

A Journey Into the Heavens
Thyatira - Jezebel's Church
October 21, 2015

It is significant that the longest of the seven letters is to the church in the smallest city, Thyatira. Like the other churches addressed in chapters 2&3, Thyatira was an actual local church when John wrote the book of Revelation. However, this letter has a message not only for them but also for churches and Christians of all generations.

I. The _____ (2:18)

Thyatira was about 35 miles east of Pergamos and was perhaps the least important of the seven cities from a political standpoint. The same could be said of it in the religious realm because it was not the center of any kind of pagan worship. Historically, we know _____ about Thyatira than any of the other six cities.

However, in the book of Acts we find one of Paul's converts was from Thyatira. (Acts 16:13-15;40) The phrase seller of purple means she was a merchant who dealt in purple dye, which came from the madder root that grew prolifically around Thyatira. An alternative source for the dye was murex, a shellfish from whose _____ only one tiny drop could be extracted. Thus, this dye was very expensive. Lydia was evidently a wealthy business woman who, upon returning to Thyatira, may have played an active part in establishing the church there.

Thyatira was also well known for its trade guilds or labor _____, and it was because of them that believers in Thyatira faced bitter persecution. If someone wanted to enter a trade or advance in it, he or she had to belong to that particular trade guild. Unfortunately, each of these trade guilds had a patron deity, or god, and had communal meals that began and ended with sacrifices to their particular deity. Since earning a living was difficult outside the trade guilds, many believers were tempted to _____ their faith. There was also false prophetess there who encouraged believers to succumb to temptation. (Revelation 2:20)

II. The _____ (2:19)

Unlike the church at Ephesus, which had left its first love, the latter works of the believers at Thyatira were more impressive than their first ones. Our Lord commends them, “the last to be more than the first.” It seems as time went on, they were increasing in works and charity and service and faith and patience. In other words, the church at Thyatira had made outstanding _____ in many areas.

One of the things for which this church was commended was its love. It appears that like many churches, the Thyartiran believers thought as long as they were loving, all would be well. However that is never the case...

III. The _____ (2:20)

The church at Thyatira had allowed a woman...which called herself prophetess... to remain in the church and to teach the believers to indulge in fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. This woman had evidently been elevated to a place of prominence in the church because of her gift of speaking.

According to 2:24, a small group of believers saw through her deception, but the rest either followed her or allowed her to teach in the church without objection. To expose her true character, the Lord Jesus calls her _____. That name speaks volumes about her to anyone who knows the Word of God. Jezebel was the Canaanite wife of King Ahab, who was king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. (I Kings 16:31-33)

Under the guise of promoting spirituality, the “Jezebel” at Thyatira was advocating carnality and compromise, while degrading holiness and doctrine. She had actually set herself up as a self-appointed prophet of God. However the New Testament teaches just because someone claims to be a _____ of God does not mean Christians are to listen to them. (I John 4:1)

IV. The _____ (2:21-23)

Referring to this Jezebel at Thyatira, our Lord says, “I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.” A command had been given to this woman to repent, but she refused. Christ’s judgement was activated not as much because of her sin, serious as it was, but because of her refusal to repent. Sin is bad enough, however our Lord is most upset by one’s _____ to repent of the sin! No one knows for sure what the judgement of Thyatira, described in Revelation 2:21-21, was, but we do know it was very severe because they did not repent.

V. The _____ (2:24-29)

Not everyone at Thyratira was following the false teachings of “Jezebel,” so our Lord has a special word of comfort to them. Judgement and purging would soon come to the church at Thyratira. The faithful members would probably be tempted to leave that church, but Christ asks them to _____... “till I come.”

Next, to the faithful overcomes, Christ promises,... to him will I give power over the nations (vs. 26). This promise is the fulfillment of Psalm 2:8-9 and clearly reveals faithful believers will join Christ in His rule.

However, it should be noted the Greek word translated rule in Revelation 2:27, means “to shepherd.” Therefore, our rule will not only involve execution of judgement, depicted by the phrase rod of iron, but also the administration of _____ and direction.

Christ also comforts His faithful followers by saying, “And I will give him the morning star.” (Revelation 22:16) When Christ gives us the morning star, He gives us Himself. The phrase morning star also emphasizes the dawning of a new day. The days at Thyatira may be dark now, but the bright and morning star awaits the faithful _____!

Let us be encouraged today that we can be overcomers as long as we embrace the precepts of the Word of God and remain faithful to Him!