

ENDGAME

A Study On Revelation (Week #16)

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REVIEW

Churches

- Ephesus
 - Local: Capital, Most important city in Asia, Wealthy, Massive Temple
 - Church: Devotion, not just doctrine
 - Prophetic: Apostolic Church
 - Personal: Neglected Priorities (business of the king vs time with King)
 - Promise To Overcomer: Eat of the Tree of Life
- Smyrna
 - Local: Harbor, Beautiful, Rebuilt several times, Caesar Worship
 - Church: Endure persecution
 - Prophetic: Persecuted Church
 - Personal: Satanic Opposition
 - Promise To Overcomer: Not hurt of the Second Death
- Pergamos
 - Local: City of Satan, Altar of Zeus, Healing Temple, 2nd Largest Library
 - Church: Purify ambassadorship (Stand fast against the world)
 - Prophetic: Married Church (to world)
 - Personal: Spiritual Compromise
 - Promise To Overcomer: Manna, Stone, New Name

"Tares" (Seeds) Sown in Early Church

- Legalism (denial of Christ's completed work)
- Gnosticism (denial of Christ's humanity)
- Caesar worship (denial of Christ's Lordship)

Review of the Nicolaitans

- Who were they?
 - Were they a first-century sect abusing the liberty in Christ?
 - An untranslated word?
 - Greek: (νικῶ) Nicao: Conquer, prevail, overcome, rule, subdue
 - Greek: (λαός) Laos: Laity; people
 - Using their clerical stature or position to rule over the laity.
 - The "deeds" Ephesus had rejected had become the "doctrine" at Pergamos.

John 13:3 Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. **4** So he got up from the table,

took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, **5** and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. (NLT)

Revelation 2:18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write:..." (NASB)

Revelation 2:18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write..." (NKJ)

Revelation 2:18 "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Thyatira." (NLT)

THYATIRA: LOCAL APPLICATION

Scriptural Background

- Acts 16:14-15
 - Paul & Silas
 - Philippi
 - First Convert In Europe
 - Woman from Thyatira: _____

Geography

- Ak-Hissar now occupies the site where once stood the important military city of Thyatira.
- Today the road from Istanbul to Izmir runs through the small and unattractive town of Ak-Hissar (population: 30,000)
- The chief modern industry is rug-making
- The population is largely Greek and Armenian, and a few Jews
- The town is a large marsh, fever-laden, and especially unhealthful in the summer time
- Formed by the Lycus River, which the Turks now call Geurdeuk Chai
- The town is situated in one of the most fertile valleys of Asia Minor.
- In New Testament times, the city stood at the junction of three main roads leading to Pergamos, Sardis, and Smyrna.
- 26 miles north of Sardis, and 56 miles northwest of Smyrna
- It was originally a Lydian town bearing the name of Pelopia, then Semiramis, and then Euhippia.

Background / History

- Semiramis (consort of Nimrod), mother of posthumous son, Tammuz. This is the core trio the Babylonian mysteries (Nimrod, Semiramis, Tammuz).
- All paganism, all idols has it's roots in the Babylonian legends. (Week #14 - Jeremiah 10, change the way you see a certain holiday).

- It was taken by the Persians and then Alexander, and is ultimately passed to the possession of Lysimachus, one of Alexander's four generals.
- In 301 B.C., however, Lysimachus was defeated by his rival Seleucus I (Nicator) and it thus became part of Syria.
- Nicator named it "Thyatira" (Greek, *thygater*, for daughter) on being informed that a daughter had been born to him
- The city was converted into a frontier fortress to guard the way to Pergamos.
- Before the time of Nicator the place was regarded as a holy city
 - There stood the temple of the ancient Lydian sun-god, Tyrimnos
 - Games were held in his honor
- Upon the early coins of Thyatira this Asiatic god is represented as a horseman, bearing a double-headed battle-ax, similar to those represented on the sculptures of the _____
- A goddess associated with him was Boreatene, a deity of less importance.
- Another temple at Thyatira was dedicated to Sambethe, and at this shrine was a prophetess, by some supposed to represent the Jezebel
- Growing in commercial importance, Thyatira became a well-known center for trade _____. (_____)
- Membership in these was compulsory
- Essential if one was to pursue a trade
- These were well-organized corporate bodies
- Providing specific benefits and taking actions to protect their interests
- Often owning considerable property
- Each guild was under the patronage of some pagan deity
- All proceedings and feasts commenced with paying homage to the patron god or goddess.
- Difficult for the Christ-follower
 - The dilemma of the Christian tradesman continues in our own day
 - Is it appropriate for the believer to participate in the production of films, plays, books, or music which have an essential appeal to the flesh?
 - It is a choice between Christ or the world.
- Thyatira was known for its dyes—particularly its _____.
 - We now call it "Turkish red"
 - Derived from the madder-root which is prolific in the area.
 - Alternatives also included the murex, a shellfish from whose throat a drop of dye could be extracted

