Ancient ruins of Pergamum, Turkey

To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:
These things saith He that which hath the sharp sword with two edges. 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.

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 stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. Repent or else I will come unto thee quickly, and I will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. 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 I will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it. (Revelation 2:12-17) KJV

Jesus Christ begins His letter to the Pergamum angel (messenger) by identifying Himself as the One with the sharp sword with two edges. Jesus mentions the same characteristics in Revelation 1:16. Remember that the LORD God’s Word is like a two edged sword. Let us journey to the book of Hebrews. “For the Word of God is quick (living) and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner (able to judge) of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12) KJV

Jesus is not speaking of any mediocre two edged sword. Notice that He stated “the sharp sword” He is coming with the WORD of God. Remember that the WORD of God created the heaven and the earth (Genesis 1:1 & John 1:1). “Out of His mouth went a sharp two edged sword” (Revelation 1:16) KJV Jesus intends to fight against them that hold to false doctrines. What the LORD God commands, Jesus Christ commands.

He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches (Revelation 2:7) KJV
Jesus therefore knowing all things that should come upon Him, went forth, and said unto them, whom seek ye? They answered Him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I AM HE. And Judas also, which betrayeth Him, stood with them. As soon then as He had said unto them, I AM HE, they went backward and fell to the ground!! (John 18:4-6) KJV

The book of Revelation reveals the Glorified and All Powerful Jesus. All authority (Hebrews 1) has been given unto Him by His Father, the One True and Living God. In the letter to the Pergamum angel (messenger) Jesus identifies the good works: “thou holdest fast my Name, and hast not denied my faith”. Jesus told the Pergamum angel that even during the time of Antipas (Jesus’ faithful martyr) His Name had not been denied, even though Antipas had been slain (placed inside of a fiery brazen bull).

Antipas was a bishop appointed by John, the Apostle over the Pergamum church. During his time as bishop of the church, Antipas remained faithful and did not deny the Name of Jesus, even in the midst of conditions that were hostile to believers in Jesus and His doctrine of the Kingdom of Heaven. An abomination, sin and serious offense are happening within the Pergamum church i.e. false doctrines. Yes, more than one and Jesus identified them as the doctrine of Balaam and the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes.

The LORD Jesus briefly described the evils of the Balaam doctrine, but did not regarding the Nicolaitane doctrine, which He hated (see summary scripture). The Nicolaitane doctrine was also mentioned to the angel of the Ephesus Church.

Brief Biblical History of Balaam

The biblical history of Balaam, the diviner or user of enchantments can be found in the book of Numbers 22-23 & Numbers 31:1-6. While nearing the Promised Land given to them by the LORD God, Israel requested passage through lands of certain kings, and offered to purchase anything they needed. Hundreds of thousands of Israelites were walking through the desert on their way to the Promised Land. However, the Moabite king, namely Balak was very fearful regarding the massive and innumerable Israelite presence nearing his territory.

He knew about their victorious war with Sihon, king of the Amorites (Numbers 21:21-32) and Og, king of Bashan (Numbers 21:33-35). Israel was very polite in their request to pass through the land of the Amorites “And Israel sent messengers unto Sihon king of the Amorites saying, let me pass through thy land, we will not turn into the fields, or into the vineyards; we will not drink of the waters of the well, but we will go along by the king’s high way, until we be past thy borders. But Sihon would not suffer Israel to pass through his border…..Sihon gathered all his people together...and fought against Israel.

And Israel smote him with the edge of the sword and took and possessed his land” (Numbers 21:24) KJV The same thing happened when Israel traveled close to Bashan, king Og did not wait for their request, but waged war upon the Israelites. “And the LORD said unto Moses, fear him not, for I have delivered him into thy hand, and all his people, and his land, and thou shalt do to him as thou didst unto Sihon king of the Amorites” (Numbers 21:33-35). KJV
Knowing all this, Balaam had Balak to offer burnt offerings several times, while he went to do divination; and each time Balaam could only bless the people, which infuriated Balak. Finally, Balak gave up trying to curse the people. It was and is very clear that the LORD God was for the Israelites. However, later the Israelites were beguiled (Numbers 25:18) into eating with the Midianites things that were offered to idols and worshipping same (Numbers 25:1-2); and this sin and gross abomination was dealt with quickly and severely (Numbers 25:3-9) by the LORD God.

Who was responsible for beguiling the Israelites? Balaam (Numbers 31:16), who was later destroyed by the LORD God’s command. Read and study Numbers 25

Summary Scripture (be very attentive)

“When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, how did these nations serve their gods? I also will do like wise. You shall not worship the LORD your God that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods. (Deuteronomy 12:29-31) NKJV

What the LORD God commands, Jesus Christ commands. Hear what He is saying to the Pergamum church.

You shall not worship the LORD your God that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods
First of all, what does it mean to repent? Repentance means to change one’s mind regarding all unrighteousness, which is sin (1 John 5:17). Repentance is renewing the mind via transformation. Read & Study Romans 12:1-2

The LORD Jesus told the Pergamum angel to repent “or else I will come quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.” (Revelation 2:17) KJV

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