THE PERGAMOS CHURCH AGE

1. **Understanding the Timeframe**

   a. **The Pergamos church age begins in 325 AD with _____ and the council of Nicaea, and continues until the beginning of the Dark Ages in 500 AD –** Now called the "Middle Ages"

   b. **Many church historians refer to this time as the ____-Nicene period**

   c. **Some of the key people at this time include…**

      i. **_____** *(354-430 AD)*

      ii. **Athanasius** *(296-373 AD)*

      iii. **Cyril** *(315-386 AD)*

      iv. **Chrysostom** *(345-407 AD)*

      v. **Theodorat** *(397-457 AD)*

      vi. **Basil** *(330-379 AD)*

      vii. **Gregory Nazianzen** *(329-390 AD)*

      viii. **Gregory Nyssa** *(330-395 AD)*

2. **Understanding the Text – *Rev. 2:12-17***

   a. **Consider the meaning of the name "Pergamos" –** Much Marriage

      i. This name supernaturally represents the characteristics of the period

      ii. **It is the time in church history where the "church" is married to the _____**

      iii. **The _____ of the Ephesus church period began to develop into the _____ of the Smyrna Church Period, which fully developed into Satan's _____ Church –**

      iv. **This imposter becomes accepted as the "true church," or the "_____ _____ _____"**

         - It established itself as authoritative, and believes it stands in the place of Jesus to dispense salvation
         - It believes it's the only church that can understand and teach the Bible

   b. **It's interesting how God begins His letter – *2:12***

      i. He has a two-edged sword – ***Heb. 4:12***

      ii. He says this at a time when people have removed themselves there is no Biblical Authority

   c. **This church dwells where _____ Dwells – *2:13***

      i. **Satan has a ____!** – Throne, the place where he rules from

- Satan's primary place of operation is "religion"
- His place in Pergamos is no different – Babylonian Mystery Religion

ii. The _____ Mystery Religion came to Pergamos in 133 BC

- **The Babylonian _____ was active when John wrote Revelation**
- **A Brief Overview …**
  - Nimrod married Semiramis and founded the Babylonian Mysteries Religion
  - They had a son named Tammuz
    - It was said that he was conceived by a sun ray while Semiramis was still a virgin
    - His birthday is Dec. 25th
  - Semiramis was worshipped by many
    - Her statues were erected with her holding her baby
    - Worship included…Chants, black robes, candles, beads, incense
  - In Genesis 11, this religion is spread across the entire world

1. Ankh Nes Meryre and Son Pepi
2. Cyprus
3. Madonna Guanyin, Goddess of Mercy
4. Matrika from Tanesara of India
5. Yasoda and Krishna
6. Mother and son 2000-1850 BC
7. Mexico, Jalisco
8. Maya
9. Mexico, Colimo
10. Mykene, Greece
11. Sun Goddess, Arinna
12. Virgin Mary (not the real Virgin Mary)

Semiramis & Tammuz

Indrani (India)

Isis and Horus (Egypt)

d. Roman _____-Christians are persecuting anyone who doesn't conform to their religion – *2:13*

i. There are still _____ believers that are holding onto their faith

ii. They are going by the names of their _____ – Paterins, Ana-Baptists, Donatists…

- They aren't calling themselves "Christian," because the "Christians" at this time are the ones doing the Killing

e. This church age is dealing with those that hold the _____ of Balaam – *2:14*

i. It is interesting to note, that it is during this period that _____ is introduced

ii. What is the doctrine of Balaam? – *Num. 23-25*

- **Balak wanted Balaam to _____ Israel**
- **Balaam couldn't curse Israel because ____ wouldn't let him**
- **Balaam found a way for Israel to curse _____**
  - **He taught Balak to cause the women of Moab to _____ with the Jews**
  - **The Jews began to worship the "_____" of their wives** – and God judged them for it
- Balaam is a type of teacher that wants to gain success by uniting with the world

f. The Pergamos church age is also dealing with the doctrine of the _____ – *2:15*

i. What was once the "_____" *(vs. 6)* **of the Nicolaitans has now become "_____"**

ii. During this period a _____ class is officially introduced

- This takes us into the Dark Ages
- The Word of God has been removed – ***Mark 12:35-37***

g. The only way to stop this _____ is through the sharp sword of the Word of God – *2:16-17*

