

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 2

Revelation 2:12-29

LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN PERGAMUM

¹² “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:

¹³ ‘I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴ ‘But I have a few things against you, because you have there



- **A little history** — Pergamum had the second most famous library of the ancient world, behind Alexandria. Part of their fame came from their invention of parchment, specially processed animal skin, for paper instead of papyrus (which decayed more quickly). Pergamum had been the capital of the province of Asia for almost 400 years at the writing of Revelation, and was hence the *capital* of the worship of Rome and her emperor. It was also widely known for its temples to Athena, Zeus, and Asclepius.

The temple complex of Asclepius is considered the first hospital.

- How is Jesus describing Himself?
- What does it mean?
- The Greek word translated “dwell” means, “where you stay.”
- Despite Pergamum being the seat of Satan, these Christians didn’t flee, and faced persecution courageously. What does this tell us?

some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality. ¹⁵ 'So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ 'Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth. ¹⁷ 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'

- We know nothing of Antipas the martyr, but the _____ knows. What does this tell us?
- What do you suppose this example of martyrdom did for the rest of the church?
- But what did Jesus find fault with?
 - What does the word "some" mean?
 - Who should repent? To whom would Jesus come quickly? (v. 16)
 - What sort of church action does this imply?
 - Vs. 16 commands that the church repent, or else Jesus would make war with _____
- Who were the Nicolaitans? (v. 15)
 - Who are they compared to? (v. 14)
 - What did Balaam do? (see Numbers 22-25)
 - What were the Nicolaitans teaching and tempting others in the church to do?
- Manna was sometimes called the "_____ of _____" and in rabbinic teachings the "hidden manna" (not seen now, but revealed later) was often associated with "the end of days", with the great banquet of God, which the Gospels referred to it (e.g., Luke 14:15ff).
- White stone meaning (subject of much speculation)...
 - The overall "color scheme" of Revelation is white implying _____, _____, and _____.
 - A new (*kainos*) name was a common way of declaring a new _____ (e.g., Abram, Jacob, Simon). Like a bride taking her husband's name.
 - Having a new name written on a white stone may therefore mean a permanent, holy, pure, and righteous change of status.

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:

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. 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.

²³ ‘And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and

LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN THYATIRA

- **A little history** — Thyatira was the least important town among the cities of the seven churches. It was not politically important. Militarily, it was almost indefensible to a major attack. Troops stationed there were to provide time to Pergamum (the capital of the province) for preparation, function as a speed bump to any invading army. It had no religious importance apart from an oracle called Sambathē.

The one distinction that Thyatira had was its local commerce. It was a thriving center for the manufacture of wool and dyes (_____ of Philippi was a seller of purple from Thyatira).

- How does Jesus describe Himself here?
- What was the intended impact does this description have on the church?
- What was noteworthy about the Thyatira church?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____ than at first
- What was upsetting?
 - Who is Jezebel?
 - What was this woman claiming to be?
 - What was she teaching?
 - acts of _____
 - eating things _____ to _____
 - What had God done *for* her?
 - What did she do with this opportunity?
 - What was God going to do now?
 - And to who else?

hearts; and I will give to each one of you
 according to your deeds. 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. 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.'

- Who are her children?
- In what way does this reflect the story of Ahab and Jezebel?
- What are the “deep things of Satan” and how had she persuaded Christians to want to know such a thing?
- What were the rest of the church supposed to do?
 - no other _____
 - hold _____ until I come
 - _____ and keep My deeds until the _____
- Reward...
 - Of whom is it said in Psalm 2:8, “to Him I will give authority over the nations” etc.?
 - So what is Jesus promising?
 - How does Jesus have such authority?
 - The “morning star” is representative of the _____ and His _____
 - Numbers 24:14-20 (a prophecy of Balaam)
 - Rev. 22:16
 - So, what does it mean to receive the morning star?