



Rev 2:18-29 – THYATIRA – JEZEBEL’S CHURCH



A city known for their Guilds and Unions

- The most outstanding feature in Thyatiran life was probably the institution of trade-guilds. . . . At Thyatira there were guilds of bakers, potters, workers in brass, tanners, leather-cutters, workers in wool and flax, clothiers, dyers; the workers in wool and the dyers were probably the most numerous, for the manufacture and dyeing of woollen goods was a Lydian speciality, in which Thyatira excelled. ¹

Perhaps a church founded by Paul on one of his missionary journeys.

¹ Swete, *The Apocalypse of St. John*, lix-lx.

Acts 16:14 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.



Ruins of the church of Thyatira

- Jesus has John write more to the Thyatira church Angel than any of the other churches.
 - In the midst of a strong, and growing stronger, church of godly service lies a terrible root that could soon infect the entire church and bring them to nothing.

18 “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira² write, ‘These things says the Son of God, **who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:**

- Once again Jesus introduces Himself to this church as the purifying power of God who is Himself entirely pure and most Holy.

² **THYATIRA**—a city of Asia Minor, on the borders of Lydia and Mysia. Its modern name is Ak-hissar, i.e., “white castle.” Here was one of the seven churches (Rev. 1:11; 2:18–28). Lydia, the seller of purple, or rather of cloth dyed with this colour, was from this city (Acts 16:14). It was and still is famous for its dyeing. Among the ruins, inscriptions have been found relating to the guild of dyers in that city in ancient times. (M. G. Easton, *Easton’s Bible Dictionary* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1893).

Revelation 1:14-15

14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;

15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

- His eyes like a flame of fire:
 - Jesus has seen **EVERYTHING** that has gone on at the church of Thyatira.
 - He knows those that scheme for power
 - He knows those that seduce others for power
 - The woman described as a Jezebel has been watch closely by He whose eyes are a flame of fire!
- The city boasted a special temple to Apollo, the “sun god,” which explains why the Lord introduced Himself as “the Son of God” (the only time in Revelation this title is used). ³

19 “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.”

Better works for the Lord each day!

- This is every church’s hope, in Jesus.
 - **More in quantity and apparent quality as well.**
 - Greater love
 - Greater service to the congregation
 - Greater Faith – CAN ONLY MEAN MORE OF THE WORD
 - Greater Patience – everyone in ministry needs more patience – to wait upon the Lord

Psalm 127:1

Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted.
Unless the LORD protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good.

- **Wiersbe:** “It is interesting to contrast the churches at Ephesus and Thyatira. The Ephesian church was weakening in its love, yet faithful to judge false teachers; while the people in the assembly at Thyatira were growing in their love, but too tolerant of false doctrine. **Both extremes**”

³ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 575.

must be avoided in the church. “Speaking the truth in love” is the biblical balance (Eph. 4:15).” ⁴

- The works done at Thyatira did not stand on their own for good works are necessary, but not sufficient in Christian service. The world is full of organizations which focus on beneficent works to fellow man. This cannot be the measure of acceptability to God because many of these organizations embrace beliefs and practices which are directly opposed to God's Word (e.g., Shriners, Masons). Therefore, **works alone say nothing about an organization's relationship with God. It is the sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that makes service Christian.** ⁵

20 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.
21 **And I gave her time to repent** of her **sexual immorality,** and she did not repent.

- **Robertson:** First aorist active indicative of διδωμι [didōmi], **allusion to a definite visit or message of warning to this woman.** ⁶

Five things against Thyatira:

1. Jezebel calling herself a Prophetess:

a. There are “prophetesses” in the Bible, but she was self-appointed.

Ezekiel 13:17–23

17 **“Likewise, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people, who prophesy out of their own heart; prophesy against them,**

18 and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Woe to the women who sew magic charms on their sleeves and make veils for the heads of people of every height to hunt souls! Will you hunt the souls of My people, and keep yourselves alive?’

19 And will you profane Me among My people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, killing people who should not die, and keeping people alive who should not live, by your lying to My people who listen to lies?’”

⁴ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 575.

⁵ http://www.spiritandtruth.org/teaching/Book_of_Revelation/commentary/htm/chapters/02.html#Revelation%202%3A20

⁶ A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Re 2:21.

20 'Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against your magic charms by which you hunt souls there like birds. I will tear them from your arms, and let the souls go, the souls you hunt like birds.

21 I will also tear off your veils and deliver My people out of your hand, and they shall no longer be as prey in your hand. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.

