

THYATIRA: JESUS VERSUS JEZEBEL, Part 1 - Rev 2:18-29

030721P

INTRODUCTION

1. The truth of 7 churches is foundational to the rest of Rev. Cf. Babylonian Harlot - the idolatrous world not just "out there" but found inside Thyatira
2. Thyatira at center of churches w/ most words in letter - [Rv 2:18-29](#)
3. Thyatira known for business: A 16:14 - Lydia, from Thyatira in Philippi. Pressure of trade paganized guilds.

1st: The Address and the Author - [v18](#)

1. *angel of the church* = entire church in spiritual war: leaders & people
2. *Son of God* - only here in Rv: Jesus' deity. A profile not found in 1:12ff.
 - i. 1:13 - *son of man* - Dan 7:13 enthroned
 - ii. 2:26-27 Jesus cites Ps 2:6-8 - enthroned Messiah
3. Dan 3:25 - *one like a son of God*. Dan saw bright shining man [10:6]
 - i. [Rv 1:13-15](#) feet in *furnace* - *one like a son of God* in furnace in Dan 3
 - ii. Connotes judge w/ penetrating insight ; v23 *search minds & hearts*
4. *Son of God* = claim of Emperor & Apollo [son of Zeus] temple in Thyatira
5. Comfort: Jesus is *Son of God*; judge w/ authority over fiery furnace of hell

2nd: The Evaluation of the Spiritual Condition of Thyatira - [v19](#)

1. *I know your deeds* - emphasis on deeds: v19, v22, v23, v26
2. Thyatira is opposite of Ephesus & similar to Pergamum but in worse condition - Jezebel has had time to repent & hasn't.
3. Commendable growth in *deeds of love, faith, service, perseverance*. Required to overcome external opposition & purge internal compromise
 - i. Appreciate Jesus' commendation of good deeds - Tit 2:14; 3:14
 - ii. A church of do-gooders: commendable & exemplary.
4. The church is commended & reproofed for a naive lack of discernment. There is internal division - it is serious: takes next 4 vss to address it.

3rd: Words of Praise or Reproof - [v20-23](#)

1. J says, [Dennis Johnson]: "I love your love but I hate your tolerance." Their tolerance of Jezebel, her doct & practice, is the essence of their disobedient sin for wh/ they need to repent.
2. *Jezebel* = wife of Ahab who enticed to fertility gods Baal & Asherah
 - i. *Jezebel* & pocket of people: v22,23 [2Jn 1:1]

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- ii. *prophetess* - speaker of rev'd truth: Miriam [Ex 15:20]; Deborah [Jdg 4:4]; Hildah [2Kg 22:14]; Noadiah [Neh 6:14]; Isa's wife [Isa 8:3]; aged Anna [Lk 2:36]; Philip's 4 daughters [A 21:9].
 - a. Prophets alongside apostles during final era of church: 1C 14 - preaching prophets - orderly & self-controlled: edification.
 - b. *Jezebel* is alarming - *she calls herself a prophetess*
 - iii. *she teaches & leads My bond-servants astray*: role of an elder; *My bond-servants* [Rv 1:1] = people of Christ; *astray*: mislead w/ false words - like Nicolaitans in Pergamum. Scholars point to Montanism: ancient Pentecostalism.
3. teaching: infidelity - sexual sin: *immorality* [fornication] & *adultery*
 - i. v14 - Nicolaitans: pagan ritualized sex: idolatry [Baal, Astheroth]; apostasy akin to marital infidelity [Hosea retrieve Gomer]
 - ii. Thyatira business guilds - places of idolatry for financial gain.
 - iii. v24 her teaching = *the deep thgs of Satan* [2:9-10; 2:13]
 4. How cld "Xns" bec/ interested in *deep things of Satan*? Rationalization; Problem in Corinth - 1C 8:1-4. Render to Caesar [Rm 13:1ff] Gnosticism.
 5. Jezebel embodies Grt Harlot Babylon [Rv 17] - *astray*: Rv 13:11, v13-14 *deceives* = *astray*. 17:1-2, 18:3; *deceives* - 18:23d

Observations

1. Jesus as *Son of God* - Divine Judge - 1Ptr 4:17
2. Thyatira is exemplary in *love, faith, service & perseverance* - but is *tolerating* Jezebel & her teachings/practices
3. Next sermon: Jesus' dealings w/ Jezebel as well as the church. Concludes w/ promise to those who overcome & call to hear what HS says *to the churches* - v23. Deeds - v26.