

# The Letters to the Church of Revelation - 5/12/21

*Shelbia popped something on us all. She asked if anyone noticed anything consistent about Shelbia? Her prayer necklace (Note - Retha put a prayer request in her prayer necklace that if it be God's will, she would marry Roger; and God blessed her!) Shelbia has been wearing yellow pants (represents rejoicing).*

*Amos R. Wells says mothers and grandmothers should be soaking up scriptures like sponges cause God wants us to be able to outpour His words on others. It is important to be saturated with his word so much that we overflow. We need to saturate ourselves with Gods word so that a blessing overflows on our grandkids, children and others. Amos says Bible saturation is very different from the thin dribble of Bible that satisfies most of us. Saturation is very different because we are absorbing Gods word. Saturation means to get the word into us.*

*We are suppose to be a missionary every day, no matter where we go.*

*The Bible is coming alive to us now as never before. We are seeing so much of scripture being revealed in our world now. When you break down the 23rd Psalm, it describes a relationship with God.*

*1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

*4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

*5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

*6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*

*Sister Shelbia offered the opening prayer:*

*Father, you know how I am and you know I am not comfortable being the center of attention. Please make this benefit every lady and help each lady to go home with something new and something useful in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

## **THE CHURCH OF PERGAMOS**

*He begins every one of the letters with I know your works. Jesus said that of all 7 churches and he says it of us. I know your works.* The Lord God knows what's going on in our life. Jesus says, I know your works and what's going on in your life. In these dire circumstances, he knows where satans throne is. We pray and tell him our thoughts and needs, but are there times we don't tell him because he doesn't know what's going on? We tell him because its important for us to know that he knows, that we know, he knows everything!

This scripture describes the 3rd church. Johns words are sober and somber.

**REV 2: 12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;**

**13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.**

**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 stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.**

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

**16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.**

**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.**

The Bible tells us that the destination of this letter was to a place called **PERGAMOS**. Pergamos describes a sort of union of pagan cathedrals, a university town, and a royal residence. It is the most northern of the 7 cities that were located 60 miles from each other. When the book of Revelation was written, PERGAMOS was the capital of the Roman government in Asia. Pergamos was different from all the other cities in Asia. It could not boast of its strategic location, like Emphesus and Smyrna, but it was considered the greatest city of Asia; and it had been the capital city for almost 400 years. It was built on the top of a dominant hill. On a clear day the Mediterranean Sea , 15 miles away , could be seen from this city. The city was a cultural center, famous for its library. If you've read about this city's history, the library, located on top of the acropolis was second to the one in Alexandria. The large hall, which served as a reading room, measured 44' by 52'. The library is said to have contained 200,000 volumes when Mark Anthony offered it to Cleopatra.

When Egypt refused to sell papyrus to Pergamos, they treated goatskins to produce parchment to write on. The Latin of parchment is pergamenum from the city of PERGAMOS. Even today when you graduate from college, your diploma is called a sheep skin, going all the way back to to this city.

**2:12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;** It's the shortest and simplest description of Jesus. The Lord is Described as the one who had a sharp, two-edged sword.

We've run into this phrase a couple of times in the book of Revelation. **The power of the sword was the symbol. Jesus is Lord - they should be worried about his sword.**

In all of the letters, the message to Pergamos, comes from he who has a sharp 2-edged sword. Here in this letter, the Lord is said to have a sword and this sword is going to be used to smite the nations according to **Rev 19:21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.**

In Roman time the sword was a symbol of might! Interesting that the pro-council had as their symbol at this time, the power of the sword. The mention of the sword to the people of Pergamos would have reminded them that Jesus is Lord and not the Roman officials who were running about the city.

In chapter 2: 13-15, **the Lord gives a little diagnosis of this church.** It is the same pattern he used for every church, and this is what he said:

**13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.**

**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 stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.**

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

This scripture is his four, full diagnoses of this city:

1. Where you dwell, where satans throne is, where satan dwells, Jesus knew the circumstances of their faith.

The Christian's in PERGAMOS had their permanent address in the city of satan. From Pergamos, heathenism, paganism and Idolatry radiated all over Asia Minor. From a Christian standpoint it was one of the worst of the 7 cities. Nearly ever major deity had a temple in PERGAMOS.

