REVELATION Chapter 2 part 2 -- Letters to the Churches in Pergamos and Thyatira

Compilation of prophetic commentaries by Gaetan

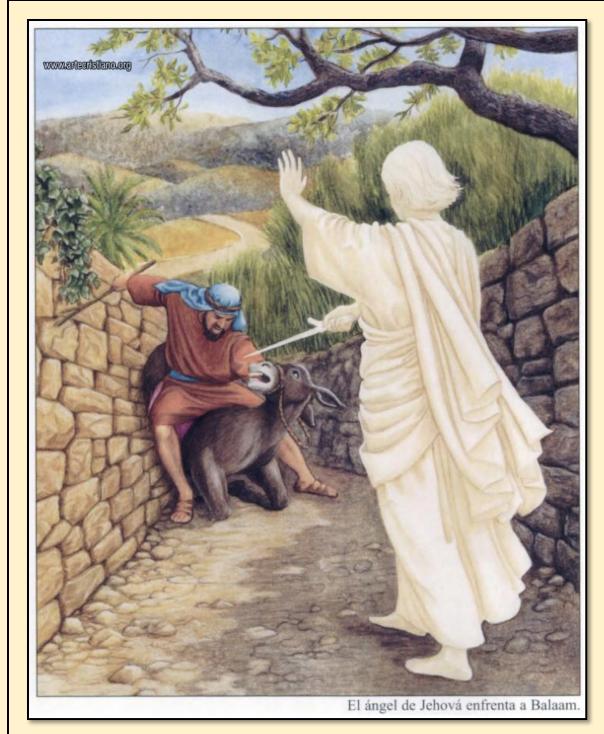
Pergamos was a church faithful to the name of Christ, even unto martyrdom but sometimes tolerant of false teachers.

REV.2:12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'these things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword (He.4:12):

REV.2:13 "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.



** LUK.4:5, 6 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.



REV.2:14 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 stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Balaam knew God and carried out his commands, but he was an evil man, driven by money rather than the love of God. The angel threatened Balaam because Balaam was obeying God in his actions, but in his heart he was rebelling, thinking only of the bribe.

**JUD.1:11 Woe unto them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

Numbers 31:16 reveals that Balaam enticed the Israelites to turn from God and worship idols:

** Nu. 31:16 "They were the ones who followed Balaam's advice and were the means of turning the Israelites away from the LORD in what happened at Peor, so that a plague struck the LORD's people.

Balaam, the son of Beor, was from Pethor in Mesopotamia (*Deut.23:4*). He was a very influential sorcerer who, although aware of the true God, made his services available on a freelance basis. Near the end of their Wilderness Journey, as the Israelites under Moses were advancing north into



Moab, King Balak of Moab sent messengers to Balaam to hire him and to get him to put a curse on the Israelites. (Num.22-24) The Lord however appeared to Balaam and warned him not to do it. King **Balak then sent** other messengers to Balaam with an offer of great riches if he

would curse the Israelites. This time The Lord allowed Balaam to go with them to Moab, but on the condition that he do only what The Lord told him. Then came the famous incident with Balaam's talking donkey on the journey to Moab. Centuries later, Peter referred to the incident:

** **2PE.2:15** which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who **loved the wages** of unrighteousness;

When Balaam arrived in Moab, King Balak greeted him, but Balaam warned the king that he could only say what God allowed him. King Balak's strategy was about to backfire. Balaam's

prophecies then followed, all of which blessed the Israelites instead of cursing them. By the time that he was done, the Holy Spirit had caused Balaam to speak a rich blessing upon Israel.

Despite that he should by then have known better, although he could not directly curse the Israelites, He later on still advised King Balak how to tempt the Israelites into disobeying God:



"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 immorality". (Rev.2:14) Balaam was killed in a later battle between Israel and the Midianites.

REV.2:15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

REV.2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth (His Word).

REV.2:17 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.

Most Bible scholars readily agree that this 'hidden manna' is Jesus Himself.

