



# The Parable of the mustard seed

## The Church at Pergamos and its corresponding Church Age<sup>1</sup> Under the Roman Empire

(313 A.D. to 538 A.D.)

Matthew 13:31-32 (NASB), 31 He presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup> and this is smaller than all *other* seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES.”



he third mystery is related to the parable of the mustard seed, represented by the church in Pergamos (Matt. 13:31-32; Rev. 2:12-17). The word Pergamos signifies marriage, union, or high tower, and corresponds to the condition of the church from the beginning of the fourth century until the sixteenth. At the time of the church in Smyrna, the strategy the enemy used to destroy it was persecution. During the period of Pergamos, however, false Christians came in and were lifted up by the Roman emperor, Constantine, who began to give them benefits and privileges. This attitude gave entrance into the church to many self-seeking people. In other words, his intention was to exalt the Christians and put them in a “high tower.”

The church in Smyrna was not so numerous, but after the emperor Constantine began to exalt the Christians during the time of Pergamos, it rapidly increased in number. In the parable in Matthew, the small mustard seed that should have become an herb, became a great tree in which many birds roosted. These birds represent Satan (cf. Matt. 13:4, 19). When the church joins the world or politics, Satan comes to “roost,” that is, establish his throne and produce an abnormal growth in the church (Rev. 2:13).

Key Point: Persecution produces normal growth.



<sup>1</sup> <http://dailyfood.ca/kingdom/kingdom6wed.html>