

THINGS WHICH MUST SHORTLY COME TO PASS

A STUDY OF REVELATION—PART 4

Our studies continue today in the seven churches of Asia Minor. These were seven literal, circular churches that would come to represent seven stages in church history.

I. THE CHURCH OF PERGAMOS (2:12-17)

- A. The message is addressed to the angel (2:12; *The Pastor, 1:20*)
- B. Pergamos
 - 1. Located in northwest Asia Minor
 - 2. Had a library of over 200,000 volumes
 - 3. Was capital city of the Roman province of Asia
 - 4. Pliny, the Roman writer, called it “the most famous city in Asia.”
 - 5. The city housed an ancient temple to the god Zeus--the god of power
 - 6. The altar from that temple is in the Berlin Museum and was often visited by Adolf Hitler.
 - 7. Pergamos was known for its healing and medical center. They had the most famous medical school in the world.
 - a. Religious meditations
 - b. Dream interpretations
 - c. Snake handling
 - d. Medical arts
 - e. In one of their pagan temples was a sick ward where slithering snakes crawled. They believed that the touch of a snake was the touch of the healing presence of their god.
- C. Jesus again identifies Himself (2:12, as in 1:16)
 - 1. The sword represents the Word of God
 - 2. Note Revelation 19:15
 - 3. *Ephesians 6:17*—“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”
- D. The Christians lived next door to Hell (2:13)
 - 1. Satan cannot be everywhere but had established a throne in Pergamos (2:13)
 - 2. Satan has great authority in this city
- E. The commendation of Jesus (2:13)
 - 1. They held fast the Name of Jesus (2:13)
 - a. They refused the pagan worship of the emperor
 - b. Whatever the cost, they remained true to Jesus
 - 2. They did not deny the faith. (2:13)
 - a. A leader in the church, Antipas became a martyr
 - b. History says Antipas was burned to death inside a brass bull positioned over burning flames.
- F. The condemnation (2:14—*Old Testament and New Testament characters*)

FOR THE TIME IS AT HAND

A 52-Week Study of the Book of Revelation

Week 4

DR. RON BAITY

Sunday, June 2, 2013

1. The doctrine of Balaam—Old Testament
 - a. Balaam was hired to place a curse on Israel
 - b. Balaam convinced Israel to compromise with their unbelieving neighbors
 - c. They were living where Satan's throne existed and through false teaching merging the two.
2. The doctrine of the Nicolaitans (2:15; refer to last week's notes)
- G. The command from our Lord (2:16, 17)
 1. Repent—2:16a (*change directions*)
 2. The entire church was facing judgment. (2:16b)
 - a. The church for tolerating evil
 - b. The heretics for practicing evil
 - c. This is a call to get right with God!
- H. The counsel (2:17)
 1. Jesus sets forth the challenge to both hear and do (2:17)
 2. The overcomer shall experience the hidden manna (2:17—*may be a reference to Christ, the Bread of Life*)
 3. The overcomer shall have a white stone (2:17)
 - a. It was a Roman custom to award white stones to victors in athletic contests
 - b. The white stone had the athlete's name inscribed upon it.
 - c. The white stone gave entrance to a special awards banquet later
 - d. Christ promises the overcomers entrance to the eternal victory celebration

II. THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA

- A. The longest of seven letters was written to the church in the smallest town
- B. Deity introduces this letter to Thyatira (2:18—*"The Son of God"*)
 1. His eyes are seen beholding the church
 2. His feet of brass are seen ready to judge this people
- C. His commendation (2:19)
 1. Again, He knew about their works (2:19a)
 2. He knew about their charity (2:19; *"love"*)
 3. He knew about their service (2:19)
 4. He knew about their faith (2:19; *the word means "faithfulness"*)
 5. He knew about their patience (2:19; *they had a perseverance*)
 6. He knew about their works (2:19; *they were doing more than ever!*)
- D. His condemnation (2:20-23)
 1. The church was influenced by false teaching (2:20)
 2. This woman's name could have been Jezebel, or she could have been a type of the Old Testament Jezebel.
 3. In the name of religion she taught (2:20; *called herself a prophetess*)
 4. She taught false doctrine (2:20)
- E. It is important to see these seven churches representing a development in the church age.
 1. Ephesus—the days of the apostles; the apostolic church
 2. Smyrna—the church of persecution; church of the catacombs; the heavy hand of Rome was upon it.

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3. Pergamos—the church of the establishment; when the church was married to Rome; Constantine performed the ceremony.
4. Thyatira—The church in purple and silk, with golden chains around her neck and speaking as the infallible prophetess of God, bypassing the words of the Lord.
 - a. She teaches seduction of God's people from the plain, simple revelation of the words of our Lord (2:20)
 - b. Her children (2:23—*followers will be killed; read Revelation 17*)
- F. His commendation (2:24-29)
 1. Some will stay faithful to the Lord (2:24—*"Have not this doctrine"*)
 2. Some will stay faithful till He comes (2:24—*He is coming; 1:7*)
 3. He will exalt the faithful ones over the nations (2:26)
 4. Jesus will rule with a rod of iron (2:27—*rebellion will be no more*)
 5. We will have Christ, "The Morning Star" (2:28; 22:16)
- G. The church is to pay attention to its Commander and Chief (2:29)