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Seven Churches Thyatira – Corrupt Church

Revelation 2:18-29, *“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, ‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: ¹⁹“I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. ²⁰Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. ²¹And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. ²²Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. ²³I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. ²⁴“Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. ²⁵But hold fast what you have till I come. ²⁶And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—*

27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'— as I also have received from My Father; 28 and I will give him the morning star. 29 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." '

Thyatira:

Small church gets the biggest letter.

This letter to the church in Thyatira begins the second group of letters to the churches of Asia Minor.

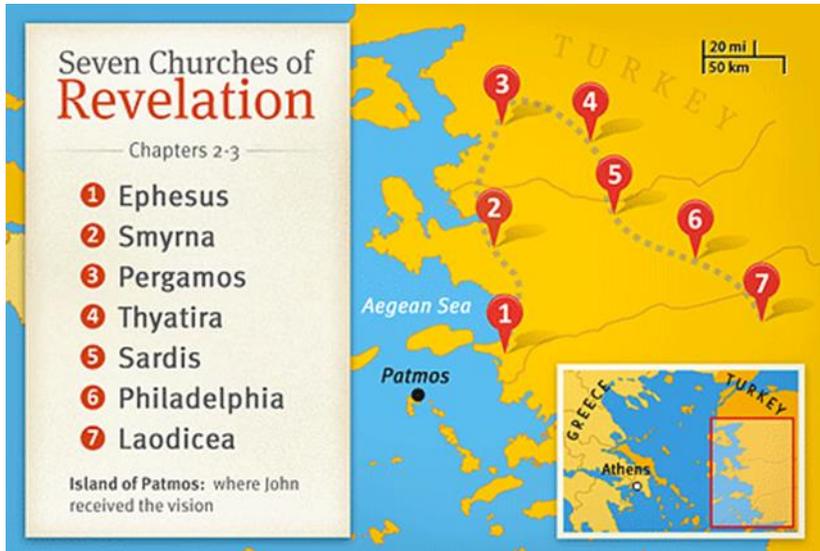
In the first group,

- the church of Ephesus was characterized by a loyalty to Christ which was lacking in love.
- In the church of Smyrna, loyalty was tested by fire.
- In the church of Pergamos the loyalty was lacking in moral passion.

Yet all three churches were true to the faith and had not yielded to the assaults of evil.

In the case of the church at Thyatira, as of the churches in Sardis and Laodicea, the situation was far more serious. Here not merely a small minority was indifferent but large numbers had yielded to the demoralizing influence of false teaching, and sin.

Between Pergamos and Sardis, about 30 to 40 miles each way.



This had become a Roman occupied city since about 190 B.C., so for nearly three centuries now it has been under Roman rule.

The city was in a very long valley, a valley that swept all the way down to Pergamos. It was not a well-fortified city. In fact, it had no natural defence at all. The city was this long history – even before and after the Romans, it is a history of conquering and destructions and rebuilding.

Every enemy that came into Asia Minor came down through that valley, swept through, and devastated this small city of Thyatira. It was infiltrated by every army that came along. They were always seemingly in the danger of marching armies.

Thyatira was the gateway to Pergamos. In order to get to Pergamos, down that Caicus valley, you had to go through Thyatira.

So, all it was good for was to put up a fight so that the troops in Pergamos could get their act together and be ready when the enemy arrived. They were like bait. They got eaten.

Thyatira was originally populated by soldiers of Alexander the Great as about a 30 to a 40-mile buffer line of defence so that the troops in Pergamos, which was the greater city and the more desirable one, could defend themselves. It was little more than a military garrison to guard Pergamos. It provided nothing but delaying action. So, it was destined to go through a history of destruction and rebuilding many times.

The Romans took over in 190 B.C., and they brought in the Roman Peace, they ruled the world and there was a certain amount of peace. During that time this little city of Thyatira sort of flourished.

Thyatira became the centre of wool and dyeing of cloth. Historians tell us it became the centre of guilds, trade guilds which would be much like unions today. There were people who had the same trade who banded together. It had more trade guilds in this city than of the other cities in these seven letters.

Thyatira was the headquarters for many ancient guilds:

- potters,
- tanners,
- weavers,
- robe makers and
- dyers guilds.

One of the very prominent things there was the dyeing of cloth.

The purple dye that was used there was world famous. It came from two sources.

One source was a root called the madder-root which grew around Thyatira and from that root they could extract purple dye.

