



Part 3 “The Church Age”

Were the messages to the seven churches in Revelation just letters to those communities at that time? Or is there a larger, prophetic meaning embedded?



Smyrna “Crushed Myrrh” 10 Emperors: **Nero** 37-68AD (killed Peter and Paul), **Domitian** 81-96AD (exiled John), **Trajan** 98-117AD (Ignatius, the chief disciple of Peter was thrown into a den of lions), **Marcus Aurelius** 161-180AD (Polycarp and Justin and many others martyred), **Septimus Severus** 202-211AD, **Maximum** 235-237 (massacred the Christians and had their bodies buried in lots of 50 and 60), **Decius** 249-253AD (fiercely persecuted the church trying to destroy it), **Valerian** 257-260AD, **Aurelian** 270-275AD, **Diocletian** 303-312AD

- Jesus appears as who was dead and now is alive
- Be faithful unto death and I will give you a crown of life
- To him who overcomes, will not be hurt by second death
- Prophetically this church speaks of the 10 Emperors who violently persecuted the church from 37AD-312AD. This was satan’s first wave of warfare to kill and destroy the church.

Pergamum “Marriage” 312AD-590AD The church marries the world through Constantine

Pergamum: three temples 1.Emperor 2. Athena 3. Zeus

Zeus is the throne of satan (satan felt at home there)

Healing center with the god Asclepius (Greek serpent god). Asclepian priests had the rod of Asclepius which had the snake symbol we see in our medical industry today.

When people came to the medical center, they drank sedative, slept in quarters provided there, and non-poisonous snakes crawled around them all night. They were told the Serpent god Asclepius will speak to them in the night in a dream and give them a diagnosis. These snakes believed to carry the healing power of Asclepius and if one crawled on you at night, it was a sign healing power was coming to you. The patients told their dreams to the priests who interpreted it. Then the priest would give them a treatment based on their dreams. The priests made a mold of the body part that needed to be healed and offered it to Asclepius.

The Priests of Asclepius were guardians of healing center of that city called The Asclepian. This was the satanic stronghold in this region. They all worship a myriad of Greek and Roman gods, but when Christianity came to power in the area, Christians only worship one God. The Priests went on the offensive and martyred Antipas. The priests of Asclepius testified that demons appeared to them in dreams telling them that the prayers of Antipas were driving them out of the region and they needed to do something about this.

Antipas was ordered to offer an offering of wine and incense to the Emperor and declare that he was the true Lord and master. Antipas was sentenced to death on the altar of Zeus. On the top of the altar was a hallowed out bronze bull that was for human sacrifice. Antipas died praying for his church. This altar of Zeus (seat of Satan) was excavated and put on display in Berlin Germany in 1930 right before the rise of Hitler.

- Jesus appears as the one with a two-edged sword
- Teachings of Balaam, stumbling block, speaks of fornication
- Nicolaitans speaks of heresy
- Overcomers received hidden manna which is divine revelation, white stone was given to an accused criminal actually found innocent.
- The church was tainted with heresy and immorality because of the heresy

Constantine rose to power and married the church with state and perverted Christianity. Pergamum represents the adulterous church that compromises and is worldly. When suffering persecution, the early church was pure, but now the church becomes like a worldly harlot.

Thyatira “Continued Sacrifice” which is what Roman Catholic Mass symbolizes. Thyatira was a little city in Asia Minor. The chief industry was fabric dyeing and fortune telling was extremely prevalent in this city. The great rebuke of this church was tolerating Jezebel.

- Jesus appears to this church as the Son of God whose eyes are fire and feet of burnished bronze. He appears as the judge to purge this out of the church.
- Jezebel's rebellion and witchcraft control cannot be tolerated
- Jezebel operates through counterfeit revelation mixing the things of God with the occult
- Judgment would include sickness and premature death
- Overcomer would receive: widespread authority over principalities and power, rule with a rod of iron, and great favor (Morningstar).