

Revelation

ILLUSTRATED

The word 'Revelation' is rendered in a highly stylized, gothic-style font. The letters are three-dimensional and have a metallic, golden-yellow finish with a gradient of orange and red, giving them a glowing, fiery appearance. The letters are set against a dark, textured background. Below the main word, the word 'ILLUSTRATED' is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font on a golden-yellow ribbon that curls and flows across the bottom of the main text.

Artwork by Pat Marvenko Smith ©1982, 1992
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Pergamum

- Capital City of the province of Asia Minor
 - In 133 B.C. King Attalus surrendered the city to the Romans
 - Rome rewarded the city by making it the provincial capital for the next 250 years.



Temple of Trajan
- Some impressive remains of this 2nd c. A.D. marble temple dedicated to the emperor have been restored.

Pergamum

- Library sits next to the Temple of Trajan
 - Housed 200,000 volumes
 - Second largest in the ancient world after Alexandria



- Parchment (vellum) was invented in Pergamum after relations with Egypt soured and papyrus became difficult to obtain.
- Mark Anthony gave all the books to Cleopatra as wedding present

Pergamum

- Upper city built high on an acropolis (mountain fortress)
 - 1300 ft above valley floor
 - City name means “citadel” from the word for “tower”



- Recognized as one of the outstanding cities of its time.
- 2nd century Pliny called it the most distinguished city in Asia.
- Sacred way in lower city shown in front of acropolis

Marble Alter of Zeus

- Replica in Pergamon Museum in Berlin
 - Original stood high above city on neighboring hill
 - 360-ft base depicting Greek gods defeating the barbarians



Temple to Roman god Asclepius

- The god of healing – His symbol was a snake
 - mixed with practice of medicine
 - Asclepeions (temples) served as clinics and medical schools



– Temple in Pergamum was the 2nd largest in the world

– Built around a spring believed to have healing powers

– Constructed in the 4th century B.C.; In the 2nd c. A.D., Hadrian further developed it and it was added to the list of "wonders of the world."

Temple to Egyptian god Serapes

- Ancient Egyptian god of the underworld
 - Serapes cult was founded by Ptolemy I and was centered in Alexandria



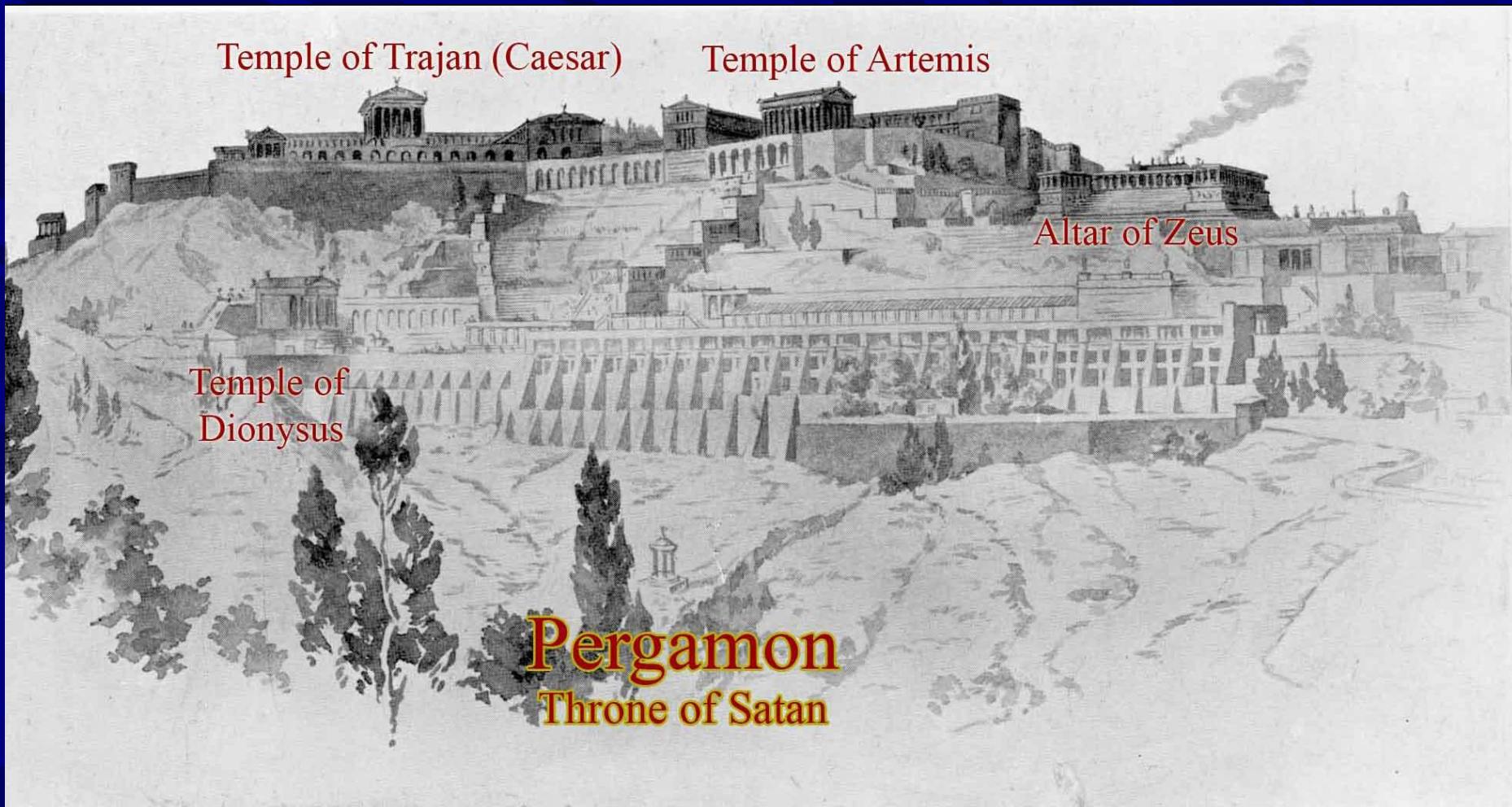
- Held to be a god of healing, particularly of blindness
- Serapeum erected in the lower city of Pergamum.

