

The Book of

REVELATION

The word 'REVELATION' is rendered in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are filled with a dark blue and purple gradient, and are overlaid with numerous bright yellow and white lightning bolts that appear to strike through the text. The background behind the letters is a dark, stormy sky with a bright, glowing light source in the center, creating a dramatic and intense atmosphere.

Lesson 3

Chapter 2:12-29

Look for the answer to these questions:

1. Who was Antipas? How did he die?
2. What were the two doctrines being taught at Pergamos that were polluting the church?
3. How did Balaam cause the Israelites to stumble?
4. What is the meaning of the hidden manna?
5. What is the meaning of the white stone?
6. What is the meaning of the new name written on it?
7. What was the Lord's admonition or counsel to the church at Pergamos?
8. What did the Lord have against the church at Thyatira?
9. What was the Lord's admonition or counsel to the church at Thyatira?
10. What is God's promise to "he that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end"?

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Part 1: ... the things which thou hast seen 1:1-20

Part 2: ... the things which are 2:1 to 3:22

Part 3: ... the things which shall be hereafter 4:1 to 22:21

We continue in Part Two – THE THINGS WHICH ARE –
and the Lord’s messages to “the seven churches which are in Asia.”

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



EPHESUS

SMYRNA

(Rev. 2:1-7)

Once on fire for Christ, but now becoming indifferent.

(Rev. 2:8-11)

Persecuted, poor, but ever faithful and resolute!

So far, we have read about the churches in Ephesus and Smyrna.

A BACKSLIDING CHURCH

A STEADFAST CHURCH

CRITICISM:
"Thou hast left thy first love..."

NO CRITICISM!

COUNSEL:
"Remember..., and repent."

COUNSEL:
"Be faithful unto death."

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



EPHESUS

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PERGAMOS

A LICENTIOUS CHURCH



| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  | | | | |
| EPHESUS | SMYRNA | PERGAMOS | | | | |
| (Rev. 2:1-7) Once on fire for Christ, but now becoming indifferent. | (Rev. 2:8-11) Persecuted, poor, but ever faithful and resolute! | | | | | |
| A BACKSLIDING CHURCH | A STEADFAST CHURCH | A LICENTIOUS CHURCH | | | | |
| CRITICISM: "Thou hast left thy first love..." | NO CRITICISM! | | | | | |
| COUNSEL: "Remember..., and repent." | COUNSEL: "Be faithful unto death." | | | | | |

Salutation

Revelation 2:12

Remember that every message follows this pattern:

- 1) A **SALUTATION** or greeting
- 2) A **COMMENDATION** or word of praise*
- 3) A **REBUKE** or word of disapproval**
- 4) An **ADMONITION** or word of counsel
- 5) An **EXHORTATION** or word of encouragement

* Sardis and Laodicea are not praised.

** Smyrna and Philadelphia are not rebuked.

To the church in Pergamos

Salutation

Revelation 2:12

¹² And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write;
These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;



To the church in Pergamos

Salutation

Revelation 2:12

¹² And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write;

These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;



... and out of his mouth
went a sharp twoedged sword ...
(Rev. 1:16)



To the church in Pergamos

Commendation

Revelation 2:13

¹³ I know thy works,
and where thou dwellest,

The Lord understands the special challenges you may face because of where you live.



Commendation

Revelation 2:13

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.

Wickedness was so common in Pergamos that Jesus said Satan's seat [or his throne] was located there.



Commendation

Revelation 2:13

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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.

Even in the midst of such evil,
this church remained faithful.



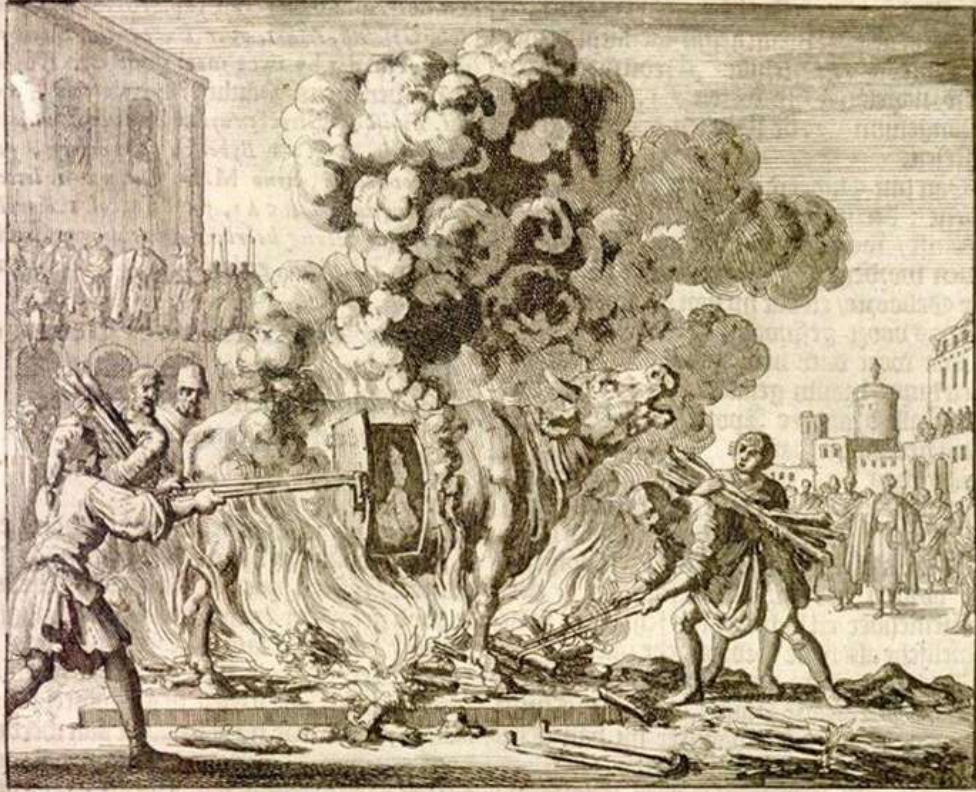
Commendation

Revelation 2:13

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even where Satan's seat is:
and thou holdest fast my name,
and hast not denied my faith,
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Antipas was my faithful martyr,
who was slain among you,
where Satan dwelleth.*



According to Christian tradition, Antipas was the bishop of Pergamon during the reign of the Roman emperor Nero (AD 54-68).



Antipas was burned to death inside a bull-shaped altar made of brass, because he taught against the ancestral gods worshiped by the local population.

To the church in Pergamos

Rebuke

Revelation 2:14-15

¹⁴ But I have a few things against thee,

This church did good works, but there were still some things that needed to change.



Rebuke

Revelation 2:14-15

- 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.
- ¹⁵ So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

The idolatrous teachings of Balaam and the Nicolaitans were polluting the church.

Rebuke

Revelation 2:14-15

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- ¹⁵ So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

Balaam knew that no weapon formed against Israel would prosper if they walked with God.

But he knew that if he could lead them into idolatry, they would defeat themselves. And that is what he did!

Rebuke

Revelation 2:14-15

- 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.
- ¹⁵ So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

It was the doctrine of Balaam – a doctrine that encouraged idolatry and the sexual sins that go with it – that led to the death of 23,000 in “the matter of Peor.”





Numbers 31:16

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.

Rebuke

Revelation 2:14-15

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.

¹⁵ **So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.**

In his message to the church of Ephesus, the Lord said he hated “the DEEDS of the Nicolaitans.” Now we see that he also hates “the DOCTRINE of the Nicolaitans.”

Admonition

Revelation 2:16

¹⁶ Repent;
or else I will come unto thee
quickly, and will fight against them
with the sword of my mouth.

Christ always gives a church the
chance to repent before he deals
out their punishment.



Admonition

Revelation 2:16

¹⁶ Repent;
or else I will come unto thee
quickly, and will fight against them
with the sword of my mouth.



Matthew Henry Commentary

“When God comes to punish the corrupt members of a church, he rebukes that church itself for allowing such to continue in its communion, and some drops of the storm fall upon the whole society.”

To the church in Pergamos

Exhortation

Revelation 2:17

¹⁷ He that hath an ear,
let him hear what the Spirit saith
unto the churches;
To him that overcometh will I give
to eat of the hidden manna,
and will give him a white stone,
and in the stone a new name
written, which no man knoweth
saving he that receiveth *it*.

Let us pray that we always have “an ear to hear what the Spirit saith.”



To the church in Pergamos

Exhortation

Revelation 2:17

¹⁷ He that hath an ear,
let him hear what the Spirit saith
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To him that overcometh will I give
to eat of **the hidden manna**,
and will give him a white stone,
and in the stone a new name
written, which no man knoweth
saving he that receiveth *it*.

The hidden manna – a taste of the
glory to come.



To the church in Pergamos

Exhortation

Revelation 2:17

¹⁷ He that hath an ear,
let him hear what the Spirit saith
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To him that overcometh will I give
to eat of the hidden manna,
and will give him **a white stone**,
and in the stone a new name
written, which no man knoweth
saving he that receiveth *it*.

A white stone – a sign of our release
from the guilt of sin.



To the church in Pergamos

Exhortation

Revelation 2:17

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to eat of the hidden manna,
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A new name – our new identity in
Christ.



