

THE 4TH LETTER TO THYATIRA

WE ARE STUDYING A BOOK CALLED, REVELATION. NOT REVELATIONS.IT'S SINGULAR, REVELATION WITH A TITLE," THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST". THIS IS THE ONLY BOOK IN THE BIBLE THAT SAYS ALL WHO READ IT ALOUD, HEAR IT, AND KEEP IT, WILL BE BLESSED.APOKALUPSIS-"AN UNVEILING OR AN UNCOVERING". THIS BOOK IN THE BIBLE IS A VISION GIVEN TO THE APOSTLE JOHN, BY AN ANGEL ON THE ISLAND OF PATMOS, A PRISON ISLAND SOUTHWEST OF EPHESUS. IN THIS BOOK, JESUS CHRIST IS REVEALED IN HIS GLORY. TRUTHS ABOUT HIM AND HIS FINAL VICTORY, THAT THE REST OF SCRIPTURE MERELY ALLUDE TO, BECOME CLEARLY VISIBLE. TODAY WE LOOK AT THE 4TH LETTER DICTATED BY CHRIST HIMSELF TO THE 7 CHURCHES OF ASIA MINOR. THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA. THYATIRA WAS ESTABLISHED AS A MACEDONIAN COLONY BY ALEXANDER THE GREAT AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PERSION EMPIRE. USED AS A MILITARY GARRISON, THYATIRA WAS FOUND BETWEEN THE HERMUS VALLEY AND THE CAICUS VALLEY. BECAUSE OF ITS LOCATION, THE CITY PROTECTED PERGAMUM AND PERGAMUM CONTROLLED THE CITY.

USE MAP

IN 190 BC, ROME TOOK CONTROL OF THYATIRA AND EVENTUALLY MADE IT A PROSPERING TRADE CITY. AN IMPORTANT TRADE ROAD RAN FROM PERGAMUM TO THYATIRA, THEN TO SARDIS AND THROUGH PHILIDELPHIA TO LAODICEA. THIS PRODUCED MANY CRAFTSMAN GUILDS.

THERE WERE GUILDS FOR WOOL WORKERS, LINEN WORKERS, MANUFACTURERS OF OUTER GARMENTS, DYERS, LEATHER WORKS, TANNERS, POTTERS, BAKERS, SLAVE DEALERS, AND BRONZE SMITHS. ONE OF THE BIGGEST INDUSTRIES WAS PURPLE DYED FABRIC. WE ARE INTRODUCED TO LYDIA IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

Acts 16:14

¹⁴ One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

LYDIA MAY HAVE GONE BACK TO THYATIRA WITH HER FAMILY AND STARTED THE VERY CHURCH THAT IS GETTING THIS LETTER

EACH GUILD HAD ITS OWN DEITY THAT THEY WORSHIPPED. THIS WOULD INCLUDE FOOD OFFERED TO IDOLS BEFORE THEIR BIG FEASTS, THEN, AFTER DINNER, SOME IMMORAL SEXUAL BEHAVIOR WOULD BE HAD. THAT BEING SAID, LETS LOOK AT THE LONGEST LETTER OUT OF ALL 7.

Revelation 2:18-29 ESV

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, 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.'

SANDWICH METHOD: ENCOURAGE, REBUKE, ENCOURAGE

Revelation 2:18 ESV

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.

JESUS INTRODUCES HIMSELF AS A JUDGE IN THIS LETTER

SON OF GOD VS. SON OF MAN (UNDERSTANDS OUR
CONDITION)

EYES LIKE A FLAME OF FIRE IS A METAPHOR FOR HIS
OMNISCIENCE.. HE SEES INTO DEEPEST PARTS OF OUR SOULS.
HE KNOWS ALL, HE SEES ALL....THIS IS ALSO REFERENCING HIS
JUDGEMENT, FIRE REPRESENTS JUDGEMENT MOST OF THE
TIME IN THE BIBLE

FEET LIKE BURNISHED BRONZE, ALSO A METAPHOR FOR HIS
PURE HOLINESS THAT IS READY TO STOMP OUT SIN IN
JUDGEMENT

Revelation 2:19 ESV

¹⁹ “I know your works, your love and faith and service and
patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.

THIS CHURCH WAS PROSPERING IN LOVE, FAITH, SERVICE, AND
PATIENT ENDURANCE, NOT ONLY THAT, BUT JESUS CONFIRMS
GROWTH IN THESE AREAS, LATTER WORKS EXCEED THE FIRST

SO WHAT HAPPENED? CAN BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS, BELIEVE A
FALSE DOCTRINE AND FALL INTO SEXUAL SIN?

Revelation 2:20 ESV

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.

