

The Seven Churches of Asia Minor

REVELATION 2:1-7



THE SECONDARY OUTLINE

PART ONE: THE UNFAITHFUL WIFE (1:1 – 11:19)

I. THE PREAMBLE: JOHN'S VISION OF THE SON OF MAN 1:1-20

II. HISTORICAL PROLOGUE: LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES 2:1-3:22

III. STIPULATIONS: THE SEVEN SEALS 4:1-7:17

IV. SANCTIONS: THE SEVEN TRUMPETS 8:1-11:19

PART TWO: THE BRIDE, THE LAMB'S WIFE (12:1 – 22:21)

IV. SANCTIONS: THE SEVEN TRUMPETS (CONTINUED) 12:1-14:20

V. SUCCESSION ARRANGEMENTS: SEVEN BOWLS OF WRATH 15:1-22:21

The Covenantal Treaty Structure

SECTION	NAME	PURPOSE
1.	PREAMBLE	To identify and establish the authority of the Suzerain
2.	HISTORICAL PROLOGUE	To review the historical relationship between the Suzerain and the Vassal
3.	ETHICAL STIPULATIONS	To explain the conduct expected of the Vassal and the benefits which accompany obedience to the covenant
4.	SANCTIONS	To define violations of the covenant and the consequences of disobedience to the covenant
5.	SUCCESSION ARRANGEMENTS	To warn of the grave consequences of succeeding the covenant



PENTECOST AND THE JEWISH DIASPORA

ACTS 2

- City with Jewish population
- ▲ Mountain peak

ELAM Province mentioned in Acts 2

LYCIA Other provinces

■ Roman Empire

Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3 —

- 1 Ephesus
- 2 Smyrna
- 3 Pergamos
- 4 Thyatira
- 5 Sardis
- 6 Philadelphia
- 7 Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision



#	SECTION	DESCRIPTION
1	Preamble	Christ's Lordship over the Churches
2	Historical Prologue	Christ's Knowledge of the History of Each Church
3	Ethical Stipulations	Christ's Call to Obedience (includes the Covenant Grant)
4	Sanctions	Christ's Call to Repentance for Disobedience
5	Succession Arrangements	Christ's Warning of Punishment for Disobedience

The Individual Letters To Each Church Reflect And Reinforce The Covenantal Treaty Structure



“To the Angel of the Church in... Write”

- Some commentaries suggest this is a reference to “the bishop”.
- That is inconsistent with New Testament (Acts 20:28; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 2:25)
- Angel, simply means messenger (Matt. 11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 7:27; 2 Cor. 12:7; Phil. 2:25)
- This simply may have referred to a human messenger.
- Evangelists are “bringers of good tidings”

THE CITY OF EPHESUS

1. The Chief City in Asia
2. Curetes Street
3. The Temple of Artemis (Diana)
4. The Great Theatre
5. Domitian Statue



Revelation 2:1-7 - The Letter to Ephesus

STRUCTURE	THE CHURCH AT EPHEBUS
Preamble	He who holds the seven stars and walks among the ...
Historic Prologue	I know your works, your labor your patience...
Ethical Stipulations	
Sanctions	
Succession Arrangements	
Covenant Grant	

Revelation 2:2-3 – “I Know Your Works...”

Tested False Apostles
– vs. 2

You cannot bear – vs. 2

Have Persevered – vs. 3

Your Patience – vs. 2

You have patience – vs. 3

Your labor – vs. 2

This is a
“chiastic structure”.

Labored for My name’s
sake – vs. 3

Revelation 2:1-7 - The Letter to Ephesus

STRUCTURE	THE CHURCH AT EPHEBUS
Preamble	He who holds the seven stars and walks among the ...
Historic Prologue	I know your works, your labor your patience...
Ethical Stipulations	Repent and do the first works
Sanctions	You have left your first love
Succession Arrangements	Or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand
Covenant Grant	Eat from tree of life, which is in the midst

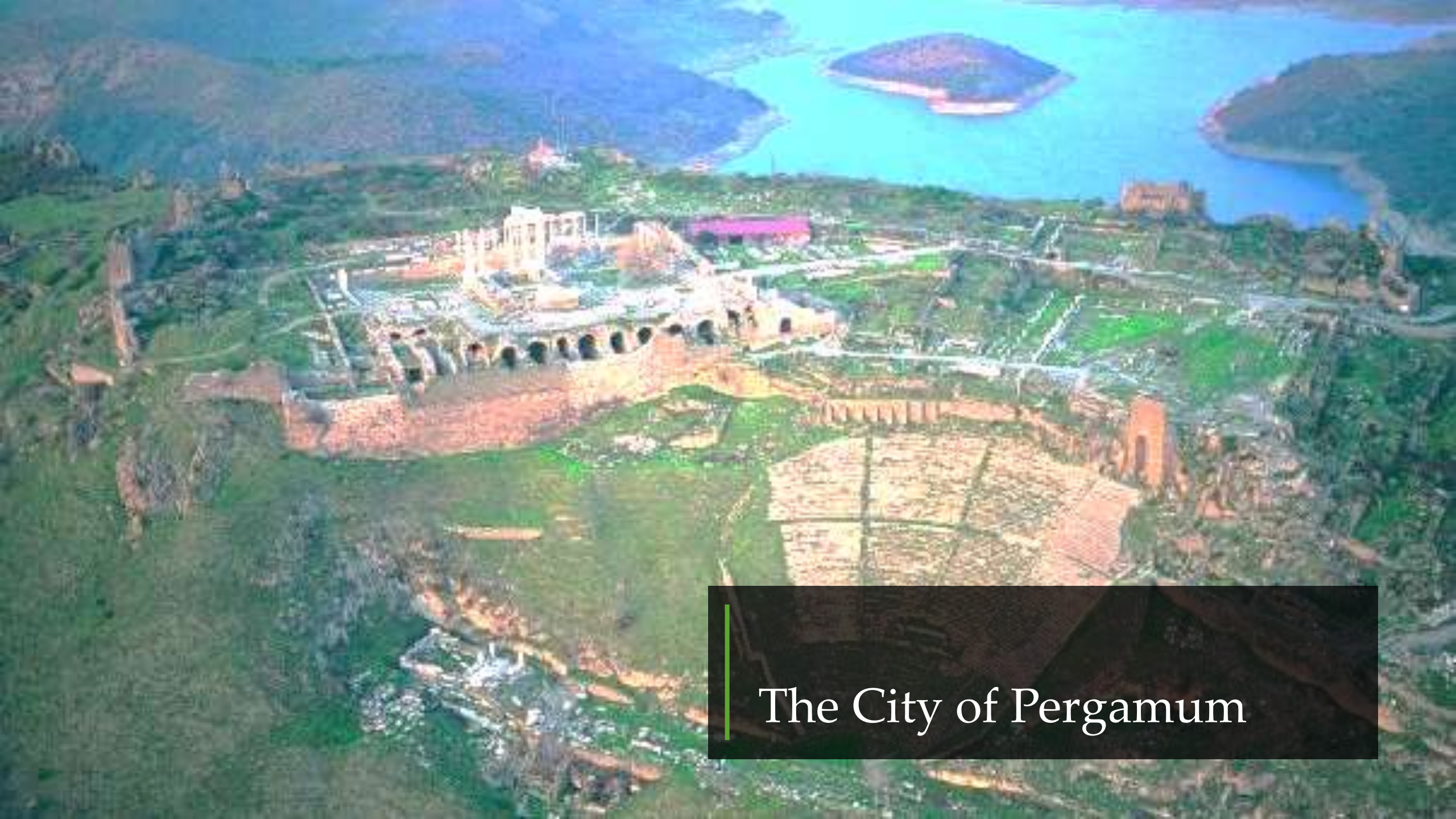
The City of Smyrna

- An Impressive Harbor City
- Renowned for its Beauty
- Temples, Baths, Gymnasium, Theatre, Stadium and Library
- Caesar Tiberius Granted Permission to Build an Imperial Temple
- A Second “neocorate” was awarded by Emperor Hadrian
- Polycarp was Martyred in the Stadium by Being Burned Alive

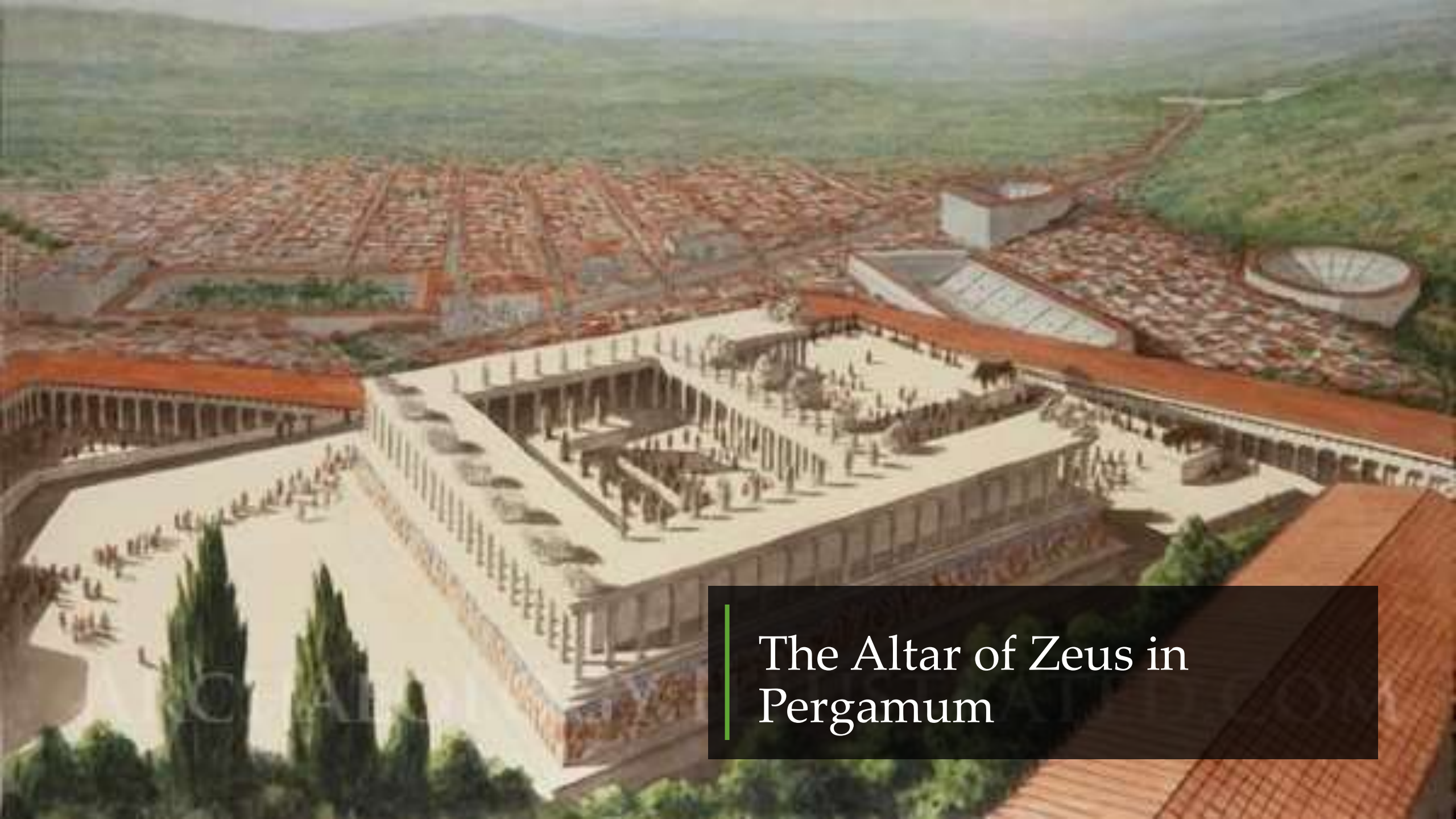


Revelation 2:8-11 - The Letter to Smyrna

STRUCTURE	THE CHURCH AT SMYRNA
Preamble	The First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life
Historic Prologue	I know your works, tribulation and poverty (but you are
Ethical Stipulations	Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life
Sanctions	<i>No sanctions were supplied</i>
Succession Arrangements	<i>No succession arrangements were necessary</i>
Covenant Grant	Will not be hurt by the second death



The City of Pergamum



The Altar of Zeus in Pergamum



Amphitheatre in Pergamum

Revelation 2:12-17 - The Letter to Pergamum

STRUCTURE	THE CHURCH AT PERGAMUM
Preamble	He who has the sharp two-edged sword
Historic Prologue	Hold fast to My name, did not deny My faith
Ethical Stipulations	Repent, or else I will come to you quickly,
Sanctions	You have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam
Succession Arrangements	I will fight against them with the sword of My mouth
Covenant Grant	Hidden manna, white stone, a new name



The City of Thyatira

- A Minor City
- Known for its Textile Industry
- Lydia (first European convert) was from Thyatira (Acts 16:14,40)
- The textile industry included wool merchants, dyers, and linen workers.

Revelation 2:12-17 - The Letter to Thyatira

STRUCTURE	THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA
Preamble	Son of God, eyes like flames of fire, feet like fine brass
Historic Prologue	Love, service, faith and patience, last more than first
Ethical Stipulations	Hold fast what you have till I come
Sanctions	You allow that woman Jezebel to teach and seduce
Succession Arrangements	I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know
Covenant Grant	Power over the nations, the morning star

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COVENANT STRUCTURE	EPHESUS	SMYRNA	PERGAMUM	THYATIRA
Preamble	He who holds... He who walks...	The First and the Last, who was dead, and...	He who has the sharp two-edged sword	Son of God, eyes like flames, feet of brass
Historical Prologue	Labor, patience, cannot bear evil, tested false apostles, perseverance, patience, labored ¹	Tribulation and poverty (but you are rich)	You hold fast to My name and did not deny My faith	Love, service, faith and patience, you last works are more than the first
Ethical Stipulations	Repent, do first works	Be faithful until death	Repent or else I will...	Hold what you have
Sanctions	You have left your first love	None supplied	You have those there who hold the doctrine	You allow that woman Jezebel...
Succession Arrangements	Quickly remove your lampstand	Unnecessary	I will fight against them with the sword	I will kill her children with death
Covenant Grant	Eat from tree of life	Will not be hurt by second death	Hidden manna, white stone, a new name	I will give power over the nations

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