Notice in your Bible two times it says satans' throne and where satan dwells. This illustrates the darkness and the blackness of this place.

Behind the scenes of political movement, God was at work. For example, the Empire of Alexander the Great gave the world one language, which later helped Christianity spread to other countries.

One of the ancient wonders of the world is the magnificent altar of zeuss. He was the god of the sky and lightening. He had all the power. On a ledge jutting out from the acropolis was built the most ornate, the largest, the most famous altar in all the world. It was over 100 feet square, 40 feet high and around the base of it, one of the most impressive pieces of sculpture created by ancient art.

The German government in the last century sent an expedition to excavate Pergamos and they found a large part of the altar in the ruins. This altar, high on a mountain, looked something like a throne. And some have thought this is what the Lord Jesus talked about when he said the throne of satan in the city of Pergamos.

2. PERGAMOS was deeply entrenched in the worship of Asclepius. Asclepius was known as the pergamenium god. He was the god of healing and the temples of Asclepius were the nearest approach to hospitals that you could find in the ancient world. From all over the world people came to Pergamos like you would come to the Mayo Clinic. In that day, Pergamos was the place you went for healing. Snakes were used in the healing process. And there in that city priests and doctors worked together to bring about that healing. The common name for the temple of Asclepius was Asclepius Slougher or Asclepius the savior. The emblem of Asclepius was a coiled snake. It is behind the identification as the city of satan. The coiled snake is still the symbol of healing for medical doctors. The word scalpel comes from the word, Asclepius.

The city of healing and the city of satan. The Lord knew the conviction of their faith. He said, hold fast to my name. This proves that no matter where you live you can be faithful to God. If you are going to be a christian in PERGAMOS, you'd better say what you mean and mean what you say because you are going to pay a price for being a Christian.

3. He knew the courage of their faith. **Rev 2:13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.**

Antipas is a name for man. A Nobel witness for Christ who sealed his testimony in his blood. This man eventually became a martyr for his faithful witness against all. The word martyr means witness. He was a martyr for the Lord! For early Christians to be a witness meant eventually being a martyr. Antipas is a word that means against all. This man was a faithful witness unto death. Again, In calling him his faithful witness, Jesus gives to him his own title. He is a faithful witness that is used of Jesus Christ on two occasions in the book of Revelation. Jesus knew the circumstances of their faith; that they lived in a tough city. He knew the conviction of their faith; that even though they were surrounded by all kinds of evil, they stood true to what they believed. He knew the courage of their faith - at least one of them had given his life for what he believed. He knew the compromise of their faith and this is where they get into trouble.

As we learn the church in Smyrna, there isn't anything bad said about Smyrna. There's one other church like that, the church of Philadelphia. But in all the other letters, the writer of the letter gives you all the things that are good about the church and slips in the few things that are so good.

You remember Ephesus was a good church and had a lot going for it, but they had left their first love. Notice what the Lord says about this church. But I have a few things against you because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balem, who taught Balem to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel. To eat things sacrificed to idols amid sexual immorality. Thus you also have those that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

Let's break that down. Let's talk about that for just a moment. Satan was not able to destroy the Christians in Pergamos by coming in as a roaring lion, but he was making inroads as a deceiving serpeant. A group of compromising people had infiltrated the church fellowship in Pegamos, and Jesus hated their doctrines and their practices. He refers to this doctrine as the doctrine of Balem.

