

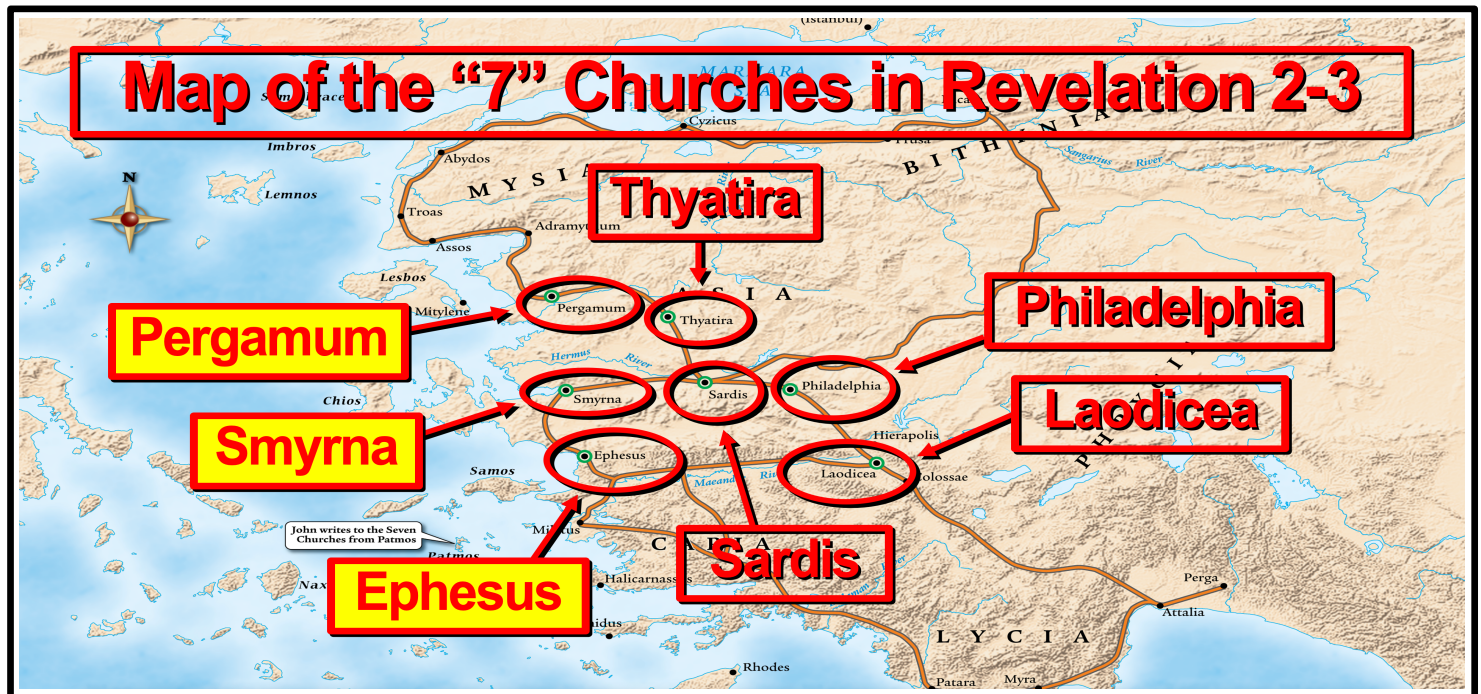
## **Revelation 2:8-11 – June 30, 2024**

### **Links**

- [J.D. Farag Interview with Dr. Chris Dubuque, A Medical Doctor Speaks The Hard Truth](#)

# Sunday Sermon, When I Commit Adultery With The World, Revelation 2:12-17

Historic Situation	Name Interpretation	Positive Affirmation	Corrective Exhortation	Eternal Motivation	Prophetic Revelation	Personal Application
Ephesus First Church	Let Go/Leave Darling/First Love	Perseverance Discernment	Left (not lost) First Love	Eat From the Tree of Life	Approximately 70AD to 170AD	Remember Repent and Repeat
Smyrna Persecution	Myrrh when it's Crushed is Fragrant	Rich in Poverty and Suffering	NONE	Receive the Crown of Life	Approximately 170AD to 312AD	Better not Bitter when Crushed
Pergamos Satan's Throne	Perverted/Adulterous Marriage Union	Remained True Didn't Renounce	Sexual/Spiritual Adultery/Idolatry	Hidden Manna and New Name	Approximately 312AD to 606AD	Purity not Adultery with the World
Thyatira Jezebel Doctrine	Continual Sacrifice	Love Faith Service Perseverance	Tolerate Deceptive Seductive Teachings	Authority Over the Nations	Approximately 606AD to The End	Bought at a Price as a Living Sacrifice
Sardis Rest on Laurels	Invincible Remnant	Hard Work Good Name	Wake Up and Watch Before it's too Late	Clothed in White Name in Book	Approximately 1520AD to The End	Be Watchful for The "Thief in the Night"
Philadelphia 2-Brothers Built	Brotherly Love	Little Strength kept God's Word/Name	NONE	Kept from the 7- Year Tribulation	Approximately 1750AD to The End	Known as Disciples by love for another
Laodicea Lukewarm Water	The Laity Ruled as the Diocese	NONE	Rich but Poor See but Blind Clothed but Naked	Sit with Jesus on His Throne	Approximately 1900AD to The End	Hot or Cold for and to Jesus



## Sunday Sermon, When I Commit Adultery With The World, Revelation 2:12-17

1. The modern-day city of Istanbul in the country of Turkey is named after Constantine - Constantinople or Istanbul
2. Constantine gained Christian support becoming an emperor, and issued an edict legalizing Christianity in approx. 313 A.D.
3. The British Archeological Museum in London has Constantine's coin with Christian symbols on one side, pagan on the other.
4. Constantine performed a marriage between the Christians and the Pagans. (Paganism started with the tower of Babel.)
5. Genesis 10 through Revelation records the devils counterfeit paganistic religion starting with a man named Nimrod
6. Nimrod married Semiramis, then after Nimrod died, she alleges to miraculously conceive his son and names him Tammuz
7. Legend has it that Tammuz was killed on or about December 25th, and 3 days later came back to life. (Ezekiel 8:14)
8. Tammuz was one of many pagan God's whose form of worship were very sexual, mixed and perverse
9. The Pagan religion worshipped Tammuz and celebrated this event by putting a Yule log (Chaldean for boy child), in the fire
10. A tree (replaced the Yule log) decked with silver and gold in celebration of the resurrection of Tammuz, (Jeremiah 10)
11. This celebration was changed by Constantine to keep the Pagan Priests (The Pontifex Maximus-Pope) and Christians happy
12. Constantine changed the name from Saturnalia to Christ's Mass, which is the modern-day celebration of Christmas
13. Ishtar was a pagan goddess celebrated with colored eggs symbolic of the egg being fertilized and the birth of Tammuz
14. Constantine changed Ishtar to Easter perverting the marriage between Christians and Pagans in this period of church history

LOCATION	GOD	GODDESS
Phoenicia	Tammuz	Ashtaroth/Ishtar
Babylon	Tammuz	Semiramis
Egypt	Horus	Iris
Rome	Cupid	Venus
Greece	Eros	Aphrodite

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

KAPONO: Join me in a word of prayer. Heavenly Father, Almighty One, we come before You, Lord, this morning. Lord, would You guide us in Your word? If there's anything that's tough for us to receive, Lord, would You just humble our hearts to receive it Lord, that we would be stronger in Your word by Your Holy Spirit as we leave this place today? Bless Pastor JD as he delivers Your word. Continue to watch over, guide, and protect him and his family. We ask these things in Jesus' name.

PASTOR JD: In Jesus' name, Amen. Amen and amen. Good morning and welcome. You can be seated. Glad you're here. Those of you online, glad you're joining with us. A couple of things though before we get started that I want to apprise you of, the first of which is that our prayer meeting is this Tuesday, July 2nd, so 7:00 p.m.

And what we're going to do is start with a brief teaching that — just something that God's impressed upon my heart, titled, 'When I'm at Wit's End.' It's out of *Psalms 107*. And after the teaching, we'll open it up for a time together to pray together as a church together for the many needs, some of which are just horrendous that people have asked us to pray. So I'm hoping you're able to join with us this Tuesday. And we'll start right at 7:00 p.m.

Also, for those that have been asking about Thursday, which is the 4th of July, are we going to have a Bible study on Thursday, the 4th of July? Yes, we are. First Service was happier about that than you are. Not only are we going to have the Bible study on Thursday, we're also going to celebrate communion. And for those of you that live Kailua or Windward side, no problem. You can still get the parade in the morning, be with family in the afternoon, come be with your church family in the evening, and I'll try to get you out of here in enough time to get back to Kailua for the fireworks.

So it should work out just fine. So what's the problem? We're going to resume our study, verse-by-verse — we're off to a good start, yeah? — we're going to resume our study through Daniel, and we're going to be in *Chapter 8*.

And the usual start time with worship will be at 7:00. And then the teaching will start at about 7:30-ish for those that watch it online. Also, we have a link to last Thursday's discussion with Dr. Chris, titled, 'A Medical Doctor Speaks the Hard Truth.' It'll be available on both of the PDF files of both of today's services.

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

And for those of you who have not been able to watch it, we would encourage you to do so. A lot of very, very — well, hard truth but also very important information. And here's the thing. As only the Lord could time it — I was talking to Dr. Chris about this — today's Update, First Service, and now Second Service, which is our verse-by-verse study through the *Book of Revelation* are all about all of this. And don't look at me like, yeah, you, you timed it like that. You think way too much of me. I could have never timed this, this way. We were talking about just the medical industry, not the medical field, the medical industry because that's what it is.

And for those who did not or were not here, or have not yet watched the Prophecy Update, I would encourage you to do so because I borrowed from the text that we have before us today here in *Revelation Chapter 2*, which is the letter to the church of Pergamum. And it is just chilling, the similarities of this letter to them then and us now. I mean, it is just stunning, for lack of a better word.

We covered one aspect of the letter to the church in Pergamum in the Prophecy Update, but it was specific to the coming full circle of these pagan gods of medicine and even money and their prophetic significance as evidence that we are at the end of time. And this is not beyond any reasonable doubt. This is beyond any doubt.

And we're going to see this Thursday in *Daniel Chapter 8*. I'm sorry I say this about every chapter, but *Daniel Chapter 8* is one of the most amazing chapters in not just the entire book but the entire Bible. I mean, it is just crazy — just it's crazy, crazy. I have no other word other than that.

In *Chapter 8*, Daniel is going to get another vision about what's going to happen in the future. And it's kind of like a dual prophecy of what's going to happen in the near future, and then what's going to happen at the time of the end.

And he's even told in *Chapter 8* — we'll see this Thursday — this why you have to come on the 4th — he's told in *Chapter 8* and in *Chapter 12* two times — he gets this prophecy, this vision, very specific about what the world is going to look like at the time of the end. And then he says, I want you to seal it up because it's not yet the time of the end.

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

Now, when it is the time of the end, we're going to open this thing up. It's been opened up. Why? Because this is it. We are at the end, unmistakably so. Well, Pastor, you really sound like you believe what you're saying. (Chuckle) If you only knew.

I mean, this is why I've chosen the title. And I struggle sometimes over the titles, especially because the Thursday night Bible study, the teaching is extemporaneous. I don't use notes. It's just I own the chapter and I just teach it, and I'm sensitive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

But I want the main takeaway. And the main takeaway from *Daniel Chapter 8* is if people only knew it's the end of time. If they only knew. Because the prophecies in this vision that Daniel is going to be given are so profoundly specific that it's unmistakable. In other words, nobody's going to be like, hey, you know, Daniel was told to seal up the book. We will get to our Revelation study. Just hang on.

[ Laughter ]

They both go together. They all go together. But it's not — it's not like a guessing — never imagine God playing a chess match with us, you know, like keeping us guessing, you know. You know, I wonder if it's — should we open it up? Is that the end? Should we open up what Daniel was told to seal up? No, I don't think so. I'm not sure. Let's hang tight for a second. No. Open it, like yesterday! Okay. Just come on Thursday and...

[ Laughter ]

*Revelation Chapter 2:12–17* is our text. Can I invite you to turn there if you're not already there? Can I also ask you, if you're able, to stand? You can follow along for the reading of God's word. If not, where you're seated is fine. I just happen to really believe this stuff, believe it or not. And it's coming to pass, and so too is what we're about to read coming to pass, as we speak.

Now, John is writing, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and he's about now to write the third of seven letters that Jesus tells him to not only write but send to these literal churches in what was called Asia Minor at the time, but now is known as modern-day Turkey.

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

So this third letter begins in *verse 12*. **“To the angel of the church in Pergamum [Some of your translations say Pergamos. That's the feminine form] ...Pergamum write: These are the words of Him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. I know where you live — (Said in ominous voice) (Chuckle) [Effects added]**

**Where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to My name. You did not renounce your faith in Me, even in the days of Antipas, [Anti: against. Pas: all] [Against all] Antipas, my faithful witness, [In the original, it's the Greek word where we get martyr] My faithful martyr who was put to death in your city— Where Satan lives.”**

Now, allow me to just point out something that is not so easily seen at first read before we read on. Did you see the delineation there in that verse? So that's where Satan has his throne. But that's not necessarily where Satan is at. But we've cleared that up because not only does he have a throne there, he dwells there in your city where you live. I would relocate.

