

The Revelation of
Yeshua The Messiah To Yochanan (John)

Study Notes

Pergamum PT. 1

Revelation 2:12-17-(NASB)- “¹² And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this: ¹³ ‘I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is; and you hold firmly to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have *some* there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a ^[a]stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality. ¹⁵ So you too, have some who in the same way hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will wage war against them with the sword of My mouth. ¹⁷ The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will give *some* of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows except the one who receives *it*. ’

Pergamos/Pergamon: (Roman Empire Church- 313-600 AD)- Remember, Constantine gets converted around this time and before a battle.

- He said he saw the symbol of a cross in the sky and said he heard the words, “by this sign you shall conquer”.
- He believed this was a sign for him to convert to Christianity.
- Pergamos means elevated; it sits at an elevation of around 1000 feet high. Because of such a high elevation, many Kings deposited their wealth here.
- This is the governmental church where the **government** ruled.

Understanding: It is believed that Paul established this church during his second missionary journey while ministering to Ephesus. At that time, the Gospel started being preached throughout Asia.

Key Spot:

- Seat of the Royal Provinces Supreme Court: because of this, Kings and Emperors made sure it spared no expense in its splendor and architecture.
- This was the city where the government ruled.

- Due to their competition to be the most prominent of the three major cities, alongside Ephesus and Smyrna, they became the emerging center for Emperor Worship in Asia Minor.
- Christianity's arrival in the 1st Century and Christian beliefs began to cause a major stir that hit the heart of this very dark and pagan culture due to the lack of persecution that Smyrna experienced.
- The Romans built a very modern city at the base of the hill.

The Giant Hellenistic Theater (2nd Century BC)



- Sits below the library of Pergamum and the Temple of Athena
- This was the steepest theater in the ancient world.
- 80 rows of seats and accommodated 10,000 people in a single event.
- A city where Christians were under great pressure to Compromise.
 - They wanted to get along with everyone.
 - They wanted to enjoy all the status of that was offered through compromise.
 - This was the Selfish Church.
 - “A little leaven leavens the whole lump.” – Galatians 5:9

Two-Edged Sword:

Rev. 2:12 (NASB) - “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:”

Note: Yeshua introduces Himself to each church as the counterpart of the demonic realm in that city.

Proconsul-This was the Governor of Asia. He ruled over all of Asia, including the churches. His throne was in Pergamon.

- Ordered to banish or execute Christians.
- He sat on a throne holding up a two-edged sword.
- Authority given was called “the Right of the Sword”.
- He was given authority to execute or excuse the offender.
- If he held the sword up the person lived but if he put the sword down, they died.

Jesus is telling this church the HE is the ultimate authority, not this government!
(Romans 13:1)

THREE LEVELS OF PERGAMUM:

Lower Pergamum: A marvelous entry gate (**Gate of Eumenes**) with three watch towers. The Marketplace sold all the goods, meats, dairy, olives, oils, and many other luxury items.

- The only women you would likely see here were the prostitutes, both male and female. Prostitution was not considered immoral or wrong during this time.
- Like Ephesus and Smyrna, this marketplace is also where money changers traded money.
- This is where nations of the world would come to do business.

Middle Pergamum: Asklepion-The pagan healing center, was distinguished throughout the ancient world. People came from all around the world to come here to be healed. The Temple of Asklepios had circular walls and a dome that was 78 feet in diameter.

- Very little remains today of the archaeological wonder.