Words of Him who has the Sharp Double Edged Sword – vs 12

- Words of Judgment
 - Heb. 4:12-13; II Thess. 2:8
- Capital Punishment
 - *just gladii* – “right of the sword”
 - Provincial Governor
 - Rom. 13:3-4
- Who really has the power of discerning judgment?
 - To protect in midst of persecution and martyrdom (Antipas vs 13)
 - Judgment on false teachers (vs 14-16)

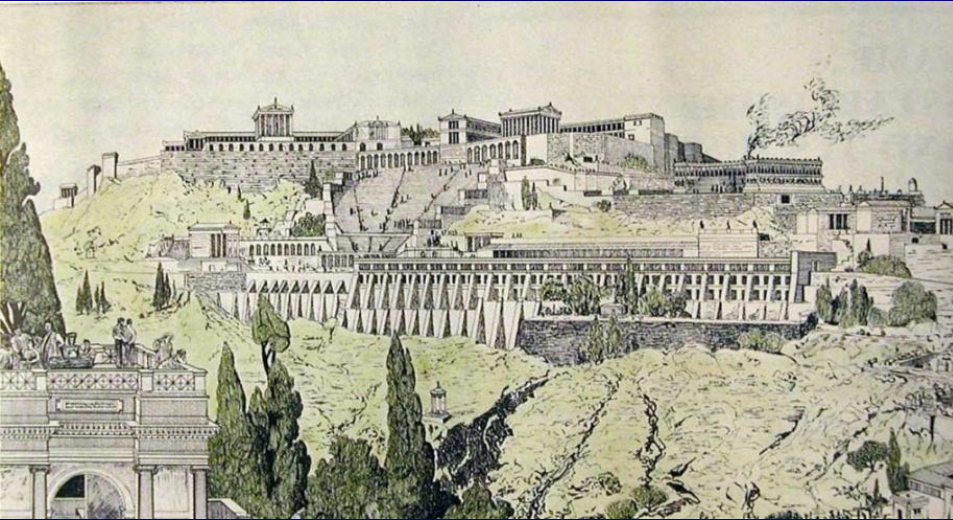


Pergamum: Throne of Satan



The white marble grandiose temples would have easily been considered a wonder of the world in the days of the early church.

Where Satan Lives



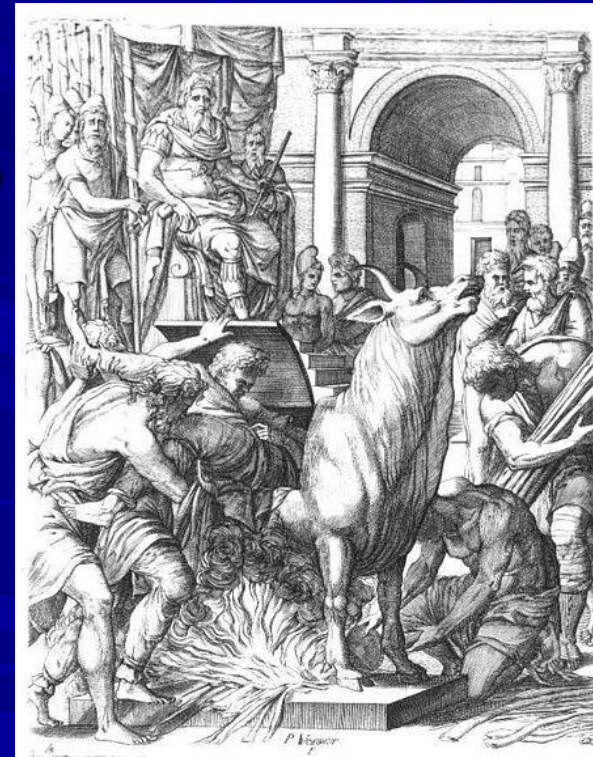
■ "I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name." Rev. 2: 13

■ So where in Pergamum was Satan's throne?

