

Revelation 2:12-17. *Satan is not your friend; neither is Balaam*. To the Citadel (aka Pergamum<sup>10</sup>), here is the letter to be read to the people there in the church—

These ideas, these words, these warnings are from He who has the right to judge, and divinely so (see Hebrews 4:12 and/or Isaiah 49:1-2<sup>11</sup>). Yes, you cannot hide—I **know where you live**.<sup>12</sup> You may live in Pergarmum where Satan rules, yet nonetheless you remain true to My name. You did not renounce your trust in Me, even in the days of Antipas<sup>13</sup>—my trustworthy witness, who was put to death in the Citadel, right where Satan lives.

BUT... You have people who hold to the teaching of Balaam, the very one who taught Balak to entice Israelites to eat food sacrificed to idols, to say nothing of committing sexual immorality. And you hold to the Nicolaitan notion that the evil of culture can be tolerated by compromises with the Truth. Turn around—quit it. Otherwise? I will come, soon, and will fight against them—with the sword of My Truth.

Listen up! If you got ears, use them. Listen to the Spirit. To those who overcome, I will give hidden manna—also a white stone with a new name written on it, known only by the receiver of the stone.

## REVELATION 2:12-17

To the angel of the church in **Pergamum** write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. <sup>13</sup>I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

<sup>14</sup>Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. <sup>15</sup>Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. <sup>16</sup>Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

<sup>17</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit [“the” is there] says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.

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<sup>10</sup>“Pergamum” is the root word as Latinized from which we get the word “parchment.” In those days writing materials were said to be from Pergamum. Paul distinguished between parchments (papyrus, modern writings) and scrolls (animal skins, older possibly/probably Scripture) when requesting same from Timothy. See 2 Timothy 4:13.

<sup>11</sup>Isaiah 49:1-2, NIV reads:

Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations:

Before I was born the LORD called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name.

He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver.

<sup>12</sup>If you do a Google etymological search on the phrase “I know where you live,” John’s words in Revelation 2:13 are not mentioned.

<sup>13</sup>According to tradition, Antipas was martyred during the reign of Nero (54-68). Other sources suggest the reign of Domitian (81-96). If martyred during Nero’s reign, this would be additional support for a pre-AD70 date for the writing of Revelation.

Messianic Jewish scholarship (e.g., [The Mystery of Jesus](#)) claims, “There is nothing mentioned about Antipas in *Foxe’s Book of Martyr’s* and even going to the more scholarly online site Christian Classics Ethereal Library ([CCEL.org](#)) did not reveal much additional information beyond this noteworthy but older source — *Martyrs Mirror* by Braght, Thieleman J. van (Thieleman Janszoon) (1625-1664).”

- Q What signs exist for a city “ruled by Satan?” How is this throne overcome in a given city? Who are the chief Nicolaitans in our city?
- Q How does Paul’s teaching on eating meat offered to idols differ from Jesus’ declaration here in Revelation?
- Q How do we distinguish between the food from heaven (hidden manna), especially in contrast to the food of the Balaamites; see Psalm 78:24.
- Q And just what is this “white stone” to which Jesus refers? Token of admission? Brilliant? Only we understand? A new name?<sup>14</sup> Why?

Revelation 2:18-. *Severe consequences for immorality.* For the people at Thyatira listen to the words of the Son of God. His eyes are blazingly bright, and His feet are like burnished bronze. He knows your deeds, your love and your trust, your persevering service. You are doing now more than you did at first—you are making progress.

Nonetheless, you have problems. You tolerate that Jezebel in your midst who calls herself a prophet. Her teaching misleads My servants (δουλοῦς) into sexual immorality, and eating food sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to change, but she has not. I will, therefore, cast her into a suffering situation, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer as well, unless they change their ways. I will kill her children—all the churches will then know I mean business. Each will be repaid according to their deeds.

As for the rest of you who have resisted her teaching—hold on until I come.

To those who overcome and do My will until the end, I will give authority over the nations; just like it says in Psalm 2,<sup>15</sup> you will rule just as I have ruled by authority of Father God. You will receive the morning star—a bright new day, as bright as Venus shines in the morning.

Got ears? Use them to hear what the Spirit says to you.

## REVELATION 2:18-29

To the angel of the church in **Thyatira** write:

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. <sup>19</sup>I know your deeds [not added, unlike 2:9 (KJV, NKJV), your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

<sup>20</sup>Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup>I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. <sup>22</sup>So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. <sup>23</sup>I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

<sup>24</sup>Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you):

<sup>25</sup>Only hold on to what you have until I come.

<sup>26</sup>To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—<sup>27</sup>“He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery” [Psalm 2:9]—just as I have received authority from my Father. <sup>28</sup>I will also give him the morning star. <sup>29</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit [“the” is there] says to the churches.

<sup>14</sup>Isaiah 42:1-2 (NIV) reads:

For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem’s sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.

<sup>15</sup>You will rule them with an iron scepter [or will break them with a rod of iron]; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.” –Psalm 2:9

- Q Why were the feet of the Christ imaged as burnished bronze? Compare to Daniel 2:31-45
- Q Why is it important to do, as the Christ says in verse 19 to continue to “do better?” Just what is “better?” What is your metric for spiritual growth? How do you know you are growing?
- Q Do you believe the woman in Thyatira was actually named “Jezebel?” Or, was that a metaphor for how evil her teachings were?
- Q Just what is so evil about eating meat offered to idols? What is so evil about sexual immorality?
- Q How do we know these evils were particularly egregious? Why the children?
- Q Will there be greater punishment for greater evil?
- Q For those who change from doing such evil, how will they be repaid? “I will repay each of you according to your deeds.” [2:23]
- Q What is an example of a so-called deep secret which Satan proffers?
- Q Over what, over whom will we be given authority? When? Why?

