

PART 8: The church age – Pergamum & Thyatira

THE BOOK OF **REVELATION** A STORY OF THE LAST DAYS

2026Sep6 Dan Fisher - Rev Lesson 8: "The Church Age -
Pergamum & Thyatira

The things which are –
the churches

A map of the eastern Mediterranean region, specifically the area around the Aegean Sea, showing the locations of the Seven Churches of Asia. A light gray line connects the seven cities in a clockwise loop. The cities are labeled with white text and a black dot: Pergamum (top left), Thyatira (top right), Sardis (middle right), Philadelphia (bottom right), Laodicea (bottom), Ephesus (bottom left), and Smyrna (middle left).

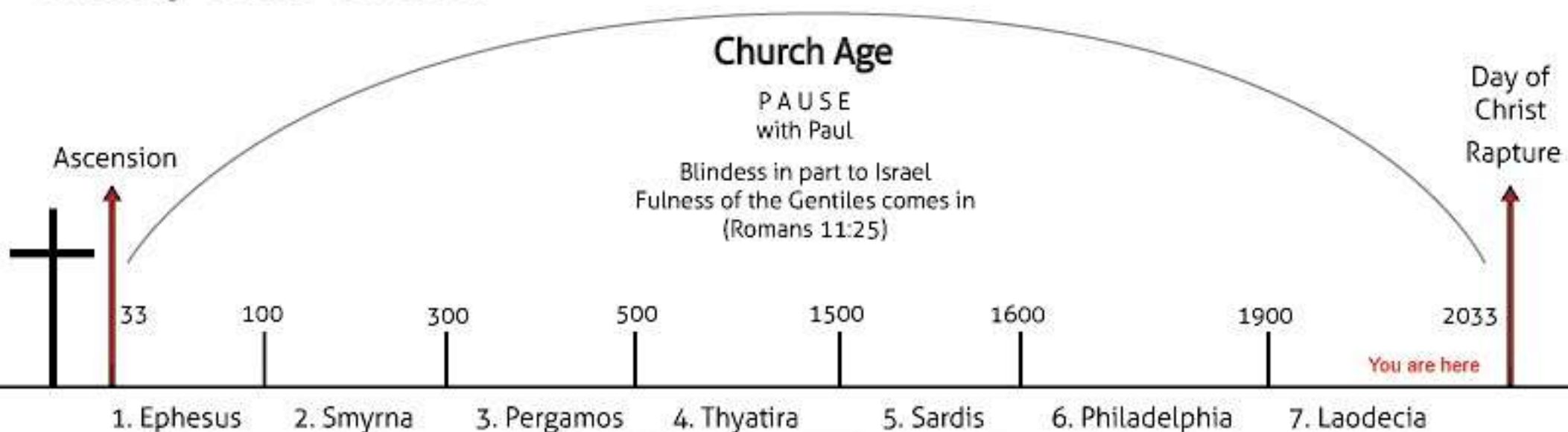
Pergamum • Thyatira • Sardis • Philadelphia • Laodicea • Ephesus • Smyrna

Message to the Seven Churches

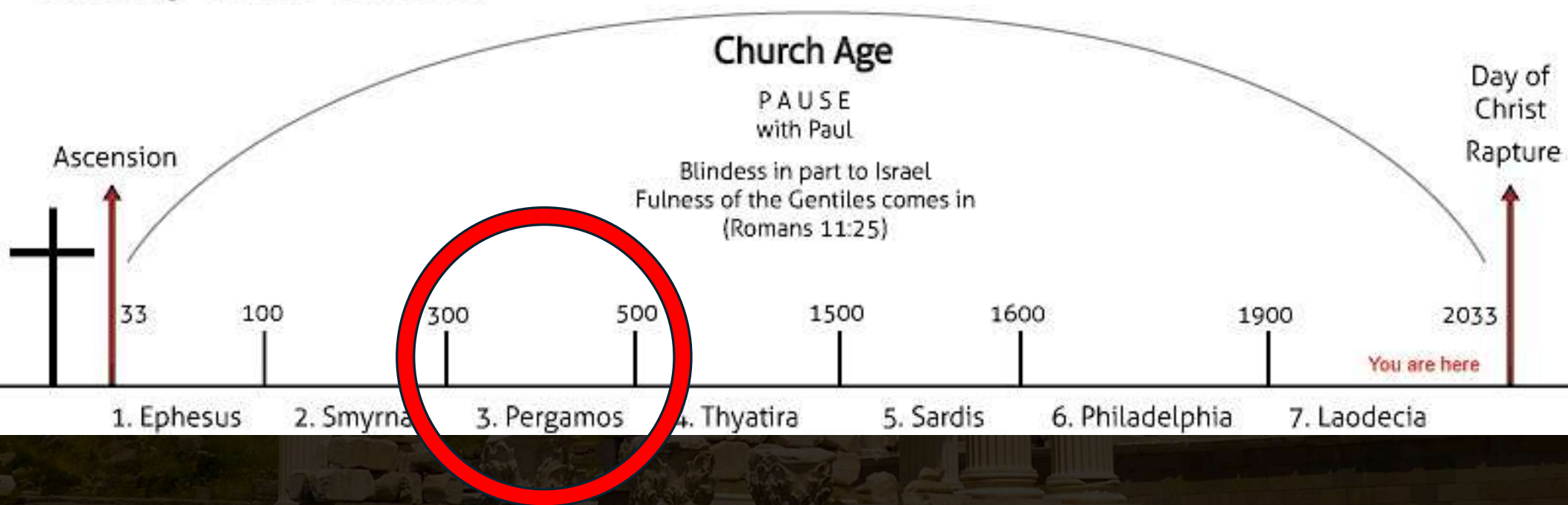
Part 8:
Pergamum – the church
that “married” the world



