

The Pergamean Church Age Lessons

Part 1

Introduction and Review:

We have learned that God has picked a messenger for each age and He identifies the messenger by one keystone of the Bible: Hebrews 13:8, Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. God doesn't change! These messengers are going to be saying the same thing! Remember it's the same oil in the lampstand burning in each age.

Now Brother Branham will review the first few church ages.

The first church age was the Ephesian Church Age, from a.d. 55 to 170. Paul being the star, and it was the first church age. "Works without love" was God's complaint. Reward was "Tree of Life."

Second church age was 170 to 312, Irenaeus being the messenger of the day. And the complaint was a persecu...was tribulations, and a persecuted church. Reward, "Crown of Life."

The third church age was Pergamos, Saint Martin being the messenger to that church. The church age was from 312 to 606. The complaint was "false doctrine, Satan's lying, the foundation of the Papal rule, and marriage was church and state together." The reward was "hidden manna, and a white stone."

60-1209 — The Sardisean Church Age, para 23-25

- What was the first age? Ephesian
- What was the reward? Tree of Life
- What was the second age? Smyrna
- Who was the messenger to the second age? Irenaeus.

Lesson:

Read Revelations 2:12-17.

- The name of the third church age is the Pergamean Church Age. The dates are from 312-606. This age lasted almost 300 years!
- The messenger to the age was Martin. He was born in Hungary shortly after the age started in 315. He went home to be with the Lord in 399, and the church age continued for another couple of hundred years.
- All the messengers were mighty men of God. We heard of miracles in Paul's life and in Irenaeus' life, but Brother Martin had one of the greatest miracle-filled lives of anybody in the church ages. Let us listen to what Brother Branham has to say.

The life of Saint Martin was...is one of the greatest miracle-filled lives of anybody in the church ages. From all the way from Saint Paul out, he was one of the most spiritual man. He was...

One of his first miracles was...He was a soldier, to begin with, I believe. And then one day he was coming by and there was someone...A—a man laying, cold and shivering, and all the people that was willing...or, not willing, but was able to help the man, they just passed him by like the—the

priest and the Levites did in the Good Samaritan. But when Saint Martin come by, realizing his duty as a Christian believer, he had one coat, a cloak over his shoulders, he cut it in two with his sword and give half of it to the beggar, he took the other half. And that night begin his career, for, Jesus Christ appeared to him, in a vision, wrapped in that same robe that he cut half in two; which fulfilled the Scripture, "Insomuch as you have done unto these, you have did it unto Me."

So take that for a lesson. Whatever you do to somebody, you're doing it unto Christ. Just remember. Now you...Let's say that together [Brother Branham and congregation speak in unison—Ed.]: "What you do to others, you have done to Christ." So no matter what he thinks about you, it's what you think about him, see, that brings the blessing. 60-1207 - The Pergamean Church Age, para 57-59

- It is important what we do to others. We need to remember that we are doing it to Christ!

Part 2

Introduction and Review:

We are still studying the third church age, which is...? The Pergamean Church Age

Who was the Messenger? Saint Martin

Lesson:

Read Revelation 2:12-17.

- We have learned about the messenger to this age. Let us learn a bit about the word Pergamos.
- The very name Pergamos means "thoroughly married." It was Satan's throne and dwelling place where state and church were married, and politics and religion were united. Pergamos was the most illustrious city in Asia. It was a city of culture with a great library, yet it was a city of great sin. The people here worshipped their god in the form of a live serpent.

Read Revelation 2:13.

- *Thou holdest fast my name.* The believers of this age said, "To Whom can we go? Thou alone hast the words of eternal life!" They were holding fast to His strength. They held to His Name and baptized in His Name. They did not deny His Faith. It was a living faith. They lived by the faith of the Son of God.
- Antipas my faithful martyr. There is no record in the Word or any history concerning this Brother. It is enough that he was foreknown by our Lord. He kept the faith, he was a Christian, and he lived by it. When death was pronounced upon all who would take the Name and walk in the faith of Jesus Christ, he took his stand with those who would not turn back.
- Pergamos was Satan's throne. Babylon has always been Satan's throne, but when Babylon was attacked by the Medes and Persians, then the priest-king, Attalus fled the city and went to Pergamos and set up his kingdom there.
- Between the years of 354-430, a decree was put out by Augustine of Hippo that the church ought and must use force, if necessary, to bring her children back into the fold. This started a time when the

children of God were persecuted and hunted down. These brave soldiers of the cross were overcoming Satan right in the midst of his own throne room! This was pleasing to God.

