

The Letter to Thyatira.

Revelation 2:18 *“And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; 19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.*

20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. 21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. 23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. 24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. 25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. 26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. 28 And I will

give him the morning star. 29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

Through each of the letters that the Lord sent to the seven churches in Asia we can see that they were all different. So far we have seen that the church of Ephesus maintained doctrinal purity but had left their first love; for its part, the church in Smyrna had to prepare for tribulation and suffering; and the church in Pergamun had accepted into its bosom different sinful practices that offended the Lord. Now we are going to study the message to the church in Thyatira, and we are going to see that although it also had some things that the Lord praised, nevertheless, they were making friends with the world that displeased God.

The City of Thyatira.

Of the seven cities to which a letter is addressed, Thyatira was the smallest of all (although the longest letter is addressed to it). Its fundamental importance lay in its strategic position that linked trade routes between various cities. Therefore, Thyatira distinguished itself as a large commercial center.

As we study the letter we will notice that it is not said that there was persecution against the Christians in that city.

2:18 *“And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass.”*

As in the other letters, the one who sends the letter is the Lord Jesus.

1. *“The son of God.”*

This expression constitutes a clear affirmation of the deity of Christ. The reason the Sanhedrin condemned him to death was precisely for claiming that he was the Son of God (Mt 26: 63-66) (Jn 19: 7).

It could be that the reason the Lord chose this title when addressing the church in Thyatira was because there were some who denied his divinity.

2. *“He who has eyes like a flame of fire.”*

The ability that the Lord has to penetrate the most hidden secrets of the human heart. His eyes can read man's innermost thoughts and motives.

We also notice that his eyes are "like a flame of fire," which reminds us of his burning anger against sin.

3. *"And feet like burnished bronze."*

Furthermore, his feet are "similar to burnished bronze", that is, they had a dazzling shine and seem to describe him as coming victorious in judgment, ready to submit all his enemies under his authority.

Christ praises his church.

2:19 *"I know your works, and love, and faith, and service, and your patience, and that your last works are more than the first."*

Even though there were things in the church in Thyatira that displeased the Lord, still, they also had some good qualities that the Lord recognizes in them.

"Love". It is about "agape", divine love implanted in the human heart, manifested in selfless service and ready to sacrifice for others.

"Service". The evidence that we love is manifested in our willingness to serve the Lord and our neighbor.

"Faith". It has to do with trust in Christ, not only as a means of our salvation, but also as our constant fidelity to the Lord.

"Patience". Evidence of true faith is manifested in perseverance in facing life's trials and difficulties without abandoning the Lord.

And finally, the Lord recognizes that "your last works are more than the first." That is to say, he observed a progress in the spiritual life of that church.

Christ rebukes his church.

2: 20-21 *“But I have a few things against you: that you tolerate that that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, teaches and seduces my servants to fornicate and to eat things sacrificed to idols. And I have given her time for her to repent, but she does not want to repent of her fornication. ”*

Although there were things in that church that had progressed very well, yet there were others that deeply displeased the Lord. What we are going to see is that the church in Thyatira had allowed evil people to damage the church from within.

1. *“You tolerate that that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, teaches. ”*

In the letter to Pergamun we saw that Balaam seduced the people from outside, but in Thyatira we see that this seduction was taking place from the very leadership of the church. This made it especially serious. One of the main leaders of the church is called here Jezebel by the Lord Jesus Christ.

We note that it was she herself who called herself a prophet, although the Lord clearly says that she was not really one. These letters reveal to us that the spiritual world is full of falsehood and lies. We have already seen that in Ephesus some claimed to be apostles and were not (Rev 2: 2); in Smyrna and Philadelphia others pretended to be Jews without being so (Rev 2: 9) (Rev 3: 9); Christians in Laodicea pretended to be rich but were poor (Rev 3:17); And now this Jezebel was pretending to be a prophetess but she was a liar.

Third, although she is called "Jezebel", it is most likely that this was not her real name, but again the Lord's intention is to compare this false prophetess with a well-known Old Testament character. That Jezebel of old was the daughter of a pagan king from Sidon who married Ahab, the king of Israel. So she became the queen, and therefore she had the opportunity and the right to influence the government at her whim. Jezebel represents the union of the church and the world.

There are several things we must learn from this woman in the Old Testament that should alert us: She destroyed the Lord's prophets and tried to eliminate the worship of Jehovah in Israel (1 Kings 18: 4,13). She also set out to kill Elijah (1 Kings 19: 1-2). She introduced Baal worship to Israel and supported her prophets (1 Kings 18:19). She herself was given to fornication and sorcery (2 Kings 9:22). She plotted Naboth's murder with lies to take away her inheritance (1 Kings 21: 1-15).