THIS PROSPERING CHURCH WAS, IN SOME WAY, IGNORING OR ALLOWING A WOMAN OF PROMINENCE IN THE CHURCH TO TEACH AND PREACH A FALSE DOCTRINE, AN APOSTATE. EVEN WORSE, THE CHURCH MAY HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS IMMORAL BEHAVIOR. I'M SURE IT HAD TO DO WITH THE GUILDS. IF YOU WANTED TO WORK, YOU JOINED A GUILD. YOU JOIN A GUILD, YOU MUST DO EVERYTHING THEY DO. HENCE, FOOD FROM IDOLS AND SEXUAL IMMORALITY.

I DON'T BELIEVE HER NAME WAS REALLY JEZEBEL. I BELIEVE JESUS IS COMPARING THIS WOMAN TO THE JEZEBEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. 1 KINGS RECORDS THAT SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF A KING IN WHOM WORSHIPPED BAAL. JEZEBEL MARRIED KING AHAB, THE WORST JEWISH KING OUT OF ALL OF THEM. JEZEBEL LEAD ISRAEL ASTRAY, GETTING THEM TO WORSHIP BAAL, PARTICIPATE IN THE ORGIES, AND EAT THE FOOD OFFERED TO BAAL, SHE KILLED THE PROPHETS OF THE LORD EXCEPT FOR ELIJAH. SHE WAS PURE EVIL

1 Kings 16:29-33 ESV

²⁹In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri began to reign over Israel, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. ³⁰And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him. ³¹And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took for his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal and worshiped

him. ³² He erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria. ³³ And Ahab made an Asherah. Ahab did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

SERVANTS/DOULOS/SLAVES/ IT IS POSSIBLE FOR US TO BE
SEDUCED
THIS WOMAN CALLS HERSELF A PROPHETESS, GOD DOES NOT
AGREE

Revelation 2:21 ESV

²¹ I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality.

GOD GAVE HIS LONGSUFFERING AND MERCY GENEROUSLY

Romans 2:3-4 ESV

³ Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? ⁴ Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

Revelation 2:22-23 ESV

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, 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.

YOU WANT A BED TO FORNIFICATE IN? I'LL GIVE YOU A BED, A BED OF SICKNESS. MENTAL, SPIRITUAL, PHYSICAL, AND EMOTIONAL SICKNESS, ALONG WITH GREAT TRIBULATION

2 Kings 9:30-37 ESV

³⁰ When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it. And she painted her eyes and adorned her head and looked out of the window. ³¹ And as Jehu entered the gate, she said, "Is it peace, you Zimri, murderer of your master?" ³² And he lifted up his face to the window and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" Two or three eunuchs looked out at him. ³³ He said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down. And some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses, and they trampled on her. ³⁴ Then he went in and ate and drank. And he said, "See now to this cursed woman and bury her, for she is a king's daughter." ³⁵ But when they went to bury her, they found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands. ³⁶ When they came back and told him, he said, "This is the word of the Lord, which he spoke by his servant Elijah the Tishbite: 'In the territory of Jezreel the dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel, ³⁷ and the corpse of Jezebel shall be as dung on the face of the field in the territory of Jezreel, so that no one can say, This is Jezebel.'"

Revelation 2:23 ESV

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.

HER CHILDREN REFERS TO ALL WHO FOLLOW HER TEACHING
A SECOND GENERATION OF THAT CHURCH WAS BEING RAISED
UP

EYES LIKE A FLAME OF FIRE- SEARCHES THE MIND AND HEART

THYATIRA'S CHURCH NO LONGER EXISTS

GOD WATCHES OUR ACTIONS AND REWARDS OR CONVICTS
ACCORDING TO WHAT WE DO, AND THE CHOICES WE MAKE

Revelation 2:24-25 ESV

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.

THERE WAS A REMINANT IN THAT CHURCH WHO DID NOT
LISTEN TO THAT FALSE PROPHETESS

DEEP THINGS OF SATAN CAN BE CONTRASTED TO THE DEEP
THINGS OF GOD

NO FURTHER BURDEN IS ADDED TO THOSE WHO HAVE STAYED
THE COURSE AND KEPT THE FAITH

HOLD FAST- KRATEO- TO ARREST, TO CAPTURE AND SIEZE INTO
CUSTODY

Revelation 2:26-29 ESV

²⁶The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷and 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. ²⁸And I will give him the morning star. ²⁹He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

THIS HAS TO DO WITH THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST
HE WILL ENFORCE HIS WILL AND PROTECT HIS SHEEP
THE ONE WHO ENDURES TO THE END GETS THE FULLNESS OF
JESUS CHRIST...THE MORNING STAR

ITS PERSONAL, HE WHO HAS EARS, THAT'S ALL OF US

END