



Revelation 2

† But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV

Welcome to Revelation chapter two.

Jesus instructed John to write to THE 7 Churches in Asia

✠ Write on a scroll what you see, and send it to the seven churches:
to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

Revelation 1:11b NASB

In English this appears to be a normal sentence however in Greek the word “THE” can also be a defining term as in there were literally hundreds of Churches in this area at this time yet Jesus is calling these 7 THE Churches.

Jesus our Christ is choosing these 7 out of all of the rest because they best represented the 7 types of Churches containing the 7 types of Christians in His all-knowing sight.

Again, with the number of 7 being GOD’S number of Perfect Spiritual Completion.

These 7 Churches existed at the time of Apostle John & with their future history as predicted in their Letters by Jesus they also today Chronological match in perfect order the 7 distinct Era’s of the Church. (The Age of Grace)

Each Church representing not only its own era but combined they are also descriptive of the 7 types of Christians. This meaning although a particular Church is predominate within its own time there are in every Church era examples of all 7 types of Christians.

As we begin please keep this in mind.

Jesus addresses each of His letters for specific Churches to a specific Angel in the Spiritual realm who has authority and commission over that Church.

Jesus’s letters as noted in the Scofield study Bible are also intended to be used as Christ’s advice for Pastors & Priests who recognize particular parishioners and or congregations.

Rev. 2:1-7 NASB

✠ To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: ² ‘I know your deeds and your labor and ¹perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil people, and you have put those who call themselves apostles to the test, and they are not, and you found them to be false; ³ and you have perseverance and have endured on account of My name, and have not become weary. ⁴ But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Therefore, remember from where you have fallen, and repent, and do the ¹deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and I will remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

⁶ But you have this, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will grant to eat from the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.’

Each Letter has 7 elements
To Commend or Condemn

- 1 Church name meaning
- 2 Revelation/Prophecy
- 3 What is Good
- 4 What is Bad
- 5 Encourage/Exhort
- 6 Promise/Reward
- 7 Command/Hear

Lesson for us: Those Faithful in Christ beware of backsliding.

Ephesus was the first Church Age known as the Apostle's Age ending with the death of the Apostle John known as the Revelator around 100 AD.

John lived his final years in Ephesus composing his Gospel and distributing it as well as the book of Revelation as Jesus had told him to do. (Rev. 1:11)

This Apostle Age ran from about 30 AD until 100 AD/CE (The CE common era is still Jesus Christ!)

In fact; it might interest you to know that Church historians have spent lifetimes pouring over these 7 letters aligning and identifying the distinct 7 ages of the Church or body of Christ. (AKA Age of Grace)

Ephesus was settled according to legend by the Amazons the legendary female warriors and was later taken by the Greeks in 1200 BC & and was still later gifted to Rome around 30 B.C.

Ephesus was a coastal port city with a great harbor and an extensive highway system with the main Roman road into the city still in existence to this day.

Ephesus contained one of the 7 ancient wonders of the world the infamous Temple of Artemis also known as Diana. This immoral Pagan Temple burned once and was rebuilt & dedicated to the false goddess of fertility that prospered continually day and night by temple prostitution with music blaring and where shameless misconduct prevailed. The Worship of Diana mandated vile public defilement.

This hedonistic lifestyle influenced an additional construction of a 50 K seat amphitheater that was known throughout the Roman Empire as THE theater of Immorality. This reputation becoming a tourist destination of each vice and perversion was scandalous even for Pagan Rome.

And yet amongst this most vile of destinations the Gospel of Jesus Christ flourished and grew ultimately changing the very nature of the native Ephesians.

The people and the land were known as fertile soil. Meaning literally for Agriculture and for social, political, and religious involvements.

Apparently as the first century closed out it was common for false teachers claiming to be Apostles. As Jesus said He was pleased the Ephesians tested such as these by Scriptural standards.

Because Ephesus itself was indeed the very same Church in which the Apostle Paul wrote to in his letter or Epistle to the Ephesians. Jesus mentions He noticed the Ephesians work and labor for Him.

Paul's letter was like John written while incarcerated by the Romans but earlier in 63 AD.

Making Jesus's letter to Ephesus in Revelation about 35 years later.

In 63 AD in the book of Ephesians Paul called the Church of Ephesus Holy & of Christ.

Now in 96 or so AD Jesus warns they are cooling off.