History of the Church



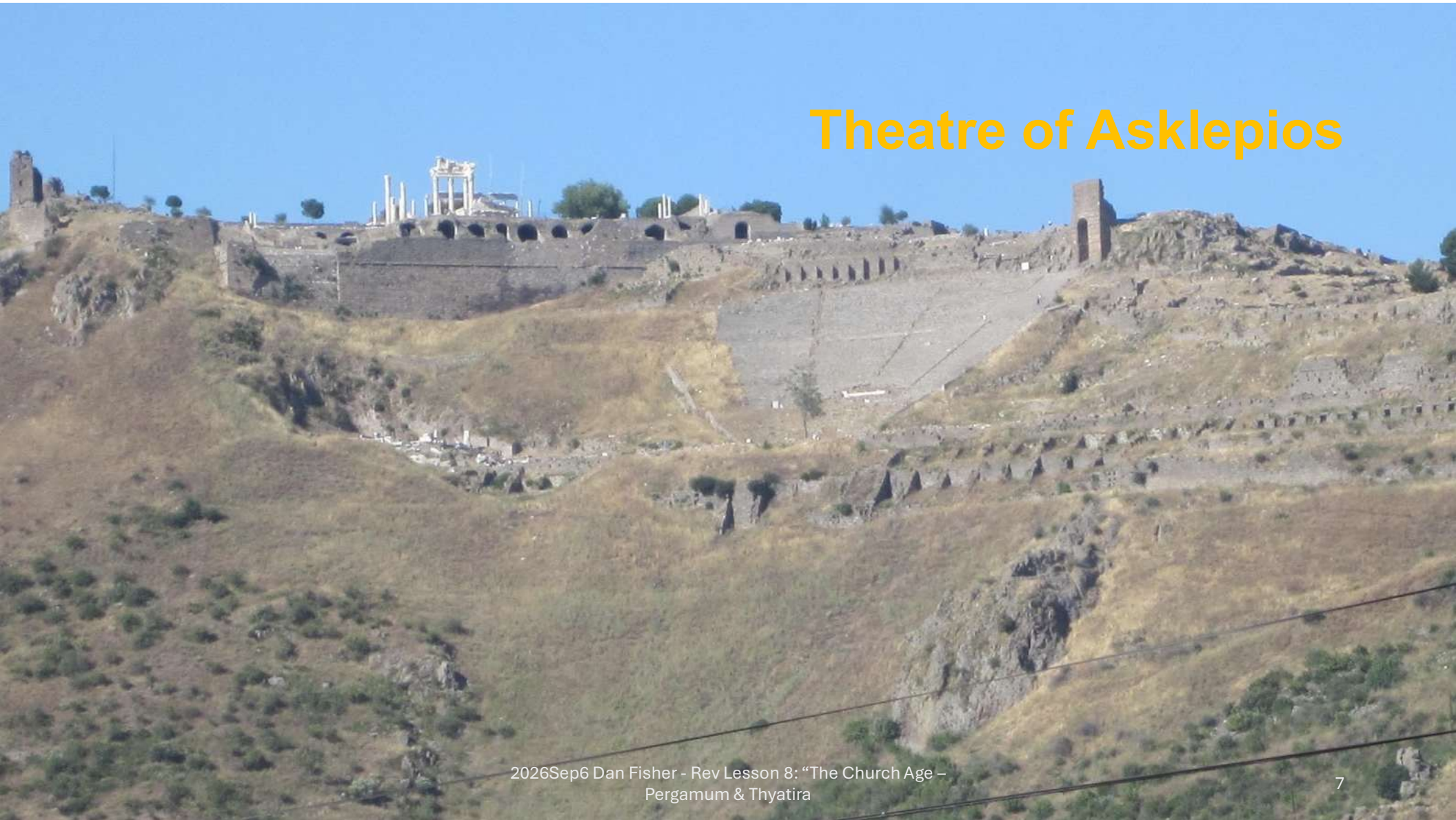
History of the Church



Theatre of Asklepios

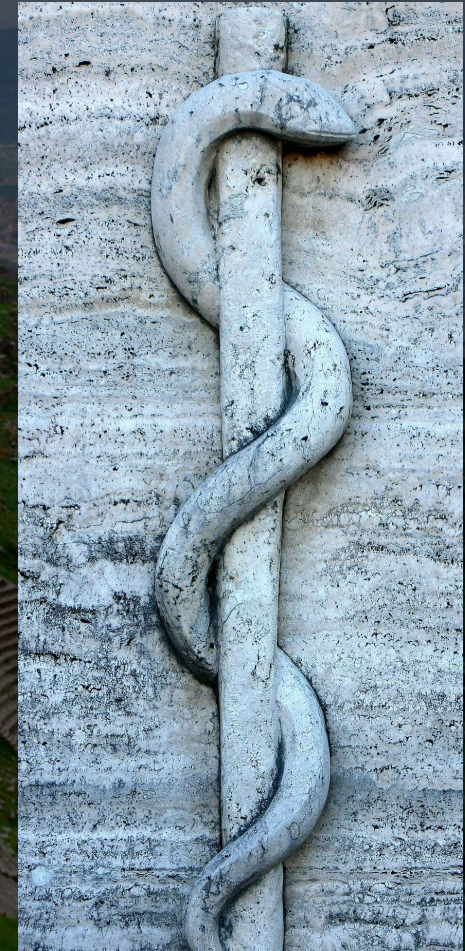


Theatre of Asklepios



Theatre of Asklepios

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Pergamum & Thyatira

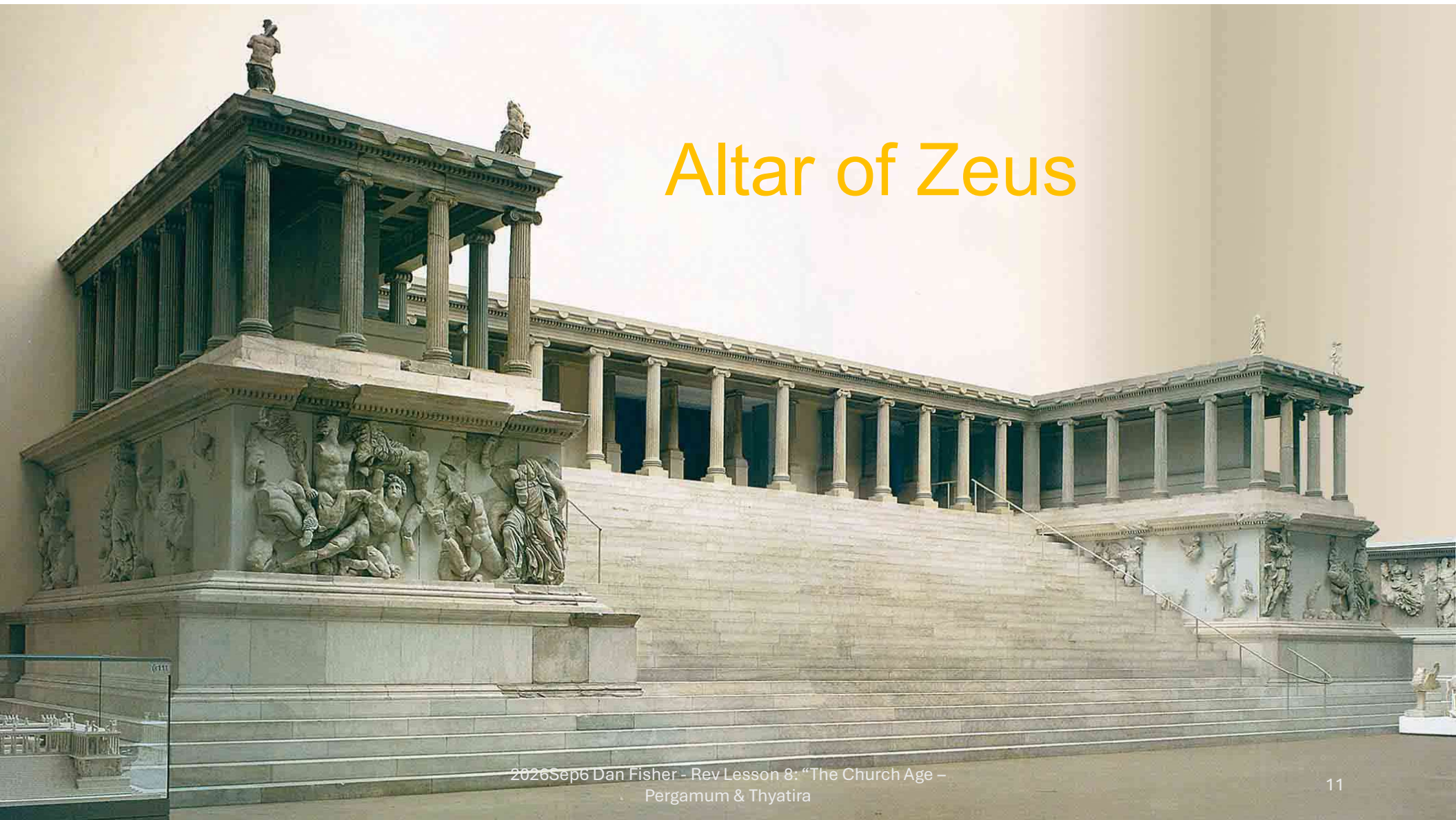


