

**Rev.1:1** The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,

V.2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he saw.

V.3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

**V.10** I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet,

V.11 saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

V.12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;

V.13 and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.

V.14 His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire.

V.15 His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.

V.16 In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

V.17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,

V.18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

1:19 "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.

**2:12** "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:

V.13 'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

V.14 'But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit *acts of immorality*.

V.15 'So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

V.16 'Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.

V.17 (NP)

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

Review: We are in the process of going thru the 7 churches which represent the church age

**2:12** "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:

- 1) "to the angel of the church in Pergamum"
  - a) **Pergamum** is today called **Bergama** – Which is Turkish corruption for Pergamum / Pergamos
  - b) **Legend** has it that the city founded by the **son of Hercules**
  - c) The city **came to notoriety** under Lysimachus (LI-si-mA-kus) who was one of the great generals of Alexander the Great
  - d) It **became the capital** of the of the territory of the Attalid kings which covered most of Asia Minor
    - i) **Attalis III** bequeathed the kingdom to the **Romans Empire**
  - e) The Romans **kept Pergamum** as **capital** of **Asia**
  - f) The **Attalid kings** loved **art, wisdom**, all things pertaining to **sculpture, painting & architecture**.
  - g) Pergamum was celebrated for the manufacture of ointments, pottery, tapestries, parchment
  - h) Pergamum had one of the most famous libraries of antiquity
  - i) The story is Eumenes the Greek king of Pergamum tried to persuade the librarian of Alexandria to come to Pergamum to head his library. This infuriated **Ptolemy**, the Greek king of Egypt.
  - j) He **arrested** his own librarian to keep him for going to Pergamum
    - i) He<sup>(Ptolemy)</sup> **cut off** all shipments of **papyrus** from Egypt to Asia Minor
    - ii) Papyrus made **from a reed** that grew in Nile River
  - k) That was the ancient material for making books / scrolls
    - i) **Egypt** had the **monopoly** on **papyrus** (we get our word **paper** from it)
  - l) So Asia Minor had to come up with another **medium** for writing
    - i) So they perfected parchment / vellum which uses animal skins to write on
    - ii) That is why a college diploma is called a **sheep skin** even today
  - m) **May want to move this to V.13** – Pergamos was the **center** of idol worship w/ temples to **3 different Caesars** plus Zeus, Athena, Dionysos (Bacchus), Asclepius (ask-IE-pius) (god of healing)

- n) There was a **university** dedicated to medical study
- o) The temple of Asclepius – (called the **god of Pergamum** ) had the **greatest hospital** of the ancient world – the Mayo clinic of its day.
- p) **Asclepius** is **depicted** as a **man** or a **snake**
- q) At the hospital they used every technique they could to heal you –
  - i) They used **suggestive / sexy voices** saying that you were getting better –
  - ii) **Oil massages, hot baths,**
- r) People came from all over the world to **sleep** in the **sanctuary** where **nonpoisonous snakes** slithered all over.
  - i) If a snake happened to touch you while you slept – it started the healing process right then
- s) The **coins struck by the town** had Asclepius often appears with a rod encircled by a serpent
- t) They had a back door to take out the dead bodies (bodies **not** good for business)
- u) The city has been described as a sort of union of a pagan cathedral-city, a university-town, and a royal residence

**Rev.2:12** x "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: *The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:*

- 2) "The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this"
  - a) It literally says "**the**" sharp, "**the**" two" edged(mouthed) "**the**" sword
  - b) We see this sword in 1:16
    - Rev.1:16** In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.
  - c) The definite articles aren't in 1:16 – so **why** are they here?
  - d) An article is drawing attention to the noun & adjectives here
    - i) He wants you to know that it is a sword – that it is **sharp** – that it is **double edged**
    - ii) B/c it represents the **Word of God** – no **variation** – no **equivocation** – what God says, **He means**
    - iii) The importance of that will show as we go deeper into the verses

V.13 *I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is, and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.*

- 1) "I know where you  dwell "
  - a) Satan is **not** in **hell** at the **present time**
  - b) No one is in "hell" as their final abode yet – they have to wait for judgment to occur
  - c) "where you  **dwell** " – it means to  settle down to a place 
    - i) They had  no choice  as to where they were going to live
    - ii) This  wasn't their home  – but they had to live there for a while
  - d) Pergamos was the center of idol worship
  
- 2) "where Satan's throne is"
  - a) The word "**throne**" –  $\theta\rho\acute{o}\nu\omicron\varsigma$  – means  more than a dwelling place 
    - i) It has the idea – to have  power, to judge, to have authority
    - ii) Look where they  **had to live!**  – " where Satan's throne is "
  - b) "where Satan lives"
    - i) The  **saints**  of Pergamos  **lived & functioned**  in  the dragon's den
  
- 3) "did not deny My faith...in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one...killed among you"
  - a) We  **don't**  know who  **Antipas**  was – But God  **knows** 
    - i) God says he was a  **witness**  – the  word witness took on meaning "to die"  – b/c being a witness at this time meant to probably die
    - ii) He calls Antipas " **My faithful one** " –  **that is my goal!**
  
- 4) "where Satan dwells"
  - a) This is  repeated for emphasis  that Satan was  literally there! 
    - i)  I take it  that  **Satan lives on earth**  at this time  **but goes into heaven**  to give an account to God for his actions
    - ii)  I take it  that  he does have a command center here
    - iii)  I take it  that  he is careful how he picks his location  for command
    - iv)  I also take it  that  it has probably been Washington DC

V.14 But I have a few things against you, because  you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality.

- 1) "I have against...you have...some who hold  the teaching of Balaam "
  - a) The " **way**  of Balaam" –  **money means more**  than God
    - i)  **Taking**  what  **gifts**  God has given you  to make money instead of living for Him

**2 Pet.2:12** But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,

**V.14 (NP)**

**V.14** having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children;

15 forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

b) The "**error** of Balaam" is **different**

i) The "**error of Balaam**" – is **not** understanding spiritual truths

ii) Balaam mistakenly believed God **must** curse Israel for their sins.

iii) He **didn't** understand the Cross & God's forgiveness.

(1) He had **no** understand of **grace**.

iv) He **couldn't** understand spiritual things

**Jude 1:8** Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties.

**V.10** But these men revile the things which they **do not understand**; and the things which they know by **instinct**, **like** unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed.

11 Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

v)

V.14 x But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality.

1) "you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam"

a) The story of Balaam begins in **Num.22:1**

**Num.22:1** Then the sons of Israel journeyed, and camped in the plains of Moab beyond the Jordan *opposite* Jericho.

V.2 Now Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.

V.3 So Moab was in great fear because of the people, for they were numerous; and Moab was in dread of the sons of Israel.

**V.5** So he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor, at Pethor, which is near the River, *in* the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying, "Behold, a people came out of Egypt; behold, they cover the surface of the land, and they are living opposite me.

V.6 (NP)

V.6 "Now, therefore, please come, curse this people for me since they are too mighty for me; perhaps I may be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land. For I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed."

- b) God **forbids** Balaam from cursing Israel
- c) Balak offers Balaam even more money
- d) Balaam says I can't curse them
- e) Before **Num.25** Balaam tells Balak to use the women of Moab to seduce the men of Israel & make God mad!

**Num.25:1** While Israel remained at Shittim, the people began to play the harlot with the daughters of Moab.

2 For they<sup>(Moabites)</sup> invited the people<sup>(Israel)</sup> to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.

3 So Israel joined themselves to Baal of Peor, and the LORD was angry against Israel.

- f) WE know that Balaam suggested this by reading **Num.31**

**Num.31:1** Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

2 "Take full vengeance for the sons of Israel on the Midianites; afterward you will be gathered to your people."

**V.13**<sup>(after the battle was over)</sup> Moses and Eleazar the priest and all the leaders of the congregation went out to meet them outside the camp.

14 Moses was angry with the officers of the army, the captains of thousands and the captains of hundreds, who had come from service in the war.

15 And Moses said to them, "Have you spared all the women?

16 "Behold, these caused the sons of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, **so** the plague was among the congregation of the LORD.

- g) Balaam thought that if God got mad enough at Israel He would destroy them & Balak would get what he wanted
- h) The **teaching of Balaam is** at its core – **figuring a way to get around what God has said**

V.15 (NP)

15 So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

- 1) "you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans"
  - a) There were people in the Church of Pergamum who liked being clergy b/c of the power over the people
  - b) This was the exact time frame when Roman Catholicism started
    - i) Order of authority: Pope, Cardinal, Archbishop, Bishops, Priest, Deacon
    - ii) **Eph.4:11** states what order is in the Church of God  
**Eph.4:11** And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,  
12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

16 Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.

- 1) "Therefore repent; or...I will make war against them"
  - a) God deals w/ His own as sees fit
  - b) His **grace** isn't something to be used as a **loophole** in His law
  - c) This isn't the only place where God warns His own
  - d) Paul warned Church at Corinth

**2 Cor.13:1 (NIV)** This will be my third visit to you. "Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."

2 I already gave you a warning when I was with you the second time. I now repeat it while absent: On my return I will not spare those who sinned earlier or any of the others,  
3 since you are demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you.

4 For to be sure, He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him to serve you.

**V.10** This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority--the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.

2. "I will make war with the sword of My mouth" (NP)

- 2) "I will make war with the sword of My mouth"
- a) The reason Christ describes Himself as having **the sword, the two edged, the sharp** is
    - i) Because people think that somehow they will **circumvent** what He has said – it will **not** happen!!!
  - b) God's Word is **irrefutable**
  - c) When God says something is a sin – **It is a sin** no matter who or what says it isn't it IS!
  - d) The **whole world** can think it is OK but it **isn't**
  - e) It doesn't matter what **excuse** you come up w/
  - f) It doesn't matter **why** you think it is OK for you
  - g) It doesn't matter what the **entire flow of humanity is doing**
  - h) If God says it is sin – That is what it is!
 

**Gal.6:7(NIV)** Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.  
 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.
  - i) It doesn't matter **if it looks like** the whole world is getting away w/ sin – they aren't
  - j) It doesn't matter **if it looks like** you are getting by w/ sin
  - k) You may have continued to sin up to this point & haven't reaped judgment – **YOU WILL!**
  - l) It doesn't matter – that you **think** you will get by w/ it – YOU WILL NOT!
- 3) X "**The** Sword, **the** double edged, **the** sharp..."
- a) The judgment upon sin is too great
    - i) They loss due to sin is steep!
  - b) You cannot come out ahead when sinning – it is impossible according to the authority of God's Holy Word **V.17**

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

- 1) "to him I will give some of the hidden manna"
  - a) It speaks of a satisfaction that only those who have a special relationship w/ Christ will ever know
  - b) Christ is our sustenance, our joy, our reason to exist

**Jn.6:30 (NP)**

**Jn.6:30**(they said this the next day after He fed 5000 men) So they said to Him, "What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform?"

31 "Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.'"

32 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven.

33 "For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world."

34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread."

35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.

2) "I will give him a white stone...new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it"

a) No one knows what the stone represents

b) I believe the **new name** is **His name not** our name

i) Thru eternity His name will have a special meaning to you<sup>(if live for Him)</sup>

ii) I believe it represents **an intimacy** that will be private & strictly between the two of you

DO YOU HAVE THAT KIND OF INTAMICY NOW?

If not why not?