Paul taught in Ephesus for about 3 years in all

✝ They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

Acts 18:19 NIV

In verse 4 we read Jesus said they the Ephesians had lost their first Love.

As in their real zeal for presenting the Gospel of Life through Christ.

We can all take our mind off of Jesus by being chronically busy.

Ever consumed by the logistics of ministry and service.

When administrations replace purpose in Christ.

This has a name it is called Churchianity.

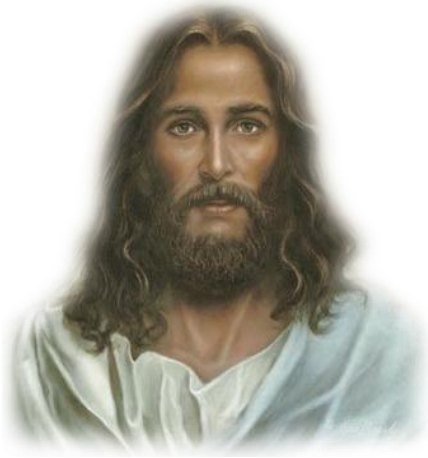
When preparations or obligations

crowd out sharing the

Gospel of Jesus

with others.





In verse 6 we read Jesus was pleased the Ephesians were offended as He was by the Nicolaitans.

So, who Pray tell were the Nicolaitans?

In Greek the word Nico means Victory.

Where as Laitians is a phrase which means “over Laity.”

Put it together and you have “victory over the Laity.”

As in some at this time were establishing a hierarchy within the Church to serve themselves in a position of authority as in them becoming an intermediary between you and GOD.

Jesus said He hates this- people lording His Spiritual authority.

The Nicolaitans were Apostate which means abandoning sound Biblical Doctrine by using Heresy which is a revision, addition, or omission to GOD’S Word that alters its intent. The Nicolaitans specifically used what is known as “Gnostic” or secret knowledge that only they supposedly knew in order to lord over as in controlling others who were simply seeking GOD.

Regardless so successful were the emissary missionaries for Christ in Ephesus that what could be called the worlds first Christian seminary was here having been made famous by Saul/Paul.

The Christian school of “Tyrannus” was named after the man who owned the property.

We today still name college buildings after those who donate for their construction and upkeep.

Church historians record that each John & Paul, Apollos, Pricilla, Aquilla, Mary Magdlene and even Jesus’s mother Mary each instructed the students with mother Mary living her remaining years there.

Mary Magdalene aka “watchtower” Christian lore reports Christ called Magdalene watchtower as a play on her name and in reference to the Migdal Eder or “Tower of the Flock” found outside of Bethlehem.

The Old Testament Verse Jesus used to rename Magdalene notice the Female tone.

✠ The LORD will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and forever. ⁸ As for you, watchtower of the flock, stronghold of Daughter Zion the former dominion will be restored to you; kingship will come to Daughter Jerusalem. Micah 4:7b-8 NIV

Just as Simon was Peter, Levi to Matthew, and Saul became Paul, Theologians have discovered that Christ also called Mary Magdalene as Watchtower. (Toweress)

For the record: there are still surviving Jerusalem Sanhedrin documentation as in outside ancient & fully legal references still existing against each Jesus Himself, John the Baptist, Apostles Matthew, John, Peter, & Paul and likewise Mary of Magdala are all recorded as chief supporters of Jesus of Nazareth with each being outlaws impervious to Temple Ire.

So, Mary Magdalene was to the women followers of Jesus Messiah Christ as Peter was to the men. Notice at almost every Gospel occasion when Jesus’s mother is mentioned as present in His Ministry travels- Magdalene was always near mother Mary. Mary Watchtower was protecting Jesus’s mother.

Each Magdalene, Mother Mary, & the Apostle John were buried in unmarked graves at Tyrannus. Within the ruins of this school which you can still visit today are paintings and murals depicting each of these famous Christian teachers and preachers.

There is another historical legend popular in local Ephesian lore as recorded in Christian & Islamic texts. It is called the “Grotto of the 7 Sleepers” & it goes like this:

Near 250 AD the Roman Emperor Decius sent Legionnaires to kill all the Christians in Ephesus who would not practice Pagan worship. When the Romans arrived 7 young students ran to a cave near the Seminary and instantly realized they had made a dreadful mistake that the cave would certainly be one of the first places the soldiers would look for people in hiding.

Worse yet if they came out of hiding now they would be instantly discovered.

