

Revelation: Pergamus

1. Salutation

- 80km north of Smyrna; great religious centre of Asia Minor; built on a cone-shaped hill ~ 300m high.
- variety of temples and shrines were built into the face of this hill, altar to Zeus dominated skyline.
- in 29BC Augustus gave permission to Pergamus to be the first city to establish a shrine to a living ruler
- also, a shrine to goddess Roma who was revered.
- Aesculapius, the god of healing and the Caduceus became the official emblem of the city – medical symbol.
- legend of Aesculapius, originally from Numbers 21.

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

- 2 Kings 18 - King Hezekiah removes all the high places and breaks down all the idols, also breaks into pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made.
- snake = symbol of sin, brass = idiomatic of judgment.

Pergamus - combination of 'per' = 'mixed' or 'objectionable' (e.g., 'pervert'); 'gamus' = marriage (e.g., monogamy)

2. Title

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.

3. Commendation

I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

“I want you to know that I know where you live and even though the powers of darkness are all around you and you are literally and figuratively under the domination of Satan’s throne, I want you to know there is *another* throne.”

The decline of Satan’s kingdom is directly related to the advance of Christ’s kingdom. Eph. 6 - armour of God all protects the front. What of protecting the back?

Jesus says, "I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name."

When God uses His Name, it is always singular — Elohim

Significance of names - Acts 3-4

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

"I know that you are those who have remained true to my name."

Conclusion: All religions cannot be the same!

4. Condemnation

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. So also, you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. (Vv. 14-15)

Who was Balaam? Who was Balak? Read Numbers 22-24.

Devices of Satan are skilful: If he can't succeed via the external, he will do his work internally!

5. Counsel

¹⁶ Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Repent. If not....

Jesus alone is the one who has the authority to issue such a call.

6. Exhortation

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

7. Promise

To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

Reference to Exodus 16 - manna pointing through time to Jesus, John 6 declares He is the true bread from heaven; the true manna hidden from us. One day we will meet face to face.

Pergamus - spiritual compromise, syncretism with the world.