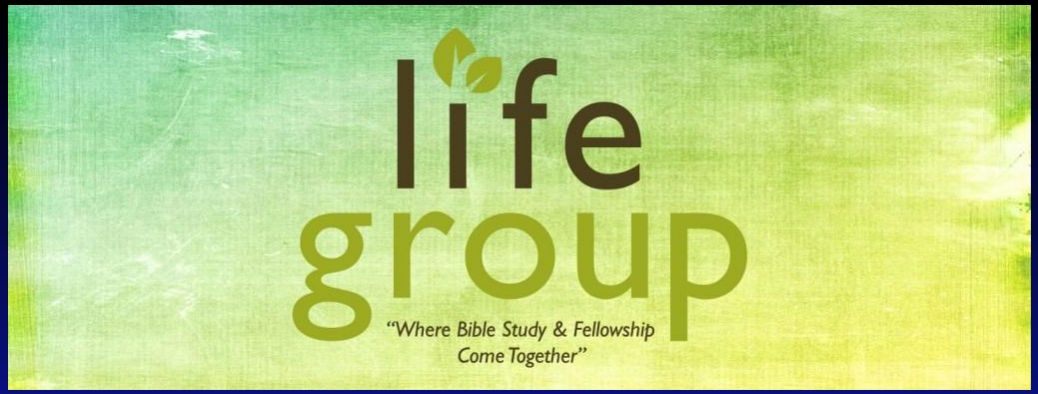
Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



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

☺

Jesus Christ Evaluates His Churches – prt 6

Jesus Christ Evaluates His Churches – prt 6

Seven Churches of Asia — 96 AD

Jesus Christ Evaluates His Churches – prt 6

REVIEW:

Our FOCUS ➔ Find out what Jesus Christ **Likes** & **Loves** and what Jesus Christ **Dislikes** & **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 & 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.**

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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.

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Revelation 2:18-29

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**,

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Revelation 2:18-29

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.'

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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, was a seller of "Purple"

Thyatira **represents, prophetically**: the church age: 529 A.D. to the 1300's A.D.

(i.e.: the Middle Ages / the Dark Ages)

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 – His Evaluation is **Harsh**

Eyes Flaming Fire – Fire/Consuming Purging Sin – God can see everything

Bronze / Brass throughout the O.T. relates to God's Judgment, God's Wrath, the Punishment of Sin. Such as the Bronze/Brass Altar of Sacrifice in the Tabernacle / Temple … The Bronze/Brass snake in the wilderness (because of sin) … FYI → Silver = God's Grace … Gold = God's Glory

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2. **Jesus commends them (He's always a Gentleman)** – He wanted the best for them ➔ regarding their religious works, love, faith, service, patient endurance

This is, again, in reference to their past, and He would like them to be like that again. Just like he commended Pergamos, about their past. He wanted them to go back to their Biblical roots and get right with God, again. REPENTANCE is His call to this church, ONLY. Do you Remember, back in the day, when you were On-FIRE for Christ … ?

He does NOT want to Punish them. He does NOT Delight in the Punishment of Human Being, never, ever does He like that. But, it is always the last resort, after many warnings. But, there is a **Point in Time** when and that is the last warning and then Judgment will begin. It must begin, first in the House of God. (see 1 Peter 4:17)

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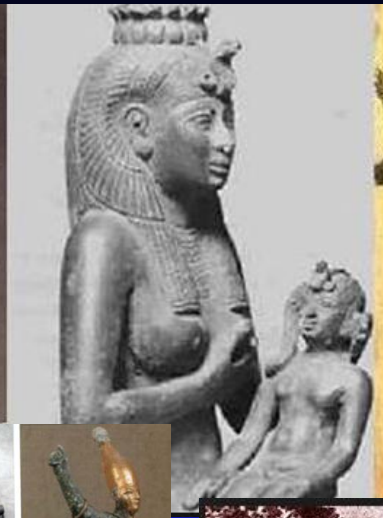

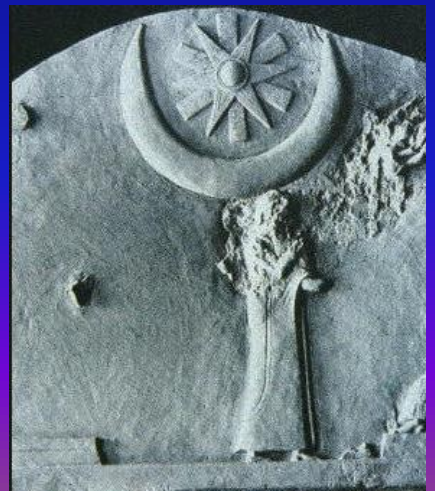

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3. Jezebel – This Woman Jezebel – you tolerate her TEACHINGS – Revelation 2:20-24 …

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/Babylon 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 Jeze**BEL** the daughter of Eth**BAAL**, 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 … **(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)

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This **CULT** that invaded the Roman Catholic church during the **MIDDLE-AGES / DARK-AGES** is **exactly predicted** here in this passage. Jesus relates its roots to Babylon and to Satan (**the deep things of Satan**). It involves the worship of the **"Mother goddess"** which was masked as the **Worship of Virgin Mary**. It was, in fact the worship of the **MOTHER GODDESS ➔ Ashtoreth/Asherah/Ishtar/Easter/Astarte/Diana/Artemis** but **she** 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 Jeze**BEL** 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)**

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This integration of Paganism, Idolatry, and False Doctrines continued and then in the 7th Century … it became an Official Practice … Pope Gregory the 1st ordered the Arch Bishop of Canterbury in England to start accepting and integrating ALL of the Pagan/Idolatrous Customs, Practices, Traditions, and Beliefs of these pagan peoples into Christianity. Thus, Officially "Christianizing" Paganism … this is Documented Evidence of this Practice to Integrate and Mix-in Paganism into Christianity. This was done to increase "church membership"

Jesus Christ KNEW this was going to Happen.

The Church of Thyatira TYPIFIED what the Roman Catholic Church would do during the time of 529 A.D. to around the 1300's A.D. –

The MIDDLE AGES – the DARK AGES

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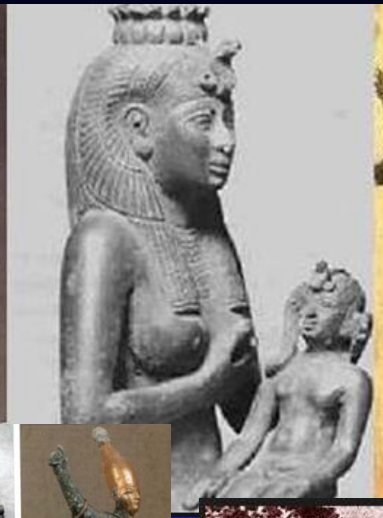

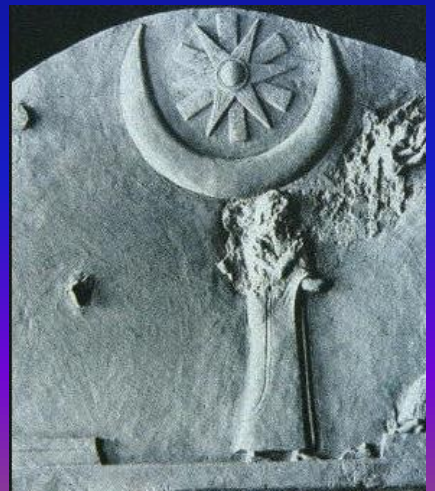

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4. **Those who resisted these false teachings during Middle Ages of church history were rewarded by Christ. → Rev. 2:24-29: But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do NOT hold this teaching, who have NOT learned what some call the deep things of Satan, 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)**

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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"**?
   We know that the BLACK Plague followed this Period of Time, Precisely Because The Roman Catholic Church failed to Repent. This led to it becoming **Sardis** (the next church) which was DEAD … **bed of sickness, the children were struck DEAD.**
   (please, read **2 Peter 2** and **Jude** for more on how we should reject heresies and false teachings) ➔ A Little Leaven, Leavens the whole Lump → so don't let the leaven in, in the first place.

If you want to study Deeper, please, go to ➔ http://NLFJI.org/TH

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

SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED