

# Journey Through the Bible: Revelation

## Session 6: The Church Without Discipline: Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29)

Remember Acts 17:11

The Apocalypse (Unveiling-*SINGULAR*)

- (1:19) Christ's Instruction and Outline for the Book
- "Have Seen" Risen Christ (Ch. 1)
- **"That Which Is" The Seven Churches** (Ch. 2-3)
- "Hereafter" The Conquest (Ch. 4-22)

Promised Blessing to the Reader (1:3)

Letters to the Churches of Asia (Ch.'s 2-3):

Application:

- Local Churches with Local Church Problems
- Personal Challenges Within the Church
- Open Letters So that Every Church Can Learn
- Prophetic Insight into the Church Age

Areas of Meaning:

- The Name of the Church
- The Title Christ Chooses for Himself
- Commendation
- Concern
- Instruction
- Promise to the Overcomer

Heresies in the Early Church:

- Legalism: Return to Subjection to the Law  
(Judaizers/Works Righteousness)
- Arianism: Denial of Christ's Divinity
- Gnosticism: Denial of Christ's Humanity
- Pluralism: Denial of God's Exclusivity  
(Caesar/Pagan Worship)

Nicolaitans:

- Clergy Abuses Attributed, Excused, or Rationalized by False Claims to Apostolic Authority
- 1 Peter 5:1-3
- Untranslated Word: Niaco = Conquer/Rule; Laos = People
- John 13:15-16

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Thyatira History:

- Modern Day Akhisar
- Originally a Lydian Town (Pelopia, Semiramis, Euippia)
- Conquered by the Persians, Alexander
- Left to Lysimachus in 301 BC
- Conquered by the Syrians that Same Year
  - Renamed by King Seleucus I
  - **Θυάτειρα** = "Daughter" (Stephanus of Byzantium)
  - Fortified to Protect the Road from Pergamos

Thyatira Culture:

- Became Famous in 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD for Dying and Selling Purple Cloth
  - Supplier of Lydia (Acts 16)
- Trade Controlled Primarily through Guilds
  - Compulsory Membership
  - Set Prices for Goods and Services
  - Established a System of Training for Laborers
  - Presented a Strong and United Front to Local Politicians
  - All Guilds Had a Patron Deity that was Venerated through their Proceedings, Practices, and Social Engagements

Title of Christ (v. 18):

- The Son of God
  - Humanity and Divinity
  - Royal Authority
- Eyes of Flame (See's All/Nothing Hidden)
- Feet of Bronze (Walking in Judgement)

Commendation (v. 19):

- |              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Works        | Ministry                    |
| Love         | Self-Sacrifice (Motivation) |
| Faithfulness | Spiritual Exclusivity       |
| Faith        | Reliance on God's Provision |
| Service      | Acts of Love and Compassion |
|              | Evangelizing the Region     |
| Endurance    | Tireless Devotion           |

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Concern (v. 20-23a):

- A Lack of Church Discipline (“You Tolerate”)
  - False Teaching Recognized
    - Prophetess (2 Pet. 1:20-21)
  - Theological and Social Scandle (Idolatry; Sexual Immorality)
  - Ref. Acts 15:28-29

Jezebel (Ref. 1 Kings 21):

- Daughter of Eth-Baal (Priest and King of Sidon and Tyre)
  - Priest of Astarte and Baal
  - Murdered King Phelles
- Wife of King Ahab of Israel
- Led a Campaign to End the Worship of God
  - Murder the Prophets
  - Convert/Murder the Priests Still in Israel
- Obtained Wealth and Influence via Manipulation

Naboth’s Vineyard and the “Type” of Jezebel:

- Characterized by Greed, Jealousy, & Hypocrisy
  - Pagan (Worldly) Ways Infecting Israel
- Assumes Authority She Does Not Have
- Arranges a Character and Literal Assassination
  - False Witnesses, False Piety, False Trial
  - Dysfunction Becomes Systemic (Children Die)
- Authorities Refuse to Act (God Does)

The “Jezebel” of Thyatira:

- Assumes False Authority Within the Church
- Source of Internal Persecution
- Rationalizes Sexual Immorality and Spiritual Syncretism (Worship in Multiple Religions)
  - Worldly Ways Infecting the Church
- Unrepentant After Offers of Grace (Mat. 18)
- Cursed for Leading Others Astray
  - Harsh Illness for Her
  - Tribulation (Suffering) for Her Followers
  - Children Will Die from Plague (Severe Illness)

Instruction (v. 23b-25):

- “Vengeance is mine...” Christ Himself will Visit Judgement
  - “The Churches will Know...” Example Being Made
  - Ministry of Christ (Judge Heart and Mind)
  - Reward/Penalize Accordingly
- Christ Identifies a Remnant Within the Church
  - “Deep Things” Hidden Evil Knowledge (Gnostic)
  - Potential Sinful Acts (Rites) Resulting in Blasphemy
  - No Other Burden Applied
  - Remain Faithful in the Face of Temptation/Opposition

Our “Brother’s Keeper” (Mat. 18:15-20):

- Cancer in the Body of Christ
  - Resolved on an Individual Basis (Not Anonymously)
  - Protect the Soul of the Individual & Testimony/Fellowship of the Local Church
  - Progressive form of Reconciliation
    - Personal (One on One)
    - Diplomatic (One with Two Witnesses)
    - In Consul (Before the Church)
- Church Members Under Mutual Accountability
- Church and Spiritual Covenant (Savior and Lord)
- Every Christian is a Minister in Fellowship
- Every Christian is Accountable to Each Other and Christ
  - Christ (Savior and Lord) “Eyes of Flame, Feet of Bronze”
  - Proceedings are Under the Spirit’s Guidance
  - Respect for Ordained Authority
  - A Limit Established (3 Attempts)

Promise to the Overcomer (v. 26-29):

- Political Power in the Coming (Millennial) Era
- Complete Authority “Rod of Iron”  
(Ps. 2:7-9; 110:2; Dan. 7:18, 27; 1 Cor. 6:2  
“Scepter” Heb. 1:8)
  - Regency Under the King

What Jezebel is trying to accomplish through sin (manipulation) God will use as a reward for those who resist her.

