

# The Scribe

"Every Scribe which is instructed into the Kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old" - Matthew 13:52



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The following message was preached by Brother Amos, on Thursday, 29th June, 2017, at Bible Faith Tabernacle, Lagos, Nigeria. What an absolute privilege this is, to be living in such an Age, where the hidden things of God are being unveiled for our benefit, a time when the light is piercing through the darkness, to reveal the remarkable truths of God. Please note, that ALL the quotes in this message, taken from Brother William Branham, and Brother Raymond Jackson, unless otherwise stated, have been taken from the following publications: *The Seven Church Ages*, for Brother Branham, and the 1983 Contender, titled, *Seven Churches Of Asia*, for Brother Jackson. The reason that pages and paragraphs have not been given, is to allow for the many facts being presented by Brother Amos,

without encumbering the flow of the message.

Good evening Church, and may the Lord bless each and every one of you. This evening, as we continue our message on *The Revelation Of Jesus Christ To The Church Ages*, the Lord helping us, we want to consider the prophetic message of Jesus Christ to the Church in Pergamos, (which can also be spelt Pergamon or Pergamum), giving us **THE PERGAMEAN CHURCH AGE**, as recorded in Revelation Chapter 2, beginning from verse 12, which provides: **"And to the angel of the Church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied**

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## THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE CHURCH AGES - PART 3: THE PERGAMEAN CHURCH AGE

**my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. 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. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. 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.”** May the Lord bless the reading of His Word. Amen.

Brothers and sisters, this is the revelation of Jesus Christ to the Church in Pergamos. The city of Pergamos in the Mysia region of Asia, was located north of Smyrna, and we have Pergamos right here, (Brother Amos points to the

chart). It is to the west of Thyatira, and about 16 miles, which is about 26 kilometres from the Aegean Sea. The city of Pergamos is now known as, and called Bergama. But remember, the original Pergamos is in ruins, however, the modern city of Bergama, in the province of Izmir in Turkey, gives us the old Pergamos, because it is situated in the area that used to be the old Pergamos. The city had a great library that was excelled only by that of Alexandria, in Egypt. The Egyptian king was even afraid that the library in Pergamos would outclass that of Alexandria, so much so, that he stopped the shipment of Egyptian writing paper, the *papyrus*, to Pergamos, and he unintentionally forced the people of Pergamos to create their own writing material, which was the *parchment*, based on the ancient paper, which was most successful, and coined from their own name, Pergamos. The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* has this to say about Pergamos, which in Greek was called Pergamon or Pergamum: **“Pergamum existed at least from the 5th century BCE, but it became important only in the Hellenistic Age (323-**

**30BCE), when it served as the residence of the Attalid Dynasty. Their fortress and palace stood on the peak of the hill, while the town itself occupied the lower slopes. Under the Roman Empire the city was situated on the plain below.”** Further on, it also said this: **“The Attalids made the city of Pergamum one of the most important and beautiful of all Greek cities in the Hellenistic Age”**, (which takes us way back to the Era of Antiochus, during the Grecian Beast Empire); **“it is one of the most outstanding examples of city planning in that period. They built a library excelled only by that at Alexandria”** (in Egypt). All of those areas are now in ruins though, and archaeological work is going on in all those places, which have now become tourist attractions, particularly for Christians, although my wife and I have never been there. However, the main point is this, brothers and sisters, the city was a cosmopolitan city, for it was a central city, with a lot of commerce, particularly in agriculture and silver, and hence, there was a lot of human traffic in that city. Please note, saints of God, that the

duration of the Pergamean Age, which gives us the Third Church Age, was around 312 AD – 500 AD., which brings us straight to the era of Emperor Constantine. We have put this Age in this very time period, even though the Prophet to this Laodicean Age placed it around 312 AD – 606 AD., simply because the ending computation of time which Brother Branham allocated to this Age, affects the Dark Ages, and as such, we have to adjust the duration of this Age. This very issue will become clear, when we look at *The Thyatirean Church Age*, which is the next Age we will consider. Consequently, we have to place the Pergamean Age to 312 AD – 500 AD., and not to 312 AD – 606 AD., which we have been taught all along. You have to agree with me, that now that we are in the Last Move of God for the Bride, the Spirit of Christ will help us to bring absolute clarity to truth, straightening out all issues, and resolving all doubts on matters of the Holy Scriptures. Revelation Chapter 2, verse 12, records: **“And to the ANGEL of the Church in Pergamos WRITE...”** Brothers and sisters, this prophetic address was given by Saint John to the local bishop, the local angel

in 97 AD., to be used as a means to deal with the local conditions which were then in existence in this Church, and set a perfect type of the conditions that we would find in the corresponding Age, *The Pergamean Church Age*. However, we do not know who this local angel is, because strangely enough, Church history does not give it to us, for it says nothing about the bishop of Pergamos. Saints, I know that *Wikipedia* has this to say about the bishop of Pergamos: ***“Many Christian traditions, according to the Commentary on the Apocalypse of Andreas of Caesarea, believe Saint Antipas to be the Antipas referred to in the Book of Revelation, Revelation 2:13, as the verse says: “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.” The “faithful martyr” of Pergamon, “where Satan dwelleth”. According to Christian tradition, John the Apostle ordained Antipas as bishop of Pergamon during the***

***reign of the Roman emperor Domitian. The traditional account goes on to say Antipas was martyred during the reign of Nero (54-68), by burning in a brazen bull-shaped altar for casting out demons worshiped by the local population.”*** However, when we recognise that the *Ante-Nicene Fathers*, and other respected Church historians, say absolutely nothing about the bishop of Pergamos, until we come to the hour of Andreas of Caesarea, 563 AD – 637 AD., which brings us to the Dark Ages, when the Roman Catholic Church was already now in full control of Christendom, as well as religious publications, then, as the Bride of Jesus Christ, we cannot place any reliance on this tradition, particularly as it has no prior historical support. Consequently, brothers and sisters, we do not know who the bishop of Pergamos was, and may I add, that this knowledge is not material to our understanding of the prophetic revelation of Jesus Christ to the Church in Pergamos. It is our understanding of the conditions within this local assembly that is material, because of its dispensational application. But the local angel,

whoever he was, must have dealt with this assembly, based upon the prophetic address of Jesus Christ that he received from the hand of Apostle John in 97 AD., and he represents the star messenger to that Age. Therefore, this brings us to the consideration of the Star Messenger to this Church Age, the Pergamean Church Age, the man who was the Third **"Star"** conveyed in the **"right hand"** of Jesus Christ, in Revelation Chapter 1, verses 16 and 20, a prophetic scene that we have portrayed on our chart. (Brother Amos points to the chart).

Brothers and sisters, the **"Angel" - "Star"** Messenger to this Age, is none other than Saint Martin, a Hungarian, of The JAPHETIC RACE, an ex-soldier, and a very compassionate man, who was born in Hungary in 315 AD., although most of his work was in France, as he was based in Tours, France. I like the beautiful way Brother Branham presented the ministry of Saint Martin, and as such, we will just use his testimony, which goes thus: **"Using our God-given rule for choosing the Messenger to each Age, that is, we choose the one whose ministry most**

**closely approximates that of the first Messenger, Paul, we unhesitatingly declare the Pergamean Messenger to be Martin. Martin was born in 315 in Hungary. However, his life work was in France where he laboured in and around Tours as a bishop. He died in 399. This great saint was the uncle of another wonderful Christian, Saint Patrick of Ireland. Martin was converted to Christ while he was following a career as a professional soldier. It was while he was still engaged in this occupation that a most remarkable miracle occurred. It is recorded that a beggar lay sick in the streets of the town where Martin was posted. The winter cold was more than he could bear for he was poorly clad. No one paid any attention to his needs until Martin came by. Seeing this poor man's plight, but not having an extra garment, he took off his outer cloak, cut it in two with his sword, and wrapped the cloth around the freezing man. He attended him the best he could and went on his way. That night the Lord Jesus appeared unto him in a vision. There He**

**stood, like a beggar, wrapped in the half of Martin's garment. He spoke to him and said, "Martin, though he is only a catechumen" (a new convert), "has clothed Me with this garment." (And is that not what the Bible says? "When you do this to one of the least of mine, you do it unto me." Is that right? Absolutely! That encounter changed his life, because that was how the Lord led him to himself, and he was baptised thereafter). "From that time on Martin sought to serve the Lord with all his heart. His life became a series of miracles manifesting the power of God. After having left the army and having become a leader in the Church, he took a very militant stand against idolatry. He cut down the groves, broke up the images and pulled down the altars. When confronted by the pagans for his deeds, he challenged them in much the same manner that Elijah did the prophets of Baal. He offered to be tied to a tree on its underside, so that when it was cut down it would crush him unless God intervened and turned the tree around while it fell. The wiley heathen tied him to a tree that was growing**

on the side of a hill, assured that the natural pull of gravity would cause the tree to so fall as to crush him. Just as the tree began to fall, God swung it around and uphill, contrary to all natural laws. The fleeing heathen were crushed as the tree fell on several of them. Historians acknowledged that on at least three occasions he raised the dead by faith in Jesus' Name. In one instance he prayed for a dead baby. Like Elisha, he stretched himself upon the babe and prayed. It came back to life and health. On another occasion he was called to help deliver a brother who was being carried away to his death in a time of great persecution. By the time he arrived the poor man was already dead. They had hanged him upon a tree. His body was lifeless and his eyes protruded from the sockets. But Martin took him down, and when he had prayed the man was restored to life and to his rejoicing family. Martin never did fear the enemy regardless of who it was. Thus he went to personally face a wicked emperor who was responsible for the death of many Spirit-filled

saints. The emperor would not grant an audience, so Martin went to see a friend of the emperor, one Damasus, a cruel bishop of Rome. But the bishop, being a nominal Christian of the false vine would not intercede. Martin went back to the palace, but by now the gates had been locked and they would not allow him to enter. He lay down on his face before the Lord and prayed that he be able to get into the palace. He heard a voice bidding him arise. When he did so, he saw the gates open of their own accord. He walked into the court. But the arrogant ruler would not turn his head and speak to him. Martin again prayed. Suddenly a fire came spontaneously from the seat of the throne and the unhappy emperor vacated speedily. Surely the Lord humbles the proud and exalts the lowly. Such was his ardour in serving the Lord that the devil was mightily aroused. The enemies of truth hired assassins to kill Martin. They came by stealth to his home and as they were about to kill him, he stood erect and bared his throat to the sword. As they leaped forward, the power of

God suddenly hurled them back across the room. So overcome were they in that holy and fearful atmosphere, that they crawled upon their hands and knees and begged forgiveness for the attempt upon his life. Too often when men are signally used of the Lord they become lifted up with pride. But not so with Martin. He ever remained the humble servant of God. One night as he was preparing himself to enter the pulpit, a beggar came to his study and asked for some clothing. Martin referred the beggar to his head deacon. The haughty deacon commanded him to leave. Thereupon he went back to see Martin. Martin arose and gave the beggar his own fine robe, and bade the deacon bring him another robe which was of lesser quality. That night as Martin preached the Word, the flock of God saw a soft white glow of light around his person. Surely this was a great man, a true messenger to that Age. Never desirous of aught but to please God, he lived a most consecrated life. Never could he be induced to preach until he had first prayed and

**was in such spiritual frame, as to know and deliver the full counsel of God by the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven. Often he would keep the people waiting while he prayed for full assurance. Just to know about Martin and his mighty ministry might make one think that the persecution of the saints had abated. Not so. They were still being destroyed by the devil through the instrumentality of the wicked. They were burned at the stake. They were nailed to logs face down and wild dogs were turned loose upon them, so that the dogs would tear away the flesh and bowels, leaving the victims to die in terrible torture. Babes were ripped from expectant mothers and thrown to the hogs. Women's breasts were cut away, and they were forced to stand erect while each heart throb poured out the blood until they crumpled in death. And the tragedy was even greater to think about when one realizes that this was not solely the work of the heathen, but many times it was caused by so-called Christians, who felt that they did God a favour in exterminating**

**these loyal soldiers of the cross, who stood for the Word and obedience to the Holy Spirit... By signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit, Martin was truly vindicated as the Messenger to that Age. But not only was he gifted by a great ministry, he himself was forever true to the Word of God. He fought organization. He withstood sin in high places. He championed the truth in word and deed and lived out a full life of Christian victory. A biographer wrote of him on this wise. "No one ever saw him angry, or disturbed, or grieving, or laughing. He was always one and the same, and seemed something beyond mortal, wearing on his countenance a sort of celestial joy. Never was anything on his lips but Christ, never anything in his heart but piety, peace and pity. Often did he weep for the sins even of those his detractors, who when he was quiet and absent attacked him with viperous lips and poisoned tongues. Many hated him for virtues they themselves did not possess and could not imitate; and alas! his bitterest assailants were bishops." Brothers and**

sisters, this was Saint Martin, the "**Star**" Messenger to the Pergamean Church Age, the Third Church Age, and what a man of faith he was! God has produced many heroes of faith, for we have to say that men have walked with God! The story of Saint Martin reminds me of Prophet Elisha of old, who feared no king or military general, for he feared nothing! A contingent of Syrian soldiers were ordered to arrest him, and he just looked at them with utter disdain, totally unperturbed. His servant Gehazi, on the other hand, was scared to death, and Elisha said to him, "*Why are you afraid?*" He then offered a simple prayer, "*Father, open his eyes, to know that they that are with us are much more than they that are against us.*" God opened a little window for Gehazi to see into the spirit realm, and he saw that they were actually surrounded by chariots of fire! Come on! Men have truly walked with God! May God help us to walk with Him. May the lives of these heroes of faith challenge our faith, and cause us to have a closer walk with God. Amen.

Let us now move on to consider the address of the

Lord to the Church in Pergamos, as laid out in Revelation Chapter 2, from verse 12, where the Lord declares: ***“And to the angel of the Church in Pergamos WRITE; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges.”*** Why did the Master reveal himself to this Church in that way? I ask this question, knowing that the revelation of the Lord has a divine purpose, a divine objective to it. He revealed himself to the Church at Ephesus as, ***“he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks.”*** He revealed himself to the Church in Smyrna as, ***“the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive.”*** Now he has revealed himself to the Church in Pergamos as, ***“he which hath the sharp sword with two edges.”*** This is a two-edged sword, the double-edged sword. And what exactly is the sword with two edges? It is the Word of his mouth, the Word of God, that can be used to smite and judge, showing that nothing is hidden from him, and that there is nothing that can escape the judgment of his infallible and invincible Word. What does the Bible call the two-edged sword in

his mouth? Hebrews Chapter 4, verse 12 states: ***“For the Word of God is quick”*** (alive), ***“and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but ALL things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”*** Amen. That is the awesome power of the Word of God! Ephesian Chapter 6, speaking about this same sword, states in verse 17: ***“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD.”*** Putting these attributes of the double-edged sword together, it lets us see that the Master, in revealing himself to the Church in Pergamos as, ***“he which hath the sharp sword with two edges”***, shows that he is not too pleased with the condition of things, that he sees every secret move, and he is going to deal firmly and decisively with it, by means of the sharp sword in his mouth! Because he is a discerner of all thoughts and intentions, and before him, all things are laid bare,

for nothing is secret, and nothing is hidden from him, and nothing can avoid his judgment! The Lord manifested himself with a double-edged sword, to let us see that the conditions he would be dealing with in this Age, are not good, being evil, and the Lord is going to deal decisively with it by His Word; he is going to send the Sword of the Spirit to deal with it. This gives us evil developments, evil conditions that existed in the Fourth Church Age, bringing us to the Third Century of Christendom, conditions the Lord would neither take nor tolerate. In Revelation Chapter 2, the Lord states in verse 13: ***“I know THY WORKS”***, (their works of faith, and labour for his Name's sake). Jesus Christ made the same declaration about works to each and every Age, because indeed, he knows our works, the works of every man, the works of every assembly, as well as the works of every Age, for nothing is hidden from him. That is why in Revelation Chapter 22, verse 12, he says: ***“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”*** Yes, he knows the works of every man to its minutest detail, and he will repay everyone

accordingly, for there is no respecter of persons with the Lord, and neither does he pervert justice, being a most just Lord. Therefore, it is important that we continue to serve the Lord, regardless of the difficulties and trials that come our way, because in the end, it will be worth it all. We want to hear that sweet voice of the Master say: Matthew 25:21 ***“... Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”*** I like the way Saint Luke put it in Luke Chapter 19, verse 17: ***“And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, HAVE THOU AUTHORITY OVER TEN CITIES”***, (FOR A THOUSAND YEARS)! Now, that reward is worth labouring for! That is why the Book of Galatians Chapter 6, admonishes us in verses 9-10: ***“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto ALL men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”*** So, brothers and sisters, do not be weary in well doing. Love the

brotherhood, and help the brotherhood. Do not give up, and do not let anyone make you lose your steadfastness in well doing, because there is a payday coming up there in glory! Keep up the works of faith; keep sowing for your reward in heaven, and do not live a selfish, self-centred, uncaring life, for that is partly what Apostle Paul meant in Galatians Chapter 6, when in verse 8, he declared: ***“For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”*** Let us sow to the Spirit, following good works, works of faith, labouring joyfully for the Master, with thankful hearts, whatever the situation, for bringing us into this revealed way of life eternal. For it is written in Matthew Chapter 7, verses 14: ***“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, AND FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT.”*** Be grateful therefore, that you are one of them, one of the Lord's despised few, one of God's elect remnant who are ordained for eternal glory. Revelation Chapter 2, verse 13: ***“I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is...”*** We can

only imagine the great persecution and hardships that these saints faced, worshipping right where Satan's seat was, and yet, they held faithfully to the Name of the Lord, and to His Word of Truth, though all hell rose against them! What an Age! The Lord said: ***“I know thy works, and where thou dwellest”***, (because God knows everything concerning His own children), ***“even where Satan's seat is...”*** Please note that the Lord did not say that Satan's seat was in the Church in Pergamos, but that Satan's seat was in the very city of Pergamos! Brothers and sisters, we all know that Satan's seat is in Rome. We must not forget that this prophetic address speaks of the Third Age of Christendom, 312 AD – 500 AD., and it was still in the Era of the Roman Beast Empire, which gives us the Fourth and Last Beast Empire, and further, that Jesus Christ was also born and crucified during the same Era of the Roman Beast Empire, because the entire Gentile Dispensation of Grace, the entire Grace Age, is spent within the time span of the Roman Beast Empire. Therefore, knowing that Rome ruled the prophetic world, being a City Empire, and the seat of the Caesars, the

Emperors, was in Rome, the material question remains: Why was the city of Pergamos referred to as **“where Satan's seat is”**, rather than the city of Rome? That is the main issue, and the Lord helping us, it is an issue we want to give scriptural clarity to in this message.