The other source was a little sea shellfish called murex. From the throat of that tiny little sea animal came one drop of precious purple dye. They would catch these little fish and extract from them this dye.

Because it was difficult to get it out of the madder-root and even more difficult to get it out of the little murex, it was very costly. So, this little city flourished as a commercial centre for purple dye and for the garments that would go along with that.

Today Thyatira is a little city, known as **Akhisar, Turkey**, has about 25,000 people living in it. The main means of life today is weaving oriental rugs, so they are still in the textile business.

Guilds:

One of the curiosities of this town was the guilds, the people banded together for the various trades they were engaged in. Each guild had a god.

Each guild had come to define a guardian god that particularly gave himself to taking care of them. They worshiped that god. If you were associated with a guild, you were in a religious group and you had to worship that god of the guild. Associated with that worship was immorality, as in almost all the pagan systems.

So, there would be idols, idol feasts, and immoral orgies. If someone were involved in the wool industry and they were working with sheep, then they would belong to a guild. In order to have good standing in the guild they must engage in the guild activities.

Failure to engage in the guild activities, one could easily be dispossessed. The guild has a god. The guild has routine activities which involve sacrifices to that god, feasts to that god, along with immoral orgies.

If you are a Christian, then you can't do that then you could lose your job.

So religiously this little town wasn't really the centre of anything. The chief god there was Apollo, but religiously it wasn't the centre of any notable worship.

Church at Thyatira:

Acts chapter 16 about a certain lady by the name of Lydia.

Acts 16:14-15, *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. ¹⁵And 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.*

At the time she was in Philippi, probably on business, but her home was Thyatira.

She was a seller of purple. She was in the textile industry there. Acts 16 tells us that she heard the Apostle Paul and was converted. It also tells us that some of her household were converted and it is not impossible that she is being the first convert in Europe went back with those of her household who were saved and were responsible for starting the church in Thyatira. She dealt with the sale of purple.



Acts 19:10, *And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.*

Paul's two years in Ephesus preaching Ephesus led to sprung up many churches.

So, it may well have been that it just spread from Paul's two years in Ephesus.

Author of the Letter:

Our Lord introduces Himself as the author.

V18, *And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:*

1. The author is identified there as the Son of God.
2. The one who has the eyes like a flame of fire.
3. The one who has feet like burnished bronze.

Jesus Christ is the author.

1. The author is identified there as the Son of God.

He is identified as the Son of God. This is His messianic title. Means His deity. He is one with God in essence. He is the Son of God.

Revelation 1:13, *and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.*

Here Jesus is described as the Son of Man. The Lord chooses to deviate and dictates it such to John.

From that title Son of Man in the image in chapter 1 vision, to Son of God.

Son of Man is the name of His humiliation.

Son of Man is the name that emphasizes His sympathetic identification with believers as He walks among the churches.

In the vision of chapter 1 Jesus moves among the churches trimming the lamps, holding the pastors or the leaders in His hand, ministering, serving the people.

When Jesus introduces Himself as a Son of Man, it introduces Him in His humiliation, His sympathy as the merciful faithful high priest.

- His comfort,
- His encouragement
- His tenderness,
- He is loving, and
- His sensitivity.

Because He too was a man and understands. Whenever He is designated Son of Man, to know,

- ✓ the trials of His church,
- ✓ the needs of His church, and
- ✓ the temptations of His church.

But specifically, here Jesus identifies Himself, not as the Son of Man, as the Son of God.

Reason being that He is not emphasizing Him in His humility but emphasizing Him in His divine power.

Jesus emphasizing His deity. That shows that His sympathy is over.

Particular to this church He is not coming as the sympathizer, but He is coming as the judge.

He is not coming as the man who understands;
He is coming as the God who does not tolerate.
He is coming in severe judgment.

Just for your own understanding, it is the only place “Son of God” is used in the book of Revelation.

He is coming as Son of God, He is coming in angry deity, if we might say so.

In fact, to see His anger.

Revelation 2:23, “I will kill her children with pestilence.”

Revelation 2:27, He shall rule them with a rod of iron;
They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessel

Crushing authority!

2. The one who has the eyes like a flame of fire.

Jesus comes as Son of God, and it speaks to us of the severity of His action against this church.

The author and that part of His character, that part of His nature which best describes His relationship to this church.

