

The Revelation

Chapter 2:12-17

Christ Church
Summer 2026



Asia Minor

• Pergamum

• Thyatira

• Smyrna

• Sardis

• Philadelphia

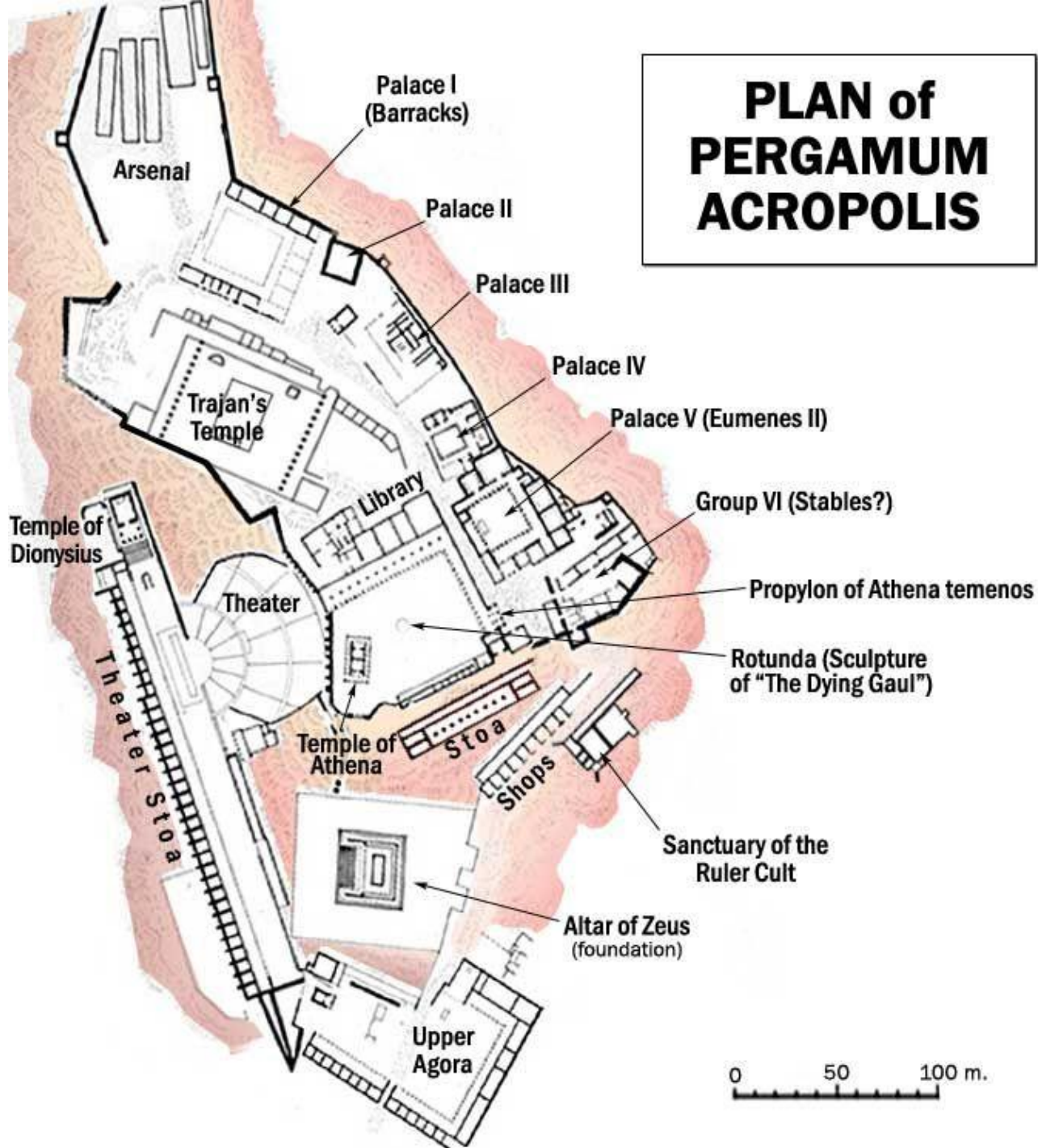
• Ephesus

Laodicea •

•
Island of
Patmos

- Pergamum means ‘height’ or ‘elevation’. It was located on a 1,000’ mountain

PLAN of PERGAMUM ACROPOLIS



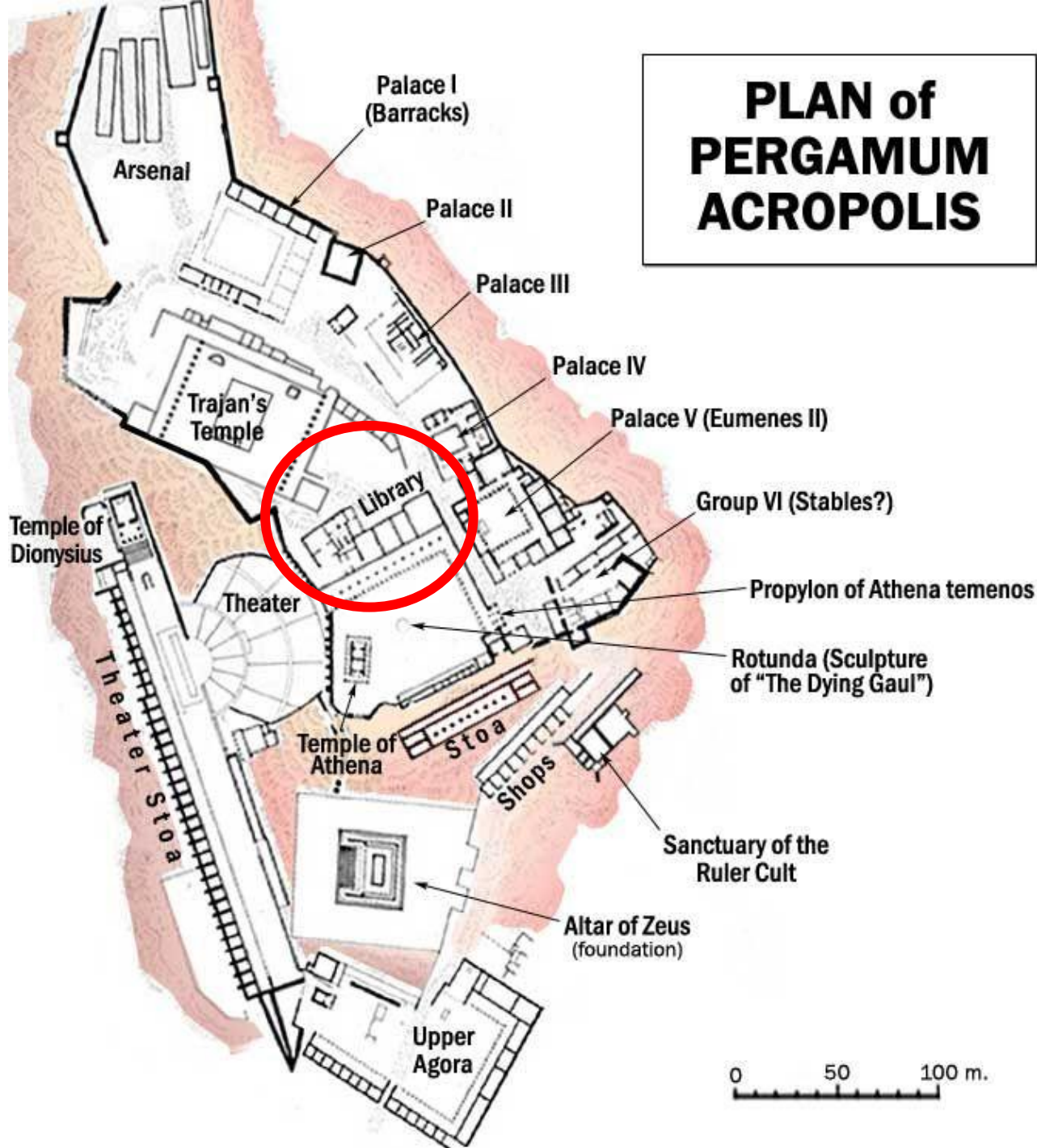
- Pergamum had
 - The seat of government for Roman imperial power



