

The REVELATION of JESUS CHRIST

ALPHA / OMEGA





Seven Churches of Revelation

Chapters 2-3

- Ephesus
- Smyrna
- Pergamos
- 4 Thyatira
- Sardis
- O Philadelphia
- Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision



Historical Background









- Name can mean "fortified" "exalted" or "mixed marriage"
- ➤ Religious Center of Asia Minor for centuries
- Emphasized worship of **Asclepius** Roman god of medicine and healing as well as a school of medicine/sorcery



Asclepius – Roman god of medicine & healing

Caduceus – Staff of the Greek god Hermes



No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

[John 3:13-15]

Seven Design Elements In Each of the Letters

- 1. Name of the Church
- 2. Title of Christ Chosen
- 3. Commendation
- 4.Concern
- 5. Exhortation [Repent]
- **6.Promise to the Overcomer**
- 7. "He that has an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

"And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: 'The words of him who has the sharp twoedged sword."" [Revelation 2:12]

Two-Edged Sword



The Lord Jesus is coming to judge both the living and the dead by the Word of His mouth!

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

[Hebrews 4:12-13]

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God ... [Ephesians 6:16-17]

Vengeance is mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly.' **36**For the LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone and there is none remaining, bond or free."

[Deuteronomy 32:35-36]

Then he will say, 'Where are their gods, the rock in which they took refuge, 38who ate the fat of their sacrifices and drank the wine of their drink offering? Let them rise up and help you; let them be your protection!

[Deuteronomy 32:37-38]

"See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand."

[Deuteronomy 32:39]

For I lift up my hand to heaven and swear, As I live forever, 41if I sharpen my flashing sword and my hand takes hold on judgment, I will take vengeance on my adversaries and will repay those who hate me." [Deuteronomy 32:40-41]

"I will make my arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour fleshwith the blood of the slain and the captives, from the long-haired heads of the enemy."

[Deuteronomy 32:42]

"Rejoice with him, O heavens; bow down to him, all gods, for he avenges the blood of his children and takes vengeance on his adversaries. He repays those who hate him and cleanses his people's land." [Deuteronomy 32:43]

"For behold, the LORD will come in fire, and his chariots like the whirlwind, to render his anger in fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. 16 For by fire will the LORD enter into judgment, and by his sword, with all flesh; and those slain by the LORD shall be many. [Isaiah 66:15-16]

"He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty." [Revelation 19:13-15]

