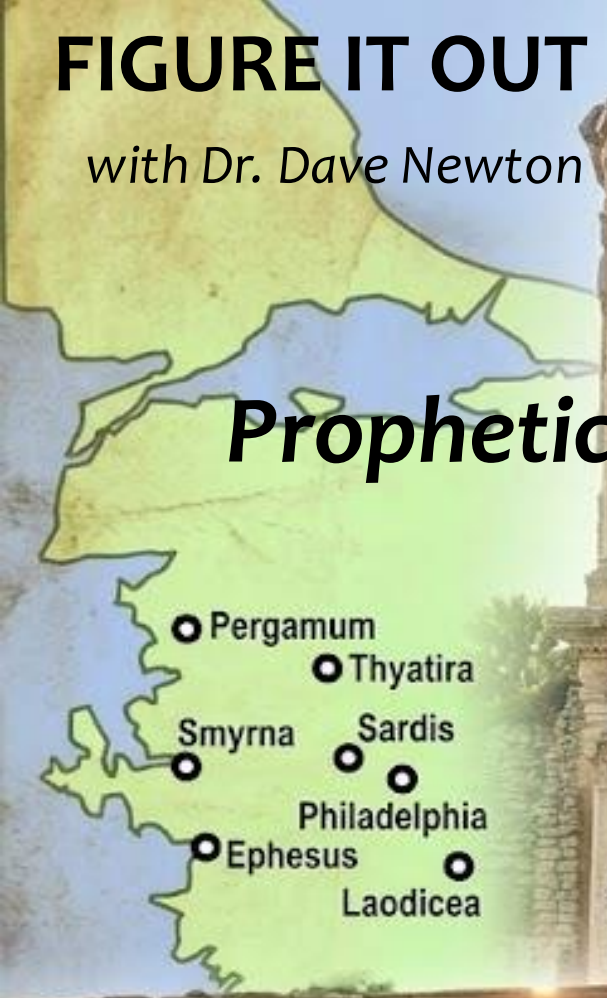
FIGURE IT OUT

with Dr. Dave Newton

Prophetic Perspectives on the 7 Churches of Revelation



Special 4-Week Study in Revelation 2 +3

Oct. 26 - Nov. 2 - 9 - 16

1st Peter 1:1
Pontus
Galatia
Cappadocia
Asia
Bithynia

Acts 2:10
Phrygia
Pamphylia

Acts 14:6
Lycaonia

Acts 14:24
Pisidia

Acts 22:3
Cilicia

Acts 27:5
Lycia

Real Historical Locations



Revelation 2 + 3 [churches are on earth … in heaven chapter 4 *meta tauta*]

- **Ephesus** Ἔφεσος [pre-Greek]
- **Smyrna** Σμύρνη *myrrh* [crushed to activate aroma]
- **Pergamum** Πέργαμον *pyrgos = fortress or tower*
- **Thyatira** Θυάτειρα *daughter*

Revelation 3

- **Sardis** Σάρδεις *reddish-brown gemstone sardion*
- **Philadelphia** φίλος ἀδελφός *love of brother*
- **Laodicea** Λαοδίκεια laos-dike *people of justice*

Colossians 4

- **Hierapolis** Ἱεράπολις *hieros = holy polis = city*

Revelation 1

- **Patmos** Πάτμος *pre-Greek Lydian of* latmos = *mountain to Artemis*

Revelation 2 + 3 [churches are on earth … in heaven chapter 4ff]

WHY *these particular 7 ?*

WHAT ABOUT	*Athens?*	*Rome?*	*Thessalonica?*
	Philippi?	*Corinth?*	*Syrian Antioch?*
	Galatia?	*Troas?*	*Pisidian Antioch?*
	Cyprus?	*Colossae?*	*Jerusalem?*
	Alexandria?	*Berea?*	*Neapolis?*

HOLY SPIRIT 3 targets of 7 letters:

