

05. Seven Letters to the Churches Rev. ch 2:18-29 Thyatira

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Who was Jezebel? Read 1 Kings 21.

The Letter to the Church at Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-29

Introduction to Thyatira

The road from Istanbul to Izmir runs through the small and unattractive town of **Akhisar** (it means the white fortress and has a population: 30,000) which now occupies the site where once stood the important military city of **Thyatira**. In New Testament times, the city stood at the junction of three main roads leading to Pergamos, Sardis, and Smyrna each of which received a letter from Jesus.

It was originally a Lydian town bearing the name of **Pelopia**, then later it was named **Semiramis**, and then **Euhippia**. It was taken by the Persians and then Alexander, and is ultimately passed to the possession of Lysimachus, one of Alexander's four generals. **Note** that it was once called **Semiramis** as there is a link to Jezebel. Same spirit but different person.

In 301 B.C., however, Lysimachus was defeated by his rival Seleucus I (Nicator) and it thus became part of Syria.

The city was converted into a frontier fortress to guard the way to Pergamos.

While Nicator was designing the city a daughter was born to him so Nicator named it "Thyatira" (Greek, thygater, for daughter) on being informed that a daughter had been born to him;

1. There was no place in the world that could dye cloth the colour of purple quite like Thyatira.

It was from Thyatira that Lydia came, "the seller of purple" spoken of in [Acts 16:14](#). She was in the town of Philippi (in Macedonia) doing business when she heard the Gospel from Paul for the first time! Many believe it was through her that the church was started in Thyatira.

Growing in commercial importance, Thyatira became a **well-known centre for trade guilds**. Membership in these was compulsory and 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. They were organised unions of weavers, tanners, cobblers, bronze workers etc. Each guild was under the patronage of some pagan deity, and all proceedings and feasts commenced with paying homage to the patron god or goddess.

Pauls letter to the

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Corinthians indicates that the trade guilds were presenting very serious ethical challenges and problems to the Christian community who were seeking to avoid being entangled with unholy practises. Belonging to these trade guilds meant that the members were required to take part in pagan ritual, and ceremonial banquets which were often drunken orgies. But to get ahead one had to participate in these things. Obviously they could not do the paying homage thing, without compromising their faith. But disengaging in these things could result in the loss of business and social acceptance. So, these were some of the problems facing Christian businessmen.



Thyatira The Church Where Anything Goes

It was obligatory on members to attend guild meetings and to engage in the idolatrous ritual which seemed an essential preliminary to the business discussion. Guild banquets were attended by considerable sexual freedom, and Christian craftsmen were accordingly faced with the common temptation to licence and immorality. Some argued that this was inevitable because of the very conditions of life and that the licence indulged in at a guild gathering had no relevance to Christian life and conduct elsewhere. Others maintained that a man should have confidence in his ability to confront and defeat temptation because of his integrity and strength of character.

If Christians had been saved while members of these guilds it would mean more than just changing churches for them. Out of loyalty to Jesus and the sense of morality that comes from the new nature that is given the believer in regeneration they would want to not attend the guild meetings any longer. But to do so would mean loss of income or even of their job. Into this conflict comes a **powerful prophetess who claims that God's message from her is that these things are of no significance. That to participate in the worship of the patron saints of the guilds is only a necessary evil.** This is similar to the message that some in the Christian church are teaching today. But what kind of a witness can Christians have if they have submitted to the patterns of this world. We then loose our right to be heard as a credible witness.

Thyatira was the cultic centre of the sun god Apollos.

Thyatira portrays the medieval papacy from **600 to 1500 A.D.** And as we go through this letter we are going to be surprised at how accurate Jesus was in His prophetic utterances.

Thyatira is the smallest city of the seven churches, yet this is the longest letter. It could be that this is because it represents the longest church era. Nearly a thousand years!!

The dream to establish and enforce the pretensions of the Roman church constitute **the major part of the history of the Middle Ages.**

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The Chaldean priest who interpreted the *esoteric doctrines* (intended for a small elite number of people to be in the know) of the Babylonian mysteries was called Peter (i.e. "the interpreter"). Nothing to do with Peter the Apostle.

The Peter who was the interpreter of the Babylonian mysteries, wore an insignia of the two keys of Janus and Cybele, **which still appear on the Papal arms as symbols of spiritual authority.**

It **was** these two gods (**Janus and Cybele**) that were supposed to have had the power of heaven and earth. As you can see, all this ties in with the Isis-Semiramis et al lineage of goddess worship that goes down through millennia and in which today's Illuminati still revel.

About 378, the Pope became heir to the keys that were the symbols of two well-known Pagan divinities at Rome. Janus bore a key, and Cybele bore a key; and these are the two keys that the Pope emblazons on his arms as the ensigns of his spiritual authority. (and flag)



The connection to Paganism is immediately obvious. The Roman church connected into all the Babylonian mysteries that came down through the ages right from *Genesis* and incorporated it all into the Christian church.

