

“The Cross & the Sword - A Deadly Compromise”

Pastor Greg Webster



“The Cross: A Foolish Stumbling Block,” Pt 8

December 4, 2021

“The Ponte Milvio” - (The Milvian Bridge)



Rev. 2:12 ¶ “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write:
These are the words of him who has the sharp two-edged
sword:

Rev. 2:13 ¶ “I know where you are living, where Satan’s throne
is. Yet you are holding fast to my name, and you did not deny
your faith in me^a even in the days of Antipas my witness, my
faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan lives.



Rev. 2:14 But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the people of Israel, so that they would eat food sacrificed to idols and practice fornication.



Num. 25:1 ¶ While Israel remained at Shittim, the people began to play the harlot with the daughters of Moab.

Num. 25:2 For they invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.



*"On the venerable Day of the Sun
let the Magistrates and people
residing in the cities rest, and let all
workshops be closed."*



Edict of Constantine, 321 C.E.

Rev. 2:16 Repent then. If not, I
will come to you soon and make
war against them with the sword
of my mouth.



Rev. 2:18 ¶ “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write:
These are the words of the Son of God, who has eyes like
a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze:

Rev. 2:19 ¶ “I know your works—your love, faith, service,
and patient endurance. I know that your last works are
greater than the first.



Rev. 2:20 But I have this against you: you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet and is teaching and beguiling my servants to practice fornication and to eat food sacrificed to idols.



- ◆ Ephesus - post apostolic. Dealing with heresies.
- ◆ Smyrna - martyrdom. Diocletian. Ends with Constantine.
- ◆ Pergamum - Begins the mixture of civil & religious power.
- ◆ Thyatira - full blown fruition of authoritative heresy.



Thyatira -



- ◆ Instituted in 538 after last Arian threat and dismantled in 1563.
- ◆ Middle ages - Medieval church.

The Sword & the Cross ~ 500 to 1300 CE



- ◆ 1096-1099: First Crusade
- ◆ 1147-49: Second Crusade
- ◆ 1188-92: Third Crusade
- ◆ 1202-04: Fourth Crusade
- ◆ 1212 ~ Children's Crusade
- ◆ 1208 -29: Albigensian Crusade

Rev. 12:7 ¶ And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back,

Rev. 12:8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.



Rev. 12:9 The great dragon was thrown down,
that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil
and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world
—he was thrown down to the earth, and his
angels were thrown down with him.



Rev. 12:12 Rejoice then, you heavens
and those who dwell in them!

But woe to the earth and the sea,
for the devil has come down to you
with great wrath,

because he knows that his time is short!”



Rev. 12:17 Then the dragon was angry with the woman, and went off to make war on the rest of her children, those who keep the commandments of God and hold the testimony of Jesus.



Rev. 12:8 and they were not strong
enough, and there was no longer a
place found for them in heaven.



Rev. 13:1 And I saw a beast rising out of the sea having ten horns and seven heads; and on its horns were ten diadems, and on its heads were blasphemous names.

Rev. 13:2 And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And the dragon gave it his power and his throne and great authority.



Rev. 13:11 ¶ Then I saw another beast
that rose out of the earth; it had two
horns like a lamb and it spoke like a
dragon.



Rev. 13:4 They worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?”

Rev. 13:12 It exercises all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and it makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound^a had been healed.

Rev. 13:15 and it was allowed to give breath^a to the image of the beast so that the image of the beast could even speak and cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.



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Rev. 13:4 ...who can fight against it?"

Rev. 13:12 ...and it makes the earth and its
inhabitants worship the first beast,

Rev. 13:15... cause those who would not
worship the image of the beast to be killed.



Rev. 2:21 I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her fornication.

Rev. 2:22 Beware, I am throwing her on a bed, and those who commit adultery with her I am throwing into great distress, unless they repent of her doings;



Rev. 2:24 But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call 'the deep things of Satan,' to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden;

Rev. 2:25 only hold fast to what you have until I come.



1Cor. 1:23 but we proclaim Christ
crucified, a stumbling block to
Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,



Num. 24:17 I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near—

a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;

it shall crush the borderlands of Moab, and the territory of all the Shethites.



Rev. 2:28 even as I also received
authority from my Father. To the one
who conquers I will also give the
morning star.

