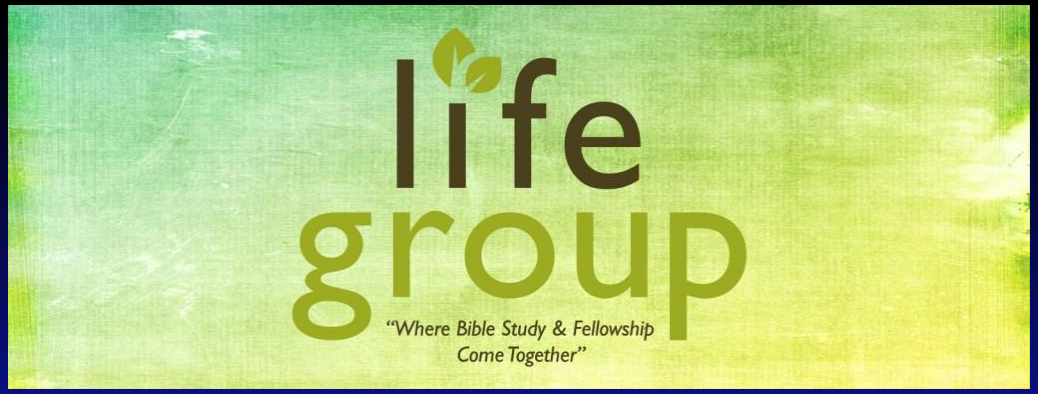
Welcome to the Worship Celebration of

SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED



LIFE Group …

6:30 pm at the Thomas' home on Wed. evenings
Bring your Bibles, your Notebook, an Expectant heart and a prayerful-thankful attitude to Experience the Presence, the Power and the Purpose of Jesus Christ, together

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Jesus Christ Evaluates His Churches – prt 2

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Revelation chapter 1

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants — things which must shortly (or *quickly*) take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, 2 who bore witness to the **Word of God**, and to **the testimony of Jesus Christ**, to all things that he saw. 3 **Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy**, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: *(Asia Minor is Modern-Day Turkey)* Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

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Revelation chapter 1

5 … To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,
6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

8 "I am **the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End**," says the **LORD**, "**who IS** and who **WAS** and who **IS TO COME**, the **Almighty**." [➔ "**Great I AM**" of Exodus 3:13-16]

9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the **Word of God** and for the testimony of **Jesus Christ**.

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Revelation chapter 1

10 I was in the Spirit on the LORD's Day, and I heard behind me a loud
voice, as of a trumpet, 11 saying, "I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA, THE
FIRST AND THE LAST," [Isaiah 44:6] and, "What you SEE, write in a book and
send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna,
to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."
12 Then I turned to SEE THE VOICE that spoke with me. And having
turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven
lampstands One like the SON of MAN
(see Daniel 7:9-10,13-14), clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded
about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like
wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were
like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His VOICE as the sound of
many waters;

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Revelation chapter 1

16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a **SHARP TWO-EDGED SWORD**, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; **I AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST**. 18 I am He who **LIVES**, and was dead, and behold, I am **ALIVE FOREVERMORE**. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. 19 Write the things which you **HAVE SEEN**, and the **THINGS WHICH ARE**, and the **THINGS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THIS**. 20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the **ANGELS** of the **SEVEN CHURCHES**, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the **SEVEN CHURCHES**.

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Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God." Isaiah 44:6 → Jesus is equated with God, in verses 11 & 17

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 → displays God the Father as "The Ancient of Days" and the Messiah, as the Divine "Son of Man" whose Kingdom will have no end (i.e. the Eternal Kingdom of God)

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1. The Imagery and Symbolism is from the Old Testament . . .

Then **Jesus** said to them, "Therefore every **scribe** instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who **brings out** of his treasure things **new** and **old**." **Matthew 13:53**

For someone who is of Israeli/Jewish background and becomes a follower of Israel's Messiah - that "scribe" would be perfect for pulling out the concepts, ideas, and symbolism to help God's Kingdom spread and multiply for Christ's sake, etc.

And this is what John was doing

➔ **"write down the things you have seen…"**

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2. It is all Israeli-Centric Concepts … No Concepts from the Heathen Gentile World ➔

Israel is FRONT and CENTER …

and ISRAEL's Messiah, **Jesus Christ**, is FRONT and CENTER

The Concepts, Ideas, Understandings, Phrases, etc… all are Hebraic/Isreali/Jewish. The references regarding Balaam, and Jezebel in Revelation chapters 2 & 3 relate to the Old Testament accounts. They are "pointers" pointing to the full context of what they mean. The meaning is found in the context of those original accounts in the book of Numbers and within 1 & 2 Kings, etc. The references relating to Idolatry – draws from Exodus through Malachi. We must understand God's Hatred toward Idolatry to understand why Jesus is so angry with Pergamon and Thyatira in Revelation chptrs 2 & 3

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3. Idolatry is more than just bowing down to an Idol. (The SIN of Syncretism – Mixture of religions)

Idolatry, that is referenced overwhelmingly in the Bible relates to all the trappings of it:

- It relates to the gods and/or goddesses "behind" the physical idols (the spiritual entities or the "nothing" or the "lies")
- It relates to all the rituals, the beliefs, the celebrations, the "calendar items" (annual celebrations), the concepts, ideas, … the whole package of what it means to "worship" and obeying of that false god, or those false gods and/or goddesses.
  In most cases, these are highly organized religions with codified writings like their own "Bibles", etc. This is the "Idolatry" that God rails against in the O.T.

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3. Idolatry is more than just bowing down to an Idol.
(The SIN of Syncretism – Mixture of religions)

Thus, Idolatry relates to the "religion" and the "religious trappings", the whole package ➔

The SEEDS, ROOTS, TRUNK, BRANCHES, and FRUIT of Idolatry

This is why **1 Cor. 10:14** says **"Flee Idolatry"**
and **1 John 5:21** says
"Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen."

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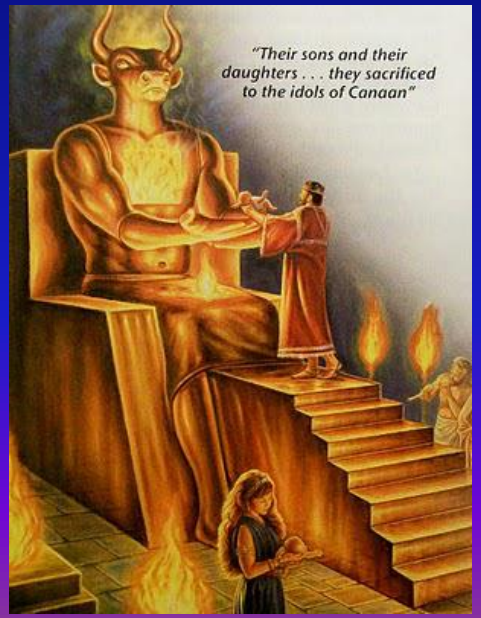
It is a Story of Two Cities

Babylon/BABEL OR Jerusalem

gods and goddesses of the land of Canaan & surrounding

➔ Baal, Ashtoreth, Asherah, Tammuz, Molech . . .



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3. Idolatry is more than just bowing down to an Idol.
(The SIN of Syncretism – Mixture of religions)

This is the reason Jesus is so angry with the churches of Pergamon and Thyatira. Dabbling in, with, and **MIXING** in Idolatrous Traditions, Beliefs, Rituals, etc… into Christianity is an Abomination unto God ➔ **Paganistic Syncretism**

Zephaniah 1:4-5 - "I will crush Judah and Jerusalem with my fist and destroy every last trace of their **Baal** worship. I will put an end to all the **idolatrous** priests, so that even the memory of them will disappear. (5) For they go up to their roofs and bow down to the sun, moon, and stars. They claim to follow the LORD, **but** then they worship **Molech**, **too**."

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3. Idolatry is more than just bowing down to an Idol.
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“They feared (or "worshipped") Yahweh, yet served their own gods — according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away” 2 Kings 17:33

Yahweh God, whose Name is **“Jealous”** is a Jealous God – He wants us all, fully, not partially
(Exodus 20:5; 34:14; Deut. 4:24; 5:9; 6:15; 32:16-21; Joshua 24:19; Ezekiel 36:5-6; 39:25; Nahum 1:2; 2 Cor. 11:2)

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IDOLATRY is WHY Jesus Calls a couple Churches in Revelation chapters 2 & 3 to Repentance … it is so serious

IDOLATRY and their Traditions that seem so nice, but really have their ROOTS in IDOLATRY … are very addictive and STICKY and Hard to Get Rid of, unless there is Full REPENTANCE and Coming back to God, with the Simplicity of Devotion unto Christ, based upon HIS WORD, ALONE

IDOLATRY can be masked as "Christian Traditions", and celebrated and accepted by the World, as well. Be careful!!!

See y'all Next Time we Gather…
@ LIFE Group and/or Here Next Week