So, the legend is they Prayed for Divine intervention and as the hours passed they fell asleep. When they awoke in the morning the Legion was gone.

The miraculous part was when the 7 young men returned to town they found approximately 200 years had passed and Christianity was now the official religion of Rome. (Byzantine Era)

The young men's clothes, their language, even their money was different and ancient with their stories of the Roman attack on the Seminary now being an historical fact.

As for Ephesus a generation after Paul had commended the Faith of the Ephesians in his Epistle the New Testament Book or Letter to the Ephesians. Jesus now tells the Ephesians to repent and return to Him as they were before.

Finally, Jesus concludes this letter with hear the Holy Spirit and to who "overcomes" will eat of the 'Tree of Life in Paradise" which symbolizes eternal life.

How do we overcome the world?

✝ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

1 John 5:4-5 NIV

Rev. 2:8-11 ESV

✝ And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.

⁹"I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.'



Dear Church

THE 7 CHURCHES OF REVELATION

Lesson for us- Facing persecution by Faith.

This is the second Church Age which ran from approximately 100 to 312 AD/CE.

Smyrna was founded around 1000 BC upon a hillside of a port city about 35 miles north of Ephesus.

The buildings got better as they rose up the Hillside with the top being called the crown of Smyrna.

Smyrna still exists today although it is renamed Izmir and is the home of 275k people.

Smyrna was the largest city in Asia Minor (Turkey) & an “Ionian” city meaning a Greek city/state known as a “League” being a Hellenistic Confederacy of 12 culturally alike city states.

Smyrna was also the home of the famous poet Homer: (Quote)

“Hateful to me as are the gates of hell is he who-
Hiding one thing in his heart and utters another.”

Smyrna was famous as a manufacturing center of perfume and each Frankincense (used as incense for wounds and swelling) & Myrrh so spelled from Smyrna was used for pain and its scent for burials.

In Verse 9 we read your affiliations & poverty by those who say they are Jews.

Smyrna was a leader in the worship of Caesar as gxd.

Of course, true Christians would not participate in this practice.

There were Jewish coverters present in those days & yet future also when Jesus revealed this now historical fact to John about those who practiced a self-styled Judaism but were not actually Jewish. This meant these so-called false Jews actively worshipped Caesar and thusly Jesus called their synagogue a synagogue of satan.

Christians learn that material things & worldly ways matter not.

Smallest Roman coin



Also, these false Jews turned in suspected Christians to the Roman authorities in a practice that became known as “Penna.” Families were forcibly broken up with property and wealth seized. The one who turned in a Christian received 10% of their assets. To be a Christian in Smyrna & the Empire at that time meant poverty & persecution even death in a public display by the most vile and shameful ways unimaginable.

In Verse 10 we read do not be afraid.

Do not be afraid is the most repeated phrase in the Bible being stated 366 times once for everyday including leap year.

Jesus said in His Beatitudes during the Sermon upon the Mount it is a Blessing when we are persecuted for our Faith in Him.

✝ Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in this same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:11-12 NASB

The Christian “Bema” rewards trial aka Heavenly review will be covered in Rev. 15.

Ten days of persecution means we today have the historical privilege of looking back and seeing there were Ten Roman Emperors that persecuted Christians.

The Greek word used here is 2347 which means afflicted:

Defined as Anguish, Burden, Persecution, Tribulation/Trouble.

The Classic Websters Dictionary describes Affliction as to give

5 constant physical pain emotional grief and distress of mind.

Polycarp Bishop of Smyrna

Was the Apostle John’s understudy & at 86 years old in February of 155 AD was martyred violently in Smyrna at the public stadium for refusing to renounce Jesus as his Lord & Saving Christ

The 10 days of Affliction

I Nero

II Domitian

III Trajan

IV Marcus Aurelius

V Septimus Severus

VI Maximinus Thrax

VII Decius

VIII Valerian

IX Aurelian

X Diocletian

The last of the 10 Roman Persecutions by Diocletian was by far the worst.

Fearing the end of Paganism Diocletian in an all-out effort to revert the Roman Empire back to its focused violent unity then decided it was Christianity that was hindering Rome's blood lust.

The Romans desire for physical deviance and the Empires unbridled thirst for glory, wealth, & power. It's true- Jesus is the greatest morality and ethics teacher of all time & even Pagans listened to Him. They knew the Romans that is that they were doing things they ought not to be doing.

