

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR

JUNE 28, 2020

REVELATION 2:18-29 (NASB)

¹⁸“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:

¹⁹‘I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. ²⁰But I have *this* against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit *acts of immorality* and eat things sacrificed to idols. ²¹I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. ²²Behold, I will throw her on a bed *of sickness*, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. ²³And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. ²⁴But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you. ²⁵Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come. ²⁶He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; ²⁷AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also 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.’

STUDY IT

- How is Jesus uniquely identified to the church of Thyatira? What do the symbols of fire (eyes) and bronze (feet) reveal about God? (v.18)
- What are the five qualities that Jesus affirms? (v.19)
- “Jezebel” was likely a codeword for a specific false teacher in Thyatira. What did she claim about herself? What did she teach? (v.20-21; see wordlist)

- What is the problem with *tolerating* such teaching? (v.20)
- What is the punishment for this teacher? What does the severity of God’s tone *and* actions reveal about his attitude toward idolatry? (vs.22-23)
- Part of God’s promise and reward comes straight from Psalm 2:8-9. According to Jesus (and the psalmist), how does God promise strength and protection for his faithful people? (v.26)
- What does it mean that Jesus is willing to share his authority with his faithful people – the Church? (vs.26-27)

APPLY IT

- How would you speak truth to someone who is misleading you (or others) to violate clear commands in Scripture?
- What promise or reward has Jesus offered that encourages you to remain steadfast and faithful?

WORDLIST

Here are some words/phrases that might need some definition:

Jezebel – was a queen (from Sidon) and an idol-worshipper in the time of Elijah. She led many astray and invited catastrophic judgement from God. In Rev 2:20, there seems to be a woman teaching a false doctrine, like those from Balaam or Nicolaitans. Such heresy enticed Christians to eat foods sacrificed to idols and engage in other sins, neglecting their call to be “set apart” and distinct from their culture.

Deep things of Satan – Jesus attributes this and other heresies to the spiritual battle for our minds and souls. While knowledge of *deeper things* can be a beautiful revelation, they can be dangerous and tempting. It is evident in this letter that such pursuits are evil, that is, empty of God’s presence and truth.

Authority...Rule – Responsibility and shepherding. Israel’s history (both ancient and recent) is woven with a thread of dominion and subjugation as empires rose and fell. Jesus is *The Overcomer* and his promise of everlasting peace ends all claims of power, *while inviting* the Church to co-reign with him.