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Pergamum & Thyatira

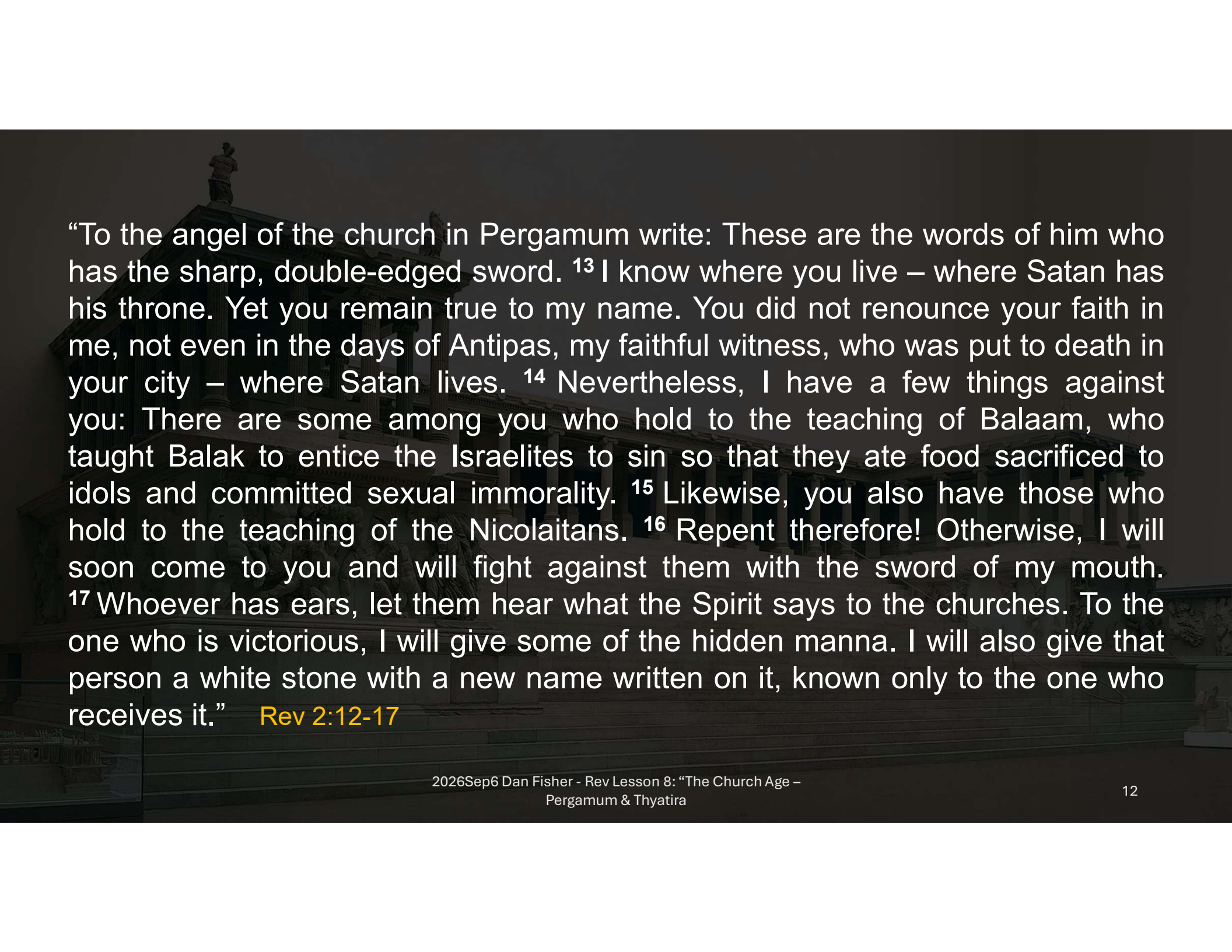


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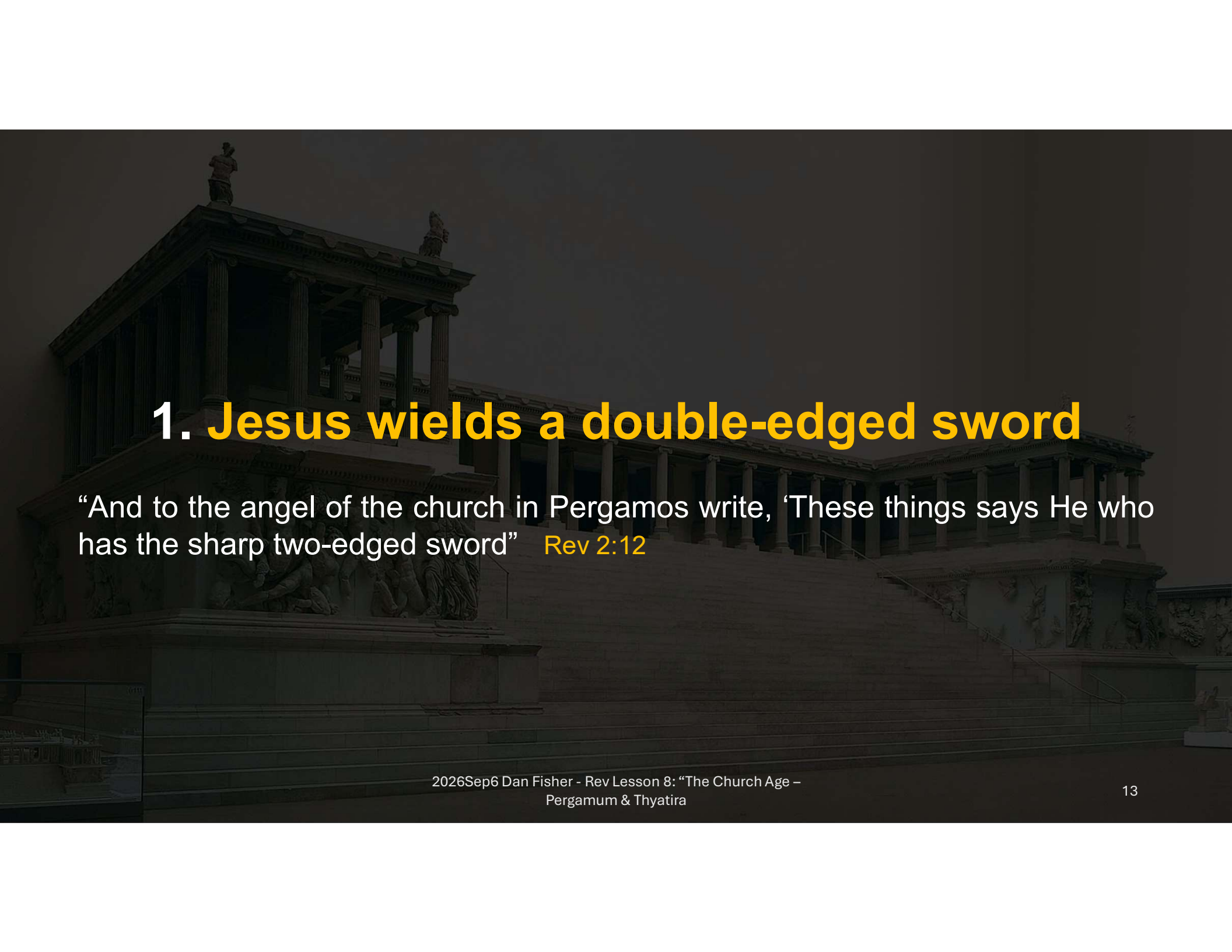
Altar of Zeus



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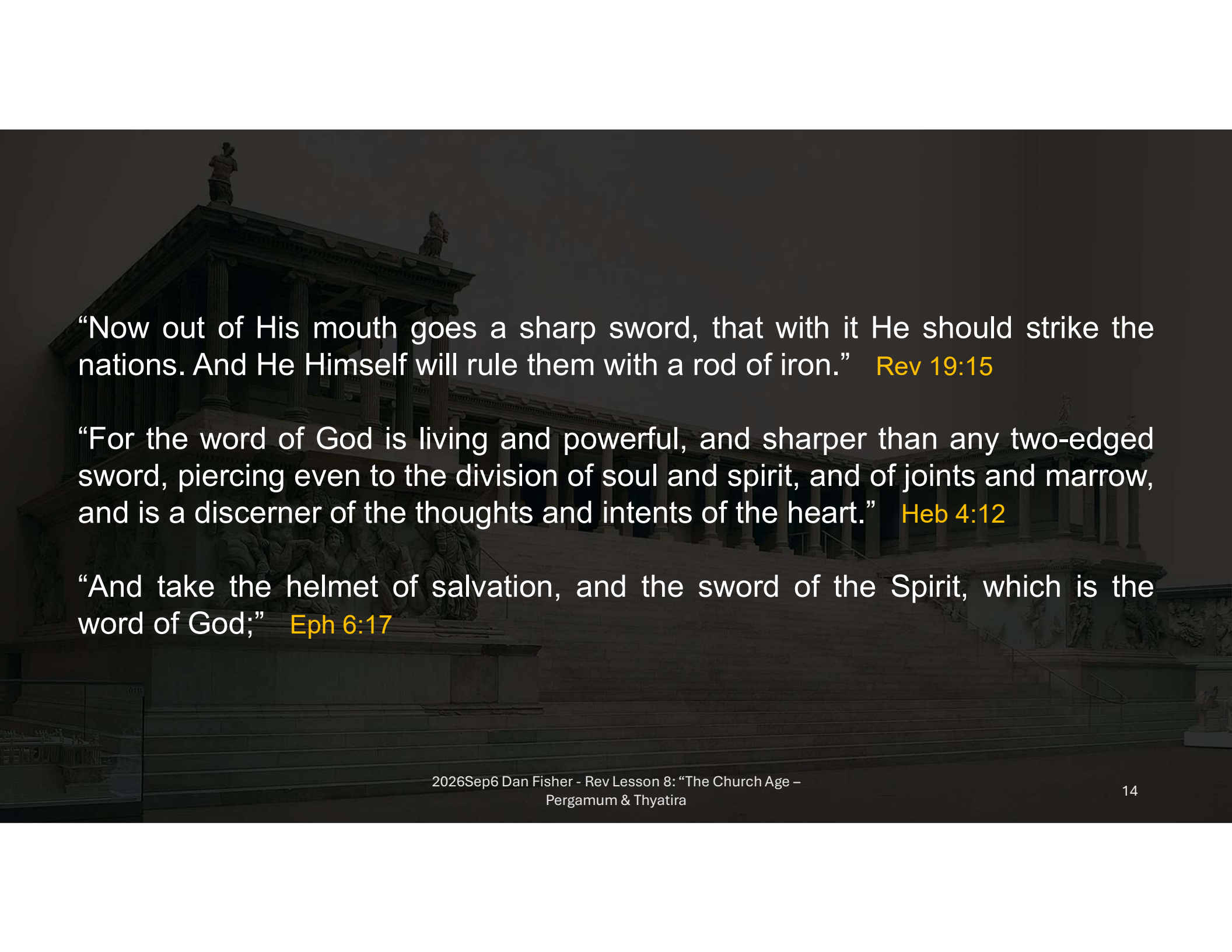


“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. ¹³ I know where you live – where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city – where Satan lives. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.” **Rev 2:12-17**



1. Jesus wields a double-edged sword

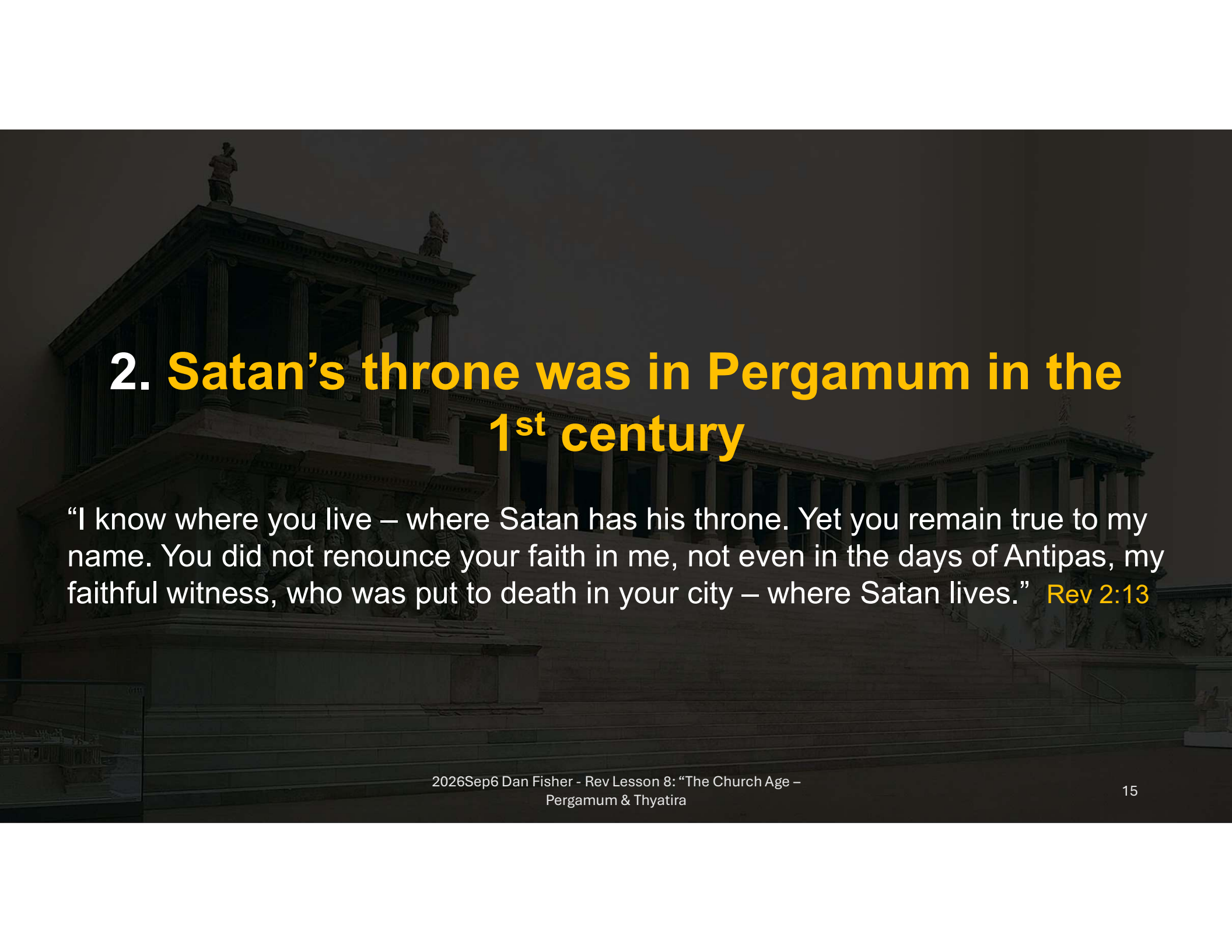
“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword’” **Rev 2:12**



“Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron.” **Rev 19:15**

“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 discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” **Heb 4:12**

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;” **Eph 6:17**



2. Satan's throne was in Pergamum in the 1st century

“I know where you live – where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city – where Satan lives.” **Rev 2:13**

- Satan has an earthly throne?

“For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north;” **Is 14:13**

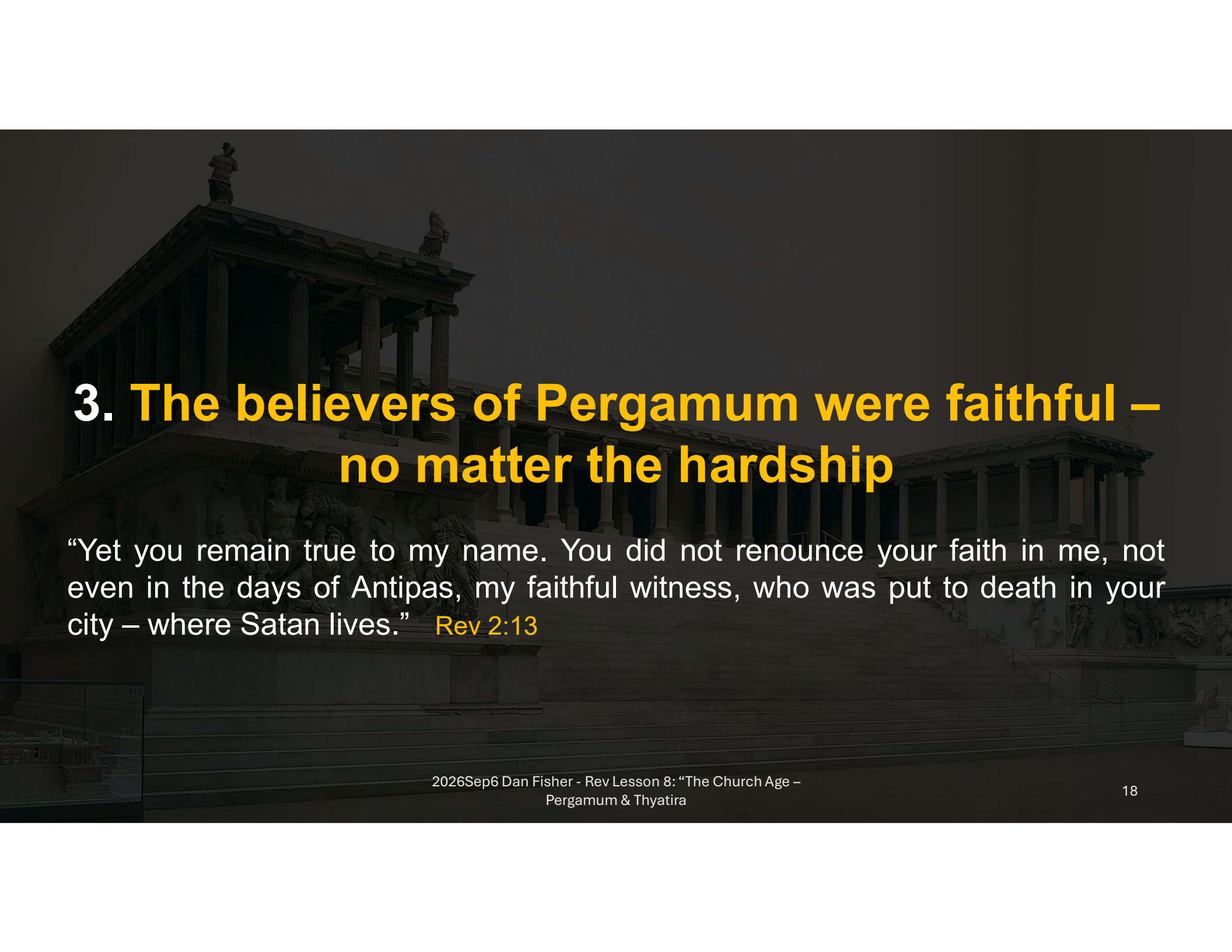
“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” **2 Cor 4:4**

“I will build My church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.” **Mt 16:18**

- Does he have a throne today?

