***“Reviewing Revelation”—Chapter 2:18-29-Thyatira, the Medieval/Papal Church***

**Each church receives a message composed of seven parts: (1) Name of the Church, (2) Title of Christ as sender, (3) Commendation, (4) Concern, (nevertheless), (5) Exhortation (advice/threat), (6) Promise to overcomer, and (7) Closing: “he that hath an ear”….**

**The worldly believers at Pergamum picture the Church during the Age of Constantine from AD 312 to 606. THE PROPHETIC APPLICATION SO FAR: EPHESUS – from Jesus’ ascension to 160 A.D., SMYRNA—160-312 A.D., PERGAMOS –312-600 A.D., THYATIRA—600-1500 A.D.**

**"From the inscriptions which have been found in the neighborhood it is clear that Thyatira possessed more trade guilds than any other town of its size in Asia." THYATIRA (the church in apostasy) PORTRAYS THE MEDIEVAL PAPACY FROM 600-1500 A,D, Because of the strong trade guilds in Thyatira, the sexual immorality and the eating of things sacrificed to idols was probably connected with the mandatory social occasions of the guilds. Perhaps a Christian was invited to the monthly meeting of the goldsmith's guild, and the meeting was held at the temple of Apollo. "Jezebel" would allow or encourage the man to go - perhaps even using a "prophetic" word - and when the man went, he fell into immorality and idolatry. The draw to the guilds and their meetings was powerful. "No merchant or trader could hope to prosper or make money unless he was a member of his trade guild." (Barclay) Nonetheless, Christians were expected to stand in the face of this kind of pressure. One ancient Christian named Tertullian wrote about Christians who made their living in trades connected to pagan idolatry. A painter might find work in pagan temples or a sculptor might be hired to make a statue of a pagan god. They would justify this by saying, "This is my living, and I must live." Tertullian replied, *Vivere ergo habes?* "Must you live?" For some people today tolerance is the only real virtue and intolerance the only vice. The message to Thyatira goes against the grain of modernity by setting limits to tolerance. The main criticism of the *angel* of Thyatira is that he has tolerated something--and someone--that should not be tolerated (v. 20). Thyatira was a smaller city located further inland in the fertile Lycus River valley. Little is known of its history beyond the fact that it once belonged to the kingdom of Pergamum, and few archaeological remains have been found. Yet the message to Thyatira is the longest of the seven messages. The situation at Thyatira was similar to that at Pergamum, except that the false teaching (and consequently the name calling) centers on a single individual. This is unique in the seven messages. Antipas, the only other named individual (2:13), was singled out for praise rather than scorn or condemnation. *That woman Jezebel,* by contrast (v. 20), is given not her real name but a nickname, after Israel's idolatrous queen (1 Kings 16:31, “**And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that **he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians**, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him,” **I Kings 21:25, “**But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.”**) whose terrible fate at the hands of Jehu was prophesied by Elijah (1 Kings 21:23, “**And of Jezebel also spake the Lord, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel,” **2 Kings 9:30-37, “\*\*SEE PAGE 83.). The power and influence of this *Jezebel,* a self-styled *prophetess* at Thyatira, must be viewed in light of three facts: (1) women prophesied freely in early Christianity (see, for example, Acts 2:17, “**And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams,” **Acts 21:9, “**And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy,” **1 Corinthians 11:5, “**But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven,” **); (2) women often played major roles as priestesses in contemporary Roman and Eastern cults in Asia Minor; (3) the Christian Montanist movement in the same region a century later assigned conspicuous leadership roles to two prophetesses--Priscilla and Maximilla (Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History* 5.14-19).** Despite the clear biblical teaching to the contrary, churches throughout history have **tolerated** sin following a pattern like **the** **Thyatiran** congregation, whose members were engaging in both spiritual and physical adultery. Through the insidious efforts of a false teacher, those sins had become pervasive in the body **in Thyatira**. This letter was a sobering one, and marks a new phase in the letters to seven churches. There is a general deterioration in the character, with the exception of **the church** in Philadelphia, as they became more and more worldly. That decline continued to spiral downward to the apostasy at Laodicea.    This is the longest letter of the seven, even though addressed to **the church** in the smallest of the seven cities. It has an important message us today. False doctrine and sin are not to be allowed into the local body – even under the banner of **love**, **toleration**, coexistence or unity. There may be much that is commendable in a body of believers. It may appear to have an effective, growing ministry on the surface. Yet false doctrine and immorality, if not confronted, will bring judgment upon it. **The church:** As is the case with the churches at Smyrna and Pergamum, the Bible does not record the founding of **the church in Thyatira**. The book of **Acts** tells us that **a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira**, was converted **and baptized**, along with **the** **members of her household**, under Paul’s ministry at Philippi **(Acts 16:14-15)**. So it seems that **Lydia** and **her household** participated in starting **the church in Thyatira**, probably as an outreach of Paul’s ministry at Ephesus **(Acts 19:10)**. It was evidently **the** smallest **church** from the smallest city of the seven. But big problems can occur in small places. **The city:** From Pergamum, the northernmost of the seven cities, the Roman road curved east and then southeast to **Thyatira**, about forty miles away. The name of the city means *continual sacrifice*. The longest of the seven letters is addressed to the least known, least important and least remarkable of the cities. All the other cities were visually remarkable. **Thyatira**, however, was built on flat land and lacked an acropolis. Its lack of natural fortifications played a major role in its history.     **Thyatira** was founded by one of Alexander the Great’s successors, Seleucus, as a military outpost guarding the north-south road. Because **Thyatira** had no natural defenses, the city was continually destroyed and rebuilt. It was the gateway to Pergamum, and would only be useful militarily to buy time for that city to ready for attack. Finally, around 190 BC, **Thyatira** was conquered by the Romans and thus enjoyed peace under Roman rule. At that time it became a thriving commercial center. Is location on the main north-south road, formally a liability, and then became an asset. It connected Pergamum with Laodicea, Smyrna and the inner regions of Asia. At the time that **John** wrote the book of **Revelation**, it was just entering its greatest period of prosperity. Unlike Pergamum or Smyrna, it was not an important religious center. It did possess a few temples, but it had no strong devotion to the worship of the emperor. The primary god worshiped there was the Greek sun god, Apollo. There were a few Torah observant Jews **in Thyatira**, but not enough to cause trouble for **the church** there. The problem there was not external persecution, but internal compromise. **Thyatira** gained a reputation as a blue-collar town, where the trade guilds stood at the center of the social and religious life. To hold a job or run a business, it was necessary to be a member of a guild. These guilds enjoyed feasts that were dedicated to their patron deities, in whose honor they were held – complete with meat sacrificed to idols. Some believers would argue that the alleged gods were not real so participation in the meals did not compromise their witness for **the Lord**. The real problem was the fact that the feasts usually ended in an orgy. This was the same problem that the other churches in Asia faced. Ephesus had opposed all such compromise with pagan practices; in Pergamum, a small number of believers fully gave themselves over to pagan social life. The problem **in Thyatira**, as we shall see, assumed a new and dangerous form. Idolatry in the northern Kingdom of Isra'el began with the first king, Jeroboam. But there was a difference between the sin of Jeroboam and the sin of Ba'al worship introduced by **Jezebel**. The sin of Jeroboam was a corruption of the true religion. Jeroboam set up a golden calf in the cities of Dan and Bethel, but they represented the **God** that brought them out of the land of Egypt. This was idolatry, but it was a corruption of the true worship of **the Lord (First Kings 12:25-33)**. With **Jezebel**, however, a whole new god and system of worship were introduced in Isra'el **(First Kings 16:29-33)**. Through **Jezebel**, Ba'al worship came into the northern Kingdom, resulting in more idolatry than ever before. The worship of Ba'al involved **sexuality immorality**. In the corruption of the true religion, morality was still present; however, in the worship of Ba'al there was total **immorality**. Therefore, **Jezebel** became a very real picture of what the Roman church evolved into during the period of the Dark Ages. It introduced a paganism that resulted in idolatry and spiritual adultery. It became a new religious system bearing little resemblance to the New Covenant body of believers.86 So like the **Jezebel** of old, this **woman** misled the body **at Thyatira by her teaching, and** led them **into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols (2:20).** The error of **the prophetess** **Jezebel** was the same as that of the Nicolaitans in Pergamum, full acceptance of the world’s value system. **The reason the problem was so much worse in Thyatira was that membership in the trade guilds involved participation in the feats that led them into sexual immorality.**

