



Goodhope Ministries Bible Study

Jesus Christ Our Good Hope - II Thess 2:16

CLASS 8: SCROLL OF REVELATION

THE LETTERS TO THE SEVEN ASSEMBLIES/CHURCHES - PART 4 THE LETTER TO PERGAMUM

HISTORY/LOCATION OF PERGAMUM:

- It was the greatest city of Asia and the capital for 400 years. Home to thrones & worship centers for (just to name a few):
 - The Sanctuary of Asclepion – a main healing center of the world – to the god Ascelpeion
 - Serapis – The Egyptian god of the underworld.
 - The Altar of Zeus
 - The Sanctuary of Athena – goddess of wisdom and war
 - Second largest library in the world with over two hundred thousand scrolls
 - Temple of Bacchus the wine god
 - The Temple of Trajan – the center of the Imperial Cult of Rome

The people of Pergamum had to face every day of their lives, occult practices spiritual warfare, intelligent reasonings, the overwhelming information – all constantly attacking their minds and their spirits. Amidst such assault, how could the culture distinguish the difference between truth and error, amidst such cacophony how could anyone hear, let alone discern the still small voice of God? They were constantly tested NOT DENY Yeshua or God (Matt 10:33) & not compromise. Satan's throne – wasn't just the altar of Zeus, or Athena, or the medicine of Asclepion, Egyptian gods, the Greek culture, theologies & library full of thousands of "truths", or the Roman gods bloodlust. It was all of it combined.

PERGAMUM CHAPTER 2: 9-12

TO: The Angel of the Assembly/Church in Pergamum
Pergamum = a church of compromise

FROM: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says – The letter begins and ends with the two-edged sword of THE WORD OF GOD from the Mouth of Christ.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DEEDS:

- I know where you dwell – where Satan's throne is (a difficult place to live)
- You hold fast to My name (held fast to HIS name)
- Did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas (martyr) faithful amongst them killed where Satan dwells. (Did not deny MY faith even in the face of threat of death)

CRITICISM: Some among you hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel – to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of sexual immorality. Thus you also have some who in the same way hold the teachings of the Nicolaitans.

The teachings of the Nicolaitans are the same as those of Balaam, Balak & Baal. They taught people to compromise with the religious culture around them. This is why God hates the teachings of the Nicolaitans – It specifically breaks the first commandment. After God prevented Balaam from cursing Israel at Balak's request, Balaam taught Balak the secret to Israel's destruction – COMPROMISE.. And it will destroy itself. Israel played the harlot with the daughters of Moab, along with going to their sacrificial services, worshipping g Baal. Because of Israel's sin, God instructed Moses to kill the leaders of the people. 24,000 individuals died. Thus, Balak got his wish (Israel was destroyed but destroyed itself). The Church is under the same threat Compromise and Destroy from within.

- 2 Peter 2:15 & Jude 11 Teachings of Balaam –Balak –Baal working within the people of God.

EXHORTATION - URGING:

- Repent therefore, or else I (Christ) am coming to you quickly and **I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.** (The WORD to cut down the false words, falsehoods, counterfeit...)
- - POWER OF THE WORD/MOUTH OF GOD:
 - Again note the letter to Pergamum begins and ends with the Sword of HIS mouth
 - (Rev 1:16 & 2:16, ---- 19: 11-21 specifically verses 15&21;
 - Just a few other refs:
 - Gen 1: Creation
 - John 1:1 "In the Beginning was the Word..."
 - Heb 12:18 & Ex 20:19 .. "Giving of 10 Commandments" those begging to NOT have God speak to them for HIS sheer power
 - Raising of the Dead, etc., etc.....
 - Ref. Note: The white horse of Rev.19:11 is NOT the same as Rev. 6:2
 - POWER of WORD Extended to Faithful Servants:
 - Eph 6:17 Sword of Spirit WORD completes the FULL Armament of God
 - Rev 11:3 & Zek 4:6 The Two Witnesses: Word pours forth from their mouths for 3 ½ yrs. World celebrates when they are dead and it ceases.

PROMISE TO ALL THE CHURCHES: He who has an ear, let him hear **what the Spirit says** to the churches:

- TO HIM WHO OVERCOMES, TO HIM I WILL GIVE:
 - **(Some) of the Hidden Manna:**
 - Hidden Manna - manna refers to miraculous feeding of Israel in wilderness & even more so to the Bread of Life - The Body of Christ
 - As members of the Body of Christ how much more so are we from this glorious gift ?
 - John 6:26-69 Bread from Heaven
 - Ex 16:4-36, - jar of manna placed in ark for the following generations to remember God's provision through the wilderness wanderings. Unlike the manna of the Israelites that spoiled after a day, the manna in the ark never spoiled even after hundreds of years.
 - I will give him a White Stone &
 - A **New Name** written on the stone which no knows but he who receives it.
 - Note correlation to their Deeds of Holding to HIS Name
 - Ref. Daniel 1: the renaming of the captured Children of Israel to lower names.
 - Not just a new Name but on a White Stone.
 - Rev 19:12 - New Name
 - Note: The Heart of it all: Revelation Chapter 19!