The average Pagan Roman had thousands of false Gxd's yet the public opinion was if any GOD was true? Then it certainly was the Messiah Christ Jesus of the Jews. (Roman Soldiers were convinced at the Cross)

So, beginning on February 24th in 303AD Diocletian unleashed Hell on Christianity.

Without going into the gory horrific specifics of torture and mandated Pagan rites and rituals-

With the result being: History records that the main interior of the Empire save for the fringe remote areas in Gaul and Britannia every Christian Church was either razed or blazed.

Every Pastor, Bishop, Deacon, Elder, & Lay leader were executed or they capitulated into evil.

Every Bible or scroll was destroyed. (In Smyrna it was required to say Caesar is Lord legally once a year or else)

It was immediate death by public torture to be caught with any of GOD'S Holy Writ with no excuses.

So how did Christianity not only survive but actually thrived under this intense persecution?

Because every Christian household was expected to save only one single page of Scripture.

After the persecution ended all the Saved pages were collected together again community by community and they found that many copies of the complete Scriptures were Saved and since many copies of each page still existed, they were able to be verified in time as authentic simply by comparison.

When satan and evil humanity was at his worst- GOD was at His best.

As in The Lord had made it a goal of every Christian alive to save His Holy Word.

In fact; when Emperor Constatine demanded a count of codex (book form) of complete Scriptures after the Persecution the official tally is recorded as 50 complete recognized volumes & countless fragments.

Bible verse about enduring trials of trouble

✝ Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. (There are specific crowns Jesus rewards His believers with) James 1:12 NIV

James- Jesus's half brother the early Jerusalem Church leader did not come to Faith until after Jesus's Resurrection and appearing to Him. (1 Corinthians 15:7) Meaning James was absent during Christ our Lord's public teaching as in James had to have heard these words of Jesus prior to His Ministry! (Again, Christian Rewards Judgement will be covered in Rev. 15)

In verse 11 We read whoever has ears let them hear.

(Same message found in all of the letters to all Christians)

Jesus is speaking about those with Spiritual insight not just worldly intent.

Christ mentions a second death. We all understand Physical death however Jesus is saying there is a specific 2nd Spiritual death for those apart from Him.

The 2nd Death is a literal place called the "Lake of Fire." (We will cover this in Rev.20)



So, as C.S. Lewis said; Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny.

✝ More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. Romans 5:3-4 RSV

Our sufferings may break us but GOD will use them to remake us
Believing in Christ = Means to be Christ like
To have Faith means = To be Faithful in all that we do
Relying upon Jesus = Means we are to be reliable for Christ
When we trust in GOD = Others should also be able to trust in us
When we depend upon the Holy Spirit = We should always be dependable

Rev. 2:12 -17 GNT

✝ To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:
“This is the message from the one who has the sharp two-edged sword. ¹³ I know where you live, there where Satan has his throne. You are true to me, and you did not abandon your faith in me even during the time when Antipas, my faithful witness, was killed there where Satan lives. ¹⁴ But there are a few things I have against you: there are some among you who follow the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak how to lead the people of Israel into sin by persuading them to eat food that had been offered to idols and to practice sexual immorality. ¹⁵ In the same way you have people among you who follow the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Now turn from your sins! If you don't, I will come to you soon and fight against those people with the sword that comes out of my mouth. ¹⁷ “If you have ears, then, listen to what the Spirit says to the churches! “To those who win the victory I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give each of them a white stone on which is written a new name that no one knows except the one who receives it.

Lesson for us : Do not compromise GOD'S Word.

Pergamum is the 3rd Church Age and it lasted from 312 to 540 AD.

It was about 50 miles north of Smyrna and is the site of modern-day Bergama a city of 100k.

Pergamum is each a province and a city like New York NY.

Pergamum was the Roman capitol of Asia. (Western Anatolia or modern Turkey today)

Many of the Roman elite resided there when not in Rome itself.

Pergamum was known for a splendid Library with over 200k volumes and in a romantic gesture Mark Anthony gifted this Library to Cleopatra.

This library was famous for the invention of “parchment” for the recording of information.

Like Smyrna, Pergamum was also built into a hillside however in stages.

The “Acropolis” built into the hillside was each a fortress, citadel, royal palace & a military barracks.

In verse 12 The words of Christ are a double-edged sword.

This reminds that previously in Rev. 1 Jesus already explained He has Divine ability to gauge and separate our motives from our public presentation.

