

“Cold Case Christianity”

(J. Warner Wallace)

**From atheist to Christian
because of the evidence!!**

**Why would a loving God condemn
people who simply don't have the
chance to hear about Jesus?**

“A loving God knows the heart of each of us. He knows who will accept Him and who will reject Him, even if this is not clear to us from our limited perspective. God is gracious and just, He will deal with everyone fairly as His character and nature demand.”

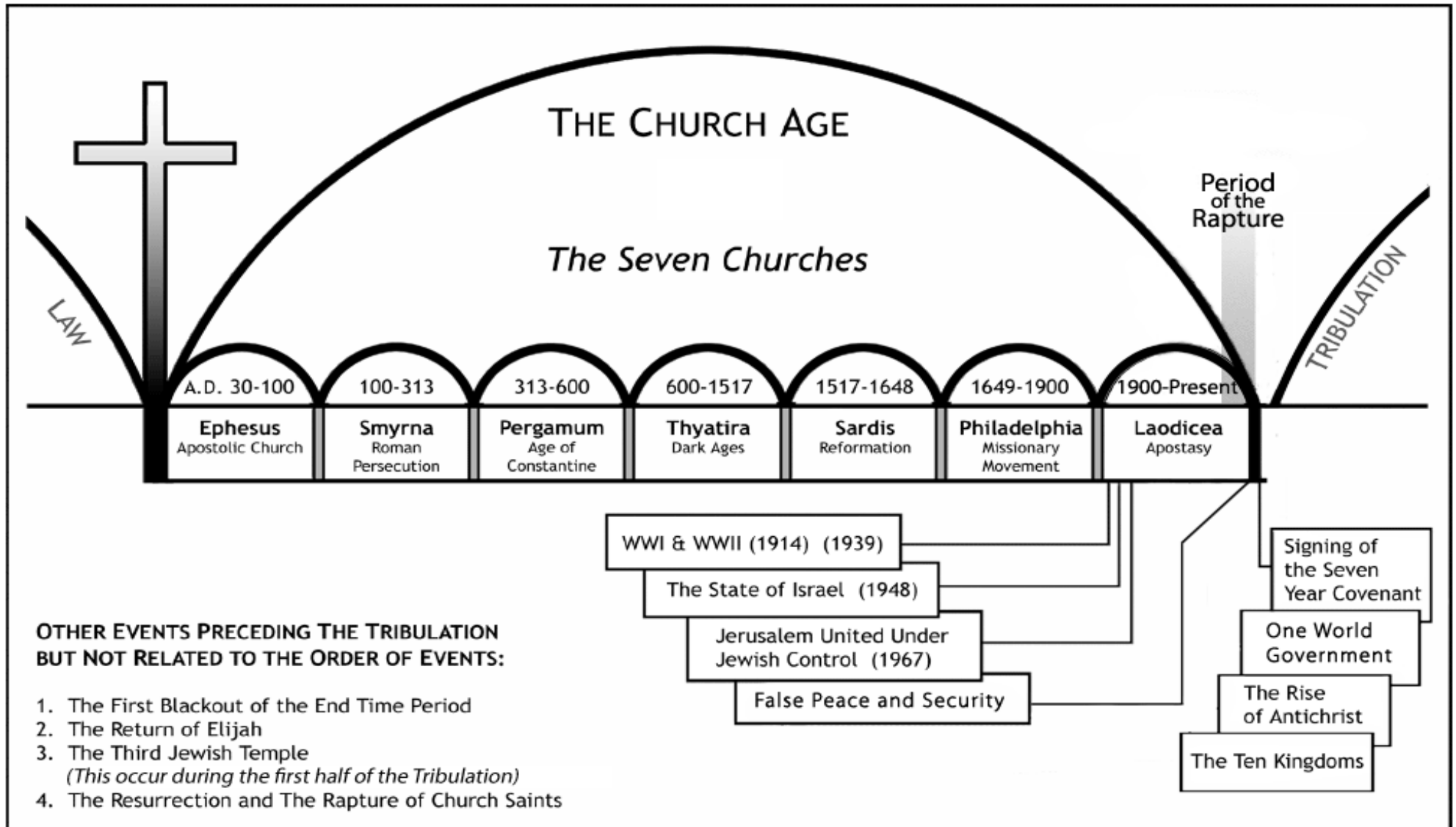
“Shall not the judge of all the earth do what is right!” Genesis 18: 25

“The Letter to Pergamos - The Compromised Church”

Revelation 2: 12-17

March 15, 2020

A specific Church dominates at a specific time: (Arnold Fruchtenbaum)



The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11



Pergamos - the Capital City

- the seat of government
- the throne of Satan

Pergamum was a time when the Church married the state under Constantine

- Christianity became the state religion of the Roman Empire
- The Church became married to the state, resulting in a *compromised Church*

- They mixed pagan practices with Christianity
- They had a *religious veneer* without worshipping God in spirit and truth, as God really is!

