

Revelation 2: Church on Earth Jesus Judges the Loveless, Persecuted, Compromising and Corrupt Churches

Remember to Lift Up the Lord Jesus Christ

Chapter 1 Review: Jesus Revealed as Judge of All

Transmission of the Book: Father, Son, Angel, John Servants

Author: Enemy, Savior, Friend, Judge

Beatitude: Blessing for reading, hearing and doing

John and Jesus Greet the Church: Grace and Peace

Jesus Proclamation/John's Identification: A/O; commonality of all Believers

Vision of Jesus as High Priest among the Churches

Vision of Jesus as Judge of the Churches

Outline of Revelation; Have seen, Which are, Which will take place after

Interpretation: Stars = Angels and Lampstands = churches

Chapter 2 Introduction:

7 Letters from Jesus through John to the "angel" of the 7 churches

7 Churches represent ALL churches

Churches views of themselves are very different from reality.

3 Applications:

Seven churches at time John the apostle is writing Revelation on Patmos

Corporate/Individual believer application

Seven church ages over the last 2000 years:

Format of the Letters to the Seven Churches: Commendation, Complaint, Correction

Salutation/Greeting

Identification of Christ as Sender; Characteristics of Jesus described

Assertion of supernatural knowledge of the specific church; true or misrepresentation of the character of God

Exhortation or Comment: Core of the message + or -; i.e. good or bad

Promised (threatened) coming to Judge

Admonition to heed what is said

Blessing Promised if obedient

Revelation 2 The Church on Earth

Ephesus: The Loveless [Legalistic] Church *****

Church Age: Pentecost to 100 A.D. [Apostolic Age]

*...And because lawlessness will abound, **the love of many will grow cold.** 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved. [Matthew 24:12]*

History:

"Vanity Fair of Asia" chief city; temple of Diana one of the Seven Wonders, Modern SW Turkey

Immoral: Fertility Goddess Diana (Artimas) w/ largest Greek temple ever built (418x239 ft) built over a marsh on an artificial foundation of skins and charcoal as to not be affected by earthquakes!

Pastor of Ephesus: First the **Apostle Paul** [Acts 19] then **Timothy** [2 Tim] then **Apostle John. 40 Years** in existence; Mary, Jesus mother, died there

False Doctrine Pendulum: Two sides of the Same

Coin

Licentiousness: Love without Truth [Later] c.f. 2 John

Word of God not taken seriously

Lack of discernment

No definite boundaries

Legalism: Truth without Love; throwing the baby [love] out with the bathwater [false-doctrine]

Discernment morphing into judgment

Letter without Spirit of the Law

Lack of love for both God and man

Scriptural Balance: Love/Truth; e.g. Boldness/ Humility, etc.

Both Legalism and Licentiousness misrepresent the true character of

our God

"Truth without love is brutality, and love without truth is hypocrisy."
— HYPERLINK "http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/477679.Warren_Wiersbe"
[Warren Wiersbe](#)

Salutation

¹ "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says **He who holds the seven stars** in His **right hand**, who walks in the midst of the **seven golden lampstands**:"

Angel: "He [Jesus] who holds...angels" [c.f.Rev.2:18]

Hebrews 1:4 [Jesus], having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they...¹³ *But to which of the angels has He [God the Father] ever said: " Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*

Jesus "walks in the midst of the churches: Relationship/Intimacy Garden of Eden

Genesis 3:8 [Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the LORD **God walking in the garden in the cool of the day**, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Stars: Jesus hold angels [stars] in my right [strong, controlling] hand Jesus walks "in the midst of the **lampstands** i.e. **the Churches** [c.f. Rev.1:20]

Great High Priest:

He fills the lamp with oil; i.e. the Holy Spirit

He trims the wick; i.e. Discipline

He snuffs them out; i.e....Removes the disobedient and/or rebellious church/individual

Commendation: First Words to the first church:

² "I know your **works, your labor, your patience**, and that you **cannot bear those who are evil**. And you have **tested** those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; ³ and you have **persevered and have patience**, and have **labored for My name's sake** and have **not become weary**."

"I know you": I am the One Who walks among the lampstands

I know your **works**

I know your **labor**

I know your **patience**

1 Thessalonians 1: 3 [note contrast to v.2] [I remember] without ceasing your work of **faith**, labor of **love**, and patience of **hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father..

