

**Seven Churches Series**  
**Study # 4 Thyatira's Jezebel**  
**Revelation 2:18 – 29**  
**Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor**

**FOURTH Church: Church of Thyatira**

**Literal Historic Application**

Thyatira was only about 25 miles from Pergamos. Thyatira was not a prominent and high class city compared to the other six cities mentioned in Revelation 2 and 3, but they were identified as a manufacturing city with many working poor citizens. The most notable industry in Thyatira was the manufacturing and dyeing of cloth. Matter of fact in Acts 16:13-15 it speaks of a woman named Lydia from Thyatira, a seller of purple cloth, who was taught about Christ through Paul and was baptized into the church of Christ while in city of Philippi. Now that you have a highlighted background of the city of Thyatira, let's explore the body of the message that was given to the church of Thyatira.

**How does Jesus introduce himself to the church of Thyatira?**

**Revelation 2:18**

18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his **eyes like unto a flame of fire**, and his **feet are like fine brass**;

Remember this is part of the description of Jesus in the Heavenly sanctuary while John is in vision in Revelation 1.

**Eyes like unto a flame of fire:** Jesus sees and knows all. He knows the intentions of every heart. Nothing can be hid from God.

**Psalms 44:21**

21 Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.

**Proverbs 15:3**

3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

**Feet like fine brass:** Blood mingled with fire!

**Fine brass** (Greek): burnished copper, an alloy of copper (or gold) and silver having a brilliant lustre: - fine brass.

Jesus walks through the fire and blood to save humanity from total destruction to give His gift of salvation. This was illustrated in the earthly sanctuary. The laver was fine polished brass, but before the laver was the altar of sacrifice. Jesus had to go through the sacrifice first in order to cleanse the world of sin.

**Revelation 1:15**

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

We must go through the blood mingled with FIRE in order to reflect the character of Jesus Christ.

**1 Peter 1:7**

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

**What are some notable positive things that Jesus said to the church of Thyatira in His message to them?**

Let's explore the first part of the body of the message given to Thyatira.

**Revelation 2:19**

<sup>19</sup>I know thy works, and charity [love], and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last *to be more than the first.*

Here we see that Jesus highly commends Thyatira for their works, love, service, faith, and patience. Matter of fact, Jesus notes their spiritual growth by saying that their current genuine works were more than the first works. This was a complete contrast of the message that was given to the church of Ephesus [the first church we studied in our Revelation series] in which they declined spiritually because they fell from or left their first love. Remember that Jesus asked Ephesus to return to their first and genuine love and to do their first works. **Now the works of Thyatira on the other hand were greater than their first.** It appears that the **church of Thyatira collectively** was sincere in their service to God and that they possessed the genuine love of Christ and this love produced genuine good works that were Christ centered. Absolutely, but there was something very serious and disturbing to Christ in verse 20 that the church of Thyatira allowed to fester among the leaders and members of the church.

**After Jesus commended the church of Thyatira for their genuine works, love, service, faith, and patience what serious and disturbing situation was revealed to them?**

**Revelation 2:20, 21**

<sup>20</sup>Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou **sufferest [CR: which means allow or permit]** that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a **prophetess**, to teach and to **seduce [deceive]** my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. <sup>21</sup>And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

Jezebel (Hebrew) 'îyzebel

BDB Definition:

**Jezebel = "Baal exalts" or "Baal is husband to" or "unchaste"**

1) queen of Israel, wife of Ahab, daughter of Ethbaal

We find here that after close examination of the church of Thyatira, Jesus found a fatal and infectious disease of false doctrine that was rapidly growing and corrupting the genuine works, love, service, faith, patience within the church body. The text implies that the church of Thyatira actually let their spiritual guard down and allowed false prophets to operate within their church. The false prophet mentioned in this text is characterized as the woman Jezebel who was very evil and who called herself a prophetess. **The character of Jezebel can be found in I Kings chapters 18, 19, and 21**

But let's highlight a few things about Jezebel in the Old Testament. Jezebel was a princess of an ungodly and idol worshiping nation who married Ahab the king of Israel. **Jezebel used her political power and religious idolatrous zeal to further the apostasy of Israel and influence many Israelites to worship the false gods and idols of Baal and Asherah instead of the true God of**

**heaven.** And Asherah was Baal's female counterpart. In First Kings 18:13 we find that Jezebel killed many of the true prophets of God.

Jezebel was a ruthless and heartless queen who did all in her power to uproot the truth of God. Jezebel was very wicked and her husband, king Ahab of Israel did not have any back bone to stand up to her. He allowed her to basically do whatever evil she wanted to. Remember in the message to Ephesus, Jesus praised them for their vigilance against evil and false prophets. **Thyatira was totally the opposite of Ephesus in this regard. The church of Thyatira, even though they knew what they saw in their church was wrong, failed to rebuke the false prophets and doctrines that were deceiving their ministers and members away from God to the practices of idol worship.**

There were obviously many leaders and members in the church of Thyatira who were afraid to speak up against the false doctrines, especially since many probably saw or heard about some of the people in the next town over in the church of Pergamos who were persecuted for speaking up against false doctrines and church compromises that did not please God.

Thyatira did not cut out the cancer of false doctrine from their church body they allowed it to manifest and grow eventually corrupting and infecting a large majority of the church. In verse 21 Jesus implies that He pleaded with the false prophets characterized as Jezebel for a specific amount of time to repent from their evils ways and follow the true God in heaven but they refused.

### **What was the warning to the NT church and us today?**

#### **Jude 1:3-4**

3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Jeremiah 23:14**

14 I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they **strengthen also the hands of evildoers**, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.