Acts 16:14 One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. **15** She and her household were baptized, and she asked us to be her guests. "If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my home." And she urged us until we agreed. (NLT)

- Lydia
 - A wealthy sales rep for Thyatira dwelling in Philippi
 - She and her household are baptized.
 - Invites Paul & Silas to her home.

Architecture

- Regarded as a town, its buildings are entirely modern.
- No amphitheater, no castle, no temple, no traces even of walls, have survived and braved the centuries.
- Its prosperity has been its destruction, in antiquarian sense.

THYATIRA: COOPERATE APPLICATION

Revelation 2:18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this: (NASB)

Revelation 2:18 "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: (NKJ)

Revelation 2:18 "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Thyatira. This is the message from the Son of God, whose eyes are like flames of fire, whose feet are like polished bronze: (NLT)

Letter to Thyatira: Title of Christ

- Middle Letter, longest letter
- Thyatira: formerly named "Semiramis" (consort of Nimrod, mother of Tammuz).
- "Son of God": The only mention in Revelation!
 - Acknowledgment: Peter's own confession (Mt 16:16-18)
 - Opposition to: "Queen of Heaven" (Jezebel)
- Jesus asserts His power and authority for _____
 - "eyes like fire, feet like brass,"
 - "like" (not were) = (similes) symbols of judgment!
 - Eyes of inspection, judgement - "fire in their eyes"
 - Feet of judgement, brass can sustain fire (not burned up)
 - Solid brass is heavier than cast iron.

Leviticus 26:17 I will turn against you, and you will be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you will rule over you, and you will run even when no one is chasing you! **18** "And if, in spite of all this, you still disobey me, I will punish you seven times over for your sins. **19** I will break your proud spirit by making the skies as unyielding

as iron and the earth as hard as bronze. **20** All your work will be for nothing, for your land will yield no crops, and your trees will bear no fruit. *(NLT)*

Revelation 2:19 'I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. *(NASB)*

Revelation 2:19 "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. *(NKJ)*

Revelation 2:19 "I know all the things you do. I have seen your love, your faith, your service, and your patient endurance. And I can see your constant improvement in all these things. *(NLT)*

Commendation

- "I know thy works..."
 - He loves us so much He can't take His eyes off us!
 - He is always fully informed on our actions and conditions.
- First the good news:
 - "Works...love...faith...service...faith...patience..."
 - They are _____!

Revelation 2:20 But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. **21** I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. **22** Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. *(NASB)*

Revelation 2:20 Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. **21** And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. **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. *(NKJ)*

Revelation 2:20 "But I have this complaint against you. You are permitting that woman—that Jezebel who calls herself a prophet—to lead my servants astray. She teaches them to commit sexual sin and to eat food offered to idols. **21** I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to turn away from her immorality. **22** "Therefore, I will throw her on a bed of suffering, and those who commit adultery with her will suffer greatly unless they repent and turn away from her evil deeds. *(NLT)*

Concern

- Toleration of _____
 - She calls herself a prophetess
 - She leads people away
- Immorality
 - Sexual immorality
 - Idol worship (Intimacy with a false god - fornication)
- Knowingly eating sacrificed food
 - Engaging in practice of idolatry
 - Elijah at Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18).

Acts 15:29 You must abstain from eating food offered to idols, from consuming blood or the meat of strangled animals, and from sexual immorality. If you do this, you will do well. Farewell." (NLT)

- Time's up.
- The chief sin of this church simply consisted of failing to raise a protest against this woman who led them into idolatrous doctrines and practices.

Saying nothing is saying _____.
Knowingly allowing injustice or sin to continue is _____.

- First use of the phrase " _____ "
- Only the unrepentant church will go in.
- If they do repent, they will not.