- Pergamum had
 - The seat of government for Roman imperial power
 - It boasted
 - The enormous Pergamum Library with approx. 200,000 volumes



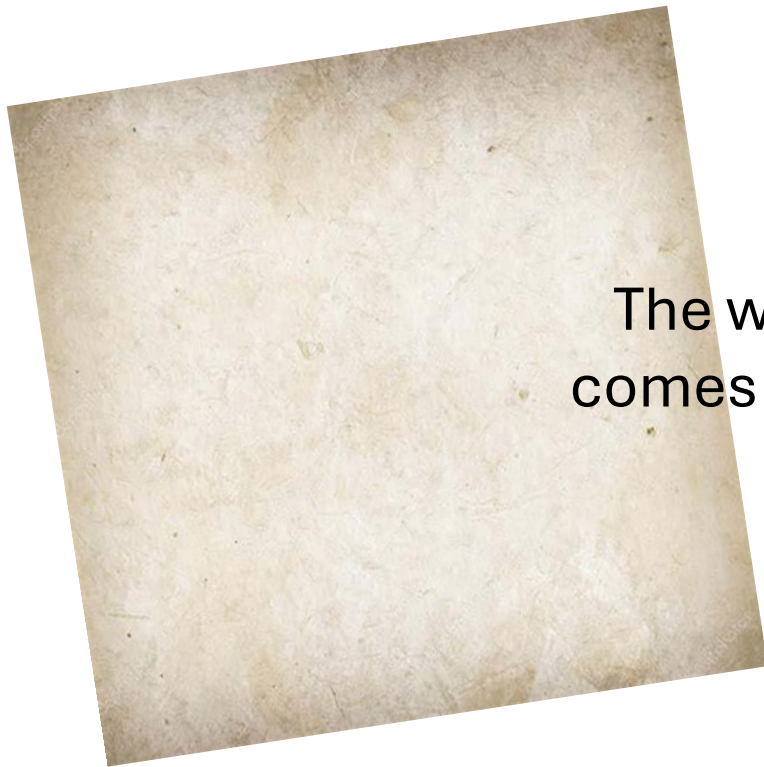
PLAN of PERGAMUM ACROPOLIS





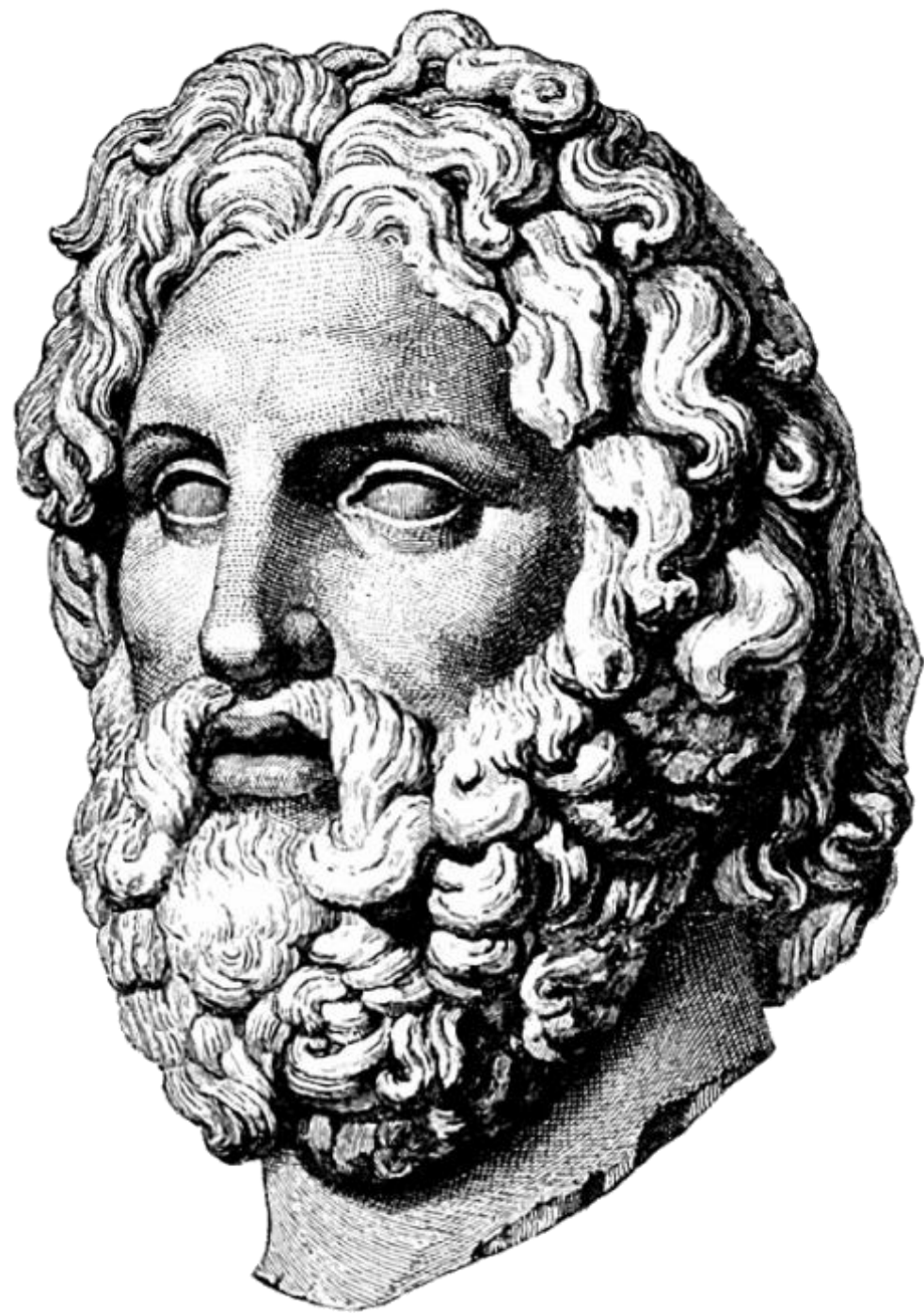


- The Pergamum Library was second only to the gigantic Library of Alexandria

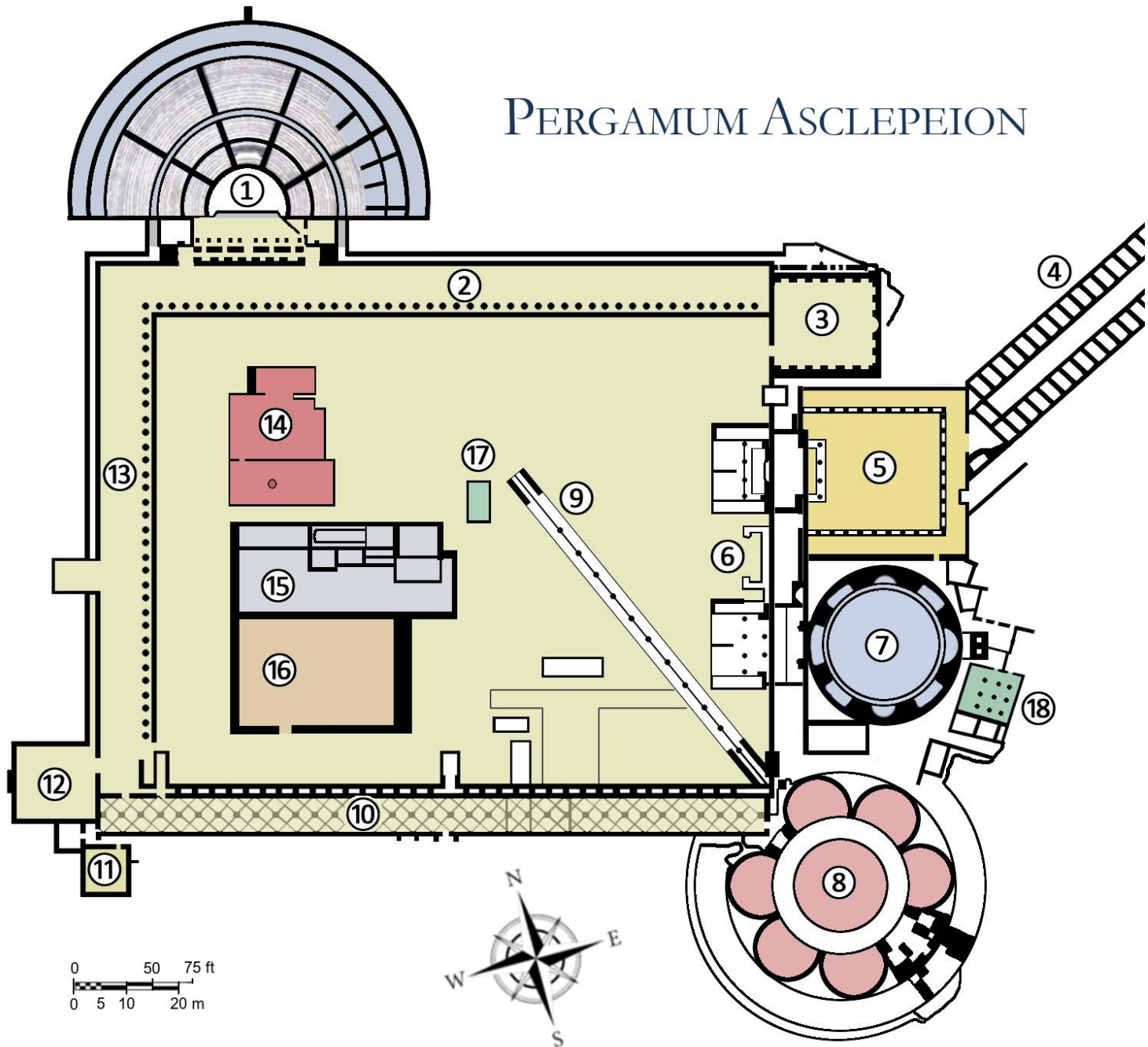


The word 'parchment'
comes from "Pergamum"

- Pergamum had
 - The seat of government for Roman imperial power
 - It boasted
 - The enormous Pergamene Library with approx. 200,000 volumes
- • The headquarters of the cult of Asklepios



PERGAMUM ASCLEPEION



- 1). Small theater
- 2). North Stoa
- 3). Small Library
- 4). Via Tecta, Colonnaded Sacred Way leading to the Acropolis
- 5). Propylaeum and Forecourt
- 6). Cult niche
- 7). Temple of Asclepius
- 8). Treatment center
- 9). Cryptopoticus, a vaulted underground tunnel
- 10). South Stoa
- 11). Latrines
- 12). Southwest Hall
- 13). West Stoa
- 14). Hellenistic temple and Sacred Spring
- 15 & 16). Incubation complex
- 17). Pool
- 18). Peristyle House

