

Morning Sermon June 13, 2021

“Judging Jezebel and Her Children!” – Revelation 2:18-29

I. Jesus’ introduction of Himself -

<sup>18</sup> “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: Revelation 2:18

1. “The Son of God” – *He Who is God! Who has all the attributes and authority of God, including:*
2. “eyes like a flame of fire” – *perfect perception to judge rightly, this is the difference between us and God, we cannot see everything God sees –*

**For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7 (NKJV)**

- A. *If a man is a judge, if he would be a righteous judge, biblically that requires two or three witnesses, of an actual action –*

<sup>15</sup> “One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established. Deuteronomy 19:15

- B. *We cannot judge murder or adultery in the heart, only God can – Matthew 5:21-30*

- C. *The eyes like a flame of fire means He sees EVERYTHING, even our THOUGHTS and He will judge these, and judgment comes upon the church FIRST –*

<sup>17</sup> For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it *begins* with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? 1 Peter 4:17 (NKJV)

3. “His feet like fine brass” *illustrate STOMPING POWER, great unstoppable power to execute judgment, see how this power is illustrated in later verses -*

<sup>22</sup> Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. <sup>23</sup> 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. Revelation 2:22-23

- A. *See God’s means of judging - a sickbed ... great tribulation ... kill her children with death*
- B. *Note, this power to execute judgment is of His perfect perception to judge rightly –*
- C. **... 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. Revelation 2:23 B**

*This verse indicates Jesus / God, judges even the sins of the heart, and that at least some of the followers of Jezebel, in the church at Thyatira, may not have actual committed actual, physical sin but were committing adultery in the heart / lust. This would agree with the extremes that Jesus communicates to us needed to fight sin- Communicated in Matthew 5:28–30 (NKJV)*

<sup>28</sup> But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. Matthew 5:28–30 (NKJV)

- D. *To sum up, Jesus sees these things “eyes like a flame of fire” and has mighty power execute judgement - His feet like fine brass, even the power of God, as the Son of God to judge -*

<sup>22</sup> (For the LORD is our Judge, The LORD is our Lawgiver, The LORD is our King; He will save us); Isaiah 33:22 (NKJV)

II. Jesus’ evaluation / judging of the church -

1. *The Good: a small but significant credit –*

<sup>19</sup> “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.

- A. *Note, no specifics are mentioned: No martyr like Antipas, no fighting against evil and false teachers like Ephesus ...*
- B. *Yet, they had improved the last are more than the first.*

2. *The Bad: they were not judging Jezebel, and she needed judging -*

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. <sup>22</sup> Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> “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.

1. *The sin of the church as an entirety “you allow” – allowing a known obvious continuing sin, even if it is an individual’s, makes it the church’s sin, especially when that person is teaching in the church, and at least some our following - you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce ...*

2. *First, as a woman, she should not have been teaching in the church at all -*

<sup>11</sup> Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. <sup>12</sup> And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 1 Timothy 2:11–12 (NKJV)

*Why should not a woman teach in the church?*

(1) *Not because men are superior, or women are not skilled, in fact, tests have shown that women have greater verbal skills than men, which would seem to indicate they would be better preachers / teachers / prophets - this woman probably had appealing talents!*

(2) *But because men and women are created by God for different purposes and callings –*

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them.** <sup>28</sup> Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the

earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:26–28 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control. 1 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)

*Scripture is clear God created two distinct genders, and only two, real science also backs this, evolution does not! Evolution teaches everything happened by CHANCE, not by any direction, not with any purpose.*

3. *This leads into the third reason to judge / reject Jezebel the content of her teaching -*

A. *She was teaching and seducing God’s servants to commit sexual immorality – Revelation 2:20*

B. *She did not repent – Revelation 2:21*

<sup>21</sup> And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

C. *Verse :24 speaks of this doctrine with the terminology the depths of Satan, as they say indicating they thought they needed to know Satan better, how? By indulging in sexual immorality –*

*The first sin was not a sexual sin, and yet Eve was promised knowledge through it, by the Serpent, Satan –*

<sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” Genesis 3:5

III. *Jesus’ judgment of Jezebel and her “children” –*

1. *He names her - ... that woman Jezebel – Revelation 2:20 B*

A. *Remember last week when we considered the church at Pergamos one of the rewards for overcoming was a new name –*

<sup>17</sup> “...To him who overcomes ... I will give him a white stone, and on the stone **a new name** written which no one knows except him who receives it.” Revelation 2:17 (NKJV)

B. *I told you a new name, because forgiven sinners, truly repentant sinners, overcoming sinners had new natures, new characters, new names went with this new nature –*