Of course, considering all these facts, it is clear that the Jezebel of the church in Thyatira was not a true believer a bit clueless. She was an incredulous and highly dangerous woman. But the worst of the case is that she in the church allowed her to teach.

2. *"Teach and seduce my servants to fornicate and eat things sacrificed to idols."* She then explains to us what her methods were.

She is told that she taught and seduced God's servants to fornicate and eat things sacrificed to idols. Most likely, it was not a sexual seduction here, but she was deceiving them about their fidelity to God into committing spiritual fornication.

We can imagine that the Christians in Thyatira would have great difficulty joining the powerful commercial corporations of artisans in the city. Let us remember that being a member of these organizations required attending the banquets organized by them, which implied participating in certain pagan cults in honor of the protective deity of the same and then eating the meat that had previously been offered to him. Furthermore, these meals frequently degenerated into sexual debauchery, which further aggravated the problem. What would Christians do in that situation? If they did not participate, they would most likely be deprived of work.

And it seems that Jezebel was persuading church members to participate in those kinds of celebrations. If so, the church in Thyatira would have sacrificed certain spiritual principles in exchange for economic and social benefits.

3. "And I have given him time to repent, but he does not want to repent of his fornication."

The Jezebel of the Old Testament had the opportunity to repent when God sent the prophet Elijah to meet Ahab and the prophets of Baal. There it was demonstrated that Jehovah was the only true God. After this, Elijah appealed to all the people to repent, but Jezebel did not want to listen to him, in fact, at that moment

she had Elijah's head cut off. And apparently the Jezebel of the church in Thyatira had also received the same warnings for her to repent, but she had not wanted to. Therefore, the Lord was preparing to treat her severely.

A call to repentance.

2: 22-23 "Behold, I cast her on her bed, and in great tribulation those who commit adultery with her, unless they repent of their deeds. And I will smite her children to death, and all the churches will know that I am the one who searches the mind and the heart; and I will give to each of you according to your works."

The judgment against Jezebel was already determined on the part of the Lord, but there were still possibilities of repentance for the believers.

"Behold, I throw her in bed." We must interpret the "bed" as the bed of disease and pain. Therefore, the bed that had been the place of her sin would now be the place of her punishment.

"And in great tribulation to those who commit adultery with her, if they do not repent of their deeds." Those who "adulterate with her" should refer to spiritual adultery with those who accepted her teaching and allowed that sin within the church. Maybe it's

the same leaders. But they still had a chance to repent and thereby stop the judgment on them.

"And his children I will kill." The false doctrine taught by Jezebel had produced a brood of contaminated individuals who had become his "spirit children." They followed the ways of her mother and would end up the same way she did unless they repented. Let us note the serious consequences that false teaching has in the church and also the responsibility that each member has if they accept it.

A exhortation.

2: 24-25 *“But to you and to the others who are in Thyatira, to those who do not have that doctrine, and have not known what they call the depths of Satan, I say to you: I will not impose another burden on you; but what you have, hold fast until I come.”*

1. The exhortation is addressed to the faithful remnant. There is now a message for faithful believers, those who had not gone astray as a result of bad teaching: *“But to you and to the others who are in Thyatira, to those who do not have that doctrine.”*

2. It is noted that it is a diabolical doctrine.

As for the doctrine taught by "Jezebel" it is clear that it came from Satan himself: *"And they have not known what they call the depths of Satan."* Behind the attractive facade of the woman, all the devilish evil of Satan was hidden.

3. An exhortation to retain what they had.

As we say, they had to flee from that teaching and remain faithful to the Christian practices that the Lord had praised in the beginning: love, service and patience. Let's see what he says to them: "I say to you: I will not impose another burden on you; but what you have, hold fast until I come ". This they had to keep in view of the glorious day when the Lord returns.

A promise to the victors.

2: 26-29 "To him who overcomes and keeps my works to the end, I will give authority over the nations, and *he will rule them with a rod of iron, and they will be broken like a potter's vessel; as I have also received it from my Father; And I'll give you the morning star* He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

1. *"To him who overcomes and keeps my works to the end, I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod*

of iron, and they will be broken like a potter's vessel; as I have also received it from my Father."

To these overcomers, the glorified Christ makes a very great promise; he would share with them his authority in his earthly government.

2. *"And I will give you the morning star."*

This morning star refers to the Lord Jesus Christ Himself:

Rev.22: 16 "I Jesus have sent my angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the root and the lineage of David, the shining star of the morning. " And the ultimate reward for the Christian will be full fellowship with him.

And the letter ends with a new call to hear the voice of the Lord:
"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."