

439 - How Far Form Home

How far from home? I asked, as on
I bent my steps the watchman spake:

“The long, dark night is almost gone,
The morning soon will break.

Then weep no more but speed thy flight,
With Hope's bright star thy guiding ray,
Till thou shalt reach the realms of light,
In everlasting days.”

439 - How Far Form Home

I asked the warrior on the field;

This was his soul-inspiring song:

"With courage, bold the sword I'll wield

The battle is not long.

Then weep no more, but well endure

The conflict, till thy work is done;

For this we know, the prize is sure,

When victory is won."

439 - How Far Form Home

I asked again; earth, sea, and sun

Seemed, with one voice, to make reply:

"Time's wasting sands are nearly run,

Eternity is nigh.

Then weep no more-with warning tones,

Portentous signs are thickening round,

The whole creation, waiting, groans,

To hear the trumpet sound."

439 - How Far Form Home

Not far from home! O blessed thought!

The traveler's lonely heart to cheer;

Which oft a healing balm has brought,

And dried the mourner's tear.

Then weep no more, since we shall meet

Where weary footsteps never roam-

Our trails past, our joys complete,

Safe in our Father's home.

Opening Scripture

Revelation 1: 10,11:

10) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,
11) Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.



Study of Prophecy: “The Seven Churches”

Presenter: Bro. Samuel Lee

Venue: Crane SDA Church

Service: Evangelistic Meeting

Date: Sunday, January 3 2016

SESSION 4:

3rd AND 4th

CHURCHES:

PERGAMOS AND

THYATIRA

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira



Jesus between the Seven Candlesticks.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira



Location of the seven Cities. Taken from "God Cares Vol. 2" pg 91.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira

3rd CHURCH: PERGAMOS

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira

Historical Aspect of Pergamos

Pergamum, also known as Pergamon or Pergamos, ancient city of northwest Asia Minor, in Mysia (now Turkey), and later capital of the kingdom of Pergamum. The city acquired prominence when the Macedonian general Lysimachus chose its acropolis as a stronghold for his treasures, which he entrusted to the governor, Philetaeros. On the death of Lysimachus, Philetaeros became the ruler of Mysia and Troas. The ancient city of Pergamum was an important center of Greek culture, housing an impressive library and an altar to Zeus. It first acquired prominence in about the 3rd century BC and was ruled by the Attalus dynasty before coming under Roman control in 133 BC. Today its ruins surround the town of Bergama, Turkey.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira



Ruins of Pergamos.

Daniel and The Revelation by Uriah Smith (pg 373)

Revelation Chap. 2 – The Letters of Jesus to the Churches

It is interesting to note that the city of Pergamos became the seat of ancient Babylonian sun worship. "The Chaldean Magi enjoyed a long period of prosperity at Babylon. A pontiff appointed by the sovereign ruled over a college of seventy-two hierophants. . . . [After the Medo-Persian occupation], the defeated Chaldeans fled to Asia Minor, and fixed their central college at Pergamos, and took the Palladium of Babylon, the cubic stone, with them. Here, independent of state control, they carried on the rites of their religion, and plotted against the peace of the Persian Empire, caballing with the Greeks for that purpose."

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira



Encarta Encyclopedia, Oldrich Karasek/The Image Bank

The Babylonian mysteries were preserved in the temple of Zeus at Pergamum and transferred to Rome in 133 B.C. The penetration of the religion of Babylon became so general that Rome was called “The New Babylon.”

The Greek Acropolis – Religious & Public Centre.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira

3rd Church: Pergamos

❖ Revelation 2:12-17.

12) And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; 13) I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. 14) But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira

3rd Church: Pergamos

❖ Revelation 2:12-17.

15) So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. 16) Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. 17) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira

Description & Knowledge of Christ

❖ Revelation 2:12.

