

Jesus Evaluates His Churches, Part 6
Thyatira – “Purple goddess of Paganism”
Revelation Chapter 2:18-29– 03/13/2016
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP
<http://NLFJI.org/Teachings>

Today’s Study is on “the church of Thyatira”

Thyatira – “Sacrifice of Contrition” or “Sweet Savor of Labor”

(modern day Turkish City of **Akhisar** – ref.: **Acts 16:4** → Lydia, from Thyatira, a seller of “Purple”)

REVIEW:

Our FOCUS → Find out what Jesus Christ **Likes & Loves** and what Jesus Christ **Dislikes** and **Hates**

FYI: There are Only 2 Churches in which Jesus Christ does NOT call to Repentance.

1. **Intro** --> The **Symbolic Picture of Jesus Christ** revealed and His Message **Intro** to the 7 Churches
2. Understanding God's **Hatred** regarding anything related to **Idolatry** and **Paganism**, etc.
3. **Ephesus** (Rev. 2:1-7) - **Lost Your First Love - Repent - Regain that First Love**
Time Period Represents --> **From the Day of Pentecost** (Acts 2) until around **70 A.D. or so**
4. **Smyrna** (Rev. 2:8-11) - sweet smelling incense, sacrifice → characterized by **Christian Martyrdom**
Beginning with the Jewish **Bar Kockba Revolt** - which led to the Persecution of Israel by the Roman Empire
Rome viewed “**Christians**” as a new **Jewish Cult**, so it was under that same category at the beginning.
Thus, the **Destruction** of the Israeli **Temple** in Jerusalem in **70 A.D.** was the beginning of the seed of the
of the **10 waves** of Persecution by the Roman Empire against Christians – it was **LINKED**
Those **10 days** of Persecution → represented those **10 Distinct waves of Persecution** by the Roman
Empire → this was the **KEY that unlocked** the Mystery of the 7 Churches → Represent Periods of time within the
Church Age – in the case of Smyrna – it represents the Time Period of **67 A.D. until around 313 A.D.**
5. **Pergamos** (Rev. 2:12-17) - **BAD MARRIAGE** --> Represents the beginnings of the **Roman Catholic Church ...**
313 A.D until around 529 A.D. (go to <http://NLFJI.org/Per> for more)
The Pagan Invasion and Integration after **Constantine the First** married the “church” to Rome.
The **Grand Compromise** based on the “**Doctrines of Balaam**” → **Idolatry and Immorality**
The **Nicolaitan Model of Leadership** was **Embraced** and Employed (Clergy, Cardinals, Popes)
→ **Jesus HATES** Idolatry, Immorality and the Nicolaitan Model of church leadership.

Today’s Text – Revelation 2:18-29 → [529 A.D. to the 1300’s A.D. (Middle Ages/Dark Ages)]

(18) “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: ‘The words of the **Son of God**, who has **eyes like a flame of fire**, and whose feet are like **burnished bronze**.’ (19) ‘I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. (20) **But I have this against you**, that you **tolerate that woman Jezebel**, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to **practice sexual immorality** and to **eat food sacrificed to idols**. (21) I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. (22) Behold, I will **throw her onto a sickbed**, and those who **commit adultery with her** I will throw into **GREAT TRIBULATION**, unless they repent of her works, (23) and I will strike her children **dead**. And all the churches will know that **I am he who searches mind and heart**, and I will give to each of you according to your works. (24) But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold **this teaching**, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. (25) Only hold fast what you have **until I come**. (26) The one who conquers and who keeps my works **until the end**, to him I will give **authority** over the nations, (27) and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. (28) And I will give him the morning star. (29) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”

1. **Eyes Flaming with Fire - and - Feet Like Burnished Bronze** → What is this Symbolic Of?
God’s Holiness, God’s Wrath and Holy Judgment – He is not happy – Evaluation is Harsh
2. **Jesus commends them** (He’s always a Gentleman) – He wants the best for them → religious works, love, faith, service, patient endurance

3. **Jezebel – This Woman Jezebel – you tolerate her TEACHINGS – Revelation 2:20-24 ...**

Jezebel → Ahab, Jezebel – and Elijah ... from 1st Kings 16 and onward ...

This relates to BAAL, ASHTORETH, and TAMMUZ Worship ... rooted in the Idolatry and Paganism that comes from Babylon / Babel (remember the Bible is a “tale of two cities” → Babel and Jerusalem)

1 Kings 16:31: And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him (*King Ahab*) to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife JezeBEL the daughter of EthBAAL, king of the Sidonians; and he went and **served BA’AL and worshiped him.**

Ba’al is BEL ... Asherah is Ashtoreth (Queen of Heaven) ... Tammuz is Mithras ... (see **Ezekiel 8:14**)

Osiris is Ba’al ... ISIS is Asthoreth (Queen of Heaven) ... Horus is Tammuz (Egyptian Mythologies)

Zeus is Ba’al ... Herah/Athena/Astarte is Ashtoreth ... Adonis is Tammuz (Greco-Roman)

This **Cult** that invaded the Roman Catholic church during the **MIDDLE-AGES / DARK-AGES** (from about 529 A.D. to the 1300’s A.D.) is **exactly predicted** here in this passage. Jesus relates its roots to Babylon and to Satan (**the deep things of Satan**). It involved Idolatry and Immorality (that began in the Pergamos Time Period of 313 to 529 A.D.) that was referred to as the “**Doctrines of Balaam**” which found its roots in the same Idolatrous-Pagan Babylonian Mystery Religions. It involves the worship of the “**Mother goddess**” which was masked as the **Worship of Virgin Mary**. It was, in fact the worship of **Ashtoreth/Asherah/Ishtar/Easter/Astarte/Diana/Artemis** but was “Christianized” as the “**Veneration**” of the **Virgin Mary (Queen of Heaven, Mother of God)**. Thus, the “Worship of the Saints” and Mary Worship – **Mariolatry** - came to be the characterization of this **Time Period of the Roman Catholic Church**. Just as JezeBEL introduced this **BA’AL**, Ashtoreth, and Tammuz pagan-idolatrous **worship** to the Northern 10 Tribes of Israel. So, it was this **Cult of Jezebel** / the **spirit of Jezebel** that was Tolerated, Embraced, and Integrated into the Roman church and spread like a **virus** all over the Roman Empire. (see **Jeremiah 7 & 44**) **By the 7th Century, Pope Gregory, the 1st**, ordered the Arch Bishop of Canterbury to integrate ALL Pagan forms of worship, traditions, customs and beliefs into the church (thus **Christianizing** them by Edict from Rome).

4. **Those who resisted these false teachings during Middle Ages of church history were rewarded by Christ.** → Rev. 2:24-29: **But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do NOT hold this teaching, who have NOT learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do NOT lay on you any other burden. (25) Only HOLD FAST what you HAVE until I COME. (26) The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, (27) and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. (28) And I will give him the morning star. (29) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”** → there was a very **small Minority** of real, genuine believers who did **NOT** hold to this Satanic-Babylonian-rooted teaching. They eventually became the “**seed**” that started the **Protestant Reformation/Revolution** (as typified in the “**church of Philadelphia**”).
Read *Foxes Book of Martyrs* for more on this. (period of time → 530 A.D. to around the 1300’s)
5. **LESSON:** This **Heresy of Jezebel** had to start somewhere. False Doctrines must be caught, **EXPOSED** and **Destroyed** at the beginning. They can **NEVER** be tolerated. It must be stopped in its tracks, or it will always lead to God’s Judgment - “bed of sickness” & eventually “Great Tribulation” → “**the black plague**”? (please, read 2 Peter 2 and Jude for more on how we should reject heresies and false teachings)

More Notes regarding today’s Teaching → <http://NLFJI.org/TH>

Roman Catholic → Her Pagan Origins:

<http://gotquestions.org/origin-Catholic-church.html>

<http://gotquestions.org/Catholic-questions.html>

<http://gotquestions.org/Roman-Catholicism.html>

<http://gotquestions.org/Constantine-the-Great.html>

<http://gotquestions.org/Catholic-idolatry.html>

<http://NLFJI.org/PaganRC>

“**Queen of Heaven**” / “**Mother of God**” --> <http://gotquestions.org/Queen-of-Heaven.html>

The **Tammuz/Mithras** connection (Ba'al and Ashtoreth's “son”) → Became the Cult of the Roman Elite and Roman soldiers (Mithra/Mithras is the same as “Tammuz”, but in new packaging - the son of the “sun god” reborn)

40 Days of Weeping for Tammuz and its connection to LENT: <http://www.hope-of-israel.org/lent.htm>

<http://gotquestions.org/who-Tammuz.html> (his birthday: December 25th)

<http://gotquestions.org/Mithraism.html> (his birthday: December 25th)

Roman Catholic - Heretical Beliefs -->

<http://gotquestions.org/Catholic-Christian.html>

<http://gotquestions.org/Catholic-Biblical.html>

The “**Celebration of Mass**” is Heresy / False Doctrinal Practice/Ritual

→ <http://gotquestions.org/Holy-Eucharist.html>