- Any temple to a pagan god or to an emperor?
- Perhaps the whole city as the provincial capital.
- Center of state religion and emperor worship.
 - Satan's throne
 - Hell's headquarters

Commendation: “Yet you hold fast my name. You did not renounce your faith in me”

- Pressure to worship the emperor would have been especially great in Pergamum.
- They had not compromised or denied their faith, even to the point of martyrdom.
 - Antipas, My faithful witness (martyr)
 - Martyred at the alter of incense worship in 92AD it is said by being cast into a bronze bull that had been heated.
 - *Κυριος Καισαρος vs Κυριος Χριστος* was the test of the day.
 - Loyalty meant persecution.
 - They did not renounce their faith.





Complaint: vs 14-15

- Some held the teachings of Balaam.
 - Num 22-25 – Balaam willing to make material gain at the cost of spiritual compromise and encouraged Israel to idolatry and sexual immorality. (Num 31:15-18)

- They teach idol (emperor) worship as means of obtaining safety which also included sexual immorality.

- Some hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans

- Irenaeus said "they lead lives of unrestrained indulgence." Victorinus of Pettau states that the sect ate things offered to idols. Bede states that Nicolas allowed other men to marry his wife.

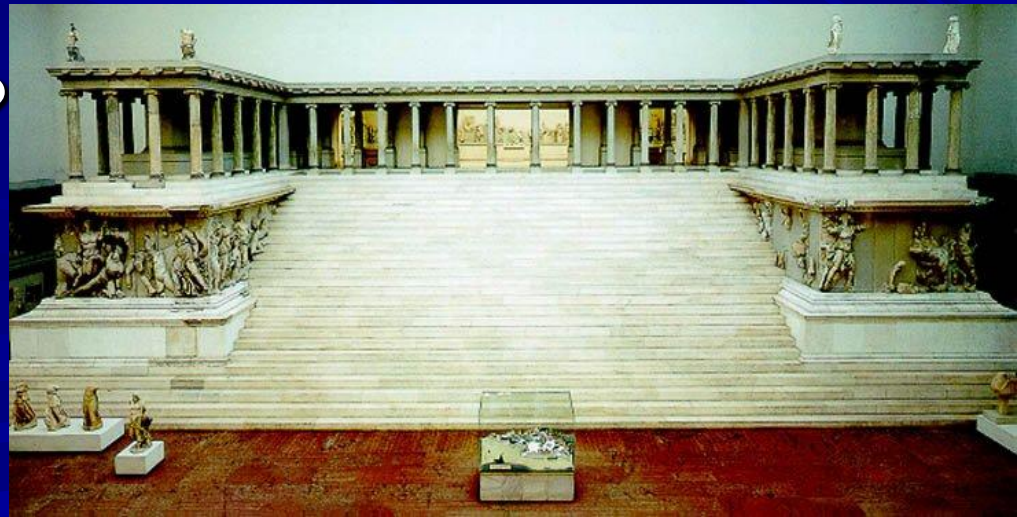
- The same compromise with the world, easing of moral restrictions, and religious infidelity.

G.R. Beasley-Murray, in speaking of the Nicolaitans, wrote:

- "They will have maintained that idols are nothing...Therefore Christians need not hesitate to take part in pagan feasts, whether among trade guilds or in temples.... Nor need they be over-scrupulous about acknowledging the divinity of Caesar, for they can do it in the same spirit as many pagans did – as a gesture of loyalty to Rome, without religious significance." (*The New Century Bible Commentary*, "Revelation," p. 86)

Application Questions?

- What kind of compromises with the world and easing of moral restrictions do some Christians make today to follow their pleasure?
- What idols do some Christians look to today to provide their safety and security?
- Do we sometimes tolerate sexual immorality in the Church today?
- Is tolerance a virtue?
 - Gal. 6:1



Warning: vs 16

- Repent or face the sword of His mouth.



- Judgment is coming quickly unless they get rid of the idolatry and immorality.
- Not likely final judgment as it is conditional.

- Christ will personally make war against them.

- He will demonstrate who truly has the right of the sword.
- He will demonstrate whose power must truly be feared.