22 "Because with lies you have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and you have strengthened the hands of the wicked, so that he does not turn from his wicked way to save his life.

23 Therefore you shall no longer envision futility nor practice divination; for I will deliver My people out of your hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD." ' ' "

2. Permitting Jezebel to teach.

a. Women are instructed to teach:

i. Other women

Titus 2:3–4

3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—

4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

ii. Children

2 Timothy 3:15 (Paul speaking to Timothy about his mother's teaching)

15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

b. Women are NEVER instructed to teach men

1 Timothy 2:11–12

11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.

12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.

1 Corinthians 14:34–38

34 Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says.

35 And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; **for it is shameful for women to speak in church.**

36 Or did the word of God come originally from you? Or was it you only that it reached?

37 **If anyone thinks himself/herself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him/her acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.**

38 But if anyone is ignorant, let him/her be ignorant.

3. Permitting her to seduce My servants (Christians) to commit fornication.

4203. **πορνεύω porneúō**; fut. porneúsō, from pornos (4205), a male prostitute. To commit fornication, to play the harlot. Intrans.:

(I) Particularly (1 Cor. 6:18; 10:8; Sept.: Hos. 3:3).

(II) **From the Hebr. symbolism for idolatry, the relationship existing between God and His Church (being exemplified by the emblem of the conjugal union) which is broken by those who worship idols (Rev. 2:14, 20);** followed by μετά (3326), with, and the gen. (Rev. 17:2; 18:3, 9).

Deriv.: ekporneúō (1608), to practice fornication which implies excessive indulgence; porneía (4202), fornication, lewdness.

Syn.: moicheúō (3431) and moicháō (3429), to commit adultery.⁷

3. Permitting her to seduce Christians to eat things sacrificed to idols.

4. Tolerating her in spite of impenitence ⁸

- Corinth was instructed by Paul to deal with the immorality in their church immediately!

1 Corinthians 5:1–2

1 It is actually reported that there is **sexual immorality** (4202. **πορνεία porneía**, gen. *porneías*,⁹) among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife!

2 **And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.**

⁷ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

⁸ Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text.

⁹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

- **Robertson:** Some MSS. here (A Q 40 min.s) have σου [sou] (**thy wife, thy woman, Ramsay makes it**), but surely Aleph C P rightly reject σου [sou]. Otherwise she is the pastor's wife! 10
 - Rev., the woman. **Some translate "thy wife."** 11
 - **HEMER:** "The textual question may be summarily treated. Two uncial manuscripts (A and 046 == Q, of the 10th century) and many cursives and versions insert σου [sou] [your] after τὴν γυναῖκα [tēn gynaika] [the woman/wife]. The decisive weight of textual authority however appears against this (x, C, etc.), and the addition is readily explained by dittography." 12

Spirit of Jezebel:

The Jezebel Spirit

- ❖ Seeks out other individuals they feel are weaker to control, influence and dominate
- ❖ Has an unnatural sense of self-importance
- ❖ Requires excessive admiration and attention
- ❖ Shows arrogant, haughty behaviors or attitudes
- ❖ Lacks self control, unable to control emotional outbursts, unconcerned with effecting others
- ❖ Exploitative, abusive, takes advantage of others to achieve his/her own goals, manipulative, lies
- ❖ Totally void of empathy; will falsely mimic empathy to seduce and control their victims
- ❖ Jealous and envious of others, yet delusional in believing others are jealous/envious of them
- ❖ Defensive and combative whenever confronted about anything
- ❖ Fantasies about themselves having unlimited admiration, beauty, power, success, brilliance or perfected worship in love
- ❖ Believes that he/she is superior and unique and can only be understood by other superior people
- ❖ Has a sense of entitlement; demands automatic compliance with his/her expectations; unreasonable expectations of others, critical when disappointed



"Jezebel people" promote Religion above Godly relationship: Religious Ignorance

Replaces God's Word and is based upon:

1. **MYSTICISM** – direct spiritual communication with dead saints and entities
2. **EMOTIONALISM:** God's will is what seems right
3. **LEGALISM:** Regulations and asceticism that flatters the worshipper

¹⁰ A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Re 2:20.