**Jn.6:32,33,35a Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven, but My Father giveth you the true bread

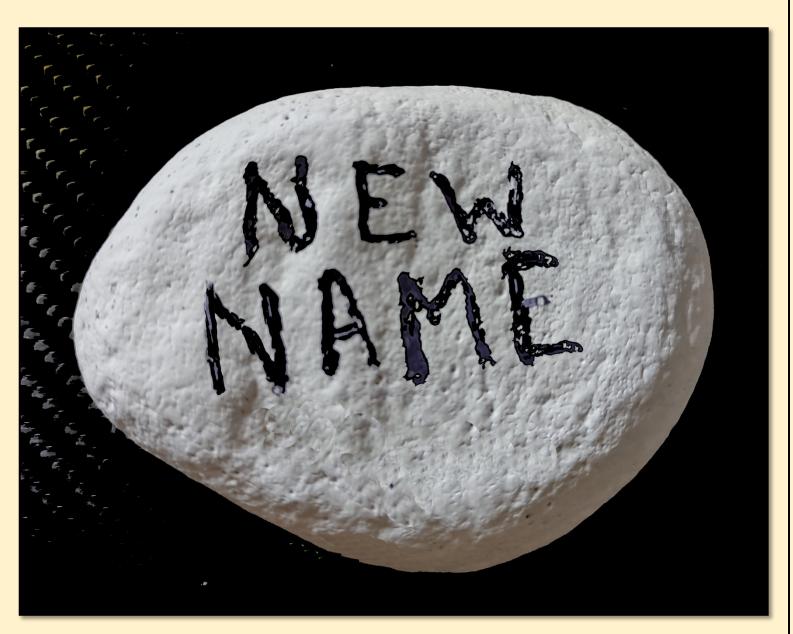
What Is the "Hidden Manna"?

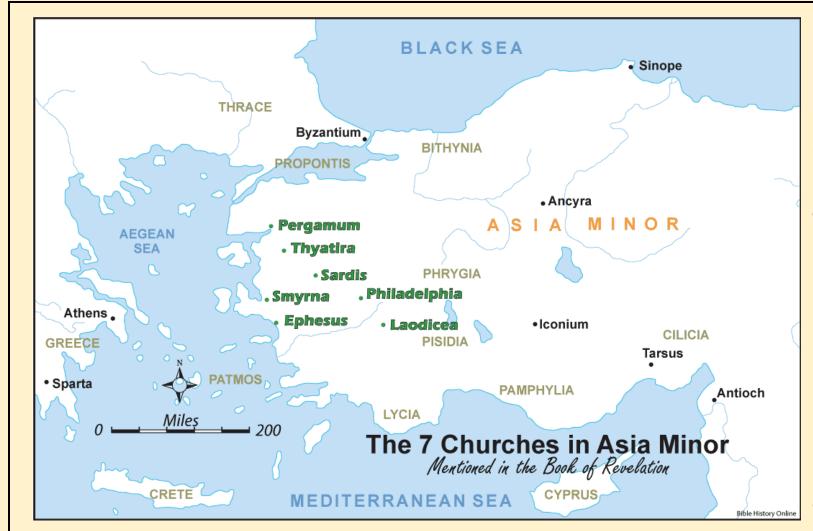
from heaven. For the bread of heaven is He which cometh down from heaven and giveth life unto the world...I am the bread of life.

The second gift spoken of in this verse, is the white stone with our new name. Apparently, various ancient cultures, to this day, still practice the giving of a small stone to someone whom they highly value as a lasting friend. It is a custom that shows heartfelt honor, respect and

gratitude towards another person. It is likely that such was the custom in parts of Asia at the time of John's writing to the seven churches.

The Scottish author George Macdonald explained it this way: "The giving of the white stone with the new name is the communication of what God thinks about the man...The true name is one which expresses the character, the nature, the meaning of the person who bears it. It is the man's own symbol—his soul's picture, in a word—the sign which belongs to him and to no one else. Who can give a man this, his own name? God alone. For no one but God sees what the man is..."





The church in Thyatira had some good qualities. They were distinguished for their "love and service, and faith, and patience." They were increasing in zeal, "their last works to be more than the first" just the opposite of Ephesus, which had lost its first love. But like Pergamos, they were open-minded of false teachers.

REV.2:18 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;

REV.2:19 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.

