

Revelation 2v18-29: Letter to the Church at Thyatira

v18: The Recipient Church (Thyatira) is Identified

Thyatira was, like Pergamos, a place given over to much idolatry & associated immorality. Thyatira means '*continual burning*' or '*continual sacrifice*', representing a system marked by continual idolatrous worship, that will ultimately be judged by God.

Thyatira would symbolize prophetically in Church history the papal church, a system marked by dreadful idolatry, that seeks to exercise authority over all the nations of the world. Its teachings & practices are truly "**the depths of Satan**" (v24).

Also Thyatira, and the evil Jezebel doctrine it contained, would further prophetically foreshadow the harlot church that will yet arise during the tribulation (Rev 17-18).

v18: The Lord is Introduced (links with ch1v14-15)

A unique 3-fold presentation of Christ, emphasizing His essential deity & divine attributes.

1. "**the Son of God**" - His absolute divine authority & personal majesty, greatness & glory as God's only well beloved Son.

God said on the mount of transfiguration, "**This is My beloved Son, hear ye Him**"; that is the message also for Thyatira, to hear only the voice of "**the Son of God**".

2. "**His eyes like unto a flame of fire**" - a ministry of inspection based upon His divine omniscience, He sees the true condition, He "**searcheth the reins and hearts**" (v23).

No outward pretence can survive His searing & penetrating gaze; the "**flame of fire**" burns with indignation against sin & ungodliness.

3. "**His feet are like fine brass**" - a ministry of intervention based upon His divine omnipotence, treading in irresistible judgment on all that is not of God.

Being in the assembly places us in the sphere of divine government & discipline & judgment; "**judgment must begin at the house of God**" (1st Peter 4v17).

v19: The Condition is Observed - Commendation is Given

A 5-fold commendation; the omniscient Lord knows & approves of their works, love, faith, service & patience. Of the 7 churches, only Thyatira is commended for their love.

There had been growth in their service, their works were increasing in quantity, motivated by sacrificial love, dependent faith in God and patient endurance.

v20-21: The Failure is Stated

The church was actively giving place to an unrepentant, self-appointed false prophetess, Jezebel-like in her character & evil teachings, who was leading the Lord's servants into the sinful idolatrous & immoral practices of the world.

Her OT prototype, wife of Ahab, was an unprincipled, wicked idolatress, a persecutor of the Lord's prophets & a murderess (see 1st Kings 18-21), who led all Israel into serious idolatry.

Application: any teaching that promotes involvement with the sinful practices & ways of this world is false teaching, which has its source in **“the depths of Satan”** (v24). God demands that we be a holy & separate people, distinctive from the world, separated to Himself, for His pleasure. 1st Peter 1v14-16 **“As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy”**.

Contrast v20, **“thou sufferest that woman Jezebel ... to teach”** with the apostolic command in 1st Tim 2v11-12 **“But I suffer not a woman to teach ... but to be in silence”**.

v22-23: The Warning is Imparted

The Lord will personally move in irresistible divine judgment against her.

He will cast her **“into a bed”**, likely a sick bed, ultimately her death bed. He will likewise **“kill her children with death”** and bring her unrepentant followers **“into great tribulation”**.

It will be a righteous & just judgment according to each person’s works.

The Lord quotes Jeremiah 17v10, **“I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings”**.

The ultimate final doom of the **“cursed woman”** Jezebel (2nd Kings 9v33-37) will be mirrored in the evil idolatry & final judgment of the future harlot church of Babylon (Rev 17-18).

v24-26a: Instruction to a Faithful Remnant

A 2-fold exhortation to the minority **“rest”**, who did not follow the evil doctrine of Jezebel:

1. v25 **“But that which ye have already hold fast till I come”**.

2. v26 **“he that overcometh, and keepeth My works unto the end”**.

Emphasizing the need for perseverance, patient endurance, continuance & steadfastness in the things of God, in view of the Lord’s coming again for His Church.

Contrast **“the depths of Satan”** with true Holy Spirit-inspired teaching, the depths of divine truth; **“for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God”** (1st Cor 2v10).

v26b-28: Promises Given to the Spiritual Overcomers

A 2-fold promise to the overcomers who do persevere in faithful service:

1. Authority over the nations of this world, and to share in association with Christ in His millennial rule over those nations. This will be the Son’s inheritance, received from His Father (Psalm 2v8-9); we as **“joint heirs with Christ”** (Rom 8v17) will share the dominion.

2. **“the morning star”** (see also Rev 22v16); i.e. the Lord’s personal coming for His Church.

v29: The Challenge is Made

To the faithful remnant only, to have an open ear, to continue to hear the voice of the Spirit.