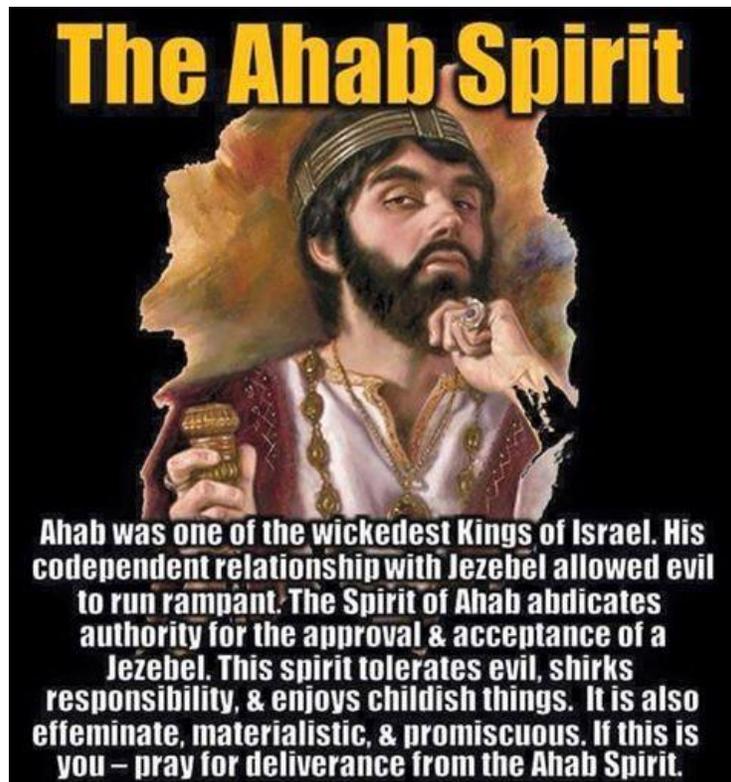
¹¹ Marvin Richardson Vincent, *Word Studies in the New Testament*, vol. 2 (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1887), 453.

¹² Hemer, *The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia in Their Local Setting*, 117.

4. **DISCONNECTED BIBLE REFERENCES:** Verses taken out of context or with a personal interpretation.
5. **RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS IN A POST-CHRISTIAN CULTURE:** Remains of a past Christian influence (Victorian holiness; depression era holiness; etc.)
6. **SINCERITY IN DECEPTION:** doctrine believable based upon their sincerity.

RELIGION	GOSPEL
"I obey, therefore, I'm accepted."	"I'm accepted, therefore, I obey."
Motivation is based on fear & insecurity	Motivation is based on grateful joy.
I obey God in order to get things from God	I obey God to get God and enjoy Him.
When things go wrong I am angry at God or myself, since I believe that anyone who is good deserves a comfortable life.	When things go wrong, I struggle, but I know all my punishment fell on Jesus and that God will care for me as a Father in my trial.
When I am criticized, I am furious or devastated because it is critical that I think of myself as a "good person." Threats to that self-image must be destroyed at all costs.	When I am criticized, I struggle, but it is not essential for me to think of myself as a "good person." My identity is not built on my record or performance but on Christ's.

Spirit of Ahab



- A weak and yielding character that finds shelter and co-dependency in women, and/or his wife.
 - Pursues women that are strong enough to be his Mommy
 - Pursues women who love to “fix” men.
- **Not a Spiritual Leader – a spiritual pawn** to his wife’s interest in any wind of aberrant doctrine blowing through her life.
- A man that submits to the sins of his wife in fear of reprisal from her.
- A man that fears his wife above his fear of God.

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.

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.

- **Τοὺς μοιχεύοντας** [*Tous moicheuontas*], **“those who commit adultery,”** **“A Hebrew idiom, the word is used of those who at a woman’s solicitation are drawn away to idolatry, i.e. to the eating of things sacrificed to idols”**¹⁶² (Eze. 16:37-41). The activity of Jezebel is a type representing the Harlot of Revelation 17±: “With whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication” (Rev. 17:2+).
- The imagery of both eyes and feet is that of impending judgment upon Jezebel and her children (Rev. 2:22-23+). The judgment will serve as a witness of His omniscience: **“All the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts”**.¹³
Hebrews 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

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.

25 **But hold fast what you have till I come.**

- Hold fast!

26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end,

¹³ http://www.spiritandtruth.org/teaching/Book_of_Revelation/commentary/htm/chapters/02.html#Revelation%202%3A20

to him I will give power over the nations—

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;

28 and I will give him the morning star.

Many illusions to Psalm 2:

Psalm 2:8–12

8 Ask of Me, and I will give You
The nations for Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

9 You shall break them with a rod of iron;
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "

10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings;
Be instructed, you judges of the earth.

11 Serve the LORD with fear,
And rejoice with trembling.

12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,
And you perish in the way,
When His wrath is kindled but a little.
Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

29 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." '