

## THYATIRA: JESUS VERSUS JEZEBEL, Part 2 - Rev 2:18-29

031421P

### INTRODUCTION

1. Rv 2 - template: 1] address & author - v18; 2] evaluation - v19; 3] praise or reproof - v20-23. Tonight 4] Exhortation - v24-25; 5] Overcomer - v26-28; 6] Hear HS - v29.
2. Thyatira speaks *all the churches* - v23. Emph on *deeds* [v19,22,23,26]
3. Problem? *tolerating* Jezebel & teachings -> idolatry: apostasy in Babylon.

### 4th: Words of Exhortation - v21-25

1. Exhortation to Jezebel & company [v21-23]: past, present, future
  - i. past: *I gave her time to repent* - how? not told.
  - ii. present: *she does not want to repent* - Jn 5:40a. Jezebel desired *immoralities* more than Jesus & promise of life
    - a. Rv 22:17 wishes = *want*. Tie Xth to Ist - what we love [2T 3:1-5]
    - b. Love expressed in fidelity to covenant commitments [Gal 5:6]
    - c. Jez does not trust nor love Jesus but loves her sin: no faith/repent
  - iii. future: *will throw on a bed of sickness* - lit: a stretcher.
    - a. 1C 11:29-32 discipline - yet Xns get sick - [Jms 5:14-15; 2T 4:20; 1T 5:23]. Sickness occasions humility & self-examination.
  - iv. Jesus warns Jezebel's followers - gives them time to repent - v22-23
    - a. *unless they repent of her deeds* [not "their" deeds?] - Phars did not do deeds of Ab but deeds of Satan [Jn 8:39-41]
      - 1) followers do Jezebel's deeds = idolatry
      - 2) What wld repentance look like? v26 keeps My deeds
    - b. *I will throw... into great tribulation*. Already & not-yet
      - 1) 1:9 trib; 2:9-10 Smyrna faces trib for 10 days [prison]
      - 2) *great* trib: climatic period persecution preceding Jesus' return.
      - 3) Mt 24:21 [fall of Jeru = prophetic type]; Rv 3:10-11; 7:14.
    - c. *I will kill her children w/ pestilence* [fnt: "death"] - *kill w/ death*. Rv 20:14 physical death then eternal death.
  - v. Result of Jesus' judgment on Jezebel: *all chs will know that I am He* - Ezek 33:27-29 - *then they will know that I am the Lord* [50x in Ezek]; Ezek 33:30-33 True prophets direct men to faith/repent
  - vi. *search minds, hearts, gives according to deeds* - Jer 17:10; Rm 2:6,16.
2. Exhortation to *the rest who do not hold this teaching* - Rv 2:24. *I place no other burden on you* = obligation [yoke - Mt 11:30; A 15:10].
  - i. A 15:28-29 no greater burden
  - ii. Not over-react w/ asceticism - 1Jn 5:3 *commands are not burdensome*
3. v25 *Nevertheless*: here is an obligation for *you* [plural]
  - i. leaders - Jez is acting as elder [v20] - A 20:29-31a
  - ii. people - do *not tolerate* unqualified leaders - Eph 4:11; 2T 3. Congre is not to be passive; responsible for following leaders.

- iii. 3Jn - Diotrephes - abused authority: *If I come, I will call attention to his deeds wh/ he does* [v10] - call whose attention?
  - a. v11 *do not imitate what is evil but the one who does good*. V12 *Demetrius has a good testimony from everyone...*
  - b. What is Jn doing? Congre is responsible to recognize & receive leaders qualified & given by Jesus - don't follow Jezebel!
- iv. *hold fast until Jesus comes* - each of us & all of us together.

### 5th: Promises to the Overcomer - v26-28

1. Inverts last 2 aspects of formula. Hearers overcome & overcomers hear.
2. *Overcomer* shares in the exercise of Jesus' *authority* - Ps 2:8-9 [cited in A 12:33; Rm 1:4 & 4x in Hbs]. Already & not yet - for Jesus & for overcomers - Rv 20 disembodied saints on throne - Rv 3:21.
  - i. *He who is overcoming* [pres act ptc]: reign in worship & witness.
3. *I will give him the morning star* - irony: Balaam - Num 24:17
  - i. Messianic prophesy: echoes Jacob - Gn 49:10. Same truth as Ps 2.
  - ii. Jesus' final description of Himself - Rv 22:16. Davidic Messiah
  - iii. OT hope - Dan 12:2-3.
  - iv. Morning star = Venus - Astarte: the idol of Jezebel in 1Kg 16. But Jesus is *the morning star* of resurrection life - 2Ptr 1:19
    - a. light of resurrection life has begun to shine - 2C 4:6
    - b. light of res truth is *lamp shining: prophetic word* = Script - v20-21

### 6th: Command to Hear What the Spirit Says - v29

1. Scripture is *the prophetic word* - Rv 1:3. What HS says, He says in Scripture - not false prophets like Jezebel who lead away from Scripture.
2. We must discern & distance ourselves from false teachers/teaching.
3. Jesus purifies His church so that we can hear what the Spirit is saying; so we can overcome & hold fast to the end: our death or Jesus' 2nd coming.