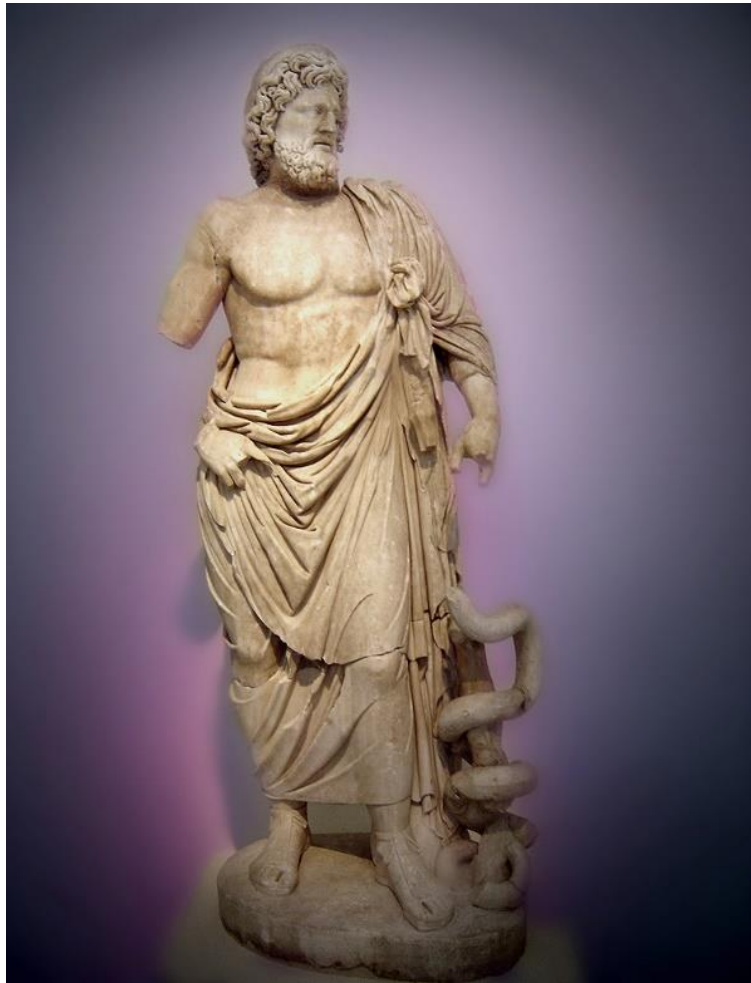


Note: The Altar below is in the center of the Sacred Courtyard in the Asklepieion.

- Two snakes drinking from a cup of milk, which in ancient times symbolized healing.



Key: Askelepios-The Greek god Of Healing



The Staff of Hermes



The Rod of Asclepius

Caduceus- Two Snakes: Staff of Olympian god Hermes, the son of Zeus



Key: The staff with two snakes was introduced in 1902 by the United States Army Medical Services. Over time many medical and pharmaceutical organizations have modified their logos to remove the Caduceus and returned to the original depiction of the Rod of Asclepius.



2023: Bowl Of Hygeia – Prestigious Pharmacy Award



- Bowl of Hygeia is the most widely recognized international symbol for the pharmacy profession and considered one of the profession's most prestigious awards. The bowl represents a medicinal potion, and the snake represents healing.

The Bronze Serpent In The Bible:

Numbers 21:4-5 (NASB) - “⁴ Then they set out from Mount Hor by the way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the people became impatient because of the journey. ⁵ So the people spoke against God and Moses: “Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we are disgusted with this miserable food.”

The Bronze Serpent Fashioned

Numbers 21:6-9 (NASB) - “⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ So the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and against you; intercede with the LORD, that He will remove the serpents from us.” And Moses interceded for the people. ⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery *serpent*, and put it on a flag *pole*; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, and looks at it, will live.” ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and put it on the flag *pole*; and it came about, that if a serpent bit someone, and he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

Note: Gods people were plagued with the serpents for a while and had to carry the brazen serpent with them.

- They set it up wherever they camped, and it was fixed in a permanent location once they entered the Promise Land.

- Sadly, King Hezekiah later destroyed it because the people had begun to worship it.



Nehushtan- (Num. 21:4-9)

A Word from Father by His Spirit: “I shall stop giving the tangible until they begin to worship the intangible”.

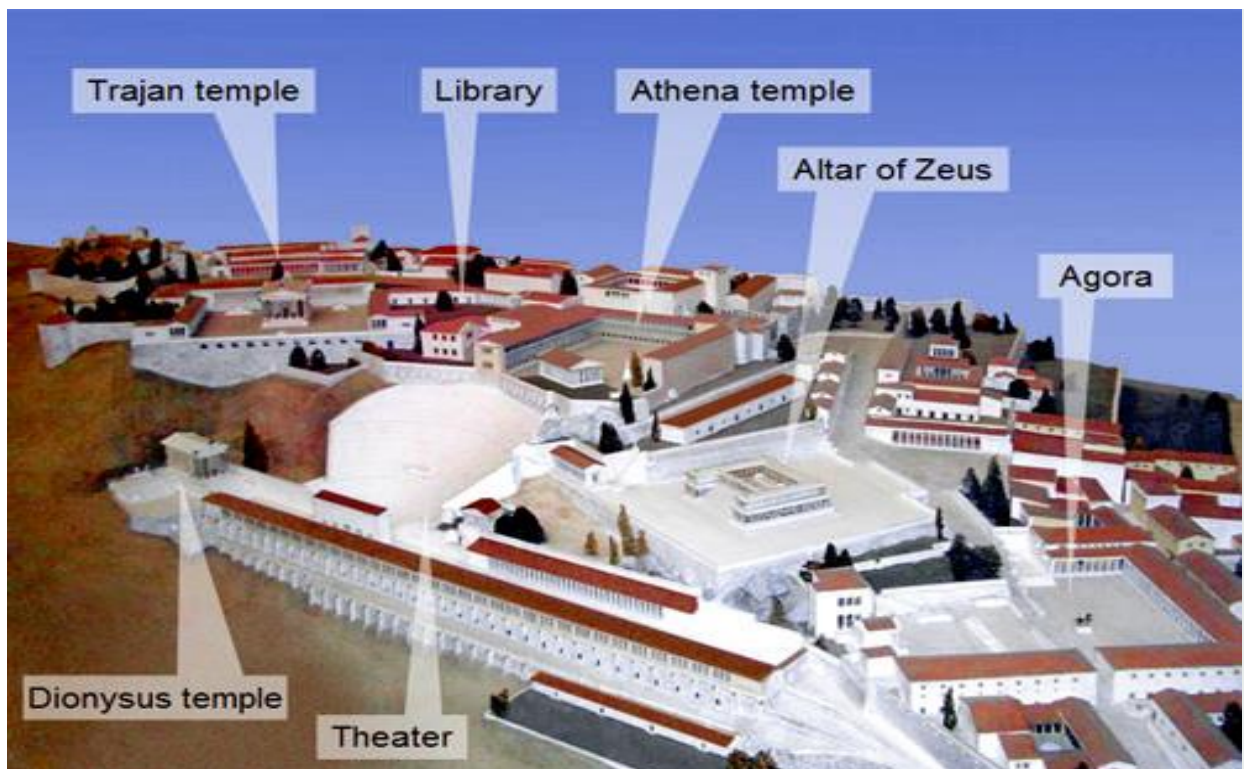
2 Kings 18:4 (NASB) - “He removed the high places and smashed the memorial stones to pieces and cut down the Asherah. He also crushed to pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel had been burning incense to it; and it was called **Nehushtan**.”

Nehushtan-means of copper; a brazen thing, a name of contempt given to the serpent Moses made in the wilderness because the children of Israel began worshipping it!

Upper Pergamum: Here you had the most lavish buildings of all Pergamos.

- The goal was to impress all visitors and all who would enter this city.
- At the highest point of the Citadel (a fortress the dominates or protects the city), sat the Great Altar of Zeus.

Historical Artists Depictions:



THE SEAT OF SATAN: Rev. 2:13- “I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is;”

The Altar of Zeus– The chief of all the Greek gods



Facts:

- 65-Foot-Wide staircase
- Incredibly intricate sculptures of idols.
- Topped with a double colonnade with sculptured idols on its roof.

Note: Christianity started to become so widespread that it caused people to no longer go to this great altar and it fell into ruins.

- It was revealed by German archaeologists during excavations made after 1865 in Pergamon and the remains were sent to Berlin.
- It was restored in the Berlin State Museum and was opened for exhibition in 1871. After that date, the museum acquired the name Pergamon Museum
- Zeus Altar, Built during the years 197-159 B.C. by Eumenes II, King of Pergamon



KEY: Hitler Architect Albert Speer gets commissioned to build a pedestal for Adolf Hitler to do his speeches. He had seen the great Altar of Zeus and he build a replica based upon the altar known as “Throne of Satan” or “Where Satan Seat Is”.

- The original ruins were found and reassembled the year Hitler was born.



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-C12059
Foto: o. Ang. 1 September 1937



Final Note: Satan himself began to work through Hitler to annihilate 6 million Jews. This was done in retaliation for the blow that the church of Pergamum dealt to the Altar of Zeus, causing it to go into disrepair.

Word from the Lord to the Millennial Generation: "The generation as a whole has compromised. You have been given so much, but have let so much of the world into the church. The plays has to stop. The foolishness has to stop. 'My house will be called a house of prayer'. It is holy. It is set apart. It's for His worship and for His Glory. And until you stop bringing in the tangible, He's never going to reveal the intangible. He says, 'Come out from among them and be ye separate, and I will come to you'."

The End