

# BOOK OF REVELATION — REVELATION 2:1-29

## THE THINGS SEEN AND ARE AND WHAT SHALL TAKE PLACE

By Kevin E. Hughes

### The Seven Churches – Revelation 2:1-29

#### The Seven Churches, Mentioned in Revelation 1

##### Book (Scroll) sent to the 7 Churches

###### Revelation 1:4

- I. 4 John to the seven churches (assemblies) that are in Asia:
- Grace to you (assemblies)
  - and peace, [from 3 sources]
    - from Him (Father, God, 1:1, 1:5, 1:8) who is and who was and who is to come,
    - from the seven spirits (7 spirits of God, 5:6, 4:4, “the eyes of the Lord” on earth, Zech 4:10)
      - who (7 spirits of God, Angels) are before His (Father’s) throne,
    - 5 from Jesus Christ,
      - the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.
      - To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—

#### Write Book (Scroll) what you see and send to the 7 Churches

###### Revelation 1:11

- I. 11 saying, “Write in a book (scroll) what you (John) see, Compare Father’s scroll, Rev 5:1
- and send it (scroll) to the seven churches (7 assemblies):
    - to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea.”
  - 12 Then I (John) turned to see the voice that was speaking with me (John).
    - And having turned I (John) saw seven golden lampstands (7 assemblies);

#### The Mystery the 7 Lampstands, they are the 7 Churches (assemblies)

###### Revelation 1:20

- I. 20 “As for the mystery of the seven stars (7 messengers, men).
- which you (John) saw in My (Jesus’) right hand,
  - and (mystery) the seven golden lampstands (7 assemblies):
  - the seven stars are the angels (messengers) of the seven churches (7 assemblies),
  - and the seven lampstands are the seven churches (7 assemblies).

#### Mysteries > Hidden Things or Kept Secret Things of God, Rev 1:20

Mysteries in the Bible are those things revealed by God, that were previously hidden by God.

Chart



#### John Saw the 7 Stars and the 7 Golden Lampstands, as a Mystery

The Mystery was presented in a Personification Metaphor with a meaning Hidden by God.

Then Jesus Revealed the Mystery of the Stars as the angels (messengers) of the 7 churches

Then Jesus Revealed the Mystery of the 7 Lampstands,

Jesus Interpreted these metaphors as what they Literally were, the 7 Messengers and the 7 Churches.

## Jesus Speaking and John Hearing and Writing

### 7 Churches: Descriptions of Jesus - Rev 2 and Rev 3 **Chart**

- I. “of **the church** (assembly) in **Ephesus**”, **Rev 2:1**
  - A. **The One** (Jesus) who holds **the seven stars** (messengers) in **His right hand**,
  - B. **the One** (Jesus) who walks among the **seven golden lampstands** (7 assemblies),
- II. “of **the church** (assembly) in **Smyrna**, **Rev 2:8**
  - A. **The first and the last** (Jesus), **who** was **dead**, and has come to life,
- III. “of **the church** (assembly) in **Pergamum**, **Rev 2:12**
  - A. **The One** (Jesus) who has **the sharp two-edged sword**
- IV. “of **the church** (assembly) in **Thyatira**, **Rev 2:18**
  - A. **The Son of God** (Jesus),
    1. (Jesus) **who** has eyes **like a flame of fire**,
    2. and **His** (Jesus’) feet are **like burnished bronze**,
- V. “of **the church** (assembly) in **Sardis**, **Rev 3:1**
  - A. **He** (Jesus) **who** has **the seven spirits** (Angels) **of God**
  - B. (**He** (Jesus) **who** has) **the seven stars** (Angels),
- VI. “of **the church** (assembly) in **Philadelphia**, **Rev 3:7**
  - A. **He** (Jesus)
    1. (Jesus) **who** is holy, **who** is true,
    2. (Jesus) **who** has **the key of David**,
    3. (Jesus) **who** opens and no one will shut,
    4. (Jesus) **who** shuts and no one opens,
- VII. “of **the church** (assembly) in **Laodicea**, **Rev 3:14**
  - A. (Jesus)
    1. (Jesus) The Amen,
    2. (Jesus) the faithful and true Witness,
    3. (Jesus) the Beginning of the creation of God,

