

**Acts to Revelation**  
The World of the First Christians

**Session 17 – The Seven Churches of Revelation**

**Session Summary** – Tonight we travel to the ancient province of Asia Minor, which is not part of present-day Turkey. There, we will continue our investigation of the Apostle John and take a road trip through the seven churches addressed in the Book of Revelation: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. Remarkably, ruins related to each of these ancient cities still exist nearly 2,000 years later, revealing more evidence for the credibility of the New Testament scriptures.

*“Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.” – Revelation 1:11*

Pergamum Altar (“Throne of Satan”) – Pergamum Altar was one of the largest altars in the ancient world, measuring 112 feet by 118 feet by 40 feet high. The grand altar was associated with Zeus and carved with depictions of Olympian gods and mythological giants. Incredibly, German archaeologist in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century removed the entire structure from its location at ancient Pergamum and transported it to Berlin, Germany. It was rebuilt in a massive museum, which was appropriately named the Pergamum Museum. It is said that Adolf Hitler saw great supernatural power in pagan artifacts like the Pergamum Altar, which is referred to in Revelation as the “Throne of Satan.”

**Scripture Reading: The Book of Revelation**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Where did the Apostle John die?
2. What city had the steepest theater in the Roman Empire?
3. What city was connected to the kingdom that invented coinage?
4. What city was associated with the evil woman Jezebel?
5. What city was associated with a brother’s love?

**Scripture for Next Week: Colossians, Philemon, Jude**