

# The Church of Pergamos



## Revelation 2:12-17

- An address to a particular congregation. (Name of the church)
- An introduction of Jesus.
- A statement regarding the condition of the church.
- A verdict from Jesus regarding the condition of the church.
- A command from Jesus to the church.
- A general exhortation to all Christians.
- A promise of reward.

# Revelation 2 and 3 Report card

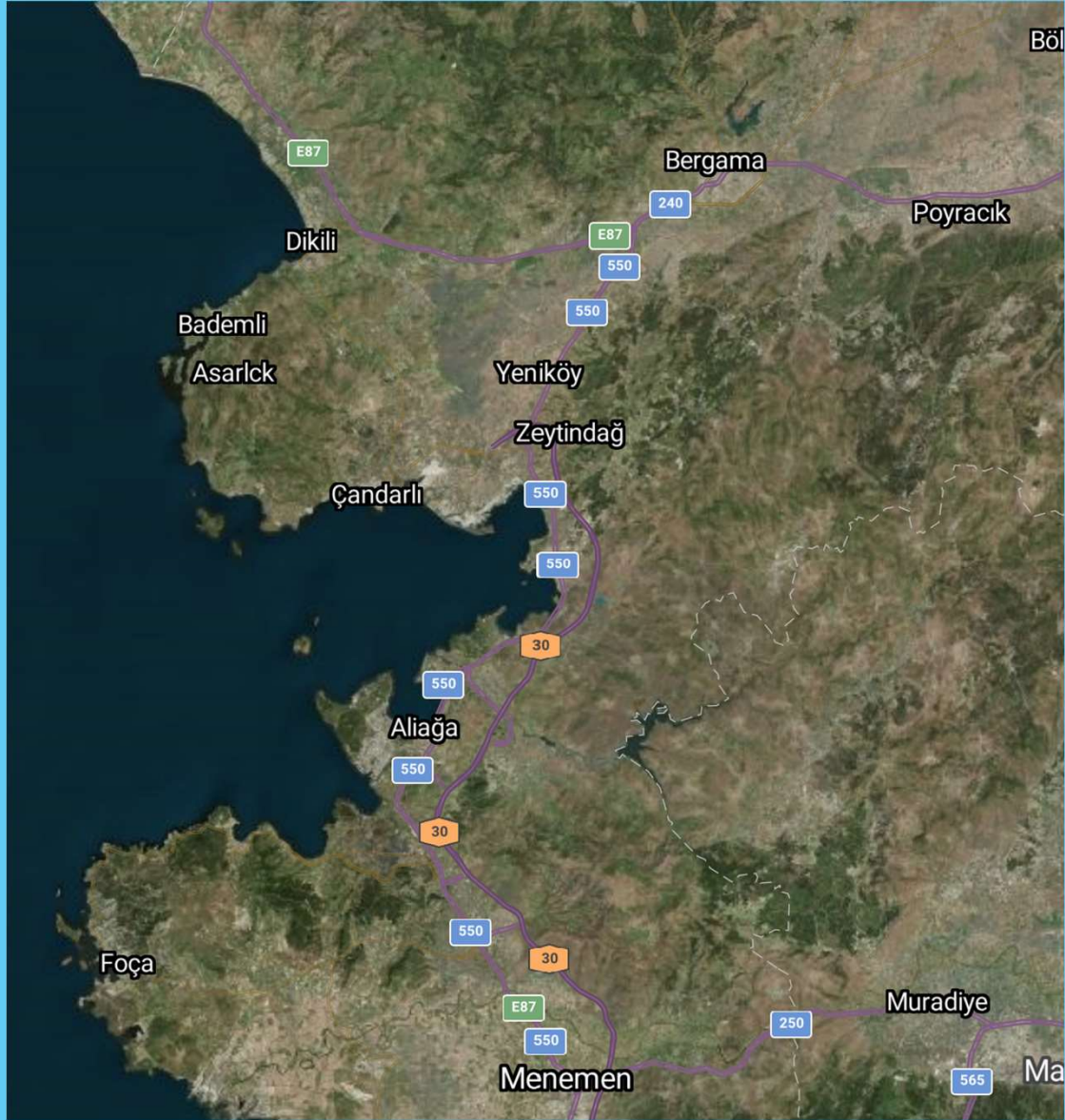
Name	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodiceans
Title	X	X					
Commendation	X	X					
Concerns	X						
Exhortation	X	X					
Promise	X	X					



# Pergamos

- City of the serpent
- About 48 miles north of Smyrna
- Ephesus was the political center
- Smyrna was the commercial center
- Pergamos was the religious center
- Present day city is Bergama Population 105K
- Zeus is said to have been born here (huge alter there)





## Aesculapius

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- Aesculapius, the Roman god of medicine and healing, holds a significant place in ancient **Greek mythology**. This deity, also known as Asclepius, was revered for his ability to cure ailments and bring relief to the suffering.
- His origins, closely tied to Apollo and Zeus, and his depictions in symbols reflect his divine healing powers. Temples **dedicated to Aesculapius were centers of** worship and renowned for their rituals and festivals.
- The legacy of Aesculapius continues to influence medicine, art, and literature today

# Aesculapus



above; caduceus serpent



Asclepius's single serpent



- Another, earlier depiction of the medical symbol is the staff of Asclepius, though it has no wings and only one snake. The son of Apollo and the human princess Coronis, Asclepius is the Greek demigod of medicine. According to mythology, he was able to restore the health of the sick and bring the dead back to life.



- There are actually two versions of the symbol. The winged version is known as a caduceus and the stick is actually a staff that was carried by the Olympian god Hermes. In Greek mythology, Hermes was a messenger between the gods and humans (which explains the wings) and a guide to the underworld (which explains the staff). Hermes was also the patron of travellers, which makes his connection to medicine appropriate because doctors of the olden days had to travel great distances by foot in order to visit their patients.
- In one version of Hermes' myth he is given the staff by Apollo, who was the god of healing among other attributes. In another version, he receives the staff from Zeus, the king of the gods, and it is entwined with two white ribbons. The ribbons were later replaced by serpents, as one story tells that Hermes used the stick to separate two fighting snakes, which then coiled around his staff and remained there in balanced harmony.

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- How ever Hermes is the god of commerce!

- Hermes, known as Mercury in Roman mythology, was the Greek god of commerce, travel, thievery, diplomacy, sports, astronomy, astrology, and writing. He was also the patron of travelers and protected those who offered hospitality. Hermes was considered cunning and quick, with the ability to move freely between the divine and mortal worlds:



- Numbers 21:8,9
  - The brass serpent
  - Explain by Christ John 3:14
  - Destroyed by Hezekiah 2 Kings 18:4
  - Sin is a symbol of sin
  - Brass is judgement
  - So this means sin being judged.



# Logos

- 242 logos in American health organization
- The symbol of Pergamos
- 62% professional organizations use the symbol of Asclepius
- 76% commercial organizations use the caduceus

# Revelation 2:12 name of the church

- Name
- Pergamos
  - Per = mixed or objectionable
  - Gamos = marriage.
  - So it means mix marriage
  - Pergo= high (high marriage.
  - So inappropriate marriage.

# Revelation 2:12 Title of Jesus

- He that has a sharp two-edged sword
  - The word of God (remember this)

# Revelation 2:12-13 Commendation

- I know your works
- Where you dwell
- Satan's seat
  - There are many different opinions as to why Pergamos was such a stronghold of Satanic power. Some believe it is because Pergamos was a center of pagan religion, especially of "*Asclepios Soter*" or "*Asclepios Savior*."
  - Some believe it was because Pergamos had a huge throne-like altar dedicated to the Roman god Zeus.
  - Some believe it was because Pergamos was a center for the ancient Babylonian priesthood, but this is tough to prove conclusively.
  - Others believe it was because Pergamos was the political center of the worship-demanding Roman government.
- You hold my Name
- Has not denied My name

# Revelation 2:12-13 Commendation

- You hold my Name
  - The third commandment. (Ambassadorship)
- Has not denied My name
- Antipas
  - **Antipas** lived **where Satan's throne** was. Yet he stood against the attacks and the evil around him. He fulfilled the meaning of his name, because **Antipas** means "Against All."
  - **Martyr** is the ancient Greek word *martus*. "*Martus* is a most interesting and suggestive word. In classical Greek *martus* never means a *martyr* in our sense of the term. It always means a *witness*. A *martus* was one who said: 'This is true, and I know it.' It is not until New Testament times that *martus* ever means *martyr*." (Barclay)



# Revelation 2:12-13 Commendation

- Satan:
  - Character
    - Murder
    - Deceiver
    - Liar
    - Sinner
  - Domain
    - Vast kingdom
    - In charge of the world
    - Understand the god of this world
  - Adversary
  - Accuser of the brethren
  - Prince of the power of the air
  - Works in children of disobedience
  - The enemy who sowed tares

