

Lesson 6 **The Church of Pergamum – the great religious center, the city of the Serpent**

Day 1 Background History of Pergamum, Geographic Position, Title of Christ used

I will try to scale down the history to just those thoughts that are absolutely necessary to understand the culture of the day surrounding the different churches. Please take note that Pergamum and Pergamos for this church and are both used and they both mean the same thing.

Ephesus is about 65 miles south of the city of Izmir (Smyrna) today, whereas Pergamum is approximately 70 miles north of Izmir. These three cities: Ephesus, Smyrna, and Pergamum were the three “royal cities” of the Roman Empire. (Remember from our study of Smyrna that all three of these cities are in the province of Izmir today). All of these seven churches were within short distances of each other in the Asia Minor of the day or what is Turkey today. Pergamum is about 18 miles from the sea, too far for easy trade with other cities and countries. Today, the city of Pergamum is called Bergama with one-tenth the population of the city of Pergamum when it was at its height of glory. The church at Pergamum was representative of Church history during the period when the emperor, Constantine came to power (A.D. 314 to A.D. 590). Constantine was a Roman emperor who converted to Christianity and after declaring himself as the head of Christianity then moved the headquarters of the Church from Rome to Byzantium or Constantinople in Turkey. Some writers say Constantine made the switch to a different headquarters because he was concerned that the Church was becoming too pagan. Others like Dave Hunt who wrote about the Church from the beginning to the present day in *A Woman Rides the Beast* believes Constantine set himself up as the head of the church with his professed conversion to Christianity, but remained a pagan. “He abolished neither the pagan Altar of Victory in the Senate nor the Vestal Virgins; and the sun-god, not Christ, continued to be honored on the imperial coins.”¹ Constantine also demanded worship from his bishops: they had to prostrate themselves before him and pledge their loyalty to him as “the inspired oracle, the apostle of Church wisdom.”² Again, the church of Pergamum represents the church in this period of church history (A.D. 314 to 590) and it was this time in history when the church married the world. A lot of pagan rituals crept into the church, two worth mentioning, are the Christmas tree and the Yule Tide Log. Obviously, this letter was Christ’s message to the local church as well and they had their own definitive problems like tolerance of those who kept to the teachings of Balaam and the Nicolaitans.

The Greek god Zeus, supposedly, was born in Pergamum. In Pergamum, there was a temple celebrating Zeus and also a temple celebrating his daughter, Athena. Athena was the goddess of beauty. Zeus was also the father of all the gods. There was a temple of Zeus in Smyrna as well as Pergamum, but Zeus was born in Pergamum and must have been comfortable living there. There are some who believe that Zeus was and is the sum total of the devil himself. So, people came to

¹ Dave Hunt, *A Woman Rides the Beast*, Dave Hunt, Harvest House Publishers, 1994, pp. 157-159

² Peter De Rosa, *Vicars of Christ: The Dark Side of the Papacy*, Crown Publishers, 1988, p.43.

Pergamum to worship the devil. In the early 20th century, the temple of Zeus and the altar to Zeus in Pergamum, were in need of repair and the temple was disassembled and moved to a museum in Berlin where today, one can actually climb the white marble stairs into the temple and view all the beautiful carvings and columns that surrounded the building. Jesus Christ says in **Revelation 2:13** that He knows where those from Pergamum live: satan's throne. Was this throne in Zeus' Temple in Pergamum actually the throne of satan? Was Zeus satan? There are also those who say they believe that Zeus of the Romans is the same god as Baal to the Canaanites/ Philistines.³ Since the housing in Germany for the temple to Zeus and its altar were finished in 1930, this "throne" is said to have inspired Adolf Hitler to portray himself as a godlike figure and a savior to the German people. Adolf Hitler also used the altar of Zeus to stand on like a platform for his famous speech that was made into a documentary movie to use as propaganda for the Third Reich. During the time of this Church in Pergamum, Antipas, a faithful Believer in Christ, was roasted alive inside a bronze bull that was the altar for Zeus in Pergamum. This is the same altar that Hitler used for his propaganda film. This same altar also inspired Hitler to give all those Jewish people as a sacrifice to satan in the ovens of Nazi Germany. Religion and the worship of satan must have been very big business in Pergamum and it seems that it worked quite well for the Nazis in Germany, too.⁴