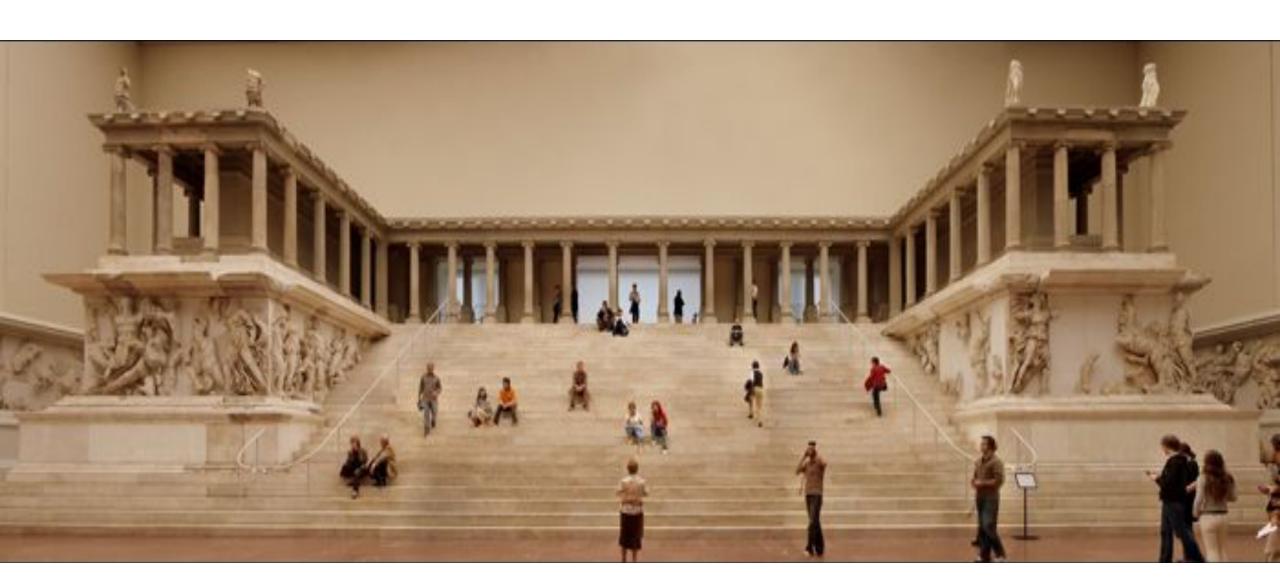
Satan's Throne



"I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells." [Revelation 2:13]

>The pagans of ancient Pergamos worshipped at the massive altar of **Zeus** - which is the Greek equivalent of **Baal**, or Satan.

Ancient Altar of Zeus





BAAAL THE STORM GOD

"Because the people have forsaken me and have profaned this place by making offerings in it to other gods whom neither they nor their fathers nor the kings of Judah have known; and because they have filled this place with the blood of innocents, 5 and have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or decree, nor did it come into my mind."

[Jeremiah 19:4-5]

And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons." 23And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? 24If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand." [Mark 3:22-24]

Cosmic Geography



>Satan is the **ruler** of this world and god of this age, but like all principalities and powers, his **seat** of authority is limited by locality.

"When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God."

[Deuteronomy 32:7]

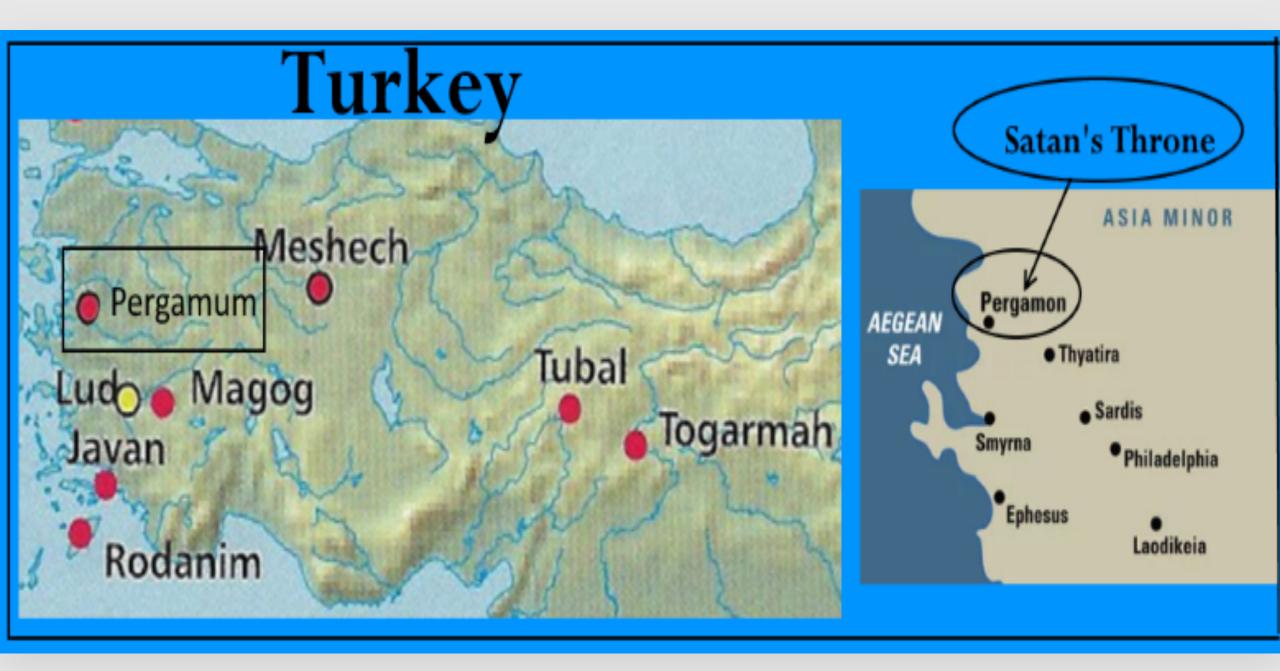
Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come. 21 But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince."