[ Laughter ]

Well, it gets worse. *Verse 14*. **“Nevertheless...”**

And by the way, the Prophecy Update was about that being literal. This is not figurative. No, literally, because as we talked about last week, Satan is not omnipresent. He cannot be all places at one time. I'm not going to reteach the Prophecy Update, but you need to get that part of it. Satan cannot be all places at one time. Only God can. Only God is omnipresent. Satan can only be one place at one time.

And apparently, he found some real estate in Pergamum and that's where he set up shop. And so he actually was there, dwelt there, lived there in Pergamum. Now, there was a church there where Satan was. So anyway, let's get back to the text.

*Verse 14*. **“Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Likewise [Verse 15] you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore!**

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

*[Verse 16]* **Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it."**

Let's pray. If you would please join with me.

Father, thank You so, so much for Your word, this letter that we have here in Your word, written to them then, but this letter could be written to us now and in fact was. So Lord, we're going to treat it that way. And we want to approach it that way. But we need the Holy Spirit to give us eyes of understanding and hearts, supple hearts, to receive the seed of Your word, that it would take root and germinate and sprout and bear good fruit.

And we do have ears, but that doesn't, as You end every letter, Lord, mean that we're necessarily hearing with those ears. So we want to hear but not only be a hearer but a doer. We want to take heed to that which the Spirit is saying to us, Your church today, in this letter to that church in that day.

Will You do that for us, Lord? Will You reveal that to us, Lord, and speak into our lives? Lord, thank You. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen and amen. You can be seated. Thank you.

I want to explain my title for today's text. I think I got some explaining to do because sometimes I labor — I know I overthink things — but I labor over these titles, more so than maybe I should.

I have to confess, I started off kind of, you know, walking into it, not running into it with a title, something along the lines, you know, with, 'When I'm too friendly with the world.' And the Lord said, no, that's not going to work. So He deleted it.

Then so I thought, okay, well, how about 'When I Get Too Comfortable In This World'? No, that's not going to work. How about 'When I Am Friends With the World'? No, that's not strong enough. And I finally, just after anguishing over it, sensed that the Lord would have me to title it 'When I Commit Adultery With the World.' Because that's what's happening here, as we're about to see.



## **Revelation 2**

### **When I Commit Adultery with the World**

#### **Pastor JD**

Doesn't that just change the whole complexion of it? And by the way, this word "adultery" should rightfully make our hair stand on end, and for good reason, because it's been removed and replaced with more palatable and amicable words like "an affair." It's not an affair. Oh, they just had an affair. No, they committed adultery! They committed — they sinned. They committed adultery. Who'd they commit adultery with? The world. This church committed spiritual adultery with the world.

Okay, that's just the title. We're off, again, to a very good start, right? To me, this letter to this church is one of the most devastating of all seven letters, perhaps with the exception of the seventh church, the church of the Laodiceans. And here's why.

This is when, in terms of the period of church history, when the church was married to the world and as such committed spiritual adultery with the world. Now I can already sense your hearts are sinking. Wow, Pastor, this is going to be one of those sermons that — I'll let you fill in the blank. It's not. Believe it or not, it's actually going to be a very encouraging one. Let me explain.

Here's what I'm hoping to accomplish. I want to highlight five encouraging takeaways specific to how God responds mercifully to us when we've allowed the world to become too friendly with us, leading us to commit adultery with the world. God is a god of grace and mercy. And we see it in this letter.

By way of a preface, I think it's incumbent upon me to start by providing the backstory, which is going to be germane to our understanding, especially with this particular church. This is the chart from our overview of the seven churches. I want to point out just a couple of things. It's really the common denominator of which is that the church, in a word, concerning marriage, in a word.

This is about marriage, more specifically spiritual adultery vis-à-vis the name being the nature along with the meaning of the promise at the end of the letter of a new name, which we'll see shortly. So this is all about marriage, and it speaks very prophetically to that period of time in church history when the church got married to the world.

Because see, Satan knew he couldn't prevail against the church by persecuting the church in Smyrna, the persecuted church, so he had to do it from the inside, within. Because from

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

outward — we're going to see that in a little bit here — the gates of hell cannot prevail against the church.

So he could not destroy the church by persecuting it outwardly. He could, though, destroy the church by joining it inwardly. If you can't beat them, join them. And this is when that happened.

I also want to draw your attention to this map. I want to give you a visual. The church of Ephesus, the first church, the church of Smyrna, the persecuted church, up to this point represented by the church of Pergamum, it was illegal to be a Christian until the Edict of Toleration by one Constantine, a.k.a. the capital of Turkey, Constantinople, which was changed to Istanbul.

What basically Constantine did was he married the church with the state. He married the church with the world and caused the church to commit spiritual adultery. I want to just do some real quick, fast facts concerning the condition of this church and by extension, the letter the Savior would inspire John to write to this church. I'll go fast.

The first one: I just mentioned Constantinople, a.k.a. Istanbul, is the capital of Turkey, and it's named after Constantine who's going to play a very significant role in this period during church history.

Secondly, Constantine gained Christian support, becoming an emperor and issued an edict legalizing Christianity in approximately the year 313 AD. Some suggest it may have been later, about 325 A.D. In other words, he made it legal to be a Christian. Up to that point, it was illegal, which is why millions of Christians were being martyred.

Number 3: the British Archeological Museum in London has Constantine's coin with Christian symbols on one side and pagan symbols on the other. He married Christianity with paganism.

Number 4: Constantine, again, performed a marriage of sorts between the Christians and the pagans, which actually started with the Tower of Babel in the plains of Shinar, modern-day Iraq. Babel = Babylon. And this is recorded in Genesis 10, and it's where we see Satan's counterfeit pagan mystery religions.

## Revelation 2

### When I Commit Adultery with the World

#### Pastor JD

Have you heard that term, 'mystery religions', 'ascended masters'? It all started with a man named Nimrod. Legend has it that Nimrod married Semiramis. Then after he died, he was allegedly impaled by a wild boar. This Semiramis alleges to miraculously have conceived a virgin-born son and she names him Tammuz, and also alleges that he's the reincarnation of Nimrod.

And this is not just according to the legend, but you can actually find this in *Ezekiel 8:14*, where Tammuz is mentioned. By the way, just, I probably should just, by way of full disclosure, let you know I'm going to absolutely ruin Christmas, Easter, and I'm also going to throw in Valentine's Day while I'm at it. I'm just forewarning you. So you can find this Tammuz dude in *Ezekiel 8:14*. Check this out.

