

1 A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

LESSON 10

2 THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS

- The third church age
- Pergamos means “marriage”, from 312 AD to 606 AD
- Last week we studied Revelation chapter 2 verses 12 and 13
- This week we will study Revelation chapter 2 verses 14 thru 17
- This will be an in-depth study of the doctrine of Balaam

3 THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.

- The doctrine of Balaam is one of the most important events that took place in both Israel in the Old Testament and in the New Testament in this church age of Pergamos which was between 312-606 AD
- Vs 14 “.....you have there them....” It is only part of the church that commits the transgression

“..... them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel”

4 THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.

“..... them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel”

- This is so important that in the Old Testament we have the shadow of it in the New Testament
- The doctrine of Balaam is compromise or as Pergamos shows it is a “marriage” between paganism and Christianity; compromise with the world
- Study the story of Balaam in Numbers the 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 31st chapters

5 WHO WAS BALAAM?

- Balaam was the only Gentile prophet of God
- King Balak asked Balaam to curse the Israelites, God’s people, because they were always victorious
- Balaam could not curse Israel, though he tried several times, and it came to the point he would have lost his life if he tried anymore
- Balaam knew, being a wise man, that there was a more simple way

than asking God directly

- This simple way was that sin would bring God's curse upon them
- He didn't have to curse them if he could entice them to sin

6 ☐ **WHO WAS BALAAM? cont.**

- This compromise was the stumbling block Jesus is referring to
- Remember all through Old Testament history the Israelites were absolutely separated from all other people
- They were God's only people; to be a peculiar, separated people just as God's people are today
- Balaam told King Balak of Moab to invite the Israelites to their feast, a pagan feast celebrating the natural things of their life

7 ☐ **WHO WAS BALAAM? cont.**

- This resulted in Israel partaking (mixing in) in their feasts which resulted in:
 1. Israel eating things sacrificed to idols
 2. Israel committing spiritual fornication
- This kindled the wrath of God against Israel and the curse came about after all
- Balaam was the very first to mix pagan worship into the pure Israel religion, this is the first time they had a mixture
- Israel never fully recovered from the damage brought about by this unholy union

8 ☐ **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

- This doctrine of Balaam Jesus is bringing out in verse 14 did not take place in the Old Testament but rather in the Dispensation of Grace, on this side of the cross
- Jesus is stating that this doctrine of "compromise", and the resulting mixture, has come into the church and is what is causing the problem with this church
- The Christian religion has never fully recovered from the damage of this mixture, an unholy marriage
- This damage includes confusion and heresies which was brought on by Constantine (more on him later)

9 ☐ **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

- The result of this "marriage" in Pergamos was an "offspring" that we will see in the Thyatira church which is the next church age is our

study

10 ☐ **THE DOCTRINE OF BALAAM IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

- This is an extremely important part of our history in the New Testament
- This is where the confusion of why so many doctrines of religion are in the world today
- This is not just Bible history but a history of mankind as well
- When Satan could not bring about his desired curse upon Christians he brought about the persecutions which just made the Christians grow in greater numbers and become more strong

11 ☐ **THE DOCTRINE OF BALAAM IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH cont.**

- When Satan brought in this doctrine of Balaam in the Pergamos period he was successful in bringing about his desired curse on God's people by using the subtle method of uniting paganism and Christianity
- Constantine was a Babylonian high priest
- At this time he was contending for the emperorship of the Roman Empire
- He had a strong opponent therefore to win more votes he threw out a bait to the Christians in a promise to curtail the religious persecutions

12 ☐ **THE DOCTRINE OF BALAAM IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH cont.**

- Unlike most politicians Constantine did keep his promise, he stopped the persecutions and martyrdoms
- In this way Satan was able to use Constantine to cast a stumbling block before the unwary Christians
- Remember Balaam taught King Balak to mix them, the pagans and the Jews, together and they won't be a threat to you anymore
- A stumbling block is not a curse, not a force, not a persecution. It is something that will cause you to stumble and fall away

13 ☐ **THE DOCTRINE OF BALAAM IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH cont.**

- Many of the unwary Christians fell before this deceit of compromise
- Vs 14 ".....you have there them...." This is not a total condemnation. What Jesus is saying is; in your midst you have those that stumbled as a result of this mixture
- Constantine was voted in as the Roman emperor while he was still

the pagan high priest

14 ☐ **THE COUNCIL OF NICAEEA**

- The consensus that resulted from the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD established the tenets of the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches
- One of the items used was the precept of commonality between paganism and Christianity
- The important things are what you do not have in common. This is very important to God
- We are supposed to be separate from the world; not doing, believing and thinking like most of the world does
- Examples of the difference are: belief in the Trinity (which the Bible does not teach), sprinkle baptism, temporal power to forgive sins

15 ☐ **THE COUNCIL OF NICAEEA cont.**

- The main accomplishment of this council was the unification of theology, practice, and settlement of a creed, the Nicene Creed, that blended paganism and Christianity. They agreed go by the name “Christian” but in reality it is baptized paganism

