

The Lion and The Lamb

Revelation 2:18-29

- We are at the end of chapter two, where John is going to receive a message for the Church of Thyatira, that would make four messages that he's received from Jesus to share with His followers. Each of these letters prove that Jesus is paying close attention to what people are doing in His name, and that we all will give an account based upon what He has said in His Word, not what we thought was right or wrong.

V18-29

- **V18-19** the letter starts out like all the rest, being addressed to the Pastor of the church, stating that Jesus knows all that is going on in the church and all that the church is going through in this world. The difference here is that for the only time in Revelation Jesus identifies Himself as The Son of God rather than The Son of Man.
- In Jewish thought to be a son of something meant you had the same nature of what you were a son of > **Is 57:3** sons of the sorceress had the nature of the sorceress, **Acts 4:36**- Barnabas is called a son of encouragement because he possessed the nature of an encourager, so Jesus being "**The Son of God**" emphasizes His Deity having the same nature as God because He is God. You have to not want to believe that Jesus is God, because everything we read in scripture tells us that He is.
- He wanted to remind this church of Who He is because the mention of fire and brass usually referred to judgment, so in describing His eyes like fire, and feet like brass meant judgment was coming to this church. But in inspecting the church of Thyatira The Lord does commend them concerning four good things that they have done > **1.** Service, **2.** Love, **3.** Faith, and **4.** Patience, and interestingly as time went on they were doing more of these things instead of less like the Church of Ephesus.
- **V20-23** despite all the good that Jesus saw in the church of Thyatira there were some significant problems that could not be ignored. The problems are big enough that Jesus uses the phrase "nevertheless" which meant despite all the good, this overshadows it. What was at the center of the corruption was a woman Jesus called Jezebel, that may not have been her literal name, but in calling her this clearly represented how she was seen by Jesus and thus how He wanted her identified as.

- A couple of things about Thyatira, it was the smallest and least important of the seven cities that are being addressed here, but it was a city that was a center for business and trade, and it was a military town also, so a diverse group of people traveled through and lived there. One of the trades Thyatira was famous for was purple dye, which was very expensive to buy and to produce, and was frequently valued more than silver and gold, for it was the color of royalty and wealth.
- **Acts 16:14-15** Lydia of Thyatira was a seller of purple and a worshipper of The Lord, and because there was initially no synagogue there she and others would meet by the riverside to pray. Paul hears of this comes and shares the word with her she accepts it then is baptized, afterward history says a church is founded in her house.
- Ladies don't ever think your role in the Church is not important, for this city shows us how through the influence of women the church can flourish to the glory of God, or fail miserably to its shame. For through the faithfulness of one woman (Lydia) the gospel spreads in Philippi, now through the corruption of a woman the church is floundering. This woman calls herself a prophetess, she is a self-styled interpreter of God's Word and His will, and she is influencing the church, but not for the good.
- She is teaching and seducing, in the OT Jezebel was the daughter of Ethbaal King of the Zidonians, he also was the high priest of Ashtaroath, the false goddess of sensuality and fertility. When she was given to Ahab King of the Northern Kingdom of Israel it produced the worst idolatry, immorality, and ungodliness the Northern Kingdom had ever seen, because of her influence over the king and the nation.
- This woman is having the same influence over the church of Thyatira, whom Jesus calls "My servants" plunging them into sexual immorality and idolatry. It's a horrible thing when the servants of God are being misled by someone who says they are hearing from The Lord but really are being led by Satan to destroy the church.
- **V21** The Lord in His grace has given her time to repent but she has not, there is a time when God says "My Spirit will not strive with man forever" **Gen 6:3**- so when God gives us an opportunity to repent we must take advantage of it or else. Before Jesus tells the believers in Thyatira what they must do, He first tells them what He would do > cast her into a sickbed along with all who commit adultery with her.

- Any believer who honors false gods and teaching is seen as being unfaithful to Jesus, that's how serious The Lord takes this sin. Notice the analogy Jesus uses saying "if you love an unclean bed, then I will give you an unclean bed".
- Also you will experience great tribulation, and I will strike her children dead, meaning those who follow will surely die and not prosper, this is done for repentance, that the church will be made clean, for The Lord searches both the mind and heart > the intellect and emotion, God wants both to worship Him.
- **V24-29** there was a remnant who no matter what that prophetess was teaching and the church was doing, they remained faithful to truth. For them there is a promise of reward for those that despite the immoral and idolatrous influence of a Jezebel Christians can and should overcome and Keep Jesus Word and works until the end.
- We will one day rule and reign with Him > power over nations, ruling with a rod of iron, we will have The Morning star, meaning we will have Jesus as our reward. "He who has an ear, let him hear what The Spirit says to the churches".
- This applies to those like Jezebel who lead others into sin, those who follow the teaching of a Jezebel, and practice sin, to those who permit Jezebel to teach sin, and those who despite a Jezebel, remains faithful to resist sin, and do righteousness.