Paganism in the Church became huge at this time.

The danger to the church at Thyatira did not arise from the persecutions of imperial Rome nor from the animosity of Jewish attitudes. It arose from **within the church itself**—all the more serious and dangerous to deal with. So this church was **corrupted**

from the inside out. It totally embraces paganism but gives it new Christian names.

A Resume

The Book of Revelation is divided into 3 parts.

1. The things you have seen - that is the vision in ch 1.
2. The things that are ch 2&3 (the churches until the end of the church age)
3. the things that are **Meta Tauta** ie. That come after these things.

The word Meta Tauta is a strong word and says After the churches it's the next thing. After the Church Age.

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There are two ages - The Church Age which everyone is familiar with. We often say we are living in the church age, the age of Grace. But it has a life span. Then it is removed and God deals with His people the Jews. He comes back to dealing with them **as a nation**. He dealt with them for thousands of years in the Old Testament times. Then Jesus came. This ushered in the **Church age** and the Times of the **Gentiles**. It is called this for a reason, it's mainly for those who are **non Jewish**. So **AFTER** the times of the Gentiles have come to their fulness God removes them and deals with the Jews specifically.

Rom 11:25 until the fullness of the Gentiles.

The word 'church is mentioned **19 times** in chapters 1-3. After that Jesus does not refer to the Church again. Let's not forget that it was Jesus Himself who gave this Revelation in its completeness it's not divided up, we should not think it is out of order, it is in chronological order for God is precise as we have seen so many times before in our studies. It runs from the beginning of the Church age, through to the Tribulation, to the second coming of Jesus to the earth, through the Millennium and into the New Heaven and New Earth. It's one complete chronological account of the end times which started with the birth of the church. It's very probable that the Book of Revelation is the Revealing, by Jesus Christ of the part of the Book of Daniel which at the time of Daniel he was told to seal up the book until the time of the end.

Dan 12:4 *But you, Daniel, **roll up and seal** the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."*

Revelation 22:10

*Then he told me, "**Do not seal up** the words of prophecy in this book, because the time is near.*

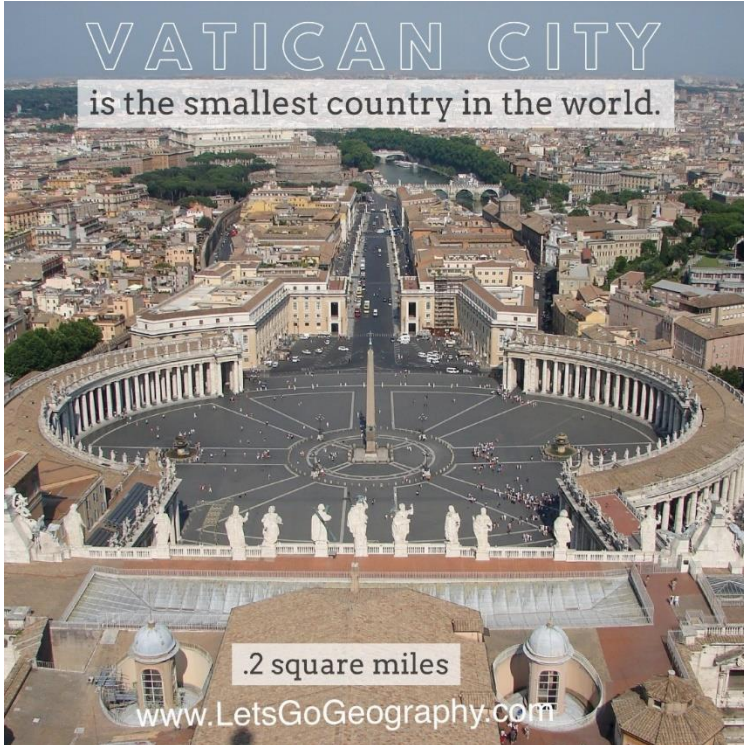
To remind ourselves - Nimrod married his mother Semiramis, and became the first world dictator and built many cities including the ancient city of Babylon. The founder of the Sumerians. To symbolise his power he wore a type of helmet with a horn at the front, as did many other people after eg Vikings. He led all pagan worship of sun, moon, stars etc and offered sacrifices of their children. This is echoed in other cultures such as the Aztecs, the Mayans, Incas etc and the repetition of building towers and trying to get nearer to heaven. Babylon was the Mother of all this and the mother of harlots. Everything centred around sex and fertility and sexual rites.

Noah's son Shem was Nimrod's uncle **Gen ch 10:6,8,10, 21** According to ancient history Shem and 72 co-conspirators had his uncle Nimrod killed and his body was cut up into 72 pieces.

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His body parts were sent to all the cities under his rule as a warning to those who would continue in his wickedness. Nimrod's wife/mother, Semiramis, decided to get all the body



parts back together and managed to do so, all except one part which was his private part. So in dedication to this she built the first obelisk.

