

1. **Read:** Rev. 2: 12-17

2. **"Satan's Throne" – why?**

- 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
- Seat of Roman power.
- Imperial Cult: first Emperor Cult site in 26 B.C. to Caesar Augustus

3. **Review: Asclepius –**

- Born of union b/w a god and a mortal woman
- Resurrected from the dead and seated on the throne with father.
- Called "savior"
- Symbol is a snake

4. **How do you give testimony to Asclepius after being healed?**

- Votive Offering

- inscribe your name on a stone

See Rev. 2:17

5. **Pergamum: Seat of Roman Power**

- Proconsul had a power called "*Ius Gladii*."

- "The Right of the Sword" – the proconsul had power over life and death.

- Rev. 2: 12-13 – In Asia, who has the power to put someone to death?

6. **"Sword of Mouth"** - Isaiah 11:4; 49:2 and Ephesians 6:17

The "word of God" (truth) is the sword that we do battle with

## 7. Review of the Acropolis:

- Zeus Altar
- Athena Temple
- Theater
- Dionysus Temple
- Temple to Trajan

## 8. The Altar to Zeus

- now located inside Pergamum Museum in Germany
- 110 ft x 110 ft
  
- Frieze is dedicated to the Pergamum victory over the Gauls but the depiction is the cosmic battle between the Olympian gods and the Giants.

## 9. Hidden Mana?

- Rev. 2: 17
  
- Exodus 16: 32-34
  
- 2 Maccabees 2: 4-8

4 The same document also states that the prophet commanded, with a solemn divine pronouncement, that the meeting tent and the chest containing the covenant should go with him. The documents reported that he went to the mountain that Moses ascended to see the inheritance that God promised

5 When Jeremiah arrived, he discovered a cave where he deposited the meeting tent, the covenant chest, and the incense altar. He blocked up the opening. 6 Some who had accompanied him went along to mark the way but couldn't find it again. 7 When Jeremiah found out, he rebuked them and said: "The place will remain unknown until God gathers the people together again and shows mercy. 8 Then the Lord will disclose these things. The Lord's glory will appear with the cloud, as they were revealed in the time of Moses and when Solomon prayed that the place might be made holy."

- the interpretation was that in the days of the Messiah, he would follow in the footsteps of both Moses and Elijah – both went up to Mt. Sinai in a cave – and retrieve the hidden mana.

- if the "hidden mana" is now given to you, it indicates that the Messiah has arrived!

- The Messiah is God's judge. In Asia, where do you go if you are the true judge?

## References:

- Sir William Ramsay - *The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia*, 1904.  
Colin J. Hemer - *The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia in Their Local Setting*, 1986.