They believe that Tammuz was killed on or about December 25th, and three days later, resurrected from the dead. Sound familiar? Tammuz was one of the many pagan gods whose form of worship — you'll forgive me — was extremely sexual and unspeakably perverse.

This particular pagan religion worshiped Tammuz by putting a Yule log, which is Chaldean for 'boy child' in the fire. Are song starting to come to — see I can get away with this in June and July. But if we were closer to December, you would get up and leave about right now. Now a tree would replace the Yule log, and they would deck it with silver and gold in celebration of — wait for it — the resurrection of Tammuz.

*Jeremiah Chapter 10* — by the way, here's your homework. Don't do it now. I'm still preaching. When you get home today— Just to ruin your day, because I'm already ruining it now, so I might as well just — it's already ruined — just read *Jeremiah Chapter 10*. It'll blow your mind.

Now, this celebration was changed by Constantine. Why? Because he just — can't we all get along? Hey, come on. Pagans, come on. Christians, come on. Come on, bring it, bring it in, bring it in! Let's talk. Let's come to a mutually agreeable compromise and let's just come together on this. And so he wanted to keep the pagan priests happy.

By the way, you know what they called these pagan priests in that day? Watch this. Pontifex Maximus. Can you say Pope? So he wanted to keep these priests, Pontifex

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

Maximus, and the Christians happy. So what's he going to do? Oh, I got a great idea, you guys — because see, he saw this vision. And with the help of the Christians won this battle with the contender for emperor, with the Christians' help, and claims to have seen the sign of a cross and hear the voice saying, "In this sign, conquer."

Oh, you mean Constantine was a Christian? No, sorry. You know what he did? He said, okay, you guys. You guys have this Saturnalia thing that you do on December 25th to celebrate Tammuz's resurrection. Why don't we change the name and call it Christ's Mass? You guys can celebrate the resurrection of Tammuz. And then you guys, you Christians, you can celebrate the birth of Christ.

What do you think? Ishtar. Ashtaroth. We'll talk more in a second. This was a sex goddess, a fertility goddess. So Ishtar was a pagan goddess celebrated with colored eggs. Why? We're past Easter so... Which I never call it Easter. I only call it Resurrection Sunday for this reason, by the way.

Ishtar is a transliteration to Easter to keep the pagans and the Christians happy. So hey, Christians, you guys, you guys celebrate the resurrection of Christ, and they can celebrate the birth of Tammuz. Come on. You know where the Playboy bunny came from? It's a symbol of sexuality and fertility. Because you know, I don't know how they got the egg with the bunny.

[ Laughter ]

I'm still working on that. But the egg was the egg being fertilized and this immaculate conception of Tammuz. So they merged this; the sexuality and the fertility together. And the celebration was called Ishtar. And they changed it to Easter and perverted the marriage between Christians and pagans. And it's been celebrated ever since the fourth century A.D. when Constantine did this.

Now I know what you're thinking, because again, I can read your minds. Well, Pastor, you have your Resurrection Sunday service, and you also celebrate Christmas. What's up with that, you hypocrite?

Here's why. These are days in the year where the world, at least at some point, is faced with or reminded of the name of Jesus, the only name given among men whereby we must be

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

saved. And we're not going to let that happen? You know, I remember back in the day, you know, when they started — they X'd out Christ, Xmas.

(Growl sound) Until I found out that in the Greek, X is Christos. I say you can't even put an X over it. You still — you can't get rid of Jesus. Nice try. So the reason we celebrate — I'll take Christmas just by way of an example. The tree represents the cross. **“Cursed is any man who hangs on a tree.”** That was Jesus.

The lights on the tree are representative of Jesus being the light of the world, and us, those of us in Christ, being the salt and the light. And more importantly, perhaps, the gifts underneath the tree is the gift of eternal life that was purchased for us on that tree, the cross, paid in full by Jesus Christ.

So you can't have Christmas back, you pagan. I shouldn't — that's mean. That came off really mean. Here's my point. And believe it or not, I actually do have one. These are false gods, pagan gods. And they're all, again, alive and well today. Gods and goddesses. And they're synonymous with these pagan gods throughout the ancient world. And they're still celebrated today. Only the names have been changed to protect the guilty, I guess.

In Phoenicia was Tammuz and Ashtaroth, a.k.a. Ishtar. They had these Asherah poles. I won't even — you can in your own study of God's word. It is so graphic and horrific. Babylon, it was Tammuz and Semiramis. Egypt, it was Horus and Isis. Rome, Cupid, and Venus. Happy Valentine's Day. And Greece was Eros [*Erotic*] and Aphrodite.

Okay, thank you for indulging me. That was my introduction. I think we're ready now, to get into this letter and I think we're now ready for the aforementioned five encouraging ways that God responds mercifully to us when we allow the world to become too friendly with us and as such, commit spiritual adultery with the world. If you don't hear anything today, hear this. God is gracious and merciful.

And Romans 8:1 is a promise to you that is unbreakable, a promise to me that is unbreakable. **“There is therefore now no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus.”** If you hear nothing I say today — you don't walk — you — this is where I get in a sanctified strength — please hear my heart. Don't leave this church today. Those of you watching online, don't end this video with any guilt whatsoever.

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

Because this letter to this church is Jesus doing everything and stopping at nothing to restore them, to give them a new name if they would but repent. You sinned greatly, horrifically. But I offer forgiveness. God is a forgiving God. Please, if the enemy has built an infrastructure of guilt and condemnation around your life, it stops right here and it stops right now, especially in the area of sexual sin, which we're gonna talk about.

All right. You ready? Yeah, I was ready 15 minutes ago when you started. Well, the first one is in *verse 12*. I may join with the world, but God separates me from the world. God does that.

Now again, the name is the nature, right? We talked about that in the overview. Let's get a little bit more, do more of a deep dive into this because like Laodicea, Pergamum is really — it's fascinating because it's a combination of two words. Per = perverted, elevated. And gamey or gum um = marriage. Polygamy, monogamy. Perverted marriage.

The name is the nature. And it's for this reason that Jesus would inspire John to write that **“These are the words of Him who has the sharp double-edged sword.”**

That's pretty specific. That's what I mean by you cannot send a letter written to Pergamum and have it mailed to Sardis. It won't work, and vice versa. When they received this letter, they would have known exactly what Jesus was talking about. Because see, they knew that this sharp, double-edged sword is the Word, the word of Jesus to this church with the world that cuts apart and separates this church from the world.

The word of God does that. You know how it is when you're in the Word and the Word's in you? You think you're searching the Scriptures? The Scriptures are searching you, and it's very precision (precise).