REV.2:20 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. (1Kg.16; 2Kg. 9)

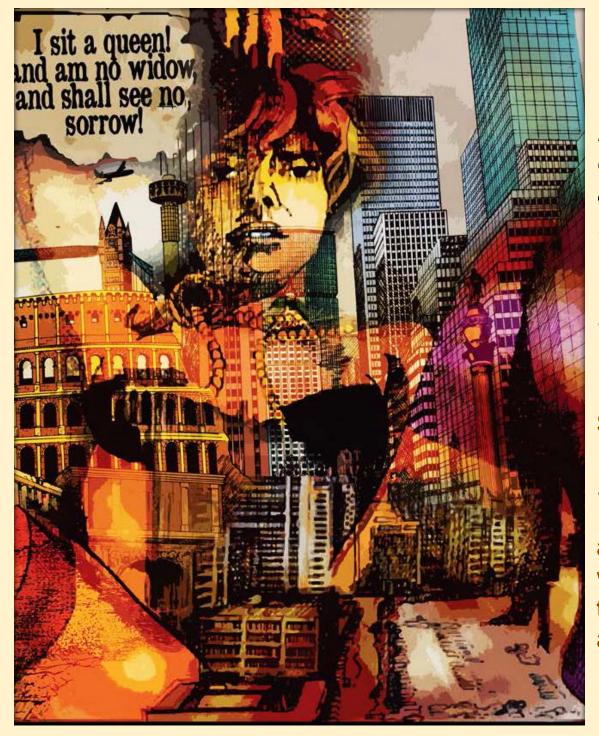
REV.2:21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

REV.2:22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit **adultery** with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

REV.2:23 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.

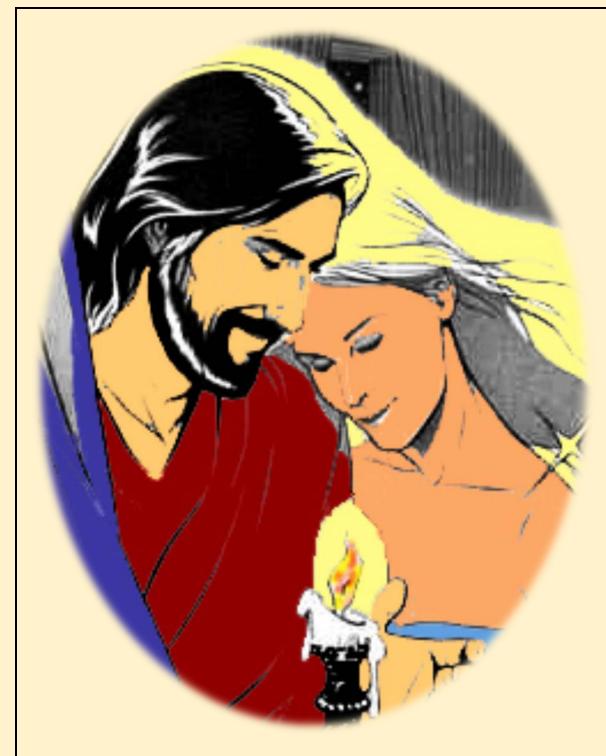
Although Jesus condemned physical adultery, the Lord and the prophets condemned spiritual adultery as the worst of all! -- The wickedness of spiritually committing adultery with the Devil and his idols and materialism!





The Lord says, "I am broken with their whorish heart which hath departed from Me, and with their eyes, which go awhoring after their idols! Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of this world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God!" (Eze.6:9; Jam.4:4). (Also Psa.106:39; Eze.20:30-32; Jer.3:6-10.)

The Lord even depicts the world materialistic System as "the great whore with whom the kings of the Earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the Earth are made drunk with the wine of her fornication!" (Rev.17:1-2). Spiritual adultery and fornication with the idolatrous and whorish System of this world is an abomination that most people never even give a second thought about.



You'd better watch out that <u>you're</u> not guilty of spiritual adultery also. You say, "What <u>is</u> spiritual adultery?" It's running around and loving the things and the material of this world when you're supposed to be the <u>Bride of Christ!</u> You can even do that walking through a shopping center if you don't watch your mind and your step! What do people worship today? Do they actually still worship the idols of ancient days? Some people do in some countries. But what have you seen people worship mostly in this supposed advanced civilization? Car, money, latest gadgets etc.