1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal...¹³ And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the **greatest of these is love.**

I know your **intolerance** of evil; hatred of sin is a "*family value*"

I know you **test** those who would come into the church who say they are apostles; i.e. "sent ones" and found them frauds, liars, false

I know you **persevere**; i.e. endure/have patience [2x] and have labored [2x]

I know do this for "**My Name's sake**"!

I know you have **not become weary**

⁴ **Nevertheless** I have *this* against you, that you have **left your first love.**

1 Corinthians 13:3 ...though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, **but have not love, it profits me nothing.**

"You have left your first love"; note "**left**" *not* lost; **Direction is down:**

⁵ **Remember** therefore from where you have **fallen; repent** and **do the first works**, or else I will come to you quickly and **remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.**

Remedy for Intimacy

Three commands: Remember/Repent/Repeat or ***I will remove you...quickly:***

They are working **hard**

They have **fallen** away

Falling from Grace into Legalism: backsliding though seemingly moving forward

Colossians 2:23 These things [commandments and doctrines of men] indeed have an **appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion**, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

Remember from where you fallen; falling *cannot* mean they did not work hard enough as per previous vv.

Galatians 5:4 You have become **estranged from Christ**, you who **attempt to be justified by law**; you have **fallen from grace** [unearned kindness].

The Ephesians started out well understanding there need for grace, but took Paul's instructions too far:

Acts 20:28 [Read] Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 **Therefore watch**, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. 32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God...

Remember: How you were saved, law or faith?

Galatians 3:1 ...Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? 2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, **are you now being made perfect by the flesh?**

2 Peter I: 2 [Read] Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 **For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.**

Repent: Change direction from legalism back to love, the remedy for not sharing their lives with others i.e. "us four and no more" i.e. *Taking the next off ramp and going the opposite direction"*

Repeat: Do the things you did when you first fell in love with Jesus

Back to the simple relationship with Jesus **exemplified by loving people**

Acts 20:37 Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him...sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.

Loving God means loving others created in His Image:

HYPERLINK "http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25:40&version=NKJV" Matthew 25:40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you **did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.**'

HYPERLINK "http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25:45&version=NKJV" Matthew 25:45 Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of **the least of these, you did not do it to Me.**'

Legalism: Characterized by a desire to learn superseding a desire to love:

2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. **3** But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the **simplicity that is in Christ.**

Remove your Lampstand from its place: Still calling itself a church but without Christ in it's midst.

This was the fate of the Ephesian Church and all churches that fall into legalism; later the city became a ruin. It is Muslim controlled today.

6 But **this you have**, that **you hate** the deeds of the **Nicolaitans**, which I also hate.

Jesus says I like this...you hate what I hate! Don't stop HATING sin! Not sinners, but their DEEDS; Ephesus did not tolerate

Nicolaitans, another church will

Nicolaitans: Gr. *Nikao* "overcome" and *Laos* "people"

2 Views:

A heretical sect within the church which taught spiritual liberty and grace were provisions for licentiousness and idolatry [c.f. Acts 6:3]

Acts 6:3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;...**5** they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and **Nicolas**, a proselyte from Antioch...

A heretical sect teaching a doctrine of separation between Laity and Clergy i.e. Super-Duper saints, robes, hats, the works!

Summary: The Nicolaitans were a heretical group within the general church that falsely claimed divine authority and tried to usurp authority from God's appointed and anointed leaders, they were false teachers and Christ hates their deeds

Pergamos will "put up" with the Nicolaitan doctrine [v.15] while **Ephesus hates their deeds**; Other False doctrine in Revelation: *Balaam and Jezebel*

Concluding Remarks

7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To **him who overcomes** I will give to **eat from the tree of life**, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Note: What Jesus says...the Spirit says

Hear what the Spirit says: 7 Spirits/Seven-Fold Spirit

Revelation 1:4 Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the **seven Spirits who are before His throne**, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ,

Common beginning to church letter conclusions: **He who has an ear...hear!**

Matthew 7:25 ...everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and **does not do them**, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And **great was its fall.**"

Tree of Life in the midst of the Garden of Eden: Forbidden until

Jesus provision:

Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The **tree of life was also in the midst of the garden**, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 3:22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and **take also of the tree of life**, and eat, and live forever"— [banished with angel guarding the Tree; ref. to the Cross?]