*Mark 10:9*. This is interesting. Jesus is asked yet another trick question by the Pharisees to test Him concerning marriage and divorce. We got Him now. Jesus answers their question with what's become a well-known verse quoted in wedding ceremonies saying, **“Therefore what God has joined together, let no man put asunder.”** [*Or separate*]

Now why do I mention this? Because it goes both ways, in the sense that if man is not to separate what God has joined together, then conversely, God may deem it necessary to separate what man has joined together. Constantine, Christian, listen, you've joined

## Revelation 2

### When I Commit Adultery with the World

#### Pastor JD

together with the world. Now I need to cut and separate. And this is what *verse 12* is all about. I mean, it's the takeaway.

We oftentimes, though we would never say it like this, we commit spiritual adultery with the world because we first got too cozy in our relationship with the world. And when this happens, God in His grace to us, His unfailing love for us, His mercy on us, will by way of the sword of His word separate the world from us. And here's how: The sword of His word, so sharp. Watch this. It surgically cuts, divides and splits and separates — and it's double-edged — what man has joined together with. Because He's a jealous God, not jealous of us, jealous for us and because of His love for us.

We're all familiar with *Hebrews 4:12*. Kindly allow me to read it. **“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper [Not just sharp as a two-edged sword, sharper] than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division [Can I say separating] of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”**

So when Jesus says you join together with the world, the sharper than any double-edged sword word of God is going to separate what you have joined together.

James, I love James. I actually have a love/hate relationship with James. You just don't read the *Book of James* and walk away just going... (Joyful countenance)

But James, I mean, he really — I mean, he pulls no punches — I'll just say it like that — concerning what it is exactly that this sharper than any double-edged sword of God's word separates. And it's found in *James 4:4*. And I have to warn you because the sharper than any two-edged sword of God's word is going to separate this unholy matrimony, unholy matrimony. “Be holy like I am holy.” You're unholy. And to be unholy is to be un-whole. I think our understanding of the word holy is a misnomer no thanks to the enemy who I believe has confused us concerning this word.

You've probably heard in the negative connotation, “Oh, you're so pure and holy.” (Said snarky) Is that a bad thing? Wait, I want to be walking in purity and holiness. And so the Lord, many years ago just kind of opened my eyes to this word holy. Because, you know, I always start to perspire when I would come across verses like, **“Be ye holy, as I am holy.”** (Crying sounds) I'm so unholy. How am I going to...?

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

Holy Spirit. I am full, whole. Holy Spirit = holy life. Let me try that again because that did not work at all. If I'm full to the fullness and whole, I've been made whole, holy by the filling of the Holy Spirit, I'm going to be holy. It's not like this — let me try again. I'm going to try one more time. It's kind of like, be holy as I am holy.

Okay, I'll start tomorrow. I'm going to be holy. I wake up at 8:00 — I love that humor, humorous quip — God — he's praying, this guy's praying — God, thank You so much. I'm pretty good today. You know, I haven't sinned yet. I have a coveted. I haven't, you know, cursed. He just goes down the list. I guess this guy had a problem with quite a number of sins. And he's just thanking God. You know, I haven't sinned those sins. But as soon as my feet hit the floor and I get out of bed...

Yeah, he hadn't gotten out of bed yet! So that's how long it lasted. However long it was that he laid in bed and prayed and thank God that he hadn't sinned. Well, you haven't got out of bed yet. Get out of bed. You're going to sin.

Well, wait a minute. If you have the Holy Spirit indwelling you, empowering you, enabling you to live a holy life — and by the way, you cannot live a holy life absent the Holy Spirit. If you have the Holy Spirit, are filled with the Holy Spirit, you will live a holy life. If you have the Holy Spirit you're not going to enter into again, I'll say it one last time, any unholy matrimony.

All right, *James 4:4*. I love this verse because this preaches, man. **“Adulterers and adulteresses!”**

The inspiration for my title, by the way. That's my story and I'm sticking with it. Whoa, James. Dude, you want these people to come back to your church, don't you? I mean, they're not only gonna not come back, they're getting up and leaving. I mean, this is — you won't hear this in pulpits today. You will hear it from this pulpit. (Chuckle)

Adulterers and adulteresses? What'd you call me? An adulterer and adulteress. That's what I called you. Why are you calling me an adulterer and adulteress? **“Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world [Or might I add, get married to the world] makes himself an enemy of God.”**



**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

Listen, I got a lot of enemies. The last thing I need is God being an enemy. How is God going to be against me? You know, in *Romans 8* — great chapter, by the way. I just quoted it. The entire chapter, **“If God be for me, who can be against me?”**

That goes both ways too. If God is against me, who's going to be for you? You in big trouble. Deep kimchi. Okay. Never mind. My wife keeps telling me, stop doing that. It's not working. But I don't listen to my wife.

Number 2.

[ Laughter ]

Satan's throne may be in the world, but God rules over all of the world. Maybe you tire of me saying this. I hope you don't. But the devil is God's devil. I know that messes a lot of people up. What? He's a created being. And as a result of that, he's not God's opposite, God's equal.

And this is something he has been met with smashing success in getting people to believe that he is God's opposite. Like there's this big war between God and the devil. No, God could just, poof!

In fact, I wish He would have before this whole thing got started. I would have when he started the revolt in heaven, got a third of the angels. “I will ascend my throne above the Most High.” Aye yai-yai! I would have just said, really? Come here. Come here. Zap! Anybody else want my job?

But no, God — here's why God didn't do that, by the way, for some of you that are looking at me with that look. And you know what look I'm talking about. If He would have done that, then the whole of the heavenly host would have served Him out of fear, not love.

Could you imagine the post on social media in heaven after that? Did you hear what happened to Lucifer? No. What? Oh my goodness, it was — we better watch our P's and Q's. By the way, that's pints and quarts. A horrible metaphor involving alcohol. Watch your P's and Q's. Translated: don't drink too much. Anyway...

Now, this is what we did a deep dive into in our Prophecy Update in how it applies to our lives. But can I just simply say that Satan, who is not omnipresent, is the God of this world

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

with his throne in this world. But God overrules all and rules over all, and the devil can do no thing to you unless he gets the green light from God.

Now that just messed you up even more. Wait. God's not going to allow the devil to do anything to me unless He first gives him permission to? What did I do? I think of Peter. Jesus calls him over. Peter, dude, Satan asked for permission to sift you as wheat.

Now if I'm Peter, I'm like, Jesus, You told him no, right? No, I gave him permission. But it's going to, in the end, be for your good and My glory. How about Job? Wow. For those of you that went through that, I think we were in the *Book of Job* verse-by-verse took us a year and a half. I think somebody made T-shirts. "We studied through Job and lived to the tell about it."

