

02/04/2026

Wednesday Night
Bible Study

The Book of Revelation (3)

2:1-3:22

Tonight's Plan

Background/Purpose

Elements of a Letter

The Letter to Pergamum

Application for Small Group

Background & Purpose of the Letters



The Seven Churches of Revelation

Mediterranean Sea

Israel
Jerusalem

Greece

Aegean
Sea

Pergamum

Asia Minor
(Turkey Today)

Smyrna

Thyatira

Ephesus

Sardis

Patmos

Philadelphia

John receives
Revelation

Laodicea

Corinth

Cyprus

Crete

Refresh on History

Background of the Letters

Background of the Letters

Refresh on History

Place of letters in book

Isaiah 6:8-10 ESV

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.” And he said, “Go, and say to this people: “‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’ Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”

Background of the Letters

Refresh on History

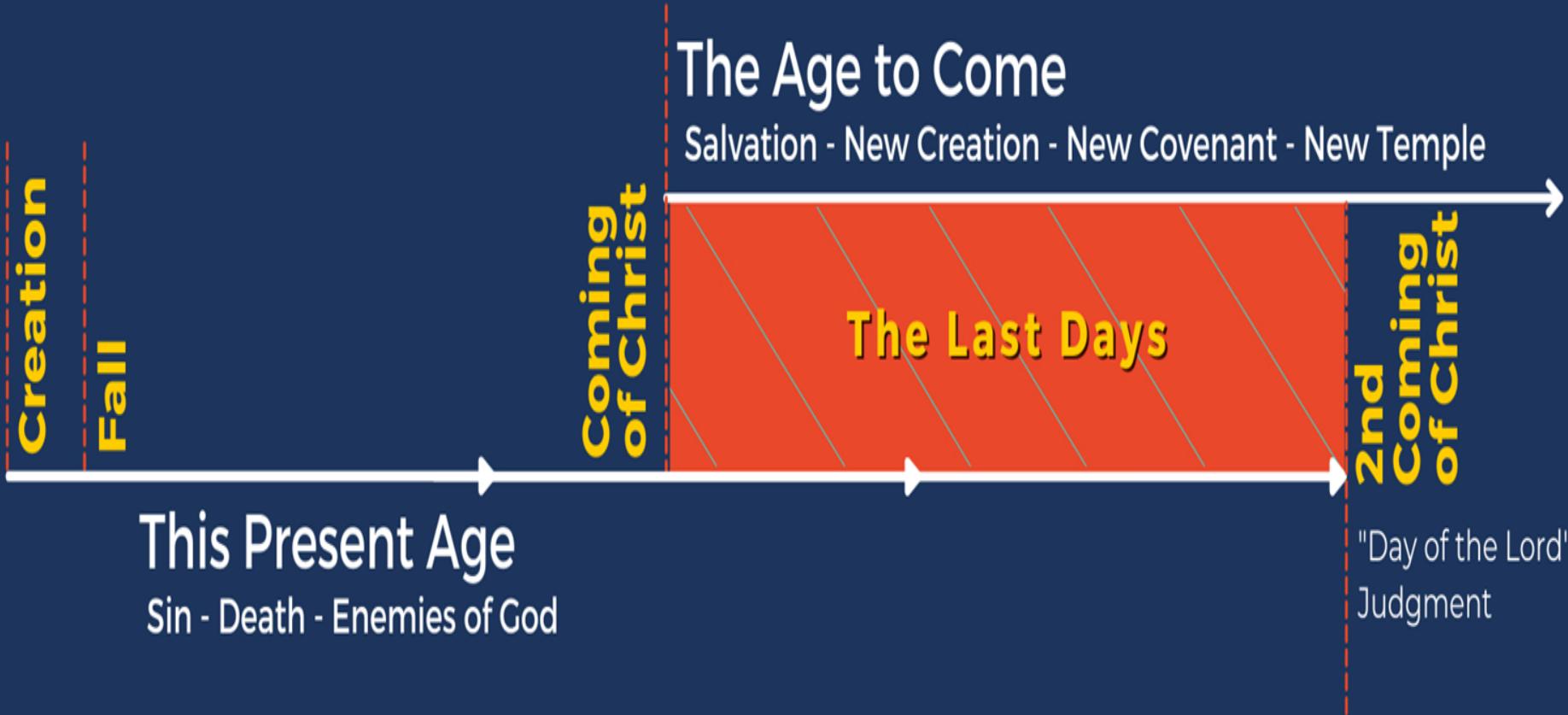
Place of letters in book

Background of the Letters

Refresh on History

Place of letters in book

The symbolic function of the
seven churches



Adapted from Fig. 11.2 in *God's Kingdom through God's Covenants*, 2015, by Gentry & Wellum

Elements of a Letter

1. Instruction to write to angel

The Elements of a Letter

1. Instruction to write to angel
2. Christ's self-description

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3. Commendation

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4. Accusation/Rebuke

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6. “He who has an ear...”