Tree of Life in the midst of Paradise: 'No Trespassing' sign is down [JV. McGee]

Revelation 22:2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations... **14** Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. [Curse reversed]

He who overcomes?

1 John 2:13 I write to you, young men, because you have *overcome the wicked one*.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have ***overcome the world***."

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John+5:4&version=NKJV>" 1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 ***Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?***

Overcoming and Endurance are a distinction of the truly saved

Overcoming for the Ephesian church will mean:

Remembering what God did for them

Repenting from legalism, turning to love [God and others]

Repeating the deeds they did when they fell in love with

Jesus

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13:35&version=NKJV>" John 13:35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, **if you have love for one another."**

Legalism leads to a lack of love and is a misrepresentation of God's character

The purpose of the law is to reveal sin:

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+3:20&version=NKJV>" Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the **knowledge of sin.**

1 Timothy 1:8 Now the purpose of the commandment [love your neighbor as yourself] is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith, ⁶ from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, ⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm. ⁸ But we know that the law *is* good if one uses it lawfully, ⁹ knowing this: **that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for *the lawless*...**

*Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, **the love of many will grow cold.** 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved. [Matthew 24:11]*

Ephesus Application: As things deteriorate we will be tempted to "write-off" those we consider "sinners" with no hope; those that do not...and cannot keep the law:

"...the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, **neither indeed can be.**" [Romans 8:7]

Have we left our first love by becoming critical and legalistic; not sharing but testing, knowing a lot about Jesus without spending time with Him in order to demonstrate His love to others? Jesus is "among the lampstands" [churches]; He is near but will REMOVE a church that refuses to love and put on the shelf individual believers who do the same by forgetting what Jesus saved them from.

Smyrna: The Persecuted [Martyr] Church *****
Church Age: 100A.D.-314 A.D.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory... [2 Corinthians 4:17]

History:

Modern day Ismir Turkey; Port City "The Glory of Asia" North of Ephesus, destroyed 627B.C. and abandoned for 400 years planned to be rebuilt by Alexander but completed after his death. 35 miles north of Ephesus

Known for schools, science and medicine and...paved streets. A temple to the "god of wine" was there.

Persecution: Roman Imperial cult and large Jewish population cause One of John's converts Polycarp was minister until martyred in A.D. 150

Shortest message from Jesus other seven churches: **Jesus has nothing bad to say** [also Philadelphia] and does represent God's character

Salutation

8 "And to the angel of the church in write, 'These things says the **First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:**

Jesus again begins with encouragement:

"I am the Eternal God"

"I have been through every trial you will ever go through"

HYPERLINK "http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+4:15&version=NKJV" [Hebrews 4:15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+4:15&version=NKJV) For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was **in all points tempted** as we are, yet without sin.

" I was dead but now I am alive"

1 Corinthians 15:3 ...I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas [Peter], then by the twelve. 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also...

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+16:33&version=NKJV>" [John 16:33](#) ... In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, **I have overcome the world."**

⁹ **"I know your works, tribulation, and poverty** (but you are rich); **and I know the blasphemy** of those who say they are Jews and are not, **but are a synagogue of Satan.**"

Jesus knew their:

Works:

Mixed with Love

Led by Christ

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God **prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

1 Corinthians 3:11 ...no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ **each one's work will become clear**; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

Tribulation [c.f. 2 Cor.6:4-10] also, not the "Great Tribulation"

Acts 14:22 [After Paul was stoned, he and Barnabas continued...] strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

2 Timothy 3:12 Yes, and **all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**

Poverty [...but you are rich]

Matthew 6:20 ...lay up for yourselves **treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

2 Corinthians 6:4 ...in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God...**10** sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and **yet possessing all things.**

Luke 12:33 Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a **treasure** in the **heavens** that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys.