1. each unique church 1st Century AD
2. ALL churches [*one document*]
3. ***Prophetic MAP*** *of Church History*

Prophetic Perspective of the 7 Churches [works ONLY in ***this order***]

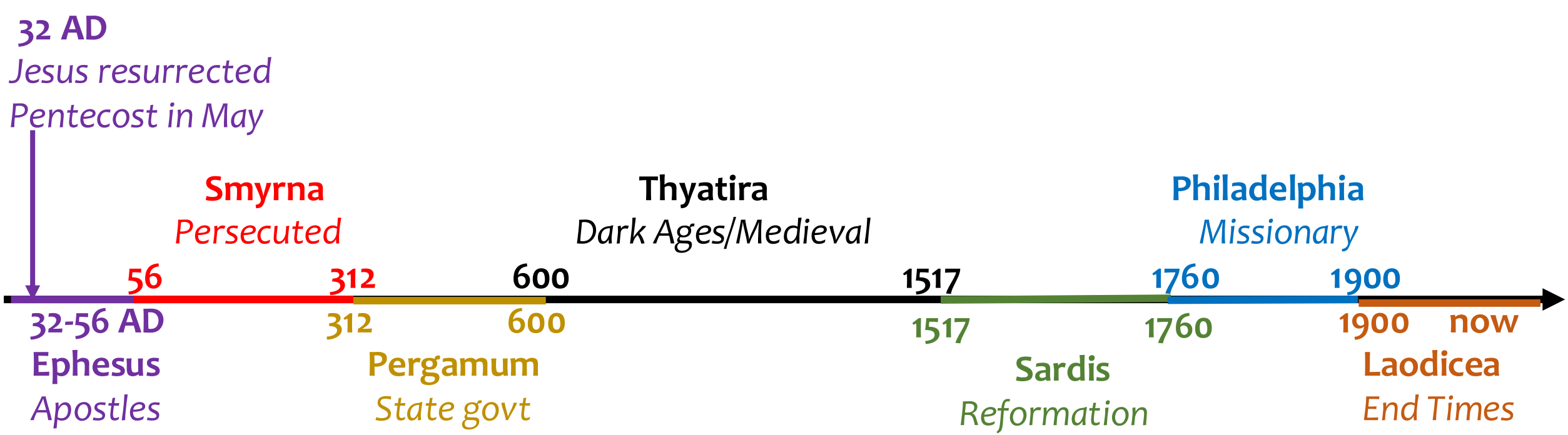
Revelation 2+3

- **Ephesus** **32-56 AD** *1st Century AD church of Apostles* *zealous but left First Love*
- **Smyrna** **56-312** *heavily persecuted church until Constantine*
- **Pergamum** **312-600** *'State' church allows gross compromise*
- **Thyatira** **600-1517** *Dark Ages Medieval church - rise of the papacy/corruption*
- **Sardis** **1517-1760** *Reformation church - break from Rome … denominations*
- **Philadelphia** **1760-1900** *Worldwide missionary evangelism church*
- **Laodicea** **1900-today** *End Times church self-satisfied, complacent, wealthy and yet spiritually undiscerning and blind to false teachers/doctrines*


ASIA
MINOR
Bergama
PERGAMUM
THYATIRA
Akhisar
Sart
SARDIS
SMYRNA
Izmir
PHILADELPHIA
Alaşehir
Selçuk
EPHESUS
HIERAPOLIS
LAODICEA
Laodikeia/Denizli
AEGEAN
SEA
SAMOS
Kusadasi
PATMOS


FIAT
ROTA RENTAL


1 3 5
2 4 6 R


32 AD
Jesus resurrected
Pentecost in May
Smyrna
Persecuted
Thyatira
Dark Ages/Medieval
Philadelphia
Missionary
56
312
600
1517
1760
1900
32-56 AD
Ephesus
Apostles
312
600
Pergamum
State govt
1517
1760
Sardis
Reformation
1900
now
Laodicea
End Times

Revelation 2:12-17 *to aggelos messenger*

Πέργαμον **Pergamum** *pyrgos* ROOT word = ***fortress*** ***tower*** ***citadel***

per-gamos could be *mixed/blended marriage* [monogamy bigamy polygamy]

ONE who has sharp ***2-edged sword*** [Word of God] *says:*

- *I know where you dwell …* ***where Satan's throne is***
- *you hold fast to My name, did not deny faith even in the days of Antipas My witness My faithful one who was killed among you* ***where Satan dwells***

WHY *such strong imagery?* pagan *Medo-Persian Parthian* astrological priests of Babylon moved to Pergamum when Alexander the Great and Greeks conquered Media-Persia [334 - 331 BC] then ***Attalus III*** last ruling king-priest gave his kingdom of Pergamum to Rome in 133 BC

Revelation 2:12-17 *to aggelos messenger*

Πέργαμον **Pergamum** *pyrgos* ROOT word = *fortress or tower or citadel*

per-gamos could be *mixed/blended marriage* [monogamy bigamy polygamy]

WHY *such strong imagery?* *where Satan's throne is* *where Satan dwells*

Pagan Worship:

Zeus	Temple and Massive Altar
Dionysus	Hub for *Neokoros temple-keeper* worship Roman Emperor
Athena	Akropol *Athena Nikephoros = light-bearer of victory*
Apollo	with twin sister Artemis on Altar to Zeus
Asklepios	Healing cult of serpent *Christians viewed serpent as Satan*
Ius Gladii	*right of the sword* to execute nonconformists

Revelation 2:12-17 *to aggelos messenger*

Πέργαμον Pergamum

- but I have a few things against you:

1. ***some*** *hold the teaching Balaam who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block in Israel … eat things sacrificed to idols and commit acts of immorality*
2. ***some*** *hold to teachings of Nico-Laitans*

- Repent! or I AM coming quickly to will make war with them with sword of My mouth [Word of God]
if you have an ear, HEAR what ***Spirit says to churches*** [plural to ALL]

- to him who overcomes I will give 2 things: 1] *hidden manna and*
2] *white [stone]* ***pebble*** *with new name on it no one knows but he who receives it*

Pergamum Πέργαμον






Zeus Altar
Zeus Temple
just above
amphitheatre

Revelation 2:12-17 *to aggelos messenger*

Πέργαμον Pergamum *ONE who has sharp 2-edged sword says:*

killed My faithful witness Antipas Ἀντί πατρος = *instead of father*

ἐπiskopos *epi-skopos = over seer* 'bishop' set by John in Pergamum

Nero or ***Domitian*** burned him in red hot bronze hollow bull statue-altar

where Satan dwells / Satan's throne

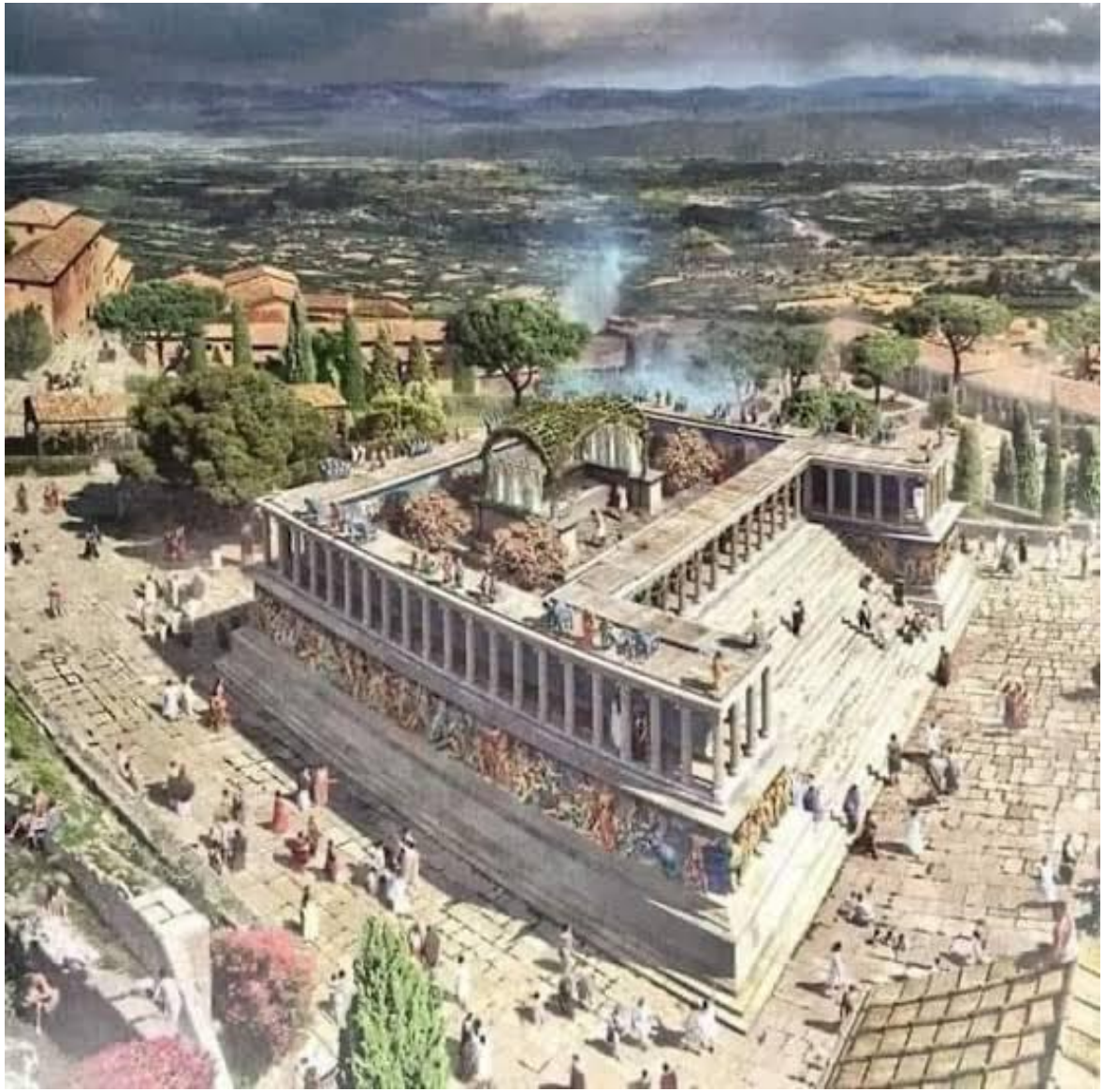
Alexander Greeks moved Babylonian/Medo-Persian pagan priests to Pergamum