She had it put up in Babylon 130 ft high and 125 ft wide it is known as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. According to the Historian Diodorus Siculus his Roman Antiquities, "Bibliotheca Historica" Book 2 Ch 2.

The word 'obelisk' means the shaft of Bel. These obelisks have been repeated all over the world, they are also known as a phallic symbol. That is the body part it

represents, and we have spoken about this before as there is one famous one at the Vatican.

There are numerous others around in almost every city in the world. This pagan influence is all around without us even being aware of it half the time. It was all about Fertility and sexual rites.

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Washington DC

This is the famous one at the White House

The Monument in Washington D.C. is often seen as a prime example of phallic architecture and American masculinity.

After the death of Nimrod, Semiramis and her priests maintained that they were the only ones who understood the

great mysteries of God, (It's a Mystery Religion) her priests followed celibacy so on the outside they practised no marriage, but it was a religious cover to hide adultery, fornication, homosexuality, and all kinds of devious sexual activity. She announced that her dead husbands' son was now officially a god and she called Nimrod, Baal, the sun god. And he was worshipped. She became pregnant but claimed she was still a virgin and she gave birth to a son called Douzi or Tammuz and claimed that Tammuz was Nimrod incarnated.

We covered some of this last week. But what is coming out of all this is that from the earliest time even this ancient culture (who came from the line of Ham,) was aware of the Book of Genesis. Nimrod is in the genealogy at the beginning **Gen ch 10**. Even that a Messiah would be birthed through a virgin. **Gen 3:15** which is a reference to Someone coming who would bruise the head of Satan. Notice how it is written, your seed referring to Satans seed, has a small 's' and her Seed, referring to the Seed of the woman has a big 'S'. Little details but carrying great significance.

So Semiramis is claiming that she is that virgin. She's the promised one who will bring forth this special child. However she is a whore, a wicked woman who seeks power and worship. She was seeking to elevate her son to godhood. She was trying to make a fulfilment of the Christ child from her own devious plans. It was out of all this that the Babylonian Mystery religion emerged.

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Trees and branches became symbols of Nimrod because Nimrod was cut down by Shem so a tree stump became a place of honouring Nimrod. In fact the scriptures tell us how he was worshipped.

Jeremiah 10:2-5we looked at last week, the cutting down of a tree and decorating it etc..... these things all became part of the church traditions.

Also the wreath was important to them because that represented the woman's private body part. Ties in with the obelisk and the circle we see all over the world. Especially the Vatican.

Ezekiel ch 8:7-18 Notice the weeping for Tammuz. This was in the Temple of God now become a place of occultism and harlotry.

Semiramis became an official goddess Ashtoreth, Astarte, Isis, Ashteroth, all meaning Queen of Heaven.

The way they would celebrate her is they made little cakes for her. **Jer. 7:18** they did this because they believed that as they held the little cake in their hands and ate it, they were eating their god and were mystically being united with him as they ate.

This can be seen in the mass today. It is a blasphemy because of where it came from.

Jer 44:16-17 The people were totally defiant and went deliberately against the Word of the Lord. The people actually said 'we will not listen to you' and so later destruction came as God judged them for their idolatry and unrepentance. Also **Jer 44:25** God's answer.

Now in this letter to Thyatira Jesus is going to compare Semiramis to Queen Jezebel. (remember the name of the Church in Thyatira is associated with Semiramis) He says, you have allowed that woman Jezebel to teach and seduce My servants. The spirit of Semiramis is the **same spirit** as Jezebel in Thyatira and Queen Jezebel in the old Testament who is the most wicked and evil queen that ever lived.

The city of Tyre where she came from worshipped Baal. Same god.

That same spirit has now been allowed to enter the church in full force.

This is what happened during the 900 years of the Middle Ages 600-1500AD

Roman Catholicism grew beyond anything else. It became massive and all powerful. It became full of paganism having its roots in the Babylonian mystery religion.

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Map of seven Churches

To remind ourselves ...

There are four levels of Application

1. **Local**, actual historic churches with validated needs.
2. **Admonitory**:- 'Hear what the Spirit says to the churches' (plural) each one of us can learn something from all of the letters It applies to all of us.

Homiletic (how does it affect your walk) - **Personal**:- 'He that has an ear let him hear' Each letter applies to each of us. There is some element of each of the churches in every one of us. Therefore, this is a very important application to all churches both then and throughout history. Any church can be recognised in terms of these 7 characteristics. Each letter went to all of them. Because they were a part of the whole vision. John wouldn't have cut each one



out and sent each one to each of the seven. The whole Book of Revelation would have gone out together with all the letters to all the churches as a whole.

Prophetic:- These letters describe in amazing detail and precision, the unfolding of all church history in advance. In any other order, this would not be true. And so we will see how these letters chronicle the church events which fill the gap between the 69th and 70th

Week of Daniel. When we come to the last Church, the Laodicean Church we will see clearly that this is the church age in which we are now living.

The prophetic overview of these letters is astonishing as they are so accurate.

