Hebrews 4:12-13 & Eph. 6:10-20)
This conveys → **Judgment** based upon God’s Holy Word (in other cases it relates to Christ slaying the anti-christ & anti-christ’s armies → see Revelation 19 and 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12) -- this is the most severe Judgment from God Almighty.
The **Mighty Warrior** – God the **Mighty Warrior** coming in Judgment is pictured here.
El Gabor (also see Isaiah 9:6 – “The Mighty God”)
Why does Jesus use this Symbol of Who He is in regards to this Church?

2. **Jesus acknowledges their “Past Works”** – referencing the past and their “works” in His Name ... including the Martyrdom of Antipas ... again, this was the Past.
... this echoes back to the “time period” of the Church Age – the “SMYRNA” church age of 10 massive waves of Persecution. But this was the past. This connects this “Church Age” of Pagan-Compromise (i.e. Per-Gamos) to its recent past.
3. **Jesus Acknowledges where they Live** → Satan’s Throne – Where Satan Lives.
In this case ... Jesus is taking about the Fallen Angelic Being – SATAN - ... and this is Prophetic – hinting at the Region in which the anti-christ and his coming end-times Empire would rise from ... Turkey.
Satan’s Throne – was the “**Throne of Zeus**” on the Acropolis ... it was Symbolic but also Specific per the Location of where Satan’s Earthly HeadQuarters was/is located.
(see the PowerPoint Presentation for the Pictures and Explanations, etc.)
This was **PAGANISM on Steroids** ... Rebellion Against the Living and True God Publicly
4. **Balaam, Balak, and the Children of Israel ... huh?**
This is a reference to Balaam working with Balak to undermine and destroy Israel ... **secretly introducing “heresy” and “doctrines of demons”** ...
Most folks think of Numbers 22 - 24 – Balaam and his donkey and the Blessings he pronounced over Israel – he could not curse Israel. But this is a reference to what Balaam did later (Num. 31, Josh. 13:22) → Balaam taught Balak and his Midianite allies to secretly and seductively introduce Baal Worship and other Idolatrous Practices which included Sexual Immorality ... to destroy Israel. That same “**TYPE**” of Teaching was being allowed in this **Church AGE**. Babylonian-Rooted Paganism (Ba’al, Ashtoreth, Tammuz) → **Mithras cult** (from Persia) was a Publicly Acknowledged and Supported Cult before the rise of Christianity in the Roman Empire. **Mithras = Tammuz**
The Mixture of Pagan Religion into Christianity is what was happening.
This is exactly what Happened **AFTER Constantine the First** → Marriage the “church” to the Roman Empire. **BAD MARRIAGE**. Paganism was introduced and mixed into the church and gave rise to what we call today the “**Roman Catholic Church**”.
5. **Nicolaitans** → This church (or church age) accepted this ‘**Leadership Model**’ which Jesus **HATES**.
CLERGY is high and lifted up, almost worshipped. (think → Cardinals, Popes, etc...)
The Laity is kept down, illiterate, poor ... only the **CLERGY** can help the poor illiterates to understand the “Church dogmas” ... does this sound familiar? **Jesus HATES this!**
(ref. 1 Timothy 4:1-5 → “doctrines of demons”, “hypocrisy”, “forbidding to marry” (i.e “celibacy”), “abstaining from certain foods” (e.g.: “lent”) ... which “church” does that sound like? Very Prophetic)
6. **REPENT or ELSE** ... **SWORD** from His **MOUTH** ... He will cut them down with His Holy **WORD** from His **MOUTH** ... unless they **REPENT** (which we find out they did not ...)
7. **Reward if Repenting** → a few individuals did repent during that “**AGE**” ...
Hidden Manna → God would reveal His Word to them ... they would understand, when others would not (similar to Christ revealing the meaning of the parables to his disciples)
White Stone – New Name → Personal Pledge and Pledge of Deep Intimacy with Christ
He knows my “real name” ... others know my given name
Jesus knows the “real me” ...

Period of TIME → Approx. **313 AD** (Edict of Milan) until around, about **529 AD** or so ...
→ The beginnings of the rise of the Roman Catholic Church

For More study → go to → <http://NLFJI.org/PER>