[Daniel 10:20-21]

The Revelation of Jesus Christ "And I saw **a beast rising out of the** sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority." [Revelation 13:1-2]

"And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. 13 These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. 14 They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful."

[Revelation 17:1-2]



Ancient Altar of Zeus = Throne of Satan





Hitler's Zeppelin Tribune Grandstand



Adolf Hitler and Tayyip Erdogan

Commendation



"I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells." [Revelation 2:13]

>When we take the name of the LORD, we are **claiming** Him as our Heavenly Father and representing Him to the world.

THE 3rd Commandment

"You **shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain**, for
the LORD will not hold him guiltless
who takes his name in vain."

[Exodus 20:7]

THE 3rd Commandment

"For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

[Mark 8:38]

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God ... But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me."

[2 Timothy 1:8,12]

CONCERN



THE DOCTRINE OF BALAAM



But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. 15 So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans." [Revelation 2:14-15]

NUMBERS 22-25

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Balak - king of Moab hired a pagan sorcerer, Balaam, to curse Israel, but the LORD forbid him and only allowed Balaam to prophetically bless Israel.

NUMBERS 22-25

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Although Balaam could not curse Israel, he taught Balak how to entice Israel to destroy themselves by committing sexual immorality and idolatry.

While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. 2These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. 3So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

[Numbers 25:1-3]

4And the LORD said to Moses, "Take all the chiefs of the people and hang them in the sun before the LORD, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel." **5**And Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Each of you kill those of his men who have yoked themselves to Baal of Peor."

[Numbers 25:4-5]

Then they yoked themselves to the **Baal of Peor, and ate sacrifices offered to the dead**;

they provoked the LORD to anger with their deeds, and a plague broke out among them.

[Psalm 106:28-29]

Moses said to them, "Have you let all the women live? 16Behold, these, on Balaam's advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the LORD.

[Numbers 31:15-16]



"They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! 15 Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, 16but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness."

[2 Peter 2:14-16]

"Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. 12 These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted;"

[Jude 1:11-12]

>The doctrine of Balaam produces greedy leaders who take **advantage** of others for selfish gain and who compromise holiness for sexual indulgence.



"Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth."

[Revelation 2:16]

- 1) **Local:** literal churches. Researched archaeologically by Sir William Ramsey and others ...
- 2) **Admonitory:** "...churches": all of them. Each message applies to each, to some extent. Meant to be shared and read
- 3) **Universal:** "He that hath an ear..." Applies to all churches in all places of every generation.
- 4) Profile of Church History: In their particular order, they lay out the history of the church???
- 5) Prophetic for the Last Generation: describe the various complexions and conditions of the end-times church



>The church is called to be a witness for Christ in the world but never is to become of the world.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

[Romans 12:2]

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 151 do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

[John 17:14-19]

"You adulterous people! Do you not know that <u>friendship with the world is enmity</u> <u>with God</u>? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

[James 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. 16For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

[1 John 2:15-17]



But godliness with contentment is great gain, **Z**for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. **8**But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

