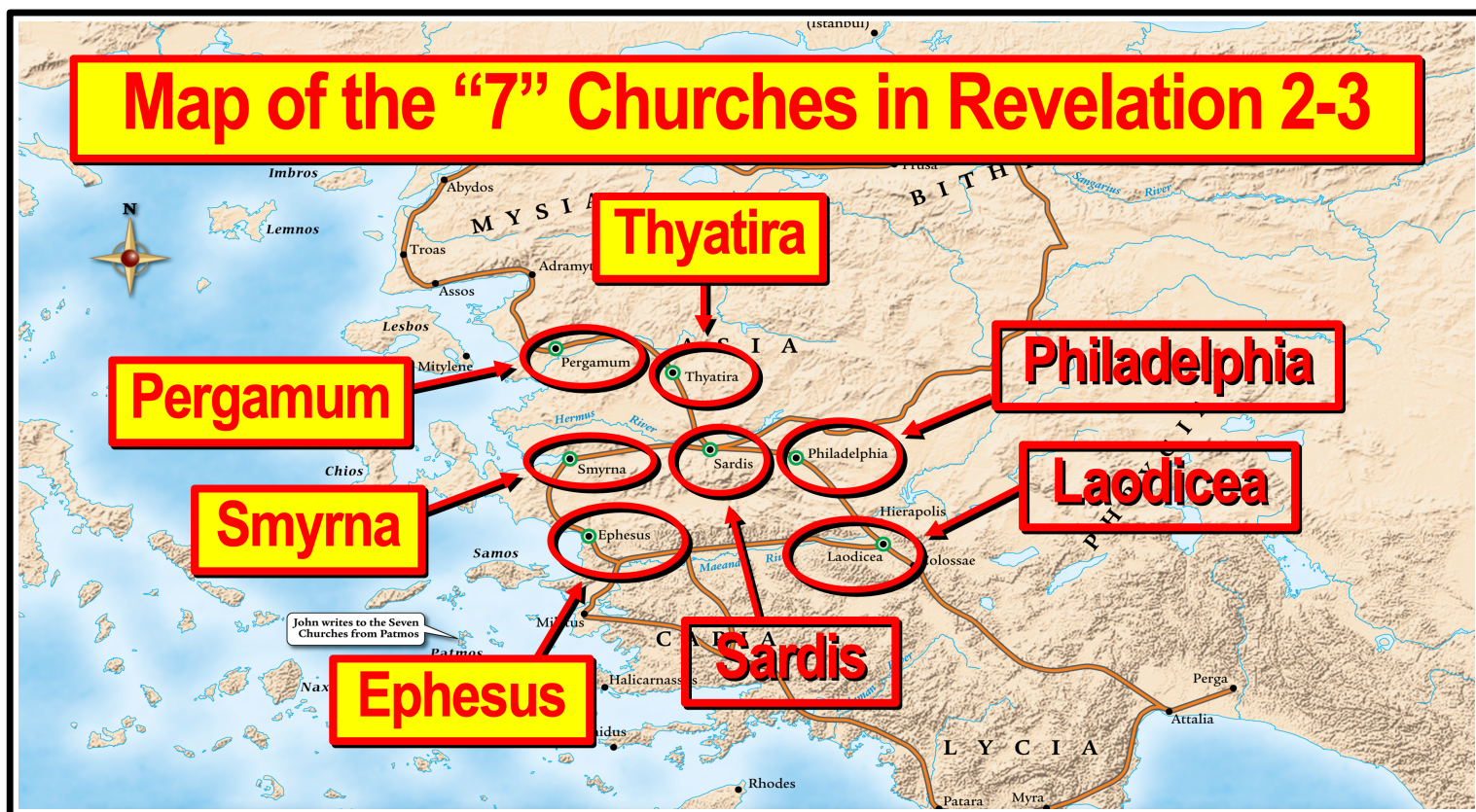


Sunday Sermon, When We Usurp God's Authority, Revelation 2:18-29 - July 7th, 2024

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



Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

KAPONO: Thank You, Lord. Would you join me in a word of prayer? Heavenly Father, we give You the glory, bless Your name, and shout out loud, Hallelujah! Thank You so much, Lord. We are undeserving, and yet You still, You still are so merciful and graceful and so loving. You tell us that You correct the ones You love, Lord.

So as we get into Your word, if there's something that is in us, Lord, that needs correction, would You speak to us? And if we need encouragement, would You also give us that? Maybe it's love that we need. You know what we need, Lord. Would You please, Lord, give it to us? Bless our time in Your word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and amen. And good morning and welcome. You can be seated. Thank you. Glad you're here. Glad those of you joining us online are. Before we get started though, I wanted to let you know that Tamayo Perry's Celebration of Life will be next Sunday, July 14th after Second Service on the North Shore.

And we'll start at 3:30, which should give us enough time for those wishing to attend to — presupposing the pastor doesn't go too long since he's also the one officiating the service. But it should give us enough time after Second Service to make it to the North Shore. It will begin at 3:30.

