

The Revelation

Chapter 2:18-29

Christ Church
Summer 2026



Asia Minor

• Pergamum

• Thyatira

• Smyrna

• Sardis

• Philadelphia

• Ephesus

Laodicea •

•
Island of
Patmos

A. Ephesus – no strengths

B. Smyrna – faithful

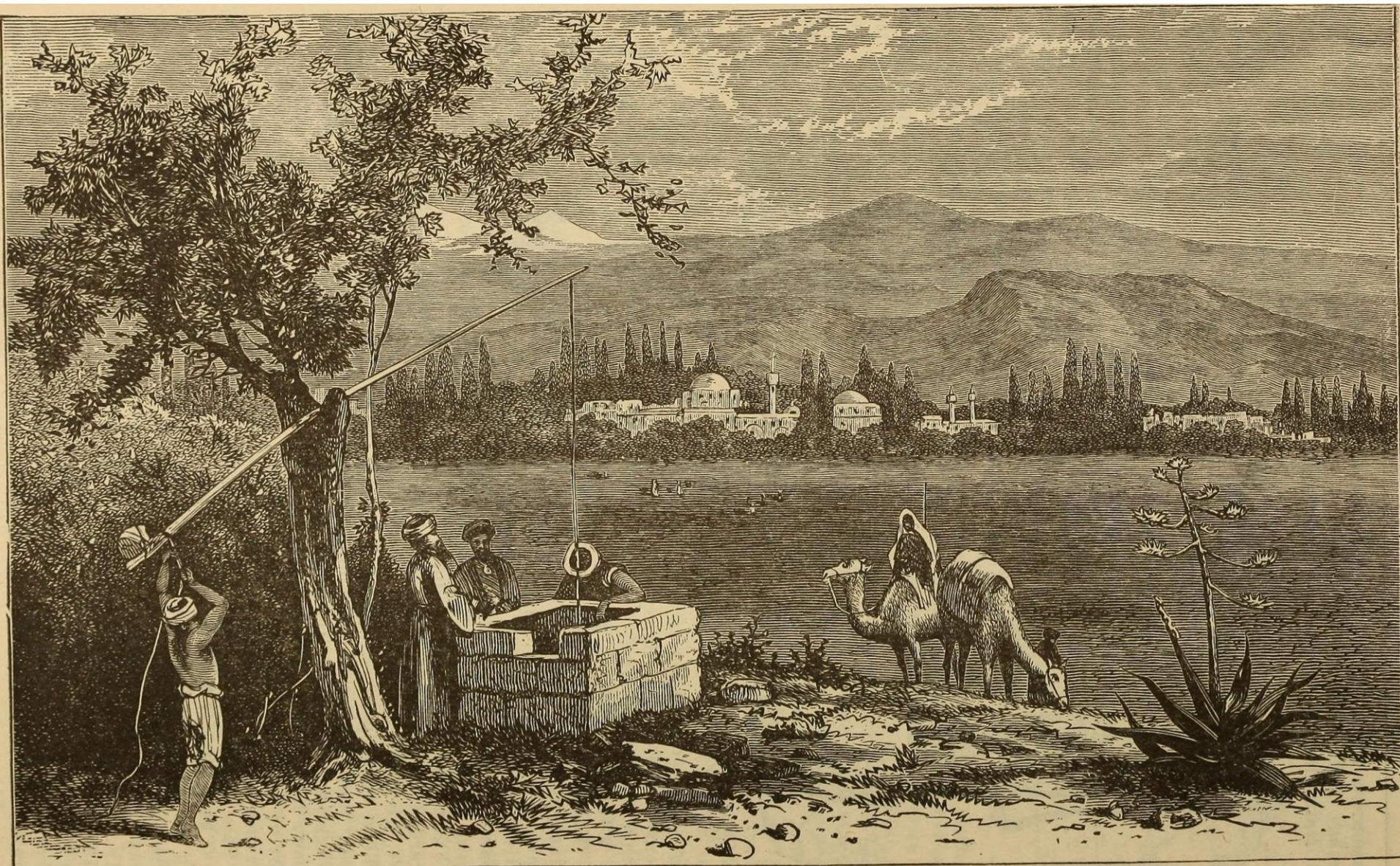
C. Pergamum – unfaithful (w/ some)

D. Thyatira – worst unfaithfulness

C'. Sardis – unfaithful (w/ some)

B'. Philadelphia – faithful

A'. Laodicea – no strengths



Thyatira. (From an original sketch by Arundell.)