### **What message did Jesus give Thyatira for those who believe and practice the false doctrines of Jezebel?**

#### **Revelation 2:22-23**

<sup>22</sup>Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. <sup>23</sup>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.

God's church in some cases in the Bible is symbolized as the bride of God, you especially see this when you look at the history of the children of Israel in the Old Testament. So any time God's bride or His church decides to believe in false teachings that compromise the Word of God, God considers that to be adultery. **And many church leaders and members were guilty of that when they believed in the false doctrines of Jezebel.** Jesus is very clear here that those who chose to reject His clear warnings of false doctrines and accept false teachings such as the doctrines of Jezebel any

way will be cast into great wrath and tribulation unless they repent. In others words, they would reap the consequences of their decisions to believe in false teachings, if they failed to repent and turn to God's truth.

### **What message did Jesus give to those ministers and members of Thyatira who reject the false teachings of Jezebel?**

#### **Revelation 2:24-25**

<sup>24</sup>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**. <sup>25</sup>But that which ye have *already* hold fast till I come.

Jesus promises those who do not accept the cunning doctrines of Jezebel will have the "blessed hope" of His coming. There is a blessed hope for you if you believe in and live by the truth of God's Word. But how do you know you are believing and walking in God's truth? The ONLY way is to sincerely and prayerful personal study of God's Word.

### **What significant historical period of the Christian church movement does the message of Thyatira represent or symbolize?**

Now when we look at the history of the Christian church, Thyatira actually matches the characteristics and events of the Christian church during the dark centuries of Christianity for 1260 years beginning with **538 A.D to 1798**. Many Church historians refer to this period as the Dark Ages – the formation of the Papacy – total apostasy. During the Dark Ages many Christian church leaders became very corrupt and bought into the false beliefs of Jezebel that were spoken of in Revelation 2:20. The church in the capital city of Rome during these years gained greater political power and evidentially formed its own state religion that was not in line with the Word of God. And this Dark period was noted as being "Dark" because the Papal Roman church system influenced laws to be passed which did not allow individuals to have possession or read the Holy Bible in their own language. It was Satan's plan to hide the truth of God and keep the people of the world in darkness, trapped and hopeless. The Dark Ages was a period of great spiritual ignorance. It was truly spiritually dark and void of much Biblical truth.

During this period the church in Rome taught only your works and money through pilgrimages, penances, and indulgence can save you from the wrath of God and earn your way to heaven. All these things were totally unbiblical. But many people during that time of the Dark Ages followed these practices because they did not know anything else because the Bible was kept in the dark. Also during the Dark Ages the word of God was replaced with the ideas and theories of the leaders of the church and state of Rome. And those who refused to follow the beliefs of the state religion of the Church of Rome were tortured and/or persecuted for upholding the true principles of God. The Dark Ages was truly a terrible time and memory for the Christian church. It is a time in which many people want to forget, but we cannot forget those times, we must learn from them. Amen. And unfortunately millions of people even today are ignorantly or purposely following the same false teachings the Church of Rome taught during the Dark Ages even though the Bible truth is out of the darkness and is shining brightly. **And the reason why many people still live in darkness is because they do not study the Bible for themselves.**

### **What are some significant lessons we can learn from the study of Thyatira?**

**You cannot allow uncontrolled fire in the house and expect that it will NOT burn DOWN!**

The most significant lesson is the same we learned in our last program's study about Thyatira is that we must not take anything for granted and study the Word of God for ourselves. Even though we see and respect many religious and influential leaders, it does not automatically mean that they are true prophets or ministers of God teaching the truths of the Bible. We must sincerely check all church teachings, ideologies, and traditions with the Word of God, because how would you or I know if we are being deceived or not. You must test all things with the Word of God.

***Isaiah 8:20*** says <sup>20</sup>To the law and to the testimony: if they [teacher, preacher, friend, or family] speak not according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them. It does not matter how famous or influential a person maybe, the Bible says if he or she does not speak, teach, or preach according to what the Bible says there is NO light in them. We are to do like the church of Thyatira should have done, disregard their teachings and go by the Word of God. And how would you know if you are practicing the doctrines of Jezebel or not. We must study the Bible daily for ourselves. You know, even today when most people have a Bible most people still get their Biblical knowledge second hand. They trust a preacher or teacher, or famous book to spoon feed them Biblical knowledge and they trust that all that they are teaching them is truth. this is how Satan deceives billions of people, because they do not go to the direct source, the Bible with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Jesus shows on the characteristics of Babylon through the letter of the seven churches before we learn details at Babylon.**

**The Papacy is the mother of HARLOTS – JEZEBEL. Should God's people have ANY unity or relationship with the Papacy? [ecumenicism]**

Are we to keep silent when the woman Jezebel is allowed to prostitute in the church?

No! What does the Bible say?

**Isaiah 58:1**

1 Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

**Ezekiel 9:4**

....sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

**What will happen to Babylon and all those who allow the woman Jezebel?**

**Revelation 18:2-5**

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Is Jezebel allowed in your life or home? Either you get rid of her through the power of God or she will overcome you!

## **Conclusion**

**What promise did Christ give to the church of Thyatira if they overcame and what promise does He give us today if we overcome?**

### **Revelation 2:26-29**

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

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.

28 And I will give him the morning star.

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

### **Rod of iron (everlasting rod of rulership)**

#### **Verse 28 Jesus is the Morning Star.**

### **Revelation 22:16**

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**.

**Repeat: Revelation 2:29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

**Is Thyatira's Jezebel, your Jezebel?**