Pergamos, a black horse, and a Star called *Wormwood*...

Milwaukee Bible Students

**Revelation**

- Revelation is the only book of the Bible offered directly by our Savior (Revelation 1:1)

- Revelation presents a comprehensive framework for interpreting prophecy

- Because we are examining history we will need to reference history books as well as the Bible to understand the third stage of Revelation and its relevance to current events
Pergamos, a black horse, and a Star called Wormwood...

How do churches, seals, and trumpets relate to each other?
3rd church – Revelation 2:12-18
3rd seal – Revelation 6:5-6
3rd trumpet – Revelation 8:10-11
3rd church - Pergamos

Rev 2:12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

3rd church - Pergamos

Rev 2:13 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.
3rd church - Pergamos

Rev 2:14 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.

Rev 2:15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

Rev 2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Ephesians 6:17 And take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God
3\textsuperscript{rd} church - Pergamos

Rev 2:17  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.

3\textsuperscript{rd} church - Pergamos

3\textsuperscript{rd} church - Pergamos

Istanbul
(Constantinople)

Athens
3rd church - Pergamos meaning
“a mixed (around) marriage”

Pergamos was built upon an imposing conical hill that provided natural protection & strength.

The events linked to the Pergamos church make it reasonable to interpret Pergamos (“Mixed Marriage”) as a picture of the elevation of the church by the state (539 A.D.)

This unholy union of church and state is “fornication” (Rev. 2:14)
Pope Gelasius asserted Papal claims to the Emperor Anastasius (494 A.D.)

“Two powers are there, O Emperor, by which in chief this world is ruled: the sacred authority of Pontiffs, and the royal power. And in these two the weight of the Pontiffs is in so far the heavier, in that they will have in the judgment to render an account to the Lord even for kings themselves.”

A Catholic source

Emperor Justinian (527-565 A.D.) advanced the Papacy’s power (Pope Virgilius)

Court of Emperor Justinian with (right) archbishop Maximian and (left) court officials and Praetorian Guards; Basilica di San Vitale a Ravenna, Italy.
Old St. Peter’s Basilica Rome seat of Pope Virgilius’s power (historian’s reconstruction)

Things did not go well for Pope Virgilius. Further bickering over Trinitarian dogma at church councils ended with him separating, being anathematized and then reconciling with Constantinople.

Constantinople - Hagia Sophia “Holy Wisdom” (without Islamic additions)
Emperor Justinian was a great legalist who granted the church important legal rights. (539 A.D.) **These rights endured.**

Novella 79 (March 539) on Civil Proceedings: Only bishops, can judge in legal proceedings against members of the church hierarchy. Civil authorities are excluded.

Novella 83 (May 539) on Church Proceedings: “…When an offence committed by an ecclesiastic requires sacerdotal castigation and fine, the bishop shall take cognizance of it without the assistance of the illustrious provincial judges, as We do not desire civil magistrates to hear cases of this kind under any circumstances…”


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Emperor Justinian was a great legalist who granted the church important legal rights. (539 A.D.) **These rights endured.**

Novella 86 (April 539) Bishops as a court of appeals: “…private person must first apply to the illustrious Governor of the province, and ask him to examine the matter in dispute, in accordance with Our laws, and see that both parties obtain justice; but if, after having applied to the Governor, he should not obtain justice, We direct that he can then have recourse to his most holy bishop…”

Most importantly Justinian named the Pope the head of the church (545 A.D.)

Novella 131 (March 545) “Concerning the Precedence of Patriarchs” : We order that the Most Holy Pope of ancient Rome shall hold the first rank of all the Pontiffs, but the Most Blessed Archbishop of Constantinople, or New Rome, shall occupy the second place after the Holy Apostolic See of ancient Rome, which shall take precedence over all other sees.

Translated by S. P. Scott, The Civil Law, XVII, Cincinnati (1932).