<https://jesusspeaks7.blogspot.com/>







AMA

AMERICAN MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION



MEDICINE



Pediatrics



Anaesthesiology



Cosmetic
Dermatology



Orthopedics



Dentistry



Radiology



Gastroenterology



Obstetrics

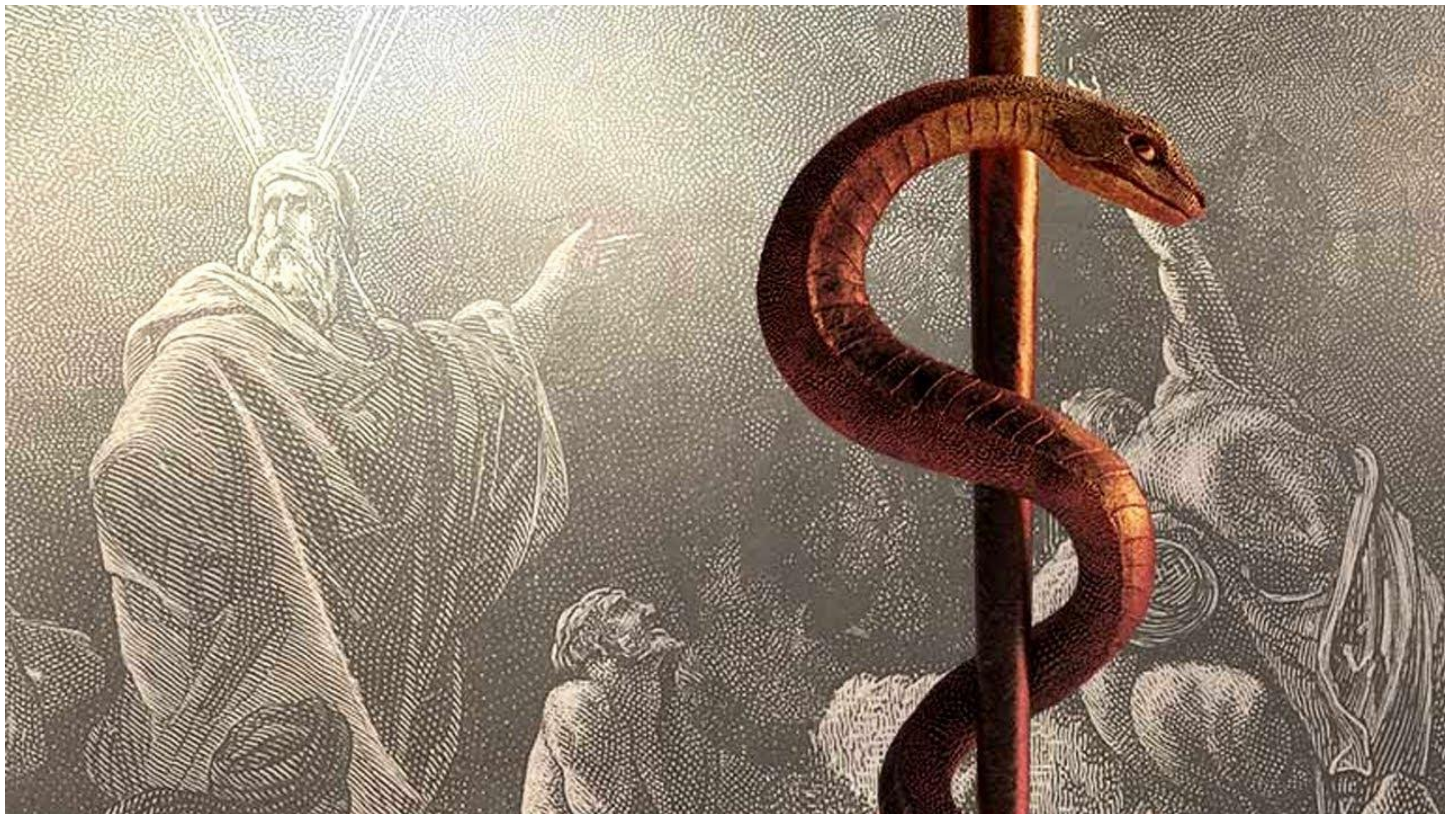


Ophthalmology



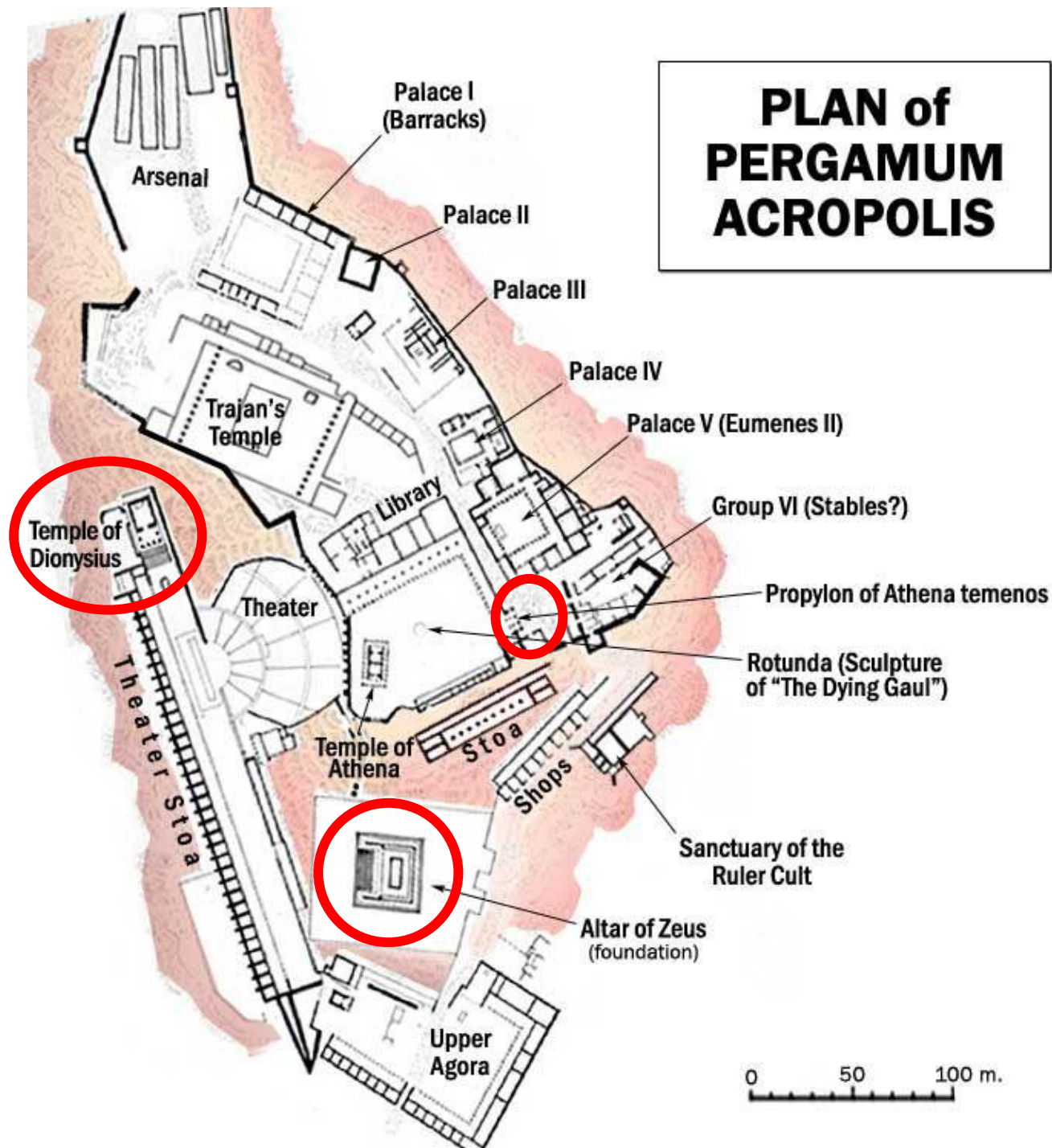
Cardiology

- Asklepios was called ‘savior’. **Do you think the Pergamum Christians would have missed the snake emblem?**



- Pergamum had
 - The seat of government for Roman imperial power
 - It boasted
 - The enormous Pergamene Library with approx. 200,000 volumes
 - The headquarters of the cult of Asklepios
- • Altars to Zeus, Dionysis, and Athena

PLAN of PERGAMUM ACROPOLIS









