

Pergamos/Pergamum

City of the Compromising Church



- Modern city of Bergama in Turkey.
- Location:
 - A city of Asia Minor.
 - Two miles north of the Caicus River in the southern part of the province of Mysia.
 - Located about 15 miles inland from the Aegean Sea.
 - Located approximately 60 miles northeast of Smyrna.
- Description:
 - Built on a rock peak some 900 feet high.
 - The city overlooked the beautiful, fertile plain of the Caicus River.
 - A small river called the Selinus River flowed through the city.
 - A second river, the Cetius, flowed around the city walls.
- Size:
 - The city was approximately 1900 ft. x 4500 ft.
- Brief History:
 - Also known as Pergamum.
 - First mentioned in Xenophon in about 401 B.C.
 - Pounded by Greek colonists and became the chief city of Mysia.
 - Became an important city about 282 B.C. when Philetus rebelled against King Lysimachus.
 - Lysimachus was one of the generals and successors of Alexander the Great.
 - Because of the strength of the fortress at Pergamos, Lysimachus stored millions of dollars in gold there.
 - The city was willed to Rome by Attalus III on his deathbed in about 133 B.C.
 - The city held supreme authority over a large area for about four

- centuries.
- Was the home of Herodotus, "the father of history."
- Pliny referred to Pergamos as "by far the most illustrious city of Asia."
- Pergamos has been called "one of the greatest and most beautiful of all Greek cities."
- During the second century the famous physician, Galen, practiced medicine at Pergamos.
 - Galen is called "the father of anatomy."
 - Galen is second only to Hippocrates in ancient medical history.
- The famous orator, Aelius Aristides, lectured in the theater at Pergamos.
- During New Testament times, the population is estimated to have been some 120,000 people.
- Political status in New Testament times.
 - Pergamos was under Roman control.
 - The city had a proconsul.
- Architecture:
 - Large public library.
 - Located on top of the acropolis.
 - Second only to the library of Alexandria, Egypt.
 - Allegedly housed some 200,000 volumes.
 - Mark Antony later gave the library to Cleopatra.
 - Asklepieion
 - Dedicated to the god Asklepios and the healing arts.
 - 361ft. x 427 ft.
 - Enclosed several buildings.
 - Several pools with supposed healing powers.
 - The healing center.
 - 2 story cylindrical building.
 - 87 feet in diameter.
 - Small theater seated 3,500 people.
 - A small library.
 - Lavatory for men with 40 decorated marble seats.
 - Lavatory for women with 17 seats.
 - A steeply slanted theater that would seat some 15,000 people.
 - A two-tiered market.
 - Temples honoring:
 - Zeus
 - Athena
 - Dionysius
 - Other gods

- The Altar of Zeus.
 - One of the seven wonders of the ancient world.
 - The altar was a colonnaded horseshoe.
 - 120ft. x 112ft.
 - The podium of the altar stood almost 18 ft. high.
 - An ornately carved base 446 ft. long depicted a battle between the gods and giants.
- Three gymnasiums.
- Baths.

■ Commerce:

- Produced:
 - Wheat - Wool
 - Silver - Pottery
 - Ointments - Tapestries
- Famous for the perfection of an animal skin “parchment.”
 - Ptolemy of Egypt prohibited the export of papyrus to Pergamos, resulting in the development of an excellent parchment made from tanned sheep skins.
 - Parchment (“charta pergamena”) was named after the city.

■ Religion:

- Emperor worship.
- Pergamos was the first city in Asia Minor to build a temple for emperor worship—Augustus Caesar in 29 B.C.

■ The Church at Pergamos/Pergamum

■ Mentioned only in:

- **Revelation 1:11**
- **Revelation 2:12-17**

■ The Letter to the Church at Pergamos – **Revelation 2:12-17**

12 “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

13 ‘I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

17 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.'"