We all know, scripturally and historically, that the original seat of Satan was in Babylon, a city which God sunk, Babylon which was founded by Nimrod, according to the record of Genesis. We all know that, as in Genesis Chapter 11, beginning from verse 1, it declares: **“And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us A CITY and A TOWER”,** (at the centre of this very city, a tower that would be like an administrative headquarters within that city), **“whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name,**

**lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of THE WHOLE EARTH”,** (in total defiance of the commission that God gave man, and in attempted total nullification of the commission recorded in Genesis Chapter 1, verse 28, requiring us to: **“Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth”,** THE WHOLE EARTH, **“and subdue it”**, to subdue the whole earth). The account in Genesis Chapter 11 continues, stating in verse 5: **“And the Lord came down to see THE CITY and THE TOWER, which the children of men builded. And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build THE CITY. Therefore is the name of it called BABEL; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of**

**ALL the earth.”** Saints, Babel, which means confusion, a kingdom that is opposed to God and His perfect will, was the name of the First Kingdom that was established on this planet. Moving with this thought to Genesis Chapter 10, beginning from verse 6, the Holy Bible records: **“And the sons of HAM; Cush, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan. And the sons of CUSH; Seba, and Havilah, and Sabtah, and Raamah, and Sabtecha: and the sons of Raamah; Sheba, and Dedan. AND CUSH BEGAT NIMROD: he began to be A MIGHTY ONE IN THE EARTH.”** (The first world class leader). **“He was a mighty hunter”**, (meaning that he was a mighty military conqueror, “mighty hunter” standing for a great soldier, a military general, as also used in Jeremiah 16:16, a military genius) **“before the Lord: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.”** (Now watch verse 10): **“And the beginning of his kingdom was BABEL, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.”** So, we can all see from the Scriptures, that Nimrod, the son of Cush, the grandson of Ham, the first world class leader this planet has ever

seen, was the builder or founder of Babylon, a city that Nebuchadnezzar later finished, and brought to its grandeur. The main point is this: Polytheism, which is the worship of many gods, idolatry, began in this ancient Babylon. Before this time, Noah and his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, ALL worshipped the same God of their Father, Elohim, Jehovah God, the One Supreme Ruler and Creator of the Universe, clearly showing that at the beginning, the world began solely with Monotheism, the worship of the One True God, Elohim. Nimrod, however, introduced idolatry, making himself god, "Ninus", and his father, Cush, also became god, known as "Bel", the father of gods, his mother, Semiramis, became the mother of god, and as such, Babylon became the centre of idolatry, and the centre of ALL abominable religions. And from idolatrous Babylon, idolatry, the worship of many gods, various gods, spread over the whole wide world, going into Egypt, into Assyria, into Persia, into Greece, and finally into Rome, and all over the earth, even into India, and also into China. The Book of Isaiah confirms this fact, stating in Chapter 14, verses 4-6:

**"That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon",** (ancient Babylon, old Babylon), **"and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased! The Lord hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers. He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth."** In verses 14-15, the prophecy shifts to Lucifer, the evil spirit that is behind idolatrous Babylon, and then the Lord turns right back to continue the judgment of Babylon, declaring in verses 21-23: **"Prepare slaughter for his children";** (why is that?) **"FOR THE INIQUITY OF THEIR FATHERS;** that they do not rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities. For I will rise up against them, saith the Lord of hosts, and cut off from Babylon the name, and remnant, and son, and nephew, saith the Lord. I will also make it a possession for the bittern, and pools of water: and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the Lord of hosts." Now we must ask: What "iniquity of their fathers" are we looking at, to cause

Babylon to be severely and permanently judged? Again, in Jeremiah Chapter 51, verses 53-56, the Lord declared: **"Though Babylon should mount up to heaven, and though she should fortify the height of her strength, yet from Me shall spoilers come unto her, saith the Lord. A sound of a cry cometh from Babylon, and great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans: Because the Lord hath spoiled Babylon, and destroyed out of her the great voice; when her waves do roar like great waters, a noise of their voice is uttered: Because the spoiler is come upon her, even upon Babylon, and her mighty men are taken, every one of their bows is broken: for the Lord God of recompences shall surely requite."** Then in verses 60-64, the Holy Bible states: **"So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come upon Babylon, even all these words that are written against Babylon. And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to Babylon, and shalt see, and shalt read all these words; Then shalt thou say, O Lord, thou hast spoken against this place, to cut it off, that none shall remain in it,**

neither man nor beast, but that it shall be desolate for ever. And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, that thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates: And thou shalt say, THUS SHALL BABYLON SINK, AND SHALL NOT RISE FROM THE EVIL THAT I WILL BRING UPON HER: and they shall be weary. Thus far are the words of Jeremiah." We ask again: For what "iniquity of their fathers" are the Babylonians being severely and permanently judged, that she is to be sunk, and never to rise again? In Jeremiah Chapter 50, the Lord gives us the precise reason, plainly declaring in verses 1-2: "The word that the Lord spake against Babylon and against the land of the Chaldeans by Jeremiah the prophet. Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, BABYLON IS TAKEN, BEL" (OR BELUS, BAAL, GREEK ZEUS, THE SO-CALLED FATHER OF GODS AND MEN), "IS CONFOUNDED, MERODACH", (DEATH, OR MARDUK, THE CHIEF GOD OF THE CITY OF

BABYLON), "IS BROKEN IN PIECES; HER IDOLS ARE CONFOUNDED, HER IMAGES ARE BROKEN IN PIECES."

ALL this clearly shows that Babylon is being severely and permanently judged for her utter idolatry! Verse 3: "For out of the north there cometh up a nation against her", (the Medo-Persians), "which shall make her land desolate, and none shall dwell therein: they shall remove, they shall depart, both man and beast." Just look at what God said in Isaiah Chapter 47, beginning from verse 8: "Therefore hear now this, thou" (Babylon) "that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children", (speaking in prophetic typology of spiritual Babylon that was to come, the Roman Catholic Church): "But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of THY SORCERIES, AND FOR THE GREAT ABUNDANCE OF THINE

ENCHANTMENTS. For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me. Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know. Stand now with THINE ENCHANTMENTS, and with the Multitude of THY SORCERIES, wherein" (in idolatry, in sorcery), "thou hast laboured FROM THY YOUTH", (right from the founding of Babylon); "if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail. Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee. Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit

**before it. Thus shall they be unto thee with whom thou hast laboured, even thy merchants, from thy youth: they shall wander every one to his quarter; none shall save thee."** Hence, in Isaiah Chapter 21, verse 9, the Lord now proclaims: **"And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, BABYLON IS FALLEN, IS FALLEN; AND ALL THE GRAVEN IMAGES OF HER GODS HE HATH BROKEN UNTO THE GROUND", (EXACTLY AS GOD WILL ALSO DO TO SPIRITUAL BABYLON, RIGHT HERE AT THIS END TIME)! Do not forget, brothers and sisters, that civilisation started in Babylon, then Egypt, and then Assyria, and so on and so forth, and as Brother Branham also stated in his message: "... Egypt received her science and mathematics from the Chaldeans" (the Babylonians), **"and in turn Greece received them from Egypt. Now since the priests were in charge of teaching these sciences, and since these sciences were used as a part of religion"**, (it lets us see precisely how the Egyptians were able to build the great pyramids, a**

deep and dark knowledge they received from Satan, the prince of darkness, a masterpiece and feat of engineering that still baffles modern day engineers and scientists, with all their technological and scientific knowhow! It is in the same way that the priests of Rome were the teachers and lecturers in the great institutions of learning in Europe, in the Dark Ages. And to help you relate to this truth, about the dark knowledge that was behind the construction of the Egyptian pyramids, you cannot tell me that the scientists today, who are trying to clone man, and who are cloning all kinds of animals, playing God in their laboratories, got this knowledge from the Almighty God, for they certainly did not! They got the knowledge of cloning from Lucifer, who knows all about genetics, and who has been here much longer than man! Brother Branham continued, saying): **"we already know the key as to how the Babylonish religion gained its strength in these two countries"**, (Egypt and Greece). **"It is also true that whenever a nation was able to overcome another nation, in due time the religion of the subduer became the religion of**

**the subdued. It is well known that the Greeks had the very same signs of the Zodiac as did the Babylonians; and it has been found in the ancient Egyptian records that the Egyptians gave the Greeks their knowledge of polytheism. Thus the mysteries of Babylon spread from nation to nation until it appeared in Rome, in China, India, and even in both North and South America we find the very same basic worship."** Consequently, Babylon influenced the whole world into idolatry and sorcery, and that was why she had to be judged, with a severe and permanent judgment from which she will never rise. Period! Just look at her evil influence on the Nation of Israel! In the Book of Ezekiel Chapter 23, verses 1-4, God called Samaria **"Aholah"**, and Jerusalem he called **"Aholibah"**. What did God say that **"Aholah"** and **"Aholibah"** learned from Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon? From verse 5, the Lord said: **"And Aholah"**, (who is Samaria), **"played the harlot"**, (spiritual harlotry, which is idolatry), **"when she was mine; and she doted on her lovers, on THE ASSYRIANS her neighbours, Which were clothed with blue,**

**captains and rulers, all of them desirable young men, horsemen riding upon horses. Thus she committed her whoredoms with them**, (meaning that she committed idolatry, worshipping different gods), **“with all them that were the chosen men of Assyria, and with all on whom she doted: with all their idols she defiled herself. Neither left she her whoredoms brought FROM EGYPT: for in her youth they lay with her, and they bruised the breasts of her virginity, and poured their whoredom upon her. Wherefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians, upon whom she doted. These discovered her nakedness: they took her sons and her daughters, and slew her with the sword: and she became famous among women; for they had executed judgment upon her.”** (Now watch her sister, Jerusalem, who is Aholibah): **“And when her sister Aholibah saw this, she was more corrupt in her inordinate love than she, and in her whoredoms more than her sister in her whoredoms. She doted**

**upon THE ASSYRIANS her neighbours, captains and rulers clothed most gorgeously, horsemen riding upon horses, all of them desirable young men. Then I saw that she was defiled, that they took both one way, And that she increased her whoredoms: for when she saw men portrayed upon the wall, the images of THE CHALDEANS portrayed with vermilion, Girded with girdles upon their loins, exceeding in dyed attire upon their heads, all of them princes to look to, after the manner of THE BABYLONIANS OF CHALDEA, the land of their nativity: And as soon as she saw them with her eyes, she doted upon them, and sent messengers unto them into Chaldea. And the Babylonians came to her into the bed of love, and they defiled her with THEIR WHOREDOM, and she was polluted with them, and her mind was alienated from them. So she discovered her whoredoms, and discovered her nakedness: then my mind was alienated from her, like as my mind was alienated from her sister.”** We have gone at great length into the prophecy of Babylon, to let

us see the influence that Babylon has had upon the nations of the entire earth, that it is their downright idolatry and sorcery, polytheism, this evil being precisely what Israel learnt from her! And as we have stated earlier, from Babylon, which was founded by Nimrod, idolatry spread to the whole earth. And although the practises, names, and ceremonies of the various gods may be different from place to place, the fact remains, brothers and sisters, that they all had their beginning in Babylon, and regardless of whatever differences they may have had, they still had certain things, certain aspects that were similar, and it is all because their genesis or origin is the same: They ALL go back to Babylon! Hence, with the Roman Beast Empire taking over from the Grecian Beast Empire, Rome, Rome, a city Empire, the seat of the Caesars, then became the seat of Satan, and the centre of idolatrous worship, but her roots are still from ancient Babylon! This fact is vindicated by the Holy Scriptures that we just read, such as the Book of Isaiah Chapter 47, which is precisely why the Vatican city in Rome, the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church, is

prophetically called by the name of old Babylon, and she has the same idolatrous spirit of ancient Babylon, as recorded in Revelation Chapter 17, verse 5, which plainly declares: **“...BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”** In verse 1, it is written: **“And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the Great Whore”**, (a Spiritual Whore), **“that sitteth upon many waters.”** Verse 15 explains the waters, declaring: **“And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.”** For she has global influence, global power. Verse 18 nails the woman, plainly stating: **“And the woman which thou sawest”**, (the great whore, Babylon the Great), **“is that great city”**, (the Vatican City, the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church), **“which reigneth over the kings of the earth.”** This is Spiritual Babylon, for her spirit is one with that of old Babylon, a fact which also vindicates the truth, that the grave

iniquity of ancient Babylon is idolatry, sorcery! And please note, that she is not only called Babylon in prophecy, spiritual Babylon, she is also said to be **“the mother of harlots”**, **AND “abominations of the earth”**, **MEANING THAT SHE IS THE CORRUPTER OF THE WHOLE EARTH, THE SOURCE OR THE ORIGIN OF SPIRITUAL IDOLATRY, ALL SPIRITUAL IDOLATRY, BECAUSE SPIRITUAL IDOLATRY STARTED IN ROME!** No wonder, in Revelation Chapter 18, where the Lord proclaims her coming judgment, verses 2-3, states: **“... BABYLON THE GREAT is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation OF DEVILS, and the hold of EVERY FOUL SPIRIT, and a cage of EVERY UNCLEAN AND HATEFUL BIRD. For ALL NATIONS have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication”**, (her idolatrous doctrines and pagan practises; her false soul damning teachings), **“and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies”**, exactly as Natural Babylon had also done, in introducing

*physical idolatry, polytheism, to the whole earth!* Brothers and sisters, we have gone down this road to show that the seat of Satan is now in Rome. Therefore, the fundamental question at present, is this: Since Rome is now the place where the seat of Satan is, how come in Revelation Chapter 2, verse 13, the Lord said this of Pergamos: **“... where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is”?** How come Jesus Christ is now talking about Satan's seat being in Pergamos, when the seat of Satan is in Rome? The answer is in the lovely explanation that Brother Branham gave, when he also asked: **“But how did Pergamos become the seat of Satan if Babylon was the seat? The answer again is in history. When Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians, the priest-king, Attalus fled the city and went to Pergamos with his priests and sacred mysteries. There he set up his kingdom outside the Roman Empire, and thrived under the care of the devil.”**

Brothers and sisters, we must not forget, that in the day that Natural Babylon fell, the Roman Empire had not yet existed, and hence, when Attalus fled Babylon

and went to Pergamos, the issue of the Roman Empire had not yet come into consideration in any way. What we must see, however, is that right there in the city of Pergamos, during the Medo-Persian Empire, Satan had set something in motion, for he had established something material to his evil and dark kingdom. Now coming to 96 AD., continuing in the city of Pergamos, Satan was doing something highly idolatrous that would be transposed to the corresponding Age, for Satan was going to carry it on from there. In other words, what Satan established in the city of Pergamos, was setting a type of a spiritual reality of what he was going to do in the Pergamean Age to which it correlates. How many see the point? We will go back and retake Revelation Chapter 2, verse 13, where the Lord states: ***"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."*** This verse, which tells us that Pergamos is ***"where SATAN'S seat is"***, ends

with the Lord restating this truth, that the city of Pergamos is indeed ***"where SATAN dwelleth."*** As I have stated before, we know that Rome is where Satan dwelleth, and I say that for all those who have a revelation of Satan's move through the Four Beast Empires, which ends with that of Rome, a city Empire, a fact we have just proven by the Holy Scriptures. Yet, despite this fact, the Spirit of the Lord still declared in 96 AD., that the city of Pergamos, was ***"where Satan's seat is... where Satan dwelleth."*** This tells us a serious story of a very diabolical and extremely dark move of Satan in Pergamos. It undoubtedly lets us know, that although in that day, Rome was the political seat of the emperors, which is the political seat of Satan, and although idolatry was carried on in Rome, however, it was in Pergamos that Satan's dark and diabolical move would be perfected, and transported to Rome, and hence, Pergamos was indeed Satan's seat of raw idolatry and paganism par excellence, in that hour of time! I repeat: In that day, the raw, dark, and idolatrous deeds of the city of Rome, was incomparable to what obtained in Pergamos,

because of the evil legacy of Attalus, the Babylonian priest-king, along with the rest of his priests, who had made Pergamos their base, and who had established a central college there, after Babylon fell to the Medo-Persians, a legacy that carried on to the hour of Apostle John! It means in effect, that although it was in the BC periods that Attalus fled from Babylon with his priests, nevertheless, they established a serious idolatrous base in Pergamos, which thrived up to the AD periods! And on top of this raw idolatry, there was now the demand for the literal worship of the emperor as god, an idolatrous act which was introduced by law in Pergamos, the first of its kind, the first city ever to do that! This model of raw and dark paganism, devil worship and witchcraft, coupled with the worship of the emperor, a key development for Satan, who wants to be worshipped through his super prince, the coming Antichrist, is exactly what would be exported to the city of Rome in the corresponding Age, the Pergamean Church Age, for Emperor Constantine would later borrow a leaf from this very practise, and make himself god, calling

himself, *Pontifex Maximus*, which means, "Sovereign Universal Ruler", a blasphemous name, because God alone is "Sovereign Universal Ruler". And it is upon this abominable lie, that Spiritual Babylon, the Roman Catholic Church, would later be established, and for the Popes to also later take upon themselves the title of "*Pontifex Maximus*", calling themselves *Pontiffs*, the Pontiff of Rome, an infallible evidence that the root of Spiritual Babylon, is indeed Natural Babylon, Pergamos being the connecting link, or the connecting bridge! Come on! We have to see the darkness of Satan that obtained in Pergamos, that it was something else, for Satan was fully expressed in the depths of his dark and diabolical manifestations, details of which we do not need to know as children of light. This was what Spiritual Babylon imported in the succeeding Age, the Fourth Church Age, which is the Thyatirean Church Age, an Age we will look at in our next meeting! Therefore, in Revelation Chapter 18, verse 2, the Spirit of the Lord seriously warned: "***Babylon the great... IS BECOME THE HABITATION OF DEVILS,***

***AND THE HOLD OF EVERY FOUL SPIRIT, AND A CAGE OF EVERY UNCLEAN AND HATEFUL BIRD.***" Think about it! That is precisely why at this end time, in this Seventh and Final Church Age, the Laodicean Church Age, the Spirit of God had to call out ALL His elect seeds from this evil and most diabolical religious organisation, as recorded in verse 4, earnestly and firmly proclaiming: "***... Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.***" For as God judged and sunk Natural Babylon, nevermore to rise, so will He also judge and literally evaporate Spiritual Babylon, nevermore to rise, and that is exactly what Revelation Chapter 18, spells out for ALL who have ears to hear what the Spirit of the Lord is saying to the Churches! And just as Revelation Chapter 18, plainly reveals in verse 10, "***... for in one hour***", and on a certain date, her judgment will most certainly come, in the Last Half of the 70th Week of Daniel! Consequently, saints of God, IF the Spirit of the Lord declared plainly and categorically, that the city of Pergamos was "***where Satan's seat is... where Satan dwelleth***",

then we have to accept it as the absolute and unquestionable truth, and nothing will make sense, other than us looking at it strictly from a spiritual perspective, in terms of the raw and dark idolatry that carried on, the witchcraft and sorcery, particularly the emperor worship, bearing the perfect model for spiritual Babylon in the succeeding Age! Do not forget that in 96 AD., the Roman Catholic Church Organisation had not yet existed, except as it was portrayed in prophecy in Revelation Chapters 17 and 18, even though the local assembly that would metamorphize (transform) into it, was already on ground. Consequently, as at 96 AD., Pergamos was the seat of Satan, because of the extent of its idolatry and emperor worship, a worship that had dated back for centuries to the era of Nimrod, which was before the fall of Babylon. So, brothers and sisters, one thing that stands out in the city of Pergamos, was the raw idolatry, particularly the fact that they worshipped the emperors, foreshadowing the worship of the Pope of Rome, the coming Antichrist, and they even built a great temple for the worship of Caesar Augustus in 29 AD., and later for Trajan, who was

emperor in 98 AD -117 AD., as well as for Severus, who also became emperor in 193 AD - 211 AD., the very first city to have such a temple, creating an idolatrous worship of the emperor, which the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* referred to as the **“imperial cult”**, imperial worship. *The Biblical Archaeology Society*, has this to say about this imperial cult: **“The best-preserved ancient sacred structure on ancient Pergamon's acropolis is the Temple of Trajan, built during the reign of Emperor Hadrian (117–138 A.D.) and dedicated to his deified predecessor. Towering imposingly over the surrounding structures and ruins, its commanding presence is a testament to the strength of the imperial cult.”** Saints, their major god in the city of Pergamos was Zeus, the sun god, for whom they built a great and magnificent temple, with a huge marble altar, richly adorned with motifs (scenes), which the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* says are considered, **“a masterpiece of Hellenistic art. A part of the altar and its surviving reliefs, restored and mounted, now stands in the Pergamon Museum in Berlin.”** The relief, or

motifs, or frescos, shows gods battling giants. A second major deity they worshipped in Pergamos was Athena, the goddess of poetry and learning, for whom they built an impressive temple, and they also worshipped Aesculapius, the god of healing, whose symbol was the serpent, and whose worship drew a great throng of people to the city, quite apart from the other gods that they additionally worshipped, like Apollos. It was truly a city wholly given to idolatry. So Satan entrenched himself in that city, because it was characterising something, a reality we would see in the Age that it corresponds to, where we would see him revealed in his main seat in Rome, which he chose Pergamos to exemplify, Pergamos being a city that was given totally to idolatry and sorcery (witchcraft), a city that was given to Satan-worship. But as we must continue to emphasise, there was something else: It was a city sold out to an imperial cult, emperor worship; it was a city where citizens were forced by law to worship the emperor, just as they had worshipped Nimrod in Babylon, in order to take the place of, and also do away with, the worship of Jesus Christ, the