## Jesus Speaking and John Hearing and Writing

### John is to “write” to each of the 7 Angel (messengers) of the 7 Churches

#### What he heard Jesus say

- 2:1** “To the **angel** (messenger) of the **church** in Ephesus **write**:  
**2:8** “And to the **angel** (messenger) of the **church** in Smyrna **write**:  
**2:12** “And to the **angel** (messenger) of the **church** in Pergamum **write**:  
**2:18** “And to the **angel** (messenger) of the **church** in Thyatira **write**:  
**3:1** “And to the **angel** (messenger) of the **church** in Sardis **write**:  
**3:7** “And to the **angel** (messenger) of the **church** in Philadelphia **write**:  
**3:14** “To the **angel** (messenger) of the **church** in Laodicea **write**:

#### There are 3 Kinds of Messengers (“Angels”) in Revelation

The Messenger (“Angel”) **Jesus**, **Rev 1:1, 1:9-20, Rev 22:6**

The Messenger (“Angel”) **Angelic Being**, **7:2-3, 14:6-11, 15, 18, 17:1-2, 7-18, 18:2-19, 21-24, 19:17-18, 21:9, 22:6-11, 16**

The Messenger (“Angel”) a **Man**, **the Church** (Assembly) **Shepherd** or **Overseer**, **2:1, 8, 12, 18, 3:1, 7, 14**

7 Churches: “He who has an ear, let him hear” - Rev 2 and Rev 3

Jesus addresses the 7 Assembly’s ability to hear.

This assumes that you need a certain ability to hear and that not all people have that ability.

Chart

7 Churches: “He who has an ear, let him hear” - Rev 2 and Rev 3

To Israel > in Revelation: to 7 Churches > “He who has an ear, let him hear”

- 1) “of the church (assembly) in Ephesus”, Rev 2:7
- 2) “of the church (assembly) in Smyrna”, Rev 2:11
- 3) “of the church (assembly) in Pergamum”, Rev 2:17
- 4) “of the church (assembly) in Thyatira”, Rev 2:29
- 5) “of the church (assembly) in Sardis”, Rev 3:6
- 6) “of the church (assembly) in Philadelphia”, Rev 3:13
- 7) “of the church (assembly) in Laodicea”, Rev 3:22

In Matt 13:1-8, Jesus presented the Parable of the Soils Read Matt 13:10-17

after presenting the Parable Jesus says, “He who has ears, let him hear.”, Matt 13:9

“And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”, Matt 13:9

Q1: WHO is “them” in 13:10? A: “them” is the “great multitude” He gave the Parable to, Matt 13:2-3

Q2: WHO is the “great multitude” in 13:2? A: the “great multitude” is the People of Israel, Matt 13:2-3  
“Jesus answered, “To you (disciples) it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them (People of Israel) it (the mysteries) has not been granted. Matt 13:11

Q3: WHO has been granted to know the mysteries? A: the disciples, the chosen/called followers of Jesus  
Jesus answered, “Therefore I speak to them in parables; because (reason) while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. Matt 13:13

Q4: WHO is “them” and “they” that don’t see, hear, or understand in Matt 13:13?

A: “them” and “they” are the “great multitude” the People of Israel

Q5: In Verse 13:14, to WHOM is the Prophecy of Isaiah being Fulfilled and WHO is “their”?

A: “their” are the “great multitude” the People of Israel in Matt 13:2-3

This establishes a Pattern for Parables

First a Parable is Given with Mysterious Imagery and usually not understood.

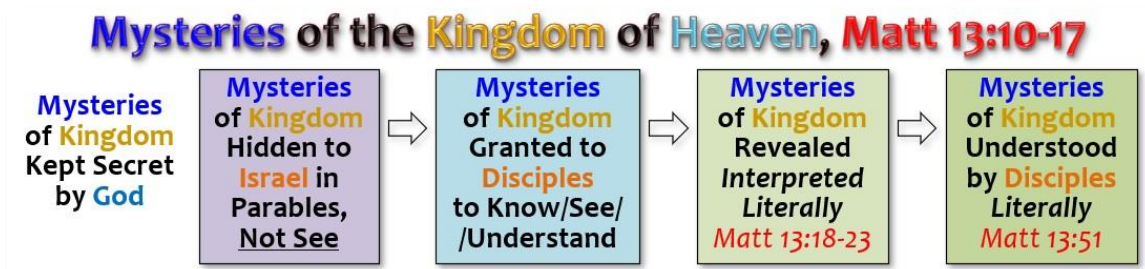
Second the Parable is said to be understood only by disciples of Jesus and Not by “multitude” of Israel

The disciples understood because it was granted by God for them to understand, Matt 13:11, 13:51

Third the Parable is interpreted by God (by Jesus) in Matt 13:18-23

The 7 Parables of the Kingdom relate to this Age of Grace or the Church Age.

Chart



The Inability to Hear, is always related to Israel in Scripture, and Not to the Gentiles or the Church.



## He who has an ear, let him hear: Rev 2 & 3

Jesus to 7 Churches > "He who has an ear, let him hear"

in Ephesus, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Rev 2:7

in Smyrna, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Rev 2:11

in Pergamum, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Rev 2:17

in Thyatira, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Rev 2:29

in Sardis, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Rev 3:6

in Philadelphia, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Rev 3:13

in Laodicea, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Rev 3:22

Jesus addresses 7 Church's ability to hear,

and is always related to Nation of Israel in Scripture, not to Gentiles.

To Israel > in Old Testament: "ears to hear", (Isa 6:10, Deut 29:4, Ezek 12:2, Zech 7:11-13)

Deuteronomy 29:4 Israel in Wilderness

4 "Yet to this day the Lord has not given you a heart to know, nor eyes to see, nor ears to hear.

Isaiah 6:10

10 "Render the hearts of this people (Israel) insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim,  
Otherwise they might see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts,  
And (they) return and be healed."

To Israel > in Gospels: "He who has ears, let him hear", (Matt 11:15, 13:9, 13:15-16, Lk 8:10, Mk 4:12)

Matthew 13:9 Israel in Wilderness

9 "He who has ears, let him hear."

Matthew 13:15

15 For the heart of this people (Israel) has become dull,  
With their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes,  
Otherwise they would see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, And understand with their heart  
and return, And I would heal them.'

To Israel > in Acts and Romans: "ears to hear not", (Acts 7:51, 28:27, Rom 11:8)

Acts 7:51 Steven to High Priest and Jewish Council

51 "You men (of Israel) who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears  
are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you (of Israel) are doing just as your fathers did.

Acts 28:27 (reads same as Matt 13:15 above)

Romans 11:8

8 just as it is written, "God gave them (Israel) a spirit of stupor, Eyes to see not and ears to hear not,  
Down to this very day."

### Conclusion:

The Lord did Not give Israel a Heart to know Him at the Exodus or Wilderness, Deut 29:4

The Lord did Not give Israel a Heart to know Him in the Gospels, Matt 13:15

The Lord did Not give Israel a Heart to know Him in the Acts and Romans, Acts 7:51, Rom 11:8

BUT The Lord Will give Israel a Heart to know Him at His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming, Jer 31:31-34, Ezek 36:25-28

## 7 Churches: Overcomers - Rev 2 and Rev 3

Overcomers: **Chart**

those who overcome the world, when Born of God, by Faith and Belief

1 John 5:4-5

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world;

and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

What the Spirit says to the Churches, Rev 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:29, 3:6, 3:13, 3:22

## 7 Churches: Overcomers - Rev 2 and Rev 3 **Chart**

What Jesus will Grant (Give) to Overcomers, (Rev 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:26, 3:5, 3:12, 3:21, also 21:1-7)

- 1) Overcomers (1<sup>st</sup>) Church, I will grant to eat of the tree of life in the Paradise of God. Rev 2:7
- 2) Overcomers (2<sup>nd</sup>) Church, He will not be hurt by the second death (Lake of Fire). Rev 2:11
- 3) Overcomers (3<sup>rd</sup>) Church, I will give some hidden manna & a white stone with new name, Rev 2:17
- 4) Overcomers (4<sup>th</sup>) Church, I will give authority over the nations, Rev 2:26
  - a. Overcomers I will give him the morning star, Rev 2:28
- 5) Overcomers (5<sup>th</sup>) Church, He will thus be clothed in white garments, Rev 3:5
  - a. Overcomers I will not erase his name from the book of life, Rev 3:5
  - b. Overcomers I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels, Rev 3:5
- 6) Overcomers (6<sup>th</sup>) Church, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, Rev 3:12
  - a. Overcomers he will not go out from it (the temple) anymore, Rev 3:12
  - b. Overcomers I will write on him the name of My God, Rev 3:12
  - c. Overcomers (write on him) the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, Rev 3:12
  - d. Overcomers (write on him) My New Name, Rev 3:12
- 7) Overcomers (7<sup>th</sup>) Church, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, Rev 3:21  
as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

What the Alpha and Omega says to Overcomers, Rev 21:1-7 **Chart**

Overcomers: A New Heaven, Earth, and Jerusalem - Rev 21:1-7

What the Voice from the Throne, the Alpha and Omega, will Grant (Give) to Overcomers

Overcomers will Inherit: a New Heaven, a New Earth, and a New Jerusalem, Rev 21:1-7

- 1) Overcomers, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, Rev 21:3
- 2) Overcomers, they shall be His people, Rev 21:3
- 3) Overcomers, God Himself will be among them, Rev 21:3
- 4) Overcomers, He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; Rev 21:4
- 5) Overcomers, there will no longer be any death; Rev 21:4
- 6) Overcomers, there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; Rev 21:4
- 7) Overcomers, the first things have passed away.” Rev 21:4
- 8) Overcomers, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Rev 21:5
- 9) Overcomers, “I will give to one who thirsts from spring of the water of life without cost.”, Rev 21:6
- 10) Overcomers, “He who overcomes will inherit these things.” (all listed), Rev 21:7
- 11) Overcomers, “I will be his (overcomer’s) God and he (overcomer) will be My son.”, Rev 21:7

those who overcome the world, when Born of God, by Faith and Belief. 1 John 5:4-5

## The Seven Churches that are in Asia

### Map



**Asia Minor**, equivalent to modern **Turkey**, was composed of 7 postal districts. At the center of those districts were 7 key cities which served as central points for the dissemination of information.

This was the **Roman province** of "**Asia Minor.**"

The 7 **Churches** addressed were actual **Churches** of **John's** day.

But **they** also represent and apply to types and conditions of **churches in all generations.**



Jesus Speaking and John Hearing and Writing **Map**

First Epistle: to the (1<sup>st</sup> messenger) of the Church (1<sup>st</sup> assembly) in Ephesus

**Read Revelation 2:1-7** John's Vision: of Jesus Speaking to him, Rev 1:9-20

VIII.1 "To the angel (man, messenger) of the church (assembly) in Ephesus write:

- A. The One (Jesus) who holds the seven stars (messengers) in His right hand,
- B. the One (Jesus) who walks among the seven golden lampstands (7 assemblies),
- C. (Jesus) says this:
- D. 2 'I (Jesus) know your (Ephesus)' deeds and your toil and perseverance,
  1. and (know) that you cannot tolerate evil men,
  2. and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not,
    - a. and you found them to be false;
- E. 3 and you have perseverance
  1. and have endured for My name's sake,
  2. and have not grown weary.
- F. 4 'But I (Jesus) have this against you (Ephesus),
  1. that you have left your first love.
- G. 5 'Therefore (because of that) remember from where you have fallen,
  1. and repent and do the deeds you did at first;
  2. or else I (Jesus) am coming to you
  3. and will remove your lampstand (assembly) out of its place (in Heaven, 2:1)
    - a. unless you repent (turn).
- H. 6 'Yet this you (Ephesus) do have,
  1. that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I (Jesus) also hate.
- I. 7 'He who has an ear, let him hear
  1. what the Spirit says to the churches (7 assemblies).
  2. To him who overcomes, (overcomers, 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:26, 3:5, 3:12, 3:21, 21:7)
    - a. I (Jesus) will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.' Gen 3:24

**Ephesus** - Under Caesar Augustus, Ephesus became the capital of the Roman province called Asia, which today is the western portion of Turkey. It was the residence of the apostle John before and after his exile on Patmos, and it was the site of the great temple of Artemis (Latin, Diana).

**Commendation: 2:2-3**

Jesus commended the Ephesian church for their deeds, toil, and perseverance, and their not tolerating evil men, and their testing of false apostles (false teachers).

They were commended for persevering, enduring, and not wearying in serving God.

**Reproof: 2:4**

They had lost their first love, the love they had 30 years earlier, when Paul ministered there about 3 years.

"the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints", Eph 1:15-16

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word", John 14:23

But the Ephesians' passion and love for Christ had become cold and distant.

**Exhortation: 2:5**

Because they lost their first love, They were to remember how far they had fallen since their inception, 30 years earlier, when they had been commended for their love, Eph 1:15-16

They were told to repent (turn from your ways) and to return to the love they had before.

If they didn't repent, Jesus would remove their lampstand (church), cause them to not exist.

**Commendation and Promise: 2:6**

They were commended because they hated the practices of the Nicolaitans, a sect wrong in practice and in doctrine, that Jesus hated also. There has been much speculation about who the Nicolaitans were.

To him who overcomes, Jesus will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.' Rev 22:2

## The 7 Churches addressed were actual Churches of John's day.

But **they** also represent and apply to types and conditions of **churches in all generations**. This idea is supported by the fact that **only seven were selected out of the many that existed and flourished in John's time** and by the statement at the close of each letter that **the Spirit was speaking to the churches**.

## The Angel Messenger of the Church Assembly in Ephesus

**Q:** Who were these **Angel Messengers** ?

**A:** These **Messengers** were **Men** and probably **Elders, Pastors, or Overseers** of each individual **Congregation**.

*Jesus Speaking and John Hearing and Writing*

The Second **Epistle**: to the (2<sup>nd</sup> **messenger**) of **the Church** (2<sup>nd</sup> **assembly**) in **Smyrna**

**Read Revelation 2:8-11 John's Vision: of Jesus Speaking to him, Rev 1:9-20**

**I. 8** "To **the angel** (**man**, messenger) of **the church** (**assembly**) in **Smyrna** write:

- A. **The first and the last** (**Jesus**), **who** was **dead**, and has come to life,
- B. (**Jesus**), says this:
- C. **9** '**I** (**Jesus**) know **your tribulation** and **your poverty** (but **you** are **rich**),
  1. and the **blasphemy** by **those** who say **they** are **Jews** and are not,
  2. but are a **synagogue** (**Jewish** Worship place) of **Satan**. (**Jewish** assemblies)
- D. **10** 'Do not **fear** what **you** are about to **suffer**.
- E. Behold, **the devil** is about to cast some of **you** into **prison**,
  1. **so that** (Reason) **you** will be **tested**,
  2. and **you** will have **tribulation** for ten days.
  3. Be faithful until **death**, and **I** (**Jesus**) will give **you the crown of life**.
- F. **11** '**He who** has an **ear**, let **him hear** what **the Spirit** says to **the churches** (**assemblies**).
- G. **He who overcomes** (**overcomers**, 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:26, 3:5, 3:12, 3:21, 21:7)
  1. will not be hurt by **the second death**.' **Rev 20:14, 21:8**, surely die

**Smyrna** – **Smyrna** means "**myrrh**," the substance used for perfume and often for anointing a dead body for aromatic purposes. Called the **crown of Asia**, this ancient city (modern **Izmir, Turkey**) was the most beautiful in **Asia Minor** and a center of science and medicine. **Smyrna's** intense loyalty to **Rome** resulted in a strong emperor-worship cult. A large **Jewish community** in the **city** also proved hostile to the early **church**.

**Commendation: 2:9**

**Jesus** knew the **Smyrna church** was going through **tribulation** (stress) and **poverty** (poor) **2 Corinthians 6:10**, "as **sorrowful** yet always **rejoicing**, as **poor** yet making many **rich**, as having **nothing** yet **possessing all things**."

**They** had **tribulation**, but were to **rejoice**, **they** were **poor**, had **nothing**, yet were **rich** because **they possessed all things** the Lord gave and would give them.

**Reproof:** Notable is the fact that there was No **Reproof** whatever for these faithful, suffering Christians.

**Exhortation: 2:10a** Do not **fear** what **you** are about to **suffer** But have Courage instead. You will Suffer **Imprisonment** and **tribulation** for 10 days, so that you will be **tested**, your faith.

**James 1:2-4**

- 2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various **trials**,
- 3 knowing that the **testing of your faith** produces endurance.
- 4 And let **endurance** have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

**Promise: 2:10b-11** But when you are **tested**, be **faithful** until **death**, because you will receive, **the crown of life** from **Jesus**.

**He who overcomes** will not be hurt by **the second death**.' **Rev 20:14, 21:8**, the **Lake of Fire**.

"**Synagogue**" in **2:9**, is related to the **Jewish** (**assembly**) place of Worship and the **Nation of Israel**



## Jesus Speaking and John Hearing and Writing

The Third Epistle: to the (3<sup>rd</sup> messenger) of the Church (3<sup>rd</sup> assembly) in Pergamum

Read Revelation 2:12-17 John's Vision: of Jesus Speaking to him, Rev 1:9-20

- I. 12 “And to the angel (man, messenger) of the church (assembly) in Pergamum write:
- A. The One (Jesus) who has the sharp two-edged sword (Jesus) says this:
    1. 13 ‘I (Jesus) know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is;
    2. and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas,
    3. My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.
  - B. 14 ‘But I (Jesus) have a few things against you,
    1. because (Reason) you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam,
    2. who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel,
    3. to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality. 1 Cor 8:1-13
    4. 15 ‘So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
  - C. 16 ‘Therefore repent (turn);
    1. or else I am coming to you quickly,
    2. and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.
  - D. 17 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches (assemblies).
    1. To him who overcomes, (overcomers, 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:26, 3:5, 3:12, 3:21, 21:7)
    2. to him I will give some of the hidden manna, Exodus
    3. and I will give him a white stone,
    4. and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.’

**Pergamum** – Pergamos means “citadel” and is the word from which we get parchment—a writing material developed from animal skin. Pergamos (modern Bergama) was built on a 1,000-foot hill in a broad, fertile plain about 20 mi. inland from the Aegean Sea. It had served as the capital of the Roman province of Asia Minor for over 250 years. It was an important religious center for the pagan cults of Athena, Asklepios, Dionysius (or Bacchus, the god of drunkenness), and Zeus. It was the first city in Asia to build a temple to Caesar (29 B.C.) and became the capital of the cult of Caesar worship.

### Commendation: 2:13

Jesus knew the Pergamum church was where Satan’s throne was or where the location of satanic opposition and a Gentile false religions were and where Antipas was martyred among them, 2:13.

### Reproof: 2:14-15

But Jesus had a few things against them, because some held the teaching of Balaam, 2 Pet 2:15, Jude 11 who kept teaching Balak, Jos 24:9-10, Judges 11:25, to cause the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and commit immorality. you also have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans, a sect wrong in practice and in doctrine.

### Exhortation: 2:16

‘Therefore (because of that false teaching) repent (turn from your ways); Repent or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth (the word of God Judging sin)

### Promise: 2:17

To him who overcomes to him I will give some of the hidden manna, Bread from Heaven that sustains life, John 6:31-35 I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone, which no one knows but the receiver.

Things related to the Nation of Israel

Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel

And caused the sons of Israel to eat things sacrificed to idols, 1 Cor 8:1-13, Rev 2:14, 2:20

## Jesus Speaking and John Hearing and Writing

The Forth Epistle: to the (4<sup>th</sup> messenger) of the Church (4<sup>th</sup> assembly) in Thyatira

### Read Revelation 2:18–29

I. 18 “And to the angel (man, messenger) of the church (assembly) in Thyatira write:

A. The Son of God (Jesus),

1. (Jesus) who has eyes like a flame of fire,
2. and His (Jesus’) feet are like burnished bronze,
3. (Jesus) says this:

B. 19 ‘I know your (Thyatira’s) deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance,

1. and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

C. 20 ‘But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel,

1. who calls herself a prophetess,
2. and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray
3. so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 1 Cor 8:1-13
4. 21 ‘I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality.

5. 22 ‘Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness,
6. and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation,
  - a. unless they repent of her deeds. (works ?)

7. 23 ‘And I will kill her children with pestilence,

D. and all the churches will know

E. that I (Jesus) am He who searches the minds and hearts;

F. and I (Jesus) will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

G. 24 ‘But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira,

1. (the rest) who do not hold this teaching,
2. (the rest) who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—
3. I place no other burden on you.
4. 25 ‘Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I (Jesus) come.

H. 26 ‘He who overcomes,

1. and he (overcomer) who keeps My (Jesus’) deeds until the end,
2. to him (overcomer) I will give authority over the nations;

I. 27 and he (overcomer) shall rule them with a rod of iron, Ps 2:9, Rev 12:5, 19:15

1. as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces,
2. as I (Jesus) also have received authority from My Father;

J. 28 and I (Jesus) will give him (overcomer) the morning star (Jesus). Rev 22:16, Num 24:17-19, Ps 2

K. 29 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches (assemblies).’

**Thyatira** – Located halfway between Pergamos and Sardis, it had been under Roman rule for 3 centuries (ca. 190 B.C.). Since the city was situated in a long valley that swept 40 mi. to Pergamos, it had no natural defenses and had a long history of being destroyed and rebuilt. Originally populated by soldiers of Alexander the Great, it was little more than a military outpost to guard Pergamos.

### Commendation: 2:19

Jesus knows Thyatira’s deeds, and their love and faith and service and perseverance, and that their deeds of late are greater than their deeds at first. (works ?)

### Reproof: 2:20-23

Jesus has this against Thyatira, that they tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants (of Israel) astray so that they (of Israel) commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Jesus gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality.

Therefore, 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. And I will kill her children with pestilence,

**Exhortation: 2:24-25**

But Jesus says to, the rest who are in Thyatira,  
The ones who do not hold this teaching of Jezebel,  
The ones who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—  
I place no other burden on you.  
Nevertheless what Thyatira you have, hold fast until I (Jesus) come, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.

**Promise: 2:26-29**

26 'He who overcomes,  
he who keeps My (Jesus') deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;  
he shall rule them with a rod of iron, Ps 2:9, Rev 12:5, 19:15  
as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces,  
as I (Jesus) also have received authority from My Father;  
and I (Jesus) will give him (overcomer) the morning star (Jesus). Rev 22:16, Num 24:17-19, Ps 2

Things related to the Nation of Israel

Sounds like Thyatira Judged by Deeds or Works ?

eat things sacrificed to idols, 1 Cor 8:1-13, Rev 2:14, 2:20

<https://www.gotquestions.org/food-sacrificed-idols.html>

Jezebel leads My bond-servants (of Israel) astray, so that they eat things sacrificed to idols, Rev 2:14, 2:20

“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.” Rev 2:14

**1 Corinthians 8:8–9**

8 But food will not commend us (Gentile, believers) to God;  
we are neither the worse if we do not eat,  
nor the better if we do eat.

9 But take care that this liberty of yours (believers)  
does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak (before Israel, Rev 2:14).