① INTRO ⁞ SELF IDENTIFICATION

v.18 And to the angel of the Church of Thyatira...

- This is the longest and most difficult of the 7 letters
- There are a lot of similarities between Thyatira and Pergamos
  - sexual immorality ⁞ eating things sacrificed to idols (sinful fellowship) v.20
- ✱ Except, Thyatira was even worse than Pergamos
  - for some of them, their "time to repent" has expired... v. 21
- Before Roman rule, Thyatira was actually part of the Pergamum Kingdom
  - Hence, paganism was high in both cities
  - Thyatira was well known for its manufacturing ⁞ marketing
- Buying, selling, employment, daily life would be very difficult for Christians
  - honoring Greek Gods and/or Roman Emperor as Lord would be required for everyday life
- wool-working, linen workers, outer garments, leather workers tanners, potters, bakers, bronze-smiths all flourished in Thyatira
  - all of these commercial businesses required religious observances and posed an economic problem for Christians

✱ It would be akin to not getting a loan unless you agree w/ LGBT

✱ Or Businesses, Bakers, etc being shut down or persecuted if anti LGBT

- These same or similar persecutions and tribulations ΘΛΙΨΙΣ have faced Christians even today in America
- ✱ Revelation is a current prophetical book PAST, PRESENT, and Future Generations
- Even in the book of Acts, we see "a woman named Lydia, a dealer of purple cloth from the city of Thyatira" Acts 16:14
  - "Lydia and her household received Jesus and were baptized..." Acts 16:15

v.18 write: These things says the Son of God

- much more on this title later
  - when we get to v. 27
  - which Quotes from Psalm 2
  - Describing the Son of God, the anointed Son of the King... and His sole ruling w/ a rod of iron
- ✱ This beginning identifier of Jesus Does make an "inclusio"/Bookends w/ the letter and is important.
- In addition to Psalm 2, the title Son of God, also appears in Dan. 3:25

Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and said, "look! I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire and they are not hurt and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

- once again, we have the Shadrach, Meshech, Obednego event alluded to
  - Rev. 1 — mysteries Revealed - Dan 2.
  - Rev. 2 — TEN Days tested - Dan 1
  - Rev. 2 — Son of God - Dan. 3
- a lot of similarities between:
  - Rev. 1-3 vision ⁞ Dan 1-3 events
- Here, in this passage, Jesus could be telling the church of Thyatira not to bend their knee NOR Fear...
  - just as He delivered the 3 from the furnace, He will protect Thyatira Christians
- the connection is further supported by the fact that the title Son of God is only found once in Daniel and once in Revelation

v.18... who has eyes like a flame of fire and His feet like fine bronze

- the continued description of Jesus further links Him to the "fourth person" in the fire "w/ the form of the Son of God"
- Jesus' eyes that see all and judge all are to be feared more than
  - the fire of Nebuch. OR Thyatira
- ✱ Fire is commonly used in scripture as a Testing OR Judgment...
  - "our motives will be revealed as by fire and the fire will test each ones work..." 1 Cor. 3:13

"our faith will be tested as gold is tested by fire..." 1 Pt. 1:7

✱ Jesus' feet are bronze/brass as He can walk in the fire...
  - as He is holy and calls us into
  - His presence to have our impurities burned away

✱ again, the "Son of God" was walking in the fire in Dan 3 and is walking amongst the Lampstands. Rev. 1

- we will see similarities of this vision again in vision #4 (2:14) ... 10:6

"Jesus' legs are furnished bronze in color"

② JESUS' PRAISE ⁞ COMMENDATIONS

v.19 I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience

- As with the letters to the other churches, we see that...
  - Jesus is firmly aware of what is going on in Thyatira
- The "works" ἔργον: Deeds is not just christian service,
- ✱ But probably used in the same context in the letter to Ephesus
  - in which, "works", is related to witnessing and reaching those outside the church
  - Evidence to support this is: "love, faith and patience/endurance" typically refer to witnessing in the Book of Revelation
  - love ἀγάπη...

"You have left your first love" 2:4

- Endurance ⁞ faith ὑπομονὴ ⁞ πίστις

"Here is the patience and faith of the Saints." Rev. 13:10

context of witnessing despite the beast/dragon making war w/ those on the earth who keep the testimony/witness of Jesus Christ. 12:17

"Here is the patience of the saints, who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" Rev. 14:12

context is an angel flying w/ an everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth... Rev. 14:6

works ⁞ faith ἔργον ⁞ πίστις

"I know your works... how you did not deny my faith even when Antipas my faithful martyr was killed... Rev. 2:13

- And the last evidence that works/deeds refers to witnessings
  - is the seemingly intended contrast w/ Jesus words towards Ephesus:

v.19 and as for your works, the last (latter) works are more than (exceed) the first

- This verbiage is almost exact opposite as to Ephesus

"Remember where you have fallen, Repent and do the first works" 2:5

- Unlike Ephesus, the church at Thyatira has grown in witnessing

✱ But, like Pergamos...
  - Constantly reaching out ⁞ going out can make one prone to compromise
  - and become numb or one w/ world 666
- ✱ This "praise" of exceeding in witnessing is a direct link
  - to the rebuke that follows...