Son of God, who is truly God incarnate! The question is: Where did they get the idea that the emperors were gods, and that they needed to be worshipped as one? They got it from Attalus, the Babylonian king-priest that was based in Pergamos centuries earlier! Brothers and sisters, right in the middle of a grossly idolatrous people, was the local assembly in Pergamos! Do not forget that the worship of the emperor was made part of the civic duty of the citizens, and to refuse to observe this duty was death, for it was the law! Do not also forget that Saint Polycarp was martyred, because he bluntly refused to offer incense to, and worship the emperor of Rome, and that was in the city of Smyrna! Brothers and sisters, the blunt refusal and open denunciation of emperor worship, was, no doubt, what Saint Antipas must have likewise been martyred for, as it was the spirit operating in the city of Pergamos, where it took firm root, an obvious legacy of Attalus and the Babylonian priests, who worshipped Nimrod, called *Ninus!* May I further remind you, that it was under Emperor Domitian, that Saint John was banished to

the Isle of Patmos, when he refused to burn, after having boiled in hot oil for about 24 hours. Saint John must have openly and firmly condemned this idolatrous emperor worship, for Domitian made it a law that the emperors be worshiped as a civic duty. Saints of God, in the 90s AD., Emperor Domitian took on the title of “*lord and god*”, and as a test of loyalty, he ordered the people to confess that he was “*lord and god*”. Think about that! Saint John's outspoken stand against this idolatrous practise, was what made him incur the raw hatred of Emperor Domitian! This was precisely why the governor enforced the law of emperor worship in Smyrna, in order to curry favour with the emperor! So, in that day, Pergamos was a very horrible city, the seat of idolatry and emperor worship. And what is most astounding, is that right there in the midst of the gross idolatry, sorcery (witchcraft), immorality, moral degeneration, and emperor worship, a civic duty for all citizens, God planted an assembly of light! You can only imagine the intense pressure and persecution that this local assembly faced! You can only imagine the enormous pressure that they faced,

having to stand for truth and righteousness, in the midst of an utterly degenerate, and spiritually polluted city, full of idolatry and witchcraft, a city where the citizens were being forced to pray to, and worship the emperor, including Zeus, and Athena! Think about it! No wonder the Spirit of the Lord said that Pergamos was “***where Satan's seat is... where Satan dwelleth***”!

Coming back to Revelation Chapter 2, and moving on with the prophetic revelation of Jesus Christ to the Church in Pergamos, what did the Master say in verse 13? He said: “***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...***” What does it mean to hold fast to the Lord's Name? It is not to be ashamed to stand firmly, unwaveringly, faithfully, and openly, for the revelation of the Word of God! It is not to be ashamed to be identified with the elect remnant people of God, as true believers of Jesus Christ! Therefore, to hold fast to his Name, is to hold fast to

his divine scriptural revelation, and to not just make an empty profession of love for the mere name of Jesus Christ, for any man can do that! That is why everything will not go in the name of Jesus Christ, for the Lord himself said in Matthew Chapter 7, from verse 21: “***Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; BUT HE THAT DOETH THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN***”, (WHOSE WILL IS CLEARLY WRITTEN OUT IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES). “***Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied***” (preached) “***in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, YE THAT WORK INIQUITY***”, (YE THAT PREACH AND TEACH UNBELIEF OF THE WORD OF GOD). Therefore, to truly hold to his name, simply means to hold firmly, faithfully, and unashamedly to the revelation of Jesus Christ which the Holy Bible gives,

in the face of ALL opposition and rejection, which is precisely why Jesus declared in Mark Chapter 8, starting from verse 34, where the Bible records: ***“And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the Gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? W H O S O E V E R THEREFORE SHALL BE ASHAMED OF ME AND OF MY WORDS in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”*** Exactly! It means in essence, that the Church in Pergamos was not ashamed to confess Jesus Christ before Emperor Domitian, and before all his

idolatrous officers and judges, despite his intense persecution of Christians, and despite his reign of death, particularly in an hour where the name of the Lord Jesus was being denied, which is Satan's main objective! That was why Brother Jackson said: ***“Nevertheless the fact that Jesus was even mentioned”***, (in the prophetic address to the Church in Pergamos in verse 13), ***“that they had held fast to His name, lets us know that Satan had been doing something in the Church, trying to abolish His Name from among them. Actually when you read 1st John 4:1-3, you will notice that as early as 90 A.D., the name of Jesus was already under attack, and John said that it was from false prophets who had gone out into the world, being motivated by the spirit of Antichrist. Then as we have already mentioned, in that 2nd Age, Christian schools were set up, and that just naturally opened a door for these false teachers who loved to get hold of young minds and pollute them. They could not accomplish anything***

***with saints who had a genuine revelation in their bosom, but if they could get hold of their children, and feed their perverted junk into their young minds, you can easily see how tares eventually got into the Church, into places of leadership”*** (eventually, following the passing away of the original apostles). ***“You have the same situation even today, as in every Age; where children grow up in the Church, take part in everything that goes on, do everything that their parents do, but many of them never have a true experience of salvation. Naturally when the older ones pass off the scene and these are left to take their places of leadership, without the Holy Ghost in them to take the lead, they have to depend upon their natural mind, in whatever function they may have in the Church. Therefore if they have been taught a perverted version of the gospel, some of it is bound to come out and mix in with the truth that may still be present, but over a period of so many generations, you can just***

***imagine what could happen, and it did happen. Satan got into the Church. No, it was not the revealed believers that became heretics; it was those who were void of the Spirit of God in their lives.*** Brothers and sisters, standing for the true revelation of Jesus Christ whatever the cost, is upholding the name of the Lord. That is what it means to hold to his Name, and to not be ashamed, for it is to own it even in the face of persecution and death, and to not be afraid, regardless of what hell threatens to do! They never forgot the infallible promise that the Master had made, as recorded in Matthew Chapter 10, verses 32-33: ***“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”*** Therefore, they could not afford to deny Jesus Christ before mere mortals, and neither could they afford to deny his Word, for as far as they were concerned, and as far as all true believers are

concerned, CHRIST IS LIFE AND LIFE IS CHRIST! ETERNAL LIFE MEANS MUCH MORE THAN THIS MORTAL LIFE, WHICH IS FILLED WITH SICKNESS, SORROW, PAIN, AND DEATH! Hence it is written in the Book of Philippians Chapter 1, verse 21, where Apostle Paul plainly declared: ***“For to me to live is Christ, AND TO DIE IS GAIN.”*** Consequently, holding fast to the Name of the Lord, and not denying the revealed Faith of Jesus Christ contained in the Word of God that we have graciously been given, most certainly yields eternal dividends! The Church in Pergamos stood for the truth in the face of extreme opposition and death! And if there is any time God is counting on His seeds to stand for His name, and for His truth, it is now, in an Age where the Holy Bible has been cast away, and rendered totally irrelevant on issues of faith, an Age where ***“mammon”*** (money) has been put in place of the Holy Bible, and where Churches and so-called ministers of the Gospel, have turned the Message of Life into a message of money and

materialism! If there is any people to stand for his name, it is you and me, although we are still coming to our Age at the very end of this series of messages. Brothers and sisters, the saints in the city of Pergamos, the Church in Pergamos, was a Church planted right in the midst of devils, right in the centre of gross immorality and utter idolatry, a city given to immorality, materialism, and raw paganism, devil worship, where they drank iniquity like water, and ate idolatry like bread! And for this Church of God to still thrive in such a harsh, most stifling, and Satanic condition, despite the stiff opposition of hell that she faced, is simply marvellous, and we say, Blessed be the Name of the Lord, for it is the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful in our eyes! Amen! That is the awesome power of the Gospel! What did Saint Paul say of the Gospel? In Romans Chapter 1, verses 16-17, he openly proclaimed: ***“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. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from Faith to Faith**, (that is, from revelation to revelation): **“AS IT IS WRITTEN, THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”** The Gospel of Christ has power to save from sin; it has the power to deliver, to transform, and to uphold, for there is absolute power in the Gospel, being a life-changing Gospel, a life-transforming Gospel! Brothers and sisters, the Gospel is for salvation, our eternal salvation, and as such, it has power to change lives, and to deliver, making saints out of raw sinners, producing eternal trophies for God from among the pagan Gentiles! The faithful stand of the Church in the city of Pergamos ought to challenge our faith; it ought to move us all to cry on the altar of faith for God to help us, and to create a revival in our souls, so we can equally stand, holding unshakably and unashamedly to the most precious Name of the Lord, and to His most Precious and Holy Word! The Lord Jesus warned in Matthew Chapter 24, verse 12,

saying: **“And because iniquity shall abound, THE LOVE OF MANY SHALL WAX COLD.”** It was not so for the Church in Pergamos, who stood in the face of the hosts of hell, confessing their love for Jesus Christ, and did not deny the Faith! Therefore, the Master said to them in Revelation Chapter 2, verse 13: **“... 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.”** They counted their lives nothing in comparison with what Jesus had to offer, and although Saint Antipas was martyred for the faith, his martyrdom only spurred them to prayer and consecration, as they earnestly looked to the Lord for grace to stand, and to not deny the faith, and God gave them grace. Do not forget, as recorded in Acts Chapter 12, back in Jerusalem, when king Herod vexed the Church and killed Apostle James, the brother of John, verses 3-5 states: **“And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take**

**Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people. Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made WITHOUT CEASING of the Church unto God for him.”** That is what we can do in similar situations, as persecution only drives God's people to earnestly seek His face, for enduring and overcoming grace. And as Brother Branham stated: **“Thousands, yea millions, have died during all the Ages. They died in the faith. Like Antipas, the faithful martyr, they held not their lives dear unto death. Often we think that it would be almost impossible to be a martyr. But dare to recall that the faith we daily use to triumph in Christ Jesus, is the same faith that upholds the Polycarps and ALL martyrs. THE SUPREME FAITH WILL GIVE SUPREME GRACE FOR THE SUPREME HOUR.”**

***Blessed be God forever!*** Amen and amen! This is something we must not forget, for the Lord is most faithful! Brothers and sisters, as we stated at the very beginning of our consideration of this Third Church Age, the Pergamean Church Age, we do not have any dependable history, to let us know who this brother, Antipas, was, whether or not he was in the ministry, except that he was most certainly one of the saints in the Church in Pergamos. So regardless of what *Wikipedia* says about him being the bishop of Pergamos, based on the writings of a man who existed much later in time, in the Dark Ages, we just cannot place any reliance on this conjecture, particularly when nothing like that was ever recorded in Church history before 500 AD., whether we look at the writings of Eusebius, titled, *The Church History*, or we consider the writings of the *Ante-Nicene Fathers*. Neither Saint Polycarp, nor Saint Irenaeus, nor Saint Ignatius, nor even Saint Clement, said anything about Antipas being the bishop of Pergamos, and it would have been a very

strange and great omission, if he truly was, knowing that his name was stated in the prophecy that Jesus Christ gave in 96 AD.! Nevertheless, brothers and sisters, we have to thank God for the life of Antipas, the faithful stand he made for the Lord and for truth in that day, sealing his testimony with his blood, openly defying the idolatrous worship of Emperor Domitian, and now like Abel, ***“he being dead yet speaketh”!*** (Heb. 11:4). The Lord said of him: ***“Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.”*** May the Lord also depend on us all; may He also find us faithful. Amen. Let me remind you of the admonition the Master gave in Matthew Chapter 10, verse 28, where he said: ***“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him”*** (God) ***“which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”*** That is who we need to fear, and not any mortal, however highly placed he may be, and whatever his evil threat may also be, for he can only kill the body, and no more. So, they were not ashamed

to be known as Christians; they were not ashamed of what they believed; and they did not feel terrorised by any man, even if such a person was in a position of power: Because they knew that mortals have no hold over their souls, and that is the absolute truth! They did not fear he that can only kill the body, and afterwards, there is nothing more that he can do, and there was nothing in this world that you could give to the saints either, to make any difference, that they would compromise the Word of Christ! They bluntly refused to renounce the Name of the Lord, and they also bluntly refused to renounce His Word of Truth! Halleluia! Just think about it tonight: God planted a righteous Church right in the midst of satanic chaos, and He expected them to thrive, to shine the light, and they excelled, and became vessels of indictment to the evil and idolatrous society in which they lived! Of course, it brought great hatred and persecution to them, because their firm stand and lifestyle, seriously rebuked the insanity of the city of Pergamos! So, they did not need to say

anything, and they did not even need to do anything either, for their holy stand, as well as their holy appearance, was enough for them to be hated, because it brought serious conviction: It condemned the gross idolatry that dominated that city! So, we have to see the intense pressure of societal hatred and persecution, that the Church in Pergamos had to endure in their day; but nevertheless, they were faithful unto death, for they did not renounce the faith, and may the Lord be glorified for the marvellous grace He endows to His saints.

Moving on in our consideration of the prophetic revelation of Christ to the Church in Pergamos, Revelation Chapter 2, verses 14-15, now records: ***“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. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the***

***Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.”*** Right in this passage of Scripture, the Lord spoke against two evil doctrines, two false doctrines that he hates, ***“the doctrine of Balaam”, AND “the doctrine of the Nicolaitans”,*** which had then been established in this Third Age. Remember that in the First Age, the Ephesian Church Age, the issue of the Nicolaitans was just a deed, action, but in the time of this Third Age, this Pergamean Church Age, it had now become a doctrine. May I warn, brothers and sisters, just like Brother Jackson had stated in his message, firmly declaring: ***“Let me say this, These 7 literal Churches DID NOT HAVE EVERY CONDITION PRESENT IN THEM, that was actually present in the particular Age they typed; however they did have conditions that revealed the presence of the spirit that would dominate that Age to come later.”*** Exactly! Consequently, when we consider verses 14-15, we are looking at conditions that were applicable majorly to the Pergamean Age, although we can see a little manifestation of this

spirit in the Local Church in Pergamos. Why was it just a little projection of this evil spirit that existed in the Local Church? It was because, and we must always remember, that the First Age of Christendom, which had these Seven Local Churches, was a Pure Seed Age, and secondly, that the devil was not able to sow tares in the midst of God's wheat seeds, until after ***“men slept”***, meaning that it was only after the men, who were the original apostolic guardians of the true revealed faith of Jesus Christ, had first been taken off the scene. Consequently, what we are looking at, is an influence, and whatever saints were influenced in that local assembly by tares, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and such like, which was the doctrine of Balaam, were shaken out of that evil influence, by the prophetic admonition the Lord Jesus gave in 96 AD., as applied by the bishop of the local assembly in Pergamos. And if there were tares also hiding within this Local Church, who were involved in this evil, they would have been identified, ejected, and shut out by the local

ministry. And I say that, on the full and unquestionable authority of Acts Chapter 5, verses 13-14; Acts Chapter 13, verse 48; and Matthew Chapter 13, verses 24-25, because that was still an hour of pure seeds. That was precisely why the chief apostle warned: **“Saints, I am sure you realise that not everyone was guilty of these things; for God has always had a few true saints in every Age, but these were PREVAILING CONDITIONS OF THE PARTICULAR AGES of time they pertained to.”** Making it even plainer, the star messenger to the Laodicean Age, also let us know that the two vines, the ***“wheat”*** and the ***“tares”***, were involved in this prophetic projection, and as such, locally speaking, we can only apply this rebuke to a few Church members who were wrongly influenced by tares, as it was the gathering of the false seeds, the assembly of tares, and not that of the True Church of God in the city of Pergamos, who were given to these evil doctrines. This is so, because as we must know, ***“the Mystery of iniquity”*** Apostle Paul spoke about

in 2 Thessalonians Chapter 2, verse 7, gives us a parallel move of the spirit of the Antichrist, which is the spirit of Satan, continually seeking to take over Christendom, was already at work, even right from the days of Saint Paul. That was why the Lord spoke about ***“the synagogue of Satan”***, in his address to the Second Church, the Smyrnaean Church, which gives us a parallel assembly, an assembly of tares in Smyrna, because Satan had already established his parallel assemblies. And that was precisely why, speaking specifically about the denunciation (the condemnation) of the two evil doctrines of Balaamism and Nicolaitanism, that the Lord had given to the Third Church Age, Brother Branham declared: ***“In this PERGAMEAN AGE the Lord denounces two doctrines which He hates: 1. The doctrine of Balaam which brought idolatry and sinful excesses to Israel at Baal-Peor, and 2. The doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which had been but deeds in the Ephesian Age. Combine this denouncement with***

***the fact that He has been emphasizing Pergamos as the seat of Satan, and it is very easy and proper to conclude that somehow the religion of Babylon has become intermingled with Christianity. Now this is not merely an assumption, but an historical fact”*** (of the Pergamean Age) ***“which we will prove by going back into history to about 36 A.D. and coming up to the Nicene Council of 325”,*** (in the Third Church Age). ***“When the Christians (mainly Jews by birth) were scattered abroad from Jerusalem, they went everywhere preaching the Gospel, particularly in the synagogues. Thus within three years, or about in 36 A.D. the Gospel had been taken to Rome by JUNIA and ANDRONICUS, who according to Romans 16:7, were Apostles. The work flourished there for several years until the constant altercations of the Jews amongst themselves caused Emperor Claudius to expel them from Rome. With the Jews banished from that city, the***

**backbone of that little Church was practically broken. Perhaps even the elders had been Jewish and so would be gone. The flock would be unattended, and since the Word had not been written as a guide, it would be very easy for this little flock to drift or be inundated by the philosophers and pagans of that day. With grievous wolves on the prowl, and the spirit of Antichrist released, we find from history that this little Church in Rome became hopelessly backslidden, and began to introduce pagan ceremonies under Christian titles. As the period of banishment lasted for 13 years, the founders, Junia and Andronicus, did not come back until 54 A.D. Imagine their horror to find a Church with a Christian title that was woefully pagan. There were altars in the Church upon which they placed incense and celebrated pagan rites. The established leaders of that Church could not be approached, so with the few who had tried to remain faithful they**

**started a New Church, or the Second Church of Rome. God graciously worked amongst them by signs and wonders so that a Third Church was started. And though the First Church was reproached for being pagan and NOT Christian in its worship, it would not give up its title but remained and STILL REMAINS the First Church of Rome — The Roman Catholic Church.”** (He said that, because that First Church in Rome, was what later evolved to become the Roman Catholic Church, the First Organised Church in the entire world! Brothers and sisters, we must not forget that in reality, as at 96 AD., what is now known as the Roman Catholic Church, “the Great Whore”, had not yet been formed, for it had not yet existed, and we must understand this fact as well! Brother Branham continued): **“Now the majority of us have the mistaken idea that any and all who call themselves Christians, would be the target of the devil and consequently t h e b r u n t o f governmental tyranny. But not so. This First**

**Church”** (in Rome) **“had begun to thrive and multiply so in numbers, that the emperors and various officials of the government actually favoured that Church for political reasons. Thus when the leaders of the First Church in Rome found themselves in favour, they took the opportunity to turn the government against the true believers and demand their persecution unless they came into their fold. One such bishop of the First Church of Rome was Anicetus who lived in the second century, and was contemporary with Polycarp. When the venerable Polycarp heard that the First Christian Church of Rome was involved in pagan ceremonies and had corrupted the truth of the Gospel, he went there to implore them to change. He saw them prostrate themselves before images named after apostles and saints. He saw them light candles and burn incense on the altar. He saw them celebrate the Passover under the name Easter, where they**

**elevated the disc shaped bread that honoured the sun god, and then they poured the wine out as a libation to the gods. But this aged saint who had travelled 1500 miles could not arrest their downward plunge. God spoke through him just as he was leaving, "Ephraim is married to his idols, let him alone," Hosea 4:7. Polycarp never more returned.**" (Moving further down in the message, Brother Branham said): **"Thus by the time of this Third Church Age, we have Two Churches bearing the same name, but with a bitter difference between them. One has departed from the truth, married idols, and has no life in her. She has hybridized herself and the signs of death, (not life), follow in her wake. She is powerful with many members. She is favoured by the world. The other is a little persecuted group. But she follows the Word, and the signs follow her. The sick are healed and the dead are raised. She is alive with the Life and Word of God. She loves not her life, but holds to His Name, and His faith**

**even unto death. And so the terrible persecution of official Rome fell upon the true believers, until Constantine arose and granted freedom of religious worship."** So, we can see that the devil had already started working feverishly on earth, from the First Age of Christendom, and had already established his counterfeit Churches, parallel Churches!