Romans then moved them from Pergamum to Rome

Pergamum center of Emperor worship

4 Akropol temples to: ***Zeus Athena Dionysus Asklepios*** [***serpent*** healing god]

Massive Altar to Zeus



116 feet x 110 feet



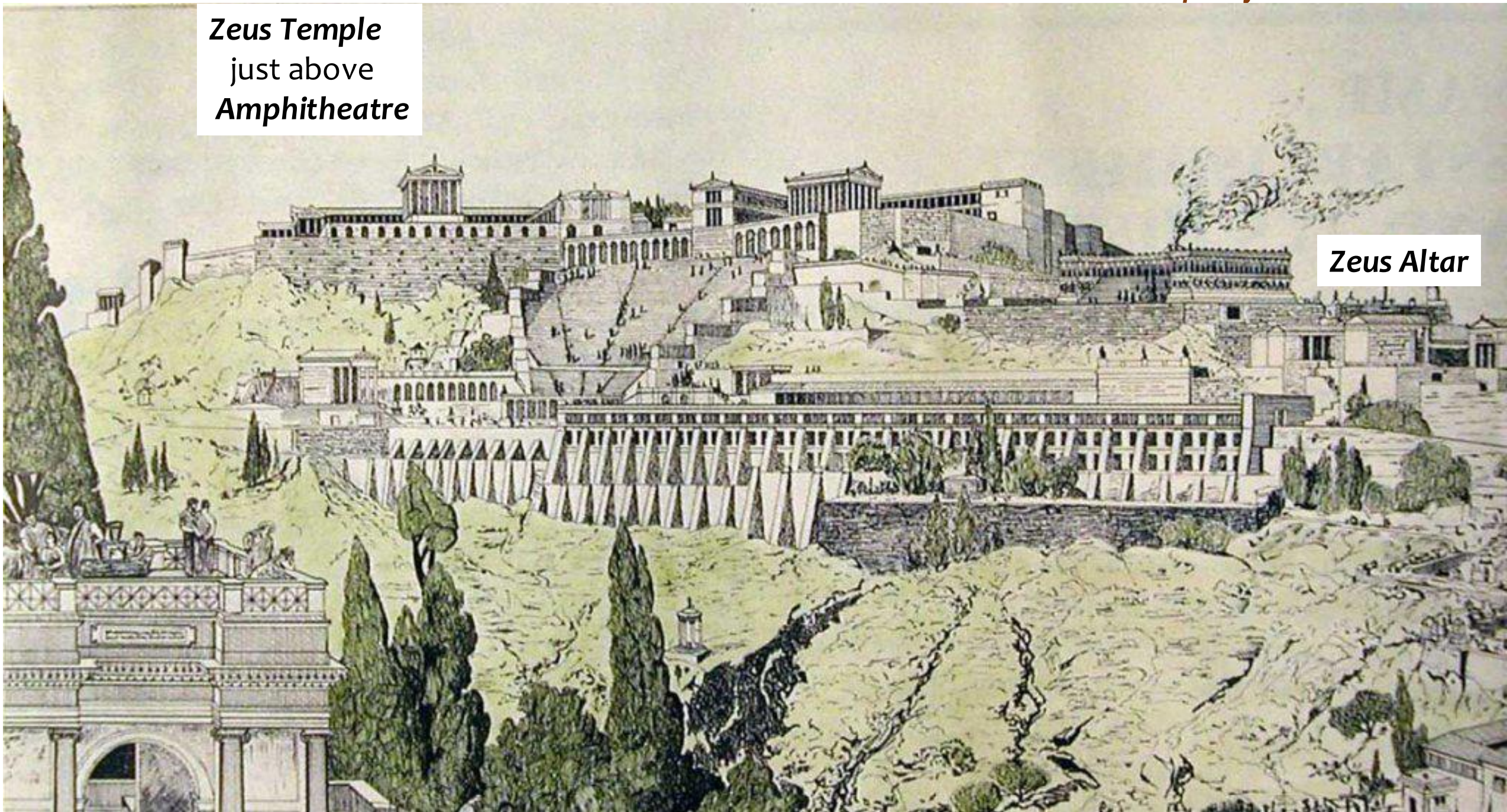
Pergamum Museum
Berlin
Germany



Altar
façade

Berlin
Germany




Zeus Temple
just above
Amphitheatre
Zeus Altar

Temple to Zeus







Temple to Zeus



Pergamum Πέργαμον

Temple to Zeus





Temple of Athena

Berlin
Germany





Pergamum Πέργαμον

Temple of Dionysus





Temple of Asklepios

serpent *god of healing*





Numbers 21:8-9

Revelation 2:12-17 *to aggelos messenger*

Πέργαμον Pergamum *ONE who has sharp 2-edged sword says:*

Moab king Balak hired pagan diviner Balaam but he blessed them instead
then advised Balak on Moabite women seduce Israelite men with sex
and worship of Baal of Peor … God killed 24,000 Israelites