At the time of the church at Pergamum, the practice of Aesculapium had already prospered in this city for 8 centuries. The snake called Aesculapius is the symbol of a medical doctor today. This is kind of weird when you think about it, because the snake was the serpent of old, the devil in the garden. Aesculapium was the beginning of health institutions, the Kaiser Permanente of Pergamum. Those who practiced Aesculapium used mostly psychiatry and suggestion, inducing sleep with drugs, and interpreting the dreams of their patients. I am not suggesting that Kaiser Permanente uses Aesculapium. Aesculapius was eventually seen as a god, the son of Apollo and the virgin Cornois. He was also portrayed as a type of "Savior" and he apparently had the power to avert death. Does make you think, doesn't it? The Greeks probably got their idea of the serpent being used for healing from the Hebrew Bible in Numbers 21:9. When Moses lifted up the **bronze** serpent in the wilderness for all those who were bitten by the serpents, all those who looked at the **bronze** serpent were healed.

Looking at the book of Daniel, there comes in the future to Daniel, an abomination of desolation that is placed in the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem during the reign of the third great kingdom of **Daniel 2**, we know today as Greece. This actually happened in the Jerusalem temple during the reign of the Greek Seleucid King, Antiochus Epiphanes. This was the time of the Maccabees (165-63 B.C). Antiochus placed a statue of Zeus in the Holy of Holies and desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem. If Zeus is really satan, then this all makes a whole lot more sense, seeing how satan always counterfeits God. Satan wants to be worshiped as God. God's dwelling place was in between the two cherubim above the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies. God had earlier left this dwelling place when his people rejected Him and He returned to His throne in heaven. Write below **2 Kings 19:15-16**. This time period of the Kings of Judah was before the departure of God from the Holy of Holies on earth.

³ Brian Godawa, Dr. Michael Heiser

⁴ Yeshuah Ben Yosef, Rise of the Beast – Pergamon and the Seat of Satan, Published March 2015.

What do you think the Maccabee's must have thought when they saw the statue of Zeus in the holy place? What do you think was their response? For those of you with a study Bible, i.e., "The International Inductive Study Bible," look for the history of the Maccabean Period of time. If you do not have a study bible that has the history in it, take a look at Wikipedia for this time period.

Do you think they were aware of Daniel's prophecy concerning the abomination of desolation in the Holy Temple of God in Jerusalem?

Was this abomination of desolation placed in Solomon's Temple or was it placed in the rebuilt Temple after the captivity of Judah in Babylon was over?

Was this the anti-Christ of whom Jesus spoke in Matthew 24 and Luke 22?

What do you think was going on in the minds of those first-century Christians who saw their Christian brother, Antipas, roasted alive on the altar of Zeus, in the belly of a bronze bull?

What do you think was going on in the minds of the Jewish people when they became aware of Hitler's intentions to sacrifice them on the altar of satan?

Did you know that Hitler was born in the same year in which Germany became a sovereign nation and also the same year anti-Semitism began to rise again in that territory? Creepy, isn't it?

I often think of Anne Frank. I visited the house where she lived during that period of time when she and her family were in hiding. What would I have thought of Hitler if I were a young gal in the same situation as Anne? Would I have thought Hitler was the antichrist? Would I have thought that the satan had taken up residence in Hitler?

I've been a student of prophecy for a long time. I make no apology for this because the Bible is at least one-fourth prophecy. Please check out "Guidelines for Interpreting Predictive Prophecy" in the "International Inductive Study Bible" if you have one. This is a quote from my copy from p.2103. "When a prophet spoke for God, the prophecy could refer to the following:

- A present or near fulfillment
- A future fulfillment
- A twofold fulfillment: a near fulfillment and then a later, future fulfillment.”