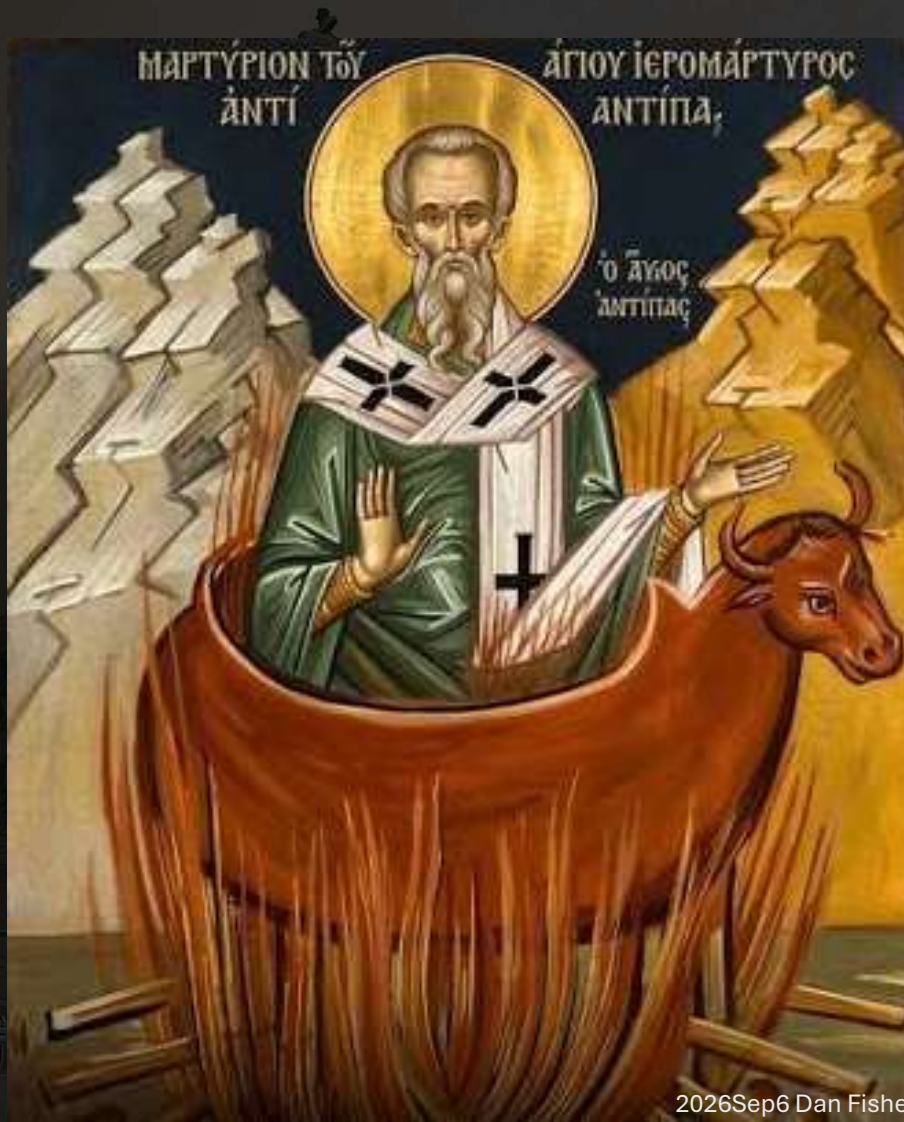
“But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. ... ²⁰ And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. ” Dan 10:13,20

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” Eph 6:12

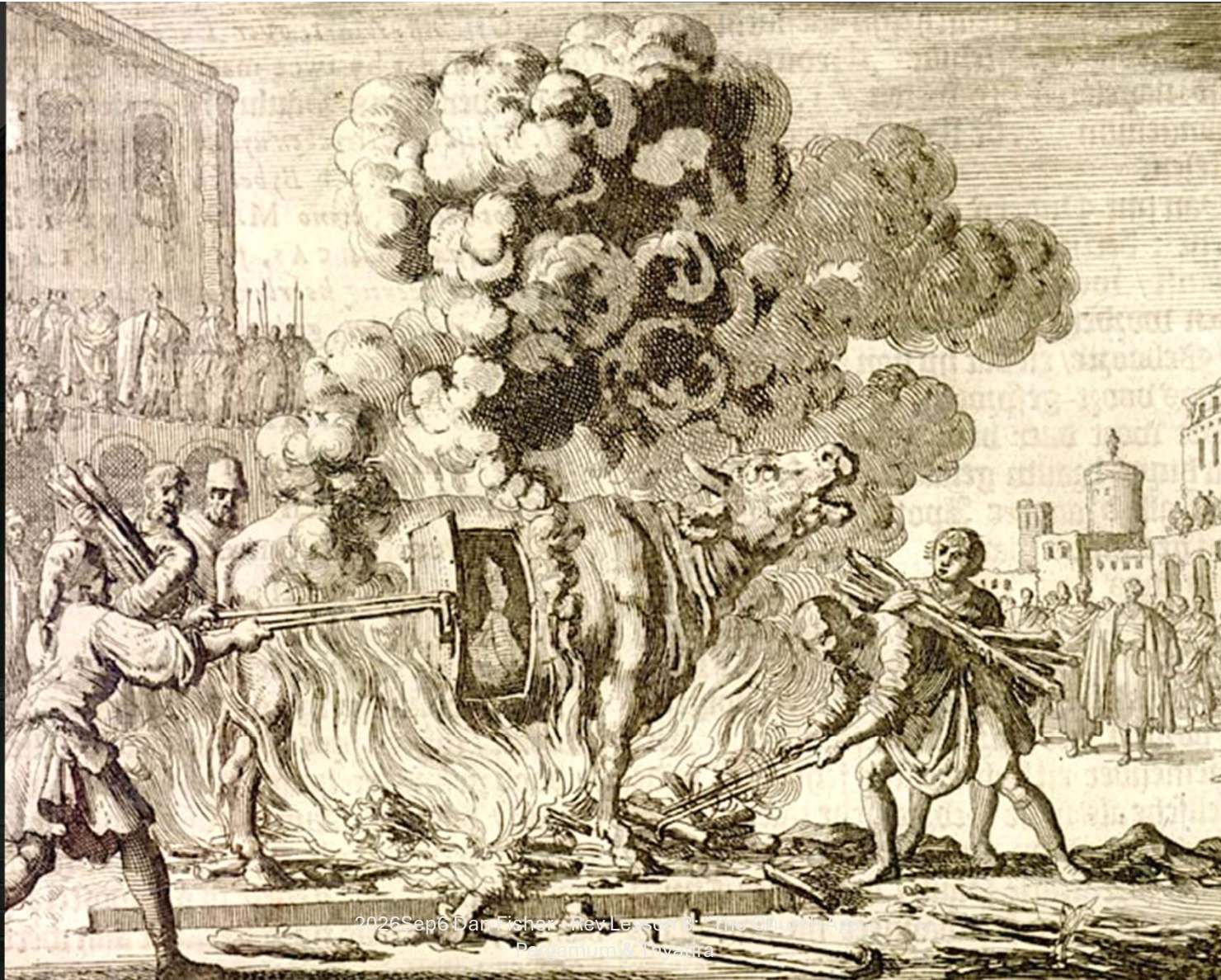


3. The believers of Pergamum were faithful – no matter the hardship

“Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city – where Satan lives.” **Rev 2:13**



- Antipas was ordained by the Apostle John
- He became an early pastor of the church in Pergamum
- He was told: “Antipas, the whole world is against you!” He responded, “Then I am against the whole world!”