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| Wrong Doctrine  **THYATIRA**  (Rev. 2:18-29) | Love, faith, works, patient endurance; constant improvement | Tolerate pagan cults, idolatry and immorality. Judgment coming! | Repent! | Faithful hold fast until I come. I will give you authority over the nations and gift of the morning star |



**18a, “And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write,”**

1. **What is the name of this church? (1) Name of the Church, Thyatira: This was the smallest and least important of the seven cities Jesus addresses in Revelation 2 and 3. In history, we have no record that the Christians of Thyatira suffered any significant political or religious persecution. THE NAME MEANS, “SEMIRAMIS,” THE WIFE OF NIMROD, MOTHER OR TAMUS. IT ALSO IS GREEK FOR “DAUGHTER.”** 
   1. **Was this known as a city of “trade guilds?” This city was a center of *business* and *trade* and it had many active trade guilds, each having their own patron deity from the Greek and Roman pantheon of gods.**
   2. **See** [**Acts 16:14-15**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Acts+16:14-15&t1=en_nas)**,** And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.15And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us,” **mentions Lydia of Thyatira, who was a *seller of purple* cloth from the city of Thyatira. "Thyatira was famous for the manufacture of a purple dye, and numerous references are found in secular literature of the period to the trade guilds which manufactured cloth." THYATIRA IS KNOWN FOR DYES—PARTICULARLY THE SCARLET-PURPLE, FROM THE MADDER ROOT. According to Acts 16:14, Thyatira was the home of Lydia, a "dealer in purple cloth" and a "worshiper of God" whom Paul encountered at Philippi in Macedonia. The reference suggests the city's significance in connection with the dye industry, and perhaps also the relative freedom and mobility of at least some of its women in pursuing careers.**

