

*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*  
 Current Book: *Revelation – verse by verse*

**Scripture(s) for Today: Revelation 2:12-17 – Pergamos Church Period; an evil compromise.**

Today's Message:

***"Seat of Satan!"***



## INTRODUCTION

Last week, we continued with the second letter to Smyrna. Prophetically, it represented a murderous time in church history when 6 of the 10 *Roman Persecutions* were aimed at God's church. They were a pure church. Today, we come to the letter to the church in Pergamos. The words of our Lord Jesus will be intense as they are a sharp **SWORD** with two edges! You may be surprised to learn that Satan had a **SEAT** there, and he was killing God's people. Prophetically, this period of church history begins with the **FALSE** conversion of Constantine and an evil compromise of the church with the world.

## LEARNING TOGETHER

### *Seven Letters to Seven Churches*

**Historically** – 7 real churches | **Devotionally** – all churches | **Doctrinally** – 7 periods of Church History

### 1. The Text Rev 2:12-17

#### **#1. The Church – Pergamos – “much marriage” –Church History (325AD-500AD)**

**SUMMARY:** This is written to a church that is **married** to the world. Prophetically, it is when the Devil united Rome to “Christianity” to form a **counterfeit church**.

**HISTORY:** As we look back on church history, what happened during this time?

1. The **Babylonian mystery religion** had moved from Babylon to Pergamos 133BC.
  - ✓ *This Babylonian priesthood was active in the time of this letter!*
  - ✓ *The worship: Semiramis, Tammuz, Nimrod; virgin birth on December 25<sup>th</sup>*
  - ✓ *Statues of the mother goddess were worshipped, enshrined; w/Tammuz*
  - ✓ *This worship included chants, beads, rings, black robes, candles, altars...*
2. After Diocletian's reign, Roman empire would go to **Maxentius** or **Constantine**.
  - ✓ *312AD – Battle of Milvian Bridge; Constantine had a “VISION”. (a cross!)*
  - ✓ *He said he heard a voice say, “By this sign thou shalt conquer!” (a cross!)*
  - ✓ *He wins the battle; his experience leads him to claim he is a “Christian.”*
  - ✓ **Edict of Milan:** Christians granted freedom; Rome “converts” (baptized)
  - ✓ **Council of Nicaea: 325AD** – Eusebius and Constantine; “Nicene Creed”

**NOTE** “Christianity” was flooded with lost pagans and all their paganism; much marriage!

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*Making disciples and caring for souls!*

**#2. The Commendation – they were faithful even where SATAN dwelled! (13)**

1. It was a **faithful** church ... **“works” “holdest fast my name” “not denied my faith”**
  - ✓ Look at the personal way Jesus Christ speaks – my name, my faith, my martyr!
2. It was a **persecuted** church ... **“wherein Antipas my faithful martyr, who was slain”**
  - ✓ Historians say ordained by Apostle John; martyred 92AD, burned bull-shaped altar
3. It was **where Satan dwelled...** **“where Satan’s seat is” “where Satan dwelleth”**
  - ✓ In history, Satan was using this city as his satanic world operations headquarters!
  - ✓ Satan has a SEAT; he sits as a ruler (or king) and speaks from a “chair” ... a KEY!

**NOTE** This church had evil opposition from the devil himself; his seat moved to Rome.

**#3. The Condemnation – the church COMPROMISED with the world! (14-15)**

1. **The doctrine of Balaam** – to compromise with the world to form an unholy alliance.
  - ✓ Balaam taught Balak to destroy Israel through inter-marriages. **Num 25:1-8**
  - ✓ Israel would adopt their wives’ sinful pagan rituals/habits – fornication and idols!
  - ✓ The Devil’s **evil plan** was to **counterfeit** God in every aspect – Church, Bible, etc.
  - ✓ The unholy Marriage Ceremony – Roman paganism floods Christianity!
    - **Saturnalia** becomes Christmas, **Ishtar** becomes Easter, **Semiramis** worship (queen of heaven) becomes – Mary worship, Semiramis **prayer beads** become the Rosary, **pagan statues** are renamed (Zeus-Peter, Tammuz-Jesus, Semiramis-Mary) ...
2. **The doctrine of the Nicolaitanes** – their deeds have now become church doctrines!
  - ✓ The unholy Conquering of Common People – Papal Rome needs a clergy class!
    - **Pagan Roman Government Officials** became the Roman Catholic Church Hierarchy! Pagan Roman **Emperor** becomes Pope, Pagan **Roman Senate** becomes the College of Cardinals, **Imperial Governors** become Archbishops, **Provincial Governors** become Bishops, **Civitas** (mayors) become Priests, **Temple (Vestal) Virgins** become the Nuns!

**NOTE** The exhortation from God is REPENT! His sword brings Judgment on this evil!

**2. The Lesson** (How can we learn from our passage today?)

1. The Devil’s plan is to **SEDUCE** you to marry the world and forsake Christ.

➤ God’s church has been greatly harmed by this old strategy of Satan. Is it working?

❖ **Question:** “Are you keeping yourself pure?” **Num 31:8; 2Cor6:17; 1Pet2:11; Jude11**

2. Your decisions to **COMPROMISE** with the world give Satan occasion for evil.

➤ Antipas did not compromise and was martyred. Satan plays you to blaspheme God!

❖ **Question:** “Is your life giving occasion to blaspheme God?” **2 Sam 12:14; Ps 19:14**

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