✚ For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12-13 RSV

Here Christ our Lord uses this expression once again because He knows the symbol or emblem of Pergamum was the Roman Makara sword. As in Jesus is saying HE has the power- real power to distinguish truth from fiction & deceit from proper.

In verse 13 we read you live where satan keeps his throne.

This is direct reference to the Altar of Zeus which stood at the top of the hill 800 feet above the city and could be seen for miles. A strange but true fact; the foundation stone for this Throne of Zeus was excavated and taken to Berlin Germany in the late 19th century & records exist that Hitler had planned upon post World War 2 victory to set up a new throne for his use in the “Reichstag” building. Today this Zeus stone remains in a German Museum.

Constantine officially endorses the Church & these trends then take place.

Roman Papal Paganism with Heresies begin to blend in.

Heathen Philosophers & Scholars all begin to criticize those truly in Christ.

From this elitist Pagan class comes the “Roman” Church Fathers claiming authority and priority even though they were Mass murdering Christians at every opportunity only a short time before.

Making Emperor Constantine's biggest mistake not removing the Pagan worship & worship leaders as he endorsed & installed Christianity as the official Roman religion.

Constantine's mother Flavia Julia Helena was a Christian-

However, her son's conversion was each compromising and too tolerant.

Pontifex Maximus

IS a Roman Pagan

Title for High Priest.

The Compromised Pagan Church then becomes a political state.

Rome copied false Greek deity's who were copied from Babylonian origin.

We will see this in Rev. chapters 17 & 18 being a Pagan Paradise.

Pergamum was a chief site for each Pagan and Imperial Caesar worship. (Notice the connection to Vatican) Also, Jesus said in the days of Antipas you did not renounce your faith. Antipas was a Bishop of the Christian Church in Pergamum who was personally appointed by the Apostle John & Church history records that on April 11th 92 AD he was burned to death in a bull shaped bronze altar by Diocletian before the time of Constantine. All he had to do to survive was to renounce his Faith. He did not. Because of its official status as the residence of the elite of Rome, Pergamum was full of every vice and Sin Rome had to offer.

The Compromise of every political, moral, & social value was the norm in Pergamum. So, it became the norm within the Church as well to compromise every Biblical teaching and Doctrine to get along & of course to profit by Prophet with things like sales of Indulgences & paying to escape Purgatory.

In verse 14 we have a reference to Balaam & Balak.

Balak was a Moab King who feared the migrating Jews after being freed from Egypt.

Balaam was a Gentile Prophet for profit who was hired by Balak to curse the Jews.

GOD forbid this in the book of Numbers 22:12.

So, what Balaam suggested was to get Israel to intermarry against GOD'S Law thusly compromising their blood lines and worship practices ultimately leading to a quasi-religious Sinful lifestyle.

In verse 15 the Nicolaitans are back.(Victory over the laity as in a lording Clergy)

Early Church leaders Irenaeus of the Greek Church and the Coptic Clement of Alexandria each do historically record that the "Nicholas" of Acts 6:5-6 is the very same Nick who later founds the Nicolaitan movement from inside the Church.

✠ And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: KJV

Proselyte means a religious convert.

So, was Nick a legalistic Jew who wanted more authority who tried to merge Law & Grace to get it?

Ok the Balaam Prophets for profit & Nicolaitans are those installing a hierarchy of leadership finding their place in the church finally in Pergamum in the Era of Pergamum for the type of Pergamum Christians.

In verse 17 we hear of being given a white stone.

In Jesus time if one was invited to a banquet a wedding or a special celebration it was common to give this person a white stone to use as a ticket for entrance. It appears that those who are martyred for Christ will become members of a fraternity in Heaven & only those having deserving white stones will be able to enter having secret names only they know with Jesus Himself as the first and lead member.


Also verse 17 mentions the secret manna or Angel food given.

This of course is Spiritual food that the Holy Spirit teaches us with.

However, it does appear in the Great Tribulation when the remnant of Israel flees from the antichrist into the wilderness that GOD will once again literally feed them with Manna which means "what is it?" We will reach this in Revelation chapter 12.

Rev. 2:18 -29 NASB

✠ And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and feet 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. ²⁰ But 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 sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her sexual immorality. ²² Behold, 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. ²³ And I will kill her children with plague, 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. 

²⁴ But 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. ²⁵ Nevertheless what you have, hold firmly until I come. ²⁶ The one who overcomes, and the one who keeps My deeds until the end, I will give him authority over the nations; ²⁷ AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE SHATTERED, as I also have received authority from My Father; ²⁸ and I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

Lesson for us is to reject false teachings & pagan practices.