**18b, “These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;”**

1. **What is the title of Jesus in this letter? (2) Title of Christ as sender** **these things says the Son of God**: **(THIS IS THE ONLY TIME THIS TITLE FOR JESUS IS USED IN MENTIONED IN REVELATION**.) **Jesus first described Himself with a title that emphasized His *deity*.** In Jewish thought, to be the *son of* a thing meant you had the nature of that thing. The *sons of the sorceress* **(**[**Isaiah 57:3**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Isaiah+57:3&t1=en_nas)**, “But draw near hither, ye sons of the sorceress, the seed of the adulterer and the whore,”)** had the nature of the sorceress. The *sons of thunder* **(**[**Mark 3:17**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Mark+3:17&t1=en_nas)**, “And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder,”)** had a nature like thunder. So the **Son of God** has the divine nature, the nature of **God**. . This title emphasizes **His** deity, stressing the point that **He** was one with ADONA**I (John 5:18, “Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.”).** The change of wording from **Revelation 1:13, “And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle,”** should not escape us. There, **John** describes **Him** as **someone like a son of man**; here, however, **He** is identified as **the Son of God**. **Indeed, this is the only time in the book of Revelation that this title is given to Him—SON OF GOD-- because He comes to the church in Thyatira, not as a sympathetic High Priest, but as Judge.** Nothing can be hidden from **Him** because **His** **eyes are like blazing fire (Daniel 10:6, “His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.”).** **As Hebrews 4:13 says, “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do…..or, in simple English, Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account.” His** **feet are like burnished bronze** because **He** comes to this **church** in judgment (PARALLEL --Revelation 1:14-15, “His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;15And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters, “ and here in **Revelation 2:18, “And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass.”).** Everything in the courtyard of the Tabernacle was made of **bronze** because it pointed to judgment. This frightening description of **Messiah** should have been terrifying to them, but few repented.
   1. **THIS NAME, “Son of God,” IMPLIES “COMING IN THE FORM OF JUDGMENT**.” Comment.
   2. **See Matthew 16:16-18,** “And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. 17And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.18And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.”
   3. **Review Revelation 1:14, “**His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire.” **Who has eyes like a flame of fire**: Jesus chose this description of Himself from the presentation in [Revelation 1:14](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Revelation+1:14&t1=en_nas) to emphasize the idea that His **eyes** looked with penetrating judgment.
   4. **Discuss “His feet like fine brass**.” **Use Revelation 1:15, “**And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.” Jesus chose this description of Himself from [Revelation 1:15](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Revelation+1:15&t1=en_nas) to emphasize His *purity* because **brass** is pure and highly refined in the fire. It also emphasized His *steadfastness*, because **brass** was the strongest known metal in the ancient world, and **feet like fine brass** would be strong and unmovable. FEET ALWAYS REPRESENT “WALK.”.

**19,  “I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.”**

1. **Name the six “positives” Jesus points out for the Church at Thyatira**. (3) Commendation I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience, and works. In many ways, the church at Thyatira was a model church. They had four great essential qualities. They had love, both for the Lord and for one another. They knew service, and had faith and patience worth mentioning. As for your works, the last are more than the first: This was another compliment to the church at Thyatira. Not only did they *have* these works, but they had them in *increasing measure* - they were *growing* in love, service, faith, and patience. **JESUS OPENS WITH THIS COMPLEMENT**. **In fact it was the first church of the seven to be commended for its love. They** believed the right message; **they** had the right motivation. But all **their** fine attributes, as crucial as they were, could not substitute for godly living, and **their** pagan life style was dragging **them** down.

**20,  “Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. 21And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.”**

1. **What did Jesus have *against* the church at Thyatira?** **(4) Concern, (nevertheless),** the problems were big enough for Jesus to say **nevertheless**, which meant "Despite all the good, **I have a few things against you**."
2. **Who was Jezebel? \*\*\*SEE ALSO PG. 93-94\*\*\*See I Kings 16-21 and 2 Kings 9:30-37, *“And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window.31And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, Had Zimri peace, who slew his master? 32And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who is on my side? Who? And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs.33And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down: and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trode her under foot.34And when he was come in, he did eat and drink, and said, Go, see now this cursed woman, and bury her: for she is a king's daughter. 35And they went to bury her: but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands. 36Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he said, This is the word of the Lord, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel: 37And the carcass of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel; so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel.”* Because you allow that woman Jezebel**: The center of the corruption at the church at Thyatira was a woman Jesus called **Jezebel**. This may not have been her literal name, but a title that clearly represented a self-styled **prophetess** within the church, after the pattern of Jezebel in the Old Testament (1 Kings 16-21 and [2 Kings 9:30-37](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Kings+9:30-37&t1=en_nas))."She was one of the most evil characters of the Old Testament, who attempted to combine the worship of Israel with the worship of the idol Baal . . . Jezebel herself had a most unenviable record of evil." **But as with those who claimed to be apostles at Ephesus (Revelation 2:2, “**I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars,”**) or Jews at Smyrna (Revelation 2:9, “**I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan,”**) the implication is that Jezebel is a liar. When a woman is used symbolically in Scripture, she represents a religious entity either positively or negatively. On the positive side, there is Yisra'el as the Wife of ADONAI and the Church as the Bride of Christ; on the negative side, there is the Great Prostitute of Chapter 17, and here, the woman Jezebel. Like the Nicolaitans at Pergamum, she (AND THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA) was urging *sexual immorality and the eating of foods sacrificed to idols* (Rev. 2:20b, “**to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols**,” and compare Rev. 2:14b, “**to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication,”**), in other words, the violation of the decree of the Jerusalem Council. A possible further reference to that decree appears in words directed *to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching,* when Jesus says, *I will not impose any other burden on you* (Rev. 2: 24, “**But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden,” **and compare Acts 15:28, "**For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things.”**)**
   1. **She was a false prophet. Compare with Matthew 24:11, “11And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.”** Jesus said this would happen in [Matthew 24:11](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Matthew+24:11&t1=en_nas). **SHE WAS KNOWN FOR SEXUAL IMMORALITY AND IDOL WORSHIP. THIS CHURCH IS CONDONING JEZEBEL. To teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols**: Here, Jesus described the specific *sin* of this woman "Jezebel." Mainly, she was an *immoral* and *ungodly* influence on others, and led others into sin. **SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF ETH-BAAL, KING OF SIDON, and priest of Astarte**.
      * 1. **Reference I Kings 18:13, “**Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the Lord, how I hid an hundred men of the Lord's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?”
        2. **Discuss her beliefs.**
           1. **Worship of Ashtoreth in I Kings 11:5, “**For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites,” **and 33, “**Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father,” **Judges 2:13, “**And they forsook the Lord, and served Baal and Ashtaroth,” **10:6, “**And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the Lord, and served not him,” **and I Samuel 31:10, “**And they put his armour in the house of Ashtaroth: and they fastened his body to the wall of Bethshan.”
           2. **Use of groves as phallic symbols in Deuteronomy 16:21, “**Thou shalt not plant thee a grove of any trees near unto the altar of the Lord thy God, which thou shalt make thee.”
           3. **The Abomination of Sidonians in 2 Kings 23:3- 7, in Josiah’s reign, “**And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.4And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the Lord all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel.5And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.6And he brought out the grove from the house of the Lord, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people.7And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the Lord, where the women wove hangings for the grove.”
           4. **Ezekiel 36: 15, “**Neither will I cause men to hear in thee the shame of the heathen any more, neither shalt thou bear the reproach of the people any more, neither shalt thou cause thy nations to fall any more, saith the Lord God.”
           5. **“The Queen of Heaven,” a Babylonian concept; see Jeremiah 7:18, “**The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger,” **and 44:15-30, “**Then all the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other gods, and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in PathrosLPOK, answered Jeremiah, saying,16As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the Lord, we will not hearken unto thee.17But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil.18But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine.19And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her, and pour out drink offerings unto her, without our men?20Then Jeremiah said unto all the people, to the men, and to the women, and to all the people which had given him that answer, saying,21The incense that ye burned in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, ye, and your fathers, your kings, and your princes, and the people of the land, did not the Lord remember them, and came it not into his mind?22So that the Lord could no longer bear, because of the evil of your doings, and because of the abominations which ye have committed; therefore is your land a desolation, and an astonishment, and a curse, without an inhabitant, as at this day.23Because ye have burned incense, and because ye have sinned against the Lord, and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord, nor walked in his law, nor in his statutes, nor in his testimonies; therefore this evil is happened unto you, as at this day.24Moreover Jeremiah said unto all the people, and to all the women, Hear the word of the Lord, all Judah that are in the land of Egypt:25Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, saying; Ye and your wives have both spoken with your mouths, and fulfilled with your hand, saying, We will surely perform our vows that we have vowed, to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her: ye will surely accomplish your vows, and surely perform your vows.26Therefore hear ye the word of the Lord, all Judah that dwell in the land of Egypt; Behold, I have sworn by my great name, saith the Lord, that my name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, The Lord God liveth.27Behold, I will watch over them for evil, and not for good: and all the men of Judah that are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by the famine, until there be an end of them.28Yet a small number that escape the sword shall return out of the land of Egypt into the land of Judah, and all the remnant of Judah, that are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall know whose words shall stand, mine, or their's.29And this shall be a sign unto you, saith the Lord, that I will punish you in this place, that ye may know that my words shall surely stand against you for evil:30Thus saith the Lord; Behold, I will give Pharaohhophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies, and into the hand of them that seek his life; as I gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, his enemy, and that sought his life.
3. **Who were “My servants?” Refer to Mark 9:42**. This shows how terrible Jezebel's sin was. She corrupted the **servants** of Jesus, and they belong to Him. Jesus said, ***But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea* (**[**Mark 9:42**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Mark+9:42&t1=en_nas)**, “**And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.”)
4. **See also Revelation 2:24, “**But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.” **Later in this letter, Jesus would also reveal a link to the work of Jezebel and false doctrine: *this doctrine . . . the depths of Satan, as they say* (**[**Revelation 2:24**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Revelation+2:24&t1=en_nas)**). It seems that this Jezebel led others in the church at Thyatira to discover *depths of Satan*.**  In the days of the New Testament, many non-Christian religions (such as the Ophites and various Gnostic groups) said they knew the "deep things of Satan." The ancient Christian writer Tertullian said if you asked a Gnostic about their cosmic mysteries, they furrowed their brow and said, "It is deep." It may be deep - but deep into a dangerous pit.
   * 1. **Did Jezebel repent? . . . And she did not repent**: Jesus' greatest accusation was that this "Jezebel" **did not repent**. She apparently rejected the work of the Holy Spirit in her heart, calling her to repentance.
     2. **Explain the mercy and judgment of God in this reminder of repentance. See Genesis 6:3, “***My Spirit shall not strive with man forever.”* In these words we see both the *mercy* and *judgment* of our Lord. **Time to repent** shows *mercy*. God gives us **time to repent**; we should deal with others the same way. **And she did not repent** speaks to the *judgment* of God. God gives **time to repent**, but it is not an unlimited time. There is a time when God says, ([Genesis 6:3](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Genesis+6:3&t1=en_nas)). This means that when God gives us **time to repent**, we must *take advantage* of that time.
5. **What was the real sin of Thyatira? “Because you allow”--** This shows the sin of the *church* of Thyatira. On the outside, they were a model church, showing *works, love, service, faith,* and *patience*. Yet there was significant corruption *inside* the church. **The sin of the church was that they *allowed* this corruption.**

**22, “Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. 23And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. 24But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. 25but that which ye have already hold fast till I come.”**

1. **Review “with her into great tribulation.” THIS IS THE FIRST MENTION OF THIS PERIOD IN REVELATION.**
2. **Discuss “reins and hearts.” Reins literally mean, “Kidneys,” which means innermost parts or loins.**
3. **What is the exhortation? (5) Exhortation (advice/threat), I will cast her into a sickbed: Probably a contrast between a bed of sickness and a bed of adultery is intended.** **Before Jesus told the Christians in Thyatira what *they* must do, He first told them what *He* would do. Jesus would chastise this Jezebel, and cast her into a sickbed, along with those who commit adultery with her. The reference to adultery is important. It speaks of both sexual adultery *and* spiritual adultery. When these Christians honored other gods, they were unfaithful to the Lord who saved them. For this reason, the figure of a sickbed is fitting. They were guilty of adultery, both sexual and spiritual. It is as if Jesus said, "You love an unclean bed. Here, I will give you one, and cast you into a sickbed."** 
   1. **What is a sickbed? See 2 Kings 10:1-28. She has had time to repent, but has not done so. Her punishment is to be put to bed (v. 22), "a bed of sickness in contrast with the bed of adultery.”**
   2. **What happens to “her children?” See 2 Kings 10:1-28.** As for her *children,* that is, anyone who perpetuates her teaching, they will be struck dead by a plague (v. 23). Like Jezebel of old, her name and her influence will disappear from the earth (compare 2 Kings 10:1-28).
   3. **See** [**1 Corinthians 11:30**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20Corinthians+11:30&t1=en_nas)**, “For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep,” ….** That God can use sickness as a way to chastise His people when they are in sin. The ancient Greek word used here for bed "is also the word for a *banqueting couch*; and if that meaning is taken, the meaning is: 'I will strike her down as she sits at her forbidden feasts.' "
   4. **What is the purpose of the chastening?** Unless they repent of their deeds: Jesus revealed the *purpose* for this chastening. First, it was to draw them to repent of their deeds. They wouldn't listen to Jesus before, so He had to speak louder through the sickbed. Second, it was to give an example of holiness to other churches: and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts.
   5. **Define “reins and heart.”** There is nothing which more clearly pertains to God than the power of searching the heart, and nothing that is more constantly claimed by him as his special prerogative, [1 Chronicles 28:9](http://biblehub.com/1_chronicles/28-9.htm); [Psalm 7:9](http://biblehub.com/psalms/7-9.htm); [Psalm 11:4](http://biblehub.com/psalms/11-4.htm); [Psalm 44:21](http://biblehub.com/psalms/44-21.htm); [Psalm 139:2](http://biblehub.com/psalms/139-2.htm); [Proverbs 15:3](http://biblehub.com/proverbs/15-3.htm); [Jeremiah 11:20](http://biblehub.com/jeremiah/11-20.htm); [Jeremiah 17:10](http://biblehub.com/jeremiah/17-10.htm); [Jeremiah 20:12](http://biblehub.com/jeremiah/20-12.htm); [Jeremiah 32:19](http://biblehub.com/jeremiah/32-19.htm); [Hebrews 4:13](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/4-13.htm). **. Reins and hearts are literally "hearts and kidneys." In the mind of the ancient Jews, the *heart* was the place of intellect, and the *kidneys* were the place of emotion. Jesus said, "I know your every thought and your every feeling." The word "reins" - νεφροὺς nephrous - means, literally, "the kidney," and is commonly used in the plural to denote the kidneys, or the loins. In the Scriptures it is used to denote the inmost mind, the secrets of the soul; probably because the parts referred to by the word are as hidden as any other part of the frame, and would seem to be the repository of the more secret affections of the mind**, to denote the seat of love.
   6. **What is the warning?** Hold fast what you have till I come: There were many faithful, uncompromising Christians in Thyatira. To them, Jesus simply said, "hold fast." They must not stop doing what is good. They must not become distracted or discouraged from what Jesus wants them to be and to do.
   7. **See Psalm 7:9,** “**Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins.”** As the Psalmist said: O righteous God, who searches minds and hearts, bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure.

**26, “And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. 28And I will give him the morning star.”**

1. **What is “the Promise to the overcomer?” (6) Promise to overcomer, He who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end: Even when there is the immoral and idolatrous influence of a Jezebel, Christians can *overcome* and *keep Jesus' works until the end*. We must not become overly discouraged at immorality and idolatry around us, even among Christians. God's work will still go on through His overcomers. To him I will give power over the nations: Jesus promised that His people will reign with Him. Here, there is a special promise to those who overcome the threat of immorality and idolatry. To them, Jesus offered a share in His own kingdom.**
   1. **What is the rod of iron? Compare this verse with Psalm 2:9, “Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel,” Revelation 12:5, “And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne,” Revelation 19:15, “And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”** He shall rule them with a rod of iron: This quotation from Psalm 2 speaks of the authority of the Messiah when He rules over the earth.
   2. **Explain “I will give him the morning star.” See Revelation 22:16, “Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.”** Jesus offered them a reward greater than the kingdom. He offered them the reward of Himself, because He is the *Morning Star* ([Revelation 22:16](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Revelation+22:16&t1=en_nas)).
      1. **Review 2 Peter 1:19, “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts,”**  **Revelation 22:16, “Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star,” and Numbers 24:17, “I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.” Secondly**, **they** will also have the Morning Star or Jesus **Himself** (**Revelation 2:28, “And I will give him the morning star.”).**.
      2. **Parallel this description of Jesus with that similar name of the devil in Isaiah 14:12, “**How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!”

**29, “He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”**

1. **What is the closing? (7) Closing: “he that hath an ear”….** He who has an ear: This is a letter that applies to everyone. It applies to those who are like Jezebel, who lead others into sin. It applies to those who follow the teaching of a Jezebel, and follow others into sin. It applies to those who permit a Jezebel to work her wickedness. Finally, it applies to the faithful who must hold fast.
2. **See Romans 6:14, “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”** Her false teaching is alive and well today under a variety of names; and just when faithful believers put these modern heresies in the grave, they seem to jump right back out again! That’s because it’s so enticing to justify immorality in the name of grace (Romans 6:1-14). THE DOCTRINE OF GRACE DOES NOT GIVE LEEWAY TO SIN!
3. **How does this section of scripture cause us to take a stand against false doctrine in today’s church? Use Luke 6:37, “Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven,” and Romans 2:1, “Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.”** We need to take a stand against false doctrine in the Church. We are in no position to condemn others (Like 6:37; Romans 2:1); **however, Paul instructed the Corinthians to judge those within the local church by rebuking sin and correcting false teaching.** This often meant removing the wicked person from the church through proper church discipline. **HOW DOES THIS WORK OUT FOR THE AMERICAN CHURCH TODAY?** 
   1. **See also I Corinthians 5:9-13, “I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:10Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.11But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.12For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?13But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person,” and I John 2:15-17, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.16For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.17And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”** The purpose is not merely to purify the local church, but also the restoration of the open, habitual sinning believer. **In other words, the biblical approach to toleration is, “Don’t judge the world (First John 2:15-17) for ADONAI will judge them. Instead, hold your local church or messianic synagogue to its own standards of doctrinal and moral purity.”**
4. **What is the “take away” from the Church in Thyatira?** We need to **hate what is evil** and **cling to what is good** until **Messiah** returns **(Romans 12:9, “**Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”**)**.

***And, here are the promises:***

**Revelation 224-28, “But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden 25But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. 26And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. 28And I will give him the morning star.”**

**John 17:24, “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”**

**The compromising body of believers at Thyatira pictures the Church during the Dark Ages from AD 607 to 1517. It was called the Dark Ages because spiritual darkness grew as a result of the marriage of the Church to the world. The light, which** Yeshua **Messiah entrusted to His Church all but flickered out during that dark time. Thyatira means *continual sacrifice*, which is the central heresy of the Roman Catholic church. That is, the Church of Rome denies the finished work of Christ on the cross.** Jesus **said: It is finished (John 19:30), but the Roman church believes in a *continual sacrifice* that produces such things as sacraments and praying for the dead, burning candles and so on. The following changes and doctrines that have their source in paganism were added to the church during the Dark Ages:**

**AD 607        Boniface III made the first universally recognized pope**

**AD 709        Kissing the Pope’s feet started**

**AD 786        worshiping of images and relics**

**AD 850        The use of “holy water”**

**AD 995        Canonization of dead saints**

**AD 998        Fasting on Fridays during Lent**

**AD 1079      Celibacy of the priesthood**

**AD 1090      Prayer beads introduced**

**AD 1184      The Inquisition**

**AD 1190      Sale of Indulgences started**

**AD 1215      The doctrine of transubstantiation started**

**AD 1220      Worship of the wafer or host**

**AD 1229      The Bible was forbidden to the common people**

**AD 1414      The communion cup was forbidden to the common people**

**AD 1439      The doctrine of purgatory was decreed**

**AD 1439      The doctrine of the seven sacraments was affirmed**

**AD 1508      The Ave Maria was approved**

**AD 1534    The Jesuit order was founded**

**AD 1545    Tradition was granted equal authority with the Bible**

**AD 1546    The Apocryphal books were put into the Roman Bible**

1. **Describe the Church of Thyatira—590-1570 A.D.—Middle Ages, Dark Ages, Papacy came into view--2:18-29, fill in chart. Name means “sweet woman.” Constantine was actually the first pope. Woman Jezebel in this church. Jesus will kill her children. I will give Him “The Morning Star”—which is the rapture. Roman Catholic Church. Lots of Babylonian mysticism in it. Praying to saints; worshiping Mary. When the church centers on women, Jesus is not pleased. Danger of moral compromise.**
2. **Describe the Church of Sardis, 1570-1750 A.D.—“The Dead Church,” Reformation Church, now formal and liberal, Rev.3:1-6, the Catholic Church was stunted by the reformation church. Martin Luther began translating the Bible, the printing press was developed, and Protestantism was begun. But, it became “dead and formalistic.” Jesus says that they are liberal and dead, formalistic church; Sardis means “Stone” 2 Timothy 3…..verse about lovers of pleasure, having a form of godliness….an “apostate church.” Early Christian colleges were founded on salvation message, are now liberal and lying. Danger of spiritual deadness.**
3. **Describe the Church of Philadelphia, Rev 3:7-13, the second church that gets no censure, brotherly love, love each other. Condition is “to love.” Strength is small….but, I can do all things through Christ Jesus, and risen above the world. “Walk the talk.” Not hypocritical. Fired up and keep going! Believe and trust in God; centered on Christ. They will be raptured. Danger of losing your “little strength.”**
4. **Describe the Church of Laodicea, Rev. 3; 14-22, lukewarm. Makes Jesus sick; He will “spew them out.” Shallow and “life is a mess.” Strong rebuke for this church. Will go through the tribulation. Customs and manners; ecumenical movement, new age, and accepts all false religions. Hebrews 6:4-6—apostate, impossible to correct. Sin will be judged. Danger of permanent “lukewarmness.”**
5. **Revelation 3:20, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock…….” Sum up this verse.**
6. **What does Revelation say about “blotting your name out?” Read Rev. 3:5.**

**INFORMATION ABOUT JEZEBEL**

Jezebel’s reputation as the most dangerous seductress in the Bible stems from her final appearance: her husband King Ahab is dead; her son has been murdered by Jehu. As Jehu’s chariot races toward the palace to kill Jezebel, she “painted her eyes with kohl and dressed her hair, and she looked out of the window” (2 Kings 9:30).

For more than two thousand years, Jezebel has been saddled with a reputation as the bad girl of the Bible, the wickedest of women. This ancient queen has been denounced as a murderer, prostitute and enemy of God, and her name has been adopted for lingerie lines and World War II missiles alike. But just how depraved was Jezebel? The story is not a pretty one, and some—perhaps most—readers will remain disturbed by Jezebel’s actions. **Phoenicia was known as** [**Canaan**](http://www.ancient.eu/canaan/) **Sidon was the birthplace of the princess Jezebel who was married to the King of Israel, Ahab, as chronicled in the biblical books of I and II Kings. Jezebel's refusal to relinquish her** [**religion**](http://www.ancient.eu/religion/)**, dignity, and cultural identity to her husband's culture did not sit well with many of his subjects, most notably the Hebrew prophet Elijah who regularly denounced her. Ahab and Jezebel's rule was ended by a coup, inspired by Elijah, in which the general Jehu took control of the army and usurped the throne.**

The story of Jezebel, **the Phoenician wife of King Ahab of Israel,** is recounted in several brief passages scattered throughout the Books of Kings. Scholars generally identify 1 and 2 Kings as part of the Deuteronomistic History. One of the main purposes of the entire Deuteronomistic History, which includes the seven books from Deuteronomy through 2 Kings, is to explain Israel’s fate in terms of its apostasy. As the Israelites settle into the Promised Land, establish a monarchy and separate into a northern and a southern kingdom after the reign of Solomon, God’s chosen people continually go astray. **They sin against Yahweh in many ways, the worst of which is by worshiping alien deities.** The first commandments from Sinai demand monotheism, but the people are attracted to foreign gods and goddesses. **When Jezebel enters the scene in the ninth century B.C.E., she** **is a foreign idol worshiper who seems to be the power behind her husband.**

**As the Books of Kings recount, the princess Jezebel is brought to the northern kingdom of Israel to wed the newly crowned King Ahab, son of Omri (1 Kings 16:31). Her father is Ethbaal of Tyre, king of the Phoenicians, a group of Semites whose ancestors were Canaanites. Phoenicia consisted of a loose confederation of city-states, including the sophisticated maritime trade centers of Tyre and Sidon on the Mediterranean coast.** The Phoenicians worshiped a swarm of gods and goddesses, chief among them Baal, the general term for “lord” given to the head fertility and agricultural god of the Canaanites. **As king of Phoenicia, it is likely that Ethbaal was also a high priest or had other important religious duties. According to the first-century C.E. historian Josephus, who drew on a Greek translation of the now-lost Annals of Tyre, Ethbaal served as a priest of Astarte, the primary Phoenician goddess.** Jezebel, as the king’s daughter, may have served as a priestess as she was growing up. In any case, she was certainly raised to honor the deities of her native land.

The legacy of Jezebel. The apocalyptic message seems to associate the Biblical queen with the “mother of whores and of abominations” who “rules over the kings of the earth” and who has committed fornication with them (Revelation 17:2, 5, 18).  
Jezebel’s name appears once in the New Testament Book of Revelation, where it is attached to an unrepentant prophetess who has beguiled the people “to practice fornication and to eat food sacrificed to idols” (Revelation 2:20).  
Yet the Book of Kings offers no hint of sexual impropriety on Queen Jezebel’s part. . She is, if anything, a too-devoted wife, willing even to commit murder in order to help her husband maintain his authority as king.

When Jezebel comes to Israel, **she brings her foreign gods and goddesses—especially Baal and his consort Asherah (Canaanite Astarte, often translated in the Bible as “sacred post”)—with her**. **This seems to have an immediate effect on her new husband, for just as soon as the queen is introduced, we are told that Ahab builds a sanctuary for Baal in the very heart of Israel, within his capital city of Samaria: “He took as wife Jezebel daughter of King Ethbaal of the Phoenicians, and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. He erected an altar to Baal in the temple of Baal which he built in Samaria. Ahab also made a ‘sacred post’”**[**a**](http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/people-in-the-bible/how-bad-was-jezebel/#end01) **(1 Kings 16:31–33).**[**2**](http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/people-in-the-bible/how-bad-was-jezebel/#note02)

Jezebel does not accept Ahab’s God, Yahweh. Rather, she leads Ahab to tolerate Baal. She represents a view of womanhood that is the opposite of the one extolled in characters such as Ruth the Moabite, who is also a foreigner. Ruth surrenders her identity and submerges herself in Israelite ways; she adopts the religious and social norms of the Israelites and is universally praised for her conversion to God. Jezebel STUBBORNLY remains true to her own beliefs.Jezebel’s marriage to Ahab was a political alliance. The union provided both peoples with military protection from powerful enemies as well as valuable trade routes: Israel gained access to the Phoenician ports; Phoenicia gained passage through Israel’s central hill country to Transjordan and especially to the King’s Highway, the heavily traveled inland route connecting the Gulf of Aqaba in the south with Damascus in the north. But although the marriage is sound foreign policy, it is intolerable to the Deuteronomist because of Jezebel’s idol worship. We are not told whether Ethbaal consults his daughter, if she departs Phoenicia with trepidation or enthusiasm, or what she expects from her role as ruler. Like other highborn daughters of her time, Jezebel is probably a pawn, packed off to the highest bidder.

Israel’s topography, customs and religion would certainly be very different from those of Jezebel’s native land. Instead of the lushness of the moist seacoast, she would find Israel to be an arid, desert nation. Furthermore, the Torah shows the Israelites to be an ethnocentric, xenophobic people. In Biblical narratives, foreigners are sometimes unwelcome, and prejudice against intermarriage is seen since the day Abraham sought a woman from his own people to marry his son Isaac (Genesis 24:4).

What spurs Jezebel to action is unknown and unknowable, but the motives of the Deuteronomist come through plainly in the text. Jezebel is a bold and impious interloper who has to be stopped. From her own point of view, however, she is no apostate. She remains loyal to her religious upbringing and is determined to maintain her cultural identity. **She also seems driven to eliminate Israel’s faithful servants of God. Evidence of Jezebel’s cruel desire to wipe out Yahweh worship in Israel is reported in 1 Kings 18:4, at the Bible’s second mention of her name: “Jezebel was killing off the prophets of the Lord.”** The threat of Jezebel is so great that later in the same chapter, [the prophet Elijah](http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-sites-places/biblical-archaeology-places/the-cave-of-elijah-the-prophet-under-threat/) summons the acolytes of Jezebel to a tournament on Mt. Carmel to determine which deity is supreme: God or Baal. Whichever deity is capable of setting a sacrificial bull on fire will be the winner, the one true God. It is only then that we learn just how many followers of Jezebel’s gods and goddesses are near her at court. **Elijah challenges them: “Now summon all Israel to join me at Mount Carmel, together with the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah who eat at Jezebel’s table” (1 Kings 18:19). Whether the grand total of 850 is a symbolic or literal number, it is impressive.**

**The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ at the Rapture as the Morning Star**

**Christ spoke of the Rapture** ….Many professing Christians overlook the explicit reference to the Rapture which Jesus made during his ministry: **"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" (John 11:25-26)**  His words are very plain: Those who believed in him while they were alive, but are now dead (**"though they were dead"**), they shall live again. And those who are alive when he comes, and believe, will never die. The first category is resurrected from the grave and the second is taken up in the Rapture.

**The Morning Star and the Sun of Righteousness**

The Bible also makes reference to **the two appearances of Christ at his Second Coming. The first is the Morning Star, when Christ comes for his bride, and the second is the Sun of Righteousness, when Christ appears in glory to rule on earth with a rod of iron.**

In Middle Eastern cultures the morning star was the celestial object known as Venus, the appearance of which was traditionally a sign that night was ending, dawn was commencing and the sun would shortly rise. In the great spiritual darkness of the End Time, during the period of labor pains or birth pangs leading up to the Great Tribulation, Biblical truth will have almost disappeared from off the earth. Everywhere men will ask, **"Where is the promise of his coming?" (2 Peter 3:4)**. But faithful Christians will stand firm and patiently await the Morning Star. Before the world is stunned by the **"brightness of his coming" (2 Thessalonians 2:8)**, when he rises like the sun (**"the Sun of righteousness" - Malachi 4:2**), Christ will make a less visible appearance – from an earthly perspective – as the **"bright and morning star" (Revelation 22:16)**. Just as the morning star heralds the rising of the sun, so the resurrection/rapture, when the saints meet the Lord in the air, will 'announce' the second part, the earthly coming of the Sun of Righteousness.

**The Millennium** ….During the thousand-year period known as the Millennium Christ Jesus will also have the character of a Morning Star as he prepares the earth for entry into the Eternal State – **"behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him" (Isaiah 40:10 and 62:11).** Only then, at the sunrise of a new creation, will our heavenly Father, the Lord God Almighty, appearin and with the New Jerusalem: **"Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God... And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." (Revelation 21: 3; 22-23)**

The planet Venus which is commonly known as either the "Evening Star" when it is in the evening or the "Morning Star" when it is in the morning sky. The planet Venus usually alternates about 9 months each section of its cycle as morning star and evening star with about 18 months for a full cycle. However part of the beginning and ending time of each of its periods as morning and evening star it is too close to the Sun to be easily visible. Although I can't say for sure that this will be the case, it would certainly fit the Biblical symbol of the morning star if the rapture of the church in the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to the air for his church before his much more glorious coming in glory to the earth about seven years later at the end of the tribulation just as Venus as the morning star appears in the sky before the rising sun. However I can't say for sure if this will be the case but the astronomical phenomena of Venus as the morning star occurs just less than 50% of the time.

**Spiritual Analogy of the Morning Star to Jesus Christ's Coming for His Church According to Revelation 22**

The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ with His Church from Heaven at the end of the Great Tribulation in power and great glory is referred to as the rising sun in some scriptures in contrast to His coming for the Church at the rapture before the Tribulation starts when He will come more subltly and less visibly to people on Earth only to the air or near outer space.

The reference to the Lord Jesus Christ coming as the bright and morning star is in Revelation 22 as follows**: I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride(the true Church) say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life (the Holy Spirit) freely. Revelation 22:16-17**

**Spiritual Analogy of the Morning Star to the Lord Jesus Christ Coming for His Church in 2 Peter 1**

The Lord Jesus Christ as the day star which means morning star from the original Greek will also come to indwell in all true believers or in this age Christians' hearts at the time and from the time of His coming as the morning star on forever. This is because we will then be changed into new spiritual bodies and have our old sinful natures cast off with just our new godly hearts we received left for the Lord Jesus Christ to full indwell (arise in our hearts). Of course we receive godly new hearts when we are born again or born of the Holy Spirit the moment we trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour that He died for our sins and rose from the dead to give us new life. **A reference to this is in 2 Peter 1 as follows:**

**We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye(you) do well to take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place(this world), until the day dawn, and the day star(morning star) arise in your hearts: 2 Peter 1:19**

**And he that overcometh ... And I will give him the morning star. Revelation 2:26, 28.**

**Satan as Lucifer or Morning Star and Relation to the Lord Jesus Christ as Morning Star for the Church**

Finally the Lord Jesus Christ's coming for the Church to the air, or near outer space, at the rapture to take us and I hope also you who are reading this article to Heaven will be a bitter blow to Satan the devil on at least two counts. This will of course happen before the Great Tribulation breaks upon the Earth and its remaining inhabitants. One count by which Satan will likely resent the Lord Jesus Christ coming as the morning star for the Church at the Rapture is that the air or atmosphere of Earth or near outer space is one region the devil is said to have control of in Ephesians 2 in the New Testament and Satan will likely intensely resent it when he is given a major defeat by the Lord Jesus Christ in Satan's home turf there. Since believers in Jesus then won't have anything in our hearts or bodies that would be susceptible to Satan's attacks or temptations he will also be frustrated and angry that he won't be able to cause us to fall into sin anymore starting at that time. Another reason Satan will resent the Lord Jesus Christ coming as the morning star for the Church is that one of the names of Satan in the Old Testament it seems from before he rebelled against God and fell is Lucifer which means morning star in Latin in Isaiah 14:12. **Perhaps this is something else that is meant by the Lord Jesus Christ coming as a thief in the night by his stealing, sanctifying or taking to himself in a godly meaning the title "Morning Star". The word in the New Testament of "Morning Star" is the Greek word phosphorus**.