- The language of the epistle to Thyatira is from the period of the Monarchy with King David/Divided Monarchy
 - **“Son of God”** – see II Samuel 7:14; Psalm 2:7; Jeremiah 30:9; Acts 2:24-36
 - **“Jezebel”** – I Kings 16:29-34; 21:25-26
 - **“authority over the nations”** – II Samuel 7:19; 8:1-14
 - **“rule them with an iron scepter”** – Psalm 2

- If Thyatira is known for anything, it was commercial rather than political
 - It boasted a large number of trade guilds; think of unions
 - There were associations for -
 - Bakers
 - Brewers
 - Bronze-workers
 - Clothiers
 - Cobblers
 - Dyers
 - Potters
 - Tanners
 - Weavers





- One of the most notable Christians in Philippi was Lydia. She was from Thyatira and traded in purple goods

- Acts 16:14

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.



- Perhaps it was Lydia who returned to her home in Thyatira and was the means to plant the church there. We can't know for certain
- What we do know is that the city and the church were prosperous

- **Salutation – v. 18**

- Commendation

- Accusation

- Admonition

- Exhortation

- Declaration

- **Eyes of blazing fire, feet like burnished bronze**



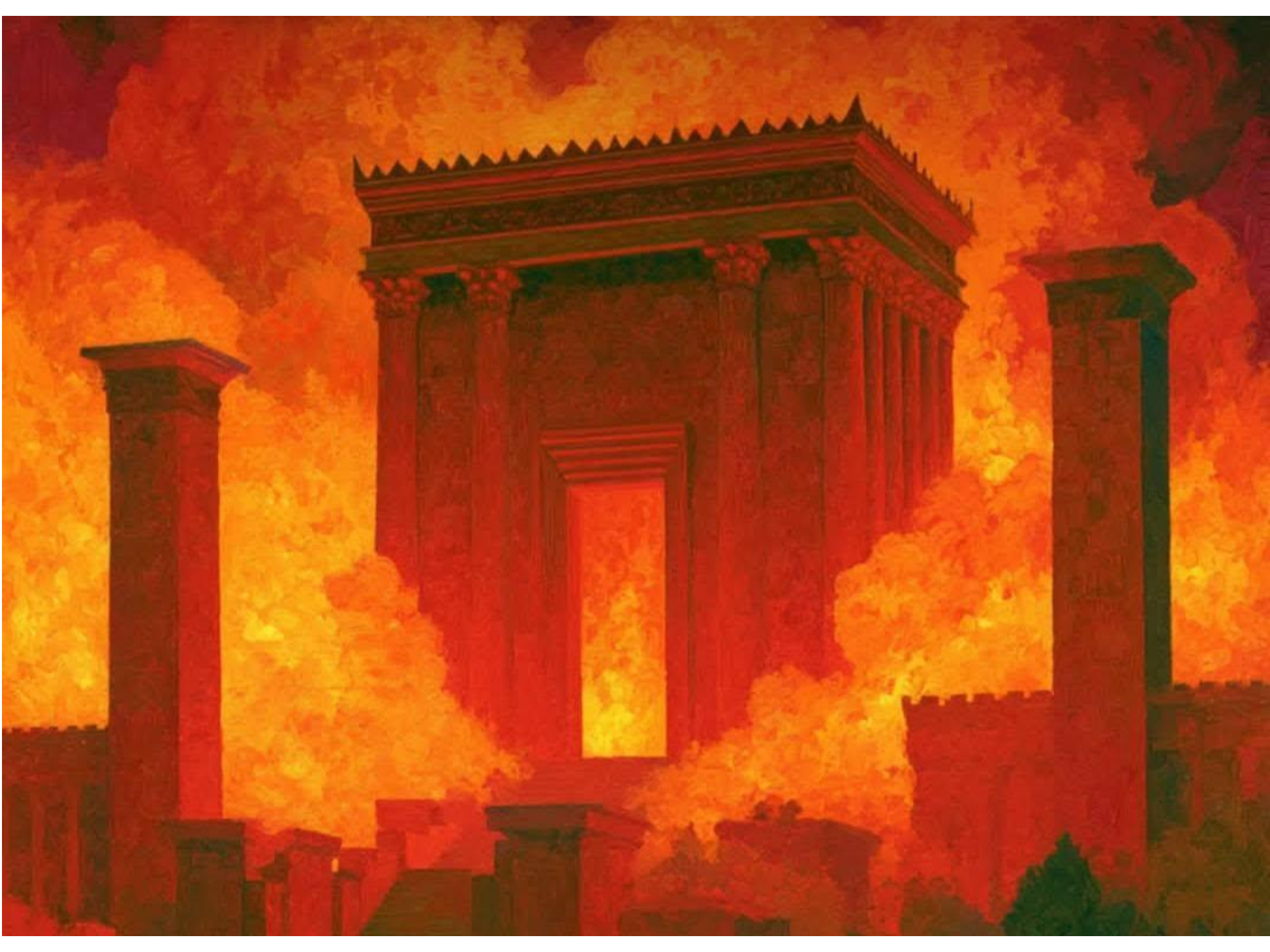
- **Where in the Bible do you find these elements together?**