Brothers and sisters, we are considering the denunciation or the condemnation, which the Master gave *The Pergamean Church Age*, the Third Church Age, recorded in Revelation Chapter 2, verses 14-15: **"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. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate."** Now, as we warned earlier, and just as Brother Jackson has warned, it is

not every detail of prophetic events that we can tie to the local assembly of Jesus Christ in the city of Pergamos, because we are looking strictly at the reality of things that obtained within Christendom, in the Third Church Age, which brings us to the hour of Emperor Constantine, in the Fourth century. Do not forget, saints of God, that the Church in the city of Pergamos, only set a type of the corresponding Age for which it was chosen, and as we all know, or should know, a type only gives us a profile of something, and not the absolute details of that very thing! You cannot fight this truth, because the period of 96 AD., when this prophetic revelation was issued, still gives us The Original Pure Seed Age, and it gives us the Church which constitutes part of The Original Standard Church! Therefore, and as we have laid out earlier, in its application on a local level, we see there a few individuals being influenced negatively, yet, it was a development that flourished outside of the camp of the saints, for it flourished within the camp of the False Vine, just as

Brother Branham had projected, a spirit that was to take over Christendom in the Third Church Age, thus necessitating the prophetic rebuke of the Master, as something now affecting Christendom! Therefore, whichever way we consider it, we are looking essentially at conditions within the Third Church Age, which brings us directly to the hour of Emperor Constantine! Constantine, one of the four Roman emperors, under the Tetrarchy that Emperor Diocletian had established for the sake of easy governance of the large and unwieldy (difficult to manage) Roman Empire, desired to re-unify, and also become the sole emperor of the divided Roman Empire, after Diocletian had stepped down. As such, Constantine had to wage a battle against Maxentius, with whom he had shared the rulership of the Western Roman Empire, and Licinius, the emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire, had joined him in this battle. Whilst Constantine was deliberating on just how best to wage this war against Maxentius, and being very desperate to win

that war, he suddenly saw a vision, because Satan was going to use him as a major player, in realizing a crucial part of his evil ambition. Satan was going to use him to remove the division of the Church, who has always been a much hated and persecuted people, this way being a persecuted way, a way that is evil spoken of, a way that is called heresy, and make Christianity one of the acceptable religions of the Roman Empire, which was just the beginning, a very crucial step; because after its acceptance by the world, the False Church would eventually take over the Roman Beast Empire. Hence, in 312 AD., Satan made his move, and as Constantine was faced with the war with Maxentius, he saw a vision of a cross, and a voice spoke out of the sky, saying: ***"In hoc signo vinces"***, meaning, ***"By this sign you shall conquer"***; meaning that with the sign of the cross, Constantine would win that battle, and having had this experience, he took it that the God of the Christians was speaking to him. In the book titled, *Eusebius, The Church History*, by Paul L.

Maier, it said that: ***"Eusebius claims that he was responding to the vision of a cross of light that he and his army had seen one afternoon on the march, followed by a dream in which Christ appeared to him."*** Therefore, the following day, he instructed all his soldiers to paint the sign of the cross on their shields and helmets, and he was successful in that battle. He further added Christianity to the many religions of the State, and he stopped the persecution of Christians, but we must also note that he was not baptized until he was just about to die, and on his death bed, for he was not a true convert! Following his victory over Maxentius in 312 AD., making him the sole Emperor of the Western Roman Empire, which he had shared with Maxentius before that defeat, the following year, 313 AD., he worked in agreement with Licinius, the Emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire, and issued an edict, the ***"Edict of Milan"***, guaranteeing permanent religious toleration for Christians all over the Roman Empire. And with the ***"Edict of***

**Milan**", the properties and lands of the Churches were returned, and Constantine doled out a lot of cash to the bishops, lavishing them with the money of the State, and with many other privileges. Brothers and sisters, in that day, the mass population that Christianity had, due to the mass conversion that God instituted right from the First Age, became an attractive reason for politicians to court the support of the Church, and as such, following the stand and support that Emperor Constantine gave to the Christians, the Roman politicians started pouring into the Church without any true conversion, and they lavished property, money, and legal privileges on the Church, particularly its clergy. For instance, by the Edict of Milan, the Christian clergy was immune from military duty and taxes, amongst many other privileges. Saints, do not forget, that we are looking at the reality of the state of Christendom in that third century, which is the Third Church Age, the Pergamean Church Age, which brings us to the hour of Constantine. The main

point is this, with the great support that the bishops received from the Roman State, and with their influence having now greatly increased, they lived very large; they lived luxuriously in palatial mansions, and a great gulf was now created between the clergy and the laity. This most carnal and evil development, took away the priesthood of ALL believers, because they created a special class of priests, even as the Book of Revelation Chapter 1, verse 6, declares, beginning from verse 4, which states: ***"John to the Seven Churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before His throne; And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood"***, (and listen to this): ***"And hath made us"*** (who are believers), ***"KINGS and PRIESTS unto God and his Father;***

***to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."*** ***THIS VERSE OF SCRIPTURE GIVES US THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS!*** It is this common priesthood that was now shattered in the hour of Constantine, in that Third Church Age of Christendom, as the Church of Rome, had now become the dominant Church, with the true Christians forced underground, created a different and separate set of priests, contrary to the Word of God, and relegated all the other priests of God, the true believers, as laity, to be dominated and subjugated, ruled with fear, conquered into submission to the whims of the so-called ruling priests! This is the Nicolaitan doctrine! Hence, in Revelation Chapter 2, verses 14-15, the Master warned the Church in Pergamos, speaking dispensationally: ***"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. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.***

Before we consider the doctrine of Balaam, brothers and sisters, let us begin with the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, a doctrine which was only an act in the First Church Age, has now, in the Pergamean Church Age, blossomed into an established and recognised doctrine. As the prophet to this Last Age stated: ***“You will recall that I brought out in the Ephesian Age that the word, Nicolaitane, comes from two Greek words: Nikao which means to conquer, and Lao which means the laity. Nicolaitane means, “to conquer the laity.” Now why is this such a terrible thing? It is terrible because God has never placed His Church in the hands of an ELECTED LEADERSHIP WHICH MOVES WITH POLITICAL MINDEDNESS. HE HAS PLACED HIS CHURCH IN THE CARE OF GOD-ORDAINED, SPIRIT-FILLED, WORD-LIVING MEN, WHO LEAD THE***

***PEOPLE THROUGH FEEDING THEM THE WORD. He has not separated the people into classes so that the masses are led by a holy priesthood. It is true that the leadership must be holy, but then so must be the whole congregation. FURTHER, THERE IS NO PLACE IN THE WORD WHERE PRIESTS OR MINISTERS OR SUCH MEDIATE BETWEEN GOD AND THE PEOPLE”,*** (AS THAT ONLY BRINGS US BACK TO THE AARONIC ORDER, WHICH HAS BEEN SET ASIDE), ***“NOR IS THERE A PLACE WHERE THEY ARE SEPARATED IN THEIR WORSHIP OF THE LORD. GOD WANTS ALL TO LOVE AND SERVE HIM TOGETHER. NICOLAITANISM DESTROYS THOSE PRECEPTS AND INSTEAD SEPARATES THE MINISTERS FROM THE PEOPLE, AND MAKES THE LEADERS OVERLORDS INSTEAD OF SERVANTS. Now this doctrine actually started as a deed in the First Age.”*** That was why Brother Branham also concluded under the Smyrnaean Church Age:

***“PUT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOLY GHOST ASIDE, AND THE CHURCH IS NOTHING BUT THE WORLD WITH GOD'S NAME ATTACHED TO IT.”*** And that is the absolute truth! Still speaking about this doctrine of the Nicolaitans, teaching under *The Ephesian Church Age*, Brother Branham had this to say: ***“Now I want to say that I believe in leadership. But it is not the leadership of men I believe in. I BELIEVE IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOLY GHOST COMING THROUGH THE WORD”,*** (AS EVERY TRUE SPIRIT MUST BE SUBJECT TO THE HOLY WORD OF GOD). ***“I believe also, that God has set men in the Church, men who are gifted by the Spirit; and they will keep the Church in Order”,*** (totally in line with the Holy Scriptures). ***“I believe that. I believe also that the Church is ruled over by men that God sends to take charge. BUT THAT RULE IS BY THE WORD, SO THAT IT IS NOT MEN REALLY RULING, BUT THE SPIRIT OF GOD, FOR THE WORD AND SPIRIT ARE***

**ONE. Hebrews 13:7, "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation." But see what was happening back there. That False Vine was getting a hold and it was teaching that rulership by man was right. It taught that the Church had to be governed. It taught a control over the people, but instead of doing it God's way, they simply took authority and vested all the spiritual power in their own hands, and came out with a holy priesthood standing between God and the people", (as mediators). "They went right back to the old Aaronic system. **THEY BECAME ANTICHRIST, FOR THEY DISPOSED OF HIS MEDIATORSHIP**" (THROUGH JESUS CHRIST), **"AND IMPOSED THEIR OWN. God hated that. The Ephesians hated that, and any true believer will hate it too. We would have to be stone blind not to see that same thing at work all through the****

**Ages, and right now it is the worst of all. What it was, was Organization. That separated the people. God's people are supposed to be ONE. By ONE Spirit are they ALL baptized into ONE BODY and EVERYONE is to be moved upon by the Holy Ghost and EVERYONE is to participate in the worship of God. But men wanted the pre-eminence, so they took over control, and bishops became archbishops, and with imposing titles they bypassed the Word of God and taught their own doctrines. They got the people to obey them, until the time came that their way of worship did not in any way at all resemble the early days after Pentecost."** This is the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, and we have to see that this evil development, brings us to the Third Church Age, because they were only representative of the Age they corresponded to, the Age when we would see that evil spirit in full bloom. That was why under the Ephesian Church Age, Brother Branham further stated: **"... For whatever**

**starts in the Early Church must continue in every Age, until it is finally blessed and exalted by God, OR destroyed as an unclean thing in the Lake of Fire... Note that in Revelation 2:2, the Ephesian Church could NOT BEAR the evil ones. They thus had to put them out, or it would not make sense to say they could not bear them. If they did not put them out, then they were bearing them. Now in verse 6, it says that they hated their deeds. SO THIS NICOLAITANE GROUP REMAINED A PART OF THE FIRST AGE, doing their deeds. The deeds were hated, BUT THE PEOPLE WERE NOT RENDERED IMPOTENT", (because they continued to exist as a separate body, outside of the True Church, just bidding their time for the full onslaught, when they would finally take over, which they eventually did! The prophet continued): **"Thus we see seeds in Ephesus that will continue, and will become a doctrine that will go right up to, and into, the Lake of Fire."** (That is the truth! Moving down a little, Brother**

Branham now warned, in a quote we need to straighten out scripturally, saying): ***“Now to get the real meaning of what we are about to go into, I must caution you to ever keep in mind that religion (spiritual matters if you like), is composed of two parts that intertwine, but are as opposite as black and white. Religion and the spiritual world are made of those two trees which had their roots in Eden. Both the Tree Of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil stood in the midst of the garden, and no doubt their very branches intertwined each other.”*** (Brother Branham said that figuratively, and it can only be taken strictly in a figurative way, and not literally, because literally speaking, it is not so, for the two trees in the midst of the garden of Eden did not intertwine, and were not intertwined, being two different and distinct trees, being two different and distinct laws, though related to the same act. We cannot use the two trees in the garden of Eden to project the two vines; it is Cain and Abel that can be used to project these two

vines. But Brother Branham continued, declaring): ***“Thus in the Ephesian Church is that same paradox. The Church is made up of good and bad. Two vines make the Church”***, (which is true generally speaking; but it is not true of the Ephesian Church, the Pure Seed Church. Because the intertwining of the two seeds, “good and bad”, is only applicable, Not from the Ephesian Church Age, But from the beginning of the Second Church Age, the Smyrnaean Church Age, when the tares grew, and bore fruits, and their evil presence were now discovered among the wheat seeds of God, by the Second Age ministry, and as at that time, grew together side by side, the tares having been planted towards the ending of the First Church Age, right after ***“Men slept”***, the original apostolic guardians of the true faith of Jesus Christ! This fact is scripturally incontestable, because the Church started with only Pure Seeds, Wheat Seeds, as Matthew 13:24-25 confirms! The prophet continued, and please listen closely to this truth): ***“They are like the wheat***

***and tares, growing up side by side. But one is the TRUE. The other is the FALSE. NOW GOD WILL SPEAK TO EACH ONE AND HE WILL TALK ABOUT EACH ONE. HE WILL CALL THEM THE C H U R C H ”*** ( I N PROPHECY, BEGINNING FROM THE SECOND AGE OF CHRISTENDOM). ***“AND ONLY THE ELECT WILL REALLY KNOW WHICH IS THE TRUE SPIRIT. Only the elect will not be deceived. Matthew 24:24, “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”*** (Now listen again to what Brother Branham said): ***“So way back there in the Early Church (a very short period after Pentecost), the false vine got to intertwine itself around the True Vine, and we find these deeds of the Nicolaitanes.”*** (Brothers and sisters, that is not so, because the False Vine only got to intertwine itself around the True Vine, from the Second Age of Christendom, and it was to remain so until this end time of harvest, when

the Lord will institute a great move of separation, as Matthew 13:27-30 confirms, even though the Nicolaitans were already on ground in the First Age, bearing their evil “deeds”, being a parallel assembly, just as Brother Branham himself had earlier stated. The prophet concluded: **“And that spirit”,** (the evil spirit in the False Vine), **“is going to be found fighting the True Vine until it is destroyed by God”,** (which is the absolute truth). We must also note, brothers and sisters, that it is not the True Vine that persecutes the False Vine, and neither can an Elect persecute an Elect, being the same seed; but it is the False Vine that always persecutes, and will always persecute the True Vine, until the False Vine is judged and destroyed. We have had to take this route, because we must understand, that scripturally speaking, the deeds of the Nicolaitans that was addressed in the Ephesian Age, does not, as yet, give us the intertwining of the two seeds, as it is only from the Second Church Age that the intertwining really began, particularly in the Third

Church Age, the Pergamean Age, when we see this intertwining fully matured, and hence, the Lord refers to both vines as Church! That is precisely why in Revelation Chapter 2, verses 14-15, the Lord is speaking about the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, as well as the doctrine of Balaam, addressing the Church as though the two seeds are ONE! We are looking at the evil doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church, for she is the introducer and propagator, not only of the Nicolaitan doctrine, but also of the doctrine of Balaam, in Christendom, and this prophetic passage brings us directly to the Pergamean Church Age! In other words, what amounts to a deed or an act, in the Ephesian Church Age, had now become an established and prevailing doctrine, in the Pergamean Church Age.

Brothers and sisters, it was in this Third Church Age, that the priests of the Church of Rome, following the way of the Buddhist monks, began living in seclusion, contrary to the direct commission the Lord had given the ministry, which required going out

into the world to preach the Gospel, being a light in a dark world, that is, being a light in the midst of the unbelieving people of the world! In Mark Chapter 16, verse 15, it is written clearly and categorically: **“And he said unto them, GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD, AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE.”** In Matthew Chapter 28, the Holy Bible declares in verse 19: **“Go ye therefore”** (into the world), **“and teach ALL Nations.”** Look at what our Lord Jesus also stated in John Chapter 17, verses 15-18: **“I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, BUT THAT THOU SHOULDEST KEEP THEM FROM THE EVIL”,** (WHILST THEY ARE LIVING IN THE WORLD, RIGHT IN THE MIDST OF UNBELIEVERS). **“They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also SENT THEM INTO THE WORLD.”** Hence, in Matthew Chapter 5, verses 14-16, the Lord admonished: **“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and**

***put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN***” (AMONGST WHO WE LIVE), ***“THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS, AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN.”*** Saints of God, in that day, an equal priesthood of ALL believers was already broken, separating the clergy (or ministry) totally from the laity, causing the clergy to live in seclusion from the rest of the body of saints, just as the sect of the *Essenes* did, by separating themselves from the general society of Jewry, living in total seclusion, being nothing than a ***“holier than thou”*** bunch of people, a stench in the nostrils of God! (Isaiah 65:5). I say that because in the Pergamean Church Age, brothers and sisters, here came the spirit of the Antichrist, and what did he do? He took the way of life of the Buddhist monks, and created a class of priests who lived ascetic lives, a life of rigorous self-discipline, under the false basis that John the Baptist lived in seclusion in the wilderness, which he did, but only before the hour of his showing to the nation of Israel, and despite the fact

that when his ministry started, John the Baptist lived and ministered in the open world of Jewry, and not in seclusion! And despite the fact that it was also against the direct commission the Lord Jesus gave the New Testament Ministry, nonetheless, they created what is called Monasteries for men, and Nunneries for women. The *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, has this to say of Monasticism, and please note that ALL emphasis is mine: ***“Monasticism emerged in the late 3rd century and had become an established institution in the Christian Church by the 4th century. The first Christian monks, who had developed an enthusiasm for asceticism, appeared in Egypt and Syria. Notably including St. Anthony, the founder of Christian monasticism, they appeared as solitary figures who, out of a desire for further and more advanced isolation, established themselves in tombs, in abandoned or half-deteriorated human settlements, in caves, and, finally, in the wilderness of the desert to do battle against the desires of the flesh and the wiles of the devil.”*** (Saints of God, this carnal religiously motivated move,

*totally nullifies the redeeming power that we have in the Gospel of Jesus Christ; it negates the need for the crucified Christ, and it side-lines the delivering power of the Holy Spirit, for they now started using the power of the flesh, the will of man, to war against the flesh and the devil, which is spiritually worthless, as they have absolutely no redeeming value! However, the Encyclopaedia Britannica continued): “Soon there were great numbers of desert anchorites, living solitary lives of devotion to God and coming together for weekly prayer services. The pious lifestyle of these earliest holy men attracted numerous imitators and admirers. Certain writings that captured the spirit of monasticism were essential for the development of this way of life in the Church. Athanasius of Alexandria, the 4th century's most significant bishop spiritually and in terms of ecclesiastical politics”, (and who was the proposer of the Trinity Doctrine at the Nicene Council of 325 AD.), “wrote THE LIFE OF ST. ANTONY, which described the eremitic*