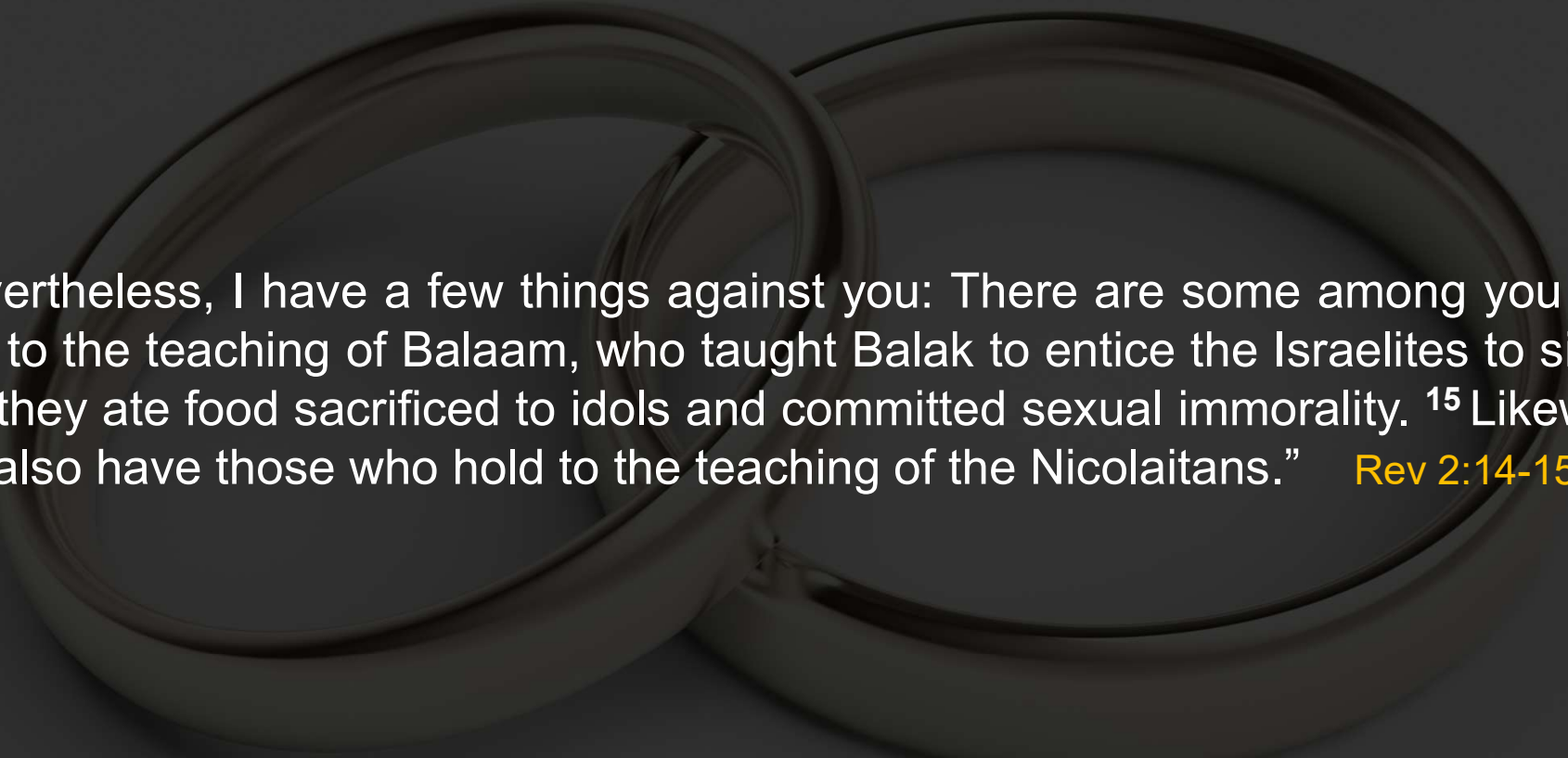
2026 Sep 6 Dai Fisher RevLect 3 - The Guillotine
Prisonum 9

4. The church at Pergamum had “married” the world

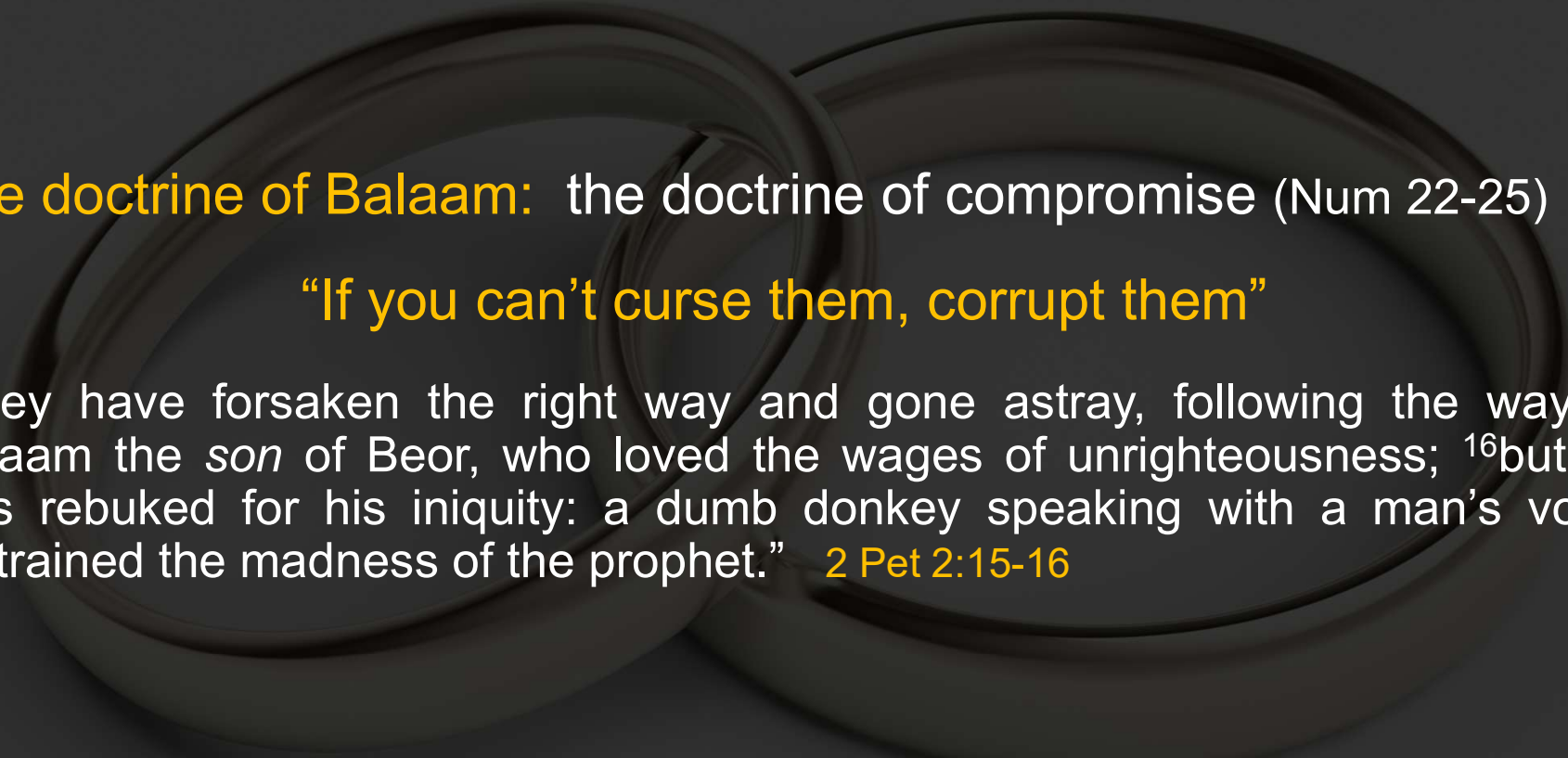


Pergamum/Pergamos = evil + marriage



Two interlocking rings, possibly representing the church and the world, or the church and the devil, are shown in the background. They are dark and have a metallic, reflective texture.

“Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.” **Rev 2:14-15**



The doctrine of Balaam: the doctrine of compromise (Num 22-25)

“If you can’t curse them, corrupt them”

“They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; ¹⁶but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man’s voice restrained the madness of the prophet.” 2 Pet 2:15-16



The doctrine of the Nicolaitans: libertinism or spiritual elitism

Nicolaitan = *nicao* (to conquer) + *laos* (the people)

“Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?” 1 Cor 5:6

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?
¹⁵And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God.” 2 Cor 6:14-17

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” Gal 5:13

“free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.” 1 Pet 2:16





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AD 306 to 337
Pergamum & Thyatira



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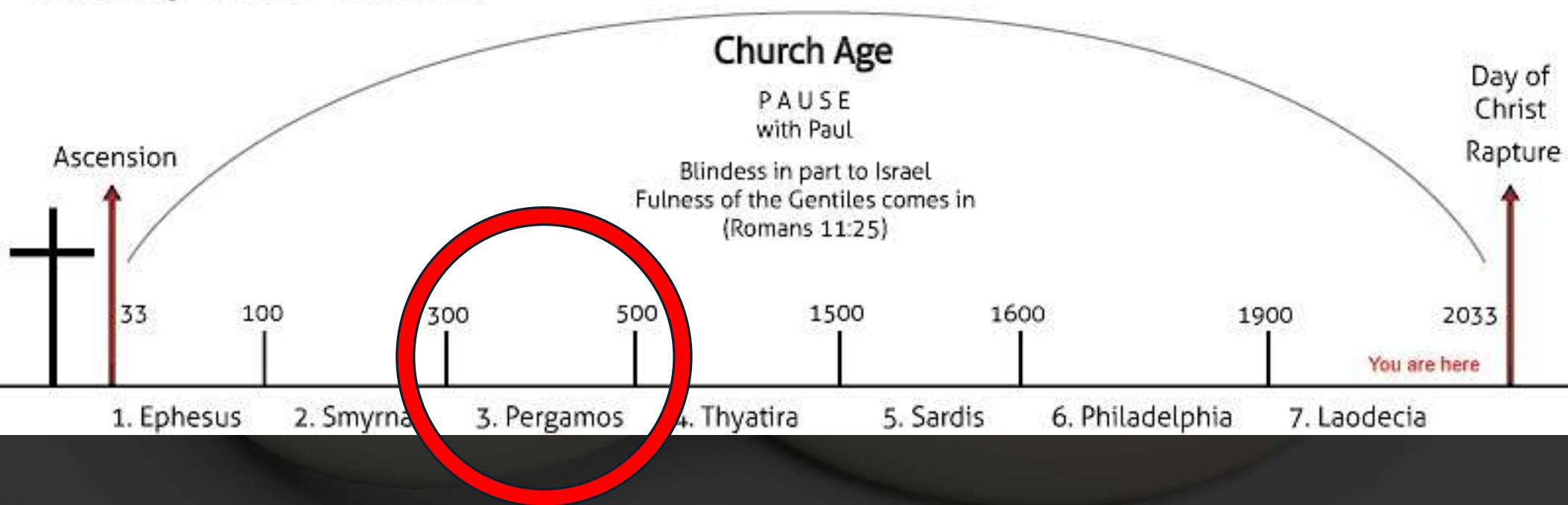
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313 AD with the Edict of Milan

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History of the Church



“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” **Rom 12:2**

“teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age” **Titus 2:12**

“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this ... to keep oneself unspotted from the world. ... Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” **Js 1:27; 4:4**

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” **1 Jn 2:15-17**

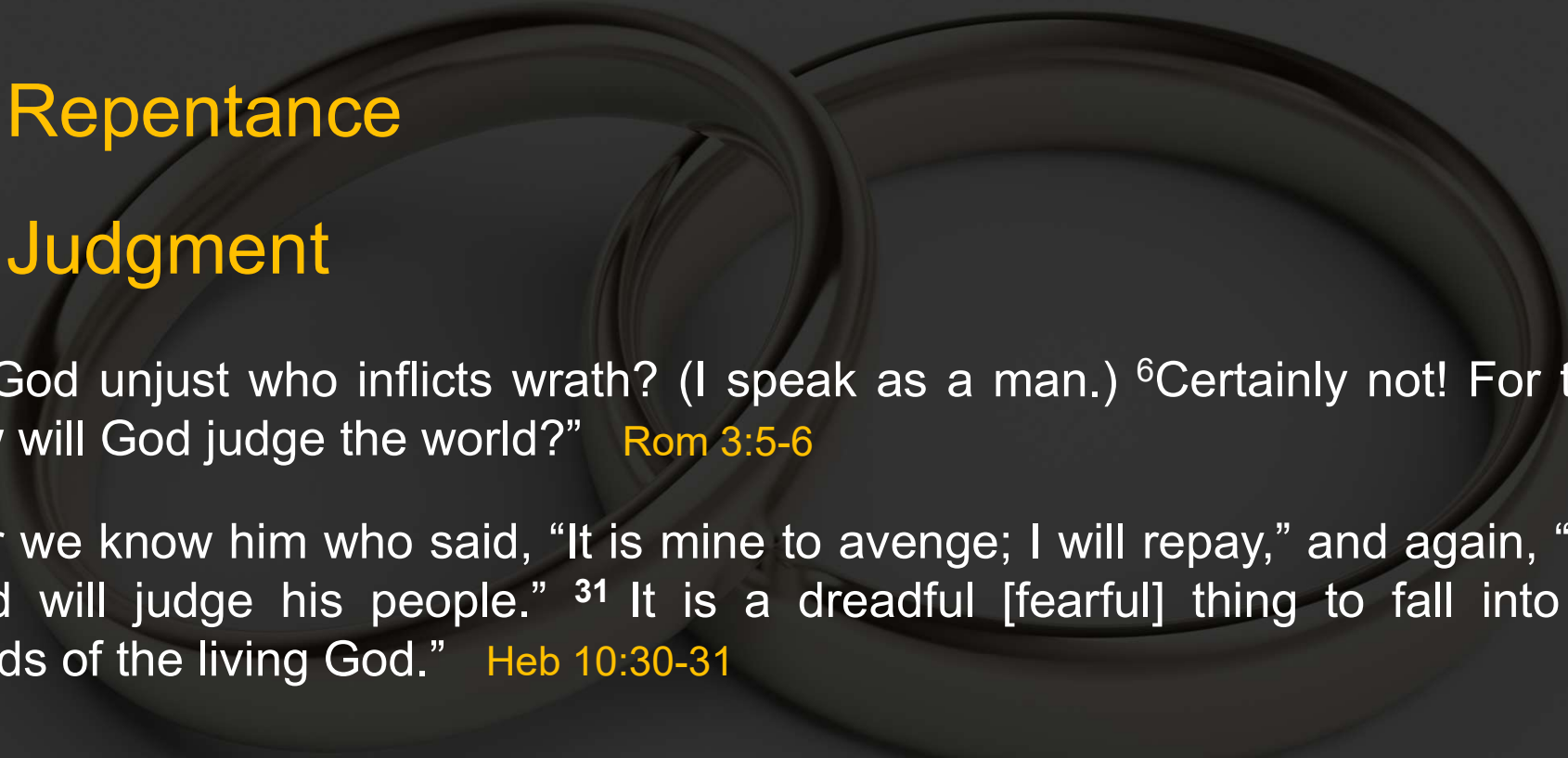
“While tolerance is lauded in our modern culture, tolerating heretical teaching or sinful behavior in the church is not a virtue but a sin. ... Error will never be suppressed by compromising with it. Today’s non-confrontive church is largely repeating the error of the Pergamum church on a grand scale and faces the judgment of the Lord of the church.” John MacArthur



Two interlocking rings, possibly representing the church and Christ, are shown in a dark, reflective setting. The rings are metallic and have a polished finish, with light reflecting off their surfaces.

5. Jesus' remedy for the Church in Pergamum

“Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” **Rev 2:16-17**

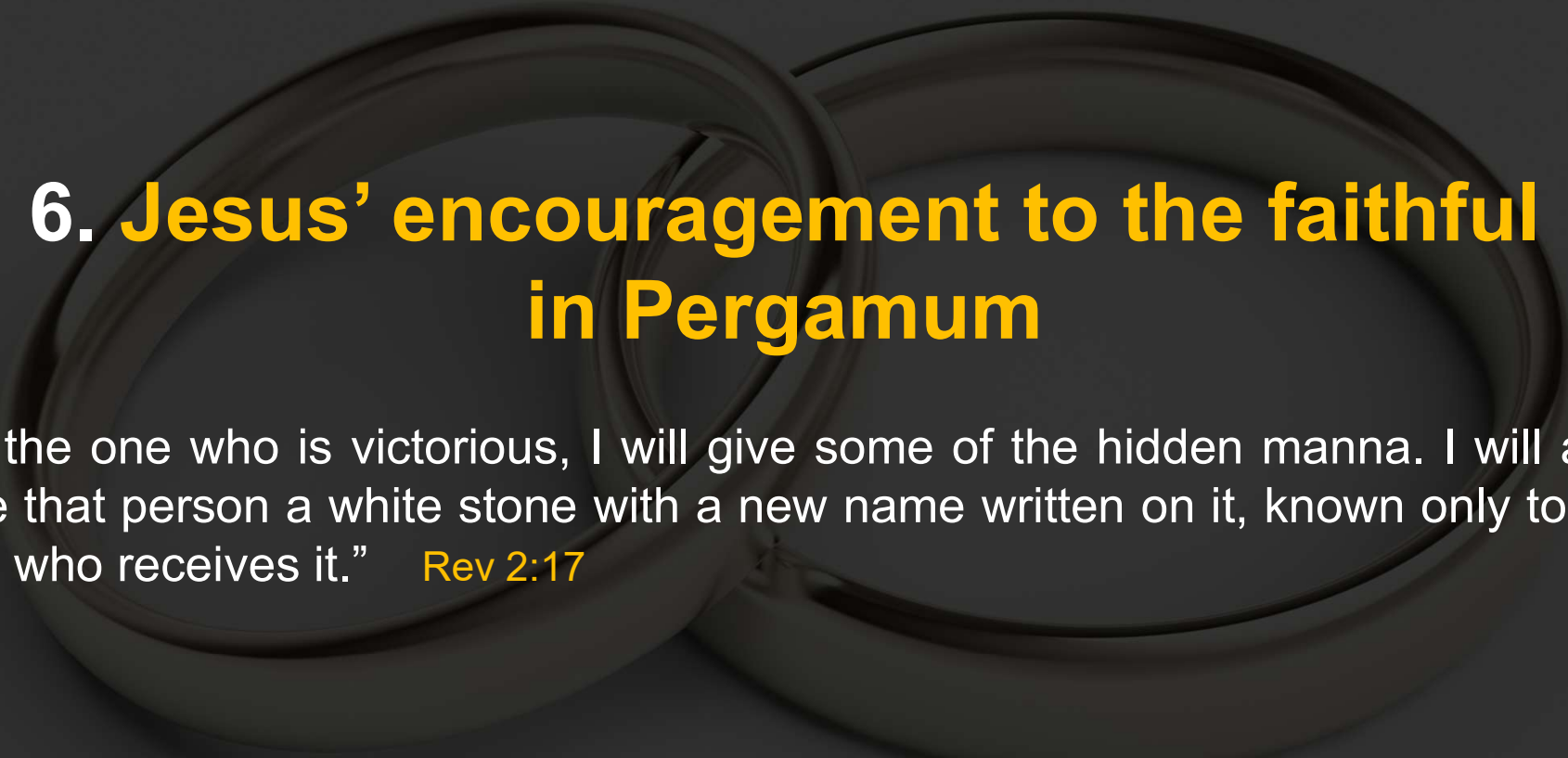
- 
- Repentance
 - Judgment

“Is God unjust who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man.) ⁶Certainly not! For then how will God judge the world?” **Rom 3:5-6**

“For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” ³¹ It is a dreadful [fearful] thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” **Heb 10:30-31**



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Two interlocking rings, one slightly behind and to the right of the other, set against a dark gray background. The rings are dark and have a metallic, reflective appearance.

6. Jesus' encouragement to the faithful in Pergamum

“To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.” **Rev 2:17**

- The “hidden manna”

Ex 16

Some of the manna was hidden in the ark of the covenant

“But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you know nothing about.’” Jn 4:32

“Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”³² Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.’³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” Jn 6:31-33

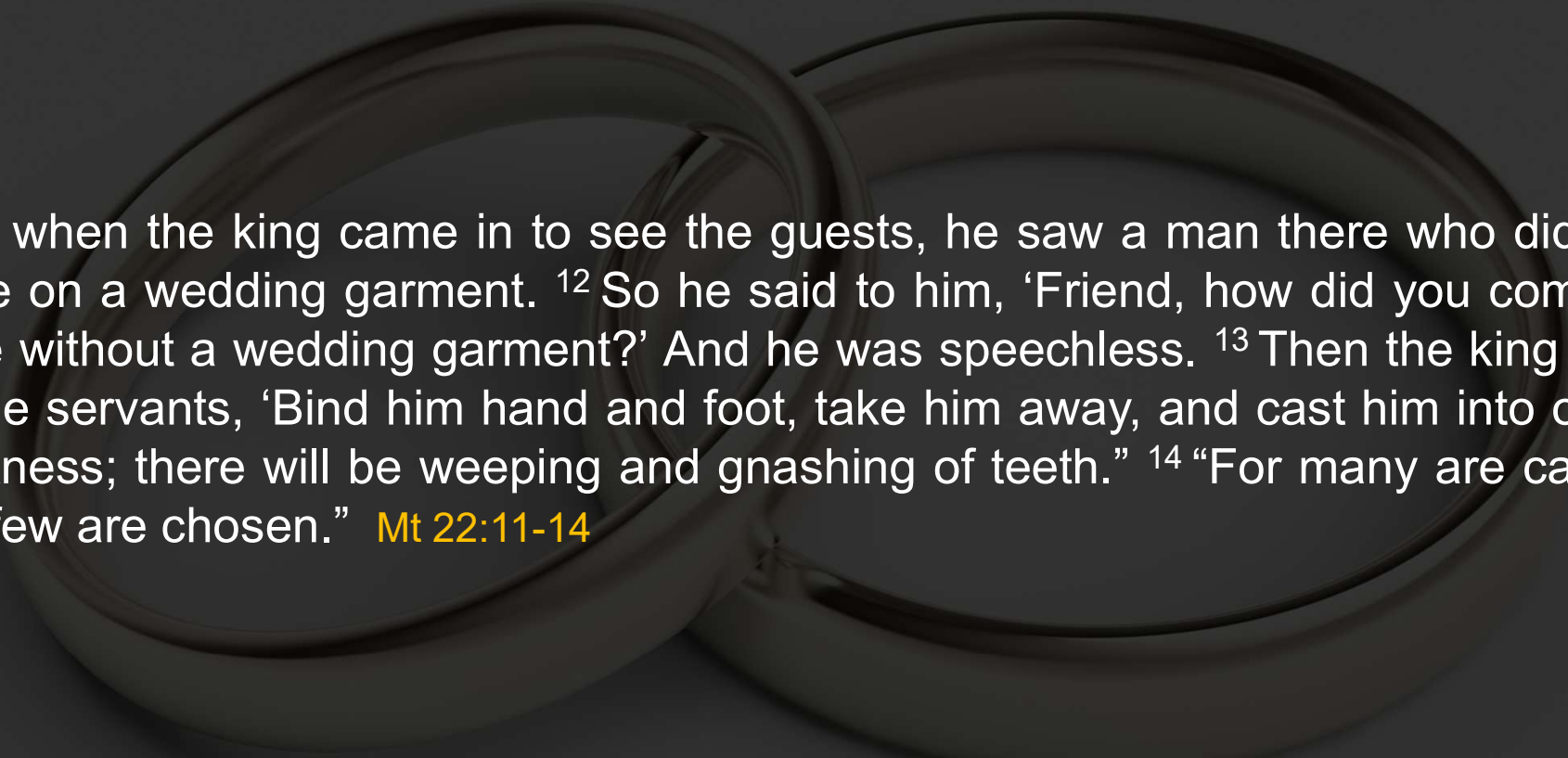
“Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’” Jn 6:35

- The “white stone”

Jurors in Greco-Roman world dropped white stone into a jar to vote not guilty. White stones were also used as tokens or tickets for entry into banquets, public festivals, or games.

“Urim and Thummim”

“As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says: ‘See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’ ⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,’ ⁸ and, ‘A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.’ They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they were destined for.” **1 Pet 2:4-5**

Two interlocking wedding rings, one slightly behind and to the right of the other, set against a dark, textured background. The rings are metallic and have a polished finish.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. ¹² So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ “For many are called, but few are chosen.” **Mt 22:11-14**