3rd church and the “Abomination”

• The historical elevation of the papacy (“Pergamos embraces the transition period during which the Papacy had its rise” R.5992[?])
3rd church and the “Abomination”

- The historical elevation of the mass ("the great abomination of desolation whose foundation rests on the doctrine of the Mass" Vol4:572)

- The triumph of the trinitarian dogma (R.5749)
### 3rd church Pergamos (Revelation 2:12-17)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • 13: where Satan’s seat is | • The office of “Pontiff”
| • 13: Antipas was my faithful martyr “Antipas” for “Anti-patris” meaning, “Against,” or “In place of father” used as a personal name and city name | • Opposition to the office of Papacy
| • 14: But I have a few things against thee | • Let us note well, a few things, not many things.
| • 14: the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel | • Marrying the world. Involvement in the politics, and seeking the approval of those not in covenant relationship with God.

### 3rd church Pergamos (Revelation 2:12-18)

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<th>Symbol</th>
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| • 15: doctrine of Nicolaitanes “Followers of Nicholas” | • Prophetic prediction of the name Nicholas?: St. Nicholas (bishop of Myra, Asia Minor) – “Santa Claus,” His great popularity and the devotion paid him rest mainly on the traditions of the many miracles wrought through his intercession.

A nice fellow, but – Do not follow the doctrine, or seek miracles from “saints” (Legend holds St. Nicholas raised the dead more than once) and do not honor Santa Claus.

Legend holds that bishop Nicholas slapped Arius for blasphemy at the Nicene Council (325 A.D.)
3rd church and the “Abomination”

The year 539 A.D. marks the beginning for reckoning the “abomination which makes desolate” (Daniel 11:31; Matthew 24:15)

Why the Days of Daniel are important - the days point to when history changes

• Use 539 A.D. as the base year and begin counting all the “days” of Daniel using the day for a year formula.

• The 1260, 1290, and 1335 days will end at differing dates (1799 A.D.; 1829 A.D.; 1874 A.D.) each of unique importance.
Days of Daniel

The 1260 days is very clearly marked.
The 1260 days directly link to the type of 1260 days drought announced by Elijah

Elijah condemned the “mixed marriage” of Ahab and Jezebel. A picture of “church and State”

1Ki 16:31  ...he (Ahab) took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.

The old order - the church crowned the kings

Emperor Fredrick 1155 A.D.

Charles VII of France 1422

Charlemagne 799 A.D.
The New Order
1799 A.D. Papacy is abased in the fall of the “10th part of the city” (France) Revelation 11:13

1799 a new consciousness emerges the most radical had *no religion*

Pope Pius VI
Arrested and put in prison by the French Army, dying in captivity in 1799.

Voltaire

Napoleon
Preaching the 2nd Coming; Cleansing the Sanctuary

The earth under a new dominion

“O the Blessedness...”
The earth under a new dominion
Pergamos, a black horse, and a Star called *Wormwood*...

How do churches, seals, and trumpets relate to each other?

3\textsuperscript{rd} church – Revelation 2:12-18  
3\textsuperscript{rd} seal – Revelation 6:5-6  
3\textsuperscript{rd} trumpet – Revelation 8:10-11  

The 3\textsuperscript{rd} seal - a black horse and balances

*Four Horsemen of Apocalypse, by Viktor Vasnetsov. Painted in 1887.*
The 3rd seal - Revelation 6:5-6

Rev 6:5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

Rev 6:6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.
The 3rd seal

- The balances and the high grain cost – one day’s wages, or one penny – barely buys enough food for survival.
- Recall that Elijah proclaimed the start of a 1260 day drought. The drought brought famine, hence the exorbitant grain prices.
- Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit (oil) and the Joy and Life in Christ, the Gospel, Christian experiences coming out of its teachings (wine) are “not touched”

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3rd trumpet – Revelation 8:10-11
Guidance from the pen of that “wise and faithful servant” on interpretation

...No comments under the seasoned editorship of the Pastor

A short problematical Rev. 8:10 interpretation by Nelson Barbour in *The Three Worlds*

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Revelation 8:10

“And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;”
Revelation 8:11

“And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.”

Wormwood (Artemisia Absinthe) one of the bitterest tastes known, but of medicinal value

Wormwood

• Bitterness we bring on ourselves
  • Deu 29:18 “Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood”
Wormwood

- *Bitterness as judgment from the LORD*
- Jer 23:15 “Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land.”

Wormwood

- *Yet it is medicinal it cures intestinal worms*
- Egyptians used the plant as an antiseptic, a stimulant and tonic, and as a remedy for fevers and menstrual pains.
- Greeks used it for such ailments as rheumatism, anemia and menstrual pains.
- Today Artemisia is recognized as a low cost effective treatment for malaria
Wormwood as identified by Brethren

- Many (but not all) identify Wormwood with Papacy
- Today we will talk about another interpretation

3rd trumpet (Revelation 8:10-11)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10: a great star from heaven</td>
<td>Vol.4, p.591, 593: stars, both inspired and false teachers. Bro. R.E. Streeter, Revelation, stars = teachers, true and false. Isaiah 34:4 “And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll.” Fits well with teachers, true and false.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10: burning as it were a lamp</td>
<td>Vol.3, p.92.3: “lamp” scripture. But, this is “as it were” suggesting false scripture.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3rd trumpet (Revelation 8:10-11)

Symbol
- 11: third part of the waters

Interpretation
- All interpretations recognize that judgment is linked to the third part

More....

The third part - Guidance from Leviticus: on the 3rd day that which is not fully consumed in the Lord’s service in the acceptable time becomes an abomination

Leviticus 19:7 “And if it be eaten at all on the third day, it is abominable; it shall not be accepted.”

also Leviticus 7:17,18; 19:6
The third part is not 33% it may be as high as 100%
### 3rd Trumpet (Revelation 8:10-11)

**Symbol**
- 10: *rivers, and upon the fountains of waters*

**Interpretation**
- R.499: Running waters symbolize truth. The river channels through which water (truth) has flowed, symbolize the various sects or denominations. The fountains symbolize the founders and schools of these various systems *(no attribution – suggesting that Bro. Russell wrote this)*

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**Let us ask:**

Who were these false fountains? Where did they issue from?
Opposition to sound doctrine began in the Apostle’s days

- **Paul:** *False brethren* 2 Cor. 11:26; Galatians 2:4.
- **John:** *Diotrephes not receiving him* 3Jn 1:9
- **Peter:** “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who...shall bring in damnable heresies” 2Pe 2:1
- **Jude:** “Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.” 1:11

Ignatius of Antioch (~35-108 A.D.)

- “God existing in flesh...even Jesus Christ our Lord.”
- “It is not lawful to baptize or give communion without the consent of the bishop.”
Justin Martyr - Israel (~100-165 A.D.)

• “...we been taught that the food which is blessed by the prayer of His word, and from which our blood and flesh by transmutation are nourished, is the flesh and blood of that Jesus”

Theophilus, Patriarch of Antioch (death 183 A.D.)

• Earliest writer to use the Greek word “Trinity” (Greek: τριας trias) but not to refer to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Theophilus himself puts it as “God, his Word (Logos) and his Wisdom (Sophia).”
Tertullian, Carthage (165-225 A.D.)

- Tertullian has been called “the father of Latin Christianity” and “the founder of Western theology.” He is perhaps best known for being the oldest extant Latin writer to use the term *Trinity* (Latin *trinitas*).

Origen, Tyre (184-253 A.D.)

- Origen was a prolific writer, including textual criticism. He taught against an earthly kingdom and restitution on earth. He thought “The Times of Restitution” might have reference to Satan, being reconciled to God. Origen wrote in support of his version of the *Trinity*. 
Athanasius of Alexandria (296 – 373 A.D.)

- His episcopate lasted 45 years of which over 17 were spent in five exiles. **He was the chief proponent of Trinitarianism opposing Arius at the Nicene Council.**

Council of Nicaea (325 A.D.)

Main results:
- Further establishment of Trinitarianism
- Drafting the Nicene Creed (“Apostles”)
- Settling the calculation of the date of Easter not on Nisan 14.

Attendance 250–318 (only five from Western Church)
Augustine, bishop of Hippo (354-430 A.D.)

Augustine was one of the most prolific Latin authors probably best known for the *City of God*, consisting of 22 books, which he wrote to restore the confidence of his fellow Christians, which was badly shaken by the sack of Rome by the Visigoths in 410. His *On the Trinity*, developed what has become known as the “psychological analogy” of the Trinity.

Who were these false fountains?
The majority wrote in Greek, two of note (Tertullian, Augustine, both near Carthage) wrote in Latin.

Where did they issue from?
The Eastern church was the source of these unscriptural departures from sound doctrine. Only a few Western (Rome-oriented) bishops even could afford to attend the Nicene Council. *Were we to add more “church fathers” we would only fill in the arc from Carthage to Constantinople.*
Was there judgment on these false fountains?

Who is the *Star called Wormwood* bringing *bitter judgment* to this area of the world?

Islam as *Wormwood*

- Muhammad, a spiritual leader (“Star”) founds Islam
- Islam has its own set of scripture (“burning as a lamp”)
Islam as *Wormwood*

- Islam “falls on” and conquers the arc from Carthage to Constantinople

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The *Wormwood of Islam*

- For the Christian minority, deadly violence from the Moslem majority is always a possibility.
- The Christian community living under Islam suffers unremitting misery. They are persecuted, taxed to poverty, and second class citizens before the bar of justice.
The Wormwood of Islam

• “There is no God but God” is the “call to prayer” of Islam.
• This is a basic theology lesson publically sung five times a day.
• The entire city hears it.

Islam vehemently disagrees with Church dogma on the Trinity

This Islamic apologist typical: “Firstly, the doctrine of Trinity was the most notorious point at issue between Christianity and Islam, and hence was freighted with fierce passions...” The Trinity a Muslim Perspective (Text of a lecture given to a group of Christians in Oxford, 1996) © Abdal-Hakim Murad
**Wormwood** links to Muhammad and the rise of Islam

Days of Daniel - Islam

Days of Daniel – start 539 A.D., solar Moslem year Hegira – 622 A.D., lunar Streeter, Daniel Beloved of Jehovah

1844 – Ottoman “Sublime Porte” forced (by British) to publish that Christian converts would no longer be executed

1874 – The Lord’s 2\textsuperscript{nd} Presence

1917 – Ottomans loose Jerusalem to General Allenby
Closing thoughts

- The “Abomination which maketh desolate” was permitted and overruled for a fixed time of 1335 days

- The “Star called Wormwood” was permitted and overruled for a fixed time of 1335 days

The Lord promises that all which oppresses, murders, maims, and pillages in His Name will be destroyed. He will not need our sword to accomplish this.

Watch and Pray

A Harmony with the Chart of the Ages
May the Lord add His Blessing

For reference please see:

R.E. Streeter, *Daniel the Beloved of Jehovah*, PBI

BOT, *A Star Called Wormwood*–August 2002

BOT, *The Letter to Pergamum*–November 2002

www.beautiesofthetruth.org

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Christianity and Islam contrasted

- The Bible teaches that God is our Father, and His son Jesus Christ justifies us. The Koran holds a more distant view of God as the creator, and each believer is a servant standing before God justified by his own works.

- The Bible teaches that God is Love. The Koran teaches that God is merciful and compassionate to Moslems; the rest will burn in Hell. Hell figures prominently, and frequently in the teachings of Muhammad.
Christianity and Islam contrasted

• **Jesus teaches** that heaven is a place of fellowship, work, and growth in knowing God.

• **Muhammad teaches** heaven as a sensual place:

   “Indeed, for the righteous is attainment – Gardens and grapevines and full-breasted [companions] of equal age and a full cup.”

   (Surah 78, The Tidings 32-35) [http://quran.com/78](http://quran.com/78)  This is an Islamic site

Christianity and Islam contrasted

• **Jesus teaches** that they who take up the sword shall die by the sword. (Matthew 26:52)

• When Jesus was not accepted, James and John wanted him to call down fire from heaven on the unbelievers (Luke 9:54,55). Jesus turned and rebuked them.
Christianity and Islam contrasted

• Muhammad teaches his disciples to fight unbelievers:

  “Fight in the way of Allah those who fight you, but do not transgress. Indeed. Allah does not like transgressors...Fight them until there is no more tumult (Yusuf Ali), and until worship is acknowledged to be for Allah. But if they cease, then there is to be no aggression except against the oppressors”

  (Surah 2, The Women 190-193) http://quran.com/2  This is an Islamic site

Christianity and Islam contrasted

• Jesus taught that the place where God is worshipped matters little. His disciples must worship in spirit and in truth. (John 4:23,24)

• Muhammad taught his followers to pray towards an exact location – the Kaaba in the city of Mecca.
Christianity and Islam contrasted
(and there are many others...)

- **Jesus teaches** that *all men* are neighbors.

- **Muhammad teaches** that *all believers* are neighbors.