







Rev 2:18-29 – Message to Thyatira
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- Persecution during the Pergamos era (c. AD 650 – 1000) caused some to escape to southeastern Europe (**Bogomils** [Friends of God] and **Paulicians**).
- Paulicians observed the seventh day Sabbath.
- These bearing the true faith “were called by the world Waldenses, Vaudois, Henricians, Catharists, Puritans, Bogres, Paulicans – and also other names from leading preachers among them, and from countries from which they were expelled; but they disowned these names, calling themselves the Church of God” (*Church of God History* by Andrew Dugger, chapter 10).
- The era of Thyatira began its work around AD 1000 with its center of operations in the mountains and valleys of northern Italy and southern France. This era appears to be the Middle Ages preceding the protestant reformation (AD 1000 – 1500).
- Around AD 900 to 1000, Christians in the Alpine and Pyrenean valley area came to be called **Waldenses** from the Italian word for “valleys.”
- They also went to France, where they were known as the **Vaudois**, a French word meaning “inhabitants of the valleys”.
- The work rapidly spread itself into various regions of Europe (*Gaul, Spain, Scotland, Ireland, England, Germany, Bohemia, Saxony, Poland and Lithuania*) and Asia.

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- “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**.” (Rev 2:18).
- ‘**Son of God**’ (the only time the term is used in the book of Revelation).
- Catholic influence was great & Mary adoration was growing (“Son of Man”).
- Diversion from true worship of God appears to have called for the authoritative term “Son of God”.
- ‘**brass**’ – Gr 5474 (*chalkolibanon*) – only used in Rev 1:15 and 2:18 – implied great brilliance.
- ‘... **eyes ... feet**’ – **Rev 1:14-15; Ezek 1:26-28** – Christ as a glorious judge.
- The **Son of God** rules & judges amongst the Church through its areas (1:14-15), but with particular emphasis mentioned here in Thyatira (2:18).

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- “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first” (Rev 2:19).
- Praised for their love, service and faith.
- One of the first servants was ‘Peter de Bruys’ who began his work around 1104 preaching repentance from sin.
- Later a great work was started by ‘Peter Waldo’ of Lyons, France between about 1160 to 1170.
- Much of its historical records were destroyed by persecutions.
- The Waldenses were a people of the Bible and observed the Sabbath as a day of rest for several centuries, the Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles (The Incredible History of God’s True Church, Ivor C Fletcher, p 124).
- Waldenses’ modern history denies this point of their origin (Sabbath keeping).



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- “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” (Rev 2:20).
- A major objection to the church in Thyatira: The evil works of a woman named ‘Jezebel’.
- While claiming to be a ‘prophetess’, she (Jezebel) urged Christians in Thyatira to continue their pagan idols worship.
- Representative of Old Testament’s Jezebel (1 Kings 21:1-8, 13-16, 23).
- Jezebel is a typical example of subtle corruption and a symbol of immorality and idolatry. She also killed nearly all God’s prophets, and tried to kill Elijah (1 Kings 19:2).
- Thyatira known for purple dyes: Symbolic of **wealth, power and royalty**.
- A woman is usually a symbol of a Church.
- It could refer to the Catholic Church influence and exalting “Virgin Mary” (and its “apparitions”).
- In 1315 Walter the Lollard (Waldensian minister) carried the true gospel into England.
- In 1401 a law was introduced which forbade the teaching of “new doctrines” by the Lollards. Faced with fines, imprisonment or ultimate death many recanted and made peace with the Catholic Church (The Incredible History of God’s True Church, Ivor C Fletcher, p 125).



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- Participating in idol worship (images, “saints”, “Virgin Mary”) and keeping pagan festivals (as today we have Christmas, Halloween, New Year’s) with their gluttonous feasts, led (and leads) to licentiousness and unlimited toleration of carnal passions.
- In the Middle Ages the false teaching of the “continual” sacrifice of Christ sacrifice was advocated. Even today the Catholic Church teaches that the so called “communion wafer” is literally Christ’s body.
- This “eating the things offered to idols” covers all the way from pagan festivals of idolatry to this Catholic practice which denies that Christ’s sacrifice, was a complete sacrifice.
- Heb 10:1-4 – only Christ’s sacrifice takes away sins.
- Heb 10:5-10 – Christ’s body was prepared according to God’s will to sanctify us once for all.
- Heb 10:11-14 – By one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.
- Heb 10:19-31 – Boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus Christ. Don’t go back!



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- “And I gave her time to *repent* of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. *Indeed I will cast* her into a *sickbed*, and those who commit *adultery* with her into great tribulation, unless they *repent of their deeds*” (Rev 2:21-22).
- God gave them time to repent.
- “Indeed I will cast” – Judgement will be executed.
- It is not a ‘*bed*’ where sin was committed, but a ‘*sickbed*’ of pain and suffering.
- Notice that *adultery* is mentioned and not fornication.
- It represents a *violation of the marriage vow*, a violation of the law of God and *the covenant of relationship with the Lord* done at baptism.



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- “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” (Rev 2:23).
- Foreshadows church history during the Middle Ages which preceded the Protestant Reformation (c. AD 1000 – 1500).
- In that period, the church became corrupt as it sought to combine true Christianity with pagan philosophy and pagan religious rites.
- During this period, the lifting up of Mary to the level of female divinity also began.
- The church experienced biblical depravity.
- There was gross spiritual immorality and adultery.
- But applies to us all!



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- “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. But hold fast what you have till I come” (Rev 2:24-25).
- One group is mentioned within the Church showing themselves as faithful.
- They didn't follow the *Jezebel* doctrine, this doctrine of Satan's religious system.
- We need to follow the ‘*deep things of God*’ – 1 Cor 2:10.
- Cling to what you have and wait for the coming of the Lord, our real and only hope.
- The coming of Christ is mentioned for the first time as a hope for those affected by Satan's system.



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- “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations-- ‘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; and I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Rev 2:26-29)
- Overcoming Christians are promised positions of authority.
- They will share Christ’s rule over the nations of the world.
- ‘*rule*’ – from the greek word ‘*poimaino*’ (Gr. 4165= ‘*to feed, to tend a flock, keep sheep – care as a shepherd*’).
- Execute ‘justice’ and administer mercy and direction.
- ‘*Morning star*’ – Probably referring to Christ who will bring a new morning (age) and be a light to the world. We will be a light as well.
- ‘*He who has an ear ...*’ comes at *the end of the promise* – not before as in the first three letters. This is so with all the letters from now on.
- These instructions are therefore *even more strongly addressed to all of us.*


