



GRACE  
BREVARD

To Enjoy and Express the Freeing Radical Love of Jesus

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LAODICEA  
PERGAMUM



SARDIS  
SMYRNA



THE  
**LETTERS**  
OF REVELATION  
EMPIRES AT WAR

REVELATION 2:12-17  
PERGAMUM  
*"NAME & NOURISHMENT"*  
OCTOBER 9

2:13 "I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name...



The Pergamum  
Culture



The Pergamum  
Church



The Pergamum  
Connection



## Revelation 2

<sup>12</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write:  
‘The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.

<sup>13</sup> ““I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

<sup>14</sup> But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. <sup>15</sup> So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.

<sup>17</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'



GREECE

Istanbul

# Turkey

Rev  
2:12-17

GALATIA

■ PERGAMUM

■ THYATIRA

■ SMYRNA

■ SARDIS

■ PHILADELPHIA

■ EPHESUS

■ LAODICEA

■ PATMOS

GREECE

Israel



# The Pergamum Culture

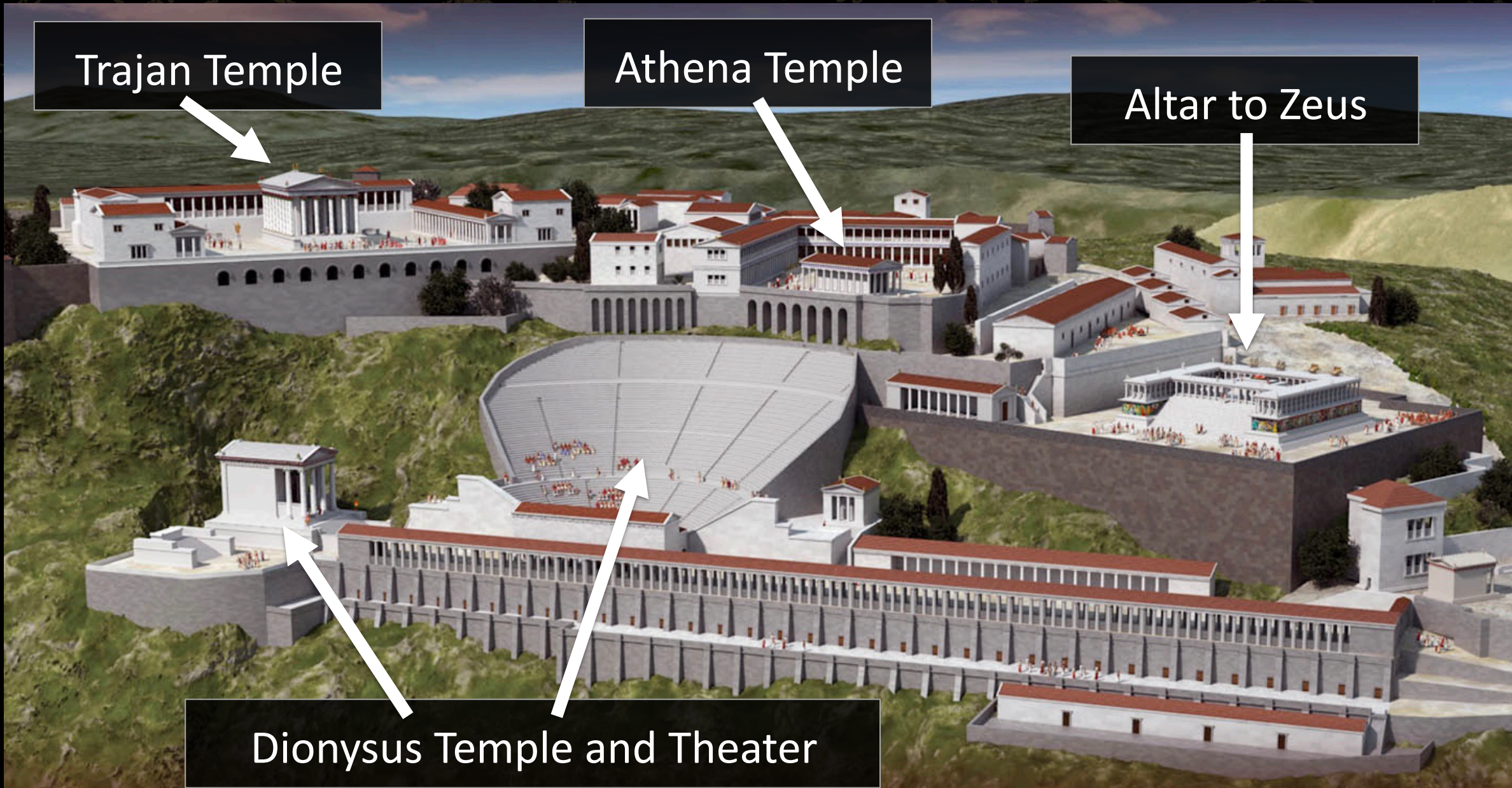


Acropolis – top of mountain  
with temples & altars

Most Famous City in Asia  