Thyatira was the 4th Church Age with it lasting the longest from 540 to 1517 AD ending with the Renaissance, Reformation, & then including the invent of the printing press. Knowledge each secular & Biblical was being deliberately suppressed during this time in order to control the Masses in what is now called the “Dark Ages.” It was during this time people were born lived & then died all within the shadow of their local Church Steeple rarely if ever once venturing out. When true Scriptural wisdom was suppressed by literally chaining a Latin Bible to the Church pulpit. Meaning no one locally apart from Vatican assignment could even read and comprehend the Bible. Thyatira was originally a small town established by Seleucus I a Greek General of Alexander the Great. In John’s time Thyatira served as a shield to protect Pergamum being 35 miles southeast with the only road to get to Pergamum running through Thyatira and since the Roman elite lived in Pergamum a full Garrison of the Roman Legion was permanently stationed in Thyatira. As such Thyatira became a vast center of the trades to supply each Pergamum and the Legion. Every trade and guild was represented in Thyatira which became an industrial blue-collar powerhouse. Garments with linen workers including people who dyed the clothing. Also, tanners and leather workers because the Legion alone required a nearly endless supply of this. Stonemasons, carpenters, bakers, bronzesmiths, shepherds & agriculture all enhanced with slavery. There was a robust Christian community in Thyatira from the time of the Apostles until the end of WW1 when in defeat the Muslim Turks while retreating they mercilessly annihilated Thyatira and its population. The surviving remnant were regathered in 1922 and deported to Greece.

Scriptural example of a woman from Thyatira

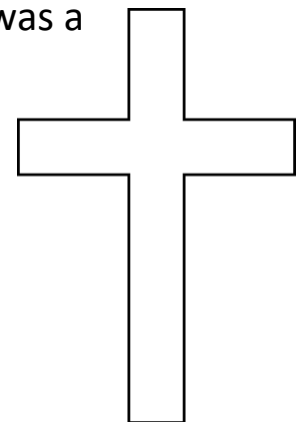
✝ On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message.

Acts 16:13-14 NIV

To get ahead in Thyatira one had to be a member of a guild or a union. Every guild and union selected and then worshipped a false pagan god. This compromising a Christian’s Faith & values only for being employable.

In Verse 19 We read a play on those famous signs everyone has on their wall- Faith – Love – Hope. Also notice Jesus said Thyatira’s works are more in the end than at first with this meaning we must now give credit where credit is due.

10 Catholic charities are second to none and the Lord Jesus has taken notice.



In Verse 20 We read that Thyatira tolerated Jezebel. History has indeed lost the name of the female Prophetess who assumed control of those who compromised with Roman Paganism in Thyatira. Christ is comparing that unnamed female Prophetess to Queen Jezebel of Israel's past.

✠ Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. ³¹ And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. ³² Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. (Ahab was weak & Jezebel was strong) 1st Kings 16:30-32 NKJV

Like the Historic Jezebel our Lord is saying in Thyatira the Pagan Prophetess demanded that the working people who provided goods & services had to be used and abused within her unspeakable Pagan/witchcraft customs at their infamous Temple.

Roman history records she- a Jezebel reinstated Temple prostitution in a city full of working-class men including a full Legion of Roman soldiers.

Meaning compromising Thyatirian type Christians may have everything except Holiness.

Further Spiritual prostitution is when a Church or individual sells out on beliefs only to be acceptable and profitable by the unholy & unacceptable in the name of just trying to survive compromise.

This is when a Church becomes a man-made religion of tradition and superstition built upon a spirit of Jezebel. As in using religious piety, corruption, wealth, and oppression in the name of God.

In verse 23 we read Jesus said her offspring would be stricken dead.

This sounds harsh but what Christ is saying is that those who come up through this system find it hard to attain true Faith in Jesus and are lost. (unsaved) (Also Historically this was the Black Death Plague) Jezebel's children are not Spiritually conflicted for their Sin because they are not reborn in Christ.

In verse 24 we read about the fruit of the Nicolaitans and Gnostics.

Jesus says so called "secret knowledge" or "new light" of a false religious hierarchy especially by those who rewrite scripture for their selfish desires are in fact Demonic & of satan.