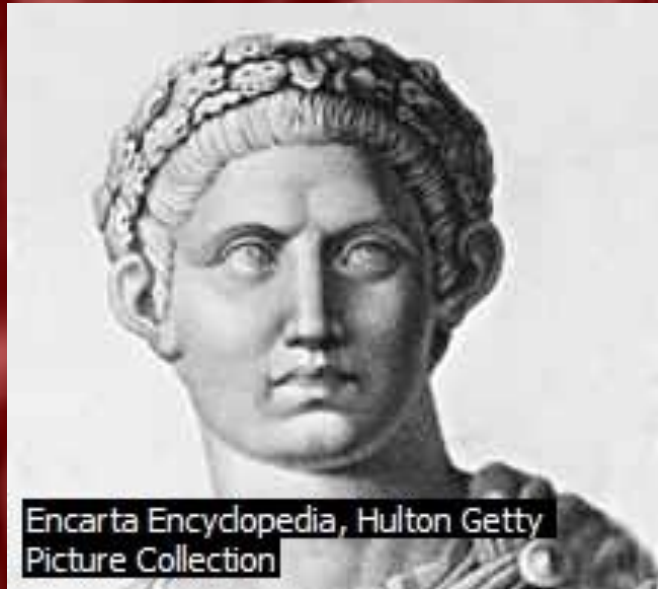
1. Jesus holds the sharp two-edged sword.
 - **Hebrews 4:12** (See also Romans 13:4) For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
2. Knows that the church dwells where Satan's capital is.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira

Character of Church

1. **Meaning of Pergamos:** “Height” or “Elevation”.
2. **Period:** A.D. 323 – 538.
3. **Era:** Conversion of Constantine to beginning of Papal supremacy.
4. **State of church:** Corrupt doctrines became entrenched.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira



Constantine the Great was the first emperor of Rome to convert to Christianity. During his reign, Christians, previously persecuted, gained freedom of worship. He gave huge estates and other gifts to the Christian church. He established a capital in the eastern provinces, naming it Constantinople (now İstanbul, Turkey).



Microsoft ® Encarta ® 2007

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira

Commendation to the Church

❖ Revelation 2:13.

1. Hold fast. – Hebrews 10:23,35.
2. Faithful Martyr Antipas. - 3 John 9,10 and John 16:2.
3. Did not deny me.

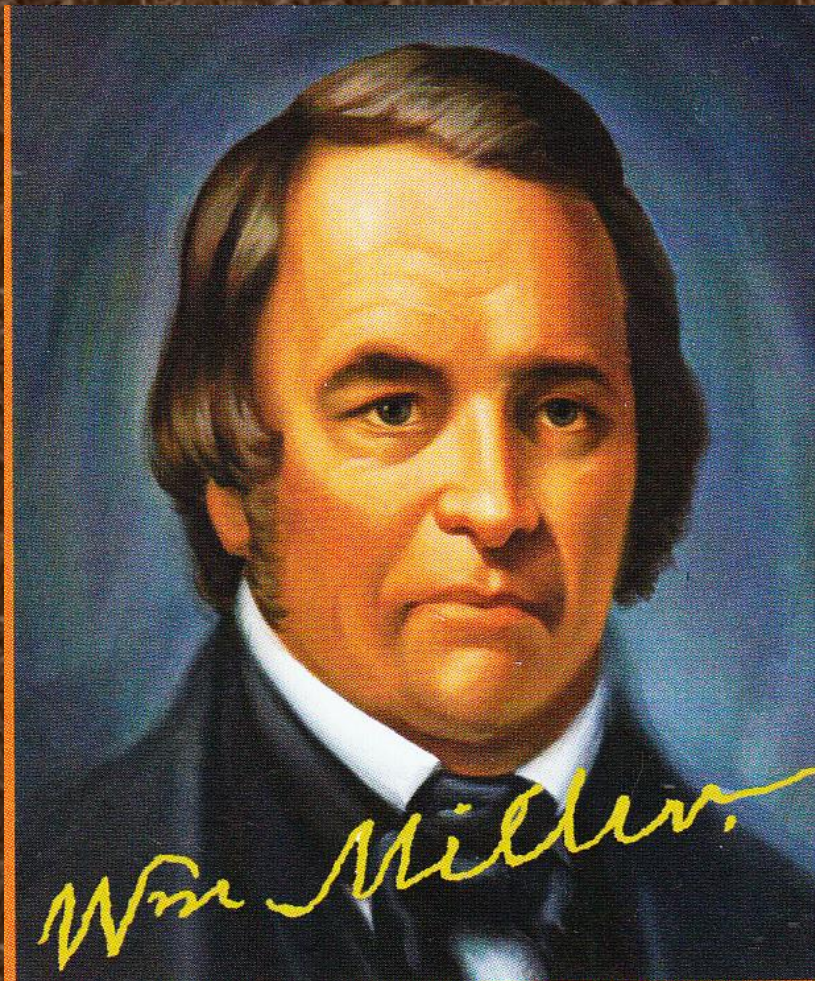
Daniel and The Revelation by Uriah Smith (pg 373)