Exhortation

Revelation 2:17

¹⁷ He that hath an ear,
let him hear what the Spirit saith
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To him that overcometh will I give
to eat of the hidden manna,
and will give him a white stone,
and in the stone a new name
written, **which no man knoweth
saving he that receiveth it.**

God speaks to each of his children in a way that is personal to them.



THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



This is what we learned:

PERGAMOS

(Rev. 2:1-7)

Once on fire for Christ, but now becoming indifferent.

(Rev. 2:8-11)

Persecuted, poor, but ever faithful and resolute!

(Rev. 2:12-17)

Permissive, sheltering false teachers and false doctrines.

A BACKSLIDING CHURCH

A STEADFAST CHURCH

A LICENTIOUS CHURCH

CRITICISM:
"Thou hast left thy first love..."

NO CRITICISM!

CRITICISM:
"Thou has them that hold the doctrines of Balaam and the Nicolaitans..."

COUNSEL:
"Remember..., and repent."

COUNSEL:
"Be faithful unto death."

COUNSEL:
"Repent, or I will come unto thee..."

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



EPHESUS

(Rev. 2:1-7)

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(Rev. 2:12-17)

Permissive, sheltering false teachers and false doctrines.

A LICENTIOUS CHURCH

CRITICISM:
“Thou has them that hold the doctrines of Balaam and the Nicolaitans...”

COUNSEL:
“Repent, or I will come unto thee...”



THYATIRA

A LAX, PAGAN CHURCH

UP NEXT →

To the church in Thyatira

Salutation

Revelation 2:18

¹⁸ And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write;

These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass;



To the church in Thyatira

Salutation

Revelation 2:18

¹⁸ And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write;

These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;



...his eyes were as a flame of fire;
And his feet like unto fine brass...
(Rev. 14b and 15a)



Commendation

Revelation 2:19

¹⁹ I know thy works,
and charity,
and service,
and faith,
and thy patience,
and thy works;
and the last to be more than the
first.

Once again, we read about a church
that was rich in good works.



Rebuke

Revelation 2:20

²⁰ **Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee,**
because thou sufferest that woman
Jezebel, which calleth herself a
prophetess,
to teach and to seduce my servants
to commit fornication, and to eat
things sacrificed unto idols.

But not everything was good.
They were being led into idolatry by a
false prophetess.

Rebuke

Revelation 2:20

²⁰ Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest **that woman Jezebel**, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.



Fauset's Bible Dictionary

“Jezebel typically expresses some self-styled prophetess... as closely attached to the church as a wife is to a husband, and as powerfully influencing that church for evil as Jezebel did her husband.”

Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab, “has come to be known as an archetype of the wicked woman” (Encyclopedia Britannica).



Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab, “has come to be known as an archetype of the wicked woman” (Encyclopedia Britannica).

1. She practiced and promoted idolatry.
2 Kings 9:22: “the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts *are* so many.”



Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab, “has come to be known as an archetype of the wicked woman” (Encyclopedia Britannica).

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3. She forged the king’s name in order to murder an innocent man (1 Kings 21).



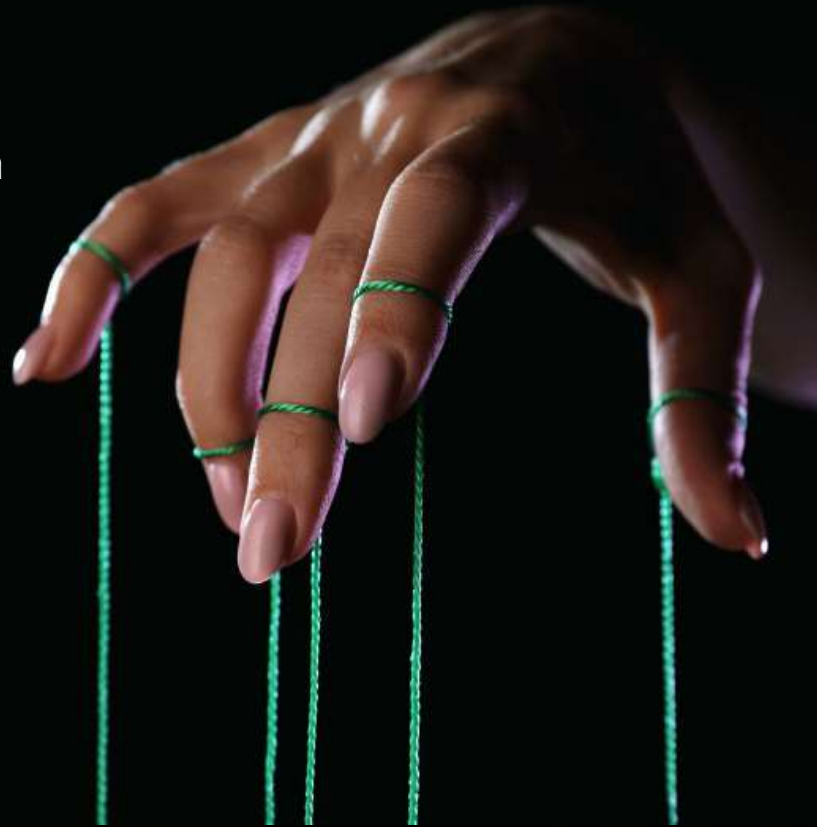
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2. She ordered the death of the LORD’s prophets (1 Kings 18).
3. She forged the king’s name in order to murder an innocent man (1 Kings 21).
4. It was “Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD,” but it was Jezebel who “stirred [him] up.”