Ours is a high calling, the highest calling, to be His servants in an adulterous and wicked generation. What is their adultery? Their adultery is that they have gone awhoring after other gods, and they have neglected their first Husband [the Lord], and gone after the rudiments of the world. This is what the Lord is telling us here what He considers <u>real</u> adultery! --That some of God's children have left Him, the One Who is supposed to be their First Love, and put many other gods before Him!

REV.2:24 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.

REV.2:25 But that which ye have already **hold fast till I come**.

REV.2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

REV.2:27 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.

** **DAN.7:18** But **the saints** of the most High shall **take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom** for ever, even for ever and ever.

** PSA.2:8, 9 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.





** **DAN.2:44** And in the days of these kings shall **the God of heaven set up a kingdom**, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it **shall break in pieces** and consume all these kingdoms, **and it shall stand for ever.**

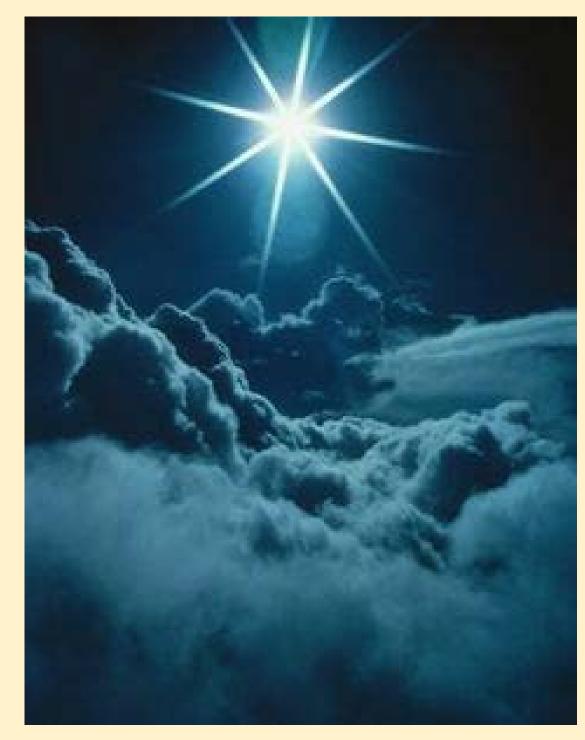
Every day, millions of Christians all over the world pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven!" But do most of us really appreciate the tremendousness of that statement in the Lord's Prayer and how literally it is going to come true and be fulfilled? It's actually going to be like Heaven, Heaven on Earth, with God's Will being done and His Kingdom come--on Earth as it is in Heaven!

And we will be His officers, enforcing His Will as we rule and reign over the Earth with Him! We will return with the Lord, triumphant, after the days of wrath and the battle of Armageddon in which He wipes out the Antichrist and his kingdom and restores the whole Earth--something the Antichrist tried to do but couldn't. Then there will be genuine peace on Earth and good will toward men throughout the World, and "righteousness shall cover the Earth as the waters cover the seas!" (Isa.11:9)

How do the waters cover the seas? -- Completely! So, the World will be completely covered with the righteous Kingdom of Jesus Christ! Hallelujah!

Jesus Christ is going to set up His throne in Jerusalem and make it His capital. "He shall rule the nations," it says, "with a rod of iron!" It's going to be an enforced rule, a strong iron absolute rule over the wicked. It has to be, otherwise the wicked would never obey. Everyone will be compelled to obey whether they like it or not!-- Absolutely no freedom of wicked man and no more wicked governments and wicked rulers in a wicked World--but a completely total rule of the righteous with Jesus Christ as King!





REV.2:28 And I will give him the morning star.

** **REV.22:16** I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and **the bright and morning star**.

REV.2:29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

You can receive Jesus at this very moment. It is a free gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8-9). Please say this simple prayer: "Jesus, please forgive all my faults. I accept that You are the Son of God and that You died for me. I invite You into my heart and life. Thank you for your gift of eternal life and please fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Help me to read and understand Your Word. Amen"

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