

## Thyatira

---

**V:18a**      *"And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write;..."*

### BACKGROUND:

- Thyatira represents Romanism, considered the dark ages from 590 to 1000 A.D.
- Thyatira: "continual sacrifice"
  - Christ is still on the cross suffering for us.
- Thyatira was a defensive, fortress city with the elite Roman guards stationed there.
- Thyatira was known for its fine brass working, it was thoroughly destroyed and rebuilt several times, its main importance was as a trade center.
- *It should be noted at this point that we have a change in format amongst the 7 letters. The first three letters are written in the past tense. In the last four letters the "promise" to the overcomer, made to each of the churches, now appears after the "he that has an ear" statement. The last four letters speak of the second coming of Jesus Christ and there is perhaps a greater sense of expectancy.*

**V:18b**      *"...These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;"*

- Identifies Jesus as "The Son of God", the only place in Revelation that He uses this exact name or title.

*"... Eyes like unto a flame of fire..."*

**Revelation 19:11-16**      *"<sup>11</sup>And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. <sup>12</sup>His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. <sup>13</sup>And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup>And the armies which were in Heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup>And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup>And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."*

- This particular title is connected to judgment.

- Brass and fire are both associated with judgment

**Daniel 4:15, 23.** - stump bound with iron and brass.

**Judges 16:21** - Sampson bound with fetters of brass.

**Numbers 21:9** - brass serpent.

**1 Corinthians 3:12-15** <sup>12</sup>Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; <sup>13</sup>Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. <sup>14</sup>If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. <sup>15</sup>If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

**Hebrews 10:26-27** "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."

- Describing an offended and angry God.

**Hebrews 10:31** "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

**V: 19** *"I now thy works, and charity / love, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first."*

- 6 words of commendation, not entirely rebuke / correction to the church of the dark ages. By then it was the "Roman" church.
- There were many "true" believers who had a personal love for Christ, which was manifested in good works.

**James 2:17-18** "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

- 6 words of commendation:
  1. **Works:** (G2041) "ergon" – toil, deed, labour, work all taken on behalf of God.
  2. **Charity:** (G26) "agape" – selfless love, self sacrificing love.
  3. **Service:** (G1248) "diakonia" – ministry, serving, teaching, directed to people.

4. **Faith:** (G4102) "pistis" – reliance upon Christ for salvation. (Even though placed after works.)
  5. **Patience:** (G5281) "hupomone" – endurance, constancy, waiting, hopefully. Endurance in dark times.
  6. **Increased works:** increasing rather than diminishing.
- Unlike Ephesus which had left its first love and ceased its first works, the later works of Thyatira were more impressive than at first.
  - Such good works however vital as they are, cannot substitute for sound doctrine and Godly living which were decreasing at Thyatira.

**V:20**      *"Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols."*

- Jezebel brought paganism into the Northern kingdom of Israel, the worship of Baal, and Ashtureth, she killed the Lord's prophets, she was later thrown from a window and dashed to pieces, trampled underfoot, and devoured by dogs just like it was said she would be.

#### **1 Kings 16:31-32, 2 Kings 9:22-37, 1 Kings 21:23**

- A woman like Jezebel in the church, a false teacher, false prophet, leading the church astray again introducing paganism, and killing the saints. - Inquisition
- The Roman Catholic Church fits the bill to a "T" and is frequently referred to in feminine terms.
- R/C communion = food sacrificed to idols.
- Jezebel promoted "spiritual fornication" / idolatry, compromise, ecumenism.
- This Jezebel had, under the guise of promoting spirituality in the soul, promoted carnality in living, possibly stressing "love" while degrading doctrine and separation vs: ecumenism. Having received it as a revelation from above. **2 Cor. 6:16-17**
- It probably was a "revelation"; just that it wasn't from above.

**2 Peter 1:20-21**      *"<sup>20</sup>Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. <sup>21</sup>For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."*

- Ephesus wasn't fooled by false apostles, but the church in Thyatira was. They actually entrusted a position of teaching and leadership to an immoral woman who called herself a prophetess.
- They had already been taught about women in general as teachers above men.

**1 Corinthians 14:33-34** "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law."

**1 Timothy 2:11-12** "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."

- God's word had some specific direction regarding how to deal with this type of poison, and uncleanness.

**Deuteronomy 17:7** "The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shalt put the evil away from among you."

**Deuteronomy 22:21**

**1 Corinthians 5:1-13** - the whole chapter.

- During this time period, considered the "dark ages" many pagan practices and idolatrous practices were introduced into the church.
  1. Papacy elevated to secular power, 590 A.D. based on the "Donation of Constantine" and the "Decretal of Isidore".
  2. Introduction of rituals, church doctrine supplanted personal faith in Jesus Christ.
  3. Worship of the Virgin Mary
  4. Church mass introduced, mass for the dead.
  5. Prayer for the dead
  6. Doctrine of purgatory introduced
  7. Roman Catholic communion = food sacrificed to idols, not sure when this was instituted.

