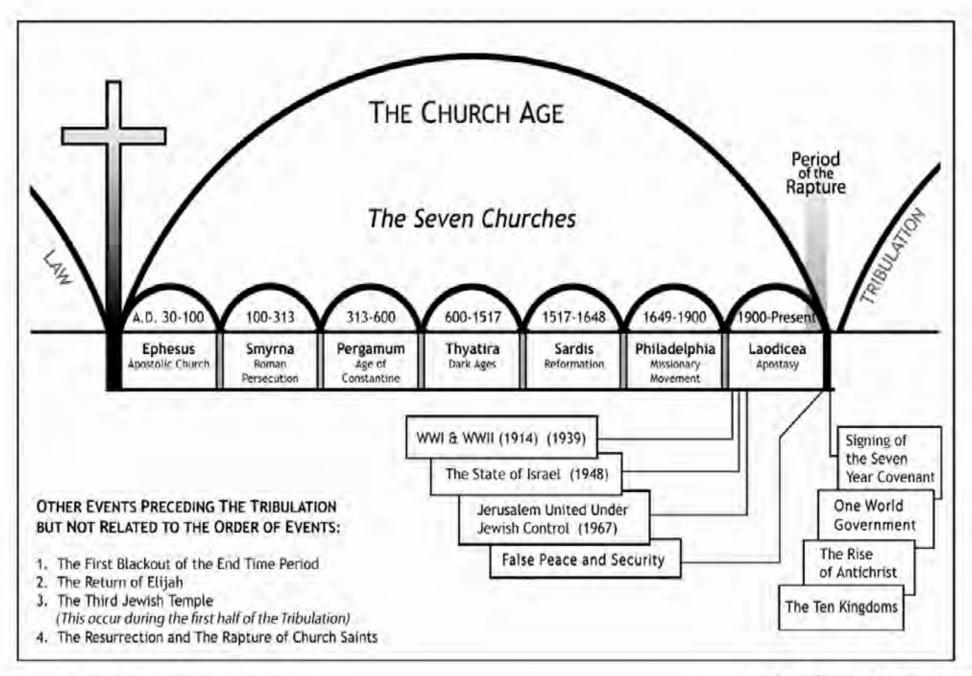
"Letter to the Church of Pergamos -The Compromised Church" Revelation 2: 12-17



How does a Church go from rock solid to compromised?

- Embrace the world's methods enter compromise
- Keep the people from Biblical teaching enter compromise
- Keep the people involved in ritual and works enter compromise

The Church of Pergamos was married to the state - Rome! = <u>compromised!!</u>

Verse 12 Destination and Description of Jesus

God will not accept a divided allegiance; a true believer <u>must</u> place Him first!!

- 1) <u>1st Commandment</u> "You shall have no other gods before Me"
- 2) 2nd Commandment "You shall not make for yourself an idol"
- 3) 3rd Commandment "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain"

For this Church that is compromised, the description of Jesus is clear:

"He who has a sharp two-edged sword" - unmistakably judgment! - Revelation 19: 15

Verse 13 Commendation (what this Church did well)

God has a faithful remnant in every Church, those who refuse to compromise

Jesus knows the pressure you are under:

"...you dwell where Satan's throne is"

If you find yourself in a compromised Church - GET OUT!! - no excuses!

Verse 14 - 15 Condemnation (what this Church did wrong)

This Church had 2 huge problems:

- 1) The doctrine of Balaam (marry the world and worship her false gods
- 2) The doctrine of the Nicolaitans (the clergy rule over the people)

 Jesus hates this!

The Church of Pergamos was intermarrying with the world and unfaithful to Jesus

- Much like the Church in America today
- Pergamos was a blend of Roman life (world), affecting the Church life
- The Balaam problem and the Nicolaitan problem generally go together

Characteristics of compromised believers:

- 1) They do not know they are compromised
- 2) When confronted with truth, they refuse to believe they are compromised
- 3) They like what is going on; a little religion fix is all I need

With knowledge comes responsibility! Come out from among them!

Verse 16 - 17 Exhortation and Promise

God's cry to the compromised:

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Repent >
    change course >
    move toward God>
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If one is compromised and refuses to repent:

"I will fight against him with the sword of My mouth"

- he is an enemy of God!!

The promises to those who repent, those who are overcomers, victors and true believers:

- 1) Hidden Manna provision from God, now and forever
- 2) White Stone innocence, privilege in the Kingdom
- 3) New Name a new identity of affection

CLOSING: THE LETTER TO PERGAMOS THE COMPROMISED CHURCH

Would you agree, compromised Christians are not happy Christians?

Would you agree, compromised Christians are not peaceful Christians?

Would you agree, compromised Christians are frustrated Christians?

The compromised life is a frustrated, unsafe, and unassured life!

So many Christians are compromised:

- They may be saved, (who knows); the Bible calls them carnal Christians
- A lot of the world, and a little bit of Jesus (the never really know group)
- They live frustrated, often claiming that this Christian life just does not work (I tried it for 3 weeks and nothing changed)

We have one shot at life; why not live as an overcomer?

- 1) Overcomers are blessed now and blessed in Jesus' soon coming Kingdom
- 2) Overcomers have purpose, peace, and the presence of God through all of life's mess

We have one shot at life; why not live as an overcomer?

3) Overcomers have much to look forward to:

Hidden manna, a white stone, and a new name

Now that is something to look forward to!!

