



The White Stone

During the time of Jesus on earth, a white stone was given to an accused who through a jury was deemed innocent, hence acquitted. A black stone signified guilt. To have been handed a white stone, the accused could walk away free of condemnation.

There is an image of a group of people recorded in Revelation 2 who “live—where Satan has his throne.” Biblical scholars scour the planet trying to identify that location, but it is illusive because it is simply not one geographical location, but rather places peppered over the planet—places where falsehood, deception and lies are birthed.

Common places of thought, research, studies and teaching all take place in today’s universities and colleges as well as specialized institutions. From there, information is generated, beliefs are published, and theological changes are debated and canonized. Through this core body, information is dispersed and great libraries are founded.

“Pergamum’s library was the center for all things cultural. The Greek writer Plutarch said that it had approximately 200,000 volumes. It came to be known as one of the most important libraries in the ancient world and was second only to the Library of Alexandria. According to the ancient chronicler Pliny the Elder, the Library of Pergamum became so famous that it was considered to be in “keen competition” with the Library of Alexandria. Both attempted to amass the most complete collection of texts, and they developed rival schools of thought and criticism. In fact, legend has it that Egypt’s Ptolemaic dynasty halted shipments of papyrus to Pergamum in hope of slowing the library’s growth. As a result, the city may have later become a leading site for parchment production. A distinguished citizen of Pergamum and wife of a town councilor, Flavia Melitene, was instrumental in supplying the library with many of its works. Notably, she presented a statue of the Roman Emperor Hadrian to the library as a gift. Legend has it that Mark Anthony, ruler of the Macedonian empire at its height, later gave all 200,000 volumes within the library to Cleopatra as a wedding present. The volumes were destined for the Library of Alexandria - ending the recognition of the Library of Pergamum as one of the greatest of its time. It is possible that these volumes were destroyed in the fire at the Library of Alexandria, as the date in which it burned to the ground is unknown.”

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/ancient-places-asia/library-pergamum-contender-greatest-library-ancient-world-007601>

A love for learning is a prized gift, but when studies by leading researchers, draw students away from God, they then become instruments of deception working for Wickedness. The theology of Evolution is an example, as well as, the Christianization of pagan holidays. All of the Christian bishops who participated in the Council of Nicea to formalize changes different to the practices

of Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today and forever, will be brought into judgement and will have to account for their actions.

Jesus said to this group of people in his time on earth that when he returns he will stand before them with a sharp, double-edged sword. He will confront them on their teachings by judging their word against the word of God. The sword is consistently imaged in the Bible as God's word. The sword Jesus will hold before them will be sharp—uncompromising and double-edged truth. He will address every view and every angle strictly from the lens of Almighty God.

Jesus said, “You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and committing sexual immorality” (Revelation 2:14). The teaching of Balaam is an expanded view of creation to include the worship of the gods of the nations as if these gods were entitled. Eating their food is symbolic of believing and behaving as the unholy nations do. This simply results in rebellion against Almighty God—the God of Israel.

The Pergamum-like people love digging deep to find information; that is their strength. They are relentless. As in ancient times and into the present, this group of people don't always find the pure word, rather only portions of it. They are relying too much on their **own intellect; they need to lean on Christ for clarity**. Christ is coming to purge falsehood, misconceptions, misunderstandings and disinformation from everywhere on earth.

Jesus added, “You also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans” (Revelation 2:15). The teaching of the Nicolaitans is the belief and establishment of a hierarchical structure within an organization. Matthew recorded, “Don't let anyone call you 'Rabbi,' for **you have only one Teacher, and all of you are equal as brothers and sisters**” (Matthew 23:8).

“God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should **be no division in the body**, but that its parts should have **equal concern for each other**” (I Corinthians 12:25).

God's structure is not a pyramid, but a cube with layers and layers of strength placed one above the other forming an unbreakable unit. Each layer is valued equally and critical to the overall strength of the structure.

Into the 21st century, Pergamum-like groups exist in every country worldwide. They are known as experts and highly respected sources of information. Many do not advocate for creation or direct the people to worship God. Many have devised their own formula for the salvation of mankind, which excludes the sacrifice of Jesus. Jesus urges these people to overcome and for those who awaken, repent and stand up for God's word, His truth and His grace, God will take away their shame by giving them a new name—a name that reflects their win against lies, misinformation, and disinformation. That new name will be written on a white stone which they will hold up high with eternal gratitude for God's grace of their acquittal.

Stones are symbols of long-lasting and robust object. These people will be rewarded with "hidden manna." God knows their passion for discovery and He will reward them with knowledge that is rare, often unseen—deep things that cannot be discovered without God's direct guidance. They will venture into eternal wonders and the energy from discovery will draw them intimately close to Him. They will marvel at God's intellect, complexity and composition. They will wonder and never be satisfied for they will discover His never-ending greatness.

For those who overcome within the Pergamum-like group of people, they have a riveting future of exploration, discovery and wonder that they will share with all creation for all eternity.

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