ΟΚΕΑΝΟΣ

NEREUS

OKEANOS

Dionysos

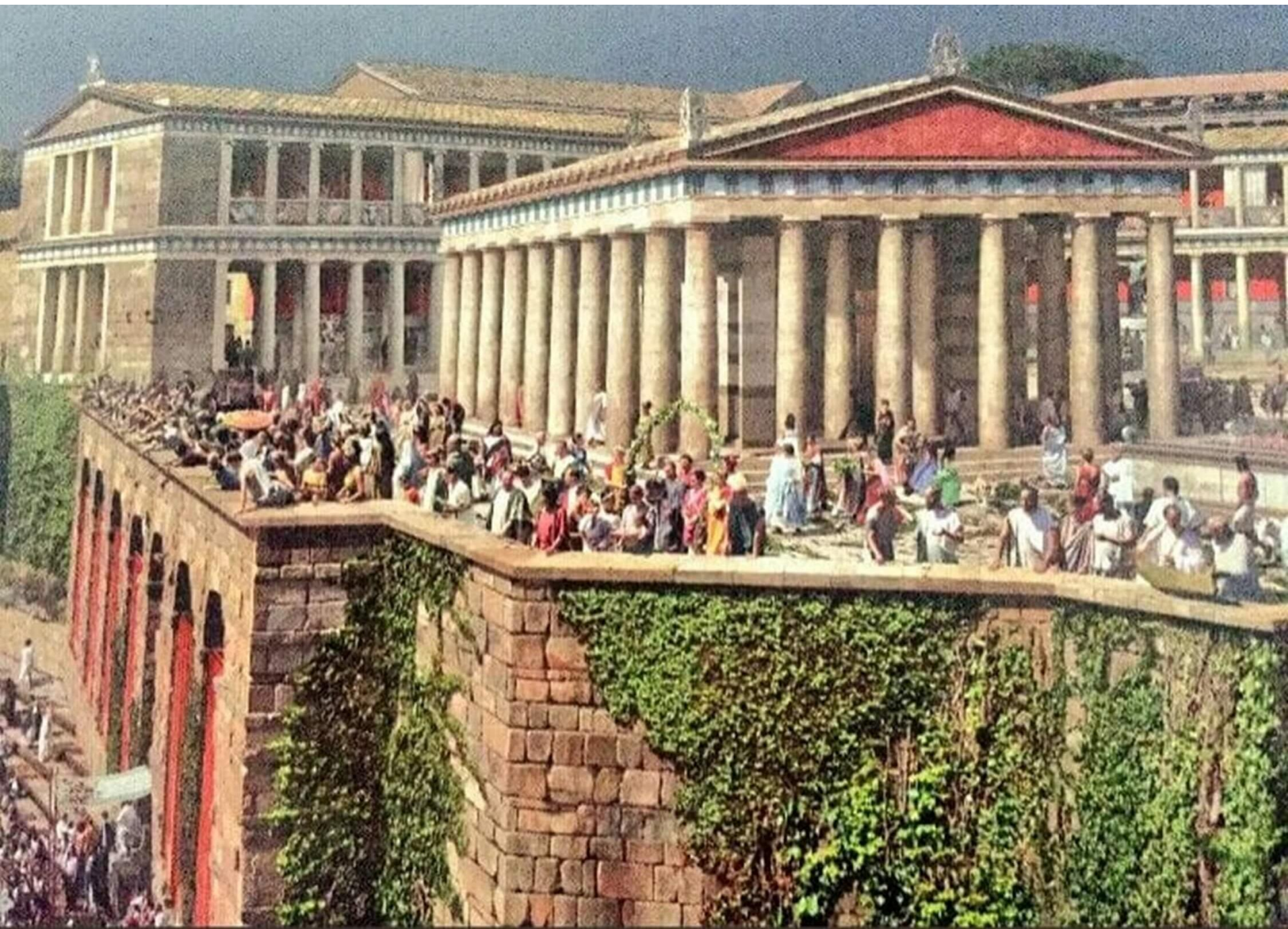




ATHENA

Die Athena von der Akropolis von Athen, die in der Mitte des 5. Jahrhunderts v. Chr. von der Bildhauerin Phidias geschaffen wurde, ist eine der bekanntesten Skulpturen der Antike. Sie ist eine lebensgroße Figur der Göttin Athena, die in der Akropolis von Athen aufgestellt war. Die Athena von der Akropolis ist eine der bekanntesten Skulpturen der Antike. Sie ist eine lebensgroße Figur der Göttin Athena, die in der Akropolis von Athen aufgestellt war. Die Athena von der Akropolis ist eine der bekanntesten Skulpturen der Antike. Sie ist eine lebensgroße Figur der Göttin Athena, die in der Akropolis von Athen aufgestellt war.