I used to think that when a prophecy was given, there could be only two fulfillments as explained above, one close up to the time the prophecy was given in order to validate the prophet, and another, later in time. As I look at this prophecy in Daniel, I ask myself the question: “Can there be more than two fulfillments of a prophecy?” Whether or not there can be more than two fulfillments, the Apostle John in 1 John did say, “even now many antichrists have appeared,” meaning that more than just one antichrist is possible. The word “antichrist” means in place of Christ. The other question I ask myself is, “Does the word “antichrist” mean that satan entered into that entity and controlled him or her?” The first part of this prophecy is fulfilled in the setting up of the abomination of desolation in the Temple by Antiochus Epiphanes in Daniel’s third world empire of Greece. We know another fulfillment of this prophecy will occur in the end times although it will be slightly different in that it will occur in Daniel’s fourth world empire of Rome and not at the time of the world empire of Greece. Did satan or ha-satan inhabit Zeus of whom an idol of him was placed in the Jewish Temple during the time of the Maccabees? Certainly, satan took up residence in Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, Joseph Stalin who killed 34 to 49 million people, and also in countless other antichrists throughout history. And will he take up residence in the antichrist in the future when he sets up another abomination of desolation in the third temple in Jerusalem which does not yet exist? Beth Moore in one of her studies said that satan has to have a person ready to be inhabited by himself in every generation. Satan doesn’t know the time of the end, just as we don’t know and as Christ told us we wouldn’t know. Only God the Father knows. I not only think that satan needs someone in all ages to indwell, but I think he has indwelt several of those someone(s) all throughout time. All of this to say, I believe, if I had been Anne Frank or any other Jew during World War II, I would have thought that Adolf Hitler was definitely indwelt by satan and indeed was the antichrist.

Before you leave this study for the day, I would like those of you who have access to You-tube on the Internet to go to this video and watch it to completion:

“Rise of the Beast – Pergamon and the Seat of Satan”

Day 2-3 What is in a Name?

Have you wondered as you have been studying through my notes, why I do not capitalize “satan?” I am so glad if you’ve asked that question because I am going to tell you why right now.

In the first volume of Lost in Translation, the authors tell of how “**satan**” was kicked out of heaven and how God took away his identity by removing his name. “*Ha Satan*” was the title given him as the cherub chosen of God, but not his name. We do not know his name. Even though he is called the name “*Lucifer*” in the KJV version of the Old Testament, this is the name

that was given him by the Babylonians to whom this name meant “*Angel of Light*.” Some translators now translate “*Lucifer*” as the “son of the morning”⁵ Names were and are still very important to the Jewish people. When we get to those who overcome in the church at Pergamum, we find that they are given a “white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows, but he who receives it.”

Not only are names important for the Jewish people and for those who overcome at Pergamum, but also for us as well. I am thrilled that the baby generating generation of our day is investigating names before they saddle their kids for the rest of their lives with names that mean awful things.

This brings us again to the name or title of Christ that is used in this letter to the church at Pergamum, “*the One who has the sharp two-edged sword*.” Let’s investigate this sharp two-edged sword,” and “the One who” holds it and the character behind the name.

In **Ephesians 6:10-17**, Paul urges us to take up the armor of God before we go into battle. For us, the battle is truly defined as living through our days on this earth. We are also truly in a battle. Every day is a battlefield, whether or not we realize it. Remember, in the introduction to this study, one of the things I wanted you to be mindful of during this entire study was, that we are in a spiritual battle. This is actual battle with the dark spirits, the devils, the demons, and the spirit of the anti-Christ. The fallen angels must live and have access to different realms than we do. We live in three and one-half dimensions: length, width, depth and time. Time is only one-half of a dimension, because we can only go forward in time, not backwards. The angels have more dimensions to live in than we do. The mathematicians say that there are at least ten dimensions in the universe and they can prove it. Others say there are an infinite number of dimensions. What do you think?

Paul goes onto say in this spiritual battle that we are to take up the “sword of the spirit,” which is the word of God. (**Ephesians 6:17**).

Read John **1: 1-5** and record your thoughts below before answering the next question.

Who or what is the Word of God?