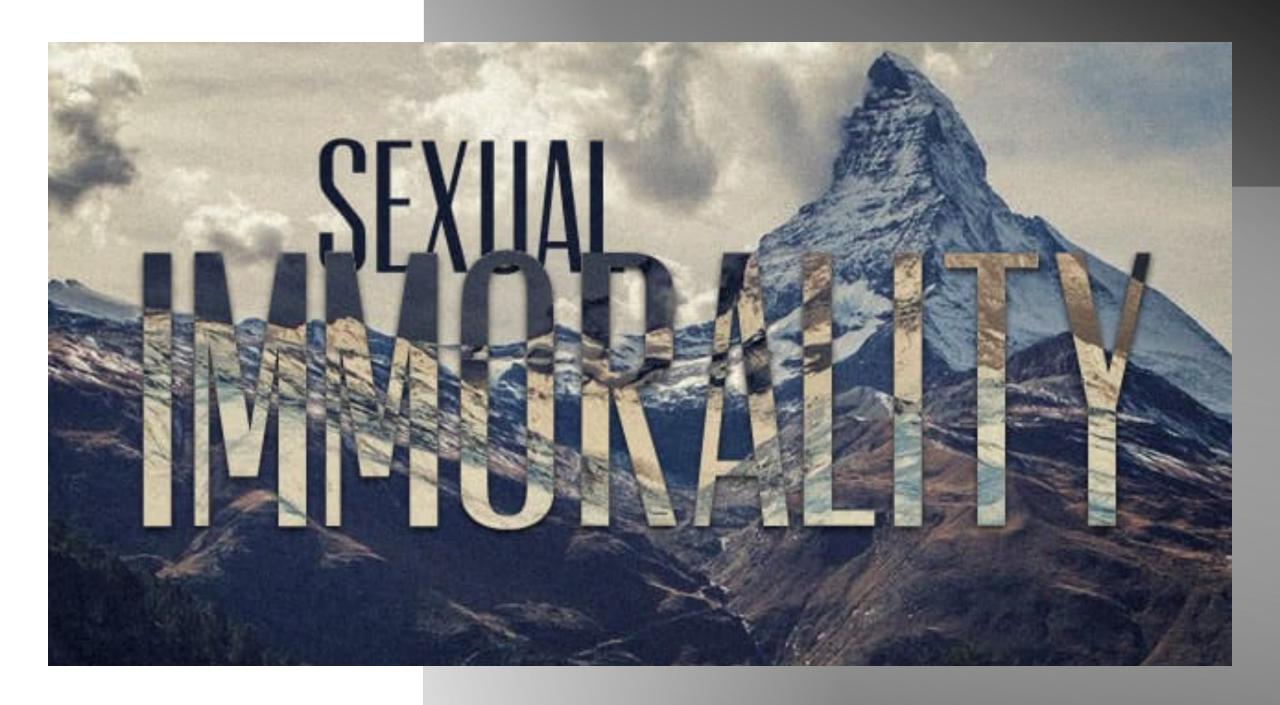
[1 Timothy 6:6-8]

"But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs."

[1 Timothy 6:9-10]

"As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."

[1 Timothy 6:17-19]



But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. 4Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. **5**For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God." [Ephesians 5:3-5]

Sins of Sexual Immorality

- □Seduction and Sensuality enticing others to lust
- □Pornography secret sin and spiritual union with demons
- □ Adultery and fornication destroys the family and future generations

"The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. 15Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." 17But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him."

[1 Cor. 6:13-17]

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

[1 Cor. 6:18-20]



He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'

[Revelation 2:17]



Hidden Manna



Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat."32 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." **35**Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. [**John 6:31-35**]

White Stone





"For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God."

[Isaiah 62:1-3]

APPLICATION



- ✓ We must engage in spiritual warfare using the weapons God gave us!
- ✓ We must Repent of our worldliness, sexual immorality and idolatry
- ✓ We must hold fast to the name of Jesus and never be ashamed of Him
- ✓ Read Revelation Chapter 2 out loud multiple times - take notes
- ✓ Outline the Letter to the church at Thyatira