

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Session 6

Section 2: The Letters to the Churches – Rev 2&3

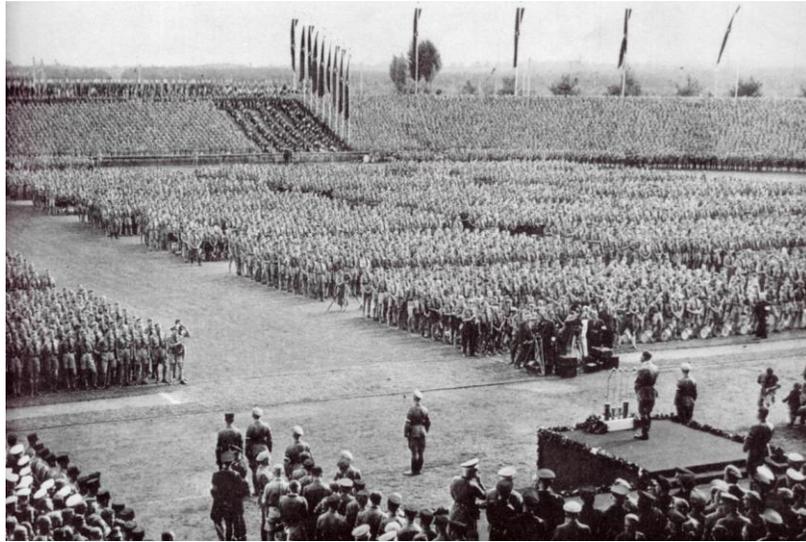
PERGAMOS: A Church with Compromise (Rev. 2:12-17)

I. THE CHURCH OF PERGAMUM

A. Background

1. The Church in Pergamos was in a wealthy city and that was a center for idol worship. It was about 20 miles from the Aegean Sea. It is also spelled Pergamum, Pergamus or Pergamon, It had a large university with a famous library of 200,000 volumes. Today, the village of Bergama is on the ancient site.
2. It was the first city in Asia to build a temple to worship the Emperor. In 29 BC, the temple for Augustus was completed making it the religious capital in the east as Rome was in the west.
3. The throne of Satan refers to a multitude of major altars of worship to the four most prominent Greek gods: Zeus, Athena, Dionysos, and Asclepius (Esculapius) along with being the center of Emperor worship for Asia. Each had a priesthood with temple prostitution. When the cult of the Magians was driven out of Babylon, it was relocated to Pergamos.
 - a. Satan's Throne – moved from Pergamos to Berlin in 1879. Hitler later had his mass rally podium designed to match this throne.





B. Revelation of Jesus

1. Words of Him who has the sharp two-edged sword

C. Affirmation

1. I know where you live, where Satan's throne is
2. Yet you hold fast to my name!
3. You did not deny my faith even when there were martyrs among you.

D. Rebuke

- a. Some hold to the teachings of Balaam unto compromise (See Num 25)

- (1) 2 Pet 2 –

- (2) Eat food sacrificed to idols

- (i) Ignorance vs Intention (I Cor 10:19f)

- (3) Sexual immorality

- b. Some hold to the teachings of Nicolaitans which I hate

- (1) Distorted Law of Liberty – Sin all you want, God's Grace will cover it.

- (2) Contrary to Romans 6:1-2, 12-14; I Cor 6:9; 18-20

E. Exhortation

1. Repent!
2. I will war against them with the sword of my mouth

F. He who overcomes – the rewards

1. Eat of the hidden manna
2. White stone with his new name written upon it – that no one else knows.
(Gen 32:28)