The written Word of God is the Holy Scripture. The person called the “Word of God” is our Savior, the LORD Jesus Christ. He is God. He is part of the Trinity, but He is still God. I do believe the written word of God is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness – 2 Timothy 3:16. But we are to worship no one else or anything (including the Scripture) other than the Person of Jesus Christ. The written Word of

⁵ Lost in Translation, Vol. 1, Rediscovering the Roots of our Faith, John Klein, Adam Spears, Michael Christopher, 2014, pp.78-79.

God was written and given to us for our understanding so that we might know how to be in relationship with the Son of God, the incarnate “Word of God.”

So, what does it mean that we will do battle with the two-sided sword which is the word of God? Is this talking about the written Word of God or the incarnate Word of God?

This definitely is a trick question. The answer is: both. I just wanted you to really think about it.

Let’s look at the *Word of God, the Son of God*, first. Well, my Sarshalom site, the Brit Hadasha, is not working today on my Internet connection. Remember, what I said girls, I will keep plodding on against the arsenal of the enemy. We will just look at the word used for “Word” in the Greek instead of the Hebrew.

The word used above in the Greek for the Word of God, the Son of God is “Logos.” This is from Vine’s Expository Complete Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words. **John 1:1-18** provides us with doctrine concerning the Personal Word. Vine believes this Word of God is a title. In verses 1 and 2, Yeshua (Jesus) has not only a distinct personality, but He also is in intimate relationship with the rest of the Godhead. He is deity and He has creative power. He became flesh. God the Son packed Himself up and put Himself into His own creation of Mankind. He left heaven to come to earth and die for the sins of His own creation. This is love.

Before we go on, stop and meditate on all of this: He is deity and He has creative power. Write below what comes to your mind.

Christ is God. He was present at Creation and He took part in the Creation. He, the Father, and the Holy Spirit were all present, but the Scripture in John reveals that Yeshua (Jesus) was responsible for the Creation. In **Genesis 1:1**, I see subtleties of all three parts of the Godhead. Tell me how I can say this?

The word for God in the Hebrew in **Genesis 1:1** is *Elohim*. The “im” ending denotes this word is plural. In the Hebrew, it actually means, Plurality of Majesty or intensely magnified. Some see this “Plurality of Majesty” as evidence that the Godhead exists in more than one person (I believe this). Whether or not this is a correct understanding, He is the Hebrew God, *YHWH*. And He is the God of gods. When compared with other gods, He is *the Only One* and His might and power and glory far exceed the others. This is what Moses wrote in **Deuteronomy 10:17** about *Elohim*: “For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God.” By the way we use the word “awesome” way too liberally. God is the only one who is awesome! Let’s try and be mindful of this and try to use this word only in association with God’s awesomeness.

Genesis 1:1 says that the *Spirit of God (Holy Spirit)* was moving over the surface of the water.

The written Word of God is the Greek word “**rhema**” and refers to that which is spoken or uttered in speech or writing and refers to God’s will. This is from Vines’ Expository Dictionary as well:

“The significance of **rhema** (as distinct from **logos**) is exemplified in the injunction to take “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,” **Eph. 6:17** here the reference is not to the whole Bible as such but to the individual Scripture which the Spirit brings to our remembrance for use in time of need, a prerequisite being the regular storing of the mind with Scripture.⁶

When I was much younger, just out of college, I went through a terrible time of depression. My employer had a physician on staff, so I felt comfortable enough to visit him. He told me I needed a boyfriend. I knew I wasn’t going to get any help from him, so I went to see a friend of mine who had studied for the ministry. I told him of my severe mood swings, one moment I was up, and the next I was down...way down...unbelievably low. He told me to take a small pad of paper and pencil with me wherever I went and when I noticed the plummet, I was to write down immediately what was said to me by another person or the immediate situation leading to the downturn in my mood. I learned from this that every time my good character was attacked, my mind went straight to the depths of despair. How did I confront it? This pastor told me to start memorizing Scripture regarding who I was in Christ. I used the written word of God on my heart to do battle with the enemy. And I won. Or rather Jesus won.

What was Yeshua’s response to the devil’s temptation when he said to Him, “If You are the *Son of God*, tell this stone to become bread?” See **Matthew 4:4**.

