

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 9

Thyatira I

Revelation 2:18-29



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).

Unless otherwise noted, images courtesy of the Satellite Bible Atlas and the Pictorial Library of Bible Lands (BiblePlaces.org)



2

Topics

- Thyatira
 - Background
- Sevenfold structure of each letter:
 - Name of the city
 - Specific attributes of Messiah
 - Praise - "I know..." - longest list of praises of any letter
 - Judgment - Jezebel
 - Encouragement
 - Promise to the Overcomer
 - "He who has an ear..."
- Does it fit? Church age / Woman & Leaven / Galatians



3

Revelation 2:8-11(CJB)

Rev 2:18-29 "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Thyatira, write: 'Here is the message from the Son of God, whose eyes are like a fiery flame and whose feet are like burnished brass: (19) I know what you are doing, your love, trust, service and perseverance. And I know that you are doing more now than before. (20) But I have this against you: you continue to tolerate that Izevel woman, the one who claims to be a prophet, but is teaching and deceiving my servants to commit sexual sin and eat food that has been sacrificed to idols. (21) I gave her time to turn from her sin, but she doesn't want to repent of her immorality. (22) So I am throwing her into a sickbed; and those who commit adultery with her I am throwing into great trouble, unless they turn from the sins connected with what she does; (23) and I will strike her children dead! Then all the Messianic communities will know that I am the one who searches minds and hearts, and that I will give to each of you what your deeds deserve.



4

Revelation 2:8-11(CJB)

Rev 2:18-29 (24) But to the rest of you in Thyatira, to those who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some people call the 'deep things' of the Adversary, I say this: I am not loading you up with another burden; (25) only hold fast to what you have until I come. (26) To him who wins the victory and does what I want until the goal is reached, I will give him authority over the nations; (27) he will rule them with a staff of iron and dash them to pieces like pottery, (28) just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star. (29) Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities." '



5



Thyatira Roman
street



6



Thyatira colonnaded Roman street



7



Thyatira Greek
inscription
mentioning wool
workers



8



Thyatira arch along colonnaded Roman street



9

A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple cloth



Flowering madder at Zichron Yaakov

Acts 16:14

10

A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple cloth



Wool textile with purple stripe, made with vegetal indigotin and madder, 132-136 AD

16:14

11

Revelation 2	References
18 "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Thyatira, write: 'Here is the message from the Son of God , whose eyes are like a fiery flame and whose feet are like burnished brass :'	<p>Psa 2:7 I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.</p> <p>Dan 10:6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.</p> <p>Mal 3:2-4 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. (3) He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD.</p> <p>Mat 3:17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."</p> <p>Mat 16:15-16 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" (16) Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."</p> <p>Joh 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.</p>

16:14

12

Revelation 2	References
(19) I know what you are doing, your love, trust, service, and perseverance. And I know that you are doing more now than before.	<p>Job 17: 9 Yet the righteous holds to his way, and he who has clean hands grows stronger and stronger.</p> <p>Pro 4: 18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.</p> <p>John 15: 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.</p> <p>Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things, there is no law.</p> <p>2Th 1:3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.</p>

13

I know your works

1. Love –Love for God and love for one another needs to be the first priority of our works
2. Trust/Faith –confidence and faithfulness to God –clinging to the promises that are as yet unseen despite our circumstances
3. Service –sacrificial selflessness in giving our time, talents, and possessions to one another in His name
4. Perseverance –longsuffering for the Master, various trials without bitterness or retaliation. Patient endurance with one another.
5. Improving –they are getting better at doing all of the above

14

Revelation 2	References
<p>(20) But I have this against you: you continue to tolerate that Izevel woman, the one who claims to be a prophet, but is teaching and deceiving my servants to commit sexual sin and eat food that has been sacrificed to idols.</p> <p>(21) I gave her time to turn from her sin, but she doesn't want to repent of her immorality.</p>	<p>Deu 13:1-5 "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, (2) and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,' which you have not known, 'and let us serve them,' (3) you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. ... (5) But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death because he has taught rebellion against the LORD your God...</p>

15



16



Muhraqa statue of Elijah on Mount Carmel



17



Tel Jezreel aerial from west



18



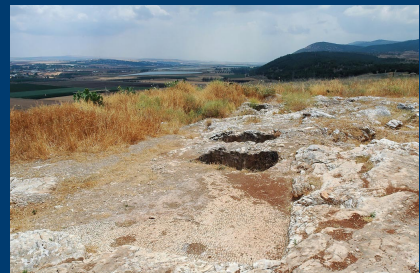
Tel Jezreel with grapevines

1Ki 21:1-23 Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. (2) And after this Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house, and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money." (3) But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers." (4) And Ahab went into his house vexed and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him, for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and would eat no food. (5) But Jezebel, his wife, came to him and said to him, "Why is your spirit so vexed that you eat no food?" (6) And he said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money, or else, if it please you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" (7) And Jezebel, his wife, said to him, "Do you now govern Israel? Arise and eat bread and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."



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8) So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and she sent the letters to the elders and the leaders who lived with Naboth in his city. (9) And she wrote in the letters, "Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth at the head of the people. (10) And set two worthless men opposite him, and let them bring a charge against him, saying, 'You have cursed God and the king.' Then take him out and stone him to death." (11) And the men of his city, the elders and the leaders who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. As it was written in the letters that she had sent to them, (12) they proclaimed a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people. (13) And the two worthless men came in and sat opposite him. And the worthless men brought a charge against Naboth in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth cursed God and the king." So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones. (14) Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned; he is dead." (15) As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money, for Naboth is not alive, but dead." (16) And as soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.



Tel Jezreel winepress with view east of Harod Valley



20