16 ☐ **THE DOCTRINE OF BALAAM IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH cont.**

- We see in vs 14, as it is today, that people are saved in spite of their church affiliation
- Looking into the history of this doctrine will enable us to see how it used in modern times
- This doctrine of compromise brought about corruption in the Pergamos church which then grew into the dark ages when common people did not have the Word of God for almost 1500 years
- Satan knew ahead of time of God’s church which why he planned and executed the joining together of his religion, paganism, with God’s church

17 ☐ **THE DOCTRINE OF BALAAM IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH cont.**

- Constantine started the “joining together” with the Council of Nicaea
- Constantine’s title was Pontifex Max, or Supreme Pontiff of the Babylonian cult
- Even after the Council of Nicaea he never revoked this title of the Babylonian cult
- This title carried over to the counterfeit church which became

Roman Catholicism

- Constantine opened the doors of the heathen temples to the Christians and declared that his religion had many things in common with the Christian religion

18 ☐ **THE DOCTRINE OF BALAAM IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH cont.**

- Some of the things in common that Constantine declared were:
 - A virgin with a child
 - A cross
 - A death and resurrection
 - A baptismal fount
 - A communion table
 - A Holy Trinity
 - Hell
- He told the Christians that “We’ll concede to call our images, doctrines, feast days, and ordinances by Christian names.”

19 ☐ **THE DOCTRINE OF BALAAM IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH cont.**

- So the heathenism took on a Christian varnish
- Thus we have the “false” substituted for the “true”
- Jesus prophesied this very thing in Matthew the 13th chapter talking about the tares and the wheat
- The stumblingblock of Balaam includes the renaming of pagan images to: The Virgin Mary, St. Peter, St. Luke, St. Stephen, etc. The mythical god Mercury became St. Christopher

20 ☐ **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

- Genesis 11:4
- Ezekiel 12:14
- Judges 2:13
- Judges 10:6
- I Samuel 7:3&4
- I Samuel 12:10
- I Samuel 31:10
- I Kings 11:5
- II Kings 23:13

21 ☐ **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

Genesis 10: 8 - 10

8 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.
9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.
10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

- Satan put it in Nimrod's heart to build a kingdom, a city, and a tower which was the Tower of Babel which was a church or religion

22 **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

- Modern Babylon today is all three of these: a kingdom, a city, and a church/religion
- The 11th chapter of Genesis tells us "The whole earth was one language, and one speech."
- The people conspired, with Nimrod as their leader, to set up the first organized system of religion
- Thus Babel became the "Mother of Idolatry"
- The modern Babel church, which goes by the Christian, boasts the she is the first and oldest of all the churches which is true as "She" is as old as the devil himself
- The Bible declares her to be the mother of harlots and has made the whole world to drink the wine of her fornication

23 **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

Genesis 11:4

4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city, and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

- God did not destroy the religion of Nimrod's, He scattered it
- This scattering explains why there are similarities in most heathen religions i.e. Shintoism, Buddhism, etc.

24 **SIMILARITIES BETWEEN PEGAN WORSHIP & THE ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS**

1. In these religions there is a worship of pictures and images; that is, the worship of the seen
2. Both pray in an unknown tongue; Romanists in Latin, Buddhists in Sanskrit, etc
3. Both use candles and incense

4. Both have masses for the dead
5. Both count their beads
6. Both use vain repetitions
7. Both insist upon celibacy of the clergy

25 ☐ **SIMILARITIES BETWEEN PEGAN WORSHIP & THE ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS cont.**

8. Both insist upon nuns and nunneries (convents)
9. Both practice adoration of relics
10. Both are systems of merit
11. Both claim miraculous cure by the priesthood
12. Both spend huge sums of money on processions
13. Both practice worship of saints
14. An ornate feature of both religions is flower worship
15. Mary, the Holy Mother, finds her perfect counterpart in Kwanyin, the Goddess of Mercy

26 ☐ **THE FAR REACHES OF THE BABYLONIAN CULT**

- History records events that show a large number of Babylonian soldiers took the higher mysteries out of Babylon and established them in far-away Tibet
- As a result the religion of ancient Babylon can be found in Tibet practically in its primitive condition
- This religion in Tibet has been examined and witnesses are astounded at the similarities to the Roman Catholic church
- After Babylon was taken by the Medes and Persians in 539 BCE, the hierarchy of Babylon fled to Pergamos in Asia Minor

27 ☐ **THE HISTORY OF THE BABYLONIAN CULT**

- Once in Pergamos they set up the ancient Chaldean religious mysteries in all their ancient splendor
- You will recall that the letter to the angel of the Church in Pergamos contains the words in vs 13 "Thou dwellest even where Satan's seat is"
- That is why the ancient religious mysteries of Chaldea were taken to Pergamos
- Bear in mind that the kings of Babylon, like Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar, were not only royal personages, they were also priestly personages