As many of you know, Tamayo was a part of our church, a member of this church with his wife, Emilia. And I had just actually talked to him shortly before this unbelievable tragedy and unexpected death. And I say that because I want to ask this: Please pray for his wife, friends, family. There's a lot of people on the North Shore — he was very well known — that are just really hurting right now. Just the shock of it.

And so we, as a church body, are profoundly privileged to have the opportunity to be a part of the service and shine the light of Jesus at a time when people just really need it. He knew a lot of people, and a lot of people knew him. And so they are — they're going to hear the Gospel, but they really need Jesus. And so please pray for his ohana and people there on the North Shore.

All right. *Revelation Chapter 2* is our text today, *verses 8–29*. And we are going to go verse-by-verse through the longest of the seven letters to the seven churches, the church in

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

Thyatira. So I'll ask, if you're able to stand, to stand. You can follow along for the reading of God's word. But if not, you're fine where you are seated. Just follow along as I read.

John is writing, inspired by the Holy Spirit. But really, this I himself to John to write to these churches and send them. Literally they were mailed to these churches. So this is the fourth of seven letters. **“To the angel of the church in Thyatira [Verse 18] write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. I know your deeds, [Verse 19] your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. [You're even doing better]**

Nevertheless, [Despite all that] I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads My servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. [Which we talked about in the Update, First Service]

I have given her time to repent [Verse 21] of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead. [Verse 23] [Her followers, I will strike them dead] Then all the churches will know that I am He who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

Now [Verse 24] I say to the rest of you in Thyatira...” [I can just picture, okay, we're done with you, the rest of you guys] [This is where it gets good] “Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets...”

The mystery religions, the secret societies that we talked about last week. We're all birthed from these pagan origins. And notice parenthetically, in some of your translations, we read at the end of *verse 24*, **“(I will not impose any other burden on you.)”** The inference being that they were very burdened by what was going on there.

And then *verse 25*, He says, **“Only hold on to what you have until I come. To the one who is victorious [Verse 26] and does My will to the end, I will give authority [Keyword] over the nations— that One 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery'— just as I have received authority [Keyword] from My Father.**

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

I [Verse 28] **will also give him the morning star.** *[And then He ends as He ends all the letters]*
[Verse 29] **He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."**

Let's pray. Father, thank You for this letter. As intense as it is, we know that it's here in our Bibles for a reason. And that's why we're here. It's so that the Holy Spirit can speak and be met with ears that hear what it is that the Spirit wants to say to us, Your church, today concerning this.

So Lord, would You, as only You can and are always so faithful to, help us navigate through this letter, and more importantly, Lord, by the Holy Spirit, the application of what's in this letter to our lives today? Will You do that for us, Lord? We're asking You for this in Jesus' name. Amen and amen. You can be seated. Thank you.

So I want to talk with you today about the usurping of God's authority and what happens when we do and/or we tolerate those who do. I have to confess that I really struggled with this particular letter to this particular church. I was not looking forward to teaching this.

By way of contrast, just to put it into perspective, I can't wait to teach through the letter to the church in Philadelphia. That's in two weeks. Next week is Sardis. But in two weeks, Lord willing, and if we're still here, the letter to the Church of Philadelphia: Yeah! The letter to the church in Thyatira: Not yet. (Groaning sound)

But God. He's always so gracious, isn't He, and merciful? Well, He was merciful to me and simplified it for me. And He knew that I needed that because I tend to overcomplicate that which is actually quite simple. And when you peel back all the layers on this very long letter, what it's really about and what it really speaks to is usurping God's ordained authority structure and even worse, allowing God's authority structure to be usurped or in a word, tolerate someone who is usurping and undermining God's authority.

Because notice in the letter, and we'll talk about this more, the emphasis is not so much on Jezebel but on the church leadership for tolerating and allowing a Jezebel to lead and not lead only, mislead. And notice Jesus says, **"My servants."** You're misleading — she's misleading — her teaching is misleading My servants. And you tolerate it. You're allowing it.

I want to show just real quick this chart from our overview because I want to highlight just that one particular word, **"tolerate."** Tolerate. I also want to quickly reference the map

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

from our overview to point out a couple of things. First, notice Thyatira and then Sardis and then Philadelphia and then Laodicea were all inland. They were not port cities.

Now, why is that important? Because with respect to Thyatira not being a port city, they had to rely on manufacturing. They were in the industrial region. They were the manufacturing place that produced everything for the Roman Empire. They were famous for their dyes, a purple dye, which was very expensive to make, and more expensive to buy, and quite rare, actually. They had a manufacturing business there.

We talked about the trade guilds, which very prophetic in its parallel to the last days church, these trade guilds, not like trade unions. So they had a trade guild for every trade: the metal trade guild, a die trade guild, a clothing trade guild. I mean, this was where all of that took place because they couldn't import or export not being geographically located as a port city.

Now, again, the reason this is important is because they had to resort to being this business center and were famous for and known for a woman named Lydia who lived there and had her business there.

And it's recorded in *Acts Chapter 16*. Let me read verses *14 and 15*. This is all going to be germane to our understanding. So just hang in there with me.

“Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” So she persuaded us.”