I know some of you know this story but it is a great story from the Old Testament so let me just tell you this story like we were setting around the fire and I was telling you a story: The bible says there was a man by the name of Balem, who satan used against the people of God. Balem was a prophet who professed to be able to influence the gods for people by his incantations and offerings. He ran a whole sale business in Devine favors; and would negotiate with any god for whatever price. Balak, who was the King of Moab promised a fat fee if Balem would come to Moab and curse Israel for him. Balem responded, but he soon discovered that he couldn't command Jehovah. Instead, the God of Israel took command of him and this was kinda humorous. When he was forbidden by God to go to Moab on the first invitation, he had assumed that God might change his mind the second time around. Balak offered him a larger fee, and Balem thought it profitable to argue with God if he could make that kind of money. God allowed him finally to go, but after he got there he compelled him to bless Israel instead of cursing them, which didn't make his hirer very happy. Balak offered him a larger fee. Frustrated by his failure to meet the terms of his contract, Balem said, I won't do this, but let me show you have you can corrupt the people of God. What you have to do is use a stumbling block in the form of enticement. Get the people of Israel to inter-marry with the moabites. These adulteress women will seduce them and take part of their religion and marry with them and cause them to offer idolatrous sacrifices and commit fornication. Thus Balem was the prime mover in the fall of Israel. If you know the story, you remember that it led to a plague which caused 25K Israelites to die. The doctrine of Balem is this, listen carefully, if you can't curse them, corrupt them! **If you can't curse them, corrupt them!** Whats the doctrine of Balem? The doctrine of Balem is, if you can't curse them, just corrupt them. The sin of PERGAMOS was the toleration of evil and the toleration of evil men.

4. The error and the way of Balem are embodied in the evil practice of using God for personal gain. And the error of Balem is mentioned in the New Testament: **Jude 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.**

**II Peter 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;**

The late Donald Grey Barnhouse once wrote, the very word Pergamos has in it the same root word from which we get our English word bigamy and polygamy. It is the word for marriage. PERGAMOS signifies a mixed marriage in the most objectionable sense of the word - it is a marriage of the organization of the church of Jesus Christ with the world.

The doctrine of Balem. Then he mentions this other very strange thing, the doctrine of Nicolaitans. He says, you people have done a lot of good things, but you allowed compromise into your church. You allowed people to come in and caused you to break down your convictions and you began to act like the world and you brought the world in among you. You have the doctrine of the Nicolaitans and the word Nicolaitans is derived from two words which means to conquer the laity. And once again most scholars believe that Nicolaitans is the subjugation of people in a hierarchy so that some were lording it over others.

This is where the clergy and the laity came into play. Where some were promoted to places of high influence, and given authority over the laity. Now Jesus has something to say to this church in **Revelation Chapter 2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.**

(Repent of the doctrine of Balem and allowing the priesthood to become compromised in a laity/clergy division.)  
I will come against them with the sword of my mouth.

In the city of PERGOMOS, what happened was the church was married to the world. In the letters to the churches we have representation of the period of time in the early church. These are periods of time in the history of the church. Ephesus represents the early church.

It's the church we read about in the book of Acts. **Acts 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.** Because the people would not spread the gospel, the Lord sent persecution and scattered people abroad everywhere (except the apostles) and the gospel was spread thru the world.

The church in Smyrna was the persecuted church. Remember, right after the church was born...right after the first stages of the church, the church in history went thru a great persecution. That's the Smyrna period of the church when suffering was incredible. Remember, it was the persecution that thrust the disciples out of Jerusalem and made it possible for the gospel to be spread. Isn't it interesting that the Lord said, go into all the world and preach the gospel and nobody ever left Jerusalem! Kinda like us, right? Sometimes I think we've not done enough to reach the world for Jesus Christ so Gods just brought the world around us! It's like the Lord said, if you won't go into all the world, I'll bring the world to you.

Those are the first two periods: The period of apostolic love and the period of suffering.

Now we have the third period: This 3rd period is most interesting. During the smyrnian period when the church was suffering for 250 years, satan persecuted the church. How many of you have read Foxes book of Martyrs. It's a very disturbing book, not only describing how Christians suffered for their faith, but the ways in which it happened. And people are telling me that in the last 10 years, more people have suffered for Christ than in those 250 years when persecution reigned among Christendom.