The Elements of a Letter

1. Instruction to write to angel
2. Christ's self-description
3. Commendation
4. Accusation/Rebuke
5. Exhortation to Repent/Stand fast
6. “He who has an ear...”
7. Promise to conquerors

The Letter to Pergamum: *Permissive Compromise with Idolatry*





The Letter to Pergamum

1. Instruction to write to angel

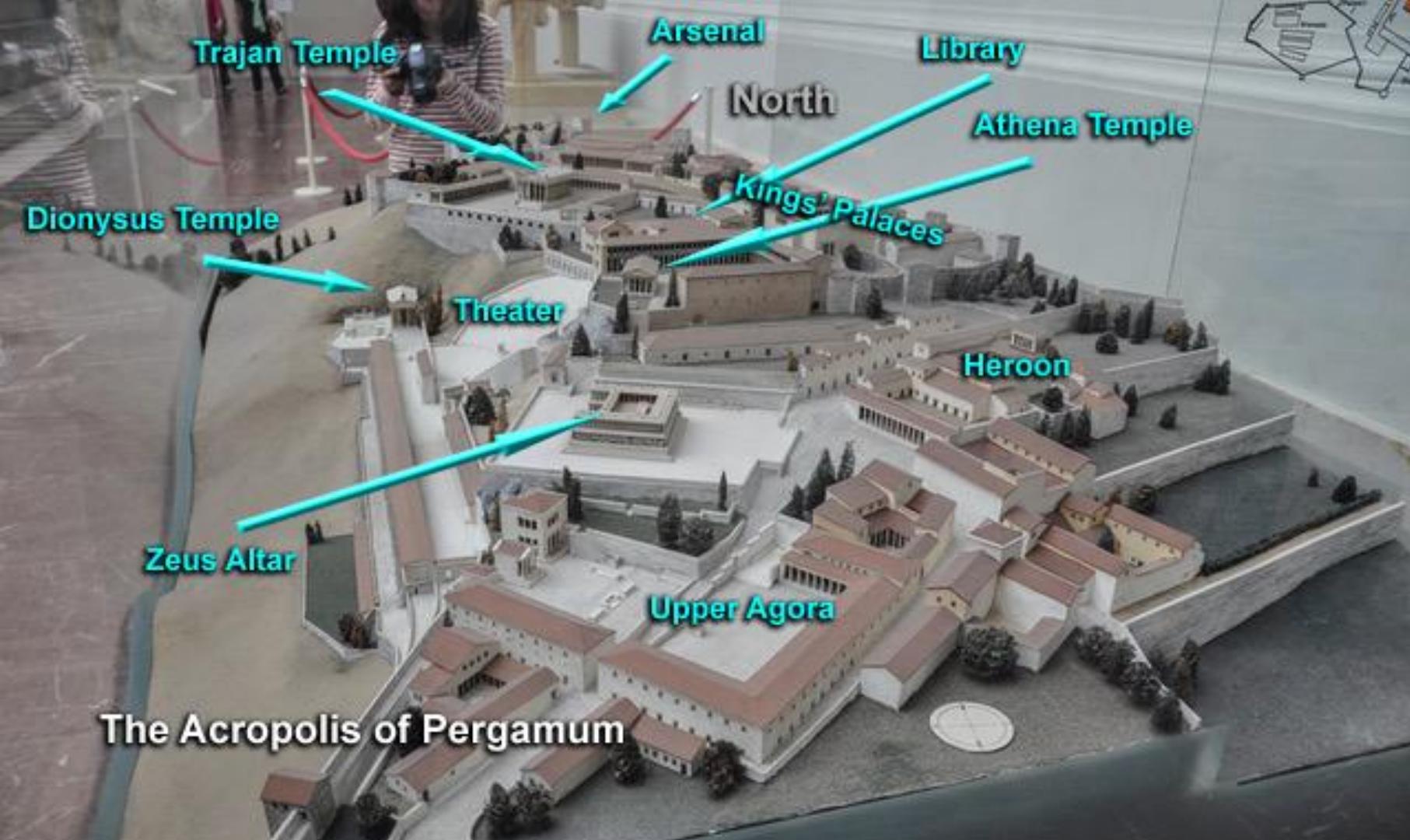
The Letter to Pergamum

1. Instruction to write to angel
2. A sharp two-edged Sword

The Letter to Pergamum

1. Instruction to write to angel
2. A sharp two-edged Sword
3. Faithfulness Under Satan's Throne





The Acropolis of Pergamum



The Letter to Pergamum

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The Letter to
Pergamum

1. Instruction to write to angel
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4. Permissive Compromise with Idolatry

Numbers 25:1-9 ESV

While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel. And the LORD said to Moses, “Take all the chiefs of the people and hang them in the sun before the LORD, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel.” And Moses said to the judges of Israel, “Each of you kill those of his men who have yoked themselves to Baal of Peor.”

Numbers 25:1-9 ESV

And behold, one of the people of Israel came and brought a Midianite woman to his family, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of the whole congregation of the people of Israel, while they were weeping in the entrance of the tent of meeting. When Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose and left the congregation and took a spear in his hand and went after the man of Israel into the chamber and pierced both of them, the man of Israel and the woman through her belly. Thus the plague on the people of Israel was stopped. Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand.

Numbers 31:16 ESV

Behold, these, on Balaam's advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the LORD.

The Letter to Pergamum

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7. Manna, Stone, and Name

Exodus 16:33-34 ESV

And Moses said to Aaron, “Take a jar, and put an omer of manna in it, and place it before the LORD to be kept throughout your generations.” As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the testimony to be kept.

Hebrews 9:3-4 ESV

Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant.

John 6:47-51 ESV

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.

1. Our right to apply this letter

Application

1. Our right to apply this letter
2. Satan's throne and the college campus

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2. Satan's throne and the college campus
3. False teaching in the 21st century

1. Our right to apply this letter
2. Satan's throne and the college campus
3. False teaching in the 21st century
4. The hope of eternal life