**(hermit) life in the desert and the awesome struggle of ascetics with demons AS THE MODEL OF THE LIFE OF CHRISTIAN PERFECTION.** The Life had a profound impact on its many readers and was one of the first great testimonials praising the emerging monastic tradition. A former Roman soldier of the 4th century, Pachomius, created the first cenobitic, or communal, monastery. He united the monks under one roof and one abbot (father, or leader). In 323 he founded the first true monastic cloister in Tabennisi, north of Thebes, in Egypt, and joined together houses of 30 to 40 monks, each with its own superior. Pachomius also created a monastic rule, though it served more as a regulation of external monastic life than as spiritual guidance. During the remainder of the 4th century, monasticism soon developed in areas outside Egypt. **Athanasius brought the monastic rule of Pachomius to the West during his banishment (340–346) to Trier, Germany—as a result of his opposition to the**

**imperially sanctioned doctrines of Arianism. Mar Awgin, a Syrian monk, introduced the monastic rule in Mesopotamia, and Jerome established a monastic cloister in Bethlehem. Basil the Great, one of the three Cappadocian Fathers of the 4th century, definitively shaped monastic community life in the Byzantine Church. His ascetic writings furnished the Theodosius I, logical and instructional foundation for the “common life” (cenobitism) of monks. He was the creator of a monastic rule that, through constant variations and modifications, became authoritative for later Orthodox monasticism. The Rule of Basil has preserved the Orthodox combination of asceticism and mysticism into the 21st century.** I like the way Wikipedia presented the case of Pachomius, a Roman Catholic priest, and the man who took this hermitic way of life, and established the model order for monks living in seclusion, yet in a community, with set rules, but requiring obedience. Are you listening to me? They took vows of

obedience to the order. That was what St. Benedict later adopted to form his own order, the Benedictine Order, and monasteries grew from thereon, all over the globe. Wikipedia has this to say: **“In 346 St Pachomius established in Egypt the first cenobitic”** (communal) **“Christian monastery. At Tabenna in Upper Egypt, sometime around 323 AD, Pachomius decided to mold his disciples into a more organized community in which the monks lived in individual huts or rooms (cellula in Latin,) but worked, ate, and worshipped in shared space. The intention was to bring together individual ascetics who, although pious, did not, like Saint Anthony, have the physical ability or skills to live a solitary existence in the desert. This method of monastic organization is called cenobitic or “communal”. In Catholic theology, this community-based living is considered superior because of the obedience practiced and the accountability offered. The head of a monastery came to be known by the word for “Father”—in Syriac, Abba; in English,**

**“Abbot”. Guidelines for daily life were created, and separate monasteries were created for men and women. St Pachomius introduced a monastic Rule of cenobitic life, giving everyone the same food and attire. The monks of the monastery fulfilled the obediences assigned them for the common good of the monastery. Among the various obediences was copying books. St Pachomius considered that an obedience fulfilled with zeal was greater than fasting or prayer. A Pachomian monastery was a collection of buildings surrounded by a wall. The monks were distributed in houses, each house containing about forty monks. There would be thirty to forty houses in a monastery. There was an abbot over each monastery, and provosts with subordinate officials over each house. The monks were divided into houses according to the work they were employed in: thus there would be a house for carpenters, a house for agriculturists, and so forth. But other principles of division seem to have been employed, e.g., there was**

**a house for the Greeks. On Saturdays and Sundays all the monks assembled in the Church for Mass; on other days the Office and other spiritual exercises were celebrated in the houses. From a secular point of view, a monastery was an industrial community in which almost every kind of trade was practised. This, of course, involved much buying and selling, so the monks had ships of their own on the Nile, which conveyed their agricultural produce and manufactured goods to the market and brought back what the monasteries required. From the spiritual point of view, the Pachomian monk was a religious living under a rule. The community of Pachomius was so successful he was called upon to help organize others, and by one count by the time he died in 346 there were thought to be 3,000 such communities dotting Egypt, especially in the Thebaid. From there monasticism quickly spread out first to Palestine and the Judean Desert, Syria, North Africa and eventually the rest of the Roman Empire. In 370 Basil the Great, monastic founder in Cappadocia, became**

**bishop of Caesarea and wrote principles of ascetic life. Eastern monastic teachings were brought to the western Church by Saint John Cassian (c. 360 – c. 435). As a young adult, he and his friend Germanus entered a monastery in Palestine but then journeyed to Egypt to visit the eremitic groups in Nitria. Many years later, Cassian founded a monastery of monks and probably also one of nuns near Marseilles. He wrote two long works, the Institutes and Conferences. In these books he not only transmitted his Egyptian experience but also gave Christian monasticism a profound evangelical and theological basis. At the time of his conversion in Milan in the years 386–387, Augustine was aware of the life of Saint Anthony in the desert of Egypt. Upon his return to Africa as a Christian in the year 388, however, Augustine and a few Christian friends founded at Thagaste a lay community. They became cenobites in the countryside rather than in the desert. Saint Benedict (c. 480–547 AD) lived for many years as a hermit in a cave near**

**Subiaco, Italy. He was asked to be head over several monks who wished to change to the monastic style of Pachomius by living in community. Between the years 530 and 560, he wrote the Rule of Saint Benedict as a guideline for monks living in community.**

May I remind you that Martin Luther, the father of the Reformation, belonged to the Augustinian order, out from which he was called, because God uses everything to serve His divine purpose. We can all see, therefore, that ascetic living, out of which came monasticism, started in Egypt, where there were even women ascetics, such as the famous Saint Mary of Egypt, 344 AD – 421 AD., a reformed prostitute, who spent seventeen years in the desert. We went into this subject, simply to help the body of saints understand monasticism, which the Church of Rome established all over creation within Christendom, particularly from the Dark Ages, in the next Church Age, the Thyatirean Church Age, for it was really in the Fourth Church Age, that Roman Catholicism ran with monasticism. Church, that was Satan's move, one

which has no precedence in the New Testament Church, because the devil took the priesthood of ALL believers, broke it up to create a special priesthood that was separate, high and above the Church of God, and the laity needed to listen to them, bow to them, even though it had no Bible base. There were monasteries created for monks, and Nunneries created for nuns, and may I add, that a lot of evil went on in those monasteries, abuses of every kind, as they were unconverted people, living by religious rules that totally negated the redeeming truth of Jesus Christ! Hence, a lot of sodomy (homosexuality) and fornication went on, and only God knows how many nuns were badly abused by priests through the centuries of time, used as sex slaves, with many of them ending up with unwanted babies, who were aborted and buried under the monasteries; as well as the fact that, the priests also produced wine, which they were allowed to drink, and so it is to be expected, there would have been a lot of drunkenness going on; however, we will not go into all that at this time. Nevertheless, I am making a point, it is that when we come to the Pergamean

Church Age, monasteries were being established all over creation in Christendom, with the housing of monks and nuns in those places, and this move of the devil tore down the Word-based, Spirit filled, and Spirit led Ephesian Fivefold Ministry, that God had established to rule the Church! So, already in the Pergamean Age, ever before we come to the Fourth Church Age, these things were going on, for the devil had already taken out the true ministry, and had established a Nicolaitan ministry, one that we see up to this day in the Roman Catholic Church, and one that also formed the foundation for the ministry of her harlot daughters, daughters we will consider in the next Church Age.

Church, let us come back to, and take a look, at the other evil doctrine, that the Lord declared in Revelation Chapter 2, verse 14, saying: ***“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.”*** So, what is

the doctrine of Balaam? The doctrine of Balaam is his revelation, his evil and perverse teaching, for as the Lord revealed in the same prophecy, Balaam taught Balak, the king of Moab, **“to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, AND to commit fornication.”** Before we give a breakdown of this doctrine, it is important to also point out, that on the same grounds we gave earlier, we must look at this prophecy majorly from its dispensational application, much more than from its local assembly application. Back in the Book of Numbers Chapter 22, as the children of Israel came out of Egypt on their way to the Promised Land, Balak, the king of Moab, hired Balaam the prophet to curse the children of Israel for him, so he could defeat them, because he was sore afraid of them, on account of how they were able to conquer many other nations. Therefore, Balaam sought the face of God on this request, but God told him that he could not, and **“shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed.”** Balaam was not

happy with the instruction that God had given him, particularly as Balak had promised him fame and fortune. And after God had consistently refused his evil request, Balaam now taught Balak what to do, devising an evil plan that would have the same effect as if he had cursed them, and that was to push the children of Israel to commit iniquity (immorality) and idolatry, knowing full well that the wrath of God would then break out upon them. And exactly what was this evil scheme? In Revelation Chapter 2, we are given a glimpse into his evil plan, which is his teaching, his error, as verse 14 states: **“... 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.”** So, his doctrine, which is his erroneous teaching, is that he taught Balak to cause the seduction of the children of Israel into idolatry and fornication, and we have this account in Numbers Chapter 25, beginning from verse 1, which records: **“And Israel abode in Shittim, and the**

**people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. And they”** (the Moabites) **“called the people”**, (the children of Israel), **“unto the sacrifices of their gods”**, (urging them that they were one, and that there was nothing wrong in just coming to fellowship, for they were to show love, using the daughters of Moab as bait): **“and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: AND THE ANGER OF THE LORD WAS KINDLED AGAINST ISRAEL. And the Lord said unto Moses, Take ALL the heads of the people, and hang them up before the Lord against the sun, that the fierce anger of the Lord may be turned away from Israel. And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor. And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before**

***the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel. And those that died IN THE PLAGUE were twenty and four thousand. And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy. Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace: And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.*** This very event, was what

Apostle Paul described in 1 Corinthians Chapter 10:7, saying that the children of Israel ***“sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play”***, when they should have known better, because of God's pure hatred for idolatry and lewd living, which is fornication, and because it equally broke God's law of separation, as it is written, ***“Two cannot walk together, except they be agreed on the strict basis of the Word of God”***! (Amos 3:3). Brothers and sisters, still speaking on the same matter of Balaam, coming to the Epistle of Jude Chapter 1, beginning from verse 11, Apostle Jude bluntly declared: ***“Woe unto THEM”***, (the Tare Preachers of his day, in that First Age, although it also applies to the tares in every Age, particularly in this Last Age), ***“FOR THEY have gone in the Way of Cain”***, (which is worship that is totally opposed to the revelation of God, for it is strictly of self, self-devised worship; worship that is of the will of man, and not of God), ***“AND ran greedily after the Error of Balaam for reward”***, (which are their False Teachings, by which they make

merchandise of the Word of God. Remember, the error of Balaam is his evil teaching, which he devised out of covetousness, purely for material gain, and by which the Word of God was overturned), ***“AND perished in the Gainsaying of Core”***, (which was Korah's presumptuousness, by which he intruded into the ministry and service of God, contrary to God's will, and in defiance of God's divine ministry order). Apostle Jude also added, declaring about these same characters, the tare preachers, ***“Balaams”***, men who were inspired by the spirit of the Antichrist, and who were roaming the lands, right from his own hour of time, saying): ***“These are spots”*** (blemishes) ***“in your feasts of charity”***, (blemishes in your fellowship of love), ***“when they feast with you”***, (meaning, when they fellowship with you, the saints of God, the true believers, for they are tares), ***“feeding themselves without fear”*** (with untruths, godless teachings which they love and peddle): ***“clouds they are without water”***, (totally

empty of the revelation of God, and also completely devoid of the Spirit of God), **“carried about of winds”** (of demonic doctrines of all sorts); **“trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots”**, (for they are false vines, fruitless and dead, vines meant to be uprooted and burnt); **“Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars”**, (having no anchor, blown from place to place, always leaving one error for yet another error, for they are never established in the truth), **“to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever”**, (evil vines reserved for the Lake of Fire). My, oh my! What a hot message was directed at the tares in that Ephesian Age! It was because the white horse rider, who is the spirit of the Anti-Christ, was already on the loose in that First Age of Christendom, and here in this passage of Scripture written by Saint Jude, we have the **“Lion”** Anointing, the Lion Spirit, lifting up a standard against the move of the Antichrist, checkmating the move of the devil in that day! So, we can clearly see, that **“the**

**Doctrine of Balaam”**, also scripturally called **“the Error of Balaam”**, is his False and Seducing Doctrine, which led the saints into spiritual Idolatry and Fornication, for it is one that overturns the Word of God!

Brothers and sisters, when we put these two evil doctrines, **“the doctrine of Balaam”**, which is the total overturning of the Word, giving us spiritual fornication and idolatry, **AND “the doctrine of the Nicolaitans”**, which is the total subjugation of the children of God by a new crop of ministry called the clergy, the priests, together, they let us see that THE PERGAMEAN AGE, WAS AN AGE THAT WAS TOTALLY GIVEN OVER TO SPIRITUAL IDOLATRY AND FORNICATION, AND IN THAT AGE, WE SEE THE FALSE CHURCH IN HER FULL BLOOM. It was an Age when lords were set over God's heritage, and we have to look at it through the lens of the False Vine, for it was the workings of the False Vine, who had taken over Christendom, and had created this evil development that the Spirit of the Lord was screaming

against in prophecy. As we stated earlier, in this local assembly in Pergamos, an assembly situated right in the midst of idolaters, those who practised fornication as part of their idolatrous celebrations, there were a number of Gentile saints, who were converts from paganism, some of who were being influenced by idolaters, tare preachers in that city, because the spirit of the Antichrist was seriously barraging the Church, earnestly seeking entrance in that First Age of Christendom, and the Lord was lifting up a standard against them in that hour of time, with this prophetic standard. It was just like what happened at *Baalpeor*, right under the ministry of Moses, a scenario we just considered, when through the evil teaching of Balaam, the plea of carnal oneness and carnal love, was used to get the children of Israel to attend the idolatrous and erotic feast. And when they got to the fellowship, the Moabite and Midianite women seduced the children of Israel into idolatry and fornication, with the use of the naked exposure of their flesh, and with their most alluring

erotic dances, and God had to judge it right there and then, putting an end to it, and Moses called for the heads of those involved in that idolatrous and lewd celebration, which nullified the separation of the true believers. Hence, Brother Jackson stated: ***“So this practice in the Church at Pergamos was not something new that the devil had cooked up, it was a carryover from centuries past. Gentiles, before receiving the Gospel, had always lived like that. This is why the brethren at Jerusalem gave Paul such a set of instructions concerning Gentiles that had received the Gospel. In Acts 15:19 & 20, we read it. “Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollution of idols and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.” Some of the brethren felt that Gentile believers should be circumcised and commanded to keep the law of Moses, but Peter reminded them that God***

***does not require such a yoke to be placed around the necks of Gentile believers, and reminds them of the fact that even Jews who had been raised to keep the law, could not bear such a yoke. Therefore they all finally agreed upon these very important basic instructions. Keep away from fornication, abstain from idol worship, do not eat meat that has been strangled to death, and do not drink blood. These were all things that were very common to pagans, and that is exactly what Gentiles were before they were converted to Christianity.”*** As such, it was easy for the devil to use these old acceptable practises of the people, to entice weak believers away from the righteous ways, particularly if they were not being watchful (alert). This reminds us of the situation that developed in the Church in Corinth, when some saints, no doubt, were also influenced to eat meat sacrificed to idols, and when Apostle Paul was informed about this development, he had to write to deal with it in 1 Corinthians Chapter 8, in order to put an end to any

such conduct, because we are looking at the conduct of a few brethren, and not the manner of the general body of saints, as there is always those weak ones, particularly as time had now set in, in that First Age of Christendom, when Saint John received the prophetic address. It is just as Brother Jackson also pointed out: ***“As we said earlier, This Church had only been in existence about 40 years at the time of this letter, and they already had these two conditions among them, THAT ACTUALLY DID NOT HIT UNIVERSAL CHRISTENDOM UNTIL THE 3RD AGE. It just goes to show, that some congregations are easier for tares to slip into than others. It also confirms something that other studies have revealed. That is this. Forty years of time is just about what it takes, or we will say, is all the time that is needed for any group of people to reach a peak, or point where they will either go on with great determination, or start to deteriorate. The devilish city where they were located had a lot to do with their standards of***

**morality, for Satan was continually bombarding them with every kind of perversion that could be imagined. Sooner or later, that sort of thing will bear an influence on a congregation. The Lord said, You have there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam. That means that there were people in that congregation that actually believed and upheld this doctrine of Balaam...** It also lets us see that forty years on, the second generation of believers were not as revealed and as alert as the first generation of believers. Nevertheless, we must know that this evil spirit was dealt with in that day, following this prophetic address, and was pushed out of the Church in Pergamos, just as Prophet Moses had done in his day; but it would not be for long, because, with the death of the old original guards, the apostolic guards, the devil was now able to sow tares, and eventually in the Third Church Age, with the tares sown, we now had the universal condition of the evil things expressed in a small measure in the

Church in Pergamos. The two great evils took root and blossomed, and it was what pervaded the Pergamean Church Age, in that Fourth century of Christendom, when Christendom went completely into apostasy, given over to spiritual I D O L A T R Y a n d F O R N I C A T I O N. It is clearly written in 1 Samuel Chapter 15, verses 22-23: **“And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion”** (against the Word of God), **“is as the sin of WITCHCRAFT, and stubbornness”** (against the Word of God), **“is as INIQUITY and IDOLATRY. Because thou hast rejected the Word of the Lord, He hath also rejected thee from being king.”** Period! This passage of Scripture, brothers and sisters, lets us see that indeed, the Pergamean Age was guilty of spiritual Witchcraft and Idolatry, and it is the hallmark of the False Vine, the False Church, the Evil

Church of the Antichrist, which had now come of age.

