

# THE MESSAGE TO PERGAMOS

REVELATION 2:12-17

"These things saith he  
which hath the sharp  
sword with two edges."  
— Revelation 2:12

## 12 HE WHO HAS THE SHARP SWORD WITH TWO EDGES

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



- The sword symbolized Jesus' power to judge and conquer his enemies.



- The Roman proconsul exercised the power of the sword from his judgment seat in Pergamum. He had the power of persecution, but not ultimate power.



- Only Christ is the ultimate wielder of power. What if Christ's enemies are found among those who profess his name but have actually turned astray to heresy? He will turn that same sword against them.

## 13 YOU DWELL WHERE SATAN'S SEAT IS

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.



- "Satan's seat" – Satan's throne.
- They lived where Satan has his throne. This may refer to the great temple of Asclepius, a pagan god of healing represented in the form of a serpent.



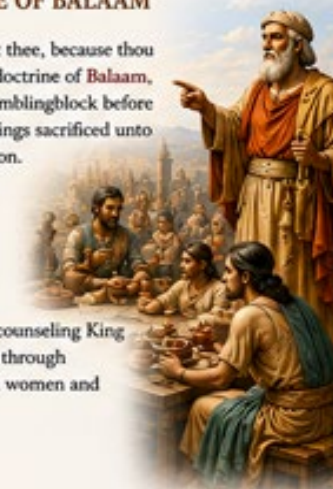
- Antipas – a faithful martyr.
  - Antipas was a faithful witness.
  - He stood up for Jesus and it cost him his life.
  - Greek tradition says he was the bishop of Pergamum.
  - He was thrown into a brazen bull and roasted alive at the temple of Diana.



## 14 THE DOCTRINE OF BALAAM

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.

- Balaam** had been guilty of counseling King **Balak** to cause Israel to sin through intermarriage with heathen women and through idol-worship (Num. 22-25; 31:15-16)



## 15 THE DOCTRINE OF THE NICOLAITANS

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



- Practiced immorality and idol worshiped and declared they could do it because of grace.
- Attitudes:
  - "All that matters is LOVE"
  - "Do it, you are free"
- 1 Timothy 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.
- Jesus hated this doctrine.

## 16 REPENT, OR ELSE...

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



- Again, Jesus gives the opportunity to repent.

## 17 A PROMISE TO OVERCOMERS

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.



- He promises a reward.
- Hidden manna – Christ will provide our sustenance.
- A white stone with a new name written on it.
  - In ancient legal systems, black and white stones conveyed guilty or innocent verdicts, with jurors casting either stone into an urn, suggesting the white stone could symbolize divine acquittal.
  - Also, white stones functioned as admission tickets to theaters, banquets, and events, a view that fits well with the context of eating hidden manna, suggesting an admission ticket to the future messianic banquet with a new name written on it.
  - The name will indicate what God knows to be true of you, from your strengths and gifts to the problems you've overcome, with no inaccuracies, unlike earthly names our parents give us.
    - Names often indicated your character or your mission in life.



### PERGAMOS – A CITY OF CONTRAST

- Magnificent temples, libraries, and wealth
- Center of emperor worship and pagan religion
- Yet, a church that held fast the name of Christ even in the midst of spiritual compromise



### CHRIST'S AUTHORITY IS SUPREME

He sees everything. He knows the truth. He calls for repentance, warns of judgment, and promises eternal rewards to those who overcome.

"The one who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels."

— Revelation 3:5