Ridicule received from **Synagogue of Satan**

Matthew 10:24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household! 26 Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

Synagogue of Satan: Ephesus had false-apostles, Smyrna has false Jews

Jewish proselytes or Jews who refuse to believe Jesus is Messiah

These "religious" people would add wood to the fire of the martyrs:

SIGNIFICANT: *These religious "Jews" would want to "bring back the priesthood". They will merge with the Nicolaitans [false-apostles] who desired a separation between Clergy and Laity, forming a works-based religious system complete with ritualistic ordinances, sacrifices, and penances...but without the restraint or means of restraint [Spirit] to control sin, licentiousness or sensuality.*

10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the **crown of life.**

Do not fear: Typical of Jesus to His followers before a trial

The devil: Principality and power behind the leader of the Synagogue of Satan

"Some" will be imprisoned

10 Days of tribulation

Martyred

10 days: Pre-determined period of time; i.e., not forever

Literally TEN [10] days:

Daniel 1:12 "Please test your servants for **ten days**, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink... **14** So he consented with them in this matter, and **tested them ten days**. **15** And at the end of **ten days** their features **appeared better** and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies.

10 Periods of Roman Emperor Rule and Persecution:

Nero—A.D. 64-68 (Paul beheaded)
Domitian—95-96 (John exiled)
Trajan—104-117 (Ignatius burned at the stake)
Marcus Aurelius—161-180

Polycarp

The pastor of the church in Smyrna was a student and disciple of John. His name was Polycarp. Polycarp's ministry ended in a.d. 156 when persecution of Christians increased and they were tortured and thrown to the wild beasts. Polycarp was marched into the amphitheater where a mob was waiting to see what form of ghoulish pleasure they could get from his violent death. As he stood before the proconsul, he was commanded to deny Christ, but he replied, "Eighty-six years have I served Him and He never did me any harm; how then can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?" "As the old man stood before the crowd in the stadium, the governor shouted, "I'll have you destroyed by fire, unless you change your attitude." Polycarp answered: "You threaten me with fire which burns for an hour and after a little is extinguished. But you are ignorant of the fires of the coming judgment and of eternal punishment reserved for the ungodly. But why do you delay? Bring on what you will." "The crowd gathered wood and threw torches on the pyre. Their hatred was bitter and they cheered as the godly man was brought to the stake. As the flames began to curl around his body, Polycarp prayed: "I thank you that you have graciously thought me worthy of this day and of this hour, that I may be a part of the number of martyrs to die for Christ."

Severus—200-211
Maximinius—235-237
Decius—250-253
Valerian—257-260
Aurelian—270-275
Diocletian—303-313 (the worst emperor)

Crown of life: Special crown for those who suffer for Jesus:

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+1:12&version=NKJV>" [James 1:12](#) Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the **crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+16:11&version=NKJV>" [Psalm 16:11](#) You will show me

the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are **pleasures forevermore**.

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

Concluding Remarks

11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."**

Second Death: Born twice die once; Born once die twice [Physically/Spiritually]

Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

HYPERLINK "http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+20:6&version=NKJV" [Revelation 20:6](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+20:6&version=NKJV) Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years...**14 Then Death and Hades** were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ...

Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, **which is the second death."**

...For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory... [2 Corinthians 4:17]

Smyrna Application: *Are we being crushed, tested? Jesus also was crushed and overcame death.*

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was ***in all points tempted*** as we are, yet without sin. [**HYPERLINK "http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+4:15&version=NKJV" [Hebrews 4:15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+4:15&version=NKJV)**]

There is a pre-determined period of time leading to treasure in heaven for eternity

Remember to Lift Up the Lord Jesus Christ

Ephesus: Loveless Legalistic Church

Backsliding into legalism; Nicolaitans: False Apostles

Smyrna: Persecuted Church

Poor and Persecuted but Rich and Successful in Jesus Eyes; Synagogue of Satan: False

Jews

Pergamos and Thyatira: now TEACHING False-Doctrine

Pergamos: The Compromising Church [Constantine] *****

Church Age: 314-590 A.D.

History:

"Most illustrious province of Asia" most beautiful city in East. 60 miles north of Smyrna, Capital of the Roman province of Asia

Library of 200,000 parchment scrolls later given to Alexander/Cleopatra

English "Parchment" derived its name from "Pergamos"

Religious center exemplified by worship of "Aesculapius" ["scalpel"], "the god of healing", depicted as a **living serpent...Satan**; Worshiped under the sign of a "coiled snake on a pole"

Temple of Zeus [7 Wonder], Dionysos and Athene; Center of Caesar worship w/ a temple dedicated to Augustus in 29bc.

