

ANTIPAS THE MARTYR

THE FAITHFUL WITNESS OF PERGAMUM



LEADER OF THE CHURCH IN PERGAMUM

Antipas was undoubtedly a leader of the house churches in Pergamum. Like Jesus, who is called the “faithful witness” (Revelation 1:5), Antipas is called “my faithful witness”—both gave up their lives because of their witness.



WHY HE WAS PUT TO DEATH

Antipas was probably put to death for his refusal to acknowledge Caesar as Lord and to swear to the genius of Caesar—the same charge that would later claim other Christian leaders.

The governor of Asia, with his seat at Pergamum, had a direct role in ordering the death of Antipas.



WHAT THE BIBLE TELLS US

Beyond these details, the biblical text offers little about Antipas. Revelation 2:13 is the only mention of his name in Scripture.



“These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges... I know thy works... and in those days there was a faithful martyr, Antipas.”

— Revelation 2:12–13

“And in those days there was a faithful martyr, Antipas, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.”

— Revelation 2:13



LATER GREEK TRADITION

Greek tradition made him bishop of Pergamum, martyred under Domitian by being thrown into a brazen bull which stood at the temple of Diana, and so roasted alive.