Population of 100k

Asclepius – god of medicine.  
Most advanced hospital





Trajan Temple

Athena Temple

Altar to Zeus

Dionysus Temple and Theater

Altar of  
Zeus

Temple to  
Athena

Temple to  
Dionysus

Asclepius  
Hospital

Temple to  
Trajan

Temple to  
Demeter

Uis  
Gladii

*“I know where you dwell,  
where Satan’s throne is.”*

Altar of  
Zeus

Power

Temple to  
Athena

Temple to  
Dionysus

Asclepius  
Hospital

Temple to  
Trajan

Temple to  
Demeter

Uis  
Gladii



117' x 110' x 40'

King of the gods

Perpetual Visible Sacrifices

Altar of  
Zeus

Power

Temple to  
Athena

Wisdom

Temple to  
Dionysus

Asclepius  
Hospital

Temple to  
Trajan

Temple to  
Demeter

Uis  
Gladii



Warfare Victory  
and Wisdom

Way, Truth and Life

Altar of  
Zeus

Power

Temple to  
Athena

Wisdom

Temple to  
Dionysus

Pleasure

Asclepius  
Hospital

Temple to  
Trajan

Temple to  
Demeter

Uis  
Gladii

## Theater and Temple Entertainment and Pleasure



Altar of Zeus

Power

Temple to Athena

Wisdom

Temple to Dionysus

Pleasure

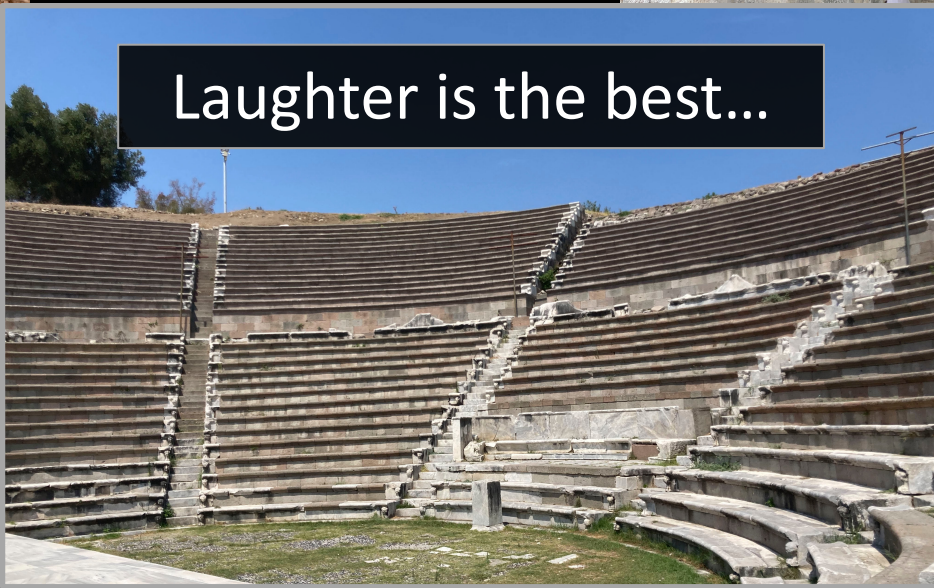
Asclepius Hospital

Health

Temple to Trajan

Temple to Demeter

Uis Gladii



Laughter is the best...

Snakes and Whispers

The most advanced hospital in Asia Minor

Pinch the Incense

Altar of  
Zeus

Power

Temple to  
Athena

Wisdom

Temple to  
Dionysus

Pleasure

Asclepius  
Hospital

Health

Temple to  
Trajan

Security

Temple to  
Demeter

Uis  
Gladii



Political Allegiance / Security



Altar of  
Zeus

Power

Temple to  
Athena

Wisdom

Temple to  
Dionysus

Pleasure

Asclepius  
Hospital

Health

Temple to  
Trajan

Security

Temple to  
Demeter

Food

Uis  
Gladii



Goddess of Agriculture  
"Daily Bread"





Altar of  
Zeus

Power

Temple to  
Athena

Wisdom

Temple to  
Dionysus

Pleasure

Asclepius  
Hospital

Health

Temple to  
Trajan

Security

Temple to  
Demeter

Food

Uis  
Gladii

Life



The Right of the Sword

Altar of  
Zeus

Power

Temple to  
Athena

Wisdom

Temple to  
Dionysus

Pleasure

Asclepius  
Hospital

Health

Temple to  
Trajan

Security

Temple to  
Demeter

Food

Uis  
Gladii

Life



To the Unknown God

Altar of Zeus	Temple to Athena	Temple to Dionysus	Asclepius Hospital	Temple to Trajan	Temple to Demeter	Uis Gladii
Power	Wisdom	Pleasure	Health	Security	Food	Life

<sup>13</sup> ““I know where you dwell, where ***Satan’s throne*** is.

“Throne”  
 Chair for the master of the house

2 Corinthians 11:14

...for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

Altar of  
Zeus

Power

Temple to  
Athena

Wisdom

Temple to  
Dionysus

Pleasure

Asclepius  
Hospital

Health

Temple to  
Trajan

Security

Temple to  
Demeter

Food

Uis  
Gladii

Life

Counter Narrative

Creation &  
Liberation

Destruction &  
Enslavement

# The Pergamum Church

<sup>12</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write:  
‘The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.

God’s Uis Gladii  
“The Right of the Sword”

## Hebrews 4

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

# The Pergamum Church

Yet you **hold fast** my name,  
and you did not deny my faith  
even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness,  
who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

# The Pergamum Church

Yet you **hold fast** my name,  
and you did not deny my faith  
even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness,  
who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

Christians were called Atheists  
Exclusivity of Christ

# The Pergamum Church

<sup>14</sup> But I have a few things against you: you have some there who **hold** the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.

## Numbers 25

<sup>6</sup> And behold, one of the people of Israel came and brought a Midianite woman to his family, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of the whole...

<sup>7</sup> When Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose and left the congregation and took a spear in his hand <sup>8</sup> and went after the man of Israel into the chamber and pierced both of them, the man of Israel and the woman through her belly.



# The Pergamum Connection

Syncretism / Compromise

Spiritual Buffet

*Jesus is fine, but ...*

*Zeus / Power*

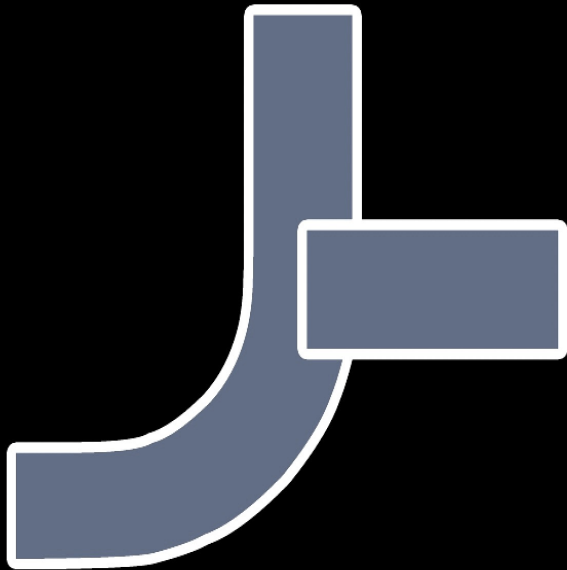
*Asclepius / Health*

*Athena / Wisdom*

*Trajan / Security*

*Dionysus / Pleasure*

*Demeter / Life*



# The Pergamum Connection

## Counter Narratives

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.  
I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

# The Pergamum Connection

## Counter Narratives

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.  
I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Society was loose with their beds and tight with their wallets

First Century Christians were loose with their wallets and tight with their beds

<sup>16</sup> Therefore repent.

If not, I will come to you soon and war against them  
with the sword of my mouth.

<sup>17</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'

The Hidden Manna

The Real Nourishment:  
The Bread of Life

The Named White Stone

The Real Name:  
In the Book of Life