God speaks about things that will happen as though they have already happened because He is not limited by time. So for the last 2,000 years Jesus has been speaking through these letters about the future of the church.

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- Ephesus was told to return to her first love
- Smyrna - the persecuted church - no admonition - encouraged to be faithful to the death.
- Pergamos - perverted or mixed marriage. Paganism came into the church.
- **Thyatira - This church is paganism on steroids.**

Notice that Satan can even infiltrate the church through persecution. He couldn't get into the early church and destroy it so basically he said if I can't beat it let's join it. Satan's biggest weapon is to join something he can't win any other way and do his dirty work amongst the Christians in those churches.

Thyatira: The Corrupt Church

Title of Christ

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:

Thyatira: formerly named "Semiramis" (consort of Nimrod, mother of Tammuz)

"Son of God": The only mention in the Book of Revelation! Peter's own confession (**Matt 16:16-18**) You are the Christ, Son of the Living God vs. "Queen of Heaven" [Jezebel]? Is Thyatira going to listen to Jesus or are they going to carry on doing what they want to do.

Jesus asserts His power and authority for judgment: "eyes like fire, feet like **brass,**"

(similes) = fire and brass speak of **judgment!** We saw this last week.

reserved for fire Brass-**Deut 28:22,23**

2 Peter 3:7 -

Ex 35:16 ; 38:4 shows that brass is the metal that can sustain fire and Levitically the Brazen altar contained fire - representing judgement.

Eyes like a flame of fire - God sees everything.

Verse 18 "...who has eyes like a flame of fire."

1. There is nothing more piercing and thorough than fire.

a) It consumes everything that opposes it!

Likewise, Jesus doesn't miss anything! Nothing can be hidden from the Lord.

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1 Corinthians 3:11-15 11. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. 15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames. (NIV)

Verse 18 "...His feet are like fine brass:"

1. Brass throughout scripture represents judgment!

a) He sees all that is going on in this church, and it will be judged accordingly!

b) We now enjoy a period of God's grace, but sin must be judged.

(1) For the Christian it was "judged" at the cross.

(2) For the unrepentant, they must stand before God!

This is the central letter (of the seven).

a) As we have noted, to each church He addresses Himself in a different manner!

(1) To the church that has lost her first love (Ephesus), he identified Himself as the One in charge of all the churches! **He who holds the seven stars.....**

(2) To the "suffering and persecuted church" in Smyrna, he identified Himself as the conqueror of death! **First and the Last**

(3) To the "infiltrated church" in Pergamos he addressed Himself as THE WORD OF GOD by which all things must line up. **Sharp two edged sword**

(4) And here, to the "adulterous church" he addresses Himself as **"THE SON OF GOD"** A reminder that He is the One and Only Deity.

- This is a time we refer to as **The Dark Ages!**
- It was a time when the church in Rome took the Bible away from the people and said only they could interpret it!
- It was a time when the "mother of God" and the "Queen of Heaven" was exalted above Jesus!
- It was a time when the church was telling the people that they must pray to a **woman** to get to God!

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- Is it any wonder that the Lord would address Himself as Deity? **Son of God**
- At a time when HE was being denigrated it was important for this church to know who He was!!

When heresy comes through false prophets in the church it can be very difficult to see at first unless you are very discerning and really know your Bible.

"A liar is hard not to believe when he says nice things about you. (So it is also when people speak of the Lord, even if it is lies)"

"It is easier to believe a lie that one has heard a thousand times than to believe a fact that is unpopular!"

Here in this letter Jesus is actually threatening this church with death. This is not a popular concept. They need to repent otherwise it will be the worst for them.

It talks about the deeds of Jezebel as being the cause and He speaks very strongly against her. So its important to understand **who she is and what she does**. Ignorance is not bliss when it comes to knowing the word of God. We can all study it and learn from it and will be held accountable for those things we have not taken notice of simply because we didn't know enough about it.

2 Thessalonians 2:7-12 For the mystery of lawlessness is **already at work**; only He who now restrains (the Holy Spirit is the Restrainer) *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. **8** And then the lawless one will be revealed, (Antichrist) whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. **9** The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, **10** and with all **unrighteous deception** among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth (Jesus), that they might be saved. **11** And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, **12** that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (NKJV)

2 Tim 4:3-4; Acts 20:28-30; 2 Peter 3:17; 1 John 4:1-6; Matt 7:15-20

Lehman Strauss called the church in Pergamos, "The Church Infiltrated!"

The church in Thyatira would have to be labelled "The Adulterous Church!"

- a) Throughout the Bible physical adultery is symbolic of spiritual adultery!
- b) It represents the ultimate betrayal of the Lord!

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c) The "organized" church of Thyatira had betrayed Jesus and all that He stood for and taken on another lover!

d) And in the process, many had fallen under the **lies and delusions** being taught in the church.

e) Keep in mind, there is always a "**remnant**", those who didn't buy into it.

f) But, they were in the minority!!