Behind Pergamos stood a great conical hill littered w/heathen temples

Enter "the world" or Idolatry [mixture] Nicolaitanism / Balaamism

Infiltration

Salutation

12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the **sharp two-edged sword**:"

Sword=Word: Discerner of Truth; cutting out the disease of compromise

Jesus has the Sword, He is the sword and He will use the sword!

Hebrews 4:12 For the **word of God is living and powerful**, and sharper than any **two-edged sword**, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a **discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.** [c.f. Eph. 6]

13 "I know your **works**, and where you **dwell**, where **Satan's throne is**. And you **hold fast to My name**, and **did not deny My faith** even in the days in which **Antipas** was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

I know your:

Works

Home

"Where you dwell" i.e. not just "passing through"

Oppression

Demonic power over real estate; Satan's throne is not hell
Religious center moved from Babylon during demise of Belshazzar, to Pergamos; Zeus temple/Satan's throne

Steadfastness...to My Name

Athanasius from N. Africa stood against the Arian heresy; i.e. Jesus is a created being

Council of Nicaea condemned Arianism in 325 A.D.

Augustine answered Pelagianism; i.e. denial of depravity

Courage

You do not deny My Name even in the midst of terror

Antipas: Known only to the Lord; tradition: roasted to death

¹⁴ But I have a **few things against you**, because you have there those who **hold the doctrine of Balaam**, who taught Balak to put a **stumbling block** before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

2 Heresies in Pergamos; Balaam [heb. "not of the people"], and Nicolaitans [gr. "conquering the people"]

Pergamos has not kept out the false-teachers as Ephesus and Smyrna

Balaam: Way (Error) of and Doctrine of:

Way of Balaam: Riches through ministry; "hired" and "wages" used in connection with Balaam; love of money and worldliness; also known as the "**error of Balaam**" in Jude 11

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Peter+2:15&version=NKJV>" 2 Peter 2:15 They [false teachers] have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the **way of Balaam** the son of Beor, **who loved the wages of unrighteousness...**

"Doctrine of Balaam" Stumbling Block: TEACHING compromise with the world; "joined to Satan" i.e. Holy w/ un-holy

Balaam could not curse Israel for the pagan king Balak so he taught him **how to stumble the people of God:**

Numbers 31:16 ...these women caused the children of Israel, through the **counsel of Balaam**, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

Numbers 25:1 ...the people **began to commit harlotry** with the women of Moab. 2 They invited the people to the **sacrifices of their**

gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. 3 So Israel was **joined to Baal** of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.

1 Corinthians 6:15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." 17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

The doctrine of Balaam was to gain control over God's people by seducing them to compromise with the world, especially those who worshiped false gods. [Morris, 48]

Giving un-anointed "teachers" a platform causes the **spread of corruption**:

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+8:15&version=NKJV>" Mark 8:15 Then He charged them, saying, "Take heed, beware of the **leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.**"

Revelation 2:20 ... I have a few things against you, because **you allow that** woman **Jezebel**, who calls herself a prophetess, **to teach** and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

15 Thus you also have those who hold the **doctrine** of the **Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.**

Ephesians hated the "**deeds**" of the **Nicolaitans**; Pergamos had some that **held to the "doctrine"** of the Nicolaitans; a heretical sect within the church which taught that grace was a **provision for licentiousness and idolatry** *also taught* **separation between Laity and Clergy; i.e. hierarchy**

2 Fold difference from Ephesus hating the "deeds" of the Nicolaitans:

Pergamos is allowing the Nicolaitans to be **members** of the church!
Pergamos is allowing the Nicolaitans to **teach** in the church!

"...which thing I HATE" Jesus hates false-doctrine [teaching] because:

It's false...God is Truth

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14:6&version=NKJV>" [John 14:6](#) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+16:13&version=NKJV>" [John 16:13](#) However, when He, the **Spirit of truth**, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Titus 1:2 [speaks of the] hope of eternal life which **God, who cannot lie**, promised before time began...