Where is her house? Thyatira. That's also where her business was. So why do I point that out? Because it's believed that the church in Thyatira was actually started by a woman. Not necessarily this Lydia, but it was started by a woman that Jesus refers to as Jezebel, drawing upon the evil Jezebel of the Old Testament.

So apparently, this Jezebel was undermining God's ordained authority structure. And doubtless Paul would have had a role in this church, but it seems like it goes off the rails when this Jezebel is allowed to come in and be positioned in a place of leadership over men, which is exactly what Jezebel was over her wimpy husband, Ahab.

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

There's an account. I shared it First Service. I'll just give you a brief backstory. I think it'll come into play in our understanding today. This is why it is by the way, that Jesus would even refer to whoever this woman was as a Jezebel.

So here's King Ahab, King of Israel, the northern tribes. And the northern tribes of Israel had no good kings. All of their kings were evil. Southern Judah only had nine good kings, of whom it was said, **“They did that which was right in the sight of the Lord.”** But northern Israel, the northern kingdom, where King Ahab was, all of the kings, it was said of them, **“They did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord.”**

Now when you get to King Ahab, what you find is that he was more evil than the evil of the evil kings that were evil in the northern tribe of Israel. I hope that worked because I'm not going to try to repeat it. He was so evil. He marries this Sidonian king's daughter by the name of Jezebel. That was his first mistake. And what Jezebel did was she introduced and seduced the Israelites into this sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols by way of these trade guilds.

Again, we went into more detail in the Prophecy Update. These were trade guilds — not unions — that had mandatory meetings that you had to participate in, and the food had been offered to as sacrifices to idols.

And then they would take the wine, they would get very drunk and no inhibitions, and they would end up, you know, in unspeakable sexual immorality. They would take the wine; they'd pour it on the fire on the altar to the pagan god that was the god of that particular guild. And then the smoke rising up would be like prayer and worship to that pagan god.

And that's what was going on. And who taught them to do that? This Jezebel. Who allowed Jezebel to teach them to do that? The church leadership. She had undermined and usurped the authority of the man over the woman. We'll get there. Don't leave, please. Women, don't just...

And guys, I was thinking that Second Service, after what I said First Service was only going to have men in it. But I'm so glad that you're here and I hope you're blessed. You will be. You'll see. So what happened was Ahab one day he sees this vineyard across the street. He's like, man, I would really like to have that vineyard.

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

So he goes over, and he talks to the owner, Naboth, and asked him, hey, will you sell me your vineyard? I want your vineyard. Naboth's like, even if I wanted to, I can't. It's been in our family for generations. And there's a law that we cannot. We have to keep it in the family, as was the custom in that day.

So what does Naboth do — or Ahab do? He goes home and he just starts crying, whining, complaining. And then when his wife comes home, she's like, what's wrong, honey? Well, Naboth won't sell me his vineyard. To which she responds — there's an interesting detail in the text — this Jezebel says, don't worry, honey. The authority is mine. I will get you — authority is mine. I will get you that vineyard.

So what does she do? She hatches this plot to bring about this false accusation against Naboth for blaspheming God. He is then tried and found guilty and put to death. And then Jezebel goes home, after having done what she did. How evil is this? And she says, honey, I got you the vineyard. Told you.

How about Elijah? Remember what she did or tried to do, anyway? She had a contract out on Elijah's life after Elijah in *1 Kings 18*, in that contest with the gods of Baal, killed 450 of the prophets of Baal. So upon hearing this, she immediately seeks his life to kill him. And that's when Elijah runs. She was an evil woman. Believe you me, you would not want to invite her over to dinner. And you certainly wouldn't want to invite her husband over for dinner. But she ruled the roost. She ran the show. She called the shots.

And so this is what the Lord has against this church and those who were being misled by, and more seriously, were tolerating this Jezebel to deceive the people in the church. That was my introduction. How am I doing so far? Are we okay? All right. Well, nobody's gotten up and left yet, so...

I won't look. If you do, we'll have our heads bowed and eyes closed. The reason I wanted to start out this way is because, again, when you really look at the core of this, it's all about God's perfectly ordained authority structure. And the things that happened in this church, like with the last days church, caused disorder, deception, division and ultimately death. I mean, how serious is this: If you don't repent, I'm going to put you on a sickbed.

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

And if that doesn't get your attention and you still don't repent, then I'm basically going to kill you. Isn't that just perky, you know? What's your point?

My point is, is that this is serious enough to rise to the level of God inspiring John, by the Holy Spirit, to write this letter to that church in that day for us in our day, in this the last days. Because this is déjà vu all over again. God's authority structure in the church has been undermined. And it's — the onus is on the church leadership for tolerating it.

So I'm going to approach this a little bit differently by posing five questions that come out of this letter regarding God's ordained authority structure, not just in a church, but in the home. Let me preface it this way before we jump in.

Satan knows that if he can undermine God's authority and neuter the role of the man in a home or a church, that's a that's a win column. Check the box in the win column. And that is his goal, by the way. He's seeks to do this. This is the bullseye for him. This is the ultimate for him.

