

Difficult Days, Part 7: The State of the Church
Allowing False Doctrine to Enter
Revelation 2:12-17

I. The church at Pergamum had held fast the name of Jesus through intense persecution (v. 13).

- A. They held fast realizing to deny Jesus was to deny the faith.
- B. They held fast knowing it could cost them everything.
- C. They held fast in the very presence of Satan.

(Matthew 10:33; Luke 9:26; John 6:66-69; 2 Timothy 2:11-12)

II. The church at Pergamum had stood strong although it had a critical weakness (vs. 14-16).

- A. It allowed false doctrine to get a presence in the body.
- B. The church was admonished to repent or else Jesus would intervene.

(Numbers 22:31; 25:16-18; 31:16; 1 Corinthians 5:6-7; James 4:4; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 1 John 2:15-17; Jude 3-4)

III. The church at Pergamum had an opportunity to respond (vs. 17).

- A. Jesus promised to give hidden manna to those who overcome.
- B. Jesus promised to give a new name written on a white stone to those who overcome.

(John 6:31-35; 48-51)

Scripture References and Notes

Isaiah 11:4 (NKJV)

But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

Revelation 19:15 (NKJV)

Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

holdest fast [κρατέω (krateó)]

- I am strong, mighty, hence: I rule, am master, prevail; I obtain, take hold of; I hold, hold fast.
- to place under one's grasp (seize hold of, put under control).

Matthew 10:33 (KJV)

But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Luke 9:26 (NKJV)

For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His *own* glory, and *in His* Father's, and of the holy angels.

2 Timothy 2:11-12 (NKJV)

¹¹ *This is* a faithful saying: For if we died with *Him*, We shall also live with *Him*. ¹² If we endure, We shall also reign with *Him*. If we deny *Him*, He also will deny us.

John 6:66-69 (NKJV)

⁶⁶ From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. ⁶⁷ Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" ⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Numbers 31:16 (KJV)

Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

Numbers 25:16-18 (NASB)

¹⁶ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁷ "Be hostile to the Midianites and strike them; ¹⁸ for they have been hostile to you with their tricks, with which they have deceived you in the affair of Peor and in the affair of Cozbi, the daughter of the leader of Midian, their sister who was slain on the day of the plague because of Peor."

2 Peter 2:1-3 (NASB)

¹ But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. ² Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; ³ and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Jude 3-4 (NKJV)

³ Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. ⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:15-17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the

Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

James 4:4 (NKJV)

Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Numbers 22:31 (KJV)

Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face.

John 6:31-35, 48-51 (NKJV)

³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³² Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." ³⁵ And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. ⁵⁰ This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."