

*The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia*, Sir William Ramsay, 1904.

*The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia in Their Local Setting*, Colin J. Hemer, 1986.

1. **Ephesus v. Pergamum:**

- Ephesus was the economic and cultural leader (NYC or L.A.)
- Pergamum was the seat of government (Washington D.C. or Sacramento)
- The Proconsul of Asia was located in Pergamum (eventually, Ephesus took over as the Roman power seat in Asia).

2. Read the entire letter: **Rev. 2: 12-17**

3. Brief history of Pergamum:

Date	Name of Leader	Significance
301 BC	Lysimachus	A General under Alex. The Great
282	Philetaerus	Founder of Attalid Dynasty
263	Eumenes I	
241	Attalus I	Fended off attacks from Gauls
197	Eumenes II	
160	Attalus II	
138-133	Attalus III	Bequeathed his kingdom to Rome

- Rome renames the province “Asia,” meaning east.
- Becomes known as Asia Minor (little East).
- Pergamum becomes the seat of power for the Roman Proconsul.

4. **“Satan’s Throne”** – Who are the candidates in Pergamum that would lead John to call it “Satan’s Throne?”

- Center of Pagan worship: a large number of temples
  - Zeus, Athena, Asclepius, Dionysus, Demeter, Serapis
- Zeus altar: Father of the gods. Called “*soter*” or Savior
- Asclepius temple
- The seat of Roman power.
- Imperial Cult: Pergamum was the first city to declare a worship site to Caesar Augustus and the Emperor Cult in 26 B.C.

#### 5. **Asklepius** – Myth

- Father was Apollo, mortal mother, – Coronis.
- Raised by a centaur and taught medicine and healing arts.
- At one point raised a man from the dead. Zeus was angry and killed him.
- Zeus placed him among the stars, “the Serpent Holder.”
- Zeus raised him from the dead and seated him on Mt. Olympus
- Daughters:
  - Hygeia – goddess of cleanliness and sanitation
  - Panacea – goddess of universal remedy
- God of healing and medicine
- Healed by moving or living water
- Called “savior”
- His symbol is a snake
- Worship site called **Asklepion** – a hospital. The Mayo Clinic of the 1<sup>st</sup> century.

#### 6. **Asklepion**:

- Build around (3) springs – moving or living water
- The Asklepion provided stress relief, exercise; diet; hot and cold baths; mud baths; massage, dream interpretation, herbal medicines, theater, a library, and sunbathing.

#### 7. Heart of healing is the **Sacred Spring**:

- The voice of Asclepius is the sound of moving water.
  - Rev. 1:12-16
- The spring waters run underground below the floor of a tunnel and into the treatment rooms.
- Upon entering the treatment room, you ingest opium and then wait to hear Asclepius speak.
- Make an offering (co-payment?) on the way out

#### 8. **John 5: 1-9** and 14:

- What is the man’s sin?