1 Kings 21:25

But there was none like unto Ahab,
which did sell himself to work wickedness in
the sight of the LORD,
whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.



To the church in Thyatira

Rebuke

Revelation 2:21

²¹ And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

The time for repentance is now.
Tomorrow may be too late.



Rebuke

Revelation 2:22-23

²² Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into **great tribulation**, except they repent of their deeds.

²³ And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

When Christ begins the Rapture of the Church, the opportunity to repent and avoid the Great Tribulation will be over.



Admonition

Revelation 2:24-25

²⁴ But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

²⁵ But that which ye have *already* hold fast till I come.

Thankfully, this corruption had not spread throughout all the church.



Admonition

Revelation 2:24-25

²⁴ But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

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1 Thessalonians 5:21

Prove all things;
hold fast that which is good.



Admonition

Revelation 2:24-25

²⁴ But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

²⁵ But that which ye have *already* hold fast till I come.

1 Thessalonians 5:21

Prove all things;
hold fast that which is good.

2 Timothy 1:13

Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.



Exhortation

Revelation 2:26-28

- ²⁶ **And he that overcometh**, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:
- ²⁷ And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.
- ²⁸ And I will give him the morning star.

To those that remain faithful, there is a promise of special responsibility during Christ's millennial reign.

Exhortation

Revelation 2:26-28

- ²⁶ And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:
- ²⁷ And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.
- ²⁸ And I will give him **the morning star.**

We read about the morning star in **Revelation 22:16**

- ¹⁶ I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star.



To the church in Thyatira

Exhortation

Revelation 2:29

²⁹ He that hath an ear,
let him hear what the Spirit saith
unto the churches.



THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



EPHESUS



(Rev. 2:8-11)

Persecuted, poor, but ever faithful and resolute!

A STEADFAST CHURCH

NO CRITICISM!

COUNSEL:
"Be faithful unto death."



(Rev. 2:12-17)

Permissive, sheltering false teachers and false doctrines.

A LICENTIOUS CHURCH

CRITICISM:
"Thou has them that hold the doctrines of Balaam and the Nicolaitans..."

COUNSEL:
"Repent, or I will come unto thee..."



THYATIRA

(Rev. 2:18-29)

Idolatrous, seduced into corrupt beliefs and pagan rituals.

A LAX, PAGAN CHURCH

CRITICISM:
"Thou sufferest that Jezebel to teach and seduce my servants..."

COUNSEL:
"Hold fast to what ye have..."

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



EPHESUS

SMYRNA

PERGAMOS

THYATIRA

SARDIS

PHILADELPHIA

LAODICIA

(Rev. 2:1-7)

Once on fire for Christ, but now becoming indifferent.

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(Rev. 2:12-17)

Permissive, sheltering false teachers and false doctrines.

(Rev. 2:18-29)

Idolatrous, seduced into corrupt beliefs and pagan rituals.

We will read about the last three churches in the next lesson.

A BACKSLIDING CHURCH

A STEADFAST CHURCH

A LICENTIOUS CHURCH

A LAX, PAGAN CHURCH

CRITICISM:
"Thou hast left thy first love..."

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CRITICISM:
"Thou has them that hold the doctrines of Balaam and the Nicolaitans..."

CRITICISM:
"Thou sufferest that Jezebel to teach and seduce my servants..."

COUNSEL:
"Remember..., and repent."

COUNSEL:
"Be faithful unto death."

COUNSEL:
"Repent, or I will come unto thee..."

COUNSEL:
"Hold fast to what ye have..."

Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. Who was Antipas? How did he die?
2. What were the two doctrines being taught at Pergamos that were polluting the church?
3. How did Balaam cause the Israelites to stumble?
4. What is the meaning of the hidden manna?
5. What is the meaning of the white stone?
6. What is the meaning of the new name written on it?
7. What was the Lord's admonition or counsel to the church at Pergamos?
8. What did the Lord have against the church at Thyatira?
9. What was the Lord's admonition or counsel to the church at Thyatira?
10. What is God's promise to "he that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end"?

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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