1 Kings 16:30 But Ahab son of Omri did what was evil in the Lord's sight, even more than any of the kings before him. **31** And as though it were not enough to follow the sinful example of Jeroboam, he married Jezebel, the daughter of King Ethbaal of the Sidonians, and he began to bow down in worship of Baal. (NLT)

Jezebel

- Jezebel was the daughter of Eth-Baal
 - Eth-Baal is the King of Sidon, Priest of Astarte,
 - Murdered his predecessor, Pheles, whom he killed to seize the throne.
- She marries King _____ (Israel)
 - To seal a profitable trade alliance between Israel and Phoenicia.
- Jezebel sought to exterminate prophets of YHWH

1 Kings 18:13 Has no one told you, my lord, about the time when Jezebel was trying to kill the Lord's prophets? I hid 100 of them in two caves and supplied them with food and water. (NLT)

- The queen is running things
 - Of all the women seen in the Old Testament, none was more cunning or more daring or more unscrupulous.
- She obtained lands through "inquisition."
 - A vivid picture of the medieval church for a thousand-year period, including the Dark Ages.

1 Kings 18:18 Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table. (NLT)

Pagan Worship

- She and King Ahab ushered in the worst period in the Old Testament
- Worshipers of Baal and Astarte (originated in Babylon)
 - Ashtoreth (Judges 2:13; 10:6; 1 Samuel 31:10; 1 Kings 11:5,33)
 - The Groves in Deuteronomy 16:21
 - (Jews did not worship on the tops of hills)
 - (Groves of trees cut to look like phallic symbols - fertility rights)
 - The Abomination of Sidonians (2 Kings 23:3,6,7; Ezekiel 36:15)
 - "Queen of Heaven": A Babylonian concept (Jeremiah 7:18; 44:15-30)
- Compare Jezebel with: The Woman & the Leaven parable in Matthew 13

Jeremiah 7:18 No wonder I am so angry! Watch how the children gather wood and the fathers build sacrificial fires. See how the women knead dough and make cakes to offer to the Queen of Heaven. And they pour out liquid offerings to their other idol gods! (NLT)

Leviticus 2:1 "When you present grain as an offering to the Lord, the offering must consist of choice flour. You are to pour olive oil on it, sprinkle it with frankincense, (NLT)

1 Corinthians 5:7 Get rid of the old "yeast" by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us. **8** So let us celebrate the festival, not with the old bread of wickedness and evil, but with the new bread of sincerity and truth. (NLT)

Revelation 2:23 And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. *(NASB)*

Revelation 2:23 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. *(NKJ)*

Revelation 2:23 I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am the one who searches out the thoughts and intentions of every person. And I will give to each of you whatever you deserve. *(NLT)*

Exhortation

- _____
 - Jezebel
 - Children (followers)
- Within this church was an evil for which no remedial measures are sufficient.
 - There is the implication that only a remnant survives
 - "minds & hearts" (Jeremiah 17:10; Romans 8:27)
 - Actions determine consequences

Revelation 2:24 But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you. **25** Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come. *(NASB)*

Revelation 2:24 "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. **25** But hold fast what you have till I come. *(NKJ)*

Revelation 2:24 "But I also have a message for the rest of you in Thyatira who have not followed this false teaching ('deeper truths,' as they call them—depths of Satan, actually). I will ask nothing more of you **25** except that you hold tightly to what you have until I come. *(NLT)*

Deep Things

- "Bathos" = deep things of Satan vs. Deep things of God.
 - "Baros" = burden. "
- First promise in letters of His _____ !
 - This is expressed only in the last four letters.

1 Corinthians 2:10 But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. *(NLT)*

Revelation 2:26 He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; **27** and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority 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.' *(NASB)*

Revelation 2:26 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. **29** "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' *(NKJ)*

Revelation 2:26 To all who are victorious, who obey me to the very end, To them I will give authority over all the nations. **27** They will rule the nations with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots. **28** They will have the same authority I received from my Father, and I will also give them the morning star! **29** "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. *(NLT)*

Promise to the Overcomer

- First letter where the promise is inside the letter (before "anyone with ears")
- _____ Over The Nations
 - Was "power over nations" the goal of Jezebel?
 - "Rod of Iron": Psalm 2:7-9; Psalm 110:2
 - "Believers will judge the world": 1 Corinthians 6:2
 - "Holy people given kingdom": Daniel 7:18, 27
 - "Rod" = scepter (Heb 1:8)
- "Morning star"
 - Before sunrise (Rev 22:16; also 2 Peter 1:19)
 - Star of Jacob (Balaam prophesied): Numbers 24:17

Who is "the Overcomer"?

- Those who believe
- Serious faith leads to a natural byproduct of works

1 John 5:4 For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. **5** And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God. *(NLT)*