When Paul was writing the epistle to the **Ephesians**, he was chained or had been chained recently to a Roman soldier. You will notice in **Ephesians 6:10-17**, that Paul seems to be using the Roman soldier as a template for his writing about the putting “on of the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.” The Romans soldiers carried around a short knife for intimate, one on one battle. This was called a *machira*. It required special training on the part of the bearer. If this *machira* is the short and sharp two-edged sword referred to in describing the Lord Jesus Christ to the church at Pergamum, how do you think He is telling us to use this sword?

Day 4 Commendation, Criticism and the Angelic Hosts

Commendation

For what did Christ commend the Pergamum church in **Revelation 2:13**?

⁶ Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1985, p.683.

We spent a great deal of time and words on Christ's commendation to the church of Pergamum in Day 1. It will suffice to say now that God knew where they lived and He knew what they were up against. They lived where Satan's throne was and if you looked at the you-tube video from day 1 you will know that Satan had a stronghold on that city. Although the city was not the "seat of imperial and judicial authority, Pergamon became the center of the official religion of emperor "Caesar" worship." "The first temple of this cult was erected at Pergamos in 27 B.C."⁷ Those in Pergamos, just like those in Smyrna, could have easily satisfied the emperor's requirement for worshipping Caesar first by offering just a pinch of incense to Caesar and then they would have had the freedom to worship their God YHWH. If they did not give that token of worship to Caesar first, if they worshiped YHWH alone, they were in peril of losing their lives and many of them did.

"But, I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality. So, you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans" (**Revelation 2:14-15**).

We studied the Nicolaitans when we looked at the Church at Ephesus. Remember, they held sway or power over the laity. Nicolaus of Antioch (one of the 7 deacons of **Acts 6:5**) who apostatized from the truth, formed an Antinomian Gnostic cult which taught that one must indulge in sin to understand it. They gave themselves over to sensuality with the explanation that such sins did not touch the Spirit. Jesus tells the Church at Pergamos that He has this against them that they have some in their church body that hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

There were also those in the church who held to the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality. What is the teaching of Balaam and who is Balak? We are going to have to do some digging in the Old and New Testaments for the answers to these questions. We need to know up front that Balaam was a prophet and he liked gold a lot...in fact, he was greedy for gold. Paul calls greed idolatry in **Colossians 3:5**. Please read the following passages of Scripture and then write your thoughts below:

Revelation 2:14

The **Doctrine of Balaam**, described in **Revelation 2:14** is spiritual unchastity, or marriage with the world. Balaam got his gold eventually, and lived it up afterwards, but died a horrible death. The Doctrine of Balaam teaches compromise with the world. It's a lie that one can be fully accommodating to the world and still serve God, too. Are some of your church members on the fence when it comes to the future and living securely? Do they look for security in the future by their faith in God to sustain them or have they settled for the security of wealth that they themselves must attain in this life? How about you? How about me? This is not saying that we should not prepare for the future, only that our ultimate security lies in Jesus Christ alone. The

⁷ Chuck Missler's Revelation lecture notes on Pergamum, pp 32-33.

Christian is to be set apart, holy. They are not to look indistinguishable from the rest of the world. This doctrine of Balaam makes Christians look just like the unbelieving world.

2 Peter 2:15

The **Way of Balaam**, described in **2 Peter 2:15** is love of the wages of unrighteousness, or a “choice to promote falsehood for financial reasons.” We must guard ourselves from the **love of money** and do what we know is right. Balaam knew what was right.

Jude 1:11-16

The **Error of Balaam**, described in **Jude 1:11-16**: Balaam was hired by the enemies of the Israelites to curse them in exchange for gold. In **Numbers 22:12 - Numbers 25**, **Numbers 31:16**, God warns Balaam not to curse the Israelites and Balaam is only allowed to bless them. Feeling deprived of his opportunity to bring in the gold, Balaam connives with Balak, the Moabite king, to seduce the Israelite men with the Midian and Moabite women. Balaam knew that if the Israelites sinned, then their God, YHWH, would have to punish them. It worked. Balaam got his gold, but he didn't get God's full measure of punishment on the Israelites like he wanted. God, instead, spared some of His people because of the faithfulness of the Levitical priesthood. In plain English, I believe the error of Balaam is his greed: he was willing to assist Balak's purposes for pay.

