



A MESSAGE TO THE
SEVEN CHURCHES
OF REVELATION

**STRENGTHENED BY TRUTH, SOFTENED BY LOVE
REVELATION 2:12-17**

“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

Nevertheless, I have a few things against you:

There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

Revelation 1:12-17

...that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan,
who leads the whole world astray.

Revelation 1:12-17

A gulf has opened up in our culture between the visibility of evil and the intellectual resources available for coping with it. ...The repertoire of evil has never been richer. Yet never have our responses been so weak. We have no language for connecting our inner lives with the horrors that pass before our eyes in the outer world.

Andrew Delbanco, *The Death of Satan: How Americans Have Lost the Sense of Evil*

Few people still believe in what the British writer Ian McEwan has recently called a "malign principle, a force in human affairs that periodically advances to dominate and destroy the lives of individuals or nations, then retreats to await the next occasion." We certainly no longer have a conception of evil as a distributed entity with an ontological essence of its own, as what some philosophers call "presence." **Yet something that feels like this force still invades our experience,** and we still discover in ourselves the capacity to inflict it on others. [...]

Since this is true, we have an inescapable problem: we feel something that our culture no longer gives us the vocabulary to express.

*Andrew Delbanco, *The Death of Satan: How Americans Have Lost the Sense of Evil**

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Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

Revelation 2:13

Nevertheless, I have a few things against you:

There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent!

Revelation 2:14

Nevertheless, I have a few things against you:

There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent!

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Revelation 2:17