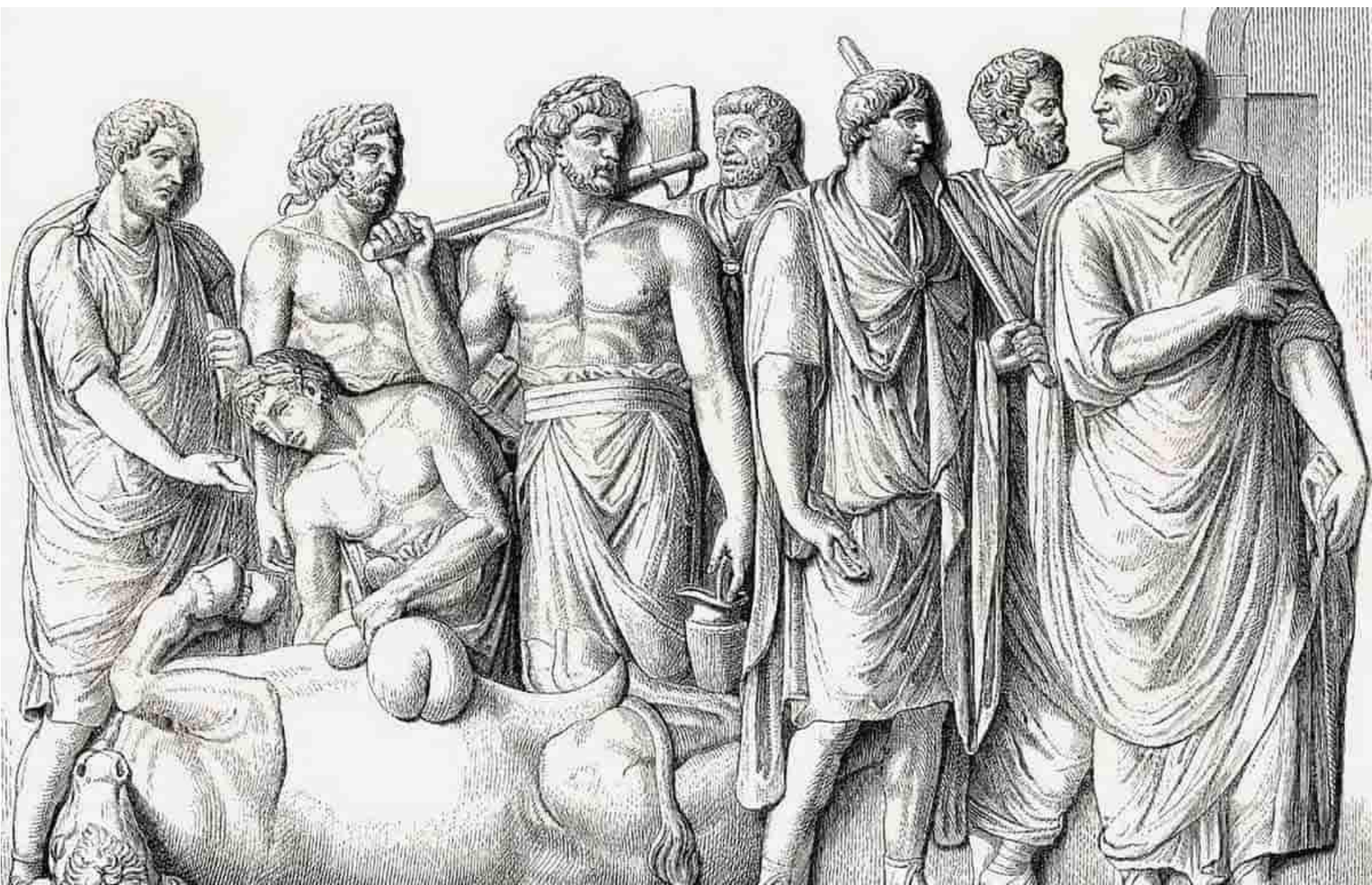






- Note what v. 23 adds to this
 “...searches hearts and minds”

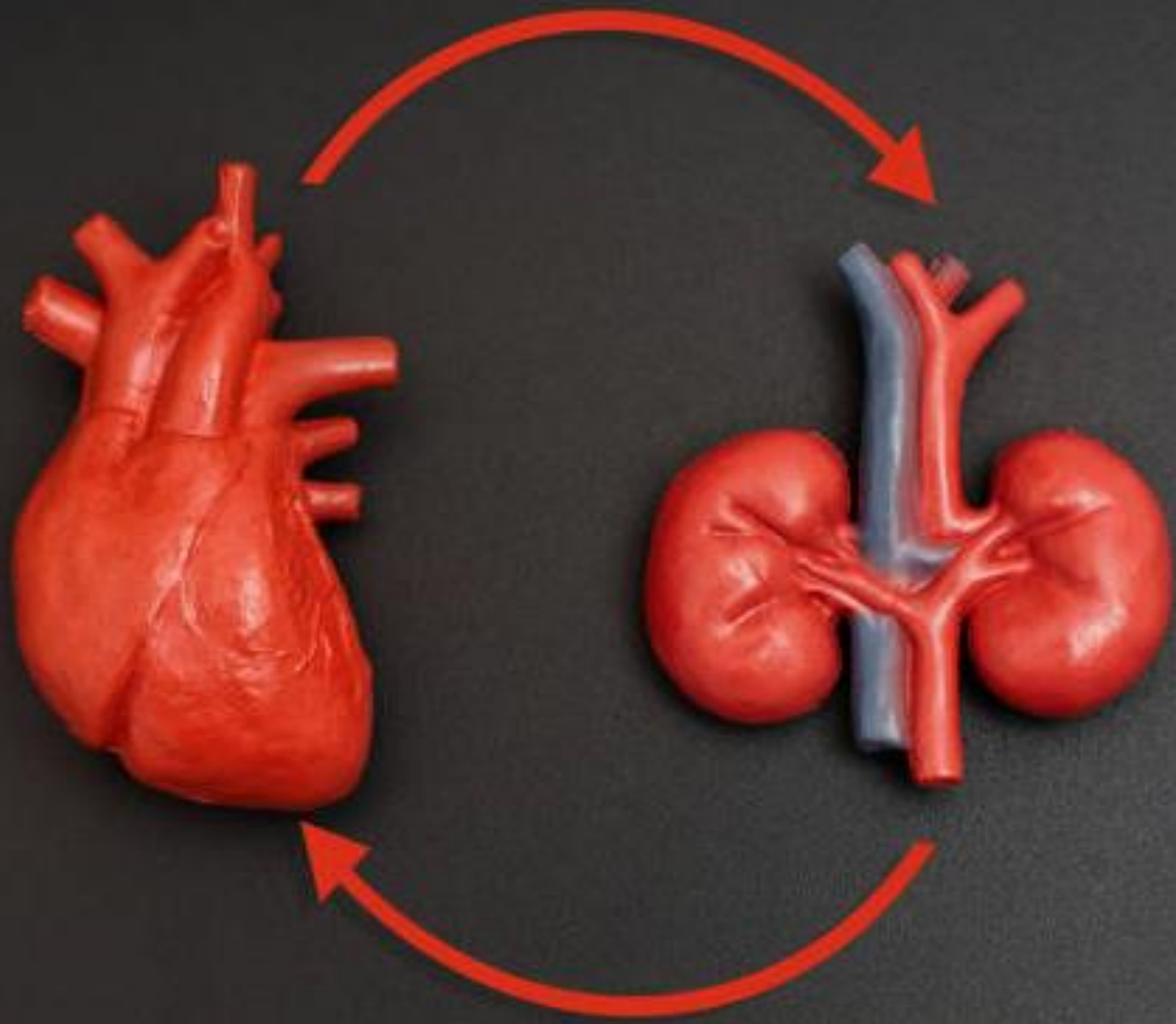








- The Greek words are not '**heart**' and '**mind**', rather
 - '*nephrous*'
 - '*kardias*'



- Salutation
- **Commendation – v. 19**
- Accusation
- Admonition
- Exhortation
- Declaration

- When Jesus commends the church it is with warm love
- They are marked by four Christian qualities in v. 19
 - Love