It was a trial. Just studying the book was a trial. But the very first chapter, man, right out of a chute, Job has to get permission — not Job. Pardon me. Long week. That's my story and I'm sticking with it.

Satan has to get permission. He can't touch a hair on Job's head. I think God's given Satan permission to touch too many hairs on my head. But he can't do anything unless God says, okay, go ahead. You can do that. But not that. And he goes right up to the limit.

So why then, pray tell, would God give the devil permission to do something to me that is going to, on the outward, seem like it is harmful and hurtful to me? No, that's not My plan. It's not to harm you. It's to prosper you and to give you a future and a hope. You have no idea what I'm doing, do you? No. That's why I'm crying out to You.

No, I'm allowing it because see, the devil does My bidding for My end. He's a puppet. He's My puppet. And I use him because I created him. It's kind of like when you were kids, and your parents say, "I brought you into this world. I can take you out of this world."

[ Laughter ]

Well, God can do that at any time. But He doesn't because the devil serves God's purpose. Now, why do I harp on that? Because Satan rules this world. He's the god of this world. He has his throne in this world. But God controls and rules over every move he makes.

## Revelation 2

### When I Commit Adultery with the World

Pastor JD

And as far as his demons are concerned, can I just say real quick we should never fear the demonic realm, his minions, his demons, nor should we ever fear the devil himself. What if I told you that he is infinitely more afraid of us than we should ever be of him? Why? Because he is a defeated foe, and he knows it. But he doesn't want us to know it or remember it. He's already defeated.

It's kind of like — I think about the Apostle Paul — oh, who was it? Oh, I wish I could remember the quote. My memory is — Jesus better come quickly. It's kind of like, you know, Satan attacks. You're like, oh, it's you again. I was expecting you. What are you going to do now? Let's just get this show on the road because obviously God gave you permission to. So do what you're going to do. It's going to be for my good and God's glory. So what are you waiting for? Why doest thou delay?

One last thing, and I think this might be for somebody here or watching online, maybe more than one. You know, what is conspicuously absent from the *Book of Job*? Is Satan ever going to Job before he did anything to Job, saying to Job, man, I'm gonna, I'm gonna — I'm gonna take your kids. I'm gonna take this one and come back for your daughter next. He never threatened Job before he did anything. You know why? Because he'd already had permission, and he already did it.

What's my point? My point is, the Holy Spirit has not given us fear, but power, love, and a disciplined mind. But Satan wants us to fear. So he'll plant that fear in your heart. Man, you're going to lose your job. You're gonna lose your marriage. You're going to lose your kids. And then fear, fear, fear, fear.

I promise you on the authority of God's word, that if he had permission from God to do that, he would have already done it. He wouldn't have warned you ahead of time. In fact, let me take it a step further. The very fact that he's trying to threaten you and put that fear in you is because he doesn't have permission. So he's resorting to that.

I'm going to... You can't. Because here's how I know, you liar. You lie. You lie! You gotta do that at least once every week. It just feels good. Lie — you got to put the growl. You lie, you lie! If you had permission from God to do that — because you can't do that unless you have permission from God — if you had permission from God, you wouldn't be trying to

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

scare me that you're going to do that and threaten me that you're going to do that because you would have already done it.

As soon as he got permission from God, he went down and killed all Job's kids. Not his wife. I'm not going to go there. That's a different...

[ Laughter ]

Don't let — I know what you're thinking — don't do that. It's not for the reasons that you think. He didn't have permission, by the way.

Third one. I'm going to spend just a little bit of time on this. I may be seduced by the world, but God forgives my sin with the world. Now, in the interest of time, because we've covered the account of Balaam or Balaam as he's known numerous times, can I just give you a quick, brief backstory of this account? You can find it, by the way, in *Numbers Chapters 22 – 25*.

It's the account of this, seer named Balaam who's paid big bucks by this Moabite king named Balak to pronounce a curse upon the Israelites because he was threatened by their numbers. That's why it's called the *Book of Numbers*. It's about the numbers.

In *Chapter 6*, by the way, we're told — it's arguably one of the most boring chapters when you read it unless you understand it because it's all the numbers of the Israelites divided in tribes. *Numbers Chapter 6*. You want to fall asleep? Read *Numbers Chapter 6*. You're out.

So the numbers of the Israelites were increasing. It was a threat to this Balak. So he hires Balaam and he's to pronounce a curse. But out of his mouth — you know the story, right? After the donkey tries to stop him — God speaks through a donkey. So if God can speak through a donkey, God can speak through me too. It's not so much that, it's that he talks back to the donkey, and they're having this argument, and he's trying to stop him from going.

And he says, okay, you greedy guy. He was very greedy. He wanted his money, a lot of money. So he goes and all that comes out of his mouth is a blessing of the most grand and glorious kind. And Balak is extremely angry and says, okay, let's try this. I'll take you up to a higher, you know, view so you've got a better view of the camp of the Israelites.

## Revelation 2

### When I Commit Adultery with the World

#### Pastor JD

Because we were told in Numbers 6, when you fell asleep reading it, that the camp to the north and the south and east and the west were this many numbers, this numbers, this numbers, this numbers, Tabernacle in the center in the shape of a cross, a foreshadow, a type of Jesus Christ, which is why he couldn't curse, because there's no curse or condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus. It was in the shape of a cross, the camp of the Israelites in the numbers in *Chapter 6*. You fell asleep reading it, and that's what you missed.

So fast-forward to *Chapter 22 – 25*. Here he is. Why can't he curse them? Because of the cross. All he could do is bless them. Why the cross? Because my sexual sin was paid for on the cross in full. I'm forgiven. There's no condemnation. There's no guilt. I'm forgiven. I'm clean. He's forgiven my sin and remembers it no more.

Don't remind Him, by the way. You confessed it last week. You come back next week: Lord, forgive me. And here's God going, wait, what? Oh, You reminded Me. Now you got to confess and repent again because I forgot it. I remembered them no more. I removed them as far as the east is from the west.

Sexual sin is not the unforgivable sin. Don't listen to the lies of the enemy, guys, when it comes to sexual sin online, please, I implore you. Do you think God is surprised? Like, oh, I can't believe it. You did that again? You even promised Me, "God, I'll never do it again. I'm sorry." He knows you're going to do it again. You're a sinner.

We don't — (Struggling to find words) I sin. That doesn't make me a sinner. No, I'm a sinner and that's why I sin. That didn't work either. Oh, well. Holy Spirit, that's where you take it and tweak it for me.

So he couldn't curse him from without. Now, to this letter, Jesus points out that there were those in this church in Pergamum, this perverted marriage, adulterous church with the world, that were holding to the doctrine of Balaam. Remember Jude? It was the way of Balaam. Oh, no, it was the error of Balaam. Peter says the way of Balaam three times.

Way, error, doctrine, teaching. This is the way he did it. This is the way he taught Balak to do it. This is the error, the sin of what he did. So what did he do? Well, he couldn't curse

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

them. All he could do was bless them. So he regrouped and thought, wait a minute, I should know better.

And he sets up a meeting with Balak. He says Balak, my bad. Sorry, I just realized there's nothing I can do to curse these people from without. But I have an idea. I'll teach you the way to get them to sin. Get those Moabite women. Get them all dressed up, put makeup on, do their hair, do their nails. I guess their toes, too. That's a thing. And have them seduce the Israelite man. And then once they commit sexual sin with these Moabite women, then the Moabite women will introduce them to their pagan gods and idolatrous worship.

And then once they start worshipping these gods in this idolatry and sexual immorality, God will take care of it. In other words, you can't do it from without, but you can do it from within. That's the doctrine of Balam. And again, the application for us today is that God forgives. God is merciful. *1 John 1:9*, affectionately referred to as the Christian bar of soap.

**“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us of all unrighteousness.”**

And in that last point, I'll come back to it, and we'll move on. Never imagine that God is surprised by your sin. I mean, how ludicrous, how terrifying would that be? God forgive me. What did you do now?

No, He's omnipresent. He's omnipotent, all-knowing. He's all-powerful. I mean, no, He already knew before you sinned that you were going to sin. But it's already been forgiven. And all you have to do is confess. And by the way, it's not just, Lord, forgive me, I sinned again. Okay, forgiven, cleansed. Next.

No. It's confessing that sin as sin. Stay with me. Let me use the adultery affair comparison. See, confessing your sin means that you confess that it was a sin. That was sin. I sinned against You, God. See, we change the labels. We take the word “sin” — because that's really strong. No, I messed up. No, you sinned. No, I just had a little affair. No, you committed adultery. No, it was a little white lie. It was a lie, you sinner. Liar!

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

You know, we always want to soften it up and just kind of, you know, massage it a little bit and just kind of take the edge off of it. So because, you know, it was — I just made a small mistake.

You sinned. Unless and until we call sin, sin, confess sin as sin, what's God going to do? Be faithful to cleanse us of all of our boo-boos, mistakes? See, when we keep it out of the arena of sin, confessing it as such, it's hands off to God because He forgives sin.

Well, if you're not going to confess it is a sin, then God can't forgive it as a sin. Did you get it? Can you just — Yeah, you're just saying that because you want me to move on.

[ Laughter ]

Number 4. I may be defeated by the world, but God has made me more than a conqueror in this world. Again, notice — make the delineation, not just sharp as a double-edged sword, sharper. I'm not just a conqueror. I'm more than a conqueror in Christ.

Now, this is interesting because in *verses 15 and 16* we're reintroduced to these Nicolaitan dudes who we first met in the first letter to the first church in Ephesus, when Jesus, writing to them says, you have this in the good column. You hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans that I also hate.

Nicolaitans? Wow, what'd they do that was so bad? What were their deeds? Well, this is where again, the name is so important because it's the nature. Niko — if you're wearing Nike tennis shoes, don't raise your hand. That's where that word comes from. Remember the origin of Nike? Swoosh! Conquest. Nike, Nico in the Greek, it's to conquer, overtake. Lao — la it an = laity put them together. Conquering the laity. Setting up a priesthood, ruling over, conquering, swoosh, the Christian.

Wait a minute. We'll see this more next week in the letter to the church of Thyatira, which, by the way, is the longest of the seven letters. So now you have to come, because knowing it's the long letter I'll try to do as short of a — no I won't. I will try, keyword, try. Very interesting church.

So a question. Who were they and what were their deeds? Well, these were the people that were setting up a priesthood, a hierarchy to lord it over the laity. And what were they

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

doing? They're doing the very same thing. They're separating the people from God because now you've got to go to the priesthood instead of God. Well, that's what you get for marrying the world.

Because see, you have to understand that Satan's sole goal for you as a Christian, when you come to Christ, he has to completely shift his strategy. See, before you come to Christ, he'll do everything to keep you from coming to Christ. That's why somebody will share the gospel with you.

And I actually did this. This guy told me as he was evicting me for the third time in nine months for partying, as the landlord — true story — and he was a Christian and I wasn't. (Chuckling) And he says to me, you know what? You need Jesus.

And as God is my witness, and I tremble when I remember this, I laughed in his face. I laughed in his face. And that guy was praying for me. I tried to track him down after I got saved. Of course, that was 43 years ago, whatever. And because after that it just stuck with me. I couldn't get it out of my mind because the word of God does not return unto Him void. It accomplishes.

And I couldn't — you really need Jesus. And you know what? He's not wrong because my life is — are you kidding me? You know, we say, "I gave my life to Christ," and we praise the Lord. Party in heaven. The angels rejoice. You know why I think it is the angels rejoice?

It's not that we gave our life to Christ. It's that He accepted our life. Because when I gave — what did I give? My life. Lord, I give You my life. Here's the angels. I wouldn't take that one. Not that one

[ Laughter ]

He's accepting You. I don't think You should accept his friend request. Decline, block.

Well, I think you get the point. His whole strategy once you come to Christ is to distance you from the Lord. See, once you to come to the Lord, he'll do everything he can to distance you from the Lord. So what does he do? He seduces you by the world. He conquers you by the world. He defeats you by the world.



## Revelation 2

### When I Commit Adultery with the World

#### Pastor JD

And what is the end result? You're separated from God because now you're contending with the world. Isn't it the big three: the world, the flesh, and the devil? And it's a constant battle and it will be until that trumpet sounds.

Well, let's get to the last one. Some of you are like, wow, there is a God. It's in *verse 17*. And this one is so cool. I mean, talk about the best for last. I may ruin my name in the world, but God gives me a new name when I'm taken out of the world.

Watch this. This has got Bible commentators all over the place. And with all due respect to the differing interpretations concerning — well, we already know what the new manna or the hidden manna is. Jesus is the manna. And really to grasp that — **“To the one who overcomes.”**

How are you going to overcome? By the power of the Holy Spirit and the word of God, this sharper than any double-edged sword. So you overcome and you're walking in victory. And now I'm going to — I'm gonna let you partake from the hidden manna. The manna is Jesus. Manna is a type of the Lord. And you're going to taste deliciously and drink deeply from the cup of the manna that I have for you, man!

And that's not all. I'm going to give you a new name because you kind of ruined your name. You don't have a very good name. In fact, your name is mud. The Proverbs, replete throughout, a good name is better than having riches, treasures, gold, silver.