Read Revelation 2:14-15.

- God has two things against this church age.

1. The Doctrine of Balaam:

You see, if you take away the Word of God and the moving of the Spirit as a means of worship ("they that worship Me must worship Me in Spirit and in truth") then you will have to give the people another form of worship as a substitute, and substitution spells Balaamism. An Exposition of the Seven Church Ages, p 201

What did they do? They then...Balac's teaching come down amongst Israel. And they invited all the Israelites up to this big feast, the big blowout they had. Oh, some big party, shindig of a thing up there they had. And when they got up there, why, these Israelite people begin to see these pretty, sexy-dressed Moabite women. Yes, wasn't like their common girls down there. "Oh, they looked so pretty. My! How they were made and, oh, how they could show themselves." And they fell for it, and begin to commit adultery. And Balaam knowed if God wouldn't curse them, he'd take them over on this denominational side and cause the anger of God to kill them anyhow; let God kill them Hissself, if he could ever get them out of the way of the Truth. 60-1207 - The Pergamean Church Age, para 241

2. The Doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which had been but deeds in the Ephesian age.

- What does Nico mean again? To conquer. What does Laity mean? The people. To conquer the people.
- Religion of Babylon has become intermingled with Christianity, from A.D. 36 up to the Nicene Council of 325. We see now two churches bearing the same name but with bitter differences between them.

Listen to what Brother Branham has to say.

Now, this first Nicene Council, and it was in a.d. 330...325. About fifteen hundred delegates and bishops attended the meeting, but they overruled them, in some foggy, stormy council it was. And they overruled them, and voted in that the Nicolaitanes took over, and that was to take the...all the church, and put it under a supervision of popes or—or bishops, or something; taking the power from the Church and giving it over to the bishops, that the bishops should rule the Church and the only one that had anything to say about it.

Did you notice in the Catholic church today? "You can't read that Bible, that's not for you to interpret. That's the bishop." See where it come from? Now you can see what the Nicolaitanes really was before it begin to squeak and crawl. It was born right there. That's true. And it was a form of Christianity; still is!

And then the Protestant types right after it. The Bible, in Revelation 17, said, "The mother and the daughters." 60-1207 - The Pergamean Church Age, para 133-135

- So what happened? They took the power from the Church and gave it over to the leaders. That sounds like things today, "You need someone else to tell you what Brother Branham said on the tapes." NO! Stay with the Word and don't add to it or take away from it.

Read Revelations 2:16.

- Warning! REPENT! Or else God will fight against them with the sword of His mouth. What is the Sword? It is the Word! It is a serious thing to take away or add to the Word of God. Those that changed the Word are met with death and destruction.

Read Revelations 2:17.

- What rewards will God give the overcomer? Hidden manna and a white stone with a new name
- The hidden manna is angel's food. Manna that came down to feed the children of Israel on their wilderness journey.

Well, what is the "hidden manna"? The manna that isn't given to all of the congregation. The revelation is poured out upon the angel of the church, the revelation of the Word. See? Revelation of the Word is given to the angel of that age, for it's hid from everywhere, and revealed back (the hidden manna) to...It's addressed to the angel of the church. See? You get it? It's a little bigger revelation of what Christ is, maybe a little higher call.

60-1207 - The Pergamean Church Age

- His Word is bread. It was the perfect manna that man should live by. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. Jesus was that bread of life.

He said, "I am the bread of life. I am the living bread that came down from heaven, if any man shall eat of this bread he shall live forever." When He went away He left us His Word, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." His Word was bread. It was the perfect manna, which, if a man live by, he shall never die. Exposition of the Seven Church Ages, page 210

Listen as Brother Branham tells us about the white rock and the new name.

"A new name, a new name written in this rock that nobody knows but he himself." He knows who he is, but he can't tell others. See? See? No one knows but himself. See? Peter knows he had the keys, but you didn't hear him bragging about it. See? These guys who brag about what they are is usually nothing. Uh-huh, uh-huh. "A white rock, and in it a new name." Not his own name, but he's somebody else (See?) that only he himself knows; he that's got the rock, the name. See, special manna to feed the church, remember. 60-1207 - The Pergamean Church Age, para 287

Let's end the lesson with Brother Branham telling us about OUR name change.

And today each one of us true believers has had a change in name. We are Christians. It is a name common to all of us. But one day we will have another change; we will of a certainty receive a new name. It could well be that name was our true and original name written in the Lamb's Book of Life from the foundation of the world. He knows the name, but we do not. One day at His good pleasure, we will know also. An Exposition of the Seven Church Ages, p 212