False teaching causes dissention

Proverbs 6:16 These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, **And one who sows discord among brethren.**

False leads to compromise e.g. the Catholic Church

3 Ways to Peg a False Teacher

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jude+1:11&version=NKJV>" [Jude 1:11](#) Woe to them [false teachers]! For they have gone in the **way of Cain**, have run greedily in the **error of Balaam for profit**, and perished in the **rebellion of Korah.**

Cain: No regard for the Blood; I.e. "I will teach what I feel is okay; never mind what God says" [e.g. United Methodist]

Balaam: Religion as a means to get rich [e.g. Prosperity Gospel]; compromise with the world

Korah: Pride. Rebellion against church authority leading to dissention and church split [JW's]

False teachers are to be dealt with harshly and swiftly; Heaven and Hell

James 3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become **teachers**, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

HYPERLINK "http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+16:24&version=NKJV" [Numbers 16:24](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+16:24&version=NKJV) "Speak to the congregation, saying, 'Get away from the tents of Korah...'

Concluding Remarks

16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will **fight against them with the sword of My mouth.**

Fight against **them**: False teachers leading to church dissention [church split]

17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who **overcomes I will give** some of the **hidden manna to eat**. And I will give him a **white stone**, and on the stone a **new name** written which no one knows except him who receives *it*."

Overcoming for Pergamos means: Living faithfully in an environment of religious compromise

Promise for overcoming:

Hidden Manna: Holy Food rather than that sacrificed to idols

Exodus 16:33 And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before the LORD, **to be kept for your generations.**"

Hebrews 9:4 which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden **pot that had the manna**, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

White Stone: Purity; Ephod worn by the High Priest who alone would have access to the Holy of Holy's and the Ark filled with *Hidden Manna*

Exodus 28:15 "You shall make the breastplate of judgment... the workmanship of the ephod you shall make it..**17** you shall put **settings of stones in it**, four rows of stone...They shall be set in **gold settings.** **21** And the stones shall have the **names of the sons of Israel, twelve according to their names, like** the engravings of a

signet, each one with its **own name**; they shall be according to the twelve tribes.

No white stone, perhaps a diamond responding to the Urim for God's answer:

Leviticus 8:8 Then he put the breastplate on him, and he put the Urim [lights] and the Thummim in the breastplate.

New Name: Not the name our earthly parents gave to us which may or may not apply to our character; a name given by Jesus Himself which applies specifically to our relation to Him

Pergamos Dichotomy: A faithful Church infiltrated by false teachers= eventual compromise; **No church discipline/ discernment/courage**

Jesus: "You deal with it...or I will!" [C.f. Ananias, with Sapphira in Acts 5]

Pergamos Application: What are we allowing to infiltrate the rooms of our heart?

And He said to me, "Go in, and see the wicked abominations which they are doing there." 10 So I went in and saw, and there—every sort of creeping thing, abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed all around on the walls. 11 And there stood before them seventy men of the elders [Ezekiel 8:9]

Pergamos' compromise with the Nicolaitans and the Synagogue of Satan has now ushered in the birth of the Catholic Church, becoming more and more corrupt as seen next in Thyatira

Thyatira: The Corrupt Church/ Dark Ages *****

Church Age: 590-1517 A.D.

History:

Headquarters of guilds; e.g. potters, tanners, robe-makers, dye makers [center of the dying industry] Lydia from Acts 16 came from there; Sun god worshiped

Longest letter to the churches; Thyatira is 40 miles east of Pergamos

Least important politically of the 7 churches

Lydia was from Thyatira; [Acts 16:14] and possibly assisted planting

Jesus will no longer tolerate Thyatira's religious adultery, though the

letter is actually written to the faithful v.24

Love without Truth = Hypocrisy; i.e. Corruption; [Truth without Love = Brutality]

2 John 1:10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; 11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

Salutation

Jesus continues as Judge of the churches:

18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the **Son of God**, who has **eyes like a flame of fire**, and His **feet like fine brass**:

Son of God: God the Son

Eyes like a flame of fire...v.23 He Who searches the minds and hearts

Feet like fine brass: Judgment. V.27 Enemies dashed to pieces

19 "I know your **works, love, service, faith**, and your **patience**; and as for your **works**, the last *are* more than the first.

I know your:

Works...more than the first [see Ephesus]

Love [unlike Ephesus, pendulum swinging the other way]

Service

Faith

Patience

20 Nevertheless I have a **few things against** you, because you allow that woman **Jezebel**, who **calls herself a prophetess**, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

1 Timothy 2:12 ...I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the **woman being deceived**, fell into transgression.

