



### Introduction

Pergamos was the political capital of the Roman Province of Asia Minor. Significantly, it was located 50 miles north of Smyrna, situated on a high hill dominating the valley below. When John wrote this letter, it had been the capital city of the region for more than three hundred years. It was a noted center for culture and education, having one of the great libraries of the ancient world, with more than 200,000 volumes.

It was also an extremely religious city. Pergamos had temples to the Greek and Roman gods Dionysus, Athena, Demeter, and Zeus. It also had three temples dedicated to the worship of the Roman Emperor. Pergamos was famous for the worship of the deity known as Asclepius, represented by a serpent. Asclepius was the god of healing and knowledge, with a well-known medical school situated in his temple in Pergamos. Famous for this temple to the Roman god of healing; sick and diseased people from all over the Roman Empire flocked to Pergamos for relief. Interestingly, today we see Asclepius pictured on a staff branched at the top, with a single snake twined around it, used as the symbol of medicine; the official insignia of the American Medical Association.

### *Treasures of the Heart*

*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 . . .*

*Rev 2:14*

## **What does it say?**

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

### **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."



**W**hat words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point, and what is most important to the author.

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**L**ook - **What do you see?** Write a summary sentence that states the **main point of the chapter** from the observations you made. What is the author trying to say?

Aim: \_\_\_\_\_

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**L**earn – **What does it mean?**

What **lesson** can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, “What was the intended meaning of the original author?”** Is there a command to obey or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

Revelation 2:12-17 \_\_\_\_\_

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**L**ive - **How can I apply it?**

**Ask yourself, “What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?”** How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? Putting it in the form of a question helps make it personal. (aim for 10 words or less).

Revelation 2:12-17 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Challenge:** Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up the main point.  
Summarize your findings in your own words.

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## **Looking for Jesus. . .**

The following appear in each of the 7 churches. State and define the church name along with each of the following. **State or simply define these truths in your own words.**

**N**ame of Church \_\_\_\_\_

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**N**ame of Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

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**C**ommendation \_\_\_\_\_

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**C**riticism \_\_\_\_\_

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**E**xhortation \_\_\_\_\_

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**C**all \_\_\_\_\_

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**P**romise \_\_\_\_\_

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## **The Kingdom of Heaven is Like**

Each of the 7 churches corresponds with the 7 Kingdom Parables found in Matthew 13. See if you can discover which Kingdom parable that corresponds with this church. What added meaning does it imply?

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## **Expand the Vision**

Each church also corresponds with one of Paul's epistles. For expanded understanding, which of Paul's epistles corresponds with this church?

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**Title** State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

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**Flex Your Muscles** See if you can simply state what the Spirit is saying and what must be overcome?

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### **Radiating His Truth . . .**

Being willing to die for the faith, is no substitute for living the faith.

Warren Wiersbe



