

## THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST – LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN PERGAMOS 2:16-17

### OBSERVATION

### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by Pastor Chuck Smith, Vernon McGee, David Hocking, Warren Wiersby and others.

<p><i>Rev 2:16 <b><u>Repent, or else I will come to you quickly</u></b></i></p> <p><i><b><u>and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.</u></b></i></p>	<p>Notice four things: V 13. <b><u>PERGAMOS WAS A DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENT</u></b>  (“Satan’s throne...where Satan dwells”) Vs. 14-15. <b><u>PERGAMOS HEARD A SERIOUS EVALUATION</u></b>  (covered last session) – “<i>hold to the doctrine of Balaam; eat things sacrificed to idols, to commit sexual immorality; hold to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans</i>” V 16. <b><u>PERGAMOS RECEIVED A STRONG EXHORTATION</u></b> V 17. <b><u>OVERCOMERS WERE GIVEN A WONDERFUL ENCOURAGEMENT</u></b></p> <p><b><u>V 16. PERGAMOS RECEIVED A STRONG EXHORTATION</u></b></p> <p>Five of the churches are told to repent.</p> <p>v. 16a It may involve a <b><u>REMOVAL</u></b> of the church’s influence and testimony <i>“Repent, or else I will come to you quickly” - cf. 2:5</i></p> <p><i>Cf. Matthew 7:21-23</i> Notice the change in pronouns - from “you” to “them”</p> <p>v. 16b. It may involve a <b><u>RESULT</u></b> of eternal consequences <i>“and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth” -</i> We’re talking about the mighty judgment sword! – Judgment to the “them” for holding to wrongful doctrines.</p>	<p><b>HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: PERGAMOS</b> - located 55 miles north of Smyrna, and 15 miles from the Aegean Sea. In 29 b.c. it was given permission to erect and dedicate a temple to Augustus, reputed to be the first heathen temple in Asia that was dedicated to the worship of Caesar.</p> <p>The last king of Pergamos, Attalus III, bequeathed his territory to Rome and Pergamos was made the capital city of the Roman province of Asia. A great university was there with a library of over 200,000 volumes, which was sent to Egypt by Mark Antony as a gift to Cleopatra.</p> <p>The name of the city comes from words for parchment/paper, or from a word meaning “tower” (pergos) and a word for “marriage” (gamos) two ideas: marriage + elevation.</p> <p>The acropolis (high city) is 1000 feet high above the city, with an amphitheater seating 10,000 people on the side of the mountain.</p> <p>On top of the mountain is a giant altar to Zeus, 800 feet above ground, seen for miles - the altar was 100 feet square. There were temples on the Acropolis to Athena and Dionysius.</p> <p>Pergamos was known for its medical school and worship of the god of healing, Aesculapius or Asklepios, symbolized by a serpent (still used by the medical profession today).</p> <p>It was also known for its school of psychology with use of a therapy tunnel and mineral baths and healing waters.</p> <p>The worship of the emperor was very strong - Christians were in danger 365 days a year, not just the one day in which incense was to be burned, by every resident, proclaiming, “Caesar is Lord.”</p>
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## OBSERVATION

*Rev 2:17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To him who overcomes***

*I will give some of the **hidden manna to eat.***

*And I will give him **a white stone, and on the stone a new name** written which no one knows except him who receives it."*

(1) A white stone was regarded as **a token of favor**, prosperity, or success everywhere - As such, it would denote that the Christian to whom it is said to be given would meet with the favor of the Redeemer, and would have a token of his approval.  
 (2) **the name written on this stone** would be designed **also as a token or pledge of his favor** - as a name engraved on a signet or seal would be a pledge to him who received it of friendship. In other words, the victor would be assured from the Redeemer, who distributes rewards, that his welfare would be secure.  
 (3) this would be to him as if he should receive a stone so marked that its letters **were invisible to all others, but apparent to him who received it**. The meaning then probably is, that to the true Christian - the victor over sin - there is given some pledge of the divine favor which has to him all the effect of assurance, and which others do not perceive or understand. This consists of **favours shown directly to the soul - the evidence of pardoned sin; joy in the Holy Spirit; peace with God; clear views of the Saviour; the possession of a spirit which is properly that of Christ**, and which is the gift of God to the soul. The **true Christian understands this; the world perceives it not.**  
**And in the stone a new name written** - A name indicating a new relation, new hopes and triumphs. Probably the name here referred to is the name of the Redeemer, or the name Christian, or some such appellation.  
**Which no man knoweth, ...** - That is, no one would understand its import, as no one but the Christian estimates the value of that on which he relies as the pledge of his Redeemer's love. (Barnes)

## INTERPRETATION

V 13. PERGAMOS WAS A DANGEROUS **ENVIRONMENT**  
 Vs. 14-15. PERGAMOS HEARD A SERIOUS **EVALUATION**  
 V 16. PERGAMOS RECEIVED A STRONG **EXHORTATION**

V 17. **OVERCOMERS WERE GIVEN A WONDERFUL ENCOURAGEMENT!!**  
**Overcome -Nikao –to win in the face of obstacles; be victor, conquer, overcome, prevail-the one who is victorious!**  
 Two special rewards to overcomers: **1 Jn. 2:13-14; 4:4; 5:4-5**

**1B. HIDDEN MANNA TO EAT**  
**Hidden manna was in the pot inside the ark**  
**Contrast with the practice in Pergamum of eating things sacrificed to idols**  
**Cf. Exodus 16:15; 31-36; Deut. 8:3, 16; Heb. 9:4**  
**"The bread of heaven" Psa. 78:24 – "The bread of heaven" Psa. 105:40 - Cf. John 6:26-29, 31-35, 47-51**

**2B. A WHITE STONE WITH A NEW NAME - cf. Rev. 3:12; 19:12, 16**

### Viewpoints:

1. Stones to render a verdict (white and black)
2. Stones in breastplate of high priest representing 12 tribes
3. Stones as counters to calculate
4. Use of white stones by Romans **to grant admission** to the games or tickets to receive free food - white stone with your name on it.  
**Cf. Luke 10:17-20; 1 Corinthians 2:9**

**When all is said and done:**

**Are you sure that your name is written in heaven?**

**Are you an overcomer? Do you believe in the Son of God?**

## APPLICATION

a. The **Position** of the enemy  
**"where Satan's throne is"** - perhaps a reference to the giant altar of Zeus on the acropolis. This pagan worship is directly traceable to BAAL worship and to ancient BABYLON.  
 After the fall of Babylon and destruction of its temples, the high-priest of the Babylonian religion fled with his initiates and their sacred vessels and images, and **came to Pergamos**, where the symbol of the serpent was **set up as the emblem of the hidden wisdom**.  
 From there, they crossed the sea and came to Italy.  
 The ancient cult was propagated under the name of Etruscan Mysteries, and eventually Rome became the headquarters of the ancient religion of Babylon.  
 The **high priest** took the title of "Pontifex Maximus" (Supreme Pontif) - Julius Caesar was one of them and was elected to the position of high priest. All of the Roman emperors from Augustine to Constantine held the title.  
**"Satan"** - 19 times in OT, 14 in Job 1&2; 36 times in NT. Identified as "that old serpent"; Rev. 12:9; 20:2  
**"the devil"** 0 time OT; 61 times NT.  
**"Devils"** (demons) 4 times OT; 51 times NT. 42 times gospels/synoptics.  
**"Unclean spirits"** 28 times - 1 in OT.  
**"Adversary"** 1 Tim. 5:14; 1 Pet. 5:8  
**"Accuser of the Brethren"** Rev. 12:10  
**"god of this world"** 2 Cor. 4:4  
**"prince of the power of the air"**  
**"the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience"**  
 Eph. 2:2  
**"the enemy that sowed the tares"** Matt. 13:39  
**"the wicked one"** 4 times  
 b. The Presence of the enemy  
**"where Satan dwells"** Is it to be taken literally or symbolically?  
 1D. His character  
 Murderer - John 8:44  
 Deceiver - Rev. 12:9; 2 Cor. 11:3  
 Liar - John 8:44  
 Confirmed sinner - 1 John 3:8  
 His control  
  
 A vast demonic Kingdom - Matt. 25:41; Rev. 12:7  
  
 A world-system of unbelievers - 1 John 5:19  
 Satan is not omnipresent, but through his demonic forces, it may seem that way.

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#### Questions:

1. In verse 16a... “I will come quickly”. Is that referring to His second coming or something else?
2. V 16b...Who are the “them”?
3. Can an unbeliever be an “overcomer”?
4. What do you think the “hidden manna” refers to?
5. What do you think is meant by “*And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.*” ‘ ’ ?
6. Is the “*new name*” in v. 17b a new name for us or a new name for Him?
6. The name of what city will be written on each of us, who believe? What else are we assured of that will be written on each of us?
7. What thing does Jesus tell us that we should rejoice in above all things?

#### ONE DAY!

*1. One day when heaven was filled with His praises,  
One day when sin was as black as could be,  
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin—  
Dwelt among men, my example is He!*

*Living, He loved me; dying, He saved me;  
Buried, He carried my sins far away;  
Rising, He justified freely forever:  
One day He's coming—O glorious day!*

*2. One day the trumpet will sound for His coming,  
One day the skies with His glory will shine;  
Wonderful day, my beloved ones bringing;  
Glorious Savior, this Jesus is mine!*