# Revelation 2:12-13 Commendation

- Satan:
  - Not omnipresent
  - Territorial
  - Remember Nimrod
    - Found babel
    - Became Babylon
    - The city of Babel, which would eventually become Babylon, was built by Nimrod after Noah's flood. The English words Babel and Babylon are derived from the same Hebrew word which means "confusion". The Lord confounded the language at the time the people were building the Tower of Babel. The place wherein they built the tower is now called Babylon
  - When Cryus conquered Babylon fell to the Persians, the priest fled to Pergamos!

# Revelation 2:14-15 concern

- Hold the doctrine of Balaam (from the OT)
  - Who taught Balac to put a stumbling block before the children
  - To eat things sacrificed unto idols.
  - The prophet Balaam
    - Gentile
    - Soothsayer Josh 13:22
    - From Mesopotamia Duet 23:4,5
    - Amorite Numbers 22:5, 23:7
    - Hired by Balak the king of Moab
      - Gods says don't go. But he goes anyway
      - What God permits and what He prefers can be two different things.
      - The donkey was trying to stop Balaam (the donkey could see the angle).
      - Refuses to curse Israel.
      - BUT he taught how to defeat\corrupt them them. (don't marry the Moabite)

# Revelation 2:14-15 concern

- The doctrine of Balaam
  - Rev 2:14 Spiritual unchastity, or marriage with the world.
  - 2 Peter 2:15 Market his gift (hireling)
  - Jude 11 Sacrificing eternal riches for temporal gain
- Hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans
  - The exact origin of the Nicolaitans is unclear. Some Bible commentators believe they were a heretical sect who followed the teachings of Nicolas—whose name means “one who conquers the people”—who was possibly one of the deacons of the early church mentioned in Acts 6:5. It is possible that Nicolas became an apostate, denying the true faith and became part of a group holding “the doctrine of Balaam,” who taught Israel “to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.” Clement of Alexandria says, “They abandoned themselves to pleasure like goats, leading a life of self-indulgence.” Their teaching perverted grace and replaced liberty with license.

Other commentators believe that these Nicolaitans were not so called from any man, but from the Greek word *Nicolah*, meaning “let us eat,” as they often encouraged each other to eat things offered to idols. Whichever theory is true, it is certain that the deeds of the Nicolaitans were an abomination to Christ. They, like the Gnostics and other false teachers, abused the doctrine of grace and tried to introduce licentiousness in its place (2 Peter 2:15, 19; Jude 1:4).

## Revelation 2:14-15 concern

- The doctrine of the Nicolaitans made such enormous progress, that a First Great Council of the Church was held at Nicaea, in 325 AD; the Council was composed of about 1500 delegates, the "laymen" outnumbering the bishops (clergy) 5 to 1. It was a stormy council, full of intrigue and political methods, and from the supremacy of the "clergy" over the "laity" it was evident that this doctrine had secured a strong and permanent foothold.



# Revelation 2:16 command

- Repent
- Come quickly
- Fight you with My Word

# Revelation 2:17 Exhortation

- He who has an ear
- To him whom overcomes (1 John 5:4,5)
  - Give him hidden manna to eat
    - Manna means, what is this
    - Collected for 6 days
    - Food from heaven bread of heaven
    - John 6. I am the bread of life. Vs 49
  - White stone (no one really know what this is)
    - The one I think follows the white stone was used as a ticket to the Roman games.
      - He will give you a new name with a ticket to Heaven.

# Revelation 2:17 Levels of application

## Local

Some in the church was starting to compromise with religious systems

## All the Churches

Purify your Ambassadorship (hold fast)

## Personal

Spiritual compromise, cant be in a mixed marriage

## Prophetic

- Tammuz born to Nimod & Semiramis
- Dies at the winter solstice and is resurrected as the days get longer.
- Celebrate this by burning a yule log (represents a Chaldean, and is replaced by a trimmed tree the next morning) Jer 10:1-5
- Mistletoe (fertility ) the tale of two babylons by Hislop

# queen of heaven

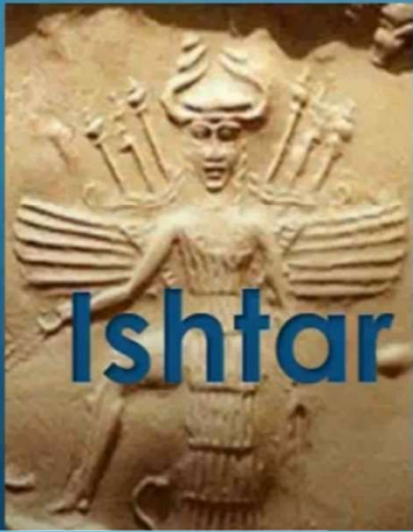
- ▶ In ancient Babylon, a queen named Semiramis, married her son, Nimrod, then declared herself to be a goddess. She went under such names:  
Diana  
Venus  
Ishtar  
The Queen of Heaven.
- ▶ [https://aliveinchrist040801.tripod.com/wafer\\_baal.htm](https://aliveinchrist040801.tripod.com/wafer_baal.htm)

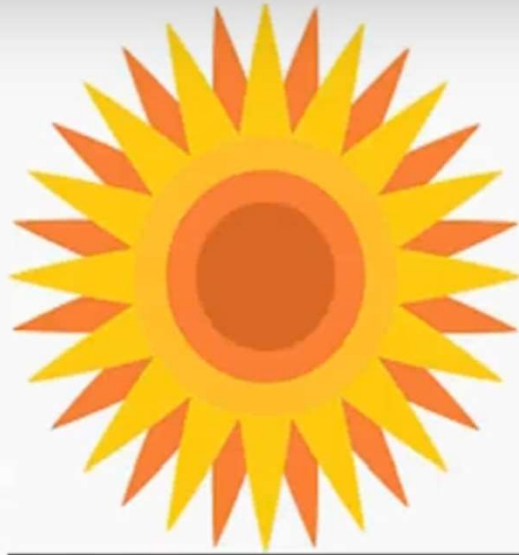
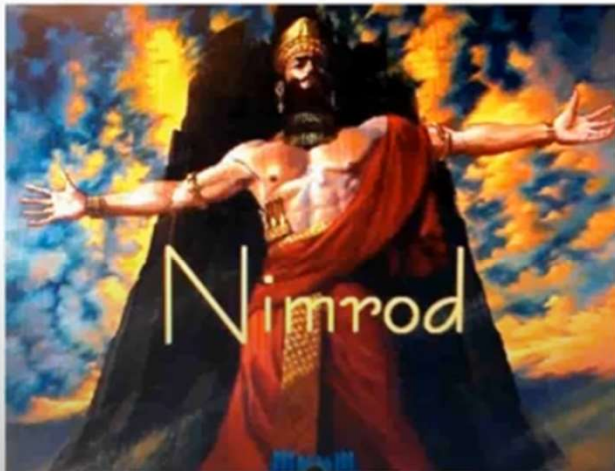



## NAMES applied To the pagan goddess SEMIRAMIS

Titles of Semiramis	GREEK	ROMAN
Goddess of ---		
Goddess of Love	APHRODITE	<u>VENUS</u>
of Hunting & birth	ARTEMIS	<u>DIANA</u>
Crafts, War & Wisdom	ATHENA	MINERVA
of Growing Things	DEMETER	CERES
of Fertile Earth	GAEA	TERRA
of Marriage & Women	HERA	JUNO
of the Hearth	HESTIA	VESTA
Wife of Kronos	RHEA	OPS

Semiramis became the mother of Baal the "mother of the sun-god."



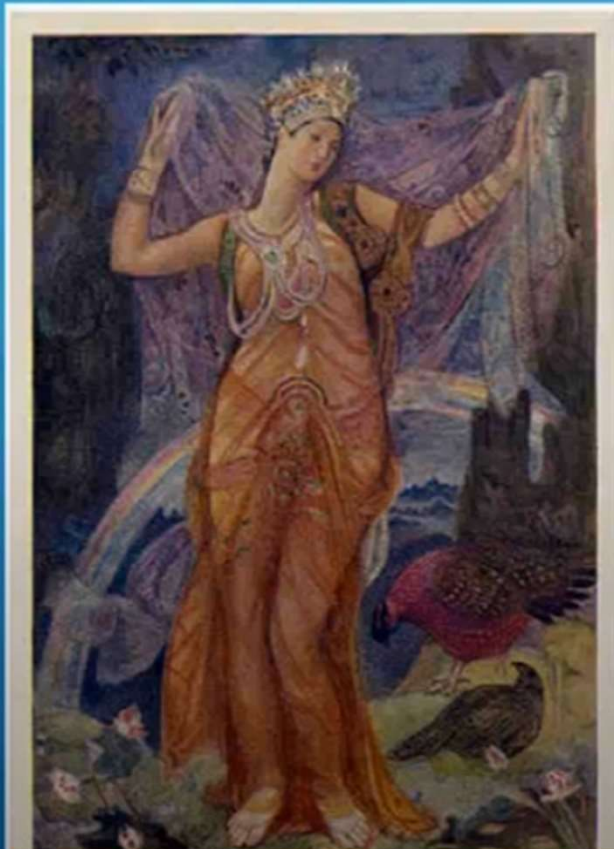


When Nimrod died, Semiramis declared that he had ascended up into heaven and became the **sun**  or the **sun-god...**  
baal



Long after Nimrod died,  
Semiramis declared that she had become  
pregnant from the rays of the **sun**

watch later



the reincarnation of Nimrod. She declared that she had bore Tammuz without the help of a man, and thus started the mother/child worships, and many idols of Semiramis and the infant Tammuz were set up.

### Spread of the Mother-Child Cult

	Mother	Child
Assyria	Ishtar	<u>Tammuz</u>
Phoenicia	Astarte	<u>Baal</u>
Egypt	Isis	Osirus/Horus
Greece	Aphrodite	Eros
Rome	Venus	Cupid
Asia	Cybele	Desius
India	Isi	Aswara
Roman Catholicism	Mary	Jesus
Israel	Queen of Heaven (Jer. 7:18; 44:17)	<u>Tammuz (Ezek. 8:14-15)</u>





Babilonia



Asia



India



Egipto

Babylon



Semiramis & Tammuz/Nimrod

Egypt



Isis & Horus/Osiris

Rome



Catholic "Mary" & Jesus

India



Devaki & Krishna/Vasudeva

These all represent the same gods and goddesses that all came from the same source: **Babylon**

Semiramis, mother of Tammuz, is also known as Ishtar and Isis



- ▶ The false god Tammuz is mentioned in the book of Ezekiel.
- ▶ The prophet describes a vision he had, saying YHVH “brought me to the entrance of the north gate of the house of YHVH, and I saw women sitting there, mourning the god Tammuz” (Ezekiel 8:14). YHVH calls the idolatrous practice of weeping for Tammuz a “detestable” thing, made even worse in that it was happening at the temple in Jerusalem.



Weeping  
for  
Tammuz

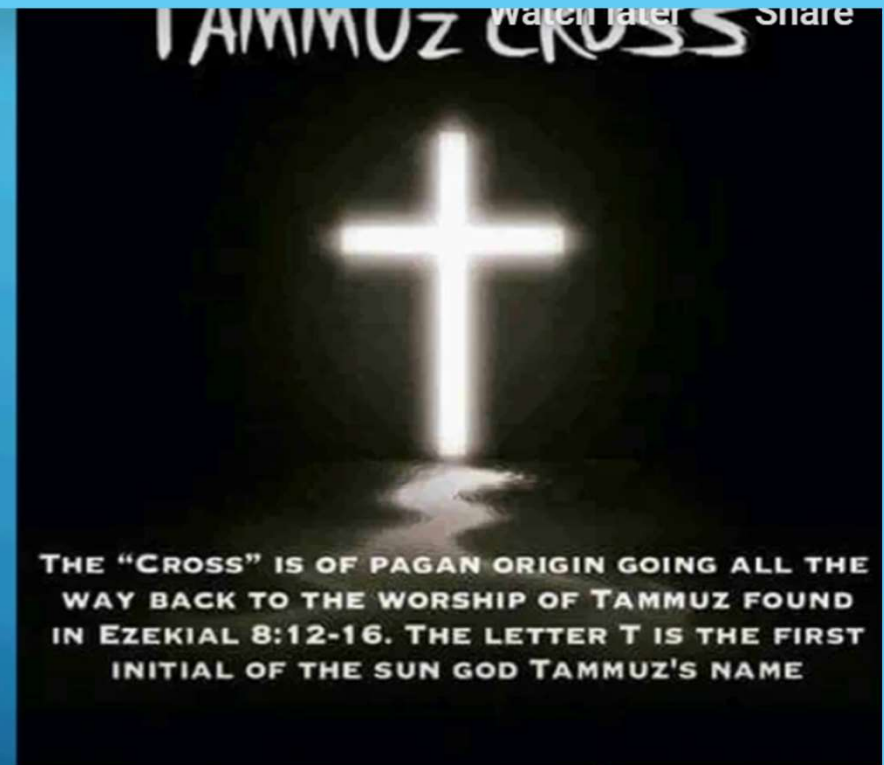
## Tammuz have to do with the sign of the cross?

- ▶ According to historian Alexander Hislop, Tammuz was intimately associated with the Babylonian mystery religions begun by the worship of Nimrod, Semiramis, and her illegitimate son.

The original form of the Babylonian letter T was † (tau), identical to the crosses used today in this world's Christianity.

This was the initial of Tammuz.

- ▶ The Two Babylons by Alexander Hislop









Long before Yeshua's crucifixion,  
the cross symbolized the Babylonian god "Tammuz"

40 days of Lent symbolize the 40 years that Tammuz lived.  
Lent ends with Easter when it is tradition to eat ham. This symbolizes the remembrance of Tammuz, who was killed by a wild boar.  
Ash Wednesday is when the Mark of Tammuz is placed on foreheads.  
The cross is a "t" for Tammuz.



**It's all TAMMUZ**  
*Son of Nimrod and Semiramis*

 Egyptian cross	 Sun cross	 Tau cross
 Celtic cross	 Latin cross	 Maltese cross



DO NOT LEARN  
THE WAYS OF THE  
HEATHEN

▶ **Jeremiah**

▶ “Thus saith YHVH, Learn not the ways of the heathen, ...”

DO NOT LEARN  
THE WAYS OF THE  
HEATHEN

▶ **Jeremiah 10:2**

▶ “Thus saith YHVH, Learn not the way of the heathen, ...”



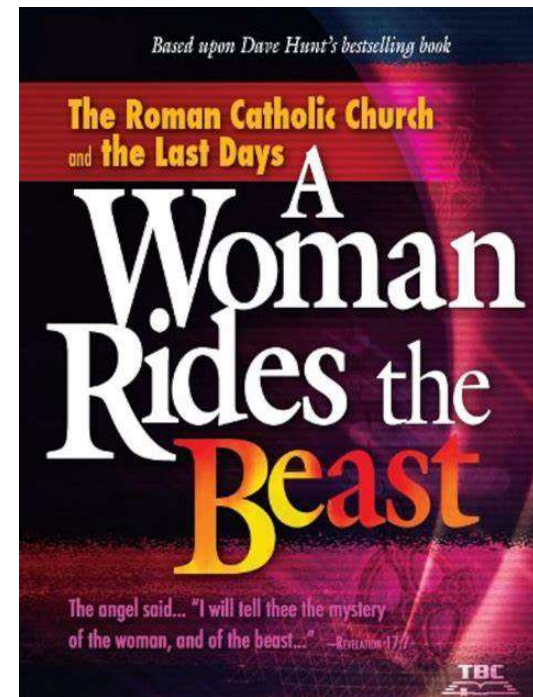
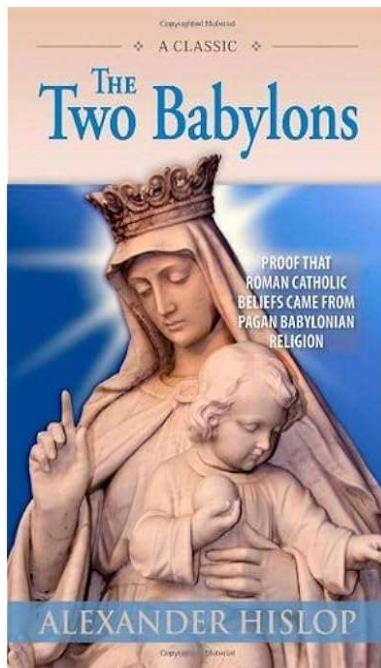
The Paganism of Lent and Weeping for Tammuz!

The Paganism of Lent and Weeping for Tammuz!



- ▶ Exo 20:3 “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- ▶ Exo 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of *any thing* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth:”

Pagen Rome is a revamp of Babylon.  
Fully adopted into the Roman Church  
in 361-395 AD (The marriage!)



# Revelation 2 and 3 Report card

Name	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodiceans
Title	X	x	X				
Commendation	X	x	X				
Concerns	X		X				
Exhortation	X	x	X				
Promise	X	x	x				