### **Seduce:**

1. to lead astray, as from duty or principles; corrupt.
2. To induce to have sexual intercourse.
3. To win over; attract.
4. Fundamental departure from the truth.

**Exodus 20:2-5** "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. <sup>3</sup>Thou shalt have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup>Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any

likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: <sup>5</sup>Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;..."

**Mark 7:6-8** "...well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men,..."

**V:21** *"And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not."*

- Jesus has been very patient with Jezebel / Rome, but there has been no real change.
- Rome boasts that she never changes. "Semper idem" - always the same.
- There is a limit, and that day is coming.

**Genesis 15:16** "But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full."

- In some way unstated here, she had been made aware of her sin, given a chance to repent, and refused, rejecting the Word of God. Evidently this was also true of those who had become her followers in the church.
- Judgment is all that remains.

**V: 22** *"Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds."*

- Judgment: Final judgment, the great tribulation, judgment for Rome and for those who sin with her.

*"...Except they repent of their deeds."*

**1 John 1:9** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

- Part of the church will go through the tribulation, this part, because they would not repent.

**V: 23**        *"And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."*

- Just as Timothy was a "son" of Paul in the faith and love of Jesus Christ (1 Tim 1:2), so too Jezebel produced offspring from her false / pagan teachings.
- Her children / spawn are her followers, followers of the Roman church.
- She had / has plenty to work with.

**Jeremiah 17:9**        "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

**Matthew 15:19**        "Four out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."

- Jesus searches the hearts of all men, including those that are followers of Jezebel. All men and churches will be very aware of this when that time comes.

**Hebrews 4:12**        "For the Word of God is quick, 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 of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

**1 Chronicles 28:9**        "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thought: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever."

- Each person will be repaid, judged according to their deeds.

**Romans 12:19**        "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

**Romans 2:5-6**        "But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; who will render to every man according to his deeds:"

**V: 24**        *"But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak, I will put upon you none other burden."*

- This letter is really addressed to the faithful remnant in Thyatira, those that have ears to hear, in whom the Holy Spirit has residence.

- Jezebel and her followers may dominate the church of Thyatira but they are not really the church as Christ views things.
- Good doctrine vs: bad doctrine each produce different fruits:

**Matthew 12:33** "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit."

- Satan's deep secrets could refer to a satanic cult, a Gnostic sect known as "Ophites" who worshipped the "serpent" and made a parody of Paul's writings / words. All heresy boasts of superior spiritual perception as did this group. The "higher" critics of their day.

### Prop. 8 - parody

- The deep things of Satan can be contrasted by the deep things of God.

**1 Corinthians 2:10** "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

**Matthew 15:19-20** "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man:..."

VS:

**Galatians 5:22-23** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

- Christ exhorts this remnant to hold on to what they have, their fruit having been demonstrated in verse 19, until the Lord returns.
- No other burdens imposed upon them, just remain pure.

**V: 25** *"But that which ye have already hold fast till I come."*

- Hang on until I get there. I'm coming soon!
- This indicates that there will be Thyatira type churches when he does return, which we've already discussed.

**V: 26** *"And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:"*

- Rewards to those who:

1. Overcome.
2. Do the Lord's will. Works of Christ come through the Holy Spirit in faith.

- Not the works of the flesh, human effort / works of the harlot.
- There will be overcomers in this church.
- Who are those that overcome?

**1 John 5:5** "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

- Part of the reward after receiving everlasting life is sharing in the rule over the nations during the millennial kingdom.

**Daniel 7:18** **Romans 8:16-17**

**1 Corinthians 6:2** "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters:"

**James 2:5** "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"

**V: 27** *"And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father."*

- We will reign with Jesus during the millennium. Jesus is sharing that which he received from His Father with us, those who persevere.
- There are 3 mentions of things from "**My Father**" in revelation.

1. Here Thyatira
2. Rev. 3:5 Sardis
3. Rev. 3:21 Laodicea

- Iron scepter refers to people being forced to be good during the kingdom age.

**Psalms 37:4** "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

Enforced righteousness & worship:

**Philippians 2:9-11** <sup>9</sup>"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: <sup>10</sup>That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; <sup>11</sup>And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

**V: 28**        *"And I will give him the morning star."*

- Jesus is the bright morning star.

**Revelation 22:16**    "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."

- Christ's coming for his own, His return, and the rapture is the hope of the church

**Titus 2:13**    "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"

**V: 29**        *"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."*

- The true children of the Lord will hear him.

**John 10:27**    "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:"

- The children of Jezebel won't...

**1 Corinthians 2:14**        "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

**1 Corinthians 1:23-24**    <sup>23</sup>But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; <sup>24</sup>but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."

**Psalms 139:23-24**        "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."