

REVELATION



Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-29

Thyatira: Biblical Background

- Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

Acts 16:14

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Thyatira: Historical Background

- **Name Meaning**
 - Possible meaning *from gk.*
 - *thy* – sacrifice
 - *tereo* – to keep
 - = "keep the sacrifice"
- **Commercial City**
 - Smallest and Least Significant
 - Longest and Very Significant Letter
 - Known for dyes, wool, leather, bronze, pottery and more.
 - Trade Guilds (Unions)
 - *A merchant or trader could not have a job and make money unless he was a member of his trade guild.*



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Stefanovic, Ranko. Revelation of Jesus Christ: Commentary on the Book of Revelation . Andrews University Press. Kindle Edition.

Thyatira: Greeting/Identification

- **Rev. 2:18** “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. 2:19** “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and *as for your works, the last are more than the first.*”

Revelation 2:18-19

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• Revelation of Jesus

- Son of God
 - cf. Rev. 1:13
 - A signal of Lordship/Authority over familiarity
- Eye's Like a Flame of Fire
 - cf. Dan 10:6
 - Ability to see the deepest parts of human beings.
- Feet like fine brass
 - cf. Dan. 10:6
 - strong, resistant to corrosion
 - Uncompromising stability

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Revelation 2:18-19

- Key Words

- Works

- Aside from not denying the name of Christ (see. Rev 3:8), Jesus cares less for what the church’s say and more on what they do.
- Practice over profession
- We are justified by faith and judged by our works

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Revelation 2:18-19

• Key Words

- Love
 - The motivation for good works
 - Contrast to Ephesus (cf. Rev. 2:4)
- Service
 - gk. *diakonia*
 - Practical acts of Christian affection (Acts 6:1-6, Rom. 12:13, 2 Cor. 9:6-13), Jam. 1:27)

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Revelation 2:18-19

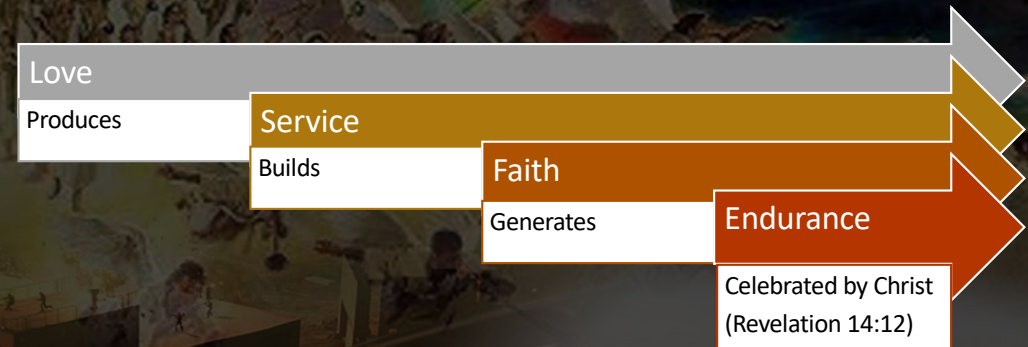
• Key Words

- Faith
 - Not a momentary action but rather a lifestyle (faithfulness).
 - Faithfulness - the character of one who can be relied on.
 - Whatever happens those who have this attribute can be relied on.
- Patience
 - Endurance under pressure

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Thyatira: Greeting/Identification

- Love and Service
 - Service is the outcome of love.
(1 Thess. 1:3; Heb. 6:10)
- Faith and Endurance
 - Perseverance the product of faith.
(Col. 1:23; 2 Thess. 1:4; Heb. 6:12)



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- A Growing Church

- More Love
- More Service
- More Faith
- More Patience

Revelation 2:18-19

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Thyatira: The Problem

- **Rev. 2:21** 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. 2:21** And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.
- **Rev. 2:22** 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. 2:23** 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.

Revelation 2:20-23

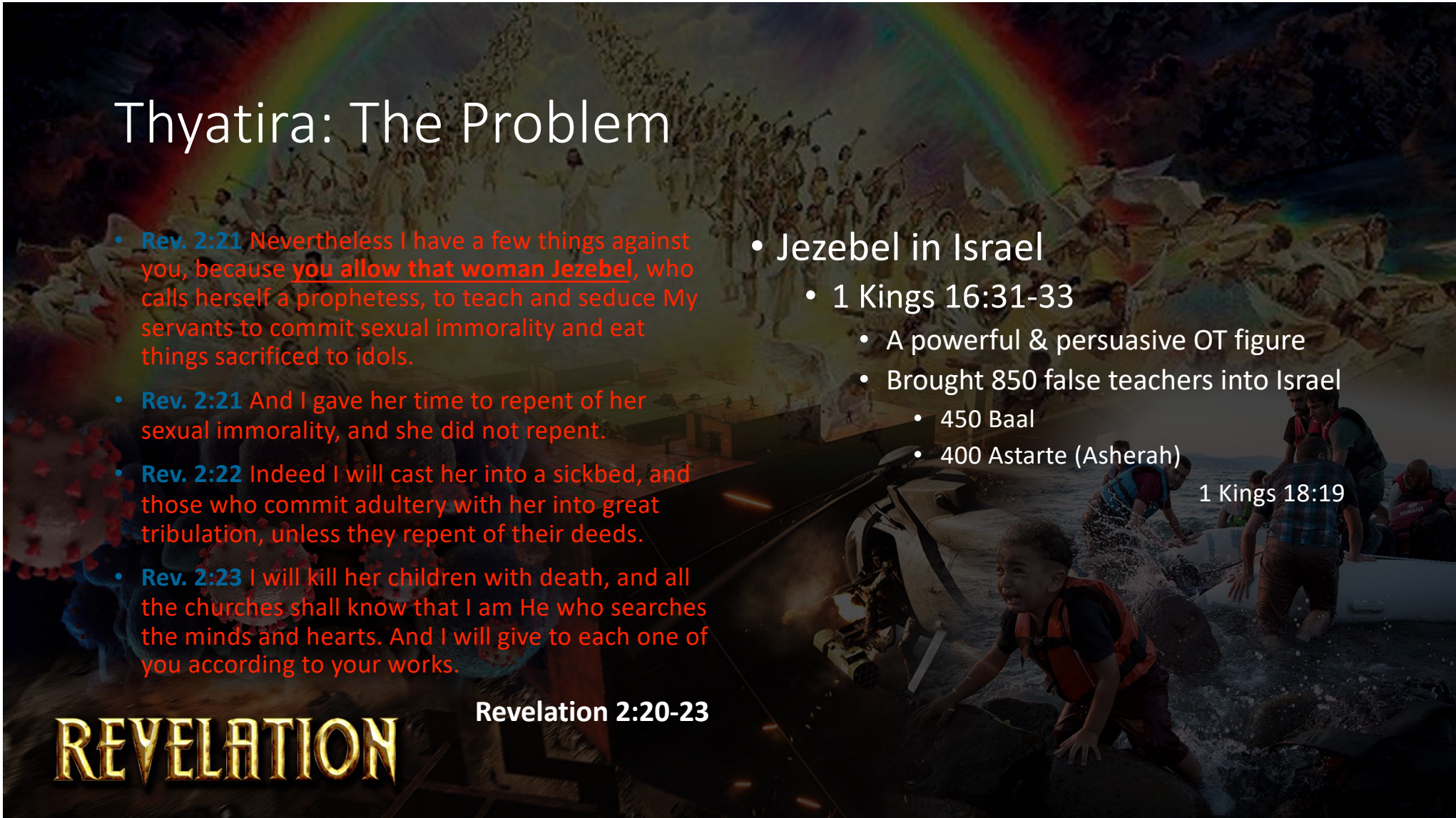
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• Jezebel in Israel

• 1 Kings 16:31-33

- A powerful & persuasive OT figure
- Brought 850 false teachers into Israel
 - 450 Baal
 - 400 Astarte (Asherah)

1 Kings 18:19



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Revelation 2:20-23

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• Jezebel in the Church

- A powerful & persuasive presence
- Self proclaimed prophetess
 - cf. Lk 2:36, Acts 21:9
 - Evidently was not tested (cf. Rev. 2:2, 1 Jn 4:1))
- Claimed to reveal a deeper truth
 - Certain sins are allowed?
 - Sin less serious for Saints?
- A teacher of compromise
 - Likely, teachings that made joining guilds and participating in their practices acceptable.
- A practitioner of compromise
 - Seduced followers of Christ to engage in immorality.

Thyatira: Problem – Responses to False Teaching

Ephesus

- No Compromise
- **Rev 2:2** “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that **you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;**
- **Rev 2:6** But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Pergamum

- Creeping Compromise
- **Rev. 2:14** But I have a few things against you, **because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam**, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.
- **Rev. 2:15** Thus **you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans**, which thing I hate.

Thyatira

- Corruption
- **2:21** 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.

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Thyatira: The Problem

- While the church in Ephesus lacked ardent love and focused only on the obedience to God, thus becoming legalistic and severe in dealing with and checking those who were not doctrinally sound, the church in Thyatira went to another extreme. In emphasizing love and the gospel, this church tolerated the false teaching that perverted sound doctrine and conduct, doing much harm to the purity of the gospel teaching and church unity.

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• Time to Repent from Sexual Immorality

- Both Physical and Spiritual Sexual Immorality are condemned in scriptures.
- Sexual Immorality = Misuse of the Lord's temple (our bodies) for sexual gratification.
- Spiritual Immorality = Split commitment to the world and God.
- Jezebel – Elijah Connection
 - God gave Israel, influenced by Jezebel, time to repent.
 - That time was 3.5 years (1Kings 18:1, Lk 4:25, James 5:17)

Thyatira: Counsel

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• Repent

- Our High Priest is patient
- Our High Priest is merciful
- Our High Priest is gracious
- Jesus is so longsuffering that he calls out to the corrupt, those who have known the deep things of Satan, and tells them there's still time!

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Thyatira: Counsel

- **Rev. 2:24** “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.
- **Rev. 2:25** But hold fast what you have till I come.

Revelation 2:24-25

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• The Remaining Ones

- First mention of remnant in Revelation (cf. Rev 12:17)
 - Even amid widespread corruption there is always a faithful few.
 - Jezebel – Elijah Connection
 - Elijah, Obadiah and 400 prophets of the Lord remained faithful.
- 1 Kings 18:4, 22; 19:10

Thyatira: Promise/Closing

- **Rev. 2:26** And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—
- **Rev. 2:27** “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;
- **Rev. 2:28** and I will give him the morning star.
- **Rev. 2:29** ¶ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Revelation 2:26-28

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- The Power to Rule Justly with Christ
- The Privilege to Have Christ cf. Rev 22:16



Thyatira: Historical Application

AD 538 - 1798

- Middle/Dark Ages
- Beginning of Papal Rome
 - Decisive conflict between Rome and Goths
 - Goths defeated by Balisarius
 - Pope Vigilius ascends to power

How?

- Jezebel – Elijah Connection
 - God gave Israel 3.5 years
 - God gave the Little Horn 3.5 years cf. Dan 7:25
 - The one who introduced new doctrines
 - The one who introduced new laws
 - The one who introduced new times

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