

7 CHURCHES IN REVELATION

Ephesus
 Smyrna
 Pergamum
 Thyatira ✓
 Sardis
 Philadelphia
 Laodicea

Verse 21- *I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her sexual immorality.*

time to repent – suggests that “Jezebel” has been in the congregation for some time.

There are no more chances for this woman. Judgment has been pronounced.

Verse 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.*

Pergamum was given a warning (“otherwise”), but for Thyatira the coming judgment is announced as a fact.

bed of sickness- She is not given a chance to repent this time because she refused to listen before, but misguided believers who have followed her have a chance to repent.

1 Corinthians 11:29-30- *For the one who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not properly recognize the body. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number are asleep.*

Verse 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.

There are three groups in these verses:

- *Jezebel*
- *Misguided Christians trapped in immorality (chance to repent)*
- *Second-generation false believers (her children)*

Verse 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.

- This is the only verse to acknowledge all other six churches.
- This reminds us of the first Jezebel's false prophets of Baal who were killed with a sword by Elijah.
- 1 Kings 18:40- *"Then Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape." So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slaughtered them there.*

Verse 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.*

- *kill her children*- Possibly her biological children as with the first Jezebel (2 Kings 10) after she was killed (2 Kings 9). Probably false believers who have believed her lies and are following her. This is in line with a Hebrew idea that children suffer for the sins of their parents.
- *plague (death)*- Their death will be due directly from their actions.

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- *plague (death)*- Their death will be due directly from their actions.
- *churches*- the only time all seven churches are mentioned in the seven letters. A futuristic use of the present tense: "I am killing". An indication of imminency of the judgment.
- Gen. 2:17- "*but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.*"

Verse 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.*

- *minds and hearts*- literally, the “kidneys (*nephrous*) and hearts (*cardia*).” Our feeling and emotions came from our kidneys and our decisions came from our heart. The Lord sees our hearts and minds (motives) clearly.
- *according to your deeds*- This church will be judged for what they do and don't do and why they did or didn't do it. His “*eyes like a flame*” see perfectly.

Verse 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.*

- *The rest*- There are some Christians in the church not following “Jezebel.”
- *deep things of Satan*- Possibly mocking Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:10- “*But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*” KJV

Verse 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.*

- Possibly referring to things that are supposedly “higher or hidden” (Gnostic)
- *as they call them*- The Lord is not calling these beliefs “deep.”
- *I place no other burden on you*- Believers in the church who are not involved in immorality will not be held accountable for the actions of others.

Verse 25- *Nevertheless what you have, hold firmly until I come.*

- *hold firmly*- The Lord has us firmly in His hand:

John 10:28-29- *“and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and **no one will snatch them out of My hand**. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and **no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand**.*

- Our responsibility is to “keep on holding on” to what we know is true.

Verse 26- *The one who overcomes, and the one who keeps My deeds until the end, I will give him authority over the nations;*

- *one who overcomes*- those who are truly saved
- *authority over the nations*- ruling in the millennial kingdom.
- **Amillennialism**- no millennial kingdom- The reign of Christ with His saints is either the reign of Christ manifested in history through His church, or the spiritual reign of believers with Christ “in the heavenly places.”

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- *one who overcomes*- those who are truly saved
- *authority over the nations*- ruling in the millennial kingdom.
- **Postmillennialism**- Christ will return after the church institutes a thousand-year reign- (e.g.- *We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations (1896)*...“darkness shall turn to the dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright, and Christ’s great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light”)
- WWI 14 years later

Verse 26- *The one who overcomes, and the one who keeps My deeds until the end, I will give him authority over the nations;*

- **Premillennialism-** The coming of Christ will be followed by a binding of Satan and the resurrection of the saints who will join him in a temporal kingdom when he reigns over the earth.

Millennial Views			
View	Return of Christ	Description	Interpretation
Premillennial	Before the 1000- year kingdom	Christ returns bodily to earth to establish His literal kingdom on earth and will reign for 1,000 years.	Futurist
Postmillennial	After a possible 1000-year golden age on earth	Christ returns after the 1,000 years which represent a "golden age ushered in by triumph of the Church preaching the gospel & a large part of the world converting to Christianity	Idealist or Preterist
Amillennial	No literal earthly kingdom	No literal reign of Christ. No earthly kingdom. Christ presently reigns over a spiritual kingdom.	Idealist or Preterist

Verse 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;*

- *he shall rule them-* shepherd them
- *rod of iron-* With Christ the believer who overcomes will have the authority to rule, to discipline, and to judge.

1 Corinthians 6:2- *Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to form the smallest law courts?*

Verse 28- *and I will give him the morning star.*

morning star- the planet Venus is called the morning star because it is the last “star” visible before the sun rises. Jesus will call Himself the “morning star” later in 22:16-

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you of these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

This is the second promise to the believers. Jesus will be seen just before “daybreak.” Our current period, between the ascension of Christ and His Second Coming, is the “night.”

Biblical Model for Conflict Resolution

Matthew 18:15 – 17 (Jesus speaking)

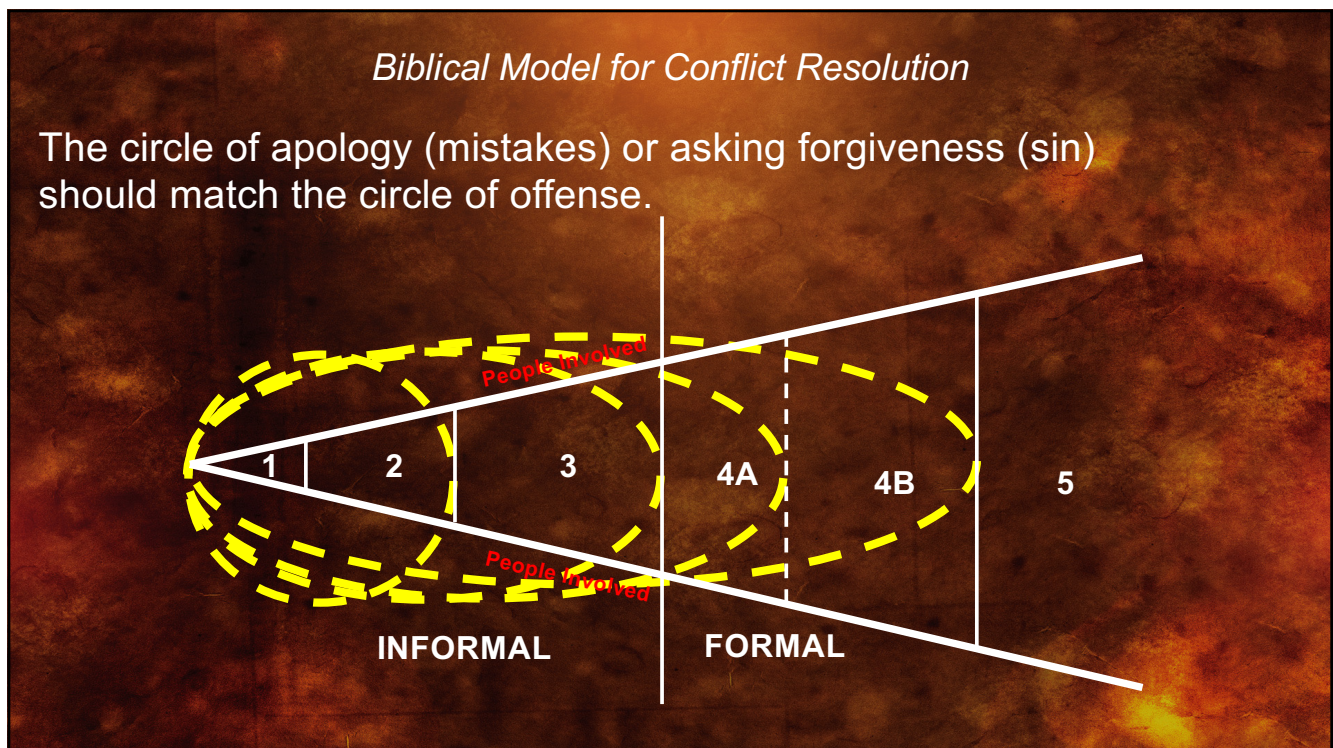
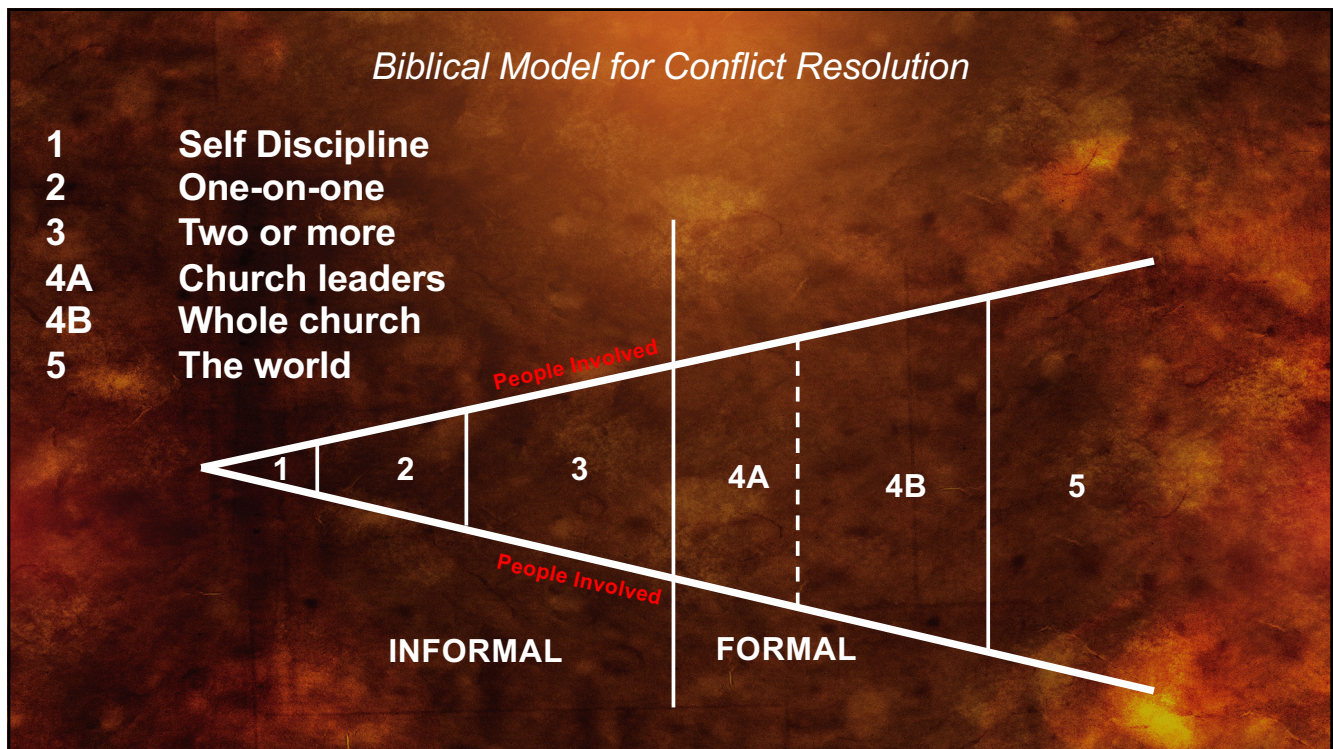
15 *“Now if your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have gained your brother.*

16 *But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that on the testimony of two or three witnesses every matter may be confirmed.*

17 *And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, he is to be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”*

Verse 29- *The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’*

- Jezebel and her followers (2:20–21) would not heed the Spirit's message or the possible correction of church leadership, but the faithful remnant would hear and obey it.



Next week...

Continue in Chapter 3 -
The Message to Sardis