LESSON: Satan is an expert at mixing truth and lies
His calling card = **DECEPTION!**

Verse 12
Destination

Pergamos - thoroughly married
- married to Roman
paganism *and* to God

God will not accept a divided
allegiance!

He will not accept **COMPROMISE!!**
Exodus 20: 1-7

- 1) First Commandment - *“you shall have no other gods before Me”*
- 2) Second Commandment - *“you shall not make for yourself an idol”*
- 3) Third Commandment - *“you shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain”*

vain = represent God falsely

Represent God to this world as He really is!!

Isaiah 42: 8 and 44: 6

Verse 12

Description of Jesus

“He who has the sharp two-edged sword”

Refers to the character of God -
Hebrews 4: 12

Word = *“logos”* = the written Word

Word = *“Rhema”* = the spoken Word
Ephesians 6: 17 - ***“sword of the Spirit”*** = the Rhema of God

This sharp two-edged sword
speaks of judgment on this
compromised Church -
Revelation 19: 15

*“Out of His mouth goes a sharp
sword, that with it He should
strike the nations.”* (judgment)

Verse 13
Commendation

Never forget, Jesus knows where you are and what you are facing!

- 1) ***“I know your works”*** - Jesus sees exactly what you are doing
- 2) I know you are ***“where Satan’s throne is”***
- 3) I know you ***“hold fast to My name”***
- 4) I know that ***“you did not deny My faith”*** when Antipas was martyred

**Though part of a compromised Church,
Antipas did not compromise**

LESSON: God always has a faithful remnant, those who do not buy into the teaching of this compromised Church

Why did these faithful not leave this Church?

*This was the only Church in town; their options were limited - **not so today!!***

Today, the believer's duty is to ***“come out from among them”***

2 Corinthians 6: 16-18

Verse 14 - 15
Condemnation

This Church had two huge problems:

- 1) The doctrine of the Balaam**
- 2) The doctrine of the Nicolaitans**

Balaam problem:

- Encouraged the nation to intermarry with the women of Moab and worship false gods
- Pergamos was intermarrying with the world, committing sexual immorality with the world and unfaithful to Jesus, their Bridegroom
- In Pergamos there was a blend of Roman life with its pantheon of false gods, and Church life

God will not accept a divided allegiance; *He will cause you to choose!!*

Nicolaitan problem:

- a clergy hierarchy, rule over the people - *not a Berean Church!*

How did Jesus feel about the Nicolaitans?

He hated them!!

- With Constantine, the first pope was recognized
- The Church compromised and combined Christian theology and pagan philosophy

God's cry to anyone in a compromised Church: *COME OUT FROM THEM!*

He holds the individual responsible to come out and be separate!!

Verse 16 - 17a

Exhortation

God's cry to anyone caught up in
compromise:

REPENT!! GET OUT!!!

***“He who has an ear, let him hear
what the Spirit says to the
Churches”***

If a Church is compromised,
regardless of what good they think
they are doing, ***get out!!***

Verse 17b

Promise

1) ***“Hidden manna”*** = provision

- food to survive
- fellowship with Christ daily
- the key to a non-compromised life = the hidden manna of the Word - ***time with Jesus daily!!***

2) ***“White stone”*** = innocent

- proven beyond a doubt
- privilege in the kingdom

3) ***“New name”*** = a new identity; a special affection

**CLOSING: THE CHURCH OF PERGAMOS -
THE COMPROMISED CHURCH**

The compromised Church has forgotten
that *Grace* and *Truth* go together

John 1: 17

It's *grace* first, then *truth!*

They are not separate, *people must know
the truth!*

I can't make things up to fit what "I" think

*Truth is what God says,
not what I make up!*

OVERCOMERS - are given “*hidden manna*” - provision, food to survive

OVERCOMERS - are given a “*white stone*” = proven beyond doubt

OVERCOMERS - are given a “*new name*”
- a name of special affection

OVERCOMERS - keep your focus on
Jesus; *be all in!*

OVERCOMERS - never forget your
reward

OVERCOMERS - are blessed now
and blessed then
- a win-win situation - be all in!!

A white stone, a new name

**That's something to look
forward to!**