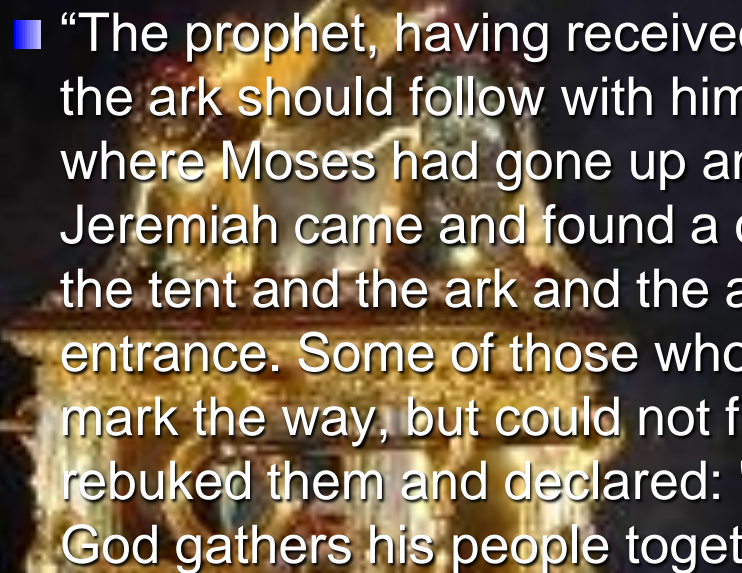
The Victor's Prize: vs 17

■ Hidden Manna

– Omer of manna kept by Arron (Ex. 16:32-34, Heb.9:4; and hidden by Jeremiah (2 Macc 2:4-7; 2 Bar 29:8; Sib Or 3:746) until the Messiah should come.

– 2 Macc 2:4-7

■ “The prophet, having received an oracle, ordered that the tent and the ark should follow with him, and that he went out to the mountain where Moses had gone up and had seen the inheritance of God. Jeremiah came and found a cave-dwelling, and he brought there the tent and the ark and the altar of incense; then he sealed up the entrance. Some of those who followed him came up intending to mark the way, but could not find it. When Jeremiah learned of it, he rebuked them and declared: “The place shall remain unknown until God gathers his people together again and shows his mercy.”



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- 2 Baruch 29:8

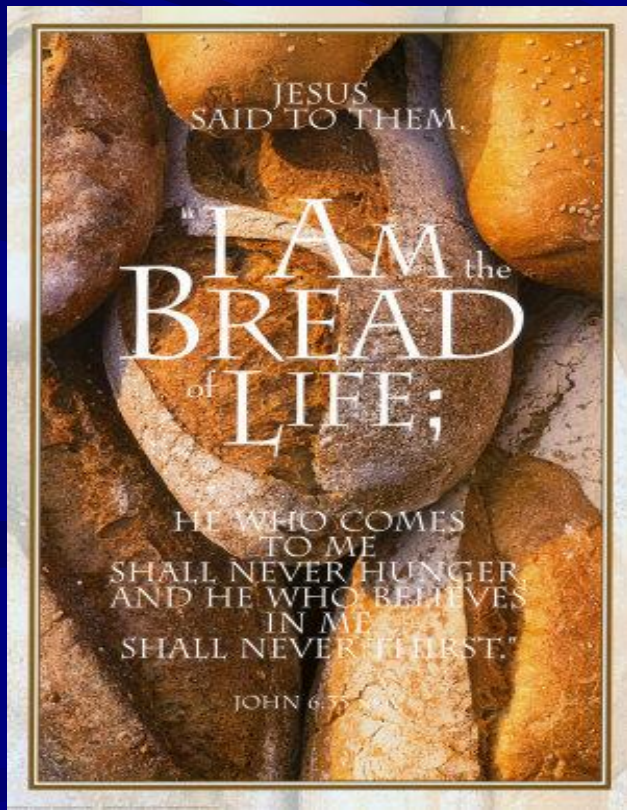
“And it shall come to pass at that self-same time that the treasury of manna shall again descend from on high, and they will eat of it in those years, because these are they who have come to the consummation of time.”



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- Omer of manna kept by Aaron (Ex. 16:32-34, Heb.9:4; and hidden by Jeremiah (2 Macc 2:4-7; 2 Bar 29:8; Sib Or 3:746) until the Messiah should come.



- Perhaps used in reference of Jesus as Bread of Life (John 6:30-35; 58).
- Spiritual sustenance which the world cannot understand.

The Victor's Prize: vs 17

■ White stone with name on it.

- Temple of Asclepius
- Freed Slave
- Victorious Warrior
- “Not Guilty” (vs Black Ball)
- Winner of a Race
- Invitation to Banquet

■ New Name – known only to him who receives it.

- Is 56:5; 62:2; 65:15
- Rev 14:4; 19:11-12

