

Spring 2010  
Study Questions for Revelation Series

No Compromise, Revelation 2:12-17

Preaching Date: February 21, 2010

Key Sentence: Jesus provides for those who hold to him without compromise

I. True to His Name (Revelation 2:12-13)

II. The Peril of Compromise (Revelation 2:14-16)

III. The Provision of Jesus (Revelation 2:17)

NOTE: There are several different small groups doing different kinds of studies of Revelation that follow Bob's preaching scheme. This study guide includes:

I. A list of basic inductive study questions, for those who study the text on their own.

II. A section of questions pursuing specifics of this text.

III. A section of questions pursuing personal reflection and application.

The first section will remain the same each week, while the last two sections will be tailored to the specific text.

## **I. Inductive Study**

Pray: seek God's direction and wisdom. Make the study a conversation with God.

Read: Read the passage several times in different versions.

Write down what stood out to you from this initial reading.

Observation:

What is the context? What came before? What follows?

Who is mentioned in the passage? Who is the audience?

Mark the key words and phrases; study them using dictionaries or computer tools.

Mark statements that teach using comparison/contrast, metaphor, or cause/effect.

Break the section into logical pieces and write the main thought of each piece.

Interpretation:

Look for promises that are made, commands that are given, examples that should or should not be followed.

Pursue cross references on specific words and Biblical concepts. Carefully record what you learn from other Scriptures about these key words or ideas.

Summarize the section in one good sentence.

Where does this section fit in the big idea of Scripture: God's redemption plan.

Application:

Are there any commands that you need to obey; sins that you need to avoid; promises that you need to claim; examples that you need to follow.

Write a specific response to this passage, applying the teaching to your own circumstances and relationship with God.

## II. Study Questions

Brief Background: Pergamum was the capital city of Roman Asia Minor (Ephesus was 'New York', Pergamum was 'Washington D.C.'). It was the home of four major idol temples (Zeus, Athena, Dionysus and Asklepios, a snake-like god of healing). It was also the home of the first temple of the imperial cult which worship the Caesars as divine.

1. What does Christ say of himself as the letter begins (verse 12)? Where was this phrase used before in Revelation? What are the implications?

2. What is the significance of describing Pergamum as the place where Satan has his throne? What does this imply for the degree of opposition to believers. What kinds of opposition would Satan probably mount? (cf. Job 1:6-12, Zechariah 3:1-2, Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 4:13-15, Acts 26:12-18, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, 2 Thessalonians 2:5-10)

3. What is the teaching of Balaam? (cf. Number 25:1-3, Numbers 31;13-16. For more background on Balaam, see Numbers 22-24. Notice the sequential link between these chapters and the incident at Peor attributed (later) to Balaam?

4. How do idolatry and sexual immorality fit together? (cf. Ezekiel 23:35-39, Ezekiel 43:6-9, Hosea 4:12-14)

5. Does this text give any clue as to what the teaching of the Nicolaitans might be? (cf. Revelation 2:6)

6. In chapter 1 we tentatively identified the sword coming from the Son of Man's mouth as the word of the Lord? How does verse 16 fit with that identification? If it's true, how would the Word of the Lord accomplish this goal? (cf. Hebrews 4:12)

7. What is the Biblical significance of manna? (cf. Exodus 16:31-34, Deuteronomy 8:3, Psalm 78:24, John 6:30-35, Hebrews 9:4). There was a Jewish legend that Jeremiah had taken the Ark of the Covenant (with the manna) into hiding before the fall of Jerusalem, and that he would return with it in the day of the Messiah.

8. What do you think is the significance of the white stone?

### **III. Application Questions**

1. Where does Satan have his throne or thrones today? What can you do to avoid his temptations and accusations?

2. What are contemporary instances of the two sins that Balaam used to lead the people of Israel astray? In what ways are you vulnerable to these contemporary temptations of idolatry or sexual sin?

3. What would repentance look like in your case?

4. What is the comfort of verse 17? Is there any present value to the promise of manna or the promise of a white stone with your own secret name on it?

5. The passage implies a contrast between the idol feasts of verse 14 and the manna of verse 17. What are the implications of this contrast for your life?