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+3:13&version=NKJV>" [Genesis 3:13](#) And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman

said, **"The serpent deceived me, and I ate."**

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians+11:3&version=NKJV>" 2 Corinthians 11:3

But I fear, lest somehow, as the **serpent deceived Eve** by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Genesis 3:16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; **Your desire shall be for your husband**, And he shall rule over you." 17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have **heeded the voice of your wife**, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': **"Cursed..."**

The Husband	Scripture References	Jesus Christ
Head of the wife	1 Corinthians 11:3 Ephesians 5:23	Head of the Church
Protector of wife	Ephesians 5:23, 29	Savior of the Church
Lover of the wife	Hosea 2:13-14 Ephesians 5:25, 28, 29 Song of Solomon	Lover of the Church
The Wife	Scripture References	The Church
Submitted to husband	Ephesians 5:22-24	Submitted to Christ
One with husband	Genesis 2:23-24 Mark 10:8 Ephesians 5:31-32	One with Christ
Bride, betrothed to her husband	Isaiah 54:5 Jeremiah 3:14 Hosea 2:16, 19, 20	Bride of Christ, betrothed to know the Lord
Bridal gown of white	Isaiah 61:10 Revelation 19:6-9	Fine linen, the righteousness of the saints

Wedding feast	Matt. 22:1-14 John 2:1-11 Rev. 19:7, 8	Marriage supper of the Lamb
Permanency of the marriage vow	Matt. 19:3-6 1 Cor. 7:10, 11, 39	Promise of eternal life in the kingdom of God

Jezebel spirit: Hostile Takeover; Substitute

1 Kings 16:31...[King Ahab] took as wife **Jezebel** the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and **served Baal and worshiped him.**

Religious: v.24 "the depths of Satan", v.20 "calls herself a prophetess"

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Kings+18:4&version=NKJV>" 1 Kings 18:4 ...while Jezebel **massacred the prophets** of the LORD ...Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them

Dangerous: Not bluffing

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Kings+18:19&version=NKJV>" 1 Kings 18:19 [Elijah said] ...send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the **four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."**

Seductive: Followers

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Kings+19:2&version=NKJV>" 1 Kings 19:2 ... Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not **make your life as the life of one of them** [false prophets killed by Elisha] **by tomorrow** about this time." ³ And when he saw *that*, he arose and **ran for his life**, and went to Beersheba, which *belongs* to Judah, and left his servant there.

Intimidating: Men of God

1 Kings 21:4 So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And

he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food. 5 But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said to him, "Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?" 6 He said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite, and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'"

Opportunist: Using the weak to gain strength

1 Kings 21:7 Then Jezebel his wife said to him, "You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." 8 And she wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the **elders and the nobles** who were dwelling in the city with Naboth. 9 She wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth with high honor among the people; 10 and seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him, saying, "You have blasphemed God and the king." Then take him out, and stone him, that he may die.

Hostile-Takeover : Ends justifying the means

1 Kings 21:23 ...concerning Jezebel the LORD also spoke, saying, '**The dogs shall eat Jezebel** by the wall of Jezreel.' ²⁴ The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field." ²⁵ **But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up.**

Judged: Guilty

2 Kings 9:6 [The servant of Elisha] poured the oil on [Jehu's] head, and said to him, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: '**I have anointed you king over the people of the LORD, over Israel.**' 7 You shall strike down the house of Ahab your master, that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel.

Overcome: by God's anointed acting as God's anointed

2 Kings 9:30 Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she put paint on her eyes and adorned her head, and looked through a window. 31 Then, as Jehu entered at the gate, she said, "Is

it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?" 32 And he looked up at the window, and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" So two or three eunuchs looked out at him. 33 Then he said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses; and he trampled her underfoot. 34 And when he had gone in, he ate and drank. Then he said, "Go now, see to this accursed woman, and bury her, for she was a king's daughter." 35 So they went to bury her, but they found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands. 36 Therefore they came back and told him. And he said, "This is the word of the LORD, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 'On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel; 37 and the corpse of Jezebel shall be as refuse on the surface of the field, in the plot at Jezreel, so that they shall not say, "**Here lies Jezebel.**"'"

