

Revelation Chapter 2 - Thyatira



- City facts – Inland city - Defense city in Valley
 - Strong because of Elite Guard
- Ancient Guilds (Unions) –
 - Potters, tanners, weavers, engravers
- Lydia whom Paul visited in Philippi is from this city
 - Lydia traded Purple (turkey red)
- Temple to Apollo – sun god



(590AD- 1517AD) Church period –Romanism & Dark Ages

In this time period historically, Idolatry and Pagan worship was co-mingled with Christianity. Specifically,

- Personal relationships were supplanted by rituals.
- Worship of the Virgin and the child was introduced
- Purgatory became a positive doctrine
- Mass for the dead
- Church power was centralized by the Pope.

V 18 - eyes of Blazing fire – speaks of piercing vision and searching out your deeds, Bronze Feet speak of threatened judgment.

V 19 NKJV – “I know your works, love, service, faith and your patience...works increased over time.

V 20 – 23 condemnation – Contrasts are given:

Works of Christ vs. Works of Jezebel

Those that “hear” are the children of God vs. Children of Jezebel “No ears to hear”

Jezebel is said to foreshadow the apostate church.

1. What was Thyatira commended and condemned for?

2. In spite of hard work, false doctrine was accepted. Why did Jesus hold this against them?

3. What attitudes or activities are we condoning that are not pleasing to God?

4. How can you determine the difference between Christianity and false teaching?

5. How can some member of both our Church and Jezebel's church be misled by her teaching?

6. How can you remain loyal to Christ and hold fast?

Who is Jezebel?

The First Book of Kings forms part of a larger biblical strand, stretching from Deuteronomy to Second Kings, known as the "Deuteronomistic history." By and large the moral of these books is that the Israelites and their rulers repeatedly "did evil in the sight of the Lord," which explains various historical tragedies.

Even the wise Solomon strayed from the true path by tolerating the gods of his many heathen wives. Far more brazen, however, the apostate Ahab, ruler of the Northern Kingdom of Israel in the ninth century B.C., "did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him" (I Kings 16: 33).

Ahab's father Omri, seeking an alliance with the Phoenicians, had married him to Jezebel, princess of Tyre. Soon after, Jezebel set about perverting both Ahab and Israel to the worship of Baal, the storied Canaanite thunder god. Ahab even built an altar to the god in Samaria, while Jezebel "cut off [that is, slaughtered] the prophets of the Lord" (I Kings 18:4). And that was just for starters.

Nonetheless, a few godly men did survive her murderous campaign, including the prophet Elijah. He colorfully expressed the Lord's disgust by predicting that "The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel" (I Kings 21: 23), site of Ahab's palace. Sure enough, Jezebel met her fate at the hands of the Baal-hating king, Jehu, who had her thrown out a high window (II Kings 9: 33). And when Jehu's men went to collect Jezebel's remains, they found only her skull, her feet, and the palms of her hands (verse 35). Elijah's prophecy had been fulfilled.

Jezebel -- whose name means "Where's the prince?" in Hebrew -- has gone down in history as the most wicked woman in the entire Bible. In the New Testament, she is the archetype of the evil temptress; God himself vilifies her in Revelation (2:20). In later times, she would serve as a metaphor for a wicked and corrupting woman, especially one who wore lots of makeup. (Jezebel had attempted to hide from Jehu by painting her face -- thus the intensified insult is "painted Jezebel.")

Source: http://www.gracecathedral.org/enrichment/brush_excerpts/brush_20050315.shtml

V 24 – 25 Even in an apostate church where Jezebel is allowed to teach, there is a faithful remnant who hold fast. Are you able to remain faithful when all the others fall away?

V 26-29 What is the reward for those that stay faithful?

Rule and reign with Christ and you will be raptured. Morning Star is a metaphor for the rapture. As it is the last star before daylight when the night or darkness ends, and it is one of the names of Jesus.

Chapter 3

I. Sardis

City facts –

- Inland city – very high, walled and fortified
- Capital of Lydia
- Center of carpet industry
- Known for its wealth
- Temples to Apollo (Sun) / Cybil or Diana (Moon)



(1517AD- 1800AD) Church period – Protestant Church - Reformation

Protestants recovered:

- Justification by faith
- Authority of the word of God
- Depravity of Man
- Not everything was recovered and will not be till Jesus returns

V1 - 7 stars and 7 spirits refers to recovering church doctrine and Holy Spirit.

Condemnation: You think you are alive but you are dead. No commendation.

- Legalism creeps into the church
- Church uses rituals and rules instead of a personal relationship.
- Church winks at sin

1. Have you been in a church that feels like it is dead?

2. What is your responsibility to ensure our Church is alive and vibrant with a bright lamb stand?

V2 - 4 – Wake Up had a special meaning to Sardis.

Sardis was on the top of the Mountain. There was only one entrance on the South side. All that was done to defend the city was post a guard at one gate because the terrain was a natural defense. Two times the guard went asleep and the entire city was taken. This was an embarrassing point and a reminder to them. (218BC cretin scaled gate and The Persians took the city) (549BC – Median Soldier got over the gate and Solutious took the city).



1. Who is watching the gates to our church, family and children?

2. Are we looking for Him? Are you on the lookout for the enemy or are you asleep?

3. What can we do to make sure we or those whom we love are not taken under by the enemy?

Works are never acceptable. Starting with Cain and his grain, God let us know it is by the Blood we overcome. Even in Sardis a few did not defile their Christian life. Like with Israel, God works through a remnant.

V5 –6 Problem verse Can one be blotted out of the Book of Life– 2 explanations

1. Book of Life – includes all that have physical life that Jesus died for and upon death their acceptance of Christ confirms them their place in the book – they are not blotted out. (Book of Death – Generation of Adam Genesis 5:1 & Book of Life Matt 1)
2. Book of Life contains only those with Spiritual Life and once in the book you can never be blotted out. The statement is in the positive as an affirmation.