

Thyatira, 4th Church of Revelation
Donna Shelton July 28, 2009

- Rev 2:18-29** 18 *"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:*
19 *"I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.*
20 *"Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.*
21 *"And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.*
22 *"Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.*
23 *"I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.*
24 *"Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.*
25 *"But hold fast what you have till I come.*
26 *"And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations--*
27 *'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'-- as I also have received from My Father;*
28 *"and I will give him the morning star.*
29 *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'" (NKJ)*

- Thyatira – “castle of Thya” or “white castle”; “sweet savor of labor:” 1157 – 1367 AD *Dark Ages*
- Thyatira was forty-five miles southwest of Pergamum on the imperial Roman road -where the town of Akhisar lies today.
- *Tyrimnos*, the sun god, son of Zeus – *Sambethe* – sun goddess, his companion, was the chief deity of the city whose temple Jezebel was associated with.
- Known for its guilds (trade unions). More guilds are known in Thyatira than any other contemporary city in the Roman province of Asia (inscriptions mention the following: wool-workers, linen-workers, makers of outer garments, dyers, leather-workers, tanners, potters, bakers, slave-dealers and bronze-smiths), also a military outpost to protect Pergamos.
- To be a trade smith, you had to belong to the guild (union). The unions met for common meals at the temple associated with that trade. Not only did they pay libation to that god, they ate food sacrificed to it, and committed immorality in honor of it...that
- The most notable guild being the dyes — particularly purple and crimson. (Lydia – Acts 16)

The church of Thyatira represents the Church of the Middle/Dark Ages and received the longest of the letters to the seven churches. The spirit of compromise that started with Pergamos reached its peak in the time of Thyatira.

"Sweet savor of labor" implies that *works* became a means to obtaining grace as a prominent feature of the time. Also during this time the Pope was established as being the voice of God on earth.

Rev 2:18 *"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says *the Son of God, who has *eyes like a flame of fire, and *His feet like fine brass:*

- "the Son of God" – only place Jesus refers to Himself this way in book of Rev., countering the cultural view that "Tyrimnos" was the son of god – Zeus. He is the only true Son of God. Matt.3:17
- "eyes like a flame of fire" - He lights up our darkness, giving revelation of Himself in times of trouble and compromise making the path perfectly clear. He sees all, clearly, passionately
- "feet like fine brass" – polished, pure, able to "stamp out" impurity

Rev 2: 19 *"I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.*

- Love produces service, faith produces perseverance: If you love God, you will serve his people. It is the sign that you love that you are willing to serve. If you have faith you will persevere; you will understand that God is in control and things will work out according to his purpose. You keep at your work; you do not quit...commitment must accompany attendance...
- It was the only church that is said to have improved its spiritual condition

Rev. 2: 20 *"Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because *you allow that woman Jezebel, *who calls herself a prophetess, * to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.*

- "you allow that woman Jezebel" – not her real name, but her type and character like the Jezebel of OT. 1 Kings 16:29-34. Some think – your wife – could be anyone of close relationship or influence...OT Jezebel painted her face – makes self more than what they are, attracting to themselves – not recognizing "the real motives behind the mask"
- "who calls herself..." – note that Jesus establishes that this person was not given that title by Him.
- *"To teach and seduce MY servants to ...sexual immorality...idols..." More than likely, this "Jezebel" used her influence to convince many that it was okay to compromise the strict commands of the Word of God and join the guilds to use their skills and make a living...God understands...

Rev. 2: 21 *"And *I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. 22 "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. 23 "I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.*

- ...gave her time to repent... "Would I take pleasure in the death of the wicked – declares the Lord Yahweh – and not prefer to see him renounce his wickedness and live? I take no pleasure in the death of anyone – declares the Lord Yahweh – so repent and live! (Ezek. 18:23, 32)"
- ...I will cast her into a sickbed... The punishment of immorality is intended as discipline and to show the church His stance on holiness and a pure life. Rom 5:20,21 Whatever you are living for, whatever makes life worthwhile to you, becomes your god.
- ...unless they repent... if they don't, they will see the consequence of their rebellion against His grace.
- ...all the churches will know that I am... Fear of the Lord

Rev 2: 24-25 *"Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. 25 "But hold fast what you have till I come.*

- ...hold fast what you have till I come...keep your faith, keep your trust, keep your pure heart
Rev 2:26-29"*And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will *give power over the nations-- 27*'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; *they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'-- as I also have received from My Father; 28"and *I will give him the morning star.*
- four promises for the fourth church. He adds a promise to each church with the condition that they 1. overcome, and 2. keep His works until the end. There is no promise for quitters.
 - Promise #1- you'll have Authority over the nations - the saints share in Jesus' authority during the millennium and throughout eternity.
 - Promise #2- you will Rule with the iron scepter -- **Ps 2:8-9** *Ask of me, and I shall give you the nations as your birthright, The whole wide world as your possession. With an iron scepter you will break them, Shatter them like so many pots*
 In Bible days, some shepherd's staves were made of iron, and they were not meant for warfare but for safety and protection.
 - Promise #3- you will Dash the nations - Arrogance and haughtiness will be crushed out.
 - Promise #4- you will have The Morning Star - The morning star is usually Venus. The morning star appears after the darkest part of the night. "*So we have confirmation of the words of the prophet; and you will be right to pay attention to it as a lamp for lighting your way through the dark, until the dawn comes and the morning star rises in your minds. (2 Peter 1:19)*"
- Jesus Christ appeared to this church that existed during the darkest part of the Dark Ages represented by Thyatira. Just before the light here comes the morning star, Jesus Christ to this church. God raised up John Wycliffe, and John Huss, Martin Luther to bring in the light... the Word of God. Wycliffe is often called "The Morning Star of the Reformation." The true morning star is Jesus Christ. Revelation 22:16 "*I am the sprig from the root of David and the bright star of the morning.*"
- *It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by our selves not to impose on you any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from illicit marriages. Avoid these and you will do what is right. Acts 15:29*