



Pergamum

3: Pergamum

BACKGROUND ON THIS CITY

- 80 miles north of Smyrna
- Center of emperor (Caesar) worship
- Known as “City of the Serpent” (Aesclepios)
- Known for occult practices (*“City of satan”*)
- Babylon origin of ALL occult practices/arts. All rites, rituals, “secrets” transferred to Pergamum, then eventually to Rome. This alone should say something loudly to us.
- *312 AD paganism absorbed into “Roman Church” (paganism “Christianized”)*

Revelation 2:12-17, Church 3: Pergamos

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Symbolic Age | State Church (Constantine to 1 st Pope) 313-590 AD |
| Speaker | <i>“He who has the sharp two-edged sword.”</i> |
| Praise | Works, steadfastness, held to faith (He knew where they lived, Satan’s throne) |
| Problem | False teachers in their midst |
| Counsel Or Warning | Repent OR He will fight them (those spreading false teachings, not whole church) with Sword of His mouth |
| Promise | Hidden manna to eat, white stone with unique name known only to holder and Jesus (eternal sustenance, acquittal, free pass to heaven, unique love from God) |
| Nutshell | False doctrines, not testing teachers , not remaining <u>separate</u> from world |

3: Pergamum

- ***Pergamos (Pergamum)*** - "Per" means mixed or objectionable (perverted); "gamos" means marriage or "coming together" (as intercourse). Church at this time (3rd century AD) became married to paganism, perverted and mixed.
- Thus need for a sharp two-edged sword, Jesus' description ("*He who has the sharp two-edged sword...*")
- Hebrews 4:12 : "***For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***"

3: Pergamum

- Beginning in third century after Jesus, Roman (*Catholic = "Universal"*) Church perverted Truth by paganizing Christianity (*brought practices and priesthood from paganism*).
- May wear a "Christian" label, but Jesus' two-edged sword will divide truth from false. God's Word (*not man's*) is the standard for truth then and now.



3: Pergamum

- ***"...even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells."*** Antipas was bishop of Pergamos during reign of Domitian in 83 AD.
- "Antipas" means "against all" - Name came to represent "those against the pope" during Reformation.
- Per orthodox tradition Antipas consecrated bishop of Pergamos by Apostle John.
- His death is recorded by Simeon Metaphrastes as having been burned to death on same altar people were to offer incense to Caesar.

Note: In class YouTube videos by Jonathan Cahn on the Throne of Satan (Pergamum) were viewed at this time. This content is not provided here, but can be found at YouTube.

Seat of Satan Temple of Zeus



3: Pergamum

- ***Problems: Doctrines of Balaam, Nicolaitans...***

Balaam an oracle ("prophet") for hire (*book of Numbers*), only concern was profit. He did not curse Israelites (God's restraint) and instead blessed them, but was instrumental in getting Israelites to intermarry Moabites and Midianites (against God's laws) turning hearts away from God. Did this for pay from Balak, king of Moab.

The "doctrine of Balaam" is about spiritual prostitution, marriage with the world, and with other "gods." This included sexual immorality. The "doctrine of Balaam" is the exchange of eternal riches for earthly gain and lusts. Balaam was eventually killed along with the enemy.

3: Pergamum

Nicolaitans - 2nd time Jesus said He hated something - practice of the Nicolaitans.

Word implied the practice of the clergy lording it over the laity, in the church (*Niko – to conquer, laity – the people*).

Pergamos represents church of Rome dating from time they instituted the “Nicolaitan” system of separation of priests and laity.

Antipas represents opposition to excesses and sins of Rome and the tradition of men (instead of God) which led to Protestant Reformation.

3: Pergamum

Commentary:

Balaamites may have been teaching converts that participating in temple feasts or other activities in which the gods were invoked was not wrong because it served a good end. The unknown prophets or self-appointed teachers, metaphorically called “Balaam,” were probably counseling accommodation (compromise) with the pagan culture. Balaam and the Nicolaitans as well as another heretical group we encounter later – the followers of a prophetess named “Jezebel” – probably all taught generally the same thing.

3: Pergamum

What were they to do?

REPENT (*make a 180 degree turn back to where they came from – the Truth!*)... **Of the false teachings and practices**

...and get the false teachers out!

3: Pergamum

Commentary:

“The church was reminded that Pergamum’s power structure had wrongly judged or condemned Antipas, a faithful witness, and executed him (1:5). But God will judge the world system itself in opposition to God, of which Pergamum’s power center partakes...

The religious climate at Pergamum was not conducive to the Christian life. That’s because “Satan’s throne” was in the city (2:12). While the phrase has received differing interpretations, it probably refers to Pergamum as a major center of pagan religion, especially the imperial cult. ***The city symbolized secular power and civil religion working together to do something Satan wanted.*** **SOUND FAMILIAR???**

3: Pergamum

**What do we see
today that reminds
us of the situation in
Pergamum?**

Why are These Critical Today?

Ephesus: Keep first love

Smyrna: Don't fear, hang on in persecution (you will suffer)

Pergamum: Seat of satan, don't compromise

First Abomination of Desolation

Temple to Zeus, Jerusalem, Antiochus Ephiphanes

Another Abomination is coming...

- And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily *sacrifices*, and place *there* the **abomination of desolation**. (Daniel 11:31)
- “Therefore when you see the ‘**abomination of desolation,**’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),...” (Matthew 24:15)
- “Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

The image shows the interior of the Pergamon Museum in Berlin. The central focus is the Altar of Pergamum, a massive ancient Greek temple structure. It features a wide, grand staircase leading up to a platform with a classical facade of columns and a pediment. The walls are covered in intricate stone reliefs, including the famous frieze of the Trojan Horse. The ceiling is a large, modern glass and steel skylight. Numerous visitors are seen walking up and down the stairs and standing around the base of the monument. The text "Seat of Satan" and "Altar of Pergamum - Berlin" is overlaid in white on the image.

Seat of Satan
Altar of Pergamum - Berlin

Seat of Satan

Altar of Pergamum – Re-creation, Nuremberg

Altar of HOLOCAUST





Another throne...?

- “Another charismatic young politician mesmerizes huge German crowds with a rousing speech in Berlin.
- Barack Hussein Obama does something no American presidential candidate has ever done, which is give a major foreign policy speech abroad.
- Adoring *youthful* crowds, representing much of Europe, listen raptly as he says, well - *nothing*. But he does it so well.”
- An announcer on German television said: ***“You have just heard from the next President of the United States of America, and the future President of the world.”***
- So did Barack Hussein Obama visit the Museum of the Great Altar of Zeus in Berlin while he was there? *You bet he did.*

- Following this unprecedented visit Barack Hussein Obama came back to the U.S. to nail down the Democratic nomination in Denver, Colorado.
- There he made a bold, and some would say *arrogant*, decision to accept his party's nomination in a massive football stadium, hoping to fill it up with 100,000 fans. The numbers were unprecedented for an American political speech – except for him. This young rock star politician seemed able to conjure up crowds that size at will.
- However, even his staunch supporters felt uneasy that the stage he demanded to speak from was rather *un-American* and *pretentious*.
- He wanted to give a speech from a replica of a Greek building – **The Great Altar of Zeus!**









CONVENTION SPECIAL



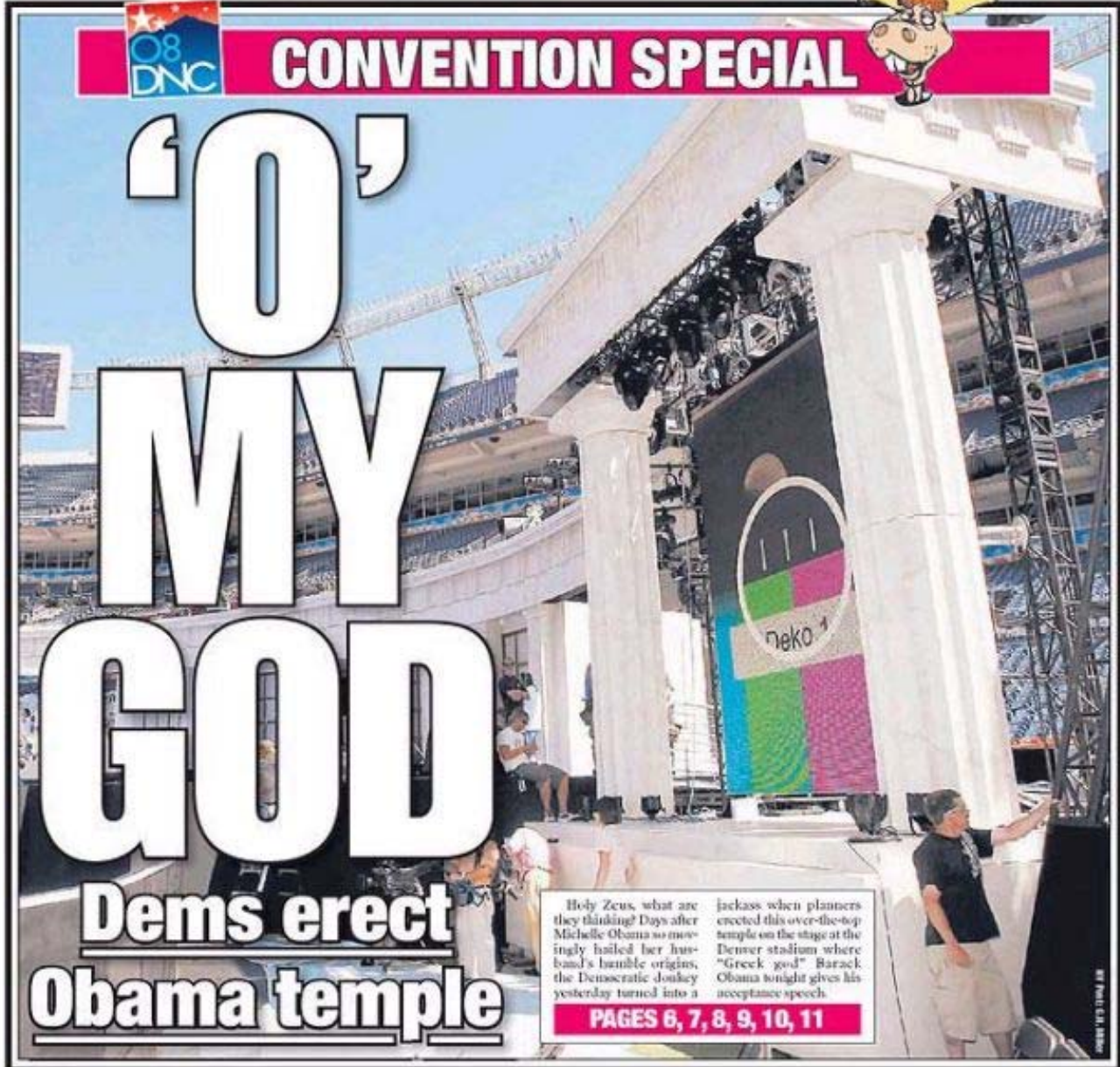
'O' MY GOD

Dems erect Obama temple

Holy Zeus, what are they thinking? Days after Michelle Obama so movingly hailed her husband's humble origins, the Democratic donkey yesterday turned into a

jackass when planners erected this over-the-top temple on the stage at the Denver stadium where "Greek god" Barack Obama tonight gives his acceptance speech.

PAGES 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11



BY PHIL CHAPMAN

- As photos of its construction spread around the Internet, a Christian author ***Joel Richardson*** gained some instant notoriety across the Internet by demonstrating that this building was a dead ringer for the Great Altar of Zeus that once stood above the city of Pergamum.
- The Obama people made some weak excuses that it represented the U.S. Capital and White House West Wing combined. But expert scholars agreed with Richardson; it was a replica of the Great Altar of Pergamum.
- So ... curiously, B. Hussein Obama chose to deliver his rousing political coming-out speech to the assembled, *mostly youthful*, masses from a replica of the throne of satan, *just like Adolf Hitler had done decades before...*

No conclusions, no statements.
YOU pray and decide.
Be watchful!!