- BUT Jesus saw him fall like lightning from heaven (Luke 10:18)
- AND Jesus made him 'a public example ... triumphing over them' (Colossians 2:15)

- Pergamum had

- The seat of government for Roman imperial power

- It boasted

- The enormous Pergamene Library with approx. 200,000 volumes

- The headquarters of the cult of Asklepios

- Altars to Zeus, Dionysis, and Athena

- • In other words, it catered to the mind (library), body (Asklepios), and the soul (Zeus, et.al.)

- **Salutation – v. 12**

- Commendation

- Accusation

- Admonition

- Exhortation

- Declaration

- **“Him who has the sharp, double-edged sword”**

- Read Hebrews 4:12

“¹²For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

- A sword for war – cf. 2:16; 19:15, 21
- A sword for sacrifice (‘joints/marrow’) – Genesis 3:24; Isaiah 34:6

- Salutation
- **Commendation – v. 13**
- Accusation
- Admonition
- Exhortation
- Declaration

- Jesus begins His ‘post card’ to Pergamum with “**I know where you live.**” His knowledge of His Church goes beyond -
 - The *works* they do (Ephesus)
 - The *tribulation* they endure (Smyrna)
 - To the *environment* they live in (Pergamum)

- Where did they live? – “**where Satan has his throne**”

- In the OT it was in the wilderness

- Read Leviticus 16:8, 10, 26

- Leviticus 16:8

“He is to cast lots for the two goats—one lot for the LORD and the other for ***Azazel***.”

- In the NT – where did Jesus go to face Satan? – see Matthew 4



- Rid your mind of the cartoon image of Satan
 - Horns
 - Hooves
 - Red skin
 - Pitchfork



- The Bible portrait is a spiritual being
 - Highly intelligent
 - Immensely powerful
 - Utterly unscrupulous
- Jesus called him '**ruler of this world**'
- Paul called him '**prince of the power of the air**'

- He has
 - A throne – signifies dominion
 - See revelation 16:10
 - It is a parody; think mimicry; mocking imitation
 - A swarm of malignant beings
 - ‘powers/principalities’

- Jesus is not unaware of the fact that His Church is in a fallen world, with
 - Different ideas
 - Different values
 - Different religions
 - Different philosophies

- v. 13 – **Who is Antipas?**

- His name is short for ‘Antipater.’ ‘anti’ = “in place of” and ‘pater’ = ‘father’
- In other words, the ‘father’s representative’
- He is one who stood for the father, bore witness, and was killed. **Who does that sound like?**
 - Jesus
 - Christians

- Salutation
- Commendation
- **Accusation – vv. 14, 15**
- Admonition
- Exhortation
- Declaration

- **Who was Balaam?**

- His story starts in Numbers 21

- King Og of Bashan, (approx. 11' tall see Deuteronomy 3:11) was killed by the Israelites
- King Balak of Moab is next. He hires a pagan prophet named Balaam to curse the Israelites. Instead of cursing them, by God's intervention, he blesses them (see Numbers 22-24 for Balaam's oracles)

- The name “**Balaam**” means ‘people eater’



