

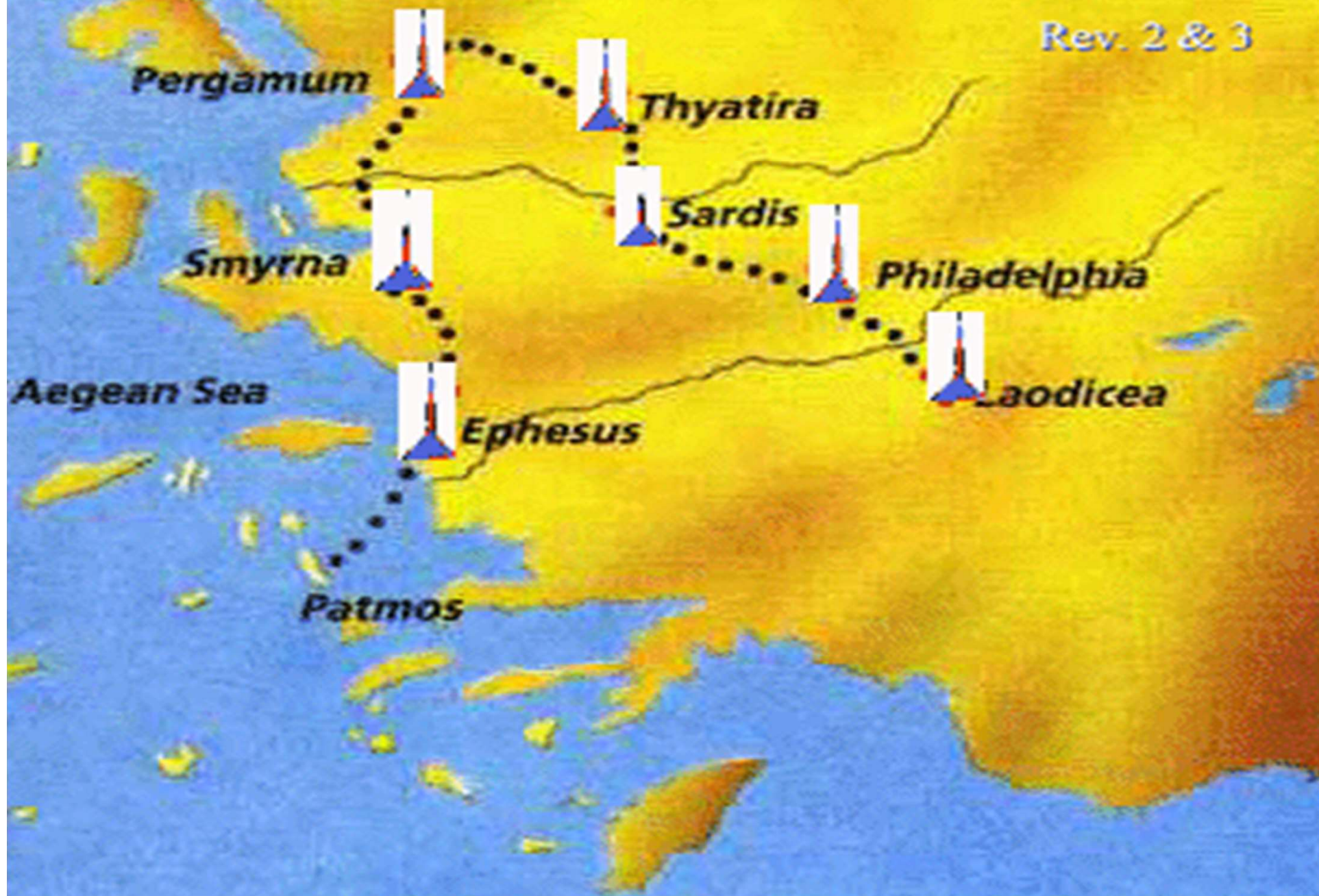
The church @ Pergamum

Rev. 2:12-17



The Seven Churches of Asia

Rev. 2 & 3



Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Aegean Sea

Ephesus

Laodicea

Patmos

The church @ Pergamum – Rev. 2:12-17

- **The Address, v.12-13**
 - “To the angel of the church...”
 - “...He who has the sharp two-edged sword...” (1:16)
 - *Rhomphaia* – power, judgment (Rev. 19:15, 21)
 - Compare to *machaira* – Eph. 6:17, Heb. 4:12 precision instrument, surgical
 - “I know your works...”

The church @ Pergamum – Rev. 2:12-17

- **The Good, v. 13**
 - Hold fast the name of Christ, even at Satan’s throne
 - Place of authority
 - Jesus knew where they dwelt, knew they could not leave
 - Why Satan’s throne?
 - Asklepios – healer god; called “Savior”
 - Emblem was a snake



Cadauceus:
Symbol of commerce,
often confused as the
medical symbol



Rod of
Asclepius



Modern symbol
For medicine

The church @ Pergamum – Rev. 2:12-17

– Why Satan’s throne?

- **Asklepios – healer god; called “Savior”**

 - Emblem was a snake**

- **Intense Caesar worship**

 - Were the temple keepers for Caesar’s temple**



The church @ Pergamum – Rev. 2:12-17

- **The Good, v. 13**
 - **Did not deny faith even when Antipas was martyred**
 - **Were willing to suffer**
- **The Bad, v. 14-15**
 - **The church allowed some to hold to the doctrine of Balaam**
 - **The church allowed some to hold to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans**

The church @ Pergamum – Rev. 2:12-17

- **The Bad, v. 14-15**
 - **The doctrine of Balaam; (See Numbers 22, 23; 2 Pet. 2:15 “...loved the wages of unrighteousness...”; Jude 11 “greedy”; Rev. 2:20-23)**
 - **Eat things sacrificed to idols**
 - **Engage in sexual immorality**
 - **Idolatry?**

The church @ Pergamum – Rev. 2:12-17

- **The Bad, v. 14-15**
 - The doctrine of the Nicolaitans; 2:6
 - The Nicolaitanes (nikao – to overcome; laos – people) were those that would, by use of religion, attempt to control and manipulate others.
 - Jesus hated their deeds; their spirit was in direct contrast to “esteeming others higher than himself”

The church @ Pergamum – Rev. 2:12-17

- **The Consequence, v. 16**
 - Repent or else...
 - He will come quickly
 - Will fight against those that hold to the false doctrines with the “**sword of my mouth**”

The church @ Pergamum – Rev. 2:12-17

- **The Consequence, v. 16**
 - Repent or else...
 - The congregation was to blame for not taking a stand against those who followed false doctrine
 - “*I have a few things against you...*”v.14
 - “*You have among you...*”v.14, 15
 - “*Repent, or else I will come to you...*”v.16

The church @ Pergamum – Rev. 2:12-17

- **The Motivation, v.17**
 - **To him that overcomes, will receive hidden manna to eat**
 - **Nourishment and care from God**
 - **Jesus is the “manna from above”; the bread of life - John 6:47-51**

The church @ Pergamum – Rev. 2:12-17

- **The Motivation, v.17**
 - **Will receive a white stone with a new name written on it that no one knows**
 - **Ancient Amulets - White stone was placed to keep safe, pure**
 - **When mystic writing was on back, which no one knew, it was thought to make the amulet of double effect**

The church @ Pergamos – Rev. 2:12-17

- **For us...**
 - **Are we willing to hold to our faith, even being persecuted unto death?**
 - **We must never allow erring brethren to cause our congregation to be compromised concerning the faith, even for the sake of “unity”. (I Cor. 5:6,13)**