Jesus put it another way in [Matthew 6:24](#) " No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. (NKJV)

Commendation

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

1. The Lord was aware of the good as well as the not so good.

2. As far as their works was concerned, they were going for it!

a) Unlike many who start with great gusto only to end up making excuses, this church was increasing in the area of works and good deeds!

b) But, all their good deeds couldn't make up for **wrong doctrine!**

In Ephesus they were good heresy hunters but lacked love but by the time you get to Thyatira the opposite had happened. They had plenty of love but they weren't standing up against the heresies. So both are an extreme.

There needed to be a balance.

Concern

Verse 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.*

This woman was given a leading place in the church where she preached false doctrine. She was a false prophet, but the church seemed to have no discernment and so she was given free reign. In Thyatira they had what was known as Apollo's medium. A mouthpiece on earth

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called Pythia (Python) She was a local woman of over 50 years of age who delivered what they called oracles of inspiration in the local occultic temples of the gods. (evil spirits behind this) And here was the Church allowing the same thing to happen from INSIDE the church. **Acts 16:14-23** Paul comes across a lady named Lydia who was from Thyatira who became a Christian.

In v 16 we read of the slave girl who had a spirit of divination (*Gk: pythos*). In the Greek the word means Python. (She had a spirit of Python) She was saying 'these men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.' This sounds OK until you look at the Greek which says **A** way of salvation. Not THE way. This girl with the spirit of Python - lies - was saying basically all religions lead to God. Paul became so exasperated with this that after putting up with it for many days he commanded the spirit to come out of her.

1. The church in Ephesus was lacking in love but would not tolerate evil.
2. This church at Thyatira, has love (at least for fellow man), but they have allowed the evil to have a pulpit!

2Corinthians 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? (NKJV)

These two extreme churches exist today!

(1) One is so legalistic there is no room for the Holy Spirit.

(2) And the other is so liberal they stand for nothing and allow everything !

The teaching of Jezebel said that it was ok to be sexually immoral and eat food sacrificed to idols. In other words it was alright to combine a mixture of Christianity with what went on in the temples of Baal etc. There they were taught that by having sex with temple prostitutes you could gain salvation.

This same doctrine was taught by the false apostles of the Ephesian Church. Nicolaitans

Definition of Nicolaitan Merriam Webster

1: one of a group reprov'd in Revelation 2:6, 14–15 and generally associated with those who were rebuked for eating things offered to idols and for fornication

All of these false doctrines seemed to involve idolatry and sex.

The chief sin of Thyatira was failure to protest against her and actually allow her (encourage her) to teach these things from within the Church.

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If we take this scenario to the church from **600AD-1500AD** we see exactly the **same thing happening**. The Church falls from its early roots and comes into an ever increasing period of darkness and false teaching.

No wonder its know as the Dark Ages. Bribery, corruption, immorality, and bloodshed mark this period of time. Just to take an example of a small portion of this period -

Sergius III (904-911) had a mistress, Marosia (age 15) . She, her mother Theodora, and her sisters filled the Papal chair with paramours and bastard sons and turned the Papal chair into a den of robbers. This is called in history "**the Rule of the Harlots**" (904-963). They were responsible for sexual encounters with nine Popes. Quote :-*Dr Malachi Martin, the Catholic apologist 1921-1999 said " Merosia was the mother of one pope whom she conceived by another pope and who was the aunt of a third pope, the grandmother of a fourth pope and with the help of her mother, the creator of nine popes in eight years of whom two were strangled, one suffocated with a cushion, and four deposed and disposed of in circumstances that have never come to public light.*

In 955AD Merosia's grandson Octovian became Pope John 12th at age 15. For the next 8 years he operated a whore house in the Vatican City. He was involved in witchcraft, bi-sexual sodomisation with animals and ordained murders.

The point of all this is to emphasise that what is happening in the Church in Thyatira back in the day was **prophetically fulfilled during the Dark Ages**.

When the church split into Eastern Greek and Western Churches the Eastern Churches were so horrified by the things that were going on in the Vatican that when a Vatican Ambassador came over from the West to the Byzantine Empire four questions were always asked before they would receive him.

1. Have you sodomised a boy
2. Have you fornicated with a man
3. Have you sodomised any four legged animals
4. Have you committed adultery.

That's how bad it was.

The **major difference between the Eastern and Western churches** led to their **schism** was the inclusion of Pope as the religious head of **Christianity**. **Western churches** believed in **the authority of** a religious leader called Pope who will issue orders. **Eastern churches** functioned without Pope and a group took decisions.^{25 Sep 2018}

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At the age of 96, having been incarcerated for 54 years, Merosia still refused to repent. On May 25th 986AD Pope Gregory 5th and Otto 3rd wrote this.

Quote " Merosia, daughter of Theophilate, inasmuch as you did from the beginning at the age of 15 conspire against the rights of the See of Peter, following an example of your Satanic mother Theodora, plotted to take over the whole world, **dared like Jezebel** of old yet again to take a third husband and with your illegitimate children did pollute the church. We condemn you to death by suffocation. Pope Gregory V and Otto III" This is a direct quote from history.

Isn't it interesting that Jesus, in the Book of Revelation a thousand years before this said 'you have allowed Jezebel to teach.....' and that is exactly what these two Popes called Merosia - 'Jezebel' The accuracy of Jesus' letter is amazing.

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

What a picture of Jezebel. The Jezebel of the Old Testament was the epitome of whoredom!

Jezebel, from the Old Testament (**Kings I and II**), was the wife of King Ahab who ruled the kingdom of Israel. By opposing the worship of the Hebrew God Yahweh, neglecting the rights and well-being of her subjects, and challenging the great prophets Elijah and Elisha, she prompted the internal conflict that plagued Israel for decades.

The Tyrannical Rule of Jezebel sought to exterminate prophets of YHWH (**1 Kings 18:13**).

Jezebel was the daughter of Eth-Baal, King of Sidon, Priest of Astarte, the murderer of his predecessor, Pheles, whom he killed to seize the throne.

She married King Ahab to seal a profitable trade alliance between Israel and Phoenicia

When Jezebel married Ahab, she influenced him to worship Baal. As a woman seeking more power, she sought to destroy those who questioned her, and most of the prophets of Yahweh were murdered at her request.

This 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." The incident of Naboth's Vineyard (**1 Kings 21**) is a vivid picture of the **medieval church** for almost a thousand-year period, including the **Dark Ages**.

All these evil and tyrannical works she was responsible for motivated the righteous vengeance of Elijah who correctly predicted a severe drought as **divine retribution** against Jezebel. Elijah later had the Baal priests killed after they had failed in a contest with him to

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see which God would answer their prayers to set alight a bull offering, Baal or Yahweh. When Jezebel learned of the killing, she furiously vowed to have Elijah killed, forcing him to flee for his life (**I Kings 18:19-19:3**).

Pagan Worship

- a) Jezebel in the OT introduced Baal worship to the children of Israel and to Ahab and caused mass spiritual adultery as well as sexual immorality.
- b) Worshippers of Baal and Astarte (originated in Babylon), she and King Ahab ushered in the worst period in OT (**1 Kings 16:30,33**): worse than all the kings of Israel before him.
- c) Jezebel in Thyatira introduced paganistic teachings following the rites and rituals of Baal worship. Jezebel in the Medieval times was the Roman Catholic Church with all the pagan rituals and false doctrines and sexual practices and occultic worship.
- d) Ashtoreth (**Judges 2:13; 10:6 . 1 Sam 31:10; 1 Kings 11:5,33**).
- e) The Groves (phallic symbols) in **Deut 16:21**.
- f) The Abomination of Sidonians which King Josiah got rid of (**2 Kings 23:3,6,7; Ezek 36:15**).
- g) "Queen of Heaven": The Babylonian mystery religion Semiramis (**Jer 7:18; 44:15-30**).
- h) Compare Jezebel with: The Woman & the Leaven parable in **Matt 13:33 Lev 2**; an offering to God has no leaven **1 Cor 5:7, 8**. Sin in the church
- i) Naboth's Vineyard: **1 Kings 21**
- j) • King Ahab desires Naboth's vineyard.
- k) • Queen Jezebel arranges an Inquisition (false witnesses; condemnation and execution).
- l) • Naboth's vineyard seized for the king.
- m) • Naboth's heirs also slain.

Dr. Barnhouse said this, *"every sanctuary in a sacred wood was at the same time an asylum of debauchery and adultery, institutions of male and female sexual practices. The priests of Baal were wicked sex perverts."*

Everything about this pagan Baal worship is about perversion.

So in this letter Jesus is saying 'why have you allowed Jezebel into your church to teach perversion?'

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The period of time when Jezebel and Ahab ruled was one of the worst periods of Biblical History. In 1 Kings 18:4 Jezebel massacred most of the prophets of the Lord. Not only did she teach fornication but she killed real believers for their property. See Naboth.

1 Kings 21:1-16 Jezebel took Naboth's Vineyard. Its this story of Jezebel and Naboths vineyard that characterises the Medieval period of the church.

Naboth has a vineyard. Ahab wants it. Naboth says no. She gets false witnesses to accuse Naboth of blasphemy so he is put to death and after he is killed she takes Naboths property and gives it to Ahab. This so typifies the Inquisition of the Medieval Church. Many innocent people were killed on false charges and their property confiscated to the church. People who were true Christians and would not subject themselves to the Roman Catholic church suffered in this way. So when Queen Jezebel in OT arranges this inquisition re: Naboth that's why Jesus mentions her, because it is a picture of the Inquisition in the church of the medieval times. Fascinating.

Jesus uses the idiom of Jezebel to describe the situation at Thyatira to the use of inquisition, false accusation and execution, used to gain property.

Pope Innocent 3rd was the male epitome of this. Like Ahab and Jezebel rolled into one when you look at what he did. (He was far from Innocent)

Innocent III (1198-1216) was the most powerful of all the Popes. He claimed to be "Vicar of Christ," "Vicar of God," "Supreme Sovereign over the Church and the World." "All things on earth and in heaven and in hell are subject to the Vicar of Christ."

"The pope wears upon his pontifical crown in jewelled letters, this title: 'Vicarius Filii Dei', 'Viceregent of the **Son of God**'; the numerical value of which title is just six hundred and sixty-six. [Vicarius Filii Dei – Wikipedia](#)

The kings of Germany, France, England, and practically all the monarchs in Europe obeyed his will, including the Byzantine Empire. Never in history has any one man exerted more power. He ordered two crusades; decreed transubstantiation, confirmed the act of confession, declared papal infallibility, condemned the Magna Carta, forbade the reading of the Bible in the vernacular, instituted the Inquisition, ordered the extermination of heretics, etc. More blood was shed under his direction and that of his immediate successors than in any other period of church history (except in the Papacy's effort to crush the Reformation in the 16th and 17th centuries).

The Inquisition Called "The Holy Office," it was instituted by Pope Innocent III and perfected by Pope Gregory IX. Under it everyone was required to inform against heretics. Anyone suspect was liable to torture, without knowing the name of his accuser. The proceedings were secret. The Inquisitor pronounced sentence and the victim was turned over

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to civil authorities to be imprisoned for life or to be burned. The victim's property was confiscated and divided between the church and the state.

The Inquisition claimed vast multitudes of victims in Spain, Italy, Germany, and the Netherlands and did its most deadly work against the Albigenses.

The Albigenses, or Carthari, in southern France, northern Spain and northern Italy preached against the immoralities of the priesthood, worship of saints and images, completely rejected the clergy and their claims, opposed the claims of the Church of Rome, made great use of the Scriptures, and lived self-denying lives with a great zeal for moral purity.

By 1167 they embraced a majority of the population of southern France and were very numerous in northern Italy.

In 1208 Pope Innocent III ordered a crusade in which the bloody war of extermination utterly wiped out town after town—the inhabitants murdered without discrimination—until all of the Albigenses were utterly wiped out.

The Waldenses, a similar but not identical group in the same region emphasizing Bible reading and rejecting clerical usurpation and profligacy were similarly wiped out (but for the few survivors in the Alpine Valleys southwest of Turin who are now the leading Protestant body in Italy). It is recorded that in the 30 years between 1540 and 1570 no fewer than 900,000 Protestants were put to death by the Pope's war for the extermination of the Waldenses.

For 500 years the Inquisition was the most diabolical thing of human history. For its record, none of the subsequent line of "holy" and "Infallible" Popes have ever apologized. Rather, their leadership and instigators have been elevated to sainthood.

This now has a new name, 'The Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith' On March 30th 2001 a BBC news article entitled "The Vatican accused on Modern Inquisition," describing that there is still this type of inquisition going on in some parts of the world. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger called "The Enforcer" who knew of this, later became Pope Benedict 2005-2013.

The teaching of Jezebel included eating food sacrificed to idols and fornication. Food sacrificed to idols was also known as 'a memorial meal for the dead.' Which in pagan Rome often degenerated into orgies. When someone died they had a room for dead relatives and a death mask would represent the dead person (like we have pictures) and food would be offered and a feast would take place. Many times Christians would be invited to these funerals. The dead person would be laid on a stone table and the relatives would lie on couches provided around the table for the feast and celebrate this funeral and often this would become an orgy.

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What Jesus was saying was since you like that bed so much and all that goes with it I am going to throw you on a bed of death. Prepare to die.

In **Acts 15:29** this is what the apostles were talking about. The food offered to idols was often associated with these practices.

- This "Jezebel" in the church of Thyatira claimed to be a prophetess of the Lord! Therefore she was given a "pulpit" from which to propagate her seductions.

One of the last acts of the Jezebel of old was to paint her face and taunt Jehu. The somewhat ambiguous words she used **2 Kings 9:30**

Zimri was king only seven days, then died— **1 Kings 16:15, 18** (NASB)

Interestingly, Jezebel was a shameless murderess (**1 Kings 19:1-2; 21:1-16**). And, Jehu had just become king a few verses before in that same chapter (**2 Kings 9:11-13**).and he hated her.

- This Jezebel in Thyatira had convinced the people (since she was a prophetess and therefore infallible) that the Lord approved of the sexual perversion and pagan practices of the day!
- No doubt some of her teachings had an element of truth but had the effect of leading people away from the Lord.

Vance Havner once said *"that he used to have an old clock around the house that was completely broken, but that it was right at least 2 times a day!"*

We must never compromise who God is, in an effort to please people!

Even if it is for good humanitarian reasons!

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.

[**Acts 15:29** instructions of Paul etc to Gentiles

Elijah at Mt. Carmel (**1 Kings 18**) his strong stand

Therefore the only remedy to a lack of repentance must be JUDGMENT!