Revelation 1:14, *His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;*

Jesus at His second coming!

Revelation 19:12, *His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.*

His laser vision penetrates everything, consumes every opposition, sweeps down all obstructions, presses its way with invincible power to bring judgment.

Same imagery was given in the book of Daniel.

Daniel 10:6, *His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in colour, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.*

We know that the church in trouble when the Lord sends a letter like that. Such are the eyes of the Son of God that pierce all masks and all coverings. The hidden things of every soul from which there is no escape.

3. The one who has feet like burnished bronze.

Revelation 19:15, *Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule*

them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

It's a picture of devastating judgment.
Judgement begins at the house God.

1 Peter 4:17, *For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?*

Commendation

V 19, *"I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.*

1) Works:

This fellowship had hard workers that were known for their actions, not just their beliefs.

2) Love:

The church at Thyatira, in contrast to Ephesus, had love for many people. In fact, they are the only church that Jesus commended for having love. But this could prove to be a downfall.

3) Faith:

Their deeds and love were motivated by their faith in Christ.

4) Service:

This church was heavily involved in ministry and in serving others.

5) Patience:

They had patient endurance/steadfastness.

6) Doing More:

Their latter works exceeded the first. That means they were growing in their faith, not just resting in something God did for them in the past.

So, this is the commendation.

Condemnation:

V 20, Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My slaves to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Jezebel was not the name of the person, but it was to identify the spirit behind.

Jezebel was a woman in the Old Testament who led the people of Israel to commit sexual sin and worship idols. This woman is identified as Jezebel because she did the same thing in the church.

At the end of verse 20 says that ***she led the slaves of Christ to commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.***

She was very effective.

She was leading true Christians astray.

Can true Christians commit acts of immorality?

Of course, they can!

1 Corinthians 6:15-20, *Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not!* ¹⁶ *Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.”* ¹⁷ *But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.* ¹⁸ *Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.* ¹⁹ *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?* ²⁰ *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.*

Here Paul is telling Christians that don’t commit fornication. The assumption is it’s very possible.

Can Christians end up eating meat offered to idols?

Of course, they can.

1 Corinthians 10:19-22, *What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything?* ²⁰ *Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with*

demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. ²² Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?

Thyatira church were doing it.

- ❖ They would go worship the idol and then come worship the Lord.
- ❖ They would go to the feast of the idol and then come to the table of Christ.

This woman had succeeded in leading true Christians to engage themselves in idol feasts and sexual sin. The sexual sin probably connected to the orgies going on in those idol feasts.

This woman has committed a very serious sin!

Matthew 18:6-9, *“But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷ Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes! ⁸ “If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.*

What the Lord Jesus taught us is that:

- You be better off to die a painful, horrible death than to cause another Christian to sin.
- Whenever the world does something to make a Christian sin, woe to that person who does that.
- The world tolerates all the sin and when it causes a Christian to stumble, God remembers who caused that.
- If any of your physical body elements then pluck them off because if those are the things effecting your sin, you be better off without them.

V20, Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My slaves to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Jesus wanted to make sure that no one should doubt who is causing this sin that is why Jesus said that she is causing Christians to be led astray.

“You tolerate the woman Jezebel.”

Jezebel, she is named, because like the original Jezebel, she seduced the slaves of Christ. She was Satan’s agent to corrupt Christians.

Who is this Jezebel?

1 Kings 16:30-33, *Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him. ³¹ And it came*

to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. ³² Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. ³³ And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

Father name: Ethbaal (named after Baal), king of the Sidonians. She married Ahab, King of Israel and came into Israel. She brought in Baal worship into Israel.

Ahab made idol for god Asherah, a strange female god.

2 Kings 9:22, *Now it happened, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, "Is it peace, Jehu?" So he answered, "What peace, as long as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcraft are so many?"*

So, we can conclude Jezebel was a Baal-worshipping harlot who was a witch!

She was a vicious, wicked, perverted woman, and she brought in Baal worship with all the dress, feasts, idols, and orgies. The priests of Baal were wicked sex perverts.

So, this woman in the church being called Jezebel had successfully seduced the members of the church. She had led some of them into idolatry and some to immoral sex activity. Symbolically she is called Jezebel.

Remember the whole town had guilds, they want them to be engaged in all the activities, including the ceremonies, feasts, festivals, orgies, and they were compelled for the sake of that.

How could have Jezebel led them astray?