Jude 1:4 also refers to the sin of those who pervert the grace of our God into immorality.

Jude 6 and 11

The Error of Balaam for hire, described in **Jude 6 and 11**, is the sacrificing of eternal riches for temporal gain and the lusting after the pleasures of sin for a season.

Does this sound like anything in our culture today? If you can't think of anything, go back and read the entire body of the letter to **Jude**. Now, do these words in Jude bear any resemblance to the culture that we live in today?

1. What can you do to insure you will not follow in these ways? How can you help your church so that the church, as a whole, does not follow in these ways?

2. What can you do for others who are in danger of being snatched away?

3. Who were those who were creeping in unnoticed into the Body of Christ in **Jude 4**? Were these the Nicolaitans or others?

No one knows who these people were for sure, but the troublemakers were a stealthy bunch. They had come into the church unannounced and cleverly disguised, their rhetoric containing just enough of the truth to captivate the unwary Christian. The message to the church is “Be on guard.” Jude urges the Believers “to stand firm, to resist whatever is not true, to persevere by building each other up, and to take responsibility for those who have been misled by false teaching.”⁸

4. Who are the angels who did not keep to their own domain in **Jude 6**? Were these the Nephilim (offspring of the sons of God and the daughters of men) or were they just fallen angels?

We are going to follow a rabbit trail today, because I want you to have some background on angels, so that you might understand more fully what we are up against in this warfare that is going on all around us.

Way back in the beginning, which was not really the Beginning, but in eternity past, God created the angelic host to serve Him. They were each created individually. They were not procreated as we are. God created three different levels of angels. Some of this information is from extra biblical sources like the Mishnah (the commentaries that were written by the Rabbis on the Law), the Talmud, the Apocryphal books (found in the middle of the Catholic Bible), and the Book of Enoch, which was considered part of Holy Writ by the Jews at the time of Christ. Each kind of angel was created to have a unique form, function, and purpose.⁹

The **Cherubim** were the highest order. These were also called the archangels and they had the job of protecting the Holiness of God from anything that was not pure. From the Scripture we know of four Cherubim. From the book of Enoch we believe that there were originally six. The two Cherubim that are no longer with the set of four surrounding the Throne of God are the Archangel Lucifer (which we learned earlier was not his name) and the Archangel Abaddon (probably not his name either since he too was kicked out of Heaven and probably his identity was taken from him). The Archangel Abaddon is now called the Angel of Death. In keeping with the counterfeiting nature of satan, the LORD Jesus Christ is the *Angel of the LORD* who encamps around those who fear Him. Do you remember singing of *the God of Angel Armies* who is always by “my side?” Jesus is the *Melek YHWH Tsabaot, the King who is the God of Angel Armies*, God of all the Angelic Hosts. The four who still surround the Throne of God are Michael whose name means “Who is Like God?” and Gabriel, whose name means “Redeemer of God,” and Raphael (from the extra Biblical books), whose name means “Healer of God; bringer of God’s Healing,” and lastly, Uriel (also from the extra Biblical books), which means “Light of God; bringer of God’s Light.” Again, in keeping with the counterfeiting nature of satan, his Babylonian name Lucifer is a variant from the Latin meaning ‘light.’ If you would like to

⁸ The Jeremiah Study Bible, David Jeremiah, Commentary on Jude, p. 1782

⁹ Lost in Translation, Volume 1, John Klein, Adam Spears, Michael Christopher, pp. 79-80.

explore two of the angels who were kicked out of Heaven, you will find descriptions of them in both **Isaiah 14** and **Ezekiel 28**. If you would like to know more about the four angels who are still around the Throne of God, take a look at **Ezekiel 1**, **Isaiah 6**, and **Revelation 4 and 5**.¹⁰ I really do recommend that you look at all three references. While investigating the above three references, be sure to look at **Exodus 24: 9-11**, too.

The second order of created angels, are called the **Seraphim**. These angels are known as the “Burning Ones” and they burn with fire. These have six wings each and they race back and forth from God’s Throne and to the earth and back. Please look carefully at **Ezekiel 1:4**. In this verse, Ezekiel sees a great cloud coming into his view with fire flashing forth continually and a bright light around it, and in its midst something like glowing metal in the midst of the fire.” Could this be evidence of the presence of the Seraphim coming and going from God’s Throne to the earth? For your understanding, I call this cloud, God’s Mobile Throne on a movable hovercraft. I think it makes all kinds of sense. In **Genesis 28:12**, we also find evidence of these Seraphim. Read **Genesis 28:10-17**. What is the dream that Jacob has?

The third order of created angels, are called the **Teraphim**. These are the lowest order of the Angels. Notice the “**tera**” part of “**teraphim**?” Are these the Angels that have been seen on this **earth**? Terra means earthly. These angels are the only angels who can take on human form and maintain it for long periods of time. Notice, this does not say that the other orders of angels cannot take on human form, only that they cannot maintain it for extended periods. **Hebrews 13:2** says this: “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Could this be the Teraphim? In the Hebrew, teraphim are known as *ayir*, and these “watch over” and “protect” men’s souls.¹¹ Please look at **Daniel 4:17**. What does this verse speak to?

This verse speaks of “angelic watchers,” who let the living know that the Most High God is the ruler over all the realm of Mankind. *The Most High God* in the Hebrew is **El Elyon**. Do you remember the words to Amy Grant’s song: “*El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El Elyon, Adonai*, Age to Age You are the same, by the power of *the Name*.” Her song introduces God as not only *El Elyon, the Most High God*, but also as *El Shaddai* which means *God Almighty* and *God of all comfort*, *Adonai* which means *LORD*, and *The Name* which in Hebrew is *Hashem*.

So now, enter, the fallen teraphim, and the Nephilim of **Genesis 6**. The Nephilim are the offspring of the “sons of God” and “the daughters of men.” The sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful and so they took wives for themselves and the daughters of men bore children to the sons of God. Please understand this was before the Great Flood. There are

¹⁰ Ibid, pp. 80-82.

¹¹ Ibid, pp. 83

both pre-flood and post-flood Nephilim who show up in the pages of Scripture. The pre-flood and post-flood giants of **Numbers 13:33**, **Deuteronomy 3:11**, and **2 Samuel 21:22** were Nephilim.¹² Think about this. Could the Nephilim still be on the earth in our generation, just not as large as previously seen? This certainly puts a different spin on our understanding of the world around us, doesn't it?

Now we come full circle. Can you now answer question 4 above?

Day 5 What is the Church at Pergamum to do? And what is the promise to the Overcomer?

Write **Revelation 2:16** below:

Oh, dear God, that is an ugly picture. What does that mean, the "sword of My mouth?"

Jesus spoke creation into being. His will is revealed to us on the pages of the Scripture. Whatever His word is has all His power behind it. Even in the last battle, it will all be over in a moment. This is what **Revelation 19: 21** says of the last battle, "And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh." All He will have to do is speak. Do you remember the picture of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, the night of His betrayal, when the guards came to arrest Him? See **John 18:6**: "So when He said to them, '**I AM He**,' they drew back and fell to the ground." There is immeasurable power in just the Words of Jesus the Son. Those of Pergamum need to heed the words of Christ and **repent** of their evil doings.

For what is He calling you to repent? What are your evil doings? Or for what is He calling your church to repent? What are your church's evil doings? Wow, that sound's weird, doesn't it? Are we just that much better than the Church of the first century that we can tolerate the teachings of the Nicolaitans and the Balaam of our day?

Who are the Nicolaitans of our day? There is a cult based off of Christianity that says we aren't really flesh and blood. We are only spiritual. And when we die, we are joined with the Cosmos or the Universal Consciousness. When we feel pain, it is really all in our mind and we can control that pain by thinking our way to health. Google Mary Baker Eddy and see what you can

¹² Ibid, 86-88

find out about this cult. Mary Baker Eddy said she only used the Scripture to come up with her ideas.

Who are those today who follow the teachings of Balaam?

Please look up the word for **repent** in your expository dictionary and write your thoughts below:

Promise to the Overcomer

What is the promise Jesus gives to the overcomer in the final verse to the church at Pergamon?

What is manna? See **Exodus 16:3-4, Deuteronomy 8:2-3.**

Literally, “manna” means “what is it?” It was the bread that fell from heaven to sustain the Israelites on a daily basis.

What was the purpose of manna? See **Exodus 16:33, 35, Deut 8:2-3**

When did the manna cease to be there for the Israelites to eat? See **Exodus 16:34-35.**

When they were obedient under Joshua and entered the Promised Land?

Has God ever offered you “manna” from heaven?

What do we so often have for our spiritual meal in place of “manna.”

What was the significance to the overcomer to receive a “White Stone” with a new name written on it that only he knows?

Stones in general:

Some of the population of Pergamos worshipped an Asiatic goddess whose symbol was a black meteorite stone. King Attalus I Soter ruled in Pergamum from 241-197 B.C. He presented a

black meteorite stone to Rome as a covenant token of friendship upon the verge of Hannibal's attack in 205 B.C. We will study more about the covenant token of friendship that is usually salt, but at this time, is a meteorite, later in the study when we can look at it more completely. Stones were also used in voting for acquittal or guilt in a court of law. The white stone meant acquittal and also that the charged party was innocent. The black stone meant the party accused was indeed guilty. White stones were given to the victors of a game, much like we give gold medals to our Olympians who have excelled above everyone else. These were called Tesseras. Stones were also set up as markers of a covenant made between two parties or as memorials to great deeds. We did a whole series in our church on remembering the cairns of our faith. Cairns are rock piles set in certain spots on a trail to help the hiker who may be lost and going the wrong way, to know the right way to go. Joshua was instructed to set up 12 stones in the Jordan River as monuments, as testimony to the following generations of what God had done for the Israelites. See **Joshua 4**.

Jesus as the Foundation Stone:

Look at each of the following Biblical references concerning Christ as the Cornerstone and write your thoughts below each reference. You will notice I am using both Old Testament and New Testament references here.

Isa 28:16:

Eph 2:20:

1 Pet 2:4:

1 Pet 2:6:

Ps 118:22:

Mt 21:42:

Mt 21:44:

1 Pet 2:7:

A Stone of Stumbling

Look at each of the following Biblical references concerning Christ A Stone of Stumbling and write your thoughts below each reference.

Isa 8:14:

1Pet 2:8:

Stone Cut Without Hands

Look at each of the following Biblical references concerning Christ as the One Who cut the stone without human hands

Dan 2:34:

Dan 2:45:

Stone With Seven Eyes

Look at the following Biblical reference concerning Christ as the Stone with Seven Eyes and write your thoughts below the reference.

Zech 3:9: Rev 5:6

Name Changes

Genesis 17:5, 32:28, Isa 62:2

The Name Pergamos means “mixed marriage.” This is the time of Constantine in history of the Christian Church when the virgin Bride of Christ became married to the world. Then instead of covenanting with God alone, the Church covenanted with the world. Is the Church’s covenant with the world still a viable covenant today? Or, in other words, are we still married to the world?

So, what is the significance of the white stone with a new name on it, given to the overcomer in Pergamos?

My thoughts: we are acquitted of our reliance on our own efforts and through the world system. Jesus said it was more difficult for a rich man to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich

man to get into heaven. How can this be? Jesus then spoke that nothing is impossible with God. We are to keep our eyes firmly fixed on God and His will. May I be so bold as to say that we gain more of our worldview from the images that we see of our decaying world on electronic devices, than we do from God's Word. May I also be so bold as to say, by our manipulated worldview that we are exposed to every day, we may be opening our minds up to temptations from the world, the flesh, and the devil. Do you know that we are even to keep our minds "fixed" on Him? There's no commandment or even a suggestion that we keep our minds on our cell phones or any other of the electronic devices we tote around with us every day of our lives.