One last thought if you switch to the King James which is a word for word translation of verse 22 it reads like this:

✠ Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

By the context and timing of this verse it appears to be literal. (Behold I will- future tense)

As in many within organized religion apart from Christ will be left behind at the Rapture of the Church and will then have to face the Trib & Great Tribulation that follows.

As for the morning star Revelation 22:16 states that Jesus is the morning star & any who believe in Him shall receive His Sin pardon of Grace.

Verse 25-26 Is Psalm 2:9 of the future Messiah to rule the 1000-year Millennial Thy Kingdom to come.

Rod of iron means unbreakable smashing the human nations

✠ You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. ESV

Christ Jesus also proclaimed that no burden other than ‘Faith’ in Him would be necessary for the person within this Thyatira system where the Love for Christ is replaced with Legality & Romanism. Jesus also says He is impressed by those who correctly ignore man made superstitions/traditions & dismiss those false facts of secret deep knowledge of the Priestly class. In fact, Jesus Himself calls such claims as flat out satanic.

Again, as for one who “overcomes” are those who find Jesus through His Gospel Faith alone apart from Pagan infused Romanism. Remember the amount of people ancient Rome killed for belief in Christ is minimal in comparison to the Papacy.

A few examples of the endless torrent of Non-Biblical Papal authority overreach:

Papa Siricius Dec 384-Nov 399: Enforced Papal Authority over every aspect of life.

Papa Leo Sep 440-Nov 461: Decided who could and could not be cast into Hell.

Papa Gregory Sep 590-Mar 604: Declared Infallibility as in no Papal errors ever possible.

Papa Innocent 1st Jan 1198-Jul 1216: Called himself the “Vicar” of Christ.

In Latin/Greek means instead of or substitute of Christ implying the same authority as Jesus.

Papa Sixtus 4th Aug 1471-Aug1484: Led the Spanish Inquisition & specifically targeted and killed 150K Jewish Messianic Christians in Spain.

Papa Francis Mar 2013- Apr 2025: Elevated Church tradition to be equal or even above Scripture.

verses against superstition/tradition & a lording Clergy

✝ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

Colossians 2:8 NIV

✝ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,

1st Timothy 2:5 NIV

John’s Christian Code:

Old Testament references in chapter 2

2:6 Ps . 139:21

2:7 Gen . 2:8 LXX, 2:9; 3:22, 24; Ezek . 28:13 LXX; 31:8, 9 LXX

2:8 Isa . 44:6; 48:12

2:10 Dan . 1:12, 14

2:12 Isa . 49:2

2:14 Num . 25:1–2; 31:16

2:16 Isa . 49:2

2:17 Ps . 78:24; Isa . 62:2; 65:15

2:18 Dan . 10:6

2:20 Num . 25:1–2; 1 Kings 16:31; 2 Kings 9:22

2:23 Pss . 7:9; 62:12; Prov . 24:12; Jer . 11:20; 17:10

2:26–27 Ps . 2:8, 9; Pss. Sol. 17:23–24

(LXX = Septuagint)

We as Gospel Christians believe in imputation.
The immediate indwelling of the Holy Spirit when Saved.
Meaning Sanctification is each instant & a lifelong process.
This by changing our motivations, desires, and thoughts.
The Christian knows Heaven is guaranteed by Christ.
This is Salvation by Grace of Faith through Jesus alone.

The Roman Catholic Church teaches infusion.
That every time Mass is attended a drip of Salvation goes in.
The rosary, deeds and works, & every Sin adds too or takes away from someone's accumulated Salvation.
A Mortal or Cardinal Sin ends or sets one back to zero.
This is Salvation Earned & is against all Biblical teaching.

Salvation is by Grace if it could be Earned as in Deserved then why did Jesus go to the cross?



The 7 Churches of Revelation

- ✝ Are Chronological in order and prophetic in content.
- ✝ Are from the time of the Apostles to the Apostate Age.
- ✝ Are chosen from hundreds of Churches at that time.
- ✝ Are characteristic of the time period they each represent.
- ✝ Are present in each Age yet dominate in its own Age.
- ✝ Are representative of the 7 types of Churches & Christians.
- ✝ Are Proof of Prophecy for only Christ could have known.

Mixing in Tradition & Superstition
to sweeten creates a manmade religion.
This is junk food, the bread of life is Christ.
Salvation is not religion but a relationship
with our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

**Jesus said to him, "I am the way,
and the truth, and the life. No one
comes to the Father except through
me.**

John 14:6 New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition