



Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: The Altar of Pergamon – Part 1

Guest(s): Rabbi Jonathan Cahn

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- Dr. James Dobson: Welcome everyone to Family Talk. It's a ministry of the James Dobson Family Institute, supported by listeners just like you. I'm Dr. James Dobson, and I'm thrilled that you've joined us.
- Roger Marsh: Well, welcome back to Family Talk, the broadcast ministry of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. I'm Roger Marsh, and you know it's always a privilege when we get to spend time with our good friend, Rabbi Jonathan Cahn. As a world-renowned speaker and a 10-time *New York Times* best-selling author, Jonathan has captivated millions all around the globe, from the halls of Capitol Hill and the United Nations to readers hungry for biblical truth, and that number is growing by the day. Ever since his ground breaking debut *The Harbinger*, which spent two years on the best-seller list, Jonathan has consistently uncovered deep ancient mysteries that connect God's Word directly to the headlines of our modern world. And today we're going to talk about his brand-new book called *The Altar of Pergamon*, what the apostle John meant in Revelation when he identified the throne of Satan, and how an ancient altar unburied in modern times has secretly shaped major global empires and what all this means for us in the body of Christ trying to guard our families and stand strong during these turbulent days. Rabbi Jonathan Cahn, welcome back to Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk. Always an honor to have you with us. And of course, Doctor would be giving you the biggest of hugs right now just to see you across the screen and have you on the program with us again today.
- Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: Oh, it's always great to be back. I've always loved this ministry and Dr. Dobson, and I'm so glad that, you know, it's in great hands and the Lord is blessing with you, through you, Roger.
- Roger Marsh: Yes. Well, I appreciate that. Okay, let's get right to the nitty-gritty here, because every time Jonathan Cahn comes to visit us, he has a book that is packed with meaning and insights and revelation for us in the body of Christ. First and foremost, what does *The Altar of Pergamon* reveal to us?
- Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: Yeah, *The Altar of Pergamon*, it's an ancient mystery that is affecting the world to this moment. Imagine if there was an object from ancient times that goes back to ultimately the book of Revelation that could lie behind everything from the rise of Adolf Hitler, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, the atomic age, the rise of Marxism, Communism, Socialism, the where we are right now, you know, a new world order, the future, all these things. And I would say

that, I mean, this is, you know, I've written, this is my 11th book, but this is, the mystery is really colossal. So much so that I could say. And it's not hype that it has affected, impacted everyone who's listening right now, everyone basically on the planet in one form or another. And the other thing to know with it is, Roger, you know, the first book I wrote was *The Harbinger*.

Roger Marsh: Mmhmm.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: And I was led to write that with a story, to reveal it through a story, to reach more people, to make it easier for that. So I was led with this one, too, to write it through a story. So there is a story. There is kind of like a thriller. But it's ultimately revealing something very real, probably about 200 mysteries we counted in here, but literally affecting our lives.

Roger Marsh: You know, when you think about what we're talking about here, one of the areas, of course, you're touching on the book of Revelation, and that's always been kind of a, I don't want to say hands-off subject, but a lot of pastors look at the book of Revelation and say, well, you know. But when you get right down to it, I mean, take us through the biblical geography here. I mean, Jesus does make references to what is called the throne of Satan. Talk about how this, you know, factors into this story.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: Yeah, well, the amazing thing is you have, I mean, actually the Bible is identifying a place on earth that it's calling the throne of Satan, where Satan dwells. That's real big. And he's talking about Pergamon, which is in Asia Minor, what is now Turkey. And I just actually went there for the first time. I didn't plan it together with writing the book, but I just came back from it.

Roger Marsh: Wow.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: And so Pergamon is called the throne of Satan. Now it's a pagan place. It was a pagan place. And there was a high place where they worshiped the gods. And on the high place of Pergamon was what they called in the ancient world, the great altar. It's actually, the largest altar the Greeks ever built on Earth. It was a massive mega altar to the god Zeus on one hand. And yet it's the place is called, you know, it's a center of what's called the throne of Satan. And this altar, the great altar, becomes the embodiment of Pergamon. And when you follow, strange things are going to happen with this object that's really embodying the Pergamon as the throne of Satan. And it's going to even move into the modern world. But what happened, you know, back then is, well, even before that, in Isaiah, Isaiah quotes Lucifer as saying, "I will exalt my throne." You know, I'll be like the most high. You know, and now the Bible is saying this is a, now in Revelation, it's called the throne of Satan. So what happened was when the Gospel came into the world, into the Roman world, it drove out the gods. People abandoned the gods, abandoned the temples. And the altar, the great altar or throne of Satan was abandoned. And it fell into ruins. It was underground. It was buried. And in a sense, it's almost symbolic because with the gospel coming into the world, there was a restraint on the power of evil. I

mean, there's always evil, but there's restraint when you have the gospel prevailing in a culture. But what would happen if that altar or if that object was ever uncovered. We're talking about the throne of Satan, and yet what would happen if it was uncovered? And was it uncovered? And if so, what would happen in the world and what happened? And this is really setting the stage for the mystery that's affected our lives.

Roger Marsh: You know, as we're talking about this brand new book, *The Altar of Pergamon*, today with Rabbi Jonathan Cahn here on Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, you know, it's important for us to recognize the past, of course, and some of the more futuristic parts of Scripture that are now being played out right now in front of us here. I mean, was there a sign that kind of gave us a foreshadow that this altar was, in fact, going to be on earth? And, you know, kind of walk us through how all that happened. Because, people are so driven by data and by what they see on their little screens as we scroll up, that sometimes things will happen like this that are very consequential and we miss it.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: Yeah, yeah. I mean, I'll say this now. We probably won't get to this till the next program. But what if this was, we're talking about an ancient mystery. We're talking about data that even is linked to the internet. So, but we'll get there.

Roger Marsh: Oh, okay, okay.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: So what happens is a man comes from a faraway place from Europe. He comes to Pergamon. And he stumbles upon it. These runes, he doesn't know what they are. He sends back two of the pieces to his homeland. And his homeland is now going to become joined to the altar of Pergamon. It's the beginning. So where was his homeland? His homeland was Germany. So now Germany is going to become, not yet, but it's going to become the center of the actual housing of the throne of Satan. It's gonna move and the thing is it all starts in the year 1871. The guy's name was Carl Human and he starts sending it back and the amazing thing is you know when you when you look at, I mean if you think ahead now where this is going, what happened with Germany? You know what would happen in the world you know through this and the thing is that that with this you know the people think that Germany, you know, existed like France or England. No, Germany actually came into the world as a nation in the 19th century. And when it came, it came into the nation, it came into the world in 1871. That's the exact time that the pieces of the altar of Pergamon came to Germany.

Roger Marsh: Interesting.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: So you have the throne of Satan returning to the world. And then you have Germany coming into the world. And think about where this is going to lead.

Roger Marsh: It's very fascinating, Jonathan Cahn. Tell us about how in your story and your paralleling Scripture, what does this mean? I mean, because you're seeing the

Third Reich, which leads to the Soviet Union, which leads to all sorts of totalitarian regimes here.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: Yeah, yeah, it's amazing. If you follow this ancient object, you can actually see, you see world history, the entire world. And the thing is that at the same moment that he started, this German guy stumbles upon this throne of Satan, this altar. Another German man is in the same area in Asia Minor, Turkey, the coast, and he's looking for the ancient city of Troy. And his name is Heinrich Schliemann. And he ends up discovering this ancient sign. And he discovers like almost 2,000 versions of this ancient sign. Makes headlines. The sign becomes a big hit in Germany. What was the sign? The sign was the swastika.

Roger Marsh: Oh, wow. Oh my goodness.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: So you have the throne of Satan coming back into the world. You have Germany coming to the world, same moment. You have the swastika coming into the world at the same moment. Now what happens is that Germany decides to actually dig up this altar. It's going to unearth it. It's going to excavate. So they go there and they start digging it up. And the interesting thing is, this is now the year 1878. They're digging it up. And the thing is that the very moment they dig it up, something happens. Roger, you know that in the Jewish world, every Sabbath, there's an appointed Scripture to be read for that Sabbath. You know, and they open up the scrolls and chant the Scripture. As soon as they start digging up this altar, and the Scripture is actually, was about, it was proclaimed all over the world, was about an altar on a high place, and that's a cursed altar. And that brings curses to the Jewish people. And actually, it says in that same passage that the enemy will come upon you to Israel like an eagle coming, swooping down. Well, interesting, because the power that's digging up the altar in Germany, the symbol was also the eagle. And we know what's going to happen. And so they dig it up.

And the other thing, Roger, it's kind of sounding, I'm doing this, it sounds like an Indiana Jones thing. It's real. It's actually real. They put the pieces of the altar in crates. They put it on animals. They put it down to the ships. The altar goes across the ocean, goes to Germany. They put it on trains, goes to Berlin. And at the same moment, something starts happening in Germany. You know, the Bible says that, that the enemy, in Revelation, it has the enemy as a dragon, and it has warring against a woman who gave birth to the Messiah with 12 stars, which is Israel. And we know the enemy hates the Jewish people. You know, that makes sense. Of course he does. So this hatred starts erupting in Germany. This is now, as soon as the altar comes to Germany, it's 1878, and then the peace has come, 1879, something happens. You know, there's always been hatred for the Jewish people.

But the modern form, which we call anti-Semitism, is actually new. It's an ideology. When did it come into the world? It came into the world at the exact moment that the altar of Pergamon came to Germany. And where did it come? It came in Germany. So as soon as the pieces of the altar appear in Germany,

the word anti-Semitism comes into the world in Germany, and anti-Semitism starts spreading through Germany. And again, it's like all the pieces you can see where this is going to go.

Roger Marsh: We looked at World War I, we looked at World War II, we looked at the Holocaust, and we saw this literally as Germany trying to take over the world, eliminate the Jews. It was really geopolitical. I mean, there really wasn't, we didn't see the spiritual component. You're kind of bending our minds a little bit to really embrace the spiritual component because it seems like that was the real driver, not so much the geopolitical.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: Yeah, and listen, what you're saying, I mean, that is exactly what the Bible says. The Bible says behind all these things that we see on earth, there's a spiritual realm. You know, and there is a real enemy, but the Bible says it's real. God, you know, the devil is real and God is real, you know, and we are, we are dealing and all the, I mean, it really makes sense when you think about it. I mean, you know, if God is using a people to bring the word and the Scripture into the world, to bring Messiah into the world, to bring salvation into the world, then of course the enemy is going to try to destroy that. I mean, you know, that makes sense. And it's right there in Revelation and in the vision of the dragon and that woman. So, yeah. And this is, by the way, you know, this is behind, behind World War I. These are acts of destruction. And what happens is not only does anti-Semitism start spreading in Germany, but another thing starts spreading when the altar comes to Germany, and that is Germany has an explosion of the occult. A lot of people don't realize this. It explodes throughout Germany really up until the time of the Nazis. And the occult world and the anti-Semitism is going to converge into this.

And what happens, Roger, when they get the pieces of the altar in Berlin, they start piecing them together. It comes in like thousands of pieces, you know. So they piece it together kind of in secret, kind of in private. And they do it. So the first time since ancient times, the altar is put together, appears back in the world. That's in 1889. At the same moment that the altar or the throne of Satan appears in the world, something else appears in the world, a baby's born whose name is Adolf Hitler.

Roger Marsh: Interesting.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: So his heart comes into the world with the altar or the throne of Satan. And his whole life is going to be actually linked to the mystery of this, this object.

Roger Marsh: So let's get into Hitler's life a little bit here, because a lot of people, you know, just see this guy who was mad for power and small mustache. And that's, I mean, I don't want to say he's easy to ignore, but he's easy to dismiss, I think, in the modern culture. But there's a lot more to Adolf Hitler and the rise of evil and the Third Reich and everything that came up. And the altar plays a pivotal role, the altar of Pergamon does in that story. Talk about that, if you would.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: Yeah, yeah. And, you know, and as this person, you know, by the way, I don't want to throw this in, but we have a little time, and that is that my father was born in Germany. He was born when Hitler was rising. And my father's obviously Jewish and when he was 10 years old, Hitler takes over. And so this is real. I mean, on one hand, I almost didn't exist if Hitler had his way... My father, as a child, they put him on a train to get him out. It was called the child's transport. They got out a few of them. So if Hitler had his way, I wouldn't exist. And on the other hand, I don't know if because of Hitler, I exist because he came to America because of Hitler and then met my mother. Personal thing on one hand, but this has affected everybody.

So yeah, so what happens is you've got this occult explosion going on. You got Adolf Hitler, you know, now rising. And what Germany decides to do is they want to build the altar, a massive house to house it and display it to the world. So, you know, in ancient times, the altar would be in a temple. So they kind of built a modern temple. It's called...they call it the Pergamon Museum. Well, it starts rising. It's a massive project. It starts rising in the 1920s. At the same moment in the 1920s, it parallels Hitler's rise. Both rising together. And by the way, there was a guy whose name was, well, I don't even want to say his name. It's hard to pronounce. He's a German guy who goes to Turkey, the land of where the altar was. And he picks up like occultic knowledge. And he wants to bring this occultism to Germany. It's occultic knowledge. So he comes back, starts an occult society called the Thule Society. And that cultic society decides to start a little party, which becomes the Nazi Party.

Roger Marsh: Interesting.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: So the Nazi Party was actually, talk about, Roger, when you talk about there's a spiritual component behind all this stuff. Nazi party was started by an occult organization. So it was actually an outreach of an occult organization. And then one day Hitler comes into, walks into that. He's actually spying on them, walks into them and decides to join them and becomes their leader. So that, so now, so now in the 1920s, Hitler's rising, the altar is rising. They're preparing for a big, you know, they're going to reveal the altar, put together to the world in one place. It's going to be a big reveal. And so as what happens is, in 1930, the altar, the house is kind of finished, and they're going to reveal the altar put together to the world, 1930. Now, just before that, the Nazi Party had a setback. They had an election in 1928, and the Nazi Party got 2% of the vote. It was almost like it was on its way out. Everybody said it was finished. But then something happens. When the altar is revealed to the world in 1930 in the autumn, at that same moment, Hitler and the Nazis are all of a sudden, they are catapulted from 2%. Now they're the second largest party in Germany. Suddenly.

Roger Marsh: Wow.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: And then the next year, they're the number one party. And then the next, Hitler takes over. But the turning point is when this altar is opened up. And interesting, the enemy is a desecrator. He takes the things of God, he desecrates

them. I mean, whether it's desecrating man, woman, life, you know, holy things, you know. And so the day that the altar or the throne of Satan was revealed to Germany and the world, it was Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Bible. Atonement, which is also the day of God's altar and is a day of salvation for the Jewish people. And yet he turns it around. It's the devil's altar or the devil's throne, and it's going to bring destruction with the Jewish people.

Roger Marsh: That's incredible.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: So this is all, this is the secret thing of history you all never hear. Now, the other thing is that what kind of an altar, to get deeper, what kind of altar was it? The altar of Pergamon or the throne of Satan was an altar of burnt offerings. Burnt offerings.

Roger Marsh: Okay.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: And the Greeks are the ones who built it. And so the Greeks, in the Greek language, the way you called an altar of burnt offerings, the word for burnt in Greek is kaustós, and the word for an entirely consumed offering is the word holos. Put it together, you get the word holocaust.

Roger Marsh: Holocaust. Wow.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: So that is where the word comes from. And it comes from this Greek. And so now you've got an altar. So this was the altar. The throne of Satan is an altar of the Holocaust. And so the moment that these pieces arrived in Germany, I mean, you know, in the 19th century, it was an altar talking or foreshadowing the Holocaust that is yet to come. And so this is all part of it. And you know what, Roger? I mean, a lot of people don't realize this. The word holocaust is actually in the Bible or in the first translation of the Bible. The first translation of the Bible is the Greek Septuagint. Ancient. I mean, the New Testament uses it, you know. And in the Septuagint Bible, when you open up, in fact, you read that God says to Abraham, take your son Isaac and offer him up. It says in the Septuagint, it says, offer him as a Holocaust. And I mean, think about it. The entire Jewish nation is within Isaac right then. And it's going to be offered. And then when it talks about in Leviticus, it talks about the sacrifice. It says, these are the laws of the Holocaust. And it actually talks about burning, of course, burning and ashes and keeping the fire. And so the Holocaust was like a satanic inversion of something holy from the Bible. Now it's against the Jewish people. And you know that when I told you that, you know, when they revealed the altar to the world in 1930 in Germany, and I said it was Yom Kippur, on Yom Kippur, when they revealed the altar, they're actually, the Scripture that they're reading, Yom Kippur has the word Holocaust in it four times. So they're taught, they're reading about the Holocaust as this thing comes in. It's like a foreshadow.

And that's, now let me give you a little bit more. What was the first sacrifice that the Jewish people offered to God as a nation? The first sacrifice was done on

Passover. It was the Passover lamb. Do you know the Holocaust, when it began, it began on the day of Passover.

Roger Marsh: Really?

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: It began on Passover.

Roger Marsh: Interesting.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: And the first person, who was a Jewish man who was killed, and he actually was a descendant of Aaron, the high priest of Israel, who offered the sacrifices. So it's like another inversion of this. And in the Bible, it talks about, it is a verse that says the altar of burnt offerings was in the holy place. Okay, so what happens if you translate that into the language of those who have the altar. Well, we already said the burnt offering, the word is holocaust in the Greek. Okay, what about in German? In German, it says the altar of burnt offerings was in the holy place. So there's a German word that comes from Polish, actually, and it speaks of a holy place, or it literally means the holy place. You know what the word is? The word is Auschwitz. The altar burnt offerings in the holy place translate to the Holocaust in Auschwitz so this whole thing that we're watching is a... there's a mystery behind all of it. Listen we know the Bible says that we don't always take it so seriously the devil is real and the devil is a destroyer.

Roger Marsh: Yes.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: And he seeks destruction you know we didn't even, you know, we won't have time to get into but, but even how when the altar of Pergamon was taken to Germany at that same moment the seeds were sown for the First World War. I mean, that's also part of the mystery. He was directly linked to this thing and even the Second World War. So all this destruction is happening, but behind it is this mystery. And we think like, who is the one who was over the Holocaust? Well, of course, it's Hitler. He was like the dark high priest, a satanic high priest with his offering. Well, what happens at the end of Hitler's life? At the end of Hitler's life, you know, when the devil is through, has no more use for his vessel, he destroys his own vessels. And so Hitler, offers up the final sacrifice. He kills himself with, you know, his hand, the same hand, he kills himself. And what does he decree? He decrees that his body has to be burnt. It's the last burnt offering. It's the last Holocaust. You know, I mentioned, you know, anti-Semitism. Well, we're dealing with that to this day, even in America.

Roger Marsh: Oh yeah.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: But we're also dealing with the resurrection of socialism in America too. Well, that socialism is also part of the mystery as well. And it goes back to Karl Marx. It goes back. So to just kind of set the stage and we, you know, I know we'll continue all that is that, you know, when Hitler dies in that bunker, the altar doesn't have anybody over it anymore. In other words, he was like, the, he was the owner of the altar. He was the head of Germany. Germany had the altar. It

was in Berlin, just where Hitler was, you know, was reigning from right by the... Oh, wait, I didn't tell you something. I'm sorry. I got to tell you. When Hitler, when he comes to power he wants this massive platform. He wants to be standing and speaking to the masses on this colossal mega platform. Well, he commissions this architect, a guy named Albert Speer. Albert Speer builds Hitler, this gigantic platform in Nuremberg. When you see the pictures of Hitler going crazy, you know, raging in front of like a million people, that's in Nuremberg. That's where they have their rallies. Well, he's standing on this platform. You know what the platform was? Albert Speer decided to build Hitler's platform. To make it, it was a reproduction of the altar of Pergamon, the throne of Satan.

Roger Marsh: Oh, wow.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: So when you see Hitler raging, he's standing literally on the throne of Satan. We can hold off because that'll be...

Roger Marsh: You painted us right into a corner here for a perfect cliffhanger. And unfortunately, Rabbi Jonathan Cahn, we're out of time for today. Thank you again for writing the book *The Altar of Pergamon*. The link is up at drjamesdobson.org. The book is available wherever books are sold. But I have to ask you, can you come back next time? Because you can't leave us hanging on this cliff like this, okay?

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn: Okay. It's a deal.

Roger Marsh: Okay, great.

Well, what a fascinating conversation. And I have to say, Rabbi Cahn left us right on the edge of our seats. So you're going to have to join us again next time to hear part two of this conversation. You've been listening to Dr. James Dobson's family talk and my conversation with Rabbi Jonathan Cahn about his brand-new book called *The Altar of Pergamon*. If you've missed any part of today's program, or if you'd like to share it with a friend, go to drjamesdobson.org. That's drjamesdobson.org. Or if it's easier, just type in the initials jdfi.org. They're one in the same website.

Programs like this one reach families all across America, and it's families like you who make that possible. Your support of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute helps us preserve and promote the institution of the family and to introduce as many people as possible to the gospel of Jesus Christ. We encourage you to pray for us and we invite you to partner with us today. Your gift of any amount makes it all possible. You can donate securely online at jdfi.org or call a member of our constituent care team at 877-732-6825.

Well, I'm Roger Marsh, and on behalf of all of us here at Family Talk and the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, thanks so much for joining us today. Be sure to tune in again next time right here for part two of my conversation with Rabbi Jonathan Cahn, discussing his brand-new book called *The Altar of Pergamon*.

That's coming up next time on the next edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, the voice you trust for the family you love.

This has been a presentation of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute.