



REVELATION 20 – THYATIRA: CHRIST CHURCH DISCIPLINE

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Revelation 2:18

THYATIRA: ODOR OF SACRIFICE – TRUE HOLOCAUST

- Thyatira smallest of the cities addressed; but an important center for purple dyes, color of royalty {Expensive}
 - Purple usually obtain from murex {sea} snail; Thyatira obtained this color from Madder plant, making it more efficient and reliable source
- Thyatira: (1) *Odor of sacrifice* reminiscent of the *Ascending Offering* {Burnt} or *Hola* from which is derived {Holocaust}; (2) *Daughter*, better women liberties
 - Voluntary offerings, such as the *Ascending*, were considered *sweet savor* to the Father; reminiscent of Christ's Paschal Offering securing the New Covenant (Le 1:3-9; 1Co 5:7)
 - Faithful Lydia was dealer in purple from Thyatira contrasted with unfaithful Jezebel whom John uses as a metaphor for *top-down* apostasy (1Ki 16:29-32; Is 3:12; Ac 16:14-15)

THYATIRA: COPPER-GUILDS-GODS

- Thyatira also known for smelting of copper-alloys like brass or bronze; fiery bronze imagery would have been familiar to these people
- Thyatira's commerce tightly controlled by trade guilds; you could not practice unless you were a member {Forerunner of today's unions}
 - Guilds took a *cut* of your profits, controlled membership and limited membership which kept prices elevated {Expensive}
 - Guilds also were worship centers around a favored *god* or *goddess*; hence, worship {Meals} required of members: No worship meant no membership and no job-pay
- Patron deity *Apollo-Tyrimnos*, son of Zeus; emperors associated themselves with gods {Apollo} via the title, son(s) of god(s) legitimizing themselves: Coins reinforced the union of (Gods) Emperor Worship-State {Divine Right of Kings}

CHRIST: SON OF GOD

- Christ identifies Himself as the Son of God only here; elsewhere others use this title of Him {Purpose of John's Gospel} (Jn 20:31)
 - Christ is true Son of Only God; all others are **no gods** {Nonexistent} (De 32:17; He 1:5-13)
- To the Episkopos: Christ describes Himself as in Daniel's vision: (Da 10:4-7)
 - Flaming Eyes: Christ's eyes see inside Man; flames–fire metaphor indicate purging of error (1Sa 16:7; 1Co 3:10-15)
 - Bronze Feet: Recalls image of God *trampling* His enemies, examining His people to reveal their error; Jewish priesthood desecrated offerings depicted a sinful Christ (Ps 91:11-13; Mic 4:11-13; Mal 1:6-12)
 - Christ inspects His Church revealing error that seeks to infect His Body from within like viruses-bacteria; Word {Bible} is His Measuring Rod (Is 28:17; Ro 12:3-5; Col 1:18; He 4:12)

THYATIRA AS SACRIFICE: CHRIST KNOWS ABOUT SACRIFICE

- First sacrifice *by fire* {Ascending} mentioned after Noah's Cataclysm denoting purpose of the 2nd Age {Our Age} (Ge 8:20-22)
 - Mosaic Law was instituted to illustrate Christ's sacrifice, Paschal Lamb roasted by fire, and the tool to examine if Lamb of God was blemished {Sin}: High Priest offering (Ex 12:1-9; Mt 27:11-14; 1Co 5:7-8; He 9:14-15)
- Christ knew about being examined; He does sympathize with us (He 2:18; 5:8)
 - Jesus continually examined, accused, by Satan-Devil {Archetypal for us} (Mt 4:1-11)
 - His mother and family doubted Him as did those in Nazareth (Mk 3:20-21; Mt 13:55-58)
 - His disciples deserted Him, as did His apostles, and Judas betrayed Him (Mk 14:27; Jn 6:66-71)
 - Crucified between thieves and taunted by crowds, before Father found Him *clean* to be Paschal Lamb; then He suffered Father's fiery wrath without complaint for our sin (2Ch 35:13; Is 53:7; Mt 27:38-50; Jn 19:28-30)

THYATIRA AS SACRIFICE: EXAMINATION AS DISCIPLINE

- Christ examines His body, discipline, so they may *repent* their sin; sons (He 12:7-8)
 - He reveals our sins and acceptance of False Teachers then Love {Hagiazo Process} disciplines us to be acceptable *living* sacrifices which is our reasonable duty (Ro 12:1-2)
 - Maturation is examining ourselves to reject the *ever-changing winds of Satan's doctrine* (2Co 13:5-6; Ep 4:11-14; He 5:11-14)
 - Discipline first begins with the church; at the appropriate time Christ will deal with Satan and the World; theme of Revelation (1Pe 4:17-19)
- Christ not sacrificing Thyatira church; they, in maturity, sacrifice themselves as He sacrificed Himself for them and us, our example (1Pe 2:21-25)
 - As we mature, we long to do the same, even as husband and wife sacrifice for each other; purging out the *old leaven* of our Flesh embracing New Nature (1Co 5:7-8; Ep 5:22-6:4; 2Ti 2:15)