 - Faith
 - Service
 - Patience

- Thyatira had
 - The love that Ephesus lacked
 - The faith that was imperiled at Pergamum
 - The patient endurance was shared with Smyrna

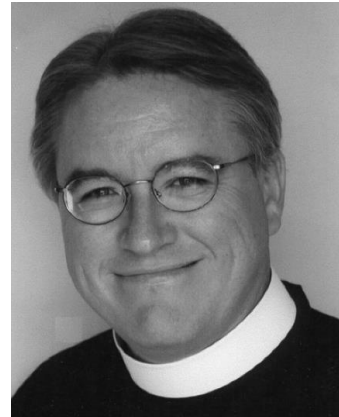
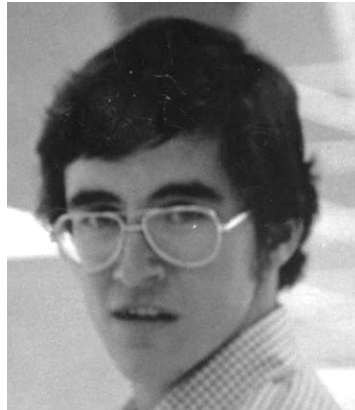
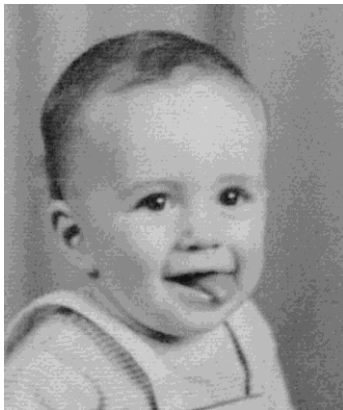
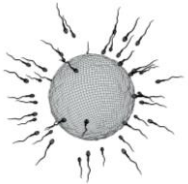
*But wait!
There's
more!*