Revelation Chap. 2 – The Letters of Jesus to the Churches

Antipas.--That a class of persons is referred to by this name, and not an individual, there is good reason to believe; for no authentic information respecting such an individual is now to be found. On this point William Miller says:

"It is supposed that Antipas was not an individual, but a class of men who opposed the power of the bishops, or popes, in that day, being a combination of two words, 'Anti,' opposed, and 'Papas,' father, or pope; and many of them suffered martyrdom at that time in Constantinople and Rome, where the bishops and popes began to exercise the power which soon after brought into subjection the kings of the earth, and trampled on the rights of the church of Christ.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira



William Miller

Born: Feb. 15, 1782
Pittsfield, MA, USA

Died: Dec. 20, 1849
Low Hampton, NY, USA

Wife: Lucy Phelps Smith

Children: At least ten children
including Robbins and
"Little" Lucy

William Miller, through a careful study of Bible prophecies, came to the conviction that Jesus would return about 1843. He travelled and preached for twelve years, leading a group of about 50,000 believers, mostly in the north-eastern United States. He and his fellow "Adventists" were disappointed when Jesus didn't come when they expected.

www.adventistheritage.org

Taken from Adventist Heritage Ministry.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira

Reproof and Warning to the Church

❖ Revelation 2:14-16

1. Presence of Balaamites. Numbers 24 and 25.
2. Nicolaitans were now condoned. (See Revelation 2:6.)
3. Christ will make war against them with the sword of His mouth.

Patirarchs and Prophets by E. G. White (pg 454)

Chap. 41 – Apostasy at the Jordan

At Balaam's suggestion, a grand festival in honor of their gods was appointed by the king of Moab, and it was secretly arranged that Balaam should induce the Israelites to attend...

Great numbers of the people joined him in witnessing the festivities. They ventured upon the forbidden ground, and were entangled in the snare of Satan. Beguiled with music and dancing, and allured by the beauty of heathen vestals, they cast off their fealty to Jehovah. As they united in mirth and feasting, indulgence in wine beclouded their senses and broke down the barriers of self-control. Passion had full sway; and having defiled their consciences by lewdness, they were persuaded to bow down to idols. They offered sacrifice upon heathen altars and participated in the most degrading rites.

Daniel and The Revelation by Uriah (pg 373)

Revelation Chap. 2 – The Letters of Jesus to the Churches

The Nicolaitanes.--...It appears that they were a class of people whose deeds and doctrines were both abominable in the sight of Heaven. Their origin is involved in some doubt. Some say that they sprang from Nicholas of Antioch, one of the seven deacons (Acts 6:5); some, that they only attribute their origin to him to gain the prestige of his name; and others, that the sect took its name from one Nicholas of later date. The latter theory is probably more nearly correct. Concerning their doctrines and practices, there seems to be a general agreement that they held to a community of wives, regarded adultery and fornication as matters of indifference, and permitted the eating of things offered to idols.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira

Counsel to Church

❖ Revelation 2:16.

1. Repent.

Promise to Church

❖ Revelation 2:17.