Jezebel in the World	Jezebel in the Church	Church Authority Structure	Family Authority Structure	Godhead Authority Structure
Authority Battle between male/female	Feeling based rather than Scripture based teaching; lack of Spiritual Discernment	Pastor	Husband	Father
Divorce	Refutation of God's given order; i.e. Genesis, Pauline letters, Jesus, etc.	Elders	Wife	Son
Gender blending / Sex-Changes	Woman "pastors"	Deacons	Children	Holy Spirit

Feminism/Lesbianism Scriptural authority questioned and/or denied "...did God really say?" Cults Sexual Promiscuity Lesbian "pastors"; i.e. sexual immorality; the goal of our enemy as per Romans 1

21 And I gave her **time to repent** of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

Jesus gave her time to repent: Season before judgment; God not mocked:

Genesis 15:16 But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites [i.e. Canaanites] is **not yet complete.**"

22 Indeed I will **cast her into a sickbed**, and those who commit

adultery with her into **great tribulation**, unless they repent of their deeds.

Cast her into a sickbed: Contrast with the bed of adultery no more
Those who follow her into the "**great tribulation**" not raptured

²³ I will **kill her children with death**, and all the churches shall know that I am **He who searches the minds and hearts**. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

Children: Converts birthed from her false-doctrine; contrast Timothy as a son

"I am He who searches the minds and hearts..." One of seven "I Am" statements in Revelation by Jesus

Revelation 2:18: ...eyes like a flame of fire

Kill her children with death: Those seduced, taking the mark of the beast

Concluding Remarks

²⁴ "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as **do not have this doctrine**, who have **not known the depths of Satan**, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.

Depths of Satan: more information about Jezebel, Satan's Substitute; i.e. the **Woman that rides the beast as a little girl** [c.f. Rev.17]

1 Corinthians 2:10 ...God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, **the deep things of God**.

Romans 16:19 For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and **simple concerning evil**.

Love without truth = Tolerance and Diversity...perverted

²⁵ But hold fast what you have **till I come**. ²⁶ And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give **power over the nations**— ²⁷ *'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'*—as I also have received from My Father;

Till I come: Some would see Jesus Second Coming: Validation of

Church Age interpretation [see also v 22 "great tribulation"]

Power over nations: After mention of the 2nd coming, then the Millennial Kingdom:

He who overcomes will have power over nations; rule with rod of iron, dash to pieces! **Revelation 2:18** ... feet like fine brass [Judgment]

28 and I will give him the **morning star**.

Revelation 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the **Bright and Morning Star**."

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

29 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Jeremiah used this term BEFORE judgment fell on Israel:

Jeremiah 5:21 'Hear this now, O **foolish people**, Without understanding, Who have eyes and see not, And who have **ears and hear not**: ²² Do you not fear Me?' says the LORD.

Thyatira Application: Men and woman together are created in the "image of God". Each sex fulfilling God-given roles is beautiful and edifying to both. Covering from, usurping, perverting or changing God's order is destruction and damnation to the world and corruption leading to the death of a church.

Aerial View: Chapters 1-2

Chapter 1: Jesus Revealed as Judge; the Person of Jesus Christ

Transmission of the Book, Author, Blessing for reading, hearing and doing; Jesus Proclamation/John's Identification to Believers

Vision of Jesus as High Priest, Judge of the Churches; Outline of Revelation; Have seen, Which are, Which will take place after

Stars are Angels/Lampstands are churches

Chapter 2 Church on Earth; the Possession of Jesus Christ

I. Ephesus: Loveless Legalistic Church

Backsliding into legalism; Hated deeds of Nicolaitans i.e. False Apostles

Remedy for Intimacy with our First Love, Remember what God did for us, Repent from legalism, turn to love [God and others] , Repeat the deeds we did when we fell in love with Jesus

II. Smyrna: Persecuted Church

Poor and Persecuted but Rich and Successful in Jesus Eyes

Synagogue of Satan: False Jews; No Rebuke, encouragement to endure/attain reward; i.e. Crown of Life

Nicolaitans plus + Synagogue of Satan usher in Pergamos

III. Pergamos: Compromising Church

Holding to the false doctrine of Balaam [stumbling by introducing world], Nicolaitans [Laity/Clergy split]

IV. Thyatira: Corrupt Church

False teaching of Jezebel embraced, Infiltration with/of the world and world views

What's Missing?

Paradox

Good Works

Sound Doctrine