Verse 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.*

NIV puts this **verse Revelation 2:22** *So I will cast her on a bed of **suffering**, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. (NIV)*

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See, now, how I throw her into bed and her lovers with her, and I will send them terrible suffering unless they repent of what she has done. As for her children, I shall strike them dead. Then all the Churches will know that I am the one who searches men's hearts and minds, and that I will reward each one of you according to your deeds.

First reference to the Great Tribulation. ("except if they repent:" - Only the unrepentant church will go into the Tribulation - like Jezebel as we will see in v 22.)

2 Kings 9:7-11 The account of Jezebel's death. Elisha takes on Elijah's role. He anoints the next king and prophesies over him regarding the **manner in which Jezebel would die**. She was killed as a result of her sins and her unrepentance.

The bed of suffering is the great tribulation! In the total context of the Book of Revelation this is the next thing on the agenda after the churches.

The adulterous churches who allow the propagation of lies and heresies because it is popular will go through the tribulation!

Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' (NKJV)

Verse 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.*

"Reins (minds) & hearts": **Jer 17:10** (YHWH shows His Deity); **Rom 8:27**. "...I know your works"

vs. My works. There is the implication that only a remnant survives (3:4). Within this church was an evil for which no remedial measures are sufficient.

- The children may refer to the illegitimate offspring of this sexual chaos, but it definitely applies to the "**spiritual children**" produced by the lies and deception.
- Notice that the Lord "will give to each one.. according to their own works."
- He is always fair and just. He will judge only those who made a wilful choice to follow the lies, and reject the TRUTH!

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Exhortation

Verse 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.*

"Bathos" = deep things of Satan or profound mysteries of Satan systematically taught was fertility worship. They were deeply involved in occult worship,

Gnosticism taught that in order to defeat Satan one had to enter his stronghold, that is they needed to experience evil deeply. This is a total perversion of the truth. Disgusting as it is Jesus is saying to this church some of you are holding to this doctrine.

vs. Deep things of God (1 Cor 2:10).

Thyatira is the first letter with the First promise of His Second Coming! Behold I am about to come. This is expressed only in the last four letters.

The first three churches have the promise to the overcomer as a postscript at the end of each letter. This letter and the rest has the promise to the overcomer inside the body of the letter.

There are two promises. 1. Power over the nations and 2. The morning star.

Verse 24 refers to the "remnant" the true believers of Jesus "THE SON OF GOD". You who do not have this doctrine.

- They had rejected the "deep things of Satan".
- So the Lord said He would put no other burden on them except to
- **Verse 25** "hold fast what you have till I come."

Promise to the Overcomer

Overcomer's Promises

- Ephesus Eat of Tree of Life
- Smyrna Not hurt by 2nd death
- Pergamos Manna, Stone, Name
- Thyatira Power over nations
-

Who is "the Overcomer"?

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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** **1 John 5:4,5**

Verse 26-27 ²⁶ *And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—*

*'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;

These verses refer to the millennial kingdom in which we shall reign with the Lord on the earth.

1 Corinthians 6:2-3 *Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?... Do you not know that we shall judge angels?...(NKJV)*

Verse 28 *and I will give him the morning star*

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." (NKJV)

- Jesus promises Himself to those who overcome!
- He that is eternal and perpetual

Verse 29. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

"power over nations" the goal of Jezebel The Roman Catholic Church

"Rod of Iron": **Ps 2:7-9; Ps 110:2.**

"Us": **1 Cor 6:2 Dan 7:18,27.**

"Rod" = scepter (**Heb 1:8**).

"Morning star" = before sunrise (**Rev 22:16; also 2 Pet 1:19; . Num 24:17,** Star of Jacob (Balaam))

Admonitory Level (to all churches)

- Ephesus Devotion, not just doctrine.
- Smyrna Endure persecution

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- Pergamos Purify ambassadorship
- Thyatira **Pagan practices**
- Sardis ...
- Philadelphia ...
- Laodicea ...

Stand fast against the world!

Personal Level (Homiletics)

- Ephesus Neglected priorities
- Smyrna Satanic opposition
- Pergamos Spiritual compromise
- Thyatira **Pagan practices**
- Sardis ...
- Philadelphia ...
- Laodicea

Prophetic Profile

Thyatira represents the **Medieval Church**. The rise of Roman Catholicism and the pagan influences that grew from within (Like Jezebels influence in Thyatira) until it became a monstrous satanic headquarters of every sin and occultic practise there was.

"Depths of Satan"

- Esoteric mysteries of the Babylonian cults.
- In 378 A.D., Damasus, the Bishop of Rome, took on the office of Pontifex Maximus, (high priest) of the Babylonian religion, which had previously been the prerogative of the Roman emperor, thus combining the "Christian" church with pagan religion.
- The ceremonies, rites, titles, vestments...celibate priests, Mariolatry, image and crucifix worship, veneration of saints, adoration of the host...papal infallibility, transubstantiation, etc...all idolatry thinly disguised under the heading of 'Christian.'