A momentary pause for a bit of archaeology



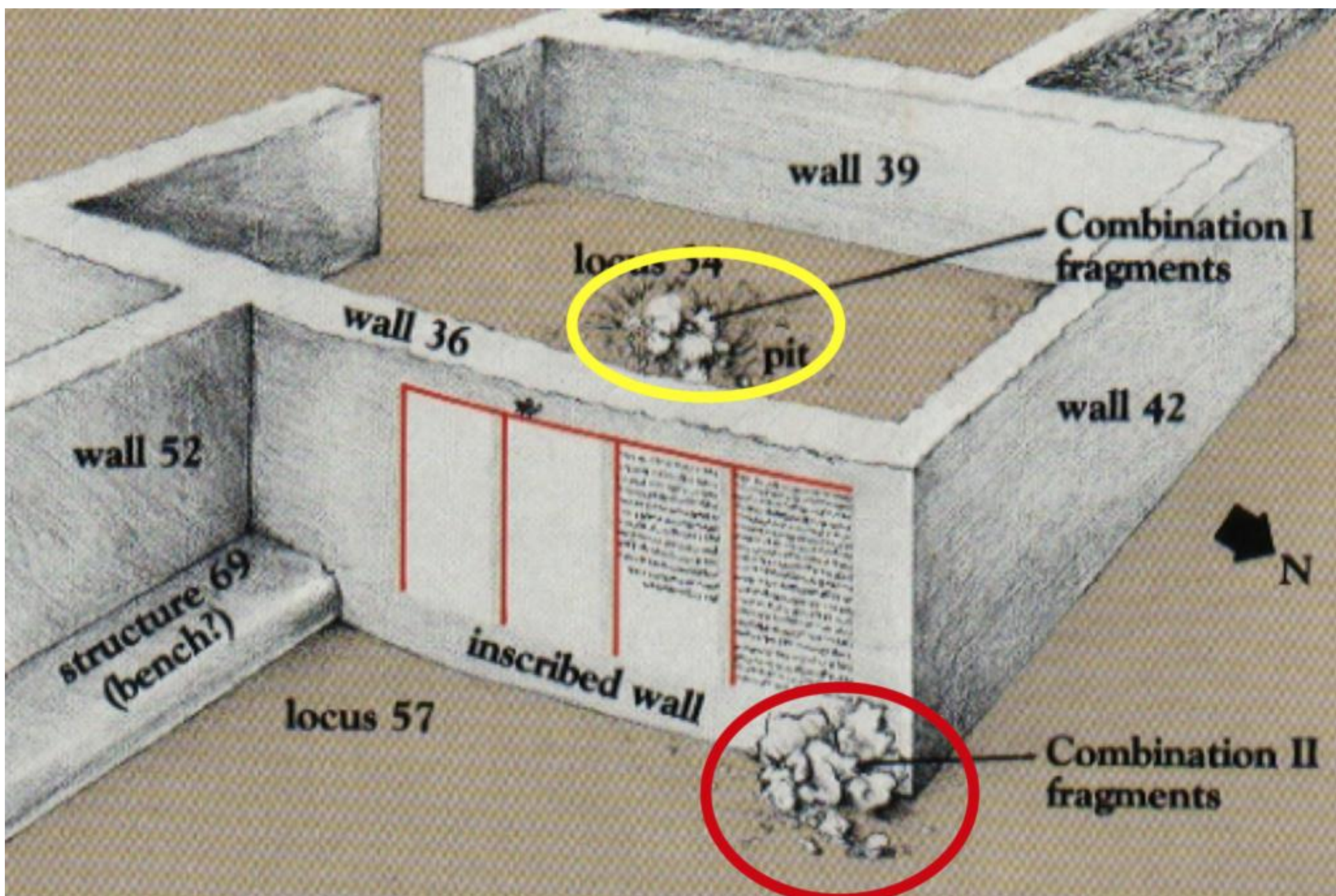
The Deir Alla Plaster Texts

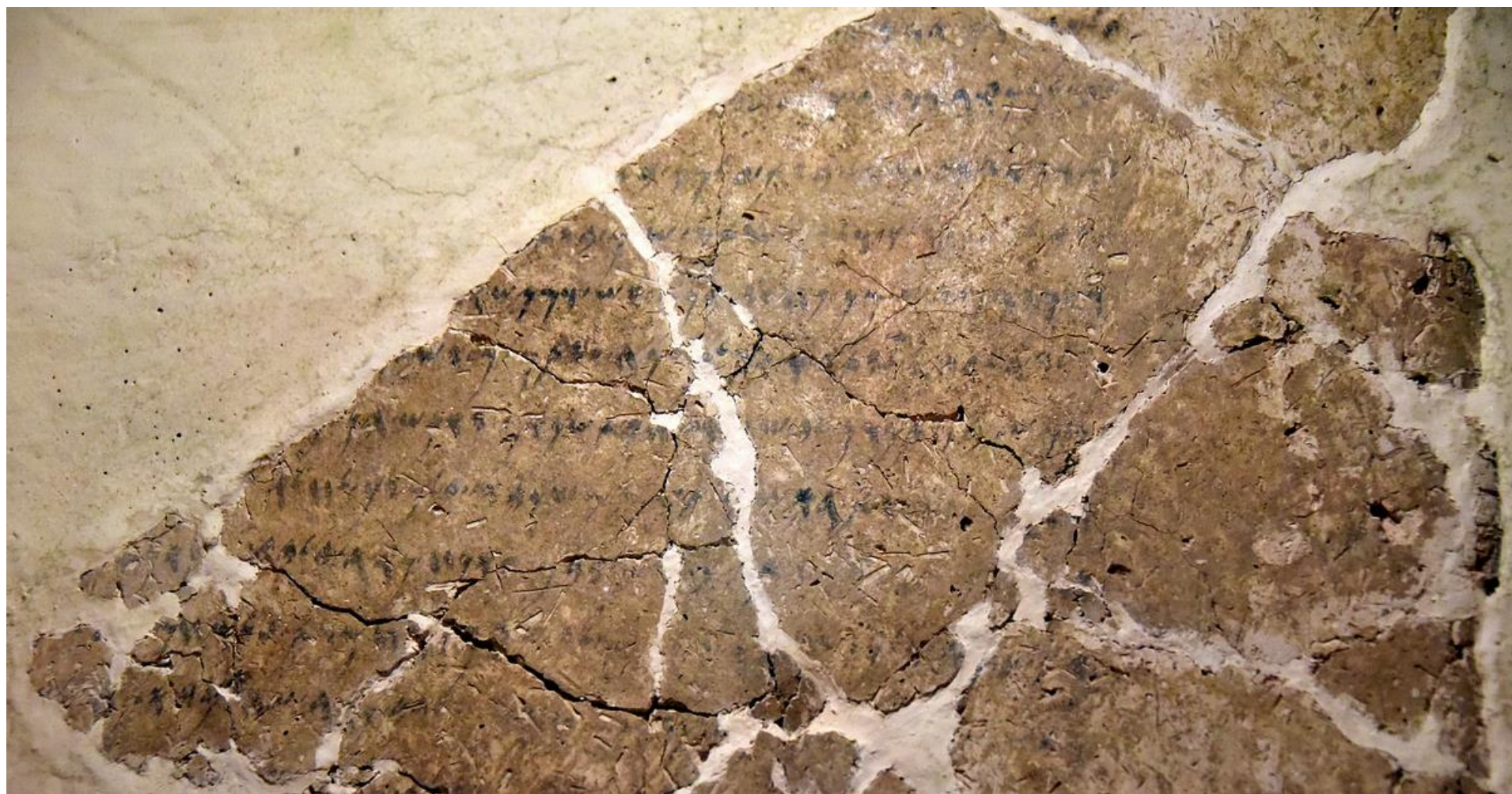
- Ink on plaster inscription found in 1967 at Tell Deir Alla, Jordan
- Deir Alla is located 25 miles northwest of Amman, Jordan. Some scholars think it was biblical Succoth (Genesis 33:17)
- A 'deir' is a monastery

