

# Bereans Bible Institute

## Module XI – Revelation

### Lesson 9 – Rev. 2:12-17

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#### I. Pergamos

##### A. Vss. 12-13a

##### 1. Jesus as “the one having the sharp two-edged sword.”

a. Heb. 4:12 LGV 12 “For God’s **Logos** is alive, and effective, sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating until the distribution of both life and breath, of both joints and sinews [Ezek. 37], and is **the Judge** of inner sentiments and thoughts of the heart. 13 And nothing created is imperceptible in **His** sight, but everything is naked and exposed to **the eyes of Him**, [Rev. 5:6] **the one unto whom we report**. 14 Having then **a great High Priest** who has passed through the heavens – **Jesus the Son of God** – we should cling to the Profession. 15 For we do not have a **High Priest** who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way that we are, [yet] without sin. 16 Therefore, we may come with boldness to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and grace for prompt assistance.”

b. Rev. 1:16 the sharp two-edged sword went out of His mouth. This implies that He has authority to judge:

1. John 5:22 “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, ... 26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.”

c. Rev. 19:11-16 sharp sword out of the mouth of Logos of God. ‘Logos’ is connected to Psalm 2, “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.”

d. “I have observed your deeds” – Logos of Heb. 4:12

##### B. Vs. 13

1. “I have observed where you live, where Satan’s throne is.” Jesus acknowledged past faithfulness in difficult circumstances.

a. “Satan’s throne” refers to the Pergamon Altar<sup>1</sup> of sacrifice to Zeus

b. You have not denied My name – acknowledged past faithfulness.

c. “The days of Antipas my faithful witness.” Antipas was ordained pastor of the assembly at Pergamos by John. He was martyred in AD 92, proving Revelation was written afterwards.

##### C. Vss. 14-15 Complaints:

1. Some who hold the ‘teaching of Balaam.’

a. Numbers 23,25 The first crime of some of the members of this assembly was in compromising, tolerating, and excusing forms of idolatry rampant

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<sup>1</sup> Video on the Pergamon Altar of Zeus & Athena: <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/greek-art/hellenistic/v/the-pergamon-altar-c-200-150-b-c-e>

in this pagan city. They participated in pagan practices & marrying pagan women. 1 Cor. 10:21-22. The example first set by the sons of Seth.

2. Some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans:

a. Irenaeus, Hippolytus & others identify this with followers of Nicolas of Antioch, one of the seven deacons (Acts 6:3-5). He was the sole Greek among the six Jewish deacons chosen. He apostatized from the Faith by blending the teachings of Plato with Christianity. *“John, the disciple of the Lord, preaches this faith, and seeks, by the proclamation of the Gospel, to remove that error which by Cerinthus had been disseminated among men, and a long time previously by those termed Nicolaitans, who are an offset of that ‘knowledge’ falsely so called, that he might confound them. ... The disciple of the Lord therefore desiring to put an end to all such doctrines, and to establish the rule of truth in the Church, that there is one Almighty God, who made all things by His Word, both visible and invisible; showing at the same time, that by the Word, through whom God made the creation, He also bestowed salvation on the men included in the creation .... But according to the opinion of not one of the heretics was the Word of God made flesh. For if any one carefully examines the systems of them all, he will find that the Word of God is brought in by all of them as not having become incarnate and impassible, as is also the Christ from above.”*<sup>2</sup>

D. Vs. 16

1. Repent or Jesus will use the “sword” of His mouth on this assembly.

E. Vs. 17

1. The promise to the overcomers: Jesus will give the *“manna that has been hidden”* (Rev. 12:6,14), supernatural sustenance from heaven in the end times.

2. The white pebble (acquittal) and a new name. (Jesus gave Simon a new name, ‘Peter’ – a ‘stone’).

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<sup>2</sup> Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Bk. III, ch. xi:1,3