④ JESUS' REBUKE ⁞ CONDEMNATIONS

v.20 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you

- As mentioned, this church was worse off than even Pergamos.
- There are many things Jesus is concerned with, such as:

v.20 You allow/tolerate (NKJ / ESV, NASB) that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess... (Jezebel = 2nd Beast vision #4)

- now, this can be taken literally as an actual woman named Jezebel HOWEVER...
- no scholar would agree w/ that interpretation, all conclude
- taking Revelation literal is a very ineffective and dangerous strategy in regards to Apocalyptic literature
- ✱ so, Jezebel is symbolic... of what?
  - To get the answer, one must go back to the story of Jezebel
- ✱ most likely, Jesus is making a parallel between a person (woman?) in the church of Thyatira and
  - a wicked Queen to King Ahab who brought in idolatry worship... specifically named Baal (1 Kings 16:29 — 2 Kings 8:30)
- Just as Balaam was used as a symbol of false Teachers to Smyrna Rev. 2:14
- Jezebel is a symbol of unhealthy relationships that lead to compromise and corruption
  - Ahab married Jezebel who was the daughter of the King of Sidon
- ✱ No doubt, Ahab did this as a political move to build better and healthy relationships w/ Tyre ⁞ Sidon
- It completely backfired... Jezebel ruled the roost and brought in her way, traditions, gods, etc.
- ✱ Tyre and Sidon still treated the Israelites poorly (slave traded them) -Amos!
- ✱ And Israel became more like Tyre ⁞ Sidon than the other way around.
- ✱ What's even more interesting... and a huge lesson to learn for upcoming visions w/in Revelation:
  - God likened this relationship of Israel w/ Tyre/Sidon to sexual immorality and fornication (specifically with Baal)

"and Ahab sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up." ("seduced" him) 1 Kings 21:25

Even Isaiah had an amazing prophecy:

"After the 70 years, the LORD will deal w/ Tyre. She will return to her hire (as a prostitute) and commit fornication with all the other Kingdoms of the earth Is. 23:15

✱ Jeremiah repeatedly told Israel they were in (Spiritual Adultery... (3:8, 5:7, 7:9, 9:2, 13:27, 23:10, 29:23)

- This seems to be what was happening to the church in Thyatira
  - they were becoming like them, who they were witnessing to...
- ✱ Becoming one w/ the wrong person
  - Seduced by Jezebel (2nd BEAST) to worship Gov. (1st BEAST)
- This ecology will be used later w/ Christians as virgins - 14:4 and unbelievers like a women who worships and sits/rides the beast.. 17.
- And Jezebel will be labeled "Babylon" (DRAGON, BEAST)

"the name of the beast was: Babylon the great, the mother of prostitutes and earth's abominations. And I saw the woman drunk w/ the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus" Rev. 17: 3-5

- the "women" represents Nations (Israel) who are infatuated w/ the Beast (Demonic Political ⁞ Religious system)

Beast from the sea
- Ten horns
- Leopard-Bear like mouth like a lion
- 666
- Roman
- NOT ONE BEAST, is NOT A PERSON; BUT Gov. system

Rev. 13

The Devil uses both to destroy the Advancement of the Messianic Kingdom

Beast from the land
- like a lamb
- causes people to worship Gov. Beast
- causes people to receive the "mark" 666

v.20 Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, is teaching and seducing My servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat (fellowship) food sacrificed to idols

πλανάω: to lead astray
stray from the truth
Deceive, seduce

- The world can be captivating
- and the Devil is trying to πλανάω as many christians as he can
- This is why Jesus tells the Christians to "overcome/conquer (Temptations) and keep My works until I come" 2:26
- ✱ The promise(s) only go to them...
- As mentioned in a later vision, God's people are told not to participate w/ Babylon/Jezebel

"Come out of her My people, lest you share in her sins, lest you receive her plagues." Rev. 18:4

- ✱ This same command will be given to Thyatira

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

- Jesus is patient, but even His patience can have its limit
- Some in Thyatira Church did not act quickly enough
- ✱ Notice though, how Jesus again links participating w/ the ways of the world w/ "sexual immorality"
- Jesus gives readers many examples and metaphors to describe the relationship He wants w/ His creation
  - one of the metaphors is a marriage... w/ heaven beginning like a wedding ceremony/supper
- ✱ Believers are currently betrothed (engaged)... must be found chaste, a virgin, "Faithful", loyal.

"Do not rejoice O' Israel... for you have played the harlot against your God" Hos. 9:1

v.22 Behold, I will throw her (Jezebel) onto a sickbed and those who commit adultery with her (her children) will go into Great Tribulation, unless they repent of her (Jezebel's) deeds. I will kill her children (her followers/disciples) w/ death

- severe punishment is eminent to Jezebel and her children
- Jezebel (2nd BEAST) is someone in the church saying its okay to participate in the ways/events of Thyatira/World (1st BEAST) and still be Christian
- Jezebel's children are those in the church who follow Jezebel
  - Paul talked about the people he led to Christ as "his children" in the Lord 1 Cor. 4:15
    - some ecology here
- Great Tribulation μεγὰς θλῖψις: Great persecution/pressure, mega trouble, tribulation
- NOTICE this is to the church...
  - even in the church "age" according to Dispensationalists
- which shouldn't be a surprise as John begins the letter w/ an acknowledgment that...

"I am your companion in the tribulation and the Kingdom" 1:9

v.23b and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the mind ⁞ heart

- There should be no doubt now that the "Great Tribulation" can happen during the Church age
- ✱ Jesus specifically says some in the church of Thyatira will go into Great Tribulation due their spiritual sexual immorality
- ✱ so the other churches will know that I see all...
  - even what you don't see,
  - such as the mind ⁞ heart of people, even in the church
  - Jesus sees all...

v.23 and I will give to each of you according to your works

- Jesus will fairly judge and recompense what is in our mind and heart

✱ Evidenced, proven, shown, by our Deeds/works

ἔργον

our faith is judged by our deeds