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

C. *This woman probably was not named Jezebel, this name is symbolic, it is an old name, that belong to an Old Testament SINNER – It is a clear JUDGMENT to be called this name by Jesus Christ -*

*OT Jezebel was judged openly and dramatically by God for her sin –*  
<sup>23</sup> And concerning Jezebel the LORD also spoke, saying, ‘The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.’ <sup>24</sup> The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field.” <sup>25</sup> But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up. 1 Kings 21:23–25 (NKJV)

2. *This woman too would be judged openly –*

<sup>22</sup> Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed ... Revelation 2:22

<sup>23</sup> ..., 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. Revelation 2:23 (NKJV)

3. *Notice the judgment is not on Jezebel alone, but on her children, <sup>23</sup> I will kill her children with death, Revelation 2:23 probably not her literal children, but her devoted followers, who probably counted her their spiritual mother, who with her would REFUSE to REPENT ---*

A. *It is not strange that an adult leader’s followers would be called children. The Apostle John himself called those who followed his ministry “children” so did Jesus, so did Paul –*

**2 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 1 John 2:1**

<sup>33</sup> Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come,’ so now I say to you. <sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love

one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:33-35

<sup>19</sup> My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you, Galatians 4:19 (NKJV)

B. *Yet, the reference here to Jezebel’s children probably has even more negative meaning - <sup>23</sup> I will kill her children with death, Revelation 2:23*

• *Calling them (adults) her children shows their foolishness –*  
<sup>22</sup> “For My people are foolish, They have not known Me. They are silly children, and they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, But to do good they have no knowledge.” Jeremiah 4:22 (NKJV)

• *Yet, it could also refer to literal children...*

<sup>4</sup> “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of *anything* that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; <sup>5</sup> you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, **visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me**, Exodus 20:4–5 (NKJV)

IV. *Jesus’ word and reward for the rest, the repentant and the overcomers in the church at Thyatira –*

<sup>24</sup> “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. <sup>25</sup> But hold fast what you have till I come. <sup>26</sup> And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— <sup>27</sup> ‘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; <sup>28</sup> and I will give him the morning star. <sup>29</sup> “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’ Revelation 2:24–29 (NKJV)

1. *There were people in the church who never followed Jezebel!*

A. *They did not take time to learn from her the depths of Satan*

B. *Or they had repented of this sin somewhere along the line.*

2. *These Christ instructs to hold fast, till He comes ...*

3. Again, as with other churches rewards are promised for overcomers, these rewards are:

A. “Power over the nations”, as Christ rules - :27 is quoted from Psalm 2 which is about Christ –

<sup>7</sup> “I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. <sup>8</sup> Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. <sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’” Psalm 2:7–9 (NKJV)

B. The morning star, the Morning Star –

<sup>16</sup> “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.” Revelation 22:16 (NKJV)

C. Balaam, the prophet who was forced by the Holy Spirit prophesied about Jesus Christ as the Morning Star and Ruler –

<sup>17</sup> “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, and destroy all the sons of tumult. Numbers 24:17 (NKJV)

D. The point of this passage (Revelation 2:27-28) seems to be, some of these people were faithful, they never agreed with allowing Jezebel to wreak havoc in their church, others may have repented of whatever relation they had with her – Both those who were faithful and those who repented saw Satan’s rule expressed in Jezebel’s influence, they were sorry about the darkness. In this they were like those mentioned in Isaiah 9 –

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. Isaiah 9:2 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6–7 (NKJV)

*Application # 1 – This passage speaks powerfully against Modern Radical Feminist Theology which is at war with God and Christ –*

*In the 1980s a woman named Rosemary Radford Reuther wrote a book called Sexism and God-Talk. In it she claims the Bible is a mere human, more male than female writing and that at least most of it was written to establish man’s rule over women. Though she denies that it is from God, she is not against a god or goddess concept. She sees it as a useful thing, to promote the Feminist Agenda, her replacement goddess is mother earth. Mother Earth is radically different that Our Father in Heaven in that she does not have oppressive rules like “Thou shalt not kill” or “Thou shalt not commit adultery”. She and others like her have influenced both churches and society.*

*Application #2 – This passage speaks powerfully against all sin, Christ as the Son of God, with His ability to see all (judge righteously) and punish all (execute judgment powerfully) the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: Revelation 2:18*

*He will search our hearts and judge us as well -*

<sup>23</sup> **..., 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.** Revelation 2:23 (NKJV)

1. *This should make us conscious of our heart sins, whatever they are -*

<sup>19</sup> **For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.** Matthew 15:19 (NKJV)

2. *This should motivate us toward: confession, repentance, and seeking of God’s forgiveness –*

<sup>9</sup> **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** 1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

*Arnold Brevick*