

REVELATION 2:12-17



Introduction: Remember, John was caught away in the Spirit to the future Day of the Lord. God has removed authority from the Temple, it seems, to the area of these seven congregations.

Pergamos:

A. Revelation 2:12 - And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

1. John is told what to write down by Christ. The [sharp sword with two edges] is the Word of God.

Revelations 1:16 - And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance *was* as the sun shineth in his strength.

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

2. The Word will be God's judgment when He returns.

Revelation 19:13-15 - And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. Rev. 19:14 And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. Rev. 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

II Thessalonians 2:8 - And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

3. When Christ returns, out of His mouth will go His judgment to cut and destroy true Israel's enemies.

Isaiah 30:30-31, 33b - And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of *his* anger, and *with* the flame of a devouring fire, *with* scattering, and tempest, and hailstones. Isa. 30:31 For through the voice of the LORD shall the Assyrian be beaten down, *which* smote with a rod. Isa. 30:33b...the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.

B. Revelation 2:13 - 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.

1. [I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is:]

*Remember, the Jews were in covenant with God. Works and obedience were important in their relationship with God.

Exodus 19:8 - And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

**Since being under law, theirs is a works religion with faith as the basis.

2. [and where Satan's seat is]

- a. These Jewish believers' environment will be right in the midst of Satanic activity. The word "seat" here means throne, or seat of authority. During the Tribulation, there will be a special place where Satan will set up headquarters.
- b. There is a difference between Satan's throne and Antichrist's. Remember, Satan has an unholy, counterfeit trinity.

Revelation 16:13 - And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

*The dragon is Satan - "beast" is antichrist - false prophet is the religious leader.

- c. Here in Rev. 2:13, it says the dragon's throne will literally be set up - located in Pergamos. But the Antichrist's throne will be located in the Temple in Jerusalem (II Thess. 2:4). More than likely, the false religious prophet will have his power base in the city of Babylon.

**Babylon is the center place where Baal worship began, which has led to many other mystery-eastern religions.

3. [...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.]

- a. They had not denied their faith in the name of Jesus of Nazareth (they hadn't taken the mark of the beast). Remember, the Jews are to believe who Jesus of Nazareth was. He is Messiah, the heart of the Kingdom Gospel.
- b. His name implied that He is the Son of God, the Christ, the Messiah. When the Jews believed this, then God considered them as His child.

John 20:31 - But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Acts 2:21, 38; 4:12 - And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

I John 5:1a - Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God:

- c. [Antipas] means against always. Evidently, this believer will be a thorn to the beliefs and policies of Satan. The believers of Pergamos will witness the horror of his death personally and publically.

**There will be many martyrs - killed by the beast-Antichrist. Here Antipas is just one of them mentioned by name (Rev. 6:9-11). No doubt the place where Satan dwells must be the place where persecution will rage fiercely.

- C. Revelation 2:14 - But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

1. Numbers 22 helps explain about Balaam. King Balak met the children of Israel coming out of the wilderness (6 million of them). The Israelites wanted to go through Moab on their way to the east side of Jordan to go into the promised land. When King Balak saw several million Israelites, he knew he could not defeat them militarily. So he found a sorcerer named Balaam, a for sale prophet, who could talk to God. Balak wanted Balaam to put a curse on the Jews that would lead Israel into idolatry and immorality with the Moabite women. He then believed their God would have to destroy them for their sin.
2. ** But God is a God of mercy to Israel. Every time Balaam tried to speak a curse on Israel, when he'd speak, instead of a curse, he'd speak a blessing on Israel! King Balak became so mad.
3. However, eventually men of Israel did go unto the women of Moab and intergrated their idolatrous religion. They intermarried, which God had told them not to do.
4. In the Tribulation, the whole scene has to do with idolatry of the grossest kind, where fornication will be made part of religion (Rev. 9:20-21).

- D. Revelation 2:15 - So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

Remember, the Nicolaitans have Baal worship. They put their priests, with long robes, vestments, called father, with the Nicolaitan doctrine of clergy subjugating the laity-members.

** Subjugating the people to their authority will cause the common people to commit to idolatry, fornication (immorality) of Balaam. Where Satan dwells, this will be his doctrine and God hates it!

- E. Revelation 2:16 - Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

1. The answer-remedy will be (as always) repentance. It means to change your way of thinking from error to God's truth.
2. [Repent, or else] If they won't, He will be all over them and He will fight them (enemy). The believers of Pergamos were standing for Christ's name, but they weren't using the WORD (Kingdom) to fight against Balaam's and Nicolaitan's false religion. *God is saying, the only way you're going to get through the Tribulation is to stand up and tell them my word of judgment on them. If He has to come, they won't be part of them that endure to the end because that shows they didn't repent.

- F. Revelation 2:17- 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*.

1. The term "overcometh" appears 16 times throughout the Book of Revelation, 9 of which appear in John's letters to the seven churches. ** Interesting is the word overcome. It's only found twice in Paul's epistles, and only once in relation to the Gentiles. The reason is we are already conquerors in Christ. We, today, are already overcomers by being in Christ.

Romans 8:35-39 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Rom. 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Rom 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Rom 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Colossians 2:10 - And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

2. It's easy to see or read that the promises made to the saints here are to the Nation of Israel (unless one doesn't **want** to see that). * They are to eat the hidden manna, given a white stone, and in the stone given a new name.

- a In the wilderness, God fed the children of Israel with? **Manna**. Moses put some in the ark with the tables of stone and Aaron's budded rod. **These believers in Pergamas are told that if they stand against the anti-christ, his troops and evil system, stand on His Word, He will give them His hidden manna. He's going to do it **again**!

Hebrews 9:4 - Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein *was* the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

- b Question? Why will they need to be fed again? Again, for not taking the mark of the beast, they will be on the **run**, not able to buy or sell.

- (1) Again.

Revelation 12:5-6 - And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and *to* his throne.

Rev 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days.

Psalms 78:18-19, 23-25 - And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust. Psa 78:19 Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness? Psa 78:23 Though he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven, Psa 78:24 And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven. Psa 78:25 Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full.

- (2) *Manna is angel's food. In the Tribulation they are going to eat manna for how long?

Exodus 16:34-35 - As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept. Exo 16:35 And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan.

Revelation 12:14 - And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

This was then and they will for the last **3 1/2 years of the Tribulation **until** they return to Jerusalem with Christ.

- (3) In verse 17, they are given a white stone with a new name on it. Israel receiving a new name is the subject of **prophecy**.

Isaiah 62:2 - And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

- c. We also know that in the Kingdom, she will be a nation of **priests** (all tribes). *The Old Testament High Priest had names on a stone on each shoulder with **6** tribes' names on each stone. Then he'd have on a breastplate with the tribes individual names written on **12** stones. Aaron, on his front mitre (forehead), had a plate of gold saying: "Holiness to the Lord."
- d. Also, they had the Urim and Thummim, two stones priests would pull out to determine **guilt** (black stone) or **innocence** (white stone). Or these stones would be used to determine the **will** of God - white stone = yes and the black stone = no.

Our Urim and Thummin today are the pages of the **Bible.

**As you once again can see, all these things pertain to Israel!

1 Peter 2:9 - But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Questions?

1. What does God use to judge when He returns?
2. Why will Pergamos be in a hot seat?
3. Why will Pergamos' works be so important?
4. Who is the counterfeit trinity?
5. What did believing in His name mean to them?
6. What is the doctrine of Balaam? Nicolaitans?
7. What does repentance mean? If they didn't repent - happen?
8. What three things given them identifies them to Israel?
9. What was changing their name related to?
10. What one thing have you learned in this Pergamos synagogue?

