

Jesus Walks Among the Lampstands

Lesson # 9

Assessment of Pergamum: Part B

Revelation 2:12-17

The Christ Title

Revelation 2:12

“¹² And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:”

The Commendation

Revelation 2:13

“¹³ I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.”

The Complaint

Revelation 2:14-15

“¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality. ¹⁵ So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.”

Balaam & Balak

Numbers 24:17-18

“¹⁷ I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob, A scepter shall rise from Israel, And shall crush through the forehead of Moab, And tear down all the sons of Sheth. ¹⁸ Edom shall be a possession, Seir, its enemies, also will be a possession, While Israel performs valiantly.”

Did we not learn something about one of these groups last week?? (On Moab?)

Genesis 19:36-37

“³⁶ Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. ³⁷ The firstborn bore a son, and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day.”

Genesis 36: 1, 8

“¹ Now these are the records of the generations of Esau (that is, Edom).”

“⁸ So Esau lived in the hill country of Seir; Esau is Edom.”

Numbers 31:13-18

“¹³ Moses and Eleazar the priest and all the leaders of the congregation went out to meet them outside the camp. ¹⁴ Moses was angry with the officers of the army, the captains of thousands and the captains of hundreds, who had come from service in the war. ¹⁵ And Moses said to them, ‘Have you spared all the women? ¹⁶ Behold, these caused the sons of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the Lord in the matter of Peor, so the plague was among the congregation of the Lord. ¹⁷ Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known man intimately. ¹⁸ But all the girls who have not known man intimately, spare for yourselves.’”

Acts 15:28-29

“²⁸ For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials: ²⁹ that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication; if you keep yourselves free from such things, you will do well. Farewell.”

Acts 21:25

“²⁵ But concerning the Gentiles who have believed, we wrote, having decided that they should abstain from meat sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication.”

Revelation 2:14 of Pergamum

“¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality.”

Revelation 2:20 of Thyatira

“²⁰ But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.”

The reference is to cultic meals.





*“Diogenes invites you to dinner
for the first birthday of his
daughter in the Serapeum
tomorrow which is Pachon 26
from the 8th hour onward.”*

*“The god invites you to
dine at the table which
will take place tomorrow
in the temple of Thoeris
from the 9th hour.”*

Fundamental Complaint

The Pergamum church has compromised their faith by participating in cultic meals hosted in pagan temples or buildings of clubs or associations and thus are ultimately guilty of idolatry.

The correction

Revelation 2:16a

“¹⁶ Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly....”