1. Hidden manna.
2. White Stone.
3. New Name.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira



Development of Papacy & Overcomer's Reward.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira

4th CHURCH: THYATIRA

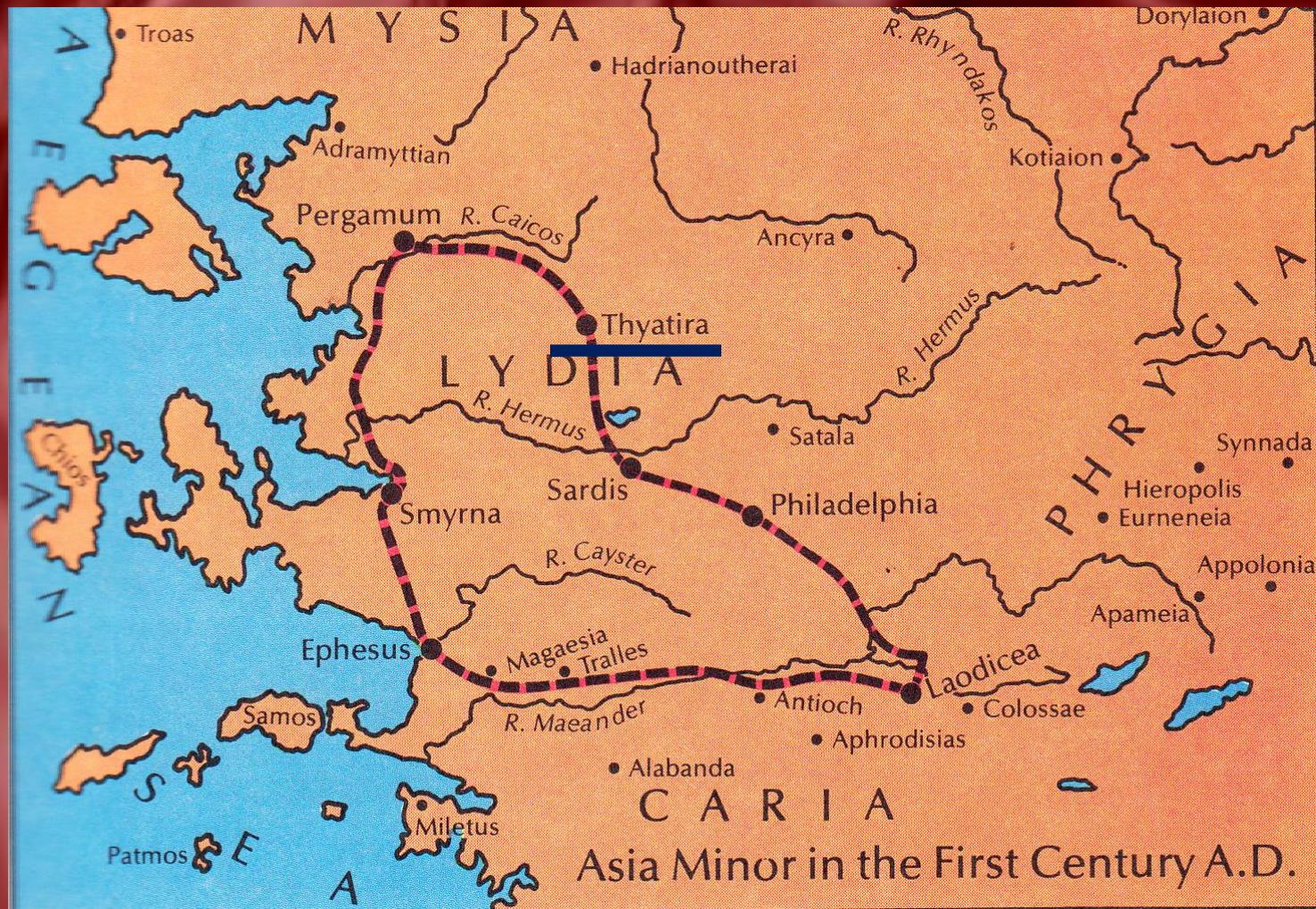
An open book with a quill pen resting on it, set against a background of faint, repeating architectural drawings.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira

Historical Aspect of Thyatira

It was an old Lydian city on the river Lycus, a tributary of the Hermus, in the northern part of Lydia. Its early history is not well known, except that it was a holy city of the sun god Tyrimnos, depicted as a horseman god. Although less notable than the six other cities, ancient Thyatira was nevertheless distinguished by the number and variety of trades and crafts that flourished there. Apparently prominent among these was the dying of cloth.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira



Location of Thyatira.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira

4th Church: Thyatira

❖ Revelation 2:18-29.

