

BIBLE CLASS 30.05.2024 REVELATION 2:12-17 PERGAMOS

¹² And to the angel of the ecclesia in Pergamos write; These things says he which has the sharp sword with two edges; ¹³ I know your works, and where you live, *even* where Satan's seat *is*: and you hold fast my name, and have not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have them there that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit fornication. ¹⁵ So you have also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. ¹⁶ Repent; or else I will come unto you quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the ecclesias; "To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knows saving he that receives *it*." (Rev 2:12-17 KJV)

In previous classes it has already been pointed out the Book of Revelation or the 'Apocalypse' is a work of prophecy presented in a code, it was send and signified (a work of signs) the signs being extracted from other parts of the Holy Bible selected by the Spirit. A Part of this work reflects upon Seven Ecclesias located in the Asia, today it is identified with a province in the Roman Empire in what is now southwest Turkey.

AS has been pointed out the word "Angel" is associated with the symbol of Seven Stars (1:20) who represent the eldership of each of the Seven Ecclesias. At the time when the apostle John was recounting his visions Pergamos was ruled by Philometer a very cruel man who did not respect his own people but willed his country and people to the Roman people which was accepted in B.C.126.

John was commanded to write a letter to Pergamos as coming from Christ as bearing a sharp two edged Sword. A sword coming out of a mouth represents a community preparing for military action.

Moses describes God (Yahweh) as “a man of war” and this manifestation is brought before us in the likeness of the Son of Man. When the word of Command comes out of the mouth of a General, it directs them to draw their sword and smite their enemies, causing the blood to flow. If the Son of Man was intent on speaking peace to the nations, he eyes would not be a flame of fire but perhaps he would be offering an Olive leaf or branch might be related to his mouth in some way.

The voice of the Eternal Spirit speaking through a great multitude is described by the apostle Paul as, “the Spirit of his mouth”, which is the Lord Jesus Anointed; and he adds “For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”.

Heb. 4:12

Pergamos at one time had been a capital city of a country that embraced all seven towns where the Ecclesias were established but it seems that corruption had set in to quite a degree. The lord Jesus describes Pergamos as “Satan’s Seat” or throne. The Ecclesias had been degraded by the influence of pseudo-christians known in Scripture as Baalamites, Nicolaitans, Judaisers and Gnosticism. Bro. John Thomas describes it as the Kingdom of the Clergy. A similar situation developed in Britain arising out of the Catholic and Protestant and Presbyterian wars following the reign of Queen Elizabeth in the 16 and 17th century. While Catholicism ruled the roost few people got to read the Bible but when it was made available to everyone church going became very popular and the clergy increased, and some of them grew quite wealthy, but the Truth itself remained undiscovered buried in Latin, until dedicated men such as John Wyclif began to translate the Bible into English. He was followed by William Tyndale translated and organised the first version of the Bible in English, a large amount of which was included in the King James Bible of 1611, a fact that was never acknowledged by the Bible Producers. Thousands of clergy for many years obtained

good stipends, but did not proclaim the Truth. It was similarly so in Pergamos, under the influence of the evil surroundings, Apostasy was strong in Patmos, where there were many varieties of “Christians” all with their different omission and additions to the pure teachings of the Apostles. It was correspondingly difficult for “faithful martyrs” (or witnesses) to hold fast the name of Christ, because of the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which elevated favoured persons to rule over congregations and receive a stipend for it. However a few stood firm such as Antipas who the Lord Jesus declares *was* my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwells. (Rev 2:13 KJV). According to tradition Antipas had been “Bishop of Pergamos” Paul instructed Timothy **(1 Timothy 3:1)** *This is* a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; ³ Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that rules well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; ⁵ (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the Ecclesia of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. (1Ti 3:1-7)

