

**4 Pergamum/Pergamos**  
**The Seven Churches of Revelation**  
Donna Shelton 7/14/09

**Rev 2:12-29** *12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: 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. 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. 15 "Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.*

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

**Rev. 2:12** *'These things says He who has the sharp (swift and keen) two-edged sword':* Jesus announced Himself as the one holding the sharp, double edged sword. This type of sword is sharp on both edges and can cut coming and going as well as being able to pierce with the point.

**Heb. 4:12-13** *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. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (NKJ)*

**Rev. 2:13:** *"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 when Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.*

- **your works:** *what you do*
- **where you dwell:** *where you live*
- **where Satan's throne is:** *where the accuser's power is*
- **you hold fast to My Name:** *use your strength to hold on to My "name, authority and character"*
- **and did not deny my faith even in the days when Antipas was my faithful martyr:**

1. **Antipas:** "against/father
2. Was ordained Bishop of Pergamum by the Apostle John
3. Was a faithful witness for Christ
4. Was martyred in AD 92 as recorded by Simeon Metaphrastes in this way: \*residents of Pergamos worshipped demons who appeared to them and said they could not live there or accept their sacrifices because of the power of Antipas' prayers casting them out. They captured and delivered him to their governor who tried to convince Antipas to compromise because idolatry was older than this "new religion of Christianity. When Antipas refused to deny Christ and offer incense in the red hot copper bull-shaped altar of Caesar, he was thrown into it and roasted alive – thanking God for being worthy to suffer for His love...

**Pergamum:** “fortified tower or castle; “earthly height” AD 313 - 1157... \*Pergamum was a notorious site of idolatry and temple worship of Dionysus, Athena, Demeter, Zeus, and three temples to the Emperor cult; & it had a special center for the worship of *Asclepius* (the god of healing and knowledge) which was represented as a serpent; there was a medical school at his temple in Pergamos

**Rev 2:14-15** 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. 15 "Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. (NKJ)*

- you have there .... those who hold the doctrine...of Balaam and the Nicolaitians...
  1. You are not dealing with... letting have influence among you...
  2. Those who hold the doctrine – false teaching...of
  3. Balaam – who taught Balak (Balaam wouldn't curse children of Israel but taught Balak what to do to get Israel to compromise so God would judge them – Num. 25:1-2 “to put a stumbling block”) Balaam was motivated by money, power (Jude 11, 2 Peter 2:15)
  4. Nicolaitians - ( \*\* heretic, victorious over the people, - Nicolaus of Laodicea - Gnosticism: doesn't matter what body does as long as spirit/mind are saved.... Idolatry and sexual immorality have no bearing on my eternal destiny...) “if it feels good – do it”

**Rev 2: 16** *“Repent, (reconsider and think differently) or else I will come to you quickly and will fight (engage in warfare) against **them** with the sword of My mouth.”*

- If we don't deal with them, he will...relationships will be severed.

**Rev 2: 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.”*

- churches: called out ones
- overcomes: subdues
- hidden manna: secret “edible gum” revelation from His Word in times of persecution and trouble
- white stone:
  1. in ancient times, anyone accused of wrong who was acquitted was given a “white stone” to prove their innocence.
  2. In elections all had white and black stones. White was acceptance, black was rejection. Eph. 1:6 – “we are ‘accepted’ in the beloved”
  3. a white stone was given to honored guests inscribed with the name of the host and was a sign of authority from the host that all he possessed was at their disposal. **Rev 21:7** *“He that overcomes will inherit all things; I will be his God and he will be my son.*

**Pergamum** – Church there was in the midst of all manner of worship other than God. Satan had power in that atmosphere and God's people were persecuted. Over time, the church ceased to stand strong against corruption and false doctrine and even compromised and adopted teachings and practices that were detestable earlier... It was faced with this and instructed to repent...or else...

Those who “overcame” the temptation to “water down” their convictions were commended with a promise of revelation they would not have had otherwise, and acceptance with proof of innocence and righteousness and authority.