In concluding our consideration of **“the doctrine of the Nicolaitans”**, we saw earlier, that with Emperor Constantine's false conversion, Christianity was included as one of the religions that the State recognised. And because Christianity had grown tremendously, numerically speaking, money, properties, as well as great privileges, were lavished on the clergy, and the support of the Christians were eagerly sought after by the politicians, for their personal political gain. This brought a lot of politicians into Christianity, as they knew that Constantine favoured Christianity, but a lot of them were unconverted pagans. This made the bishop of Rome, who, before the third century, was only one of the many bishops in Christendom, to have pre-eminence, as he was highly esteemed by the political leadership of the Roman Empire, and hence, he was looked up to, by carnal Christendom. A ministry hierarchy was then

developed with priests, over whom were bishops, over whom were archbishops, over whom were cardinals, and over whom was the Pontiff of Rome, the Pope, whom they falsely claim sits in the seat of Apostle Peter, in their deceitful, unscriptural, and baseless doctrine of apostolic succession, an evil reality that obtains as we speak this very day. The Ephesian Ministry of Holy Ghost filled, Holy Ghost led, and Word ruled men, which God established over His Church, the Early Church, was taken out, and in its place, was this apostate and Nicolaitan class of clergy, men ruling contrary to the Word of God, devoid of the revelation of truth, and without any ounce of the Spirit of God. The words and doctrines of men replaced the Word of God, as men, speaking with great impudence, took the place of Jesus Christ, making rules of faith that was Satan inspired, which the people were forced to live by, or they faced the wrath of this False Church. Brothers and sisters, the Roman Catholic Church considered the issue of the Nicolaitans during the

Council of Trent, held between 1543 AD and 1564 AD., and their position was this: ***“If anyone shall say that there is not in the Catholic Church a hierarchy established by the divine ordination, consisting of bishops, presbyters and ministers, let him be anathema.”*** Saints of God, we just have to see, that the entire leadership structure of the Church of Rome, thrives and subsists on Nicolaitanism, and is totally Nicolaitan, and the same is true with ALL the other Denominations, because they too are ALL organised systems of religion, and are ALL daughters of the Church of Rome, who have had to twist the Holy Bible, in order to produce their false class of ministry, one that is purely and inherently Nicolaitan. It is just as Brother Branham stated: ***“It appears that the problem lay in two words: “elders” (presbyters) and “overseers” (bishops). Though Scripture shows that there are several elders in each Church, some began (Ignatius among them) to teach that the idea of a bishop was one of preeminence***

***or authority and control over the elders. Now the truth of the matter is the word “elder” signifies who the person is, while the word “bishop” signifies the office of the same man.”*** (Saints, I want you all to please note that the word “*bishop*”, although it indeed speaks of an office holder, nevertheless, it is still only a title; it is just a title, because it does not give us the specific office that a man occupies within the Ephesian Fivefold Ministry. That was why in Acts 1:20, “*bishopric*” was used for Judas, who occupied the office of an apostle, and yet again, in 1 Timothy 3:1, “*bishop*” is also used for a local pastor. So, we can all see that the term “*bishop*”, is still only a title for any man who holds any office within the Fivefold Ministry. I have touched on that just to set the record straight, as it does not take away the truth that Brother Branham was establishing right here. He continued): ***“The elder is the man. Bishop is the office of the man. “Elder” always has and always will refer simply to a man's chronological age in the Lord. He is an elder, not because he is elected***

or ordained, etcetera, but because he IS OLDER” (IN THE FAITH). “He is more seasoned, trained, not a novice, reliable because of experience and long standing proof of his Christian experience. But no, the bishops did not stick to the Epistles of Paul, but rather they went to Paul's account of the time he called the elders from Ephesus to Miletus in Acts 20. In verse 17, the record states, “elders” were called, and then in verse 28, they are called overseers (bishops). And these bishops, (no doubt, political minded and anxious for power), insisted that Paul had given the meaning that “overseers” were more than the local elder with official capacity only in his own Church. To them, a bishop was now one with extended authority over many local leaders. Such a concept was neither Scriptural nor historical, yet even a man of the stature of Polycarp leaned toward such organization. Thus, that which started as a deed in the First Age was made a literal doctrine, and so it is today. Bishops still

claim power to control men and deal with them as they desire, placing them where they so will in the ministry. THIS DENIES THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOLY GHOST WHO SAID, “SEPARATE ME PAUL AND BARNABAS FOR THE WORK WHEREUNTO I HAVE CALLED THEM.” This is Anti-Word and Anti-Christ. Matthew 20:25-28, “But Jesus called them unto Him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matthew 23:8-9, “But be not ye called Rabbi: for One is your Master, even Christ; AND ALL YE ARE BRETHREN. AND CALL NO MAN YOUR FATHER UPON THE EARTH: FOR ONE IS YOUR FATHER,

WHICH IS IN HEAVEN.” (Moving two paragraphs down, the prophet stated): “Now it is a well known historical fact that when this error crept into the Church, men began to vie for the office of bishop, with the result that this position was being given to the more educated and materially-progressive and politically-minded men. Human knowledge and program began to take over Divine wisdom's place, and the Holy Spirit no longer controlled. This was indeed a tragic evil, for the bishops began to maintain that it no longer required a transparent Christian character to minister either the Word or the rites in the Church, for it was the elements and the ceremony that counted. This allowed evil men (seducers) to rend the flock. With the man-made doctrine of the elevation of bishops to a place not accorded them in Scripture, the next step was the handing out of graded titles that built up into a religious hierarchy; for soon there were archbishops over bishops and cardinals

**over the archbishops and by the time of Boniface the third, there was a Pope over all, a Pontiff.**

They took away the Holy Scriptures, the Holy Bible, and forbade any man to read it, or to preach and teach it, with the exception of their trained and “learned” priests, driving the true Christians underground, and into the mountains and catacombs they went, to hide, and to hold their meetings. The Roman Catholic Church claimed, after all, that Apostle Peter had stated, that the Holy Scriptures was too complex for ordinary people to understand, and that they would destroy themselves with it. Therefore, the preaching and teaching of the Word, must be left, and was left, completely to the priests, who understood nothing, and taught nothing of revealed truth, being total strangers to the revelation of life, whilst the Holy Bible was taken away from the people, so they could be ruled as the clergy desired, without any questions being asked, or any challenges being made. Brothers and sisters, the Church of Rome hate to be

challenged on anything, however wrong or sinful the actions of the clergy may be: Their adherents must faithfully accept whatever obtains, or whatever has been done, whatever goes on, without question or protest, and the abuse of the people by the clergy, as gross and as despicable as it is, is thus systematically insured, fortified, secured, implicitly encouraged, and systematically nurtured. They simply move offending priests around, that they may spread their abuse. This lets us see the total control that the Roman Catholic Church exercises over the lives and minds of the people, for it is Nicolaitan to the core!

We now want to come back and conclude our consideration of the “***the doctrine of Balaam***” in the Third Church Age, *The Pergamean Church Age*, which gives us spiritual I D O L A T R Y a n d FORNICATION. Brothers and sisters, the first doctrine of the Early Church that the devil went after, and overturned, was that of the Godhead, the One God Doctrine. Satan did this because he knew, IF he could just get this

truth out of the way, and replace it with the idolatrous Trinity Doctrine, the rest of the truths of Jesus Christ, which the True Church of God was firmly founded upon, would easily collapse, and be taken out. This is because the truth of the Godhead is very fundamental, and most crucial, for it goes to the very root of our salvation; because salvation is God redeeming us back to Himself, through Jesus Christ His Son, and as such, it demands the true knowledge of God: knowing who God is, knowing the God who redeemed us back unto Himself, and knowing that GOD IS ONE, a true knowledge which the spirit of the Antichrist just had to pervert! This was the truth that he failed to remove in the days of Apostle John, as recorded in 1 John Chapter 2, verses 18-24, and by the time we come to the Pergamean Church Age, the whole of Christendom was greatly divided over the issue of the Godhead. For while some upheld the Apostolic Truth of the One God Doctrine, “***The GOD and FATHER of our Lord Jesus Christ***”, (Ephesians

1:3; 2 Corinthians 11:31; Colossians 1:3; 1 Peter 1:3; 2 John 1:9), who is the Almighty God, the Supreme Being, the Creator, the Controller, and the Sustainer of the Universe, most others held to the erroneous and idolatrous doctrine of Three Gods in One, or One God in Three Persons, the so-called *Holy Trinity*. This is in blatant rejection of the infallible and unchanging truth of the One God Doctrine, that even Prophet Moses, Prophet Isaiah, and many other Prophets of the Old Testament, had already laid down in the Holy Scriptures, long before the New Covenant was given, that is, it is a truth already laid down in the Law and in the Prophets! Hence, it is written in the Book of Deuteronomy Chapter 6, verses 4-5: ***"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is ONE LORD: And thou shalt love THE LORD THY GOD with ALL thine heart, and with ALL thy soul, and with ALL thy might."*** This is a truth which Jesus Christ himself upheld and solidified, openly and plainly admitting it in Mark Chapter 12, even as verses 29-30 records: ***"And Jesus***

***answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD: And thou shalt love the Lord THY GOD with ALL thy heart, and with ALL thy soul, and with ALL thy mind, and with ALL thy strength: this is the first commandment."*** May I add, it is a truth that even his sworn enemies, men who made up one of the major groups of his opposition, the Scribes, openly admitted to this absolute truth, even as verse 32 confirms: ***"And the Scribe said unto him, Well, Master, THOU HAST SAID THE TRUTH: FOR THERE IS ONE GOD; AND THERE IS NONE OTHER BUT HE."*** Absolutely! The question, therefore, is this: Why did the Scribe make this open admission, categorically agreeing that Jesus Christ had stated the truth about the Godhead, even though they hated Jesus Christ with a passion? It is simply because that is the absolute, infallible, and immutable truth, which ALL real Jews know, a truth which is firmly entrenched in the Law and in the Prophets! For as it is written

in the Book of Isaiah Chapter 44, verse 6: ***"Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the First, and I am the Last; AND BESIDE ME THERE IS NO GOD"***, GIVING US ONE ABSOLUTE SUPREME GOD! Then in verse 8, God declared: ***"Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? Ye"*** (children of Israel) ***"are even my witnesses. IS THERE A GOD BESIDE ME? YEA, THERE IS NO GOD; I KNOW NOT ANY."*** FULL STOP! The Almighty God plainly and categorically denies, BOTH the EXISTENCE and the KNOWLEDGE of any other God, apart from Himself! Hence, in verse 24, it is written: ***"Thus saith the Lord" (God), "thy redeemer, and He" (God) "that formed thee from the womb, I am the Lord" (God) "that maketh ALL THINGS; that stretcheth forth the heavens ALONE; that spreadeth abroad the earth BY MYSELF."*** FOR HE ALONE IS THE CREATOR! That is precisely why in Isaiah Chapter 46, the Lord God

Almighty warned the children of Israel, saying in verse 9: **“Remember the former things of old: FOR I AM GOD, AND THERE IS NONE ELSE; I AM GOD, AND THERE IS NONE LIKE ME.”** PERIOD! That was why that Scribe, being a real Jew, had to agree with Jesus Christ without any iota of reservation, when it came to the issue of the infallible and immutable One God Doctrine, simply because God is One, Not Two, and definitely Not Three; for to believe in the so-called *Holy Trinity*, amounts to downright Idolatry! Period! However, long before the Fourth Century of Christendom, the entire religious world had been embroiled in disagreement over the issue of the Godhead, as Christians rallied around the opposing teachings of two men. One was Arius, a priest (presbyter) of Alexandria, Egypt, Africa, a man born in Libya, whose teaching was called the ***“Arian Doctrine”***, which conveyed ***The One God Doctrine***. He taught that since Jesus Christ is the Son of God, then, he had to have a beginning, and that consequently, there was a time he was not in

existence, and that is the absolute truth; because before his conception and birth, he only existed in the mind of God as a Promised Word, the Redeemer. That is precisely why the Holy Bible clearly declares in Revelation Chapter 13, verse 8: ***“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him”*** (who is the antichrist), ***“whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb SLAIN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD”***, (BACK THEN IN THE MIND OF GOD! For before Jesus Christ was conceived and born by Mary, he existed only in the mind of God as a Promised Word, the Serpent bruiser)! Hence, Arius rightly stated: ***“If the Father begat the Son, then he who was begotten had a beginning in existence, and from this it follows there was a time when the Son was not.”*** That is the Gospel truth, however bitter it may be for the unbelieving and apostate religious world! So, I ask: Where is the heresy in that? Furthermore, Arius also taught that since Jesus Christ is the Son of God, he is subordinate to God, and that is also scripturally

incontestable, because our Lord Jesus Christ not only admitted that he is totally subject to the will of God, the Father, but he also plainly admitted that the Father is greater than himself, and this open admission is recorded in John Chapter 14, verses 28, which records: ***“Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father IS GREATER THAN I.”*** Again, in John Chapter 5, verse 30, Jesus also admitted: ***“I can of mine own self DO NOTHING: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father WHICH HATH SENT ME.”*** May I point out, however, that certain other projections or teachings of Arius on the same Godhead, were totally anti-truth, being anti-Word, and were an extreme, and consequently, we must reject them. Just for an example, he said: ***“... the Son can have no direct knowledge of the Father, since the Son is finite and of a different order of***

**existence.**” We all know or should know, that that is totally erroneous, for the simple fact that Jesus himself made categorical statements to the contrary, and we find this written account in Matthew Chapter 11, verse 27, as well as in John Chapter 8, verses 54-55, where the Holy Bible records: **“Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that He is your God: Yet ye have not known Him; but I KNOW HIM: and if I should say, I know Him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I KNOW HIM, and keep His saying.”** Brothers and sisters, may I add, that speaking with respect to Arius, it is his extreme projections on the One God Doctrine, that are mainly presented Online (on the Internet), and not his true projections, unless you search specifically for the *Arianism Doctrine* itself, and I personally believe this is done, as a means of totally discrediting him, and to further ensure that his position is not explored by truth seekers, who would be put off by his extreme projections on the subject.

The truth remains, brothers and sisters, that God Almighty is One, not Three, but One: He is the Self-Existing God, the Eternal, Omnipresent, Omniscient, and Omnipotent Spirit, the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe, and on this very truth, we fully agree with Arius, though we totally disagree with him on his other extreme projections. Brethren, may I point out, that a significant portion of Christendom believed in the **“Arian Doctrine”** in that day.

Leaving the position of Arius on the Godhead, and moving to consider the opposing teaching of the Godhead, the religious world rallied around in that day, a False Teaching which they still rally around today, a False Teaching today, is the **“Trinity Doctrine”** of Athanasius, who was a bishop of Alexandria Egypt, Africa, a man who taught that there are **“Three distinct persons IN ONE GOD”**. Brothers and sisters, common sense will even tell you, that three persons, being three individual and distinct beings, with their three distinct personalities, cannot be One, although they may agree as One,

and they may have the same nature; but three distinct persons most certainly cannot be one, or language has lost its meaning, or it is that we lack intelligent reasoning! To begin with, God is not even a person, has never been a person, and will never be a person, but he is a spirit, an invisible omnipresent spirit, just as Jesus Christ clearly proclaimed about God his Father, in John Chapter 4, verse 24, openly declaring: **“God is A SPIRIT”**, (Not a person, but a Spirit): **“and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”** Full stop! The Gospel truth is, that you cannot even believe in Three Gods, and not be an Idolater, because it is downright Idolatry, and such a belief even breaks the first commandment, for there is only One God, Elohim, the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe! Hence, it is written in the Book of Exodus Chapter 20, verse 3: **“Thou shalt have no other gods BEFORE ME”**, (meaning, **“Thou shalt have no other gods BESIDE ME”**)! Moreover, no one in his right mind, can deny the truth that God did not give

Himself for us, as it is written in John Chapter 3, verse 16: ***“For GOD so loved the world, that He gave His ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”***

The only reason the attributes and titles of God are given to Jesus Christ, under the New Testament; the only reason he can receive worship as God, and the only reason he sometimes speaks as God, is because God Almighty incarnated him at the River Jordan, empowering him for the work of redemption, making him a God-Man, fully God, and fully Man, strictly from the viewpoint of the incarnation, which still leaves us with only One God, who gave us His Son! That is precisely why it is written categorically in 2 Corinthians Chapter 5, verse 19: ***“To wit, that GOD” (ELOHIM) “was IN Christ” (His Son), “reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation”!*** This passage clearly tells us that it was Elohim **IN** His Son,

Jesus Christ, ***“reconciling the world unto Himself”***, as God is our Saviour; but He is saving us **IN** and **THROUGH** the vessel of His Son, whose sinless soul was made the perfect offering for our sins! Hence, Jesus Christ himself confessed, that without God that dwelleth in him, he could do absolutely nothing! (John 5:19). This gives us only One God, Elohim, who incarnated His Son, Jesus Christ, the exclusive means of our redemption. Saints of God, this is not a message on doctrine, and it is certainly not a message on the Godhead, and as such, we do not want to dig deep into the issue of the Godhead, other than to open up a little window, to see the truth of this matter, so we can recognise ***“the doctrine of Balaam”*** in projection, in the Pergamean Church Age, the Third Age of Christendom, because the doctrine of Balaam is a doctrine overturning the truth, one that leads into Idolatry. For as we have stated earlier, the devil knew that IF he could only take away the knowledge of the One True God, it would only be a matter of time before every other

truth of the True Church would be overturned, to be replaced with pagan traditions, creeds and dogma, as he completely takes over Christendom, and that was exactly what happened! Just as God always has His right man at the right moment, so did the devil also have his own right man in that day, in the person of Emperor Constantine. And because the controversy over the Godhead raged in Christendom, Emperor Constantine took it upon himself to adjudicate over the matter; he decided to sit as the arbiter over this doctrine, an emperor, a political man, arbitrating over spiritual matters! May I add, that Constantine did not care for truth; he only wanted to bring carnal unity within Christendom, and so, he decided to intervene, as motivated by the devil. Consequently, just like Balak, the king of Moab, did by arranging for a carnal Unity between the children of Israel and the Moabites, back in 325 A.D., Constantine also convened a Council of Bishops in Nicaea, called *The Nicene Council*. He invited about 1,800 bishops from around the globe, including the two

principal men teaching the two opposing versions of the Godhead, Arius and Athanasius, who both came, and in total, only about 300 bishops attended the council. Brothers and sisters, they fought and argued over the Godhead, with Constantine presiding, and even passing his own comments, and in the end, the Trinitarians won the day, and at this modern **Baal-Peor**, the False and Idolatrous so-called **“Holy Trinity” Doctrine**, was adopted. As is to be expected, Emperor Constantine was very happy, for he thought that he had done a very good thing, bringing unity and peace to Christendom in his realm, only to later realise that he had goofed! THE UNITY HE FORGED AT THE NICENE COUNCIL WAS FALSE, IT WAS A FALSE UNITY; IT WAS UNITY AT THE EXPENSE OF THE WORD OF GOD; IT WAS IDOLATRY, SPIRITUAL IDOLATRY, AND IT GAVE US THE NICENE BALAAMISM. The immutable and eternal truth written in Mark 12:32, was abrogated (formally revoked), and Christendom

went into apostasy, rejecting the **One True God Doctrine**, the Creator and Supreme Ruler of the Whole Universe. They instead, settled for the Three Distinct Persons in One God erroneous and idolatrous doctrine: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, who they claim are co-equal, co-eternal, an idolatrous belief which suited and appealed to the Pagan Roman world, who believed in Polytheism, the worship of many gods, and for whom the notion of One God, would just not have worked! Nevertheless, the rejection of the truth of the One True God at the Nicene Council in 325 AD., did not stop the truth, as the truth of God marches on, being absolutely sovereign, and hence, unstoppable, invincible, and the True Vine, though forced underground and being severely persecuted, upheld the absolute and immutable truth of the One God Doctrine! As John Huss of Bohemia often stated: **“TRUTH CONQUERS ALL”!** Now listen to what *Wikipedia* has to say about the result of the Nicene Council decision, where the Trinity

Dogma was adopted, and please note that ALL emphasis is mine: **“However, the strife within the Church did not end with Nicaea, and the Nicene creedal formulation remained contentious even among anti-Arian Churchmen. Constantine, while urging tolerance, began to think that he had come down on the wrong side, and that the Nicenes — with their fervid, reciprocal persecution of Arians — were actually perpetuating strife within the Church. Constantine was not baptized until he was near death (337), choosing a bishop moderately sympathetic to Arius, Eusebius of Nicomedia, to perform the baptism. Constantine's son and successor in the eastern empire, Constantius II was partial to the Arian party, and even exiled pro-Nicene bishops.”**

Brothers and sisters, notwithstanding the change in the attitude of the two Constantines towards the so-called Holy Trinity, the Nicene “Balaamism” had served the devil's purpose, and it certainly

bore fruits for the spirit of the Antichrist, permanent fruits, one that was irreversible, as another emperor later stepped on the scene, building upon this idolatrous doctrinal foundation, and his name was Theodosius. Speaking about Emperor Theodosius I, who was a Roman Emperor from 379 AD - 395 AD., the website, *christianitytoday.com*, has this to say, and please note that ALL emphasis is mine: ***“In lists of Roman Emperors, Theodosius is far the most notable... But this little-known emperor forever changed the course of Christian history not in one way, but in two. He used his power to officially enforce Orthodox Christianity”***, (which is Roman Catholicism), ***“but ended up placing his power under that of the Church, setting a standard for more than a millennium.”*** Under the subtitle, *Emperor For Christ*, the same website says: ***“Early in his reign, during a serious illness, Theodosius had accepted Christian baptism. IN 380 HE PROCLAIMED HIMSELF A CHRISTIAN OF THE***

***NICENE CREED, AND HE CALLED A COUNCIL AT CONSTANTINOPLE TO PUT AN END TO THE ARIAN HERESY (which, contrary to Nicene doctrine, claimed Jesus was created), which had divided the empire for over half a century. One hundred and fifty bishops gathered and revised the Nicene Creed of A.D. 325 into the creed we know today. Arianism has never made a serious challenge since.”*** (Because it is the greater percentage of Christians who later became Trinitarian, and it is precisely how it stands today in Christendom, for we live in a religious world that is majorly Trinitarian! The website continued): ***“Having won that victory, Theodosius tried to ram through his choice for patriarch of Constantinople, but the bishops rebelled and demanded he appoint a bishop from a short list they created.”*** (This proves that the Almighty God had No say in such matters, being strictly a choice that was controlled by the Nicolaitan spirit, a spirit which even allowed political men to appoint

bishops! The website added): ***“It was the first of many instances in Theodosius's reign in which the Church got the better of him. The most famous example came in 387: When the city of Thessalonica rioted because a favored charioteer was imprisoned (for homosexuality), Theodosius ordered revenge: a chariot race was announced, citizens gathered in the arena, the gates were locked, and soldiers were set upon the crowd. By the end of the day, 7,000 had perished. Ambrose, the bishop of Milan who was a spiritual and political adviser to Theodosius, was furious. He refused to give Theodosius Communion until the emperor performed public penance: he must put aside his royal garments, don a shroud, and publicly plead for God's mercy. When Theodosius consented, it marked a new chapter in the history of Church and State. For the first time, a secular ruler submitted to the Church. Less than a century earlier, emperors were trying to***

**wipe out the Church. Theodosius, for his part, tried to reverse that legacy by persecuting heretics and pagans. Arians and Manichaeans (dualists) were condemned and driven underground. One edict prohibited public discussion of any religious questions! Finally, in 391, pagan temples were closed and pagan worship forbidden. Later Roman historians, like Zosimus, looked back on this Christianization of the empire as the cause for the fall of Rome (a charge Augustine refuted in his *City of God*). Theodosius ended his reign by defeating political enemies in the West, so that by late 394, he stood alone as emperor of a once-more united empire. The moment was brief, however, as Theodosius was dead within five months”** (of this unification, for he died on January 17, 395 AD). It was this same Theodosius that Brother Branham spoke about in his message, who, on February 27, 380 AD., along with two other emperors, issued the Edict

of Thessalonica, which decreed: **“EMPERORS GRATIAN, VALENTINIAN AND THEODOSIUS AUGUSTI. EDICT TO THE PEOPLE OF CONSTANTINOPLE. It is our desire that ALL the various Nations which are subject to our Clemency and Moderation, should continue to profess that religion which was delivered to the Romans by the divine Apostle Peter, as it has been preserved by faithful tradition, and which is now professed by the Pontiff Damasus and by Peter, Bishop of Alexandria, a man of apostolic holiness.”** (And to think that there is not one iota of Apostolic Truth of the Holy Bible, Apostle Peter believed, that the Roman Catholic Church believes, and or teaches, even as we speak today! The three emperors continued, decreeing): **“According to the apostolic teaching and the doctrine of the Gospel, let us believe in the one deity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, in EQUAL MAJESTY and in a HOLY TRINITY. WE AUTHORIZE THE FOLLOWERS OF**

**THIS LAW TO ASSUME THE TITLE OF CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS; BUT AS FOR THE OTHERS, SINCE, IN OUR JUDGMENT THEY ARE FOOLISH MADMEN, WE DECREE THAT THEY SHALL BE BRANDED WITH THE IGNOMINIOUS NAME OF HERETICS, AND SHALL NOT PRESUME TO GIVE TO THEIR CONVENTICLES”** (THEIR ASSEMBLIES) **“THE NAME OF CHURCHES. They will suffer in the first place the chastisement of the divine condemnation and in the second the punishment of our authority which in accordance with the will of Heaven we shall decide to inflict.”** My, oh my! True Christians, saints standing firmly for the truth of the Holy Scriptures against Balaamism, which is Spiritual Idolatry, the worship of Three Gods, the Trinity, were seriously hunted down and persecuted, with many being martyred, in that Third Age of Christendom! The saints of God in this Age, were able to face all the evils and intense persecutions they faced, because the Anointing of

the Second Beast, the Beast **“like a Calf”** (an Ox), recorded in Revelation 4:7, the Anointing of the beast of burden, which the Lord had released from the very beginning of the Second Church Age, the Smyrnaean Church Age, was still working in this Third Age, empowering them to withstand whatever persecution was meted to them in this very Age, by the Nicolaitan spirit, with absolute gallantry which only the Lord can give! Now listen to what the prophet to this Laodicean Age said about this Nicolaitan and Balaamic Church Organisation, a Church backed by the political power of the State: **“Once the Nicene Council had swung the power of political Rome to the Church, it seemed that there were no limits to which this First Christian Church”** (Organisation) **“would go. The name, Christian, which originally brought persecution, now became the name of the persecutors. It was in this Age that Augustine of Hippo (354-430), set forth the precept that the Church ought and MUST use force if necessary, to**

**bring her children back into the fold, and that it was in harmony with the Word of God to kill the heretics and apostates. In his controversy with the Donatists he wrote, “It is indeed better that men should be led to worship God by teaching than that they should be driven to it by fear of punishment or pain, but it does not follow that because the former course produces the better men, therefore those who do not yield to it should be neglected. For many have found advantage (as we have proved and are daily proving by actual experience) in being first compelled by fear or pain, so that they might afterwards be influenced by teaching, so that they might follow out in act what they have already learned in word.” “Whilst those are better who are guided aright by love, those are certainly more numerous who are corrected by fear. For who can possibly love us more than Christ, Who laid down His life for the sheep? Yet after calling Peter and the other apostles by His words**

**alone, when He came to summon Paul, He not only constrained him with His voice, but even dashed him to the earth with His power; and that He might forcibly bring one who is raging amidst the darkness of infidelity, to desire the light of the heart, He first struck him with physical blindness of the eyes. Why therefore should not the Church use force in compelling her lost sons to return? The Lord Himself said, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in.’ Wherefore if the power which the Church has received by divine appointment in its due season, through the religious character and faith of kings, be the instrument by which those who are found in the highways and hedges — that is in heresies and schisms — are compelled to come in, then let them not find fault with being compelled.”** This Nicolaitan Church System, whose only quest is for global power, world domination, uses political power to suppress and

enforce its Antichrist and downright paganistic beliefs over the true believers! That is one of the main reasons why Brother Branham, speaking about the rulership of the Roman Catholic Church, which is downright Nicolaitan, said: **“They took over the minds and lives of the people AND MADE THEM THE SERVANTS OF A D E S P O T I C PRIESTHOOD.”** And that is the absolute and undeniable truth, even as we speak today in 2017! Just look at the publicly exposed pandemic sexual molestation of children by Catholic priests; look at the exposed sexual molestation and sex slavery of Nuns by the Catholic priests; also look at homosexuality, a pandemic which has plagued the Catholic priests, ALL evil deeds which the priests of Rome have carried on throughout the world with impunity, for many centuries of time, since the Third Church Age, the Pergamean Church Age, just as it happened back in *Baal-Peor!* (Numbers 25). Think seriously about that, for you have to see the truth! Brothers and sisters, this is

nothing but downright Nicolaitanism and Balaamism, crimes which the Catholic Church leadership have systematically encouraged and consistently covered up, even forbidding the abused to speak about it, or to seek redress, for they frown seriously at that, paying out billions of American Dollars in court damages (court settlement) in recent times, around the globe! Just how perfect the prophetic revelation of Jesus Christ is; how perfectly true! In Revelation Chapter 2, verses 14-15, the resurrected Christ, speaking prophetically about the Pergamean Church Age, the Third Church Age, plainly declared: **“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. So hast thou also THEM that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, WHICH THING I HATE.”** What did God say about Balaamism

in Psalm 106? In verses 28-31, the Lord declared: **“They joined themselves also unto Baalpeor, AND ATE THE SACRIFICES OF THE DEAD”**, (REPRESENTING THE IDOLATROUS MASS). **“Thus they provoked Him to anger with their inventions”**, (their evil and idolatrous creeds and dogma, their pagan traditions and carnal ceremonies): **“and the plague brake in upon them. Then stood up Phinehas, and executed judgment: and so the plague was stayed. And that was counted unto him for righteousness unto ALL generations for evermore.”** Brothers and sisters, Phinehas represents the Original Ministry of the True Church of this end-time, the Word Bride, Original Calibre of Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers, who will stand as One, firmly, gallantly, faithfully, and militantly, against the Balaamic and Nicolaitan spirits, under the leadership of the Original Apostles, giving us the Original Ephesian Fivefold Ministry, right here in this Last Age, on our way to Glory Land, which is

Heaven, just as the children of Israel were on their way in that day to the Promised Land, which is C a n a a n L a n d! Halleluiah! Amen!

Church, we have to see without any shadow of doubt, that the prophetic address to the Church in Pergamos, in 96 AD., was truly prophetic of the Third Age of Christendom, for it brings us directly to the period between 312 AD - 500 AD., which is why ALL the developments in that Age, perfectly vindicate the prophetic Word that Jesus Christ gave, back in 96 AD., concerning this Age! And it lets us see that of a truth, just as Brother Branham had taught, the prophetic address was actually to the two vines, the Wheat and the Tares, the Lord speaking dispensationally to both vines, but using one term, "The CHURCH in Pergamos", to cover both seeds: True and False! Because the two seeds were now mingled together, intertwined, right from the Smyrnaean Church Age, through to the Pergamean Church Age, the False Vine, which had now taken over Christendom, persecuted

and drove the true seeds of God underground, and became the known recognisable Church, leading the True Church to its demise (death), in the next Church Age, the Fourth Church Age, which brings us to the Dark Ages. That is precisely why, when we look very carefully at Revelation Chapter 2, verses 14-16, with the eye of the Spirit of Truth, what exactly did the Lord say? Please pay close attention to what the Lord said from verse 14, for it is the clincher, as he declared plainly and categorically: "**But I have a few things against THEE**", (speaking with regards to the Church generally, the whole of Christendom, in the Third Church Age), "**because THOU hast there THEM THAT HOLD**" (in that Age; Not that "YOU HOLD", but that, "You have there THOSE 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.**" (The same thought is carried through to verse 15, where the Lord equally states): "**So hast thou also THEM THAT**

**HOLD the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.**" (Now pay close attention to verse 16, where the Lord sternly warned): "**Repent; or else I will come unto THEE quickly, and will fight against THEM**", (Not "fight against THEE", but "fight against THEM"), "**with the sword of my mouth.**" This undoubtedly proves, that the Lord was not saying that He would come against "THEE", the True Seeds, the True Church, which should have been the case, IF it was the saints that were really being referred to; but he said that he would come against "THEM", who are the False Church, the Antichrist Church, the Counterfeit Christians! And this is the seal, the icing on the cake, for it settles this issue once and for all: When we look at verse 4, everything was personalised to the saints, even the negative admonition, the rebuke, were ALL addressed personally to them, the Lord plainly declaring: "**Nevertheless I have somewhat against THEE, because THOU**", (Not "THEM", but "THOU") "**hast left THY first love.**"

This is quite different to verses 14-15, where there is a clear distinction made between the true saints, **“thee”**, and the **“them”**, third persons, who were the guilty ones, proving that the Lord was definitely speaking to the two vines, who were now intertwined, fellowshiping together in Christendom, which most certainly takes us away from the First Church Age of Pure Seeds, and brings us to the corresponding Age, the Pergamean Church Age! Therefore, we must see the False Vine, the seeds of the Antichrist spirit that needed to be eventually weeded out, and who were being referred to as **“THEM that hold the doctrine of Balaam”**, and **“THEM that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans”**! That is why, and we must also understand this fact as the Bride of Christ, that just as Brother Jackson stated, it is not every prophetic detail of things that took place in the Third Church Age, we can tie to the Local Church in Pergamos in 96 AD., because that assembly only set a type! Brothers and sisters, before we move on to consider verses 16-17, which closes out the

prophetic address of Jesus Christ to the Church in Pergamos, we first want to consider the application of the Third Parable of Matthew Chapter 13, to this very Third Age, and then we will consider three other material issues. This brings us straight to the third parable of Jesus Christ, which is relayed in chronological order in Matthew Chapter 13, and which ties in with the Third Church Age, the Pergamean Church Age, for it is a parable that is applicable to the Third Age of Christendom. Brothers and sisters, what did Jesus say in this third parable? In Matthew Chapter 13, verses 31-32, it is written: **“Another parable put he”** (Jesus) **“forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.”** This parable brings us directly to the Third Age of Christendom, where the Church, which started in

Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, with just about 120 souls, now in the Fourth Century, had spread all over the world, to the Middle East, Asia Minor, Europe, Africa, all the way to India, in Far East Asia, for Apostle Thomas was said to have been martyred in India! This phenomenal growth of the Church, is what this prophetic parable projects in part, as the Lord traced the earthly journey of the Church through time, zeroing here on the Third Dispensation of Christendom! The Church, described as small as **“a grain of mustard seed”**, speaking of the meagre almost 120 souls with which Christendom began on the Day of Pentecost, that by the time we come to the Third Church Age, it had grown to become the **“greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree”**, with huge branches, so much so, **“that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.”** The material question now is this: What are the **“birds of the air”** that came and lodged in its branches? This gives us nothing, but the politicians, the political leaders, like Emperors Constantine and

Theodosius, and the leaders of the Roman Empire, including the mass of Romans, who came into the Church without true conversion, lodging under the shade or cover of Christianity, claiming to be Christians, and partaking of the blessings of Christianity, but adding nothing to the tree, being only a burden, usurpers, impersonators! Do not forget that in the first parable, which is applicable to the First Church Age, the Age of the Pure Wheat Seed, the sower went to sow, and some seeds fell by the wayside. What did Jesus say happened to this very seed? Verse 4 records: ***“And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls”***, (which are birds of the air), ***“came and devoured them up.”*** In verse 19, this interpretation is confirmed, where Jesus declared from verse 18: ***“Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one”***, (the spirit of the devil), ***“and catcheth away that which was***

***sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.”*** This certainly proves that the birds of the air, in the third parable of the grain of mustard seed, were those who were motivated and controlled by the spirit of the Antichrist, unconverted souls, who the devil used to flood Christendom, thereby taking over Christendom, and overturning the True Christian Faith, producing a Counterfeit! Thank God for Brother Jackson, for just how perfect is the continuing light of the Holy Scriptures that he bore! And through the revelation of the Word that he bore, we can clearly see *The Seven Church Ages* in parable form, for in 33 AD., the Lord Jesus traced the entire earthly journey of the Church from her beginning, right up to her very end, conveying the truths of the kingdom in a condensed spiritual format, truths of the Seven Church Ages, which were dealt with in more prophetic detail in 96 AD., in Revelation Chapters 2 and 3. And once ***“the birds of the air”*** came to lodge in her branches, they were never to leave until the very end, in the Seventh and Final

Church Age, when God initiates *The Great Separation of Seeds*, allowing these birds to remain in the False Vine, which currently gives us the World Church, bearing a counterfeit and apostate Christianity, even as the False Vine continues to enjoy the rights and privileges conferred upon her by the political class! She claims to be the True Original Church, but there is nothing true in all that she believes and peddles, for ALL she has are pagan traditions and ceremonies, which are nothing but ***“Leaven”!***

Saints of God, the three issues we will now consider, are issues joined together in Brother Branham's presentation, and as such, we will likewise deal with them together, before we conclude the Pergamean Church Age. The three issues are: The Marriage of the Church and State; the Wounded head; and the transformation of the Pagan Roman Empire, to what is known as the Holy Roman Empire; these are the three issues we now want to consider. Brother Branham stated: ***“But that***

**the Church and State would come together was truly foreknown of the Lord. The very name Pergamos means "thoroughly married." And indeed State and Church were married; politics and religion were united. The offspring of that union have been consistently the most horrible hybrids the world has ever seen. The truth is not in them, but all the evil ways of Cain (the first hybrid), is. Not only was State and Church wedded in this Age, but the Babylonian religion was officially joined to the First Church", (the First Organised Church, an Apostate Church, the Roman Catholic Church). "Satan now had access to the Name of Christ and he was enthroned as God in worship. With the help of Federal aid, the Churches fell heir to beautiful buildings which were lined with altars of white marble, and images of the departed saints." (Now listen to this): **"And right in this Age is when the "Beast" of Revelation 13:3 that was Wounded to death: (the Pagan Roman Empire), CAME BACK TO****

**LIFE AND POWER AS THE "HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE."** Starting first with the issue of the Wounded head recorded in Revelation 13:3, before dealing with the transformation of Pagan Rome into the Holy Roman Empire, we must realise, brothers and sisters, that the statement Brother Branham made here is totally incorrect, although we are not knocking him for this statement. Nevertheless, it is incorrect to say that the Wounding of the head of the Beast recorded in Revelation 13:3, was in this Third Age of Christendom. Revelation Chapter 13, verse 3, records of the Roman Beast Empire: **"And I saw ONE of his heads as it were WOUNDED TO DEATH; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast."** Brothers and sisters, we cannot apply the Wounding of this head to the Pergamean Church Age, as we shall soon see. Furthermore, it is also not true that the Pagan Roman Empire was changed into the Holy Roman Empire in this same Age. This is simply because the Wounding of

this very head, which is the Ecclesiastical head, the "Eighth" head, the Papal head, did not take place until the Reformation, for it was the sword of the Spirit which the Reformers employed, starting with Martin Luther, in the Fifth Church Age, that brought about the wounding of this head, the Papal head, as each Reformer hacked at this very head with the Word of God, and Napoleon Bonaparte, using political power, finished the job! More importantly, and you will all agree with me on this, it was not possible that in the Third Church Age, a religious head which had not yet been formed over the Roman Beast Empire, that is, a head which had not yet taken over the Roman Beast Empire, was wounded before it was formed over the Empire! Come on! In the Pergamean Church Age, the Papacy had not yet occupied the seat of the Emperors of Rome, and as such, this very head, this ecclesiastical head, could not have been wounded in that Age, for then, it was only in its potential as head over the Roman Beast Empire! It was in the Fourth

Church Age, the Thyatirean Church Age, that the Popes took over the seat of the Caesars, and began ruling over the Roman Beast Empire, thereby forming what looked like the “*eighth*” head over the Empire, the “*Little Horn*” of Daniel 7, the ecclesiastical “*head*” that was seemingly “*wounded to death*” in the Fifth Church Age, by the sword of the Spirit the Reformers wielded; which deadly wound has now been healed today as we speak, and is waiting “*TO CONTINUE forty and two months*”, in the second half of the Last Week of Daniel! (Rev. 13:3-5). We have a message in the Scribe, titled, *The Seven Mountains Of Revelation 17*, dealing specifically with this truth, which is available online for those who desire to know the truth. Turning to the issue of the transformation of Pagan Rome to the Holy Roman Empire, brothers and sisters, Pagan Rome was not transformed into the Holy Roman Empire, until the Pagan Roman Empire had first fallen towards 500 AD., and time had moved to the hour of Emperor Charlemagne, who was

crowned on Christmas day by the Pope at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, in 800 AD., right in the Dark Ages, which is the Fourth Church Age! He was an emperor, though like Emperor Theodosius I, who not only made the Catholic Church the Only State religion, but he also used his military might to literally force the citizens to become Roman Catholics, on the pain of death, giving us what is now known historically, as the Holy Roman Empire! The citizens were now all Roman Catholics by force, whilst the true Christians who refused to convert were simply beheaded! Following this development, the Empire was subsequently taken over by the Roman Catholic Church, and an Empire that was once ruled by Emperors, was then ruled by Popes, in an Era now formally established as the Holy Roman Empire. This particular form of rulership, the rulership of the Empire by Popes, gives us what seemed like the “*eighth*” head in Revelation 17:11; but it was a religious head, not a political head, and as such, the seven political heads are what we will always see

on the Roman Beast Empire, as revealed in Revelation 13:1, Revelation 12:3, and Revelation 17:3,7. Consequently, we cannot attach the title of the Holy Roman Empire to the Third Age, the Pergamean Church Age, because it just does not apply before the Dark Ages, and that was after the fall of the Pagan Roman Empire! That is that! But as I stated earlier, we are not knocking Brother Branham for his projection, for the simple fact that he was not given the revelation of the seven heads, and we all know that God winks at the times of ignorance, when the light on a truth has not yet been shed. (Acts 17:30). Nevertheless, it is important that we lay out the truth of this matter, for the edification of the body of saints, so we may bear nothing but a pure revelation of the truth of Christ. Coming back to consider the third issue of the Marriage of the Church and State, Brother Branham said: “*But that the Church and State would come together was truly foreknown of the Lord. The very name Pergamos means*

**“thoroughly married.” And indeed State and Church were married; politics and religion were united.**” And indeed, the name of Pergamos has a double meaning, or a dual meaning, as it is a combination of two Greek words, “Pergos”, meaning tower, high tower, and “Gamos”, meaning marriage. Hence, because this name not only means “high tower”, but it also means “married”, it leaves us therefore, with a literal translation of “married to the high tower”, which is not different to the meaning we have from the prophet, of “thoroughly married”, for it is “married to the high tower”, which is the State. Brothers and sisters, please listen very attentively to what I now say, and exactly how I say it, and may God give you understanding. Although Brother Branham taught that this Pergamean Age was when the Church married the State, nonetheless, brothers and sisters, I see it more as an engagement, a firm engagement, rather than a marriage. I see it as Satan running ahead of the pattern of God that we have in Matthew 25:10, where

our engagement to Jesus Christ our Bridegroom, was also called “**marriage**”, for the word “**marriage**” in that parable, was used to represent engagement, a firm engagement, being the necessary stepping stone into the marriage we will have with Christ in heaven. I say this for the simple fact, that a marriage not only brings absolute unity, oneness, but it also puts the wife on the throne with her husband, as she shares the throne with him, allowing her to reign, the reality of which we would not have in its application to the Roman Catholic Church, until the Dark Ages, following the hour of Emperor Charlemagne, and that brings us to the Fourth Church Age! In other words, what Emperor Constantine did was to get the Church firmly engaged, “**thoroughly married**”, meaning or standing for “thoroughly engaged”, just as Christ did in Matthew 25:10. For it was Emperor Constantine who started the process that would ensure the marriage of Church and State. This he did, by first lifting the hatred and the persecution that Christians faced under Political Rome, allowing

the Church to be embraced, which was an engagement, a firm engagement. And because the Church and State were firmly (thoroughly) engaged, was the precise reason Emperor Theodosius I, in 391 AD., renounced and forbade pagan worship, the worship of the various other gods, and closed down their temples, just as Christ has also renounced every other woman, and is firmly (thoroughly) engaged exclusively to the Bride, the Elect Lady, whom he will later marry in heaven, a marriage that will also enable her to reign with him. When Charlemagne, however, stepped on the scene, as the Emperor of the Roman Empire, he ensured that Europe became Roman Catholics, which is precisely why his Era is what began what is known in history as the Holy Roman Empire. You can Google this fact! In that day, his main vision was to **Expand** the Empire, to **Unify** the Empire, and to **Convert** them by military force into Roman Catholics, because he thought that that was what it meant to be a Christian, all three goals which he

achieved. He made it a Christian Crusade, even though he used raw military force to accomplish it, and by this move, he united both Church and State; he married religion with politics, now giving us what history itself calls the Holy Roman Empire. This was the Age when the real marriage now took place between the Church and the State! May I also remind you, brothers and sisters, that the lifting up of Roman Catholicism over the Empire; the lifting up of the Pope of Rome over the entire realm, amongst other issues we will lay out in the next Age, the Thyatirean Church Age, was what later led Eastern Europe to split from Western Europe, in what is called the “*Great Schism of 1054 AD*”, still in the Dark Ages, when the Eastern Orthodox Church held its ground, and separated itself totally from the Roman Catholic Church! And as I have said before, it was in 800 AD., that the Pontiff of Rome declared Charlemagne the Emperor of the Roman Empire, and he was crowned on Christmas day, at St. Peter’s Basilica, in Rome, the first emperor ever to be

so crowned by the Pope, which lets us see the enormous power that the Bishops of Rome wielded, and their influence over the State. Consequently, this marriage between the Church and State by Emperor Charlemagne, right there in the Dark Ages, marked a great turning point, because with this marriage, the Pope was later able to take over the seat of the Emperors, and began to rule in the Fourth Church Age, the Dark Ages, over the Roman Beast Empire, and an Empire that was ruled by Emperors, was now ruled by the Pontiffs of Rome, giving us the evident fruit of their marriage. Nevertheless, may I warn, that the timing of the marriage between the Church and the State, is not a doctrinal issue, and as such, it is not one that we need to fuss and fight over, as long as we can see the marriage, and the effects that it had, for it took away the separation between Church and State, eventually enabling the Church to take over the State (the Empire), when she started ruling the State. That is precisely why we have this apostate woman,

“*the great whore*” of Revelation 17, who is none other than the Roman Catholic Church, riding on the back of the Roman Beast Empire, the Ten Horned Beast, which at this end-time, gives us the European Union. For without this marriage, the rulership of the Roman Empire by the Catholic Church, would not have been possible. As I said before, it is just like our marriage to Christ in heaven, which is what will also put us on the throne with Christ, ruling over the earth in the Millennium, with Jesus Christ, being the King of kings and Lord of lords. So, when we look at the Era of Emperor Constantine, which gives us the Third Age, the Pergamean Church Age, and we consider it as an Era of Engagement, one that is foundational to the Marriage, it is not stated as a matter of doctrine, but only to help us to know how to look at the developments in that hour of time, and I hope this is understood. I give this warning, because we cannot make a doctrine out of this issue, and fight someone who takes the era as marriage; for what is important, is that we see

the development, WHICH TOOK AWAY THE SEPARATION THAT SHOULD EXIST BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND THE STATE, AND WHICH ALSO ENABLED THE CHURCH TO EVENTUALLY TAKE OVER THE STATE. I repeat: Knowing what went on; knowing just how the Church took over the State (the Empire), and started ruling the State, and also knowing that the True Church ought to be separate from the State, is what is important, and is what we need to know; as we are not of this world, because this world is not our home, and our kingdom is coming, but presently, what we have is a spiritual kingdom, and I hope that is settled.

Church, moving on to finish off the prophetic address of Jesus Christ to the Church in Pergamos, recorded in the Book of Revelation Chapter 2, beginning from verse 16, the Lord warned: ***“Repent; or else I will come unto THEE quickly, and will fight against THEM with the sword of my mouth.”*** Yes, the Lord is coming to fight against the False Vine, the False

Church, these Counterfeit and Apostate Christians, the World Church, with the double-edged sword in his mouth, which is the power of the spoken Word, unless they repent, as God does not want the death of any sinner, but that they all come to repentance, true repentance, and live. And who can resist the ***“sword of the Spirit”*** that is in his mouth? As the Lord declared in Psalm 29, from verse 2: ***“Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the Lord is upon many waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedars; yea, the Lord breaketh the cedars of Lebanon. He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn. The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness; the Lord shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord maketh the***

***hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory.”*** It is also written: ***“FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS QUICK, AND POWERFUL, AND SHARPER THAN ANY TWOEDGED SWORD...”*** (Heb. 4:12). Therefore, when the Lord sends his double-edged sword of judgment against the False Church, Apostate Christendom, there will be no avoiding its extremely sharp edge! The message of the Spirit of Christ to this Pergamean Age is: ***REPENT OR PERISH!*** Finally, in Revelation Chapter 2, verse 17, the Lord admonished: ***“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches...”*** Brothers and sisters, only the elect seeds of God, the predestinated seeds of God for each Age, can hear what the Spirit of the Lord is saying in each Age to ALL the Churches; they are the only ones who have an ear to hear, and they are hearing it by the Word of God; because the Spirit of God speaks only His Word, and exclusively through the Holy Scriptures. And in this Third Age, the Spirit of God

was speaking in earnest, and the true believers needed to pay utmost attention, and they paid utmost attention with all their hearts and lives, even though in that Age, they suffered great persecution for His Name's sake. But that was why the Lord added, giving his unfailing Word of Promise to that Age, saying: "... **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.**" There is something for the saints in each and every Age to overcome, and there is a promise attached to each Age, although these promises are not to be considered as limited to the saints of each Age, because they have a general application to the saints of ALL Ages. Here in this Pergamean Church Age, the Lord promised something wonderful to the overcomers, giving them a very great incentive to stand, saying: "... **To him that overcometh will I give to eat of THE HIDDEN MANNA, and**", (conjunction, additionally),

**"will give him A WHITE STONE, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it."** Brothers and sisters, we have a message in the Scribe magazine, titled, *The Promise To The Overcomer*, and it lays out the truth concealed in this very promise. And speaking about this promise of "**the hidden manna**", Brother Jackson said: "**He was speaking of those who would feast upon His Word, and drink of His Spirit, and that is exactly what this hidden manna in Revelation 2:17 is. THIS HIDDEN MANNA IS NOT SOMETHING THEY ARE GOING TO GET WHEN THEY DIE; it is something for us to feast upon daily, the revelation of His blessed Word. It is that truth that comes from above, by the anointing and unction of the Spirit of revelation. Satan does not like it, but true saints of God will die to preserve that privilege.**" Going further down in his message, Brother Jackson reiterated this teaching, saying: "**Many of those true saints gave their lives in martyrdom in**

**their efforts to keep that supply line open, and to some, it looks like they failed. But I will have you know, God has always preserved seed in every generation. THEREFORE, THE OVER-COMERS OF EVERY AGE RECEIVED HIDDEN MANNA WHILE THEY WERE STILL ALIVE, AND SECURED THE PROMISE OF A WHITE STONE, with their new name written in it, that no man could read, except he to whom it was given. THAT, MY FRIENDS, IS YOUR REWARD AFTER DEATH, BUT THE HIDDEN MANNA IS OUR NECESSARY FOOD SUPPLY FOR OUR REMAINING DAYS IN THIS LIFE. The white stone is symbolic of life in immortality. So let us feast upon the hidden manna, and thank God daily for it.**" Brothers and sisters, this projection is most incorrect, and it is completely unscriptural, although we are not knocking Brother Jackson for this projection. But we must understand that the chief apostle was not given the revelation of this promise, simply because

the hour of its unveiling had not come in the days of his ministry, and neither was he ordained to be the bearer or the “reader” of this prophetic word, which is precisely why he gave an incorrect presentation of this truth. To begin with, this is a promise to the overcomer, which is precisely something we get when we die and are resurrected, and not what we receive whilst here on earth in this mortal flesh. Secondly, the “**hidden manna**” and the “**white stone**”, are given as promises to be received in the afterlife, which means that we cannot separate the time application of the “**white stone**”, from the time application of “**the hidden manna**”, for they are tied together in prophecy, and in time application, in this very verse, a verse which gives us the two promises. So, whilst Brother Jackson is correct in the time application of the “**white stone**”, he is incorrect in his time application of the “**hidden manna**”, quite apart from the fact, that his interpretation of this “**hidden manna**”, is also incorrect. The material question, therefore,

remains: What is this “**hidden manna**”? That is the issue, knowing that it is strictly a promise to anyone who overcomes, right up to the very end of his or her mortal life! Saints, since it is not “**hidden manna**” that we are given to eat before we die, but it is something promised to us when we get to heaven, and since “**manna**” speaks of the divine revelation of the Word of God, then, it cannot be anything other than the Millennial revelation! This truth cannot be disputed scripturally, particularly as the “**white stone**”, which bears the individual recipient's “**new name**”, is one that he will bear in the Millennium, and hence, throughout Eternity, and is tied to the “**hidden manna**”, for both are spoken of together in the same verse of prophecy, in the same time application, and hence, they have the same time for being received, as they are two benefits, two distinct promises! As we stand today, we know that we will be in the Millennium, and we also know that it will be a most prosperous and peaceful era, a utopia, however, we do not know

the details and specifics of that Era, how it will be operated. This is exactly what the “**hidden manna**” will give to us, for it will give us the Millennial Revelation, the Millennial Masterplan or Blueprint, and by it, we will know just how the Millennium is to be governed, what we are to do operationally; and further, with the “**white stone**” which we will also receive, we will know our precise position in that Millennial government, and the new name that we will also bear in that day. ALL these are things that we will only receive up in heaven, before the Judgment Seat of Christ, for God will instil them onto our minds, which is why they are given to us as promises, if we can only overcome whatever the devil is allowed to throw our way, in this evil and wicked world. This should make our hearts rejoice, and it should create a stirring in our hearts to live for God, for there is a glorious day coming, and nothing on earth can be compared with what the Lord has in store for us, for ALL who overcome, on that blessed and most glorious resurrection morning! Brothers and sisters, let us

keep our eyes firmly on the promise, for we have a rapture to catch, and I pray that God will preserve our souls in the light of His Word. What a promise we have of the Lord; what a wonderful promise! How can you miss this? How can anyone miss this? Please live for the Lord Jesus Christ, and stay with the light of the Holy Word of God, the Holy Scriptures, and you will see the glory of God! Shall we bow our heads in prayer. (Brother Amos prayed).

The Lord bless you.

## DIRECTORY OF THE SCRIBE concluded

74. The Lead Thunder, And The Chronology Of Revelation 10 - Parts 1-3 (July 2014)
75. Revisiting Armageddon - Parts 1 & 2 (August 2014)
76. Why It Had To Be Fishers - Parts 1 - 3 (September 2014)
77. God In The Laodicean Age: The Year 2005 (Knowing The Objective Of God) - Parts 3 & 4 (Oct 2014)
78. See The Bigger Picture - Parts 1 & 2 (December 2014)
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82. Luke 17:30 - Parts 1 & 2 (March 2015)
83. The Prosperity Of Serpent Seeds - Parts 1 - 3 (April 2015)
84. Perilous Times Are Here!!! - Parts 1 & 2 (June 2015)
85. Perilous Times Are Here!!! - Parts 3 & 4 (July 2015)
86. The Mysterious Birthing Of The Ministry (August 2015)
87. The Day Of The Lord (September 2015)
88. The Four Blood Moons And The Shemitah Cycle (Special Edition) - Parts 1 - 3 (October 2015)
89. The Millennium - Parts 1 & 2 (December 2015)
90. The Dual Application Of Malachi 4:6B, Promise of Elijah - Part 1 (January 2016)
91. The Dual Application Of Malachi 4:6B, Promise of Elijah - Part 2 (February 2016)
92. The Dual Application Of Malachi 4:6B, Promise of Elijah - Part 3 (March 2016)
93. The Dual Application Of Malachi 4:6B, Promise of Elijah - Part 4 (April 2016)
94. The Householder (June 2016)
95. The Sun And The Gospel Movement (July 2016)
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106. The Seven Mountains of Revelation 17 - Parts 1 - 3 (June 2017)
107. Dispensational Messengers, Lead Ministries: In Defence Of William Branham - Parts 1 - 3 (July 2017)
108. The Acts Of The Apostles: "Writing" The Last Chapter - Parts 1 - 3 (August 2017)
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113. The Place Of Prophecy, And Its Judgement - Parts 4 & 5 (February 2018)
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116. The Martyrdom Of Saints - Parts 1 & 2 (June 2018)
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126. The Revelation Of Jesus Christ To The Church Ages - Introductory Chapter (June 2019)
127. The Revelation Of Jesus Christ To The Church Ages - Part 1: The Ephesian Church Age (June 2019)
128. The Revelation Of Jesus Christ To The Church Ages - Part 2: The Smyrnaean Church Age (June 2019)
129. The Revelation Of Jesus Christ To The Church Ages - Part 3: The Pergamean Church Age (June 2019)



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22. The Walking Voice, Parts 1 & 2 (October 2007).
23. The Man That Was Caught Up, Parts 1 & 2 (December 2007).
24. Genesis: The Creation Of The Universe (January 2008).
25. Genesis: The Eden Of Angels (February 2008).
26. Genesis: The Eden Of Man (March 2008).
27. Genesis: Cain And Abel (April 2008).
28. Genesis: The Mark Of Cain (June 2008).
29. Genesis: The Mixing Of Seeds (July 2008).
30. Genesis: The Travails Of Ham (August 2008).
31. Why Continuity?, Parts 1 - 5 (September 2008 - February 2009).
32. The Promise Of John - Parts 1 & 2 (March - April 2009).
33. The Spirit Of John - (June 2009).
34. John: The Angel's Feet Placing (July 2009).
35. John: The Eating Of The Scroll (August 2009).
36. John: Completing The Voice Of The Seventh Angel (September 2009).
37. John: The Foundation And The Plumbline (October 2009).
38. John: They Confessed And Denied Not (December 2009).
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40. The Beautiful Bride - Part 1 (February 2010)
41. John, Angels, And Prophecy; *Special Edition* (March 2010).
42. The Beautiful Bride - Parts 2 & 3 (June 2010)
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44. The Beautiful Bride - Part 6 (September 2010)
45. Demonology: The New Face Of The Contender; *Special Edition* (October 2010).
46. The Beautiful Bride - Parts 7 - 9 (December 2010 - February 2011).
47. Latter Rain (March 2011).
48. Joel's Army (April 2011).
49. An Unholy And Profane Sign (June 2011)
50. A Religion On Its Last Trail - Part 1 - 4 (July - October 2011).
51. He Preached To Spirits In Prison: Who Are They? Part 1 & 2 ( Dec. 2011 - Jan. 2012)
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62. The Threefold Mystery of The Seventh Seal (March 2013)
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64. The Present Day Identity Of The Serpent (June 2013)
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66. Ezekiel 38 And 39 Battle - A Revisit (August 2013)
67. The Apostolic Ministry: Timothy And Titus. (September 2013)
68. The Application of Types And Shadows (*Principles Of Types And Shadows*) - Parts 1 & 2 (Oct. - Dec. 2013)
69. The Application of Types And Shadows (*The Wilderness Experience*) - Part 3 (January 2014)
70. The Application of Types And Shadows (*Who Is This Melchizedek?*) - Parts 4 & 5 (Feb. - Mar. 2014)
71. The Seven Spirits Before The Throne (April 2014)
72. God In The Laodicean Age: The Year 2005 - Parts 1 & 2 (June 2014)
73. The Input Of Ham (July 2014)

## Announcement

***Our Convention dates for 2019 are as follows:***

**November Convention: 14th - 17th, 2019.**

***NOTE: Our email address has changed.***

All are welcome to the meetings. If you need more information, or if you have any questions or any comments, please feel free to contact us. All correspondence should be addressed to:

[pastorbft@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorbft@yahoo.com)

For those who prefer to write, our postal address is at the bottom of this page. We look forward to hearing from you.

## DIRECTORY OF THE SCRIBE

1. The Foundation Of The Five Fold Ministry, Parts 1&2 (January 2007).
2. The Foundation Of The Five Fold Ministry, Part 3: The Uniqueness Of The Ministry (January 2007).
3. The Foundation Of The Five Fold Ministry, Parts 4&5: Testing For Faithfulness (January 2007).
4. Locating God: The Visitation Of God, Parts 1&2 (February 2007).
5. Affinity With Evil (February 2007).
6. Where Are We? (February 2007).
7. The Way Forward (February 2007).
8. The Plot, Parts 1 - 4 (March 2007).
9. The Seven Thunders In Relation To The Five Fold Ministry, Parts 1&2 (March 2007).
10. The Jewish Connection, Parts 1 & 2 (April 2007).
11. The Third Pull (June 2007).
12. The Third Pull, And The Three Steps Into The Rapture (June 2007).
13. The Angel Of The Seventh Seal (June 2007).
14. They Came To Present Themselves, Parts 1&2 (July 2007).
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16. The Promise To The Overcomer, Parts 1-3 (July 2007).
17. The Manifestation Of The Sons Of God (July 2007).
18. A Woman Rises In America (July 2007).
19. The Prophetic Ministry Of William Branham, Parts 1-4 (August 2007).
20. The Three Scribes (September 2007).
21. Ministerial Irresponsibility (September 2007).

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*Stand by the Rock of revealed Truth.  
It makes the difference!  
Matt. 16:15-18*

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