Jesus is stating clearly with specific ***allusion to Israel's history***

Hey, church in Pergamum, you're doing those same immoralities
It's time to repent or else

TRY *to picture* *home-based church in such* ***massive pagan city***
MUCH compromise … State-Church ***312-to-600 AD***

Revelation 2:12-17 *to aggelos messenger*

Πέργαμον Pergamum *ONE who has sharp 2-edged sword says:*

hold teachings of Nico-Laitans

Acts 6:5 *chose Stephen Philip Prochorus Nicanor Timon Parmenas and*
Nicolas *a proselyte from Antioch* [converted to Judaism]
Nikao Laos = lording/ruling over laity [**Rev. 7** laos = people]
Maybe laid hands on him too soon/fast? Pompous in position?
liked being hailed-revered as "Deacon Nicolas" ?
Jesus hates the DEEDS of these Nikao-Laitans

TRY *to picture* *home-based church in such* ***massive pagan city***

Revelation 2:12-17 *to aggelos messenger*

Πέργαμον Pergamum — *ONE who has sharp 2-edged sword says:*

overcomers get Hidden Manna κρύπτω μάννα *krypto manna = concealed*

Exodus 16 manna on ground each morning - Jehovah feeds His people

John 6:35-58 *Jesus is TRUE bread/manna that came down from Heaven*
I Am the bread of life - your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness
yet they died - but here is the bread that comes down from heaven
which anyone may eat and not die

John 4:32 disciples are hungry and Jesus for food, He replies
I have food to eat that you ***do not know about*** [*krypto*-hidden-concealed]
Jesus IS the bread of life!

and a White Pebble [stone is λίθος *lithos* also πέτρος *petros*]

λευκός ψῆφος *leukos psayphos = brilliant shining white* ***pebble***

used only twice in entire NT

Ancient Greek + Roman courts system: black pebble is guilty white is innocent

could be the τέσσερα *tessera = mosaic tile* white tile admission ticket

with new name no one knows but he who receives it

Acts 26:10 *awful things I did in Jerusalem, many believers I had put into prison with authority from chief priests, had them put to death when I gave my* ψῆφος *psayphos against them* Saul's vote against them

Jesus is saying your pebble vote will be NOT GUILTY … ***and*** when acquitted of sin, that symbolic white pebble now has your NEW name *as an adopted in child of the living God with full inheritance*


Zeus Altar
Zeus Temple
just above
amphitheatre

2026 David Newton





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Pergamum Πέργαμον





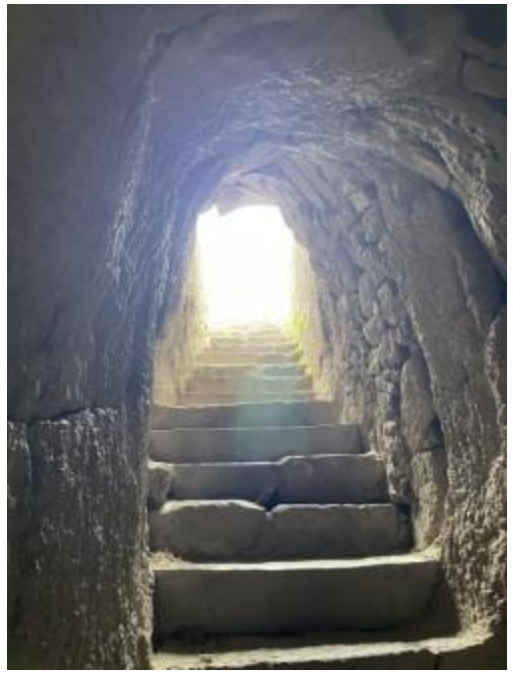
















Pergamum Πέργαμον



Trajan



gymnasium

γυμνάσιον

gumnasion



WHERE is Pergamum church today?

