① TO THOSE NOT SEDUCED/LED ASTRAY

v.24 Now to you I say, and to the rest of Thyatira, as many as do NOT have this doctrine

- there were some in Thyatira who were not seduced πλανάω deceived
- The doctrine διδαχη in mention refers to the teaching of Jezebel which specifically is a teaching that it is permissible for christians to know and have relationships w/ people who are NOT of God

★ these people say/teach that because they are a child of God they can know the depths of Satan and not be affected

- Jesus did not like this mentality
- Paul said, "I want you to be wise (deep) σοφος skilled and simple (innocent naive ἀκεραιος) concerning evil" Rom. 16:19

★ Those in Thyatira were doing the opposite...
- they were saying they were strong/mature/deep because they knew deep things of Satan

v.24 They (pure christians in Thyatira) have not known the "deep things of Satan" as they (those w/ a Jezebel spirit) say

- Again, notice Jesus applauds those who are simple in evil
- Also notice, that even though these people people espouse "knowing deep things of Satan" - Jesus says... so you think/say

In other words, those following such teachings "say" they know Satan's ways... therefore are educated/wise BUT Jesus says, you're not knowing BUT participating!

- This unhealthy rationalization occurred before in Israel's history - Deut 32:15-22

"Jeshurun grew fat and kicked (back) you grew fat, you grew thick You are obese! Then he forsook God who made him and scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation They provoked Him to jealousy w/ foreign gods, with abominations they provoked Him to anger. They sacrificed to demons, not to God. To gods they did not know, to new gods, new arrivals who your fathers did not fear. Of the Rock who begot you (notice the similar verbiage here to Jezebel's "children") you are unmindful (uneducated/simple) and have forgotten the God who fathered you... I will hide My face from them they have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not god... so I will provoke them to jealousy (by hiding My face from them and) by scorning Myself to a foolish nation"

- Sadly, this unhealthy relationship/doctrine crept in Jeremiah (Lam 8-10)
- AND NOW in Thyatira as well

★ Christians are to be set apart... be cautious of those who say you can dabble w/ the world
- "how will you evangelize?" they may say
- This can be a difficult balance at times...

But a slippery slope of seduction
- participating in any demonic realm - adversarial to God's Kingdom is not of God
- There will always be this Jezebel spirit wer/in the church... - chill out, have fun, loosen up, live a little, be a light, etc - it's just a game, it just our tradition, it's just our culture... - they might even quote scripture to advance their cause

② STRONG CHRISTIANS: HOLD FAST TILL I COME

v.24 I will put on you no other Burden

Βαρος: weight, burden

- Jesus simply wants His believers to focus on advancing the Kingdom
- This is the real focus of Christians as it was w/ Jesus
  - Evangelizing - Quantitative
  - Discipling - Qualitative
- Christians have no other burden
- Even in the apostolic decree in ACTS 15, the apostles tried to keep it as simple as possible! "lay upon you no greater burden than these..." Acts 15:28

★ interestingly, the next verse only mentions 4 things to abstain from
- AND 2 of the 4 are repeated to Christians in Thyatira:

"abstain from things offered to idols... and from sexual immorality" 15:29 (things strangled and blood are the other TWO)

- Jesus is repeating these 2 commands - nothing new... no new burden to the Gentile Christians

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

- Christians, as soldiers, are to hold their position until the King comes

★ This "coming" can be difficult...
- on the one hand, Jesus is talking to the Christians at Thyatira
- so they must have expected a coming

- Thyatira Christians could have been expecting either:

A) A spiritual coming of Judgment by the Roman Empire's providences
- As explained as "at hand", "near," and "imminent" - 1:1, 3; 22:6-7, 12, 17
- The emphasis of the Book is clearly one of imminent events

★ which can only be explained as a spiritual Judgment on God-rejecting Nations (Israel, Rome, "Babylon," etc)

B) on the other hand, scripture seems to speak of a physical return of Christ, in addition to His repeated spiritual comings of Judgment

(Spiritual comings of Judgment) Is. 19:1 - Egypt, Matt 24 - Israel, Rev. 2-3 - the churches, Rev. 18-19 - Fall of Babylon/Rome (Mystery Babylon)

- Christians can never know which one will happen to them... if any
  - either their NATION FALLS (spiritual coming of Judgment)

OR

- Jesus will physically Return (2nd coming, LAST COMING, Parousia)
  - ACTS 1:11 He will come in like manner
  - TITUS 2:13 Looking for the appearing of our Great God and Saviour: Jesus

- ALL I can deduce is that the Spiritual coming of Judgment - should NOT come as a surprise to Christians

"The Day of the LORD comes as a thief in the night... BUT you, brethren, are not in darkness so that this DAY should overtake you as a thief" 1 Thes 5:1-4
- we should be able to "discern the signs of the times" Matt 16:3

★ However... it seems Christians will not know the Parousia and are told to be ready at all times!
- all parables of His return state it was unexpected and later than thought

2nd coming could be at any moment!

③ THE PROMISES TO THE OVERCOMER/CONQUER

v.26 And he who overcomes/conquers (NKJ, NASB ESV, NRSV, NET) and keeps My works until the end...