Diaclasion was the emperor who was reigning during that time. He literally tried to stamp out the church by persecuting them. And then Constantine came into power. Constantine is known as the first Christian emperor. He was satan's instrument for bringing the church to ruin. What Diaclasion couldn't do with persecution, Constantine did with the doctrine of Balem.

Let me tell you the story:

Early in the 4th century, after the death of Diaclasion, the Roman emperor, two men contended for the throne. Constantine in the west; and Maxinchus in the East. They were both determined to succeed Diaclasion. Tradition has it that the night before the battle of Molina bridge, Constantine saw a vision in the sky in the shape of a cross. Bearing a Latin inscription, which meant "By this sign you must conquer". That night Constantine bargained with satan to join the church and declared himself a Christian. And Christianity was to be the religion of the state. Christian leaders were invited to witness the wholesale baptism of whole regiments of soldiers who were in Constantine's army. The unholy alliance of the church and the state resulted. Christianity was forced on willing subjects at sword point. It was either baptism or death.

When later, 400 bishops met, Constantine was carried on a golden throne and he presided over the council as the recognized head of the church. There is no evidence that Constantine was ever born again in his whole life.

True believers in Jesus Christ, who were being persecuted now found themselves lauded by political and civil authorities. Their rags worn during persecution and their hideouts in the catacombs were traded for soft garments and plush homes. The PERGAMOS stage of history came into being. The church was married to the world and Constantine was now called Pontifex Maximus, the first pope. The holy Roman church.



While still retaining his heathen high priestly title, Constantine assumed leadership of the church. What happened then was the church and state was united and heathenism was gradually christianized. So, pagan temples became Christian churches, and heathen festivals were converted into Christian ones; and we have more of those that we celebrate today than you want to know about.

W.A. Christel describes it like this, the priests of Jupiter, Juno, Dianese, Bakas, of Venus and of Atlas, all had been paid out of the purse of Ceasar. But now that Ceasar was a Christian, the priests of the temple hastened to their baptism to remain on the imperial payroll. They turned their heathen temples into churches and they said these are no longer images of Jupiter or Juno or Venus; these are images of the saints. The same rituals by which they had worshipped all of the other gods, now employed to worship to true queen of heaven. They bowed down in the same way in ceremony in the same temples before the same idols but now the idols were named after so called, Christian saints. Even the days by which the priests honored their gods was made a date on the calendar to honor the saints. The astonishing thing took place over night.

Up until this time humble homes and catacombs had echoed with the sound of Gods children, whose singing was sometimes changed into the shouts of martyrs and they were dragged into the arena; but all of that was past and the rages of persecution were changed for the plush silk of the imperial palace and the pergaminum period of the church had begun. The church had been married to the world. The Roman culture and the Christian church, under the leadership of Constantine, became one. And for the next many years, Rome ruled the world using the church as its number one vehicle. Walter Scott said that Constantine offered his gold and patronage to the church; and it eagerly swallowed the bait, sacrificed its conscience and allegiance to its lord; and the church and the world, which before had walked apart were soon locked in each other's arms and there was a fatal union.

Paul wrote to the Ephesians and he warned them about the savage wolves. But in the next paragraph he said something like this: After my departure there will be those who rise up from among you who will carry you away from the truth. You know satan doesn't really care how he ruins your life. He doesn't care how he ruins mine. He doesn't care how he corrupts the church. He will try anything. If it doesn't work this way, he'll come back with another way. But the most effective thing he has done in history, has been to Christiansen the Roman Empire and Romanize the Christian church. So what was the Protestant reformation? It was the pulling back of the church from its union with the Roman Empire. It was the pulling away from the governments influence in the life of the church.

David Jeremiah visited all the places where the Protestant reformation took place and I'll never forget some of the prices that were paid for men like, Martin Luther who stood up against the evil of the church that had been corrupted by the Roman government. All of that's what happended during this period of time. The lesson of PERGOMAS is this: It's the lesson of Balem, **"If you can't curse them, you can corrupt them."** And God knows that in our world today, in our churches and in our families, in our homes, satan is still using that strategy wherever it can be used.

Years and years ago David Jeremiah found a statement that was written. Apparently, this is a statement that belongs to G. Campbell Morgan and I had forgotten where it was and couldn't find it until I ws getting ready to preach this message And I wanted to read this statement to you. This is what is says: There is a toleration which is treachery. There is a peace which issues in paralysis. There are hours when the church must say no to those who ask communication with her; and is doing her word on the basis of compromise.

Ostracism and persecution but it will maintain power and influence. If the church of God in the cities of today were aloof from the maxims of the age, separated from the materialistic philosophies of the schools bearing witness alone to the all sufficiency of Christ and the perfection of His salvation, even though persecuted and ostracized and bruised it would be to the church that men would look in the hour of their heartbreak and sorrow and national need. The reason men don't look to the church today is that she has destroyed her own influence by compromising with the things of the world. So that people today say there's so much world in the church; and so much church in the world you can't tell the difference between the two.

David Jeremiah could site all of the statistics that come from all of the surveys that say when it comes to how we live, its not a whole lot better than the rest of the world lives. And people say, well why has the church lost its influence? We have been so fixated on being relevant that we've become totally irrelevant. We've been so fixated on taking our Montra from the media and taking our marching orders from the marketplace, instead of from the word of God that we now have nothing different to say to world that's different than what they can get just about anyplace else. So when we are no longer the church in the world, why should we expect the world to ever come and ask what think about anything?

And David wants to tell you, there's time for us to get back! Maybe this is the time. Toleration is a word that is being overlooked. There is a toleration which is treachery and there is a peace which is paralysis.

I'm not a rebelrouser, I'm not a fighter. I don't like to get in shootouts with other people. You know that. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are walking into a period of time that's very PERGAMINIUM, where if we are not careful, we are going to lose our sense of who we are and the church will be just a by-word as it has become already in so many places.

So what do we do about that? We ask the Lord to make us vigilant, we ask the Lord to give us courage. We ask the Lord to help us understand that we can still be the church. If people want to ridicule us and say we are intolerant because we speak the truth, so be it. When we speak the truth, we stand in the train of the Lord God who called us, who Himself is the truth!

**FEEDBACK ABOUT TODAY'S SESSION. WHATS THE WORD? WHAT DID YOU GET OUT OF THIS?** Go back to our first love!

*You can't compromise - it has to be done Gods way. Remember, this is where we are suppose to be in this point of time, the "We love everybody - we don't correct anybody. You're sin is just fine" isn't okay. God loves us - this makes us a better person when we are disciplined by God. Christianity doesn't force itself on people. It's a change of the heart. It's sad because a lot of what's been used today has cleaned out the things God says he hates. We must remember, God is a loving God but he is a just God.*

*We are living Romans 1 - people have a reprobate mind.*

*1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

*17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*

*18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

*19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.*

*20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

*21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

*22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*

*23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

*24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:*

*25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*

*26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:*

*27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.*

*28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

*29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,*

*30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,*

*31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:*

*32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

*One thing that struck Shelbia - when Jesus walked among the candlesticks (the churches). He knows everything that is going on with us. This was brought to Shelbia's attention for the purpose of focusing on Jesus. When she saw Jesus walking among the candlesticks in the first of Revelation, the most important thing we can do is honor Jesus, be right with Jesus, live for Jesus, and let Jesus shine in our lives and have a right relationship with Jesus. He knows everything about us and we'd better be focusing on him.*

*The 7 letters are alive and have meaning for us. Obedience is better than sacrifice.*

*It's very interesting what they each major on – The Book of Jeremiah majored on the church marrying with the world. Peter warned against this.*

*Did the Catholic Church ever have an understanding of Jesus?*

*The influence of paganism on the church increased step by step. About the time of Constantine from 238-247. The rosary of pagan, celibacy of your of priest and nuns finds a counterpart in the vestal virgins of paganism. THINGS ADDED TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WHEN IT MERGED WITH PAGANISM:*