133 BC King Attalus III had no heir - He deeded priest-kingdom to Rome
no more 'regional capital' … that transfers to Ephesus

200s AD Numerous earthquakes, sacked by Gauls, NO rebuilding

300s AD *Christianity* 'state' religion repurposes pagan stone temples, altars, statues

800s AD Falls into complete ruins
City structures and inhabitants move to valley floor below
Modern *Bergama* has over 100,000 population

1878 First excavations - Carl Humann and team from Berlin Museum

TRY *to picture* *home-based church in such* ***massive pagan city***
Hidden Manna + White Pebble describes ancient Christians only
TODAY? *Nothing remains of Christian church*

Revelation 2:18-29 *to aggelos messenger* to

Θυάτειρα ***Thyatira*** founded 3rd Century BC by Greek general Seleucus Nicanor
No Akropol … low-lying flat river bed
Major 1st Century AD industrial center

- leather working / tanners
- bronzesmiths metal work
- bakeries
- wool / linens / weaving / looms / outer garments
- purple + red dyed cloth from *murex shellfish* *madder root*

Acts 16:14 *Lydia from Thyatira seller of purple fabrics*



Muricidae
11,000 snails = 1 gram

Revelation 2:18-29 *to aggelos messenger* to

ἐκκλησία Θυάτειρα = ekklesia Thyatira ***Medieval 600-1517 AD***

church/set apart Thyatira ***Ecclesiastes*** *l' église eglesia*

Son of God has eyes like flaming fire and feet like burnished bronze:

I know your deeds – love faith service perseverance Recent greater than previous
BUT I have this against you:

You tolerate-allow woman Jezebel who ***calls herself*** *a prophetess*
she teaches leads astray my doulos to commit acts of immorality
and to eat what has been sacrificed to idols
I gave her time to repent but she does not ant to repent of her immorality
so I will throw her to bed of sickness and those who commit spiritual
adultery with her in tribulation unless they repent of HER deeds

Jezebel Phoenician-Sidonian wife of King Ahab [1st Kings 2nd Kings]

- promoted Ba'al worship ***SELF-proclaimed prophetess***
- persecuted prophets of Jehovah
- spiritual corruption, manipulate God's Word, open rebellion
- Thyatira tolerated/allowed her influence rather than deal directly with her
- marriage to Ahab = economic alliance with Phoenician city of Sidon
  daughter of King Ethbaal of the Sidonians 1st Kings 16:31
  she dragged Ahab into her pagan worship of Ba'al .... then ALL Israel
  symbolic of ***'state' church of Rome***
  Elijah prophesied she would be eaten by dogs 1st Kings 21:23
- 'she' 'this woman' is not a symbolic-metaphor for evil .... real woman in that church
  symbolic ***state church*** complete + total friend of the world

Revelation 2:18-29

Son of God has eyes like flaming fire and feet like burnished bronze:

I will kill with pestilence all her disciples/followers/offspring of her teachings
to those who do not hold such teaching - not known the ***deep things of Satan***
I place no other burden on you - however, hold fast to what you Do have until I come
He who overcomes and keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give
authority over the nations *- He will rule them with* ***a rod of iron*** [Millenium]

Psalm 2:8-9 *I will* ***give You the nations*** *as your inheritance*
You will break them with a ***rod of iron***
You will shatter them like earthenware/pottery

Revelation 2:18-29

As vessels of the Potter are broken into pieces as I also have received authority from My Father … AND I will give him the ***morning*** ***star***

πρωϊνός ἀστήρ *proinos aster*

Jesus identifies Himself as **Rev. 22:16** *bright and morning star*

2nd Peter 1:19 *morning star rises in your heart*

we have the prophetic Word more sure [Jesus]

Psalm 2:8-9 *I will give you the nations as your inheritance*

Tepe Mezarlig
Hill Cemetery



Ismail Bahri Bey Caddesi



2nd Century AD



Numerous Greek inscriptions
re: trades-crafts-guilds-unions







WHERE is Thyatira church today?