- the promises of Jesus - which is eternal life in His presence, (just described in different ways)

★ is only applied to the one who:

1) overcomes/conquers the Temptations that surround them - which are a little different for everyone (Ephesus, Pergamos, Thyatira, etc)

2) overcomes/conquers to the end "keeping Jesus' works (ἐργον: deeds - evangelizing - discipling - advancing the Kingdom) to the end

- Christianity makes an emphasis that one must be faithful to the very end (Lk 22:18, John 15, Rom 5; 11, Heb 6:6; 10, Rev 2-3)
- Some say if one doesn't make it faithfully to the very end... - then they were never born again to begin with although scriptures tells Believers the danger of not continuing
- some believe you can be born again, but then become unfaithful, thus no longer having Jesus' covering... - thus, one must be faithful to the very end "Arminian of the Believer" doctrine
- Interesting though, that no matter the camp one is in, BOTH AGREE

★ A Believer MUST overcome/conquer TO THE VERY END!!

- My thought then: instead of focusing on our christian differences - something too many christians do!!
- christians should be focusing on what we have in common... which is way more in value than our differences

★ Let us help each other overcome/conquer to the very end!

- using Thyatira as an example, Christians need to be aware of the compromising/corrupting Jezebel spirit
- Those who overcome are promised a sharing role in the messianic Kingdom (now and after death)
- In short, Jesus lays out two promises to the overcomer/conquer:

① To Rule and Reign w/ Jesus

② To receive the morning star

v.26 To him I will give power ἐξουσία over the nations ἐθνος -

- Believers will have ἐξουσία which is the same word used to describe that all authority and "power" belong to Jesus

★ and this Power is over ἐθνος: nations people foreigners heathens

- The Jews would always refer to pagans or unbelievers as: Gentiles... which is ἐθνος!!
- So, get the picture/metaphor:
  - The Church is the New Jerusalem or "ZION" which is a new Nation

★ non-citizens/unbelievers are still ἐθνος - bandits (Gal. 4, Heb 12, Rev. 21)

- In the O.T. the citizens of Israel could fall victim to Gentiles... like Jezebel

★ BUT Jesus has given us power (already through the paraclete/HS: and Great commission) to rule over the foreign spirits/people

If we proved faithful on earth to the end we will rule w/ Jesus in heaven during the continuance of the Messianic Reign (until He comes back)

★ This is proven by Jesus quoting the fulfillment of Psalm 2

v.27 He shall rule them with a rod of iron and they shall be dashed to pieces like a potter's vessel even as I myself have received authority/power from My Father.

- This is a direct quote from Ps. 2
- which is a Psalm about the King of Israel and specifically his/His relationship w/ God

★ The Rabbis also considered this a messianic Psalm
- a Psalm about a future anointed King of Kings

★ Now Jesus confirms the Psalm is about the Messiah - Him!

Psalm 2 summary:
- it's foolish to fight against God and His anointed (King)
- some people want no connection w/ God; their nation God-free
- God laughs, then will show His wrath
- God will set His King on Zion
- God will tell this King: You are My Son, I have begotten You
- Your nation will be to the ends of the earth
- ★ You shall break them (enemy Nations) w/ a rod of iron and dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel
- ALL Nations better serve God and Kiss the King... or perish

★ This prophecy has begun to be fulfilled

- Jesus ruling (ποιμαινω shepherding) with a rod (staff: ῥαβδος) of iron metaphore will be repeated in the 6th vision "Fall of Babylon" 18-19

"out of His mouth goes a sharp sword to strike the nations and He Himself will rule w/ a rod of iron..." 19:15

★ What christians must understand is that scripture teaches this has already begun... NOT FUTURE

"God has fulfilled this by raising up Jesus, as it is written in the second Psalm: You are My Son, Today I have begotten You" Acts 13:33

"To which of the angels did God ever say: You are My Son, today I have begotten You" Heb. 1:5

Psalm 2 is fulfilled... hence He is reigning and christians reign w/ Him now (Messianic Kingdom) and will continue after the believers physical Death

★ Again, NOT EXCLUSIVELY Future
- sometimes the visions in Rev. look backward at origin
- example: vision #4 (the woman, child, Dragon)

"She bore a male child who was to rule all nations w/ a rod of iron and her child was caught up to God" 12:5

v.28 and I will give him the morning star.

- The "star" most likely means Messianic Rule
- Jesus is ruling and Believers will reign w/ Him

"I Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches (the visions are for things happening in the churches... not future, or after church age), I am the root and the offspring of David, (I am) the bright and morning star." Rev. 22:16

★ The Book of Numbers also describes a future ruler will be a "rising star" and will have a "scepter/Rod" who will "crush the princes of Nations" Numb. 24:17

"I see Him, but not now. I behold Him, but not near. A star shall come out of Jacob. A scepter shall rise out of Israel... He will destroy all the sons of tumult"

★ Now Fulfilled in the True morning star (like the sun which over powers all other stars of the night)

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

humble ▷ = Listening ears

- Jesus is the True King
- He wants us to rule/reign with Him!