

Structure of the Seven Letters

Rev 2:12-17

	Ephesus, 2:1-7	Smyrna, 2:8-11	Pergamos, 2:12-17	Thyatira, 2:18-29	Sardis, 3:1-6	Philadelphia, 3:7-13	Laodicea, 3:14-22
Command to write	1a	8a	12a	18a	1a	7a	14a
Title from ch. 1	1b	8b	12b	18b	1b	7b	14b
Message	2-6	9-10	13-16	19-25	1c-4	8-11	15-20
I know thy works	2a	9a	13a	19a	1c	8a	15a
Praise	2-3	9b	13	19		8-11	
Exhortation		10				11b	
Criticism	4-5		14-16	20-23	2-3		15-20
Exhortation	5		16		3		18-19
Praise	6			24	4		
Exhortation				25			
Promise to Overcomers				26-28	5	12	21
Let him hear	7a	11a	17a	29	6	13	22
Promise to Overcomers	7b	11b	17b				

The Temples of Pergamos

Excavated by Karl Humann, 1878-1886, for the Berlin Museum



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pergamon_Museum_Berlin_hm.jpg

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320860001/figure/fig/1/AS:631662295662650@1527611435974/Pergamon-Zeus-Altar-and-Acropolis-Reconstruction-Drawing_W640.jpg

The Serpents of Pergamos



https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/C_2002-0101-1449

Temple of Dionysus (Latin Bacchus)

- Symbol: serpent in a box
- Home of the cistophorus coin



Temple of Asclepius (god of healing)

- Symbol: serpent on a rod
- Birthplace of Galen (129-216)

Rev 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old **serpent**, which is the Devil, and Satan, (cf. 12:9)

Helpful References

2:12 sharp sword

John 18:31 It is not lawful for us to put any man to death

2:13 name ... faith

Pergamos 2:13	Philadelphia 3:8
thou holdest fast my name	thou ... hast not denied my name
thou ... hast not denied my faith	thou ... hast kept my word

Mat 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you

Balaam

Num 23:8 How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied?

Num 23:21 He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them.

Num 24:9 Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee.

Num 24:10 And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he smote his hands together: and Balak said unto Balaam, I called thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast altogether blessed them these three times.

Num 31:8 And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword.

The Doctrine of Balaam

Num 25:1 And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit **whoredom** with the daughters of Moab. 2 And they called the people unto the **sacrifices of their gods**: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. 3 And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

Num 31:16 Behold, these [women of Midian] caused the children of Israel, **through the counsel of Balaam**, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

Act 15:19 that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: 20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of **idols**, and from **fornication**, and from things strangled, and from blood.

1Cor. 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a **fornicator**, or covetous, or an **idolater**, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. ... 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither **fornicators**, nor **idolaters**, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Balaam בלע עם = he swallows the people

Nicolas νικο λαος = I conquer the people

2:16 I will come unto **thee** ... and will fight against **them** ...

1Co 11:29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

2:17 a white stone (pebble)

Act 26:10 Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I **gave my voice [my pebble]** against them.

Luke 18:31 Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets **concerning** the Son of man shall be accomplished.

More References

2:17 the hidden manna

Exod 16:33 And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and **lay it up before the LORD**, to be kept for your generations. 34 As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept. Heb 9:4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was **the golden pot that had manna**, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

Rev 11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple **the ark of his testament**: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.