Possibly,

1. Your spirit is pure, but your flesh is flesh and you can't do about it. The flesh is wicked, and the flesh is for only this life. Do whatever you want in the flesh when you get to heaven you will have new flesh.
2. Grace: It really doesn't matter what you do all your sins are forgiven. God will forgive you. You won't lose your salvation. Satan can never conquer us because we are safe in Christ, so you have nothing to fear.

Who knows what other kind of mixture she came up with?

She got a platform there; she was teaching and leading people astray. Imagine a women preacher 2000 years back!

2 Kings 9:33-37, *Then he said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on*

the horses; and he trampled her underfoot. ³⁴ And when he had gone in, he ate and drank. Then he said, "Go now, see to this accursed woman, and bury her, for she was a king's daughter." ³⁵ So they went to bury her, but they found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands. ³⁶ Therefore they came back and told him. And he said, "This is the word of the Lord, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 'On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel; ³⁷ and the corpse of Jezebel shall be as refuse on the surface of the field, in the plot at Jezreel, so that they shall not say, "Here lies Jezebel." ' ' "

They threw her off the wall, she was crushed, the dogs ate her, and they made her remains manure.

Jezebel being identified is going to get the wrath of the Lord. To make matters worse, it says she calls herself a prophetess. She claimed her message was from God.

But it was not from God, it was from Satan. It was doctrines of demons, and she was a hypocritical liar who was under the control of seducing spirits.

Amazingly she was effective in this church. She was teaching and leading the slaves of Jesus Christ astray, and they were engaging in immoral activity and they were going to the idol feasts.

How could a church surrender to that?

They did. But they didn't deal with sin.

Sin at the level of false doctrine and sin at the level of immorality.

Command:

Grace upon Grace:

V 21, *And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent*

The Lord gave time!

She doesn't want to repent.

The past-tense form of the verb shows to us that the time what the Lord gave her was over.

John 3:19, *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

V 22, *Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.*

I don't think it's a bed of sickness Jesus's talking about.

This bed might be,

- The luxurious bed where she committed and advocated her immorality,

- The reclining couch at the idol feast where she ate things offered to false gods

She wants a bed, I will give her a bed, and the name of the bed is not sickness, but the bed in hell.

The name of the bed is hell. It's a bed of death.

V22, *Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.*

Lord can't say, "I am going to send all the people who commit adultery with her to hell," because some of them are Christians.

For those who have committed adultery with her, I am going to throw them in to severe trouble.

This is God's chastening.

Some of them may even die in that unless they repent of her deeds. They weren't doing even their own deeds, they were just joining in and doing hers. Trouble for all those who followed her because they didn't repent.

V23, *I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.*

What does Jesus mean?

Christians who following Jezebel immorality, the second generation of her falsehood.

The church had been established and it's been 40 years when Lord Jesus wrote this letter. This letter was written around 95 A.D. This Jezebel influence of sexual immorality is been around, and it is also passed on to the next generation.

She has brought forth a generation who are advocating the same thing, offspring of her wickedness.

The Lord says that I will kill them with a pestilence, a plague, Very severe judgment.

Jesus wants His church pure.

If they don't repent immediately, Jesus is going to chasten them severely.

It may even cost some of them their lives like Ananias and Sapphira and the people in Corinth who died for corrupting the Lord's table.

Why does Lord do this?

V23, *I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.*

There were lot of churches doing that, but the Lord punished this one. Why as a sign so that others will fear Him and the purity of the church.

Like there were so many people lie like Ananias and Sapphira but why they alone were killed? It was warning to the people who wandering in the churches.

So, in effect what the Lord is saying is that He is putting this church severe punishment as a display to show what kind of church He is building.

If you call yourself a **prophet**, you better be speaking the truth. You better not be leading God's people into

- any error or
- any sin or
- any form of idolatry or
- any form of immorality.

If you do that then you are bringing upon yourself death and hell.

If you are a **Christian** and you are following

- some false prophet or
- false doctrine and
- engaging in some kind of sin,

you better repent or you are going to find yourself in great trouble.

If you are the second generation and you have sat at the feet of some false prophet and you are emitting off that same stuff, you are going to get the same sentence, and the Lord may kill you with death, too.

The Lord searches your heart.

