

<p style="text-align: center;">PERGAMOS REVELATION 2:12-17</p>
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Text:

Introduction:

A city of the Roman province of Asia in the west of what is now Turkey

The city was noted for its vast, library, containing 200,000 volumes.

It is called "Satan's seat" by John, which some suppose to refer to the persecutions of Christians, which was the work of Satan.

This city was one of the most prominent cities of Asia about 45 miles north of Smyrna.

The first temple of the imperial cult was built here in honor of Rome and Augustus.

Note:

1. THEIR LOCATION

Revelation 2:13 (KJV)

¹³ I know thy works, and **where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is:** and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

- A. The Opportunities They Had
- B. The Obstacles They Had
- C. The Opposition They Had

2. THEIR LOYALTY

- A. Firm in their Devotion

Revelation 2:13 (KJV)

¹³ I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan's seat *is:* and **thou holdest fast my name,** and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

- B. Maintained Sound Doctrine

Revelation 2:13 (KJV)

¹³ I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan's seat *is:* and thou holdest fast my name, and **hast not denied my faith,** even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

3. THEIR LIABILITIES

After the Lord makes them aware of the things that were right He then brings to their attention things that were not right.

A. The Doctrine of Balaam

Revelation 2:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Balaamism was a compromise of morals. For people in this city to eat things sacrificed to idols meant to engage in the feasting and various other wicked things of the wicked idolatrous temples. They were committing fornication.

The teaching or the doctrine of Balaam was a perversion of the Christian doctrine of liberty.

Galatians 5:13 (KJV)

¹³ For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

See (1 Corinthians 8-10, Romans 14-15:3)

- The Way of Balaam (2 Peter 2:15)

2 Peter 2:10-15 (KJV)

¹⁰ But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous *are they*,

selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. ¹¹ Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. ¹² But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; ¹³ And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, *as* they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots *they are* and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; ¹⁴ Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: ¹⁵ Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following **the way of Balaam** *the son of Bosor*, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

The way of Balaam is really the way of covetousness and refers to one who hires himself out to do religious work merely for personal gain; it's the merchandising of one's spiritual gifts for personal gain out of covetousness.

- The Error of Balaam (Jude 1:11)

Jude 1:11 (KJV)

¹¹ Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after **the error of Balaam** for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

This refers to Balaam's error in thinking that he could get God to curse His people and bypass His covenant promises because of their evil. Seeing their evil Balaam supposed that a righteous God must curse Israel. But he was blind to God's faithfulness to His promises.

- The Doctrine of Balaam

Revelation 2:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Since Balaam found out he could not curse Israel, he realized he could cause them to corrupt themselves by getting them to marry the beautiful women of Moab.

Numbers 25:1-3 (KJV)

¹ And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. ² And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. ³ And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

These women came into the camp of Israel and catch the eyes of the men of Israel. They invited them to their sacrifices full of immorality and idolatry. Soon the men are eating at the tables of false gods, sleeping in beds the beds of pagan women and bowing themselves down to worthless idols.

How did this happen?

Numbers 31:13-16 (KJV)

¹³ And Moses, and Eleazar the priest, and all the princes of the congregation, went forth to meet them without the camp. ¹⁴ And Moses was wroth with the officers of the host, *with* the captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, which came from the battle. ¹⁵ And Moses said unto them, Have ye saved all the women alive? ¹⁶ Behold, these caused the children of Israel,

through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

B. The Doctrine of the Nicolaitanes

What had only been the deeds in the church at Ephesus has now become doctrine, (Priest over people)

Close:

God told this church to repent of its worldly ways. At the heart of their problem was false doctrine, the Lord points them to the sharp two-edged sword, the Word of God.

If they would repent He promised these things

1. They would be fed by hidden manna. God would satisfy them in a way the world couldn't.
2. God would give them a white stone. This word for pebble was used in courts of justice, black pebbles for condemning, white pebbles for acquitting. White stones were also given to the conquerors in the Olympic Games, with their names upon them, and the value of the prize they won.
3. A new name. A name indicating a new relation, new hopes and triumphs.