What do we say of people who are — how do I say it without not sounding pastoral? Some of you are saying, why start now? You never sound pastoral. You know how — you know, you don't have a good reputation. She doesn't have — she has a reputation. Oh, he doesn't have a very good name.

Here's what the Lord's saying. I'm going to give you a white stone. **“Though your sins be as scarlet; I'll make them white as snow.”** And on that white stone is going to be a new name that is only known to you. Is that not language of a bridegroom to his bride?

My wife and I will have been married for 35 years this year. She still hasn't forgiven me for changing her last name from Lynn to Farag. So she's hanging on to this promise for dear life. And it's in Revelation — we'll see it later too — where we're going to get a good name. I can't wait. I can't wait because I never did like — I mean, Wahid Farag?

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

That's why I came up with JD. You know, it stands for Jesus' Disciple. It was — I wanted — I'm trying to help God. I'm getting a new name anyway. Could I just have — can I start now? Can I get a new — JD? People ask me, what does JD stand for? Jack Daniels? Ha-ha, ha-ha! No, it's not quite that. Jesus' disciple. Oh, excuse my French. Oh, that wasn't French, but yes, I'll excuse you. See, in that day, they had a black stone. You've heard the expression blackballed? That's a no vote. The white stone, a yes vote. In the games, you know, that would later become known as the Olympics — and I'm almost done. I didn't do too bad today. Well, I'm not done yet, so I better not speak too fast.

So in the games of that day that Paul often compared, drew the comparisons with, a black stone was a no vote, and a white stone was a yes vote. And they would also — that was your ticket. That was before the device, you know, the code, you know, that you scan now to enter a place.

Well, they didn't have that. They had a white stone and then you were gained entrance into with that white stone. So white meant yes, black meant no. What's Jesus saying here? I'm going to give you a white stone, and I'm going to give you a new name. I'm going to change your name because you've totally ruined your name. But you're going to have My name on you.

I'm going to close with this. I've shared this. I think it's appropriate to end this way. In the Middle East to this day, the highest honor and blessing that you can pronounce on someone is the name of God be upon you.

Now you find this in *Numbers 6* in the Aaronic blessing. We all, we stop at *verse 24*. But after that Aaron is also commanded to tell the Israelites that God is going to give them a new name, put His name upon them. Jesus says, I'm going to give you a new name. You're going to take My name because I'm your bridegroom. When we get married, you're going to have My name. And it won't be Farag either, so...

And the name is the nature, right? And we pray in the name of Jesus, right? I'm going to give you a new name. And growing up, my mom would always pronounce in Arabic, the name of God be upon you. *Ism Allah alayk*

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

Now, Allah, I would later learn is the moon god of Islam, a false god. So I replaced it with ism = name, Yashua, Arabic or Yeshua, Hebrew, alayk. The name of Jesus is upon you, the name above all names.

That's what Jesus is saying here. I'm going to give you a new name and make your sins, though they are as scarlet as your name is, and I'm going to make them white as snow. Again, please, please, please, I beg you, don't leave here today, don't end this video, without embracing — let me say like this — embrace God's grace.

There is no sin that God will not forgive. The only unforgivable sin is rejecting Him, which is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. Sexual sin is not the unforgivable sin, guys. Divorce, women is not the unforgivable sin. No sin is unforgivable. Every sin is forgivable. We cannot sin in such a way that God cannot reach that sin to forgive. So you walk out of here as the victor and conqueror, more than a conqueror that you are, because you're forgiven. (Sound of release) Throw it off, that weight, the enemy that's in your face.

Man, I can't believe you did that again! If I were you, I wouldn't go to church. Man, if the people sitting next — don't look at the person sitting next to you — if they knew what you did. And you call yourself a Christian. For me, it's worse. And you — you don't even have to say — all my wife has to say is oh, really, Pastor? (Painful sigh)

[ Laughter ]

But God forgives. You're forgiven. Walk in that forgiveness. Walk no longer in that condemnation, that guilt. Because as long as the enemy can keep you in that condemnation, that guilt, he's keeping you away from the cross where that was paid for. You have but to get to the cross as quickly as you can where that sin that is crushing you with Satan's condemnation to that place where it was paid for. Get there.

My wife and I when we were — this is my final closing. I'm still doing okay. Don't look at your watches. Early in our marriage, we would go back and forth, you know, and she would say things to me like, I'm going to tell God on you.

Oh, no, no, I'll tell Him. Because, man, you know, you know how it is guys, when your wives pray you better get to the cross before they do. Because if they get there before you do...

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

So one time— this is — just let me have this one. So on the mainland, I was sharing a story about how that I told my wife one time — and I was sharing this with my church. “You know what? I beat my wife.” And I took a breath at the wrong time, and the collective gasp like (Shocked look) He just said he beats his wife. And I realized it and I thought, oh God, redeem this. Help me, please. What have I done?

What I was wanting to say — I shouldn't have taken a breath when I did. I should have just held my breath and just got it out. I beat my wife to the cross. Oh, good save. But I didn't. That's why I had to move. No, that's not why.

[ Laughter ]

But I'm here, so that's good. God works all things together for the good. But so here's how I'm going to end it. Guys, I'm not going to use the word “beat.” Get to the cross before your wife gets there, okay? All right, I'm done. Kaponu, come on up.

[ Laughter ]

Stand up. We'll close in prayer. What a letter, huh? You okay?

[ Applause ]

Okay. That sounds good. Yeah. Wait till next week, then. Father, thank You so much. Tough stuff, but, boy, good stuff, Lord. Thank You for including this letter and choosing this church to be among the seven of almost 100 or more churches in the area at this time to have John write a letter to so that we, well-nigh, 2000 years later, would take this letter to heart and allow the Holy Spirit to search our hearts and bring that much-needed conviction, not condemnation, because condemnation draws us away from You, but conviction draws us near to You.

And Lord, You're always so gentle when You do. Search our hearts, Lord, for those areas in our lives where we've gotten just a little bit too close and cozy and comfortable with the world, and we're dangerously close to committing adultery with the world.

Lord, thank You for your mercy and your grace and Your forgiveness and Your love and Your compassion. Thank You that You're not angry at us. That You took all of Your anger and Your wrath, and You put it on Your only begotten Son because of Your love for us.

**Revelation 2**  
**When I Commit Adultery with the World**  
**Pastor JD**

Thank You that You're always waiting like that father in the parable of the prodigal son, which is really more like the parable of the loving father of a prodigal son, waiting and watching with arms wide open to embrace and celebrate, not to beat. Lord, if there's anybody that's here that's just been crushed under the guilt of condemnation, Lord, I just pray they'll come running back to You. That You would embrace them as You're always faithful to. Thank You for forgiving us. In Jesus' name, Amen.