Jeremiah 17:10, *I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.*

Jeremiah 11:20, *But, O Lord of hosts, You who judge righteously, Testing the mind and the heart, Let me see Your vengeance on them, For to You I have revealed my cause.*

Jeremiah 20:12, *But, O Lord of hosts, You who test the righteous, And see the mind and heart, Let me see Your vengeance on them; For I have pleaded my cause before You.*

Psalms 7:9, *Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, But establish the just; For the righteous God tests the hearts and minds.*

- ✓ God is the one who searches the heart and searches the mind.
- ✓ God knows the deep reality and He will find it.
- ✓ God has intimate knowledge.

- ✓ God has perfect knowledge to the very depths, and no evil can be hidden from Him.
- ✓ God's judgment is accurate, and it's based on perfect understanding of every single detail.

V23, *I will give to each one of you according to your works.*

Lord is talking to everybody in the church and everybody outside the church.

Why does He say that?

Because I can only imagine that instant panic set in.

Because you are sitting in church while this letter is being read.

Righteous will be feeling good about love, faithfulness, service, perseverance and everything is fine.

Commitment:

V 24: *“Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.*

These are words of comfort.

Malachi 3:16-17, *Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, And the Lord listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the Lord And who meditate on His name. ¹⁷ “They shall be*

Mine,” says the Lord of hosts, “On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him.”

God knows the difference.

When God brings down against His people, His church in judgment, He is not going to judge everybody.

Malachi 3:18, *Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him.*

God is going to give everybody according to their deeds, and He knows the righteous from those who are sinful.

Malachi 4:1-2, *“For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,” Says the Lord of hosts, “That will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.*

Hold fast!

V25, *But hold fast what you have till I come.*

1 Corinthians 10:12, *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*

Until Jesus comes back!

Is Jesus talking about His second coming?

In the case of Thyatira, it was referring to His arrival there to wipe those sinners out.

Generically its His Second coming for everyone.

V26-28, *And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—²⁷ ‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’— as I also have received from My Father;²⁸ and I will give him the morning star.*

Who is an overcomer?

1 John 5:4-5, *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

Jesus promises two things.

1. I will give authority over nations
2. I will give Him morning star

1. I will give authority over nations

What does that mean?

Overcomers, Christians, you are going to reign with Christ in an earthly millennial Kingdom.

For those who don't accept the millennial kingdom, if you don't have a millennium, then this promise makes no sense!

Psalm 2:7-9, *"I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "*

There are no nations with full of people in heaven which is going to be bashed around with a rod of iron or broken like a pot in heaven.

This is got to be on earth and that is got to be a millennial Kingdom.

Church in Thyatira, you have been hammered so get ready for your time to take your own hammer and sit on a throne and rule with Christ.

Who gets hit with the rod of iron during the millennial Kingdom?

The nations that come against God and Christ, the rebellious, wicked nations, the ones that would attack the sheep.

The word rule in Greek word is '*poimainō*', which means shepherd.

Meaning: Jesus will shepherd them with a rod of iron.

A shepherd has a rod, but he always had a wooden rod, but Jesus says when I get to my Kingdom, My rod is going to be made out of iron.

Times the sheep would be being attacked by wolves or whatever wild animals, and the shepherd would use the rod to smash that animal and fight that animal off who came to attack his sheep.

Jesus is saying that there is a time in the Millennial Kingdom when the nations of the world are going to move against Him and His people. At that time He is going to wield a rod of iron, and use that rod to smash them like clay pots, and the overcomers are going to be there with Him.

Overcomers are going to be ruling with Jesus, protecting His people in the Kingdom, protecting holiness and righteousness.

Jesus Christ rules as King of kings and Lord and lords and every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess. When the whole curse is reversed, when the lion lies down the lamb, and the children can play with the poisonous snakes because they are no longer poisonous, when the desert blossoms like a rose.

2. I will give Him morning star

Jesus says that He will give the morning star.

Overcomers are going to glow with glory! Shine with Shekinah!!

Revelation 22:16, *“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”*

The Lord is saying that He will give Himself.

2 Peter 1:19, *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;*

If we are Christians, the morning star has already dawned in our hearts. Someday in the future we will have Him in His fullness.

Conclusion

V 20-23, The seriousness of sin in the church and how God reacts to it.

V24-26, The evidence of true Christianity.

You don't hold false doctrine,

You are not involved in these kinds of sins,

You are holding fast,

Your faith is consistent in overcoming,

Your life has a pattern of obedience that shows up in the way you live.

The evidence of true Christianity.

Are you???