i. During this time, **true Bible believers are standing _____ false doctrine by standing on the Word of God**

ii. God promises to give them to eat the hidden manna = the Word of God

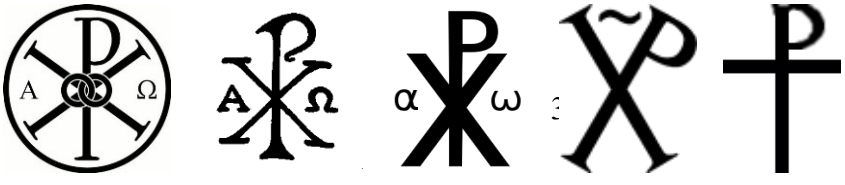
iii. God also promises to give them a white stone = A sign of Not Guilty?

THE PERGAMOS CHURCH AGE = MARRIAGE TO THE WORLD

3. **The Marriage Ceremony takes place at the _____ of Nicaea**
    a. **A council convened by the Roman Emperor _____ in 325AD**
        i. **It was assembled for the purpose of _____ Christianity under a solidified doctrinal agreement.**
        ii. **The pagan Roman Empire, which had previously been _____ Christians, now under Constantine's "Christian" lead, would have a more powerful _____**
    b. **What this council actually accomplished was to officially _____ "Christianity" to pagan Rome**

4. **How did Satan bring this marriage together?**
    a. **On Feb. 24, 303AD, pagan Roman priests stir up the _____ Diocletian to issue a series of edicts**
        i. Christian buildings to be torn down
        ii. Christian scriptures and writings to be burned
        iii. Christians to forfeit all civil rights
    b. **Near the end of Diocletian's reign there are two men vying for the title of Emperor**
        i. **#1 – Maxentius #2 – _____**
        ii. **In 312AD, these two men meet in a _____ to determine who will reign**
            - This is know as the "Battle of Milvian Bridge" or Saxa Arubra
            - Constantine wins the battle, and becomes the new emperor of the West
    c. **During this battle Constantine has a "_____"**
        i. **He sees a _____ in the sky… and a voice says *"By this sign thou shalt conquer."***
        ii. **He says that the cross was actually the first two letters of the _____ rendering of the word "Christ"**
            - **The Greek Chi – our letter X**
            - **The Greek Rho – our letter P**

    d. **Constantine now claims to be Christian because of his "_____"**
        i. Does his experience make him a Christian? He has no testimony at all!!!
        ii. Only through the Death, Burial, and Resurrection are we saved!
    e. **After this experience, he has the symbol of the cross place upon all his soldier's helmets and shields!** – Now all true Romans will fight under the sign of the cross!
        i. He used many variations of crosses



f. **Constantine and Licinius** (leader of the east) **proclaim the Edict of _____ in 313AD**

i. **It granted Christians absolute religious freedom**

ii. **Church property formerly confiscated would be returned**

iii. **Pagan temples that were particularly offensive to Christianity were destroyed**

iv. **Christian clergy were exempt from taxation and were soon paid by the State**

v. **By 321AD Sunday was proclaimed a day of rest**

vi. **By 324AD Constantine promises 20 pieces of gold** (worth $800 a piece today) **and a white robe for all new converts**

- To convert means to be baptized
- In the first year, there were 12,000 men baptized

5. **Back to the Marriage Ceremony** – Council of Nicaea

a. **Constantine invites all clergymen to an "all expense paid" meeting to determine the official _____ of the Church**

i. **Approximately 318 bishops assembled to come to a doctrinal agreement concerning the _____**

- They believed that this issue was the real crisis in Christianity at this time in history
- The whole time they are using beads, worshipping the mother goddess, touching statues and touching their ailments, and confessing their sins to men

ii. **They authored the Nicene Creed of 325**

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father the only begotten; that is, of the essence of the Father, God of God, light of light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, both in heaven and in earth; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down and wad incarnate and was made man; he suffered, and the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead: And in the Holy Spirit. But those who say: 'there was a time when he was not; and he was not before he was made; and he was made our of nothing, or he is of another substance or essence, or the Son of God is created, or changeable, or alterable – **they are condemned by the holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

Important Note:

- **Accepting the Nicene Creed is __ a prescription for the new birth. Being born again is a matter of personally receiving the Lord Jesus Christ *(John 1:12-13)***
- **Satan will always give you something _____ in exchange for something _____!**

b. **The _____ that came from the Council of Nicaea**

i. **The person of Jesus Christ … Jesus is _____, so God is a _____**

ii. **The horrific persecution of the church _____** – for a time

c. **The _____ which was lost at the Council of Nicaea**

i. **The true doctrine of _____**

ii. **The final _____ for the church** – no longer the Bible, but now man's traditions

- **The final authority is now vested in _____**
- **The Roman Catholic Church places the creeds developed at these councils on an _____ level with the inspired Word of God**

Important Note:

- **We must exercise our minds to _____ view the things going on in the name of "Christianity"** – what's important is not what's spiritual or Christian, but what is biblical or scriptural
- **We must have the discernment to see beyond all the "_____" things that are being accomplished, in order to see what "_____" things we are giving up!**

6. **The fruit of the marriage between the world and the "church" …**

a. **Pagan Roman Government Officials become the Roman Catholic Hierarchy**

i. **Pagan Roman Emperor**	**becomes**	**_____**
ii. **Pagan Roman Senate**	**becomes**	**College of _____**
iii. **Pagan Imperial Governors**	**becomes**	**_____**
iv. **Pagan Provincial Governors**	**becomes**	**_____**
v. **Pagan Civitas** (mayors of parishes)	**becomes**	**_____**
vi. **Pagan Temple Virgins**	**becomes**	**_____**

b. **Counterfeit Bibles**

i. **Constantine orders ___ Bibles from Eusebius for the Roman Empire**

ii. **All _____ versions of the Bible are traced back through Eusebius to Origen's texts which were used to produce these "Bibles"**

- **Codex Aleph (_____) and Codex B (_____) are the catalyst for all modern versions** – they are often called the "oldest and best"
- **These 50 Bibles over time become Jerome's Latin _____ which becomes the official Roman Catholic Bible**

c. **Christianity is flooded with _____**

i. **Christmas**
- "Christ's mass"
- Formerly known as the pagan Roman holiday "Saturnalia"
  - It celebrated the worship the false god Tammuz, born of his virgin mother Semiramis on Dec. 25th
  - It was switched to celebrate Jesus' birthday (his birthday was probably at the end of September)

ii. **Easter**
- "Ishtar"
- Celebrated the worship of the goddess mother Ashtar
- Centered on fertility and immoral practices (eggs & bunny rabbits)
- It was adopted by Christianity

iii. **The worship of Mary**
- She was formerly Semiramis
- Catholics call her the Queen of Heaven – ***Jer. 44:17, 25***

iv. **The Rosary**
- Beads were used as far back as 800BC to count prayers to Ashtar
- They are used by Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus

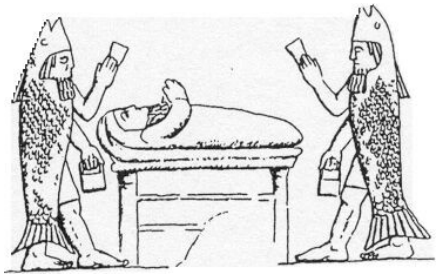
v. **Statues get renamed**
- Zeus becomes Peter
- Tammuz is now Jesus
- Semiramis is now Mary

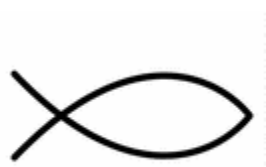
vi. **Symbols begin to be used**

- **Crosses –** which used to be Pagan, are now used to represent the cross of Christ

- **Steeples –** Phallic Symbol from Egypt – Designed to have intercourse with the "gods" in the location where they worshipped

- **Fish –** Dagon Priests wore a fish costume when they worshipped Dagon the "fish god" – the fish symbols were used in worship to Dagon





7. An overview of the major events that take place during this period…

a. The establishment of the political structure of the RCC

b. The establishment of a new Capitol City in the East … Constantinople

c. The establishment of the theological structure of the RCC

d. The ultimate establishment of Jerome's Latin Vulgate as the official RCC Bible

e. The establishment of the first official Pope of the RCC – Leo the Great (440-461AD)

f. The adoption of the declaration that the Pope is the Substitute of Christ from the spiritual lineage of the apostle Peter