Antipas was a faithful martyr and evidently stood against corruption when he experienced the “grievous wolves” Paul predicted would stand up among the *episcopals* of the Presbyteries, and FEED THEMSELVES upon the flock. These episcopal men, OR OVERSEERS, by their works, and by their teaching, would so deceive the people, as to get a complete ascendancy over them. They would persuade them at length, that they were “*the ambassadors of Jesus Christ,*” and the true “*successors of the apostles;*” and that it was to them henceforth professors should look for the consolations of religion, and for a true exposition of the sacred writings, which were too holy and too recondite to be interpreted by any save “*the called*

and sent of God as Aaron was,” which they affirmed themselves to be! The people, not holding on to their “first love,” that they might be saved, and neglecting the study of the word for themselves, were easily beguiled by “the working of Satan with all power and signs, and lying wonders, and with all the deceivableness of unrighteousness,” brought to bear upon them. They surrendered themselves to their spiritual guidance, selling themselves to the clergy for their “philosophy and vain deceit”—Col. 2:8. “For this cause, the God sent upon them a strong delusion to their believing in a lie, that all might be condemned who believe not the truth, but have pleasure in the unrighteousness”—2 Thess. 2:9–12. Such was the transgression into which they were beguiled by Hymeneus, Philetus, Alexander, Phygellus, Hermogenes, Demas, Diotrophes, and other men of their stamp; and such is the punishment that came upon them to their exclusion from the kingdom of the Deity. The delusion waxed stronger and stronger, as centuries increased the distance from apostolic times, until now the human mind is so enchained by the current clerical system of false religion, that the truth has scarcely any influence at all.

The false teaching of the Nikolaitane – Ebionites, a Jewish Christian sect that appeared around the first century A.D. were considered heretical by orthodox Christians because they denied the divinity and virgin birth of Jesus). The Ebionites believed in austerity, holy poverty, and observing the Jewish law. The Gnostics were the germ of what the apostle Paul terms “THE APOSTASY,” and the apostle John, “*the Deceiver and* THE ANTICHRIST.” “Many deceivers are entered into the world,” said John, “who do not confess that Jesus Anointed has come in flesh. This is the deceiver and the Antichrist”—2 John 7. And again, “Every spirit that confesses not that Jesus Anointed came in flesh, is not from God; and this is that of the Antichrist about whom you have heard that was coming, and is now already in the world”—1 John 4:3. The spirit of a thing precedes the thing itself. First, the idea, and then its embodiment. The ideas of Nikolaitanism were its spirit. These were first conceived in the brains of corrupt

and shallow men, who sought a present distinction and position in the world, at all hazards. Their ideas were perverse and perverting, and were spoken for the purpose of drawing away disciples after them. All who received their dogmata imbibed their spirit, and as they increased in number and influence among the people, became a power which continued to grow, until it was prepared to contend with older powers for the ascendancy, and in the struggle gain the victory. This has been the career of the Nikolaitan heresy. It began by affirming the insufficiency of the gospel without the law for salvation; affirming, also, the immortality of an inner man; and denying the proper humanity of Jesus; and it prevails as the ANTICHRISTIAN APOSTASY embodied in the Beasts, False Prophet, and supplements belonging to them, as exhibited apocalyptically in the book in hand. If men had been faithful to the principle of “**the gospel being the power of God for salvation to the believer**” —Rom. 1:16, they would not have tried to commend themselves to the Deity by Mosaic observances in respect of Sabbaths, meats, drinks, holy days, &c. If they had closed their ears against the dogma of an immortal man in the mortal body, they would not have denied the resurrection and the judgment taught in the scriptures; nor would they have believed in going to heaven when the body ceases to breathe; nor in purgatory; nor in wicked impostors, called priests, praying souls out of its flames for a fee, or retaining them in its fires for want of it; nor would they have worshipped the ghosts of dead men, they call saints. If some of them, while admitting that Jesus was flesh, had not affirmed the spotlessness of that flesh, “the immaculate conception of the Virgin” would not have been invented in order to account for it.

All these old wives’ fables, and lying traditions, are embodied in the ecclesiastical institutions of the world. The **Protestant abominations are all based upon immortal-soulism**. With respect to this dogma, they are as pagan as Plato and the Papists (Catholics). Their superstitions are all Gnostic schemes to save a “soul” that has **no** existence, save in the imagination of the flesh. **Their heaven and hell are as fabulous as purgatory, and the paradise of Mohammed.**

In short, “the Mother of Harlots and All the Abominations of the earth”—**the Babylonish Jezebel of Rome, and all her Protestant and Sectarian progeny, are Nikolaitanism fully manifested—this plant of the first century become a tree in the midst of the earth, in whose boughs the fowls of the heaven rest, and by which all the beasts of the nations are sheltered and fed.** “I hate it,” says the Spirit. Then hew it down as a cumberer of the Ground! This is its coming fate. See Daniel 4
Come quickly Lord Jesus

Selected and amended DHH.