290 BC Founded by Greeks-Hellenists
Named by Seleucus Nicanor I after Alexander's death

100s AD Became part of Roman Empire

13th Cent. *Roman* hub for trades-artisans-industry-commerce

14th Cent. Falls to Ottomans-Turks
Renamed Akhisar = *white fortress*

TRY *to picture* *home-based church in this* ***pagan city***

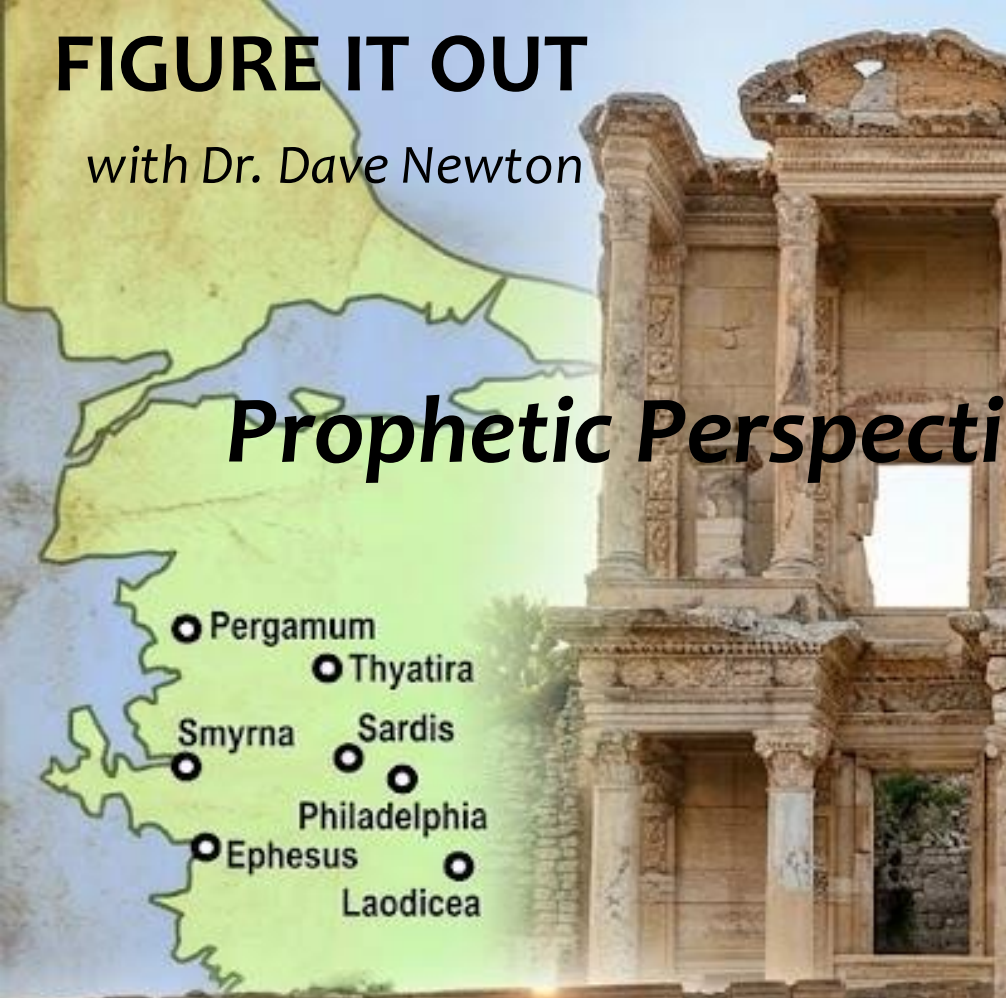
TODAY? *Nothing remains of Christian church*

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Next Week
- *Sardis*
- *Philadephia*

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