*526 A.D.- Extreme atoning for people that are about to die.*

*593 A.D.- Purgatory was introduced*

*600 A.D. - worship services*

*600 A.D. - prayers directed to Mary*

*491 A.D. - priest started dressing differently than the people did, so he would stand out in an elite way. They are the head of the church in the same way a man is head of a marriage.*

*491 A.D. - Mary worship started*

*375 A.D. - started worshipping*

*300 A.D. - prayers for the dead*

*300 A.D. - made sign of the cross*

*238 A.D. - the rosary started*

*The prophecy of Malachi says The pope who is now 'the pope' will be the last pope of the Catholic church. There will not be another one. He's in his 80's. He approves of abortion. The prophecy says the last pope will be defective.*

*There's going to be things revealed that will shock the world about the Catholic Church.*

*Antipas - was a faithful servant and a martyr. Dr. Jeffress says they believe he was put in a bronze bull that was heated so he was roasted to death. This is in the McArthur study Bible about Antipas. One writer said Antipas was a dentist and physician who refused to bow to Ceasar.*

**God will take us through what he brings us through.** *We are the church - we are learning and encouraging one another. We are being obedient to live our purpose for being here. God tells us to go into the world and tell people about Christ.*

*Pergamum - Dr. Jeffress uses this word. It's also Pergamos too. This was called a city where satan has his throne, surrounded by worship of satan and the Roman Gods.*

*What is the universal church?*

*It is the whole, world-wide, church of God in the world; the Catholic Church (often referred to as the Roman Catholic Church, is the largest Christian church, with approximately 1.3 billion baptized Catholics worldwide as of 2019.) The universal church encompasses all of the members of a class or group.*

*Brother Jack Davis is good with details. He talked about the church marrying the world.*

*When Abraham remarried, his second wife's fourth child is where the Midianites came from.*

*The Moabites came from Lots daughters getting pregnant by their father.*

*According to the Babylonian Talmud, Goliath was the son of Orpha, who was the sister in law of Ruth, David's own great grandmother (Ruth - Obed - Jessie - David). Orpha was said to have made a pretense of accompanying Ruth but after forty paces left her. The giants are the ones that chose not to go with Naomi and Ruth.*

*How many people would want Rahab in their lineage?*

*It doesn't matter what we do, God will forgive us. No one can live a good life. To try and live a perfect life, you would have to concentrate on the law instead of loving people.*

*The Masons* — *there are 3 categories that go in degrees. When you get up to 32 and 33 degrees, the real truth comes out. G stands for sacred geometry and another word for satan. You have to learn a lot of scriptures to become a worshipful master. If you are a mason, that is your church.*

**Remember - Satan comes as an angel of light.**

*What are your thoughts about this war in Israel?* *Watch Amir Tsarfati on YouTube. Amir is a Christian Jew.*

*He says we are getting closer every day. Russia is bringing military equipment into Iran and Saudi Arabia. He said, Russia is selling fuel to Germany, but Israel is supplying all of Europe and its cheaper than Russia is selling to Germany. They also found gold in Israel. There are big things happening fast.*

*The democrats are condemning the Israel situation. The Squad, Sanders, Biden were extremely against Israel. They are very anti-American and anti-Israel. Biden said its time to stop praying and do something...act. How could a good Christian person vote for Joe Biden? They have reprobate minds.*

*The one thing Shelbia got out of todays session is to **BEWARE OF DECEPTION**. Carolyn is seeing people being deceived. Deception is rampant.*

*CLOSING STORY:*

*Sharon read a bizarre thing to close us out. Fire authorities in California found a corpse in a burned out section of forest while assessing the damage done by a forest fire. The male was dressed in a full wet suit complete with flippers and mask. A post-Mortom examination showed he died from a fall. How did a fully clothed diver end up in the forest. It was revealed that he was diving 20 miles away. A fleet of helicopters were using fire buckets to help put the fire out. When they got water from the ocean, the diver got picked up and dropped from the helicopter. Some days it just doesn't pay to get out of bed. Sad, but true!*

*Dismissed with prayer.*