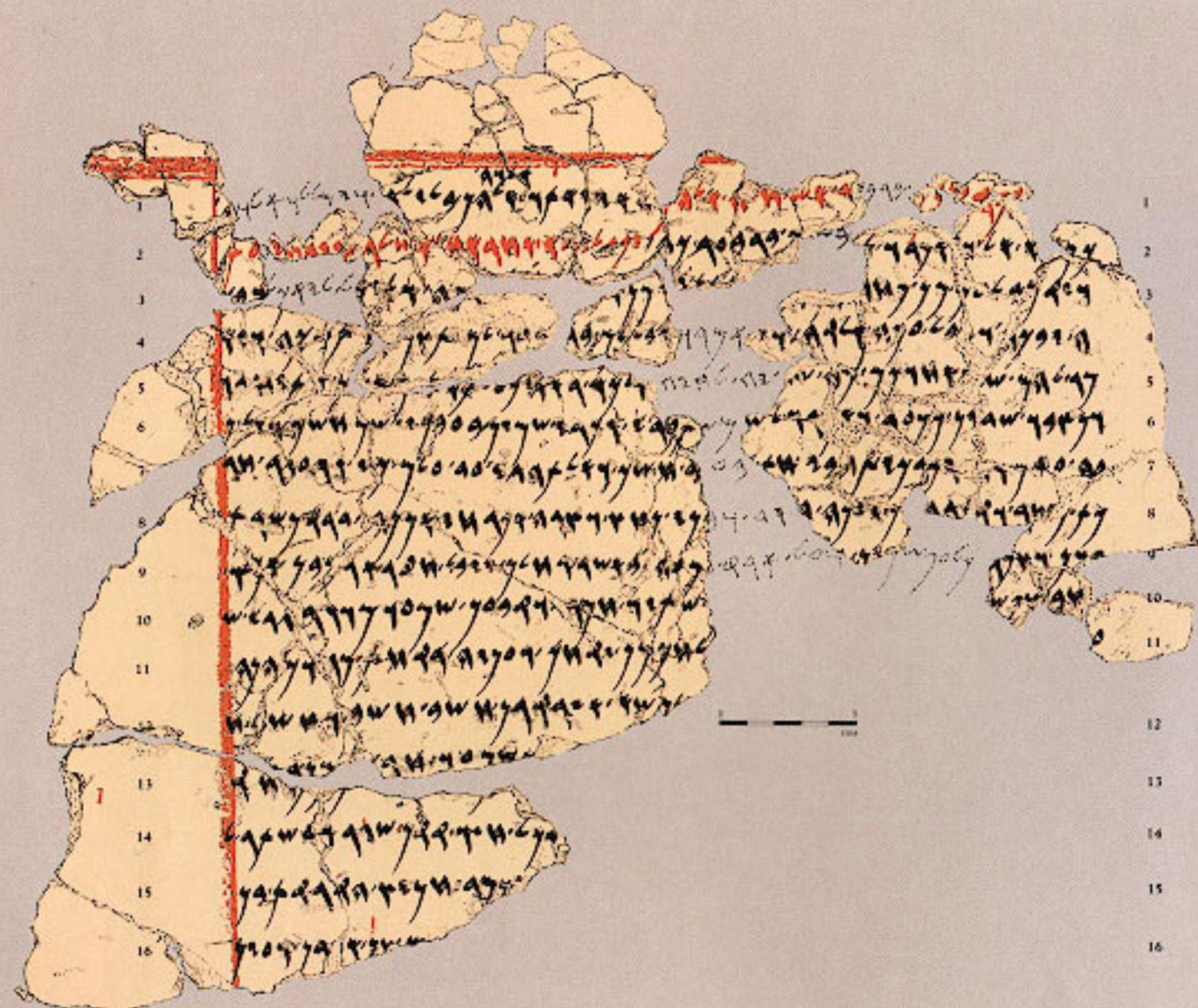
- Dates to the end of the 8th century BC
- A remarkable inscription runs around the interior walls. Consists of 119 fragments; probably one long column of 50 lines
- Fragments suggest a measurement originally of 11½' x 4.9'
- Most letters written in black, some in red
- The red portions are literally a rubric ***“The sayings of Balaam, son of Beor the man who was a seer of the gods”***

- Cf. Numbers 22-24
- The text is written in a regional form of Aramaic and Ammonite mixture.
- In it Balaam refers to the ruling gods as '*Shaddayin*' cf. Shaddai in Numbers 24:4, 16
- The wall appears to have been destroyed by an earthquake, perhaps the one mentioned in Amos 1:1 & Zechariah 14:5









- **What was the teaching of Balaam?**
 - Read Numbers 25:1-9



Numbers 25:1-9

¹ While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in **sexual immorality** with Moabite women, ² who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people **ate the sacrificial meal** and bowed down before these gods. ³ So Israel yoked themselves to the **Baal of Peor**. And the LORD's anger burned against them.

⁴ The LORD said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of these people, kill them and expose them in broad daylight before the LORD, so that the LORD's fierce anger may turn away from Israel."

⁵ So Moses said to Israel's judges, "Each of you must put to death those of your people who have yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor."

⁶ Then an Israelite man brought into the camp a Midianite woman right before the eyes of Moses and the whole assembly of Israel while they were weeping at the entrance to the tent of meeting. ⁷ When Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, saw this, he left the assembly, took a spear in his hand ⁸ and followed the Israelite into the tent. He drove the spear into both of them, right through the Israelite man and into the woman's stomach. Then the plague against the Israelites was stopped; ⁹ but those who died in the plague numbered 24,000.



situla

- He taught the Israelites to eat meat sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality
- See the way of Balaam in II Peter 2:15
- See the error of Balaam in Jude 11

- When Balaam's curses backfire, he resorts to Plan B
 - He brings all the cute Moabite girls to Israel
 - When one brazen Jewish man brings his Moabite girlfriend to the Tent of Meeting, Aaron's grandson, Phineas turned them into a 'fornicators-kebab'



- It is fitting that Balaam was killed with a sword
- Numbers 31:8

“Among their victims were Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur and Reba—the five kings of Midian. They also killed Balaam son of Beor with **the sword**.”



- This teaching was infesting the church by way of the apostate Judaizers (antichrists)
 - Paul addresses eating idol food in Romans 8 and I Corinthians 14
 - Check out the verdict of The Jerusalem Council in Acts 15 (especially vv. 19, 20)



- The best take on the Nicolaitans (2:6, 15), the Balaamites (2:14), and the Jezebelites (2:20) is to take them as Judaizers

- Salutation
- Commendation
- Accusation
- Admonition
- **Exhortation – v. 17a**
- Declaration

- **“Repent”**

- Illustration – Powellton, WV





- v. 16 **“Repent”**
- If they don’t – Jesus will become the “New Phineus” to them



- Please note a key word in v. 16 – “**soon**”



- Salutation
- Commendation
- Accusation
- Admonition
- Exhortation
- **Declaration – v. 17**





- **Application**

- Jesus is not unaware of the fact that His Church is in a fallen world, with
 - Different ideas
 - Different values
 - Different religions
 - Different philosophies
- Pergamum had about 4 cults

- Estimates are between 1,000 – 10,000 cults exist in America
- According to the International Cultic Studies Association there is an estimate of 1.65 million to 6.6 million individuals involved in a cult



My mother-in law was raised in a '*Two by Two*' meeting
(AKA '*Black Stockings*', '*Cooneyites*')