18) And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; 19) I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. 20) Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira

4th Church: Thyatira

❖ Revelation 2:18-29 Cont'd.

21) And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. 22) Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. 23) And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. 24) But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira

4th Church: Thyatira

❖ Revelation 2:18-29 Cont'd.

❖ 25) But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. 26) And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27) And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. 28) And I will give him the morning star. 29) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira



Angel of the Thyatira: Wycliffe and Luther.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira

Character of the Church

- 1. Meaning of Thyatira:** “Contrition” and “Song of Labour”.
- 2. Period:** A.D. 538 - 1798.
- 3. Era:** Papal supremacy - 1,260 years of persecution.
- 4. State of Church:** Dark Ages or Middle ages. Superstition reigned and ignorance supreme.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira



St Bartholomew's Day Massacre: Slaughter of Huguenots.

The Great Controversy by E.G. White (pg 272)

Chap. 12 – The Bible and the French Revolution

But blackest in the black catalogue of crime, most horrible among the fiendish deeds of all the dreadful centuries, was the St. Bartholomew Massacre. The world still recalls with shuddering horror the scenes of that most cowardly and cruel onslaught. The king of France, urged on by Romish priests and prelates, lent his sanction to the dreadful work. A bell, tolling at dead of night, was a signal for the slaughter. Protestants by thousands, sleeping quietly in their homes, trusting to the plighted honor of their king, were dragged forth without a warning, and murdered in cold blood.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira



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Adapted from W. Shepherd, 'Historical Atlas'

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira

Description & Knowledge of Christ

❖ Revelation 2:18,19.

1. Son of God.
2. Flaming eyes.
3. Bronze feet.
4. Knows the works, love, Faith, Service and Patience.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira

Commendation to the Church

❖ Revelation 2:19.

1. Later works exceeds first. See Daniel and the Revelation.

Reproof and Warning to the Church

❖ Revelation 2:20-23.

1. Tolerates Jezebel. (Compare Revelation 2:14).
2. Jezebel would not repent.
3. Thrown onto a sickbed.
4. Great tribulation.
5. Christ will kill her children with Death.

Daniel and The Revelation by Uriah (pg. 377)

Revelation Chap. 2 – The Letters of Jesus to the Churches

The Church of Thyatira.--Works are again mentioned, as if worthy of double commendation, and the last were more than the first. There had been an improvement in their condition, a growth of grace, an increase in all these elements of Christianity. This progress, under such conditions, was commended by the Lord. This church is the only one that is commended for an improvement in spiritual things. But as in the church of Pergamos unfavorable circumstances were no apology for false doctrines in the church, so in this church, no amount of labor, charity, service, faith, or patience could compensate for a like sin. A rebuke is therefore given them for suffering an agent of Satan to remain in their midst.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira



At the Council dominated by the newly organised Jesuit Order (convened to break the power of the Protestant Reformation) the bishop of Reggio announced on Jan. 18 1562 that the Protestants could never defend Sunday sacredness if they continue to offer as their authority, the Bible.

Council of Trent 1555-1563: Condemned The Reformation.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira



French Revolution (1789-1799): The Guillotine.

3rd and 4th Churches: Pergamos and Thyatira

Counsel to the Church


❖ Revelation 2:25.

1. Repent.
2. Hold fast.

Promise to the Church

❖ Revelation 2:26-29.

1. Rod to rule the nations.
2. Morning star.

A religious painting depicting several angels with large, white, feathered wings flying through a cloudy sky. They are looking down towards a landscape below that features a city with tall buildings and a winding river. The scene is rendered in a classic, somewhat somber style with a muted color palette.

MAY GOD
RICHLY BLESS
YOU.