

1 A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

LESSON 09

2 REVELATION 2:12-13

12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges.

13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

3 THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS

- The third church age
- Pergamos means "marriage"
- There are so many religions today, how do we know which one is right?
- The Spirit will guide you and the Word of God will give you the truth
- The headquarters of this church at that time was the Babylonian cult
- The Babylonian cult started with Nimrod and the tower of Babel

4 THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.

- The 2nd and 3rd chapters of Revelation is the history of the church written in advance by God
- God shows us in verse 12 where the tares come into the church
- Jesus says in verse 13 "...hold fast my name....". He would not have said this unless there was approaching danger of it being taken away. This is a *very important* sentence.

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6 THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.

- This time period was the beginning of the creeping in of the world into the Holy Ghost filled church

- The two earlier churches, Ephesus and Smyrna, did not have the world of sin mixed in, they had the truth, they were holy and pure
- By the end of Ephesus age, as they were martyred and killed off, their first love was beginning to leave

7 **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

- Love being the first fruit of the Holy Spirit, it also is the first fruit to go
- We see in verse 13 that an earthly throne and an earthly city is brought out, Satan's seat (throne) and where Satan dwells
- Their presence makes things very difficult for the church
- Satan's church is the only church that claims to have temporal powers, or the powers of this world

8 **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

- Jesus never claimed He had these powers, He said my kingdom is not of this world and your power is in the spiritual realm
- Satan's church has a potentate sitting on a throne and is crowned with a triple crown
- From the beginning Satan's chief aspiration has been to be God. That, in fact, was the cause of his fall
- Very early Satan developed a form of worship among human beings

9 **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

- All idolatrous systems in the world come out of Satan's attempt to displace God as the Supreme Being
- Idolatry worship is against everything God stands for
- The first elaborate satanic religious system was developed in Babylon
- It was only when Christianity came about did the idolatrous worship development and religious activity receive further action

10 **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

- There was total separation between the Jews and the Gentiles as the Gentiles were idol worshipers
- It was not until the coming of Jesus Christ that salvation was for whosoever will
- A Gentile could convert and become a Jew and become accepted by them and a Jew could convert to Christianity and be accepted by God
- Satan got busy with the coming of Jesus as that is when he had a

fight on his hands

11 **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

- Satan had to have his church grow along with God's church
- Satan's church is very different from God's church, Jesus Christ is God's church; to be a Christian is to be "Christ-like"
- Satan, in creating his church, tried to superimpose ancient Babylonian idolatry on the new Spirit-filled church and he did so with some success
- Satan was very aware that the coming of Jesus was the beginning of the end for him as prophesied in Genesis 3:15

12 **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

A comparison between Jesus and His followers and Satan's religion:

1. Jesus had no peculiar dress or robe to indicate a special piety
2. He had no earthly crown and no miter
3. He was a simple man born of simple parents to come and show us the way and yet He was the Son of the Almighty God
4. He had no ring they had to kiss and did not need to bow before Him

13 **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

A comparison between Jesus and His followers and Satan's religion:

1. All of the religious pomp and ceremony, all ritualistic forms, motions of the arms, robes, miters, incense, crucifixes, images, thrones, processions, holy water, priests, popes, shrines, relics, charms, superstitions – all came from Satan's religion originating in Babylon
- Romanism is Babylonian idolatry changed only enough to accommodate it to Christian conceptions, and the central feature is a throne
 - Romanism is Satan enthroned

14 **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

- If there is a throne then there must be a city – a capital
- The Christian church did not have a central government and was not supposed to have one
- Satan's first onslaught against the Christian church was to unify the churches and establish a governing body and rule the people
- The Holy Spirit was replaced by a throne of man
- Immediately after the Rapture one world church will rule

- If you do not take the mark of that one world church you won't live very long

15 **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

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16 **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

- In the beginning Satan's throne was in Babylon, now it was to be set up in Rome
- Why, then, was Pergamos the city where Satan's throne is?
- Satan's church came gradually, he subdued the Christian church; it began with deeds and then developed into doctrines
- The letter to Ephesus mentions deeds of the Nicolaitans; in Pergamos they become doctrines
- It reaches its complete form in the Thyatira church age

17 **REVELATION 2:6**

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

18 **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

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- The letter to Ephesus mentions deeds of the Nicolaitans; in Pergamos they become doctrines
- It reaches its complete form in the Thyatira church age
- It was because of these doctrines, which had their beginning in Pergamos, that the wicked woman Jezebel corrupted the church of Thyatira

19 **REVELATION 2:12-13**

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20 **REVELATION 2:6 & 15**

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

- The deeds of the Nicolaitans in Ephesus have grown into the doctrine of the Nicolaitans in Pergamos

21 **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

- God hates what these deeds and doctrine stands for
- There will be a future study "The Origin of Religions" that will look at Nimrod and his cult (Babylon)
- The Babylonian cult has been cleverly superimposed on God's church
- Nicolaitans = nico – to conquer, laity – lay people; ruled by the priests
- Antipas in verse 13 is a type. There is no mention of Antipas in history, tradition, or the Word of God.
- Antipas represents the thousands of martyrs and those who stood faithful in the face of martyrdom

22 **THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS cont.**

- Rome was a killer of Christians and will be again when the one world church takes rule
- This will undoubtedly be Antichrist's same weapon in the persecution of the Tribulation Saints in that 3-1/2 year period right after the Rapture
- These are the untold thousands who will be martyred when they don't accept the mark of the beast
- The surge of pressures of the world to sin has led to the prophesy of "iniquity abounding" being fulfilled

23 **REVELATION 2:14-17**

14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there

them

that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.