28 ☐ **THE HISTORY OF THE
BABYLONIAN CULT cont.**

- The kings of ancient Babylon were sovereign pontiffs
- When the religious mysteries were taken to Pergamos it became the not only the religious center of ancient Babylonianism but also the center of the ancient royal power of Babylon
- The last king of Pergamos, whose name was Attalus III, bequeathed by law all his dominion and power to the hierarchy of Rome
- Thus we trace the ancient Babylonian mysteries from Babylon to Pergamos and from Pergamos to Rome pagan

29 ☐ **THE BABYLONIAN CULT IN ROME**

- The Caesars of Rome were not only kings and emperors, they were also priests.
- They were Pontifex Max – Sovereigns, Pontiffs, Supreme Pontiffs who continued to bear those titles even after they became nominal Christians
- About the 4th century AD, during the Pergamos church age, Emperor Galerius stated he considered it improper that an Emperor, nominally Christian, should also bear the heathen title of Supreme Pontiff and he therefore laid down that title

30 ☐ **TRANSFORMATION OF THE ROMAN CHURCH**

- The religious authority was then bestowed upon the then “Bishop of Rome” whose name was Damasus
- He was the first Bishop of Rome to take the title of Supreme Pontiff or Pontifex Max in 366 AD
- Here we have the final manifestation of Satan’s counterfeit religion from Rome pagan to Rome papal
- Thus we see that the power and glories of papal Rome came from pagan Rome; that Rome got it from Pergamos, Pergamos in turn from ancient Babylonia, and Babylonia from the devil

31 ☐ **DOCTRINES OF BAAL –
COUNTERFEIT OF CHRISTIANITY**

- An examination of the history and doctrines of the Babel Cult clearly show how cleverly Satan counterfeited the Truth
- After Nimrod built his powerful kingdom, city and tower, he was suddenly cut off (killed) and the religion overthrown

- The religion was soon re-established by the mighty queen of Babylon known in history as Semiramis, and called in Scripture “The queen of Heaven” or Ashtoreth

32 ☐ **DOCTRINES OF BAAL –
COUNTERFEIT OF CHRISTIANITY cont.**

- She re-established the false religion; largely in secret as it was once overthrown
- From this we get the ‘mysteries of Chaldea” or mysteries of Babylon – a religion of mysteries
- There were the greater mysteries and the lesser mysteries; the lesser for ordinary people, the greater for royalty, nobles, and priests
- Initiation into the greater mysteries was by water
- This is an imitation and counterfeit of Baptism

33 ☐ **DOCTRINES OF BAAL –
COUNTERFEIT OF CHRISTIANITY cont.**

- Confession was also required
- The sprinkling of holy water practiced on both infants and adults
- The “virgin queen” worshipped, for such Semiramis called herself even though she had been Nimrod’s wife now his widow
- She claimed that her husband Nimrod had been reincarnated in her baby son Tammuz
- This is an imitation of the virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ

34 ☐ **DOCTRINES OF BAAL –
COUNTERFEIT OF CHRISTIANITY cont.**

- In this Babylonian religion both Semiramis and Tammuz her child were both deified
- Archaeologists have found the earliest images made and worshipped are those of a mother and child
- Their Chaldean names were Semiramis and Tammuz, their Greek names Ashtoreth and Adonis, their Roman names Venus and Cupid
- Tammuz is mentioned in the Bible in Ezekiel 8:12-14
- Ashtoreth is mentioned many times in the Old Testament and always in connection with the religious disobedience of the children of Israel

35 ☐ **DOCTRINES OF BAAL –
COUNTERFEIT OF CHRISTIANITY cont.**

- Scriptures mentioning Ashtoreth in connection with Israel forsaking

the “True God” for the cult worship of Babylon:

- Judges 2:13

And they forsook the Lord, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.

- Judges 10:6

And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the Lord, and served not him.

36 **DOCTRINES OF BAAL –
COUNTERFEIT OF CHRISTIANITY cont.**

- I Samuel 7:3&4

3 And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.

4 Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the Lord only.

37 **DOCTRINES OF BAAL –
COUNTERFEIT OF CHRISTIANITY cont.**

- I Samuel 12:10

10 And they cried unto the Lord, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken the Lord, and have served Baalim and Ashtaroth: but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee.

- I Samuel 31:10

10 And they put his armor in the house of Ashtaroth: and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan.

38 **DOCTRINES OF BAAL –
COUNTERFEIT OF CHRISTIANITY cont.**

- I Kings 11:5

5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

- 2 Kings 23:13

13 And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile.

39 **DOCTRINES OF BAAL –
COUNTERFEIT OF CHRISTIANITY cont.**

- Keep in mind that every time these names are mentioned in the Scripture the subject is about cult or pagan worship
- The earliest form of the sign of the cross was used by the worshippers of Tammuz
- His name began with a T and his worshippers made this sign upon their breast when they came to their heathen temples