Because he knows he can't do it from the outside like we saw last week with Balaam, who could not curse because the gates of hell cannot prevail against the church outwardly. So it has to be an inside job. We got to send a Jezebel in there and do it from within. We can't curse them, but we can get a Jezebel to teach, like Balaam taught Balak, the teachings of Balaam, the teachings of Jezebel to teach them.

So here's Balaam saying — teaching Balak. Hey, I can't curse them, but let me teach you a way you can get them to bring a curse upon themselves. Have the Moabite women seduce them and then commit sexual immorality. And then while they're there, they — oh, well, you might as well. You're hungry. That prime rib looks good. I know it was sacrificed to idols, but you start eating meat sacrificed.

Boom! God will judge that, absent repentance. So you almost kind of have a parallel in and of itself by way of a Balaam and a Jezebel because they both were teaching God's people...

Isn't it interesting again, He calls them **"My servants."** These are My people, not your people. And you call yourself a prophetess? What's a prophetess or a prophet? They are people who speak for God. You don't speak for Me. I didn't call you a prophet. You call —

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

you're self-proclaimed. And you're misleading. You've not only taken a leadership role and leading, you're misleading My servants, My people.

So I'll go — I'll try to — let me start over. I'm careful of words like “try” because it's usually followed by the word fail. So I'll do my best to go through these as quickly as I can. But I don't want us to miss anything here because there's a lot here for us. Okay? This is a big issue right now within the Church of Jesus Christ today.

So we'll start with the first question in *verses 18 and 19*. Do I really see God as the final authority in my life? This reference that Jesus has John write, they're all from *Chapter 1* and they're specific to that church. In fact, it's the only time in the whole *Book of Revelation* that Jesus is referred to as the Son of God.

But He chooses that one for a reason. Why? Because He as the Son of God has eyes like blazing fire and feet like burnished bronze. They would have got it. Got what? Well, burnished bronze and blazing fire are all a symbol of God having the final judgment as the final authority.

So I think we need to ask ourselves and allow the Holy Spirit to search our hearts concerning this. See, we of course, you know, God is on the throne of my life. Oh, really? Sometimes He is. But I think if we're honest with ourselves, we take the authority from Him and usurp Him.

And by the way, that's one of the main reasons that things just go haywire, for lack of a better way of saying it, in the life of a Christian. We make decisions based on ourselves being the final authority, the final say, having the final say, not inquiring of the Lord, not submitting and yielding and surrendering to the Lord as THE final authority.

And sometimes I think we do that because we know what He's going to say if we submit to His authority. And innate within our sin nature is this, I mean, everything in our sin nature chafes against submitting to authority.

And you know what? It started in the garden with the woman. When I was a young believer and I, you know, going through the Bible and I'm reading after the, you know, curse, that sin entered the world. The serpent deceived Eve.

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

By the way, that's (Stumbling over words) brought back to remembrance throughout Scripture. God's curse on the woman, not just labor pains or your pains in childbirth, which means that childbirth would not have been painful prior.

So He says, **"Your desire will be for your husband."** I'm thinking, cool, my wife is going to desire me. That's not what it's saying. The curse upon the woman was that your desire will be to usurp your husband's authority. See, Christ is the head of the man, and the man is the head of the woman. And by the way, Jesus, as we're going to talk about in a moment, is submitted to the authority of the Father. Do you see the order, the divine, ordained authority structure and order?

Now, please don't get me wrong, and I probably — this is probably as good of a time as any. I probably should have started with this. Listen, the role of women in the ministry or even in a home for that matter, are you kidding me? Your role is so important. In fact, if we did not have the women that we have called to this, God's church serving in their roles in this church, I wouldn't be standing up here right now.

Let's take it into the context of the home. If I didn't have a wife — **"It is not good for man to be alone."** That verse was written just for me. God looked down on me. He said, no, this is not good. Not good. You know the creation: **"And He saw that it was good."** Then He makes man, and He goes, not good.

[Laughter]

There. Was that good? Wives get — get — get even because you know, you might see this as taking a hit. But it's a sanctified hit because you don't want to usurp your husband's authority.

Now, if he's abdicating his responsibility as the authority in the home, and you have to step in, that's different. I'm not talking about that. That's a whole different sermon for another time, and not anytime soon, I can promise you because I already preached that sermon when we were in *1 Corinthians 11*, which we're going to talk about in a moment. One of the hardest chapters in all of the Bible for a pastor to teach. No wonder pastors teach topically because nobody's going to touch *1 Corinthians 11*. Don't look at it right now. I'm still preaching.

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

[Laughter]

I'll explain it to you. Question number 2, *verse 20*. I'm wording it and asking it this way for a reason. Do I tolerate women — *tolerate women* — usurping man's authority? What's interesting about the way Jesus has John pen this letter and wording it and this way is that again, He's not putting the onus on Jezebel. Jezebel is just being a Jezebel.

That's what Jezebels do. The issue he has is that they're allowing it to happen in the church. You're tolerating it. You're allowing women to be pastors. Oh, this is a question we get asked a lot. What's your position on women being pastors? They can't. Next question.

[Laughter]

Why not? Because you're usurping God's ordained authority structure. You know, in the Old Testament, the husband was the covering for the woman. If the woman did not have the covering of man's authority, she was sentenced to a life of abject poverty and probably prostitution. That's why being a poor widow was almost a death sentence.

Even to this day, in my culture, as an Arab in the Middle East, they — that's why they prearranged marriages. Because if you had a daughter, you needed to get her married so that she would have a man over her as a covering to provide for her and protect her because that's the way God ordained it.

And guys, I guess I should probably mention too because it's true. We live in a world — I don't know that this is going to be surprising — but we live in a world that is doing everything and stopping at nothing — and Satan's behind it — to neuter the masculinity of a man. Where are the men? They've been humiliated, emasculated, neutered. Am I using good words here?

[Laughter]

It's almost not kosher, for lack of a better word, to exercise your God-given authority. Where are the men who will stand up and say, I'm the man of the house? (Yelling) Don't do it like that. That's uh...

[Laughter]

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

That's my country. That's what we do in my country. It's a benevolent dictatorship. But no, I'm the authority. And what that means to you is, is that I have to answer to God as the authority in the home. I'm going to have to give an account.

I mean, when we read verses that say, you know, a man who does not provide for his own family is worse than an infidel. That's pretty serious. God takes that serious. And that's just in the home. How about in the church? This is God's church, and you're letting, tolerating, allowing Jezebel's to come in and usurp the man's authority?

And I mean, if that weren't bad enough, she's deceiving My servants, teaching them to sin sexually. (Deep sigh)

Yes, I might as well. I mentioned this First Service. I think it's apropos to mention again. Have you noticed, especially on social media, mainly YouTube, just a significant increase of self-proclaimed prophetess' and their YouTube channels? No, for real. Don't give me stink eye on this, okay?

And then I'm talking about, like, within the last, well for sure since 2020 of course. But I think even more recently than that. These are self-proclaimed. They called themselves — these are women that call themselves pastors or prophets. I made the mistake — I don't know why I clicked on one. I shouldn't have.

I felt like Daniel in *Chapter 8*, Thursday night, after the vision was revealed to him, he fainted and he got sick for days, you know, and couldn't even get out of bed. I was sick to my stomach, literally just sick to my stomach. They, you know, they have the — they had a vision. God showed me blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. Be sure to subscribe and hit that like button. Prophetess so and so. I

'm surprised nobody's named their channel the Jezebel channel because that's what it should be. How about the increase now within what once were sound Bible teaching churches, allowing, tolerating women to teach over men?

No, the woman needs to do what Paul exhorted Timothy to have the women do, and that's to teach the younger women, the children. But when you have a woman over a man, it is almost a defiance against God.

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

Because that's to say, then, the Son is over the Father. Jesus is our perfect example of submitting to the authority of the Father. The man submits to the authority of Christ, and the woman submits to the authority of man. That's God's order, and we want it to be so.

But Satan has come in as the father of lies and lied. And women buy the lie and men tolerate the lie. Hey, you know, we live in a different world now. That's kind of old fashioned. Well, I guess I'm old fashioned then. Oh, that's that old-time religion. All right. That's what I'm talking about, old-time religion. No, that's old school. Old school? I didn't know there was a new school. What do you mean old school? I don't see that in here.

Okay, before we move on, guys. Take your God-given authority seriously and be a man. Be a man, and don't cower or falter. You've been given that God-ordained authority. Don't abuse it. Use it.

You know, (Frustrated sound) I've had women — this is on the mainland, so don't try to figure out who this is — I've had women tell me as their pastor, I would love nothing more than for my husband to take authority over me. What? Because that's the way God wired the woman. To be under the authority of the man. They're not inferior. Women are not inferior. They're not.

You know, the man is not superior. In fact, we're joint heirs. Guys, remember what Peter said? In fact, the only time in the New Testament this particular word in the original Greek language is used where you dwell with your wives in understanding as a joint heir. You're equal in the sight of God. If you don't, then your prayers are going to bounce off the ceiling. You don't treat — she's a joint heir in Christ. She's equal to you, not inferior to you.

I love how one described it. When God created man, He created woman, right? As I like to say, whoa, man!

[Laughter]

From the man. That's actually a literal interpretation. But He took a rib from Adam's side to create his bride as a helpmate, not from the head to be over him or from the feet to be under him, but from the side to be next to him, equal to him.

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

So guys, if you've abused your authority, and your wife has shut down and refuses to submit to your authority, then you need to take that to the Lord because that could be the explanation for a lot of the problems you're having in your home, in your marriage, with your family. So let's ask ourselves and allow the Holy Spirit to search our hearts concerning the tolerating whether it's a woman usurping the man's authority.

How about the lack of respect for authority with the young people today in this generation? I don't even want to get started on that one. How many of you as parents — I just want to ask you. Don't raise your hands. It's rhetorical. How many of you have said to your kids, if I would have talked to my mom and dad that way? Five of you did.

My mom used to say to me, I brought you into this world. I can take you out of this world. You know, back in my day, I would have blah, blah, blah... I would have never talked to my parents like that.

By the way, that's a prophetic sign of a mark of the last days when children would be disrespectful to the authority of their parents. So have a nice afternoon. It's just going to get worse. Yay!

Again, before we move on to the third question — and we will — I just want to ask the question, same question a different way. Are we tolerating not only the usurping of authority, but the misleading and deception in that usurping of authority? It's heartbreaking for me.

And I just want to be candid with you. There was a day within the Calvary Chapel movement where this would have been — you would have thought this is a non-issue. Why are we even spending this much time talking about this? And now I'm hearing that there are some Calvary Chapels that are starting to lean more towards having women in a pastoral role.

Number 3. Do I know what could happen if I don't repent? So we've got a situation here where — and by the way, notice God holds accountable those who tolerate the Jezebels. So they're equally accountable.

But notice God's grace. He gives them time to repent. He says this much. I gave her and her followers time to repent, but they did not. In fact, I did everything to get their attention so

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

they would because it's not My will that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

What is repentance? This is a word that's largely misunderstood. It just means a change of mind, do a 180. You change your mind and God changes your heart. It's to change your mind. So what happens if you don't repent?

Again, this is extremely serious in the eyes of God because it is against God's authority.

What are the consequences? Well, first, God may deem it necessary, like He says to those unwilling to repent in Thyatira, I'll put you on a sick bed of suffering. So an illness and you're in bed and you can't get out, and you're sick and God is trying to get your attention.

Why is He trying to get your attention? Because you need to repent. Well, if that doesn't work, then God has to resort to ushering you home where you're met with your own death. Hang on to that because we're going to come back to that.

Question number 4 in *verses 24 and 25*. Do I hold to Jezebel, or am I holding on till Jesus comes? Now this is, I know, a kind of a play on words, but Jesus said, there are those who do not hold to the rest of you.

Oh man, of course all of us, we are going to shed ourselves in the most favorable light. Of course, we would be numbered amongst the rest of those in Thyatira that did not, you know, get caught up in this. So the rest of us, He's talking to me now.

Well, the question before us is, okay, so you didn't hold to those teachings of Jezebel, but the question is, are you holding on to — notice He said **“what you have”** until I come. What did they have? Hold on to what you have. Okay. Hold on to that real estate portfolio, that investment portfolio. No. The only thing they had was Jesus. As one said, you'll never know that Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have. And that's all they had.

And what Jesus is saying is you didn't hold to Jezebel's teachings. You didn't tolerate it. But instead — and this what I love about God's word. There's always the instead. You know, flee wickedness; instead, pursue righteousness. Instead of holding to that, hold on to Me. I'm all you have. And hold on until. That word **“until,”** we can read past that.

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

I'm so glad it's there because now we've got a prophetic time stamp. We've got a future point, something to look forward to. It's almost like Jesus saying, hold on just a little bit longer until...

Until what? Until I come. Oh. Well, that's all I needed to hear. And I think that's a word for us here today. That was the title of the prophecy teaching today. It was more of a prophecy teaching than a Prophecy Update. Just hold on till Jesus comes. Just hold on.

I know many are battle weary and you're under a crushing pressure like they were then in Thyatira. So too are we now. But don't cave. Don't acquiesce. You just keep holding on because I'm coming.

By the way, real quick, parenthetically, the first three churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Jesus does not mention at all His coming. The reason I'm really looking forward to Philadelphia is because not only does Jesus reference His coming, it's proof that the church will not go through the 7-year tribulation period. It's in the letter to the Church of Philadelphia.

Don't read it right now. I'm still preaching. But the last four churches, what's the significance of that? I'm glad you asked. That means that the last four of these churches starting with Thyatira, then Sardis, then Philadelphia, then Laodicea represent the church in the last days before He comes. Otherwise, why would He mention His coming?

Some hold to the belief that the church in Thyatira is representative of the Catholic Church. And Sardis, next week, Lord willing, representative of the Protestant church in terms of church history. And there's a compelling argument to be made in that regard. I chose not to go that direction. Rather, I wanted us to focus on a problem that has the potential for severe consequences within a body of believers. This is very serious stuff, whether it's in the church or in the home.

Wife, when you usurp your husband's authority unnecessarily, when they haven't abdicated their God-given authority or responsibility, what are you teaching your children to do? Is it any wonder that children today have no respect for authority? It's not what's taught. It's what's caught. Kids grow up watching mom usurp dad's authority. And what do they do? They grow up and they usurp authority. Repent. Repent.

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

Last question, number 5. Do I realize that it's God who ultimately gives authority? It's an ironic ending to this letter in the sense that Jesus makes it very clear, in no uncertain terms, that He is the one who gives authority. In other words, those who tolerate Jezebel's usurping of authority so as to be in authority, unnecessarily do so to their own peril because God will ultimately give authority.

It's kind of like you're trying to take something that God was going to give you in its proper order. But you're trying to take it now. You're trying to usurp it. Take it from God instead of receiving it from God. You see that? It's not a play on words. You're taking matters into your own hands.

And all the while, Jesus will gladly give the very authority some seek, and in so doing some usurp and tolerate as He was given authority from the Father. This is not (Frustrated sigh) I'm sorry, you guys. I'm doing my best here. I just — I don't — it's not lost on me when I'm studying and preparing and teaching the text, the word of God.

It's not lost on me when I catch details like I was going to give it to you just as my Father gave it to Me. I didn't take it from Him. I received it from Him. Why are you trying to take the very thing that I'm so willing to give? But it's going to be on My terms, not your terms. Because I'm the ultimate authority.

Okay, we're almost done. Just bear with me. I want to draw your attention to the aforementioned *1 Corinthians 11*. No, I don't want to. That's not true. I really don't want to. I don't want to relive this, but I need to. And the reason is, is because *1 Corinthians 11* summarizes this letter to the church of Thyatira.

In fact, it's, it runs parallel the entirety of the chapter of *1 Corinthians 11* runs parallel with this Thyatira letter concerning authority. We were in *1 Corinthians*. I forget what year it was.

Oh, man, when I hit this chapter, I died a thousand deaths. What a tough chapter to teach. In *verses 1-16*, how's this for starters? Paul admonishes the women to remain under man's covering and authority by having a covering in church on their head, which was a symbol of the man's covering over them. And it was a cultural thing, of course. But the principle was the authority structure.

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

So what was happening in this church in Corinth was women were coming in and they didn't have their head covering on. And what a parallel, they were prophesying with their heads uncovered.

Now, God may give the woman a word of prophecy, that's not the problem. We're not talking about that. We're talking about when you don't cover your head. This is back then. Don't worry. It's okay. Wait a minute. Why am I doing this to myself? I'm reteaching this. Reliving this. I'll start twitching here pretty quick.

[Laughter]

The prostitutes would cut their – shave their heads, have short hair. It was a shame. Paul said as much in *1 Corinthians*. It is a shame for a woman to not have long hair. I think it's a shame for men to have no hair. But that's my problem.

[Laughter]

But he also says it's a shame for a man to have short (Long) hair. Why? Because of the symbolism, what it represents. See, the long hair covers the woman. Now listen, guys, you can have your hair long. That's not a problem. In fact, I would encourage you to. I'll live it by proxy, vicariously. How's that?

But I mean, wouldn't it be kind of a little bit weird when you see a guy — I better look around first — that's got, like, long, wavy hair all the way down to his waist? And you see him from behind, you're like, oh. Then he turns around and he's got a beard. You're like, oh!

[Laughter]

What a shame. (Chuckle)

That's what Paul's saying. See, the hair was symbolic of the covering of authority over the woman by the man. So the first 16 verses — I'm having flashbacks already — were about Paul were about Paul exhorting this church — a very corrective epistle anyway. But he's correcting them because what they were doing was violating God's ordained authority structure by the women not covering their heads and having short hair in defiance, as if to say, I'm not going to let any man be over me. I am woman!

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

Oh, that's — is that too old of an illustration or example? You know, here's the poor guy going, I wear the pants in my family. My wife tells me which pair though.

[Laughter]

I'm the head of the home. Except my wife's the neck. She tells me which way to turn. That's sad. We shouldn't have to apologize for our God-given authority. And by the way, truth be made known, you want us to be in authority because we're the ones that are going to have to give an account.

Now, if you want our job. See, ya; wouldn't want to be ya when you're giving an account to God for A, why you usurp your husband's authority and God's ordained authority structure. But second, since you assume that role, well, where's the accounting? Well, I taught my daughter to usurp her husband's authority. How's that going to bode? It will not end well for you.

Now, just when you would think that that was enough, Paul just takes it to a whole new level. *Verses 17 through 34*, again, parallels the letter to the church in Thyatira. Apparently, this church we're just so mistreating the body of Christ. They were getting drunk at these potlucks. They called them love feasts or agape feasts. And they were eating and not — and they were in little clicks, guilds, if you will.

And they wouldn't let — oh, you're, yeah, you're not a part of us. Who invited you? Why are you sitting here? And there were people from all walks of life, and the majority of the people in the church of Corinth were slaves in the Roman Empire at the time. So that agape feast was the only real meal they would get the whole week.

So they come to church, it's time to break bread and have this love feast. And here's the people that — and they're looking at you like, what did you bring to the potluck? The forks.
(Said nervously)

And here they are. They've got means. and so they bring the food. And then they form the clicks and then people were going home hungry. All these clicks were going home full and drunk.

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

And Paul says outright to them, you want to get drunk, get drunk at home. You want to eat and these poor people, they're your brothers and sisters in Christ, and they're going home hungry and they're not eating. This is what you're doing? This is My body, and I'm the head over the body. You're mistreating My body.

So repent because you're partaking unworthily of the Lord's table. And if you don't repent, guess what? Paul says it's the reason why some of you are sick. You're on a sick bed. God's trying to get your attention so you'll repent. And if that doesn't get your attention, Paul says, and some of you are even dying. That's why. Just like Thyatira. Why? Because God — and I'm almost done. Thanks for your patience.

God's doing no less than two things because this is His body, His church, His people, My servants. First of all, He's protecting them by ushering them. Anyone who would pose a formidable threat of harm and danger to His bride, He's got to remove them. He tried to get their attention on the sick bed, but that didn't work.

So He has to resort to ushering them home, removing them from His body, His church, so they will not do any more damage because they were doing untold damage to the body of Christ. Are you grasping this, the seriousness of this? Do you see how serious this was in Thyatira?

The second thing God is doing is, yes, He's protecting the church from someone who's a harm or a threat to the church, so He'll bring them home, but so too is He showing grace to the person that He's ushering home. How do how do I get there? Well, if they were to continue on in that way, they're going to heap up for themselves more that they will have to give an account for.

So God is almost in a way, sparing them. Old Testament example. It's a rough one, but it's the truth. When God gave the Amorites 400 years to repent and they didn't, and then the Israelites are commanded to wipe them out completely. And people misinterpret that as God is a harsh God.

No, He's a gracious God. If you have — I'm going to use this example. I hope it works. You know, you have a dog and it has rabies. Its fate has already been sealed. You're putting that

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

dog out of its misery, and you're also protecting your children because if they get bitten by that dog, it could be very serious.

That's what God's doing. He's — their fates already been sealed, so He's mercifully putting them out of their misery, heaping up more judgment. But at the same time He's protecting His church from people that would pose a harm to His church. I shared — this is again on the mainland.

Many years ago, in a land far, far away, there was a particular woman very much like this Jezebel that was, I mean, undermining my authority, my staff's authority, my pastoral — assistant pastors' authority, just wreaking havoc. And I'm just new to the ministry. I'm like, what do I do with this? I can't tolerate it. So I gotta do the hard thing.

So we had to sit down with her according to *Matthew 18:15, 16 and 17* and just kind of lay it out, give her an opportunity to repent, win her over. That didn't work. Jesus said, treat her as a tax collector. Have nothing to do with her. So we basically said, you are unwelcome here. You are not welcome here anymore because you are doing a lot of damage in this church, and you pose a threat to this body of believers.

Well, it wasn't long after that I got an email from a good friend of mine telling me that she died in a freak recreation vehicle — ATVs? ATVs. The Lord took her home. I mean, I'll see her in heaven.

Thank God we won't know any man after the flesh. Aren't you so glad about it? We'll know who each other is. We won't need nametags, for those of you asking. But we're not going to know each other as we were in these earthly vessels, the flesh. Thank God. Oh, thank You, God! But God deemed it necessary.

And what's really interesting is she had cancer prior and that didn't get her attention. And then God did exactly what Paul wrote to the Corinthian church in *Chapter 11*. And Jesus had John write to the church in Thyatira in *Revelation Chapter 2*.

Can I just close with one verse? I saved the worst for last. *1 Timothy 2:11–14*. I would encourage you to turn there. I want you to see it in your Bibles, women. No, (Chuckling) That was unnecessary. I'm sorry. *1 Timothy 2*, beginning in *verse 11*, **“Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority**

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

over a man, but to be in silence. [And here's why] For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression."

The end. Kapono come up. I just —

[Laughter]

I mean, I'm going to leave it right at that because what do you say after that? Stand up and let's close in prayer? Stand up. Let's close in prayer then. Is that pretty clear? I mean, we get emails all the time: What is your position on women being a pastor of a church? Really? Do you have a different Bible than mine?

I mean, I know I'm being snarky when I say it, but what is it about women are not to be over a man in authority that you don't understand? And why are you acquiescing and caving to the culture and usurping God's authority? You do so to your own peril.

God has your best interests at heart. He's set up this authority structure for you. It's for your own good. It is for the wife to submit to the husband. That's the way it was ordained to be, and for the man to submit to Christ as his head, authority over him. This is as it ought to be.

I would venture to say — and I will close now that you're standing — I would venture to say that a lot of the symptoms, not problems, a lot of the symptoms that couples are experiencing in their marriage and churches, the problems, symptoms, not problems, symptoms in many churches today are symptoms of this problem. The ordained authority structure has been violated.

And I do want to say one last thing because it's again very important that I reiterate this.

Guys, you better be very careful when it comes to being given this much authority because to whom much is given, much is required. And you will give an account to God. I mean, not only will your prayers be hindered here on earth if you don't treat your wife and dwell with her in understanding and treat her as a joint heir, but boy, if you're abusing your authority and your power over her, oh, I don't want to be anywhere around you at the Bema Seat of Christ. Because I think (Frustrated sounds)

How am I going to leave on a...

Revelation 2
When We Usurp God's Authority
Pastor JD

How am I doing? Should we leave on that? You're saying — you're just saying that because you want me to stop. Okay. I'll stop.

Father, this is tough stuff, but it's, oh, it's so hard. But, Lord, we want to hear what — we have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying. But we don't want our ears to only hear that which our ears are itching to hear, what we want to hear. We may not want to hear this, but we need to hear this.

So Lord, thank You for this letter. As rough as it was, so good for us. Now we want to take it with us into the rest of our day and our week and our lives, and ask that You, by the Holy Spirit, would make application to it, especially for those who find themselves all kapakahi now, concerning Your authority structure. Lord, thank You for the structure. We need not just the structure, but the authority. Thank You Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.