

Aspects of Pergamum at the time of Revelation

-) Ancient foundation, perhaps as old as 8th century BCE
-) 1st century population estimated at 120,000.
-) Rose to regional prominence during the Hellenistic era before Rome, becoming a major expression of Greek culture
-) Famous as a center of healing (home of Galen, [129-200 CE] the most famous healer in the Roman Empire)
-) And also famous for its library and book production (its library was comparable to the one in Alexandria; “Pergamum” means “parchment” in Greek)
-) Home to many famous monuments, including
 -) The Great Altar to Zeus, the center of imperial worship for the region
 - o The Temple of Athena [the city’s divine protector was Athena Nikephorus, “victory bearer”]
 - o Temple to Augustus and Roma [Asia’s first provincial temple]
 - o Later, the Temple of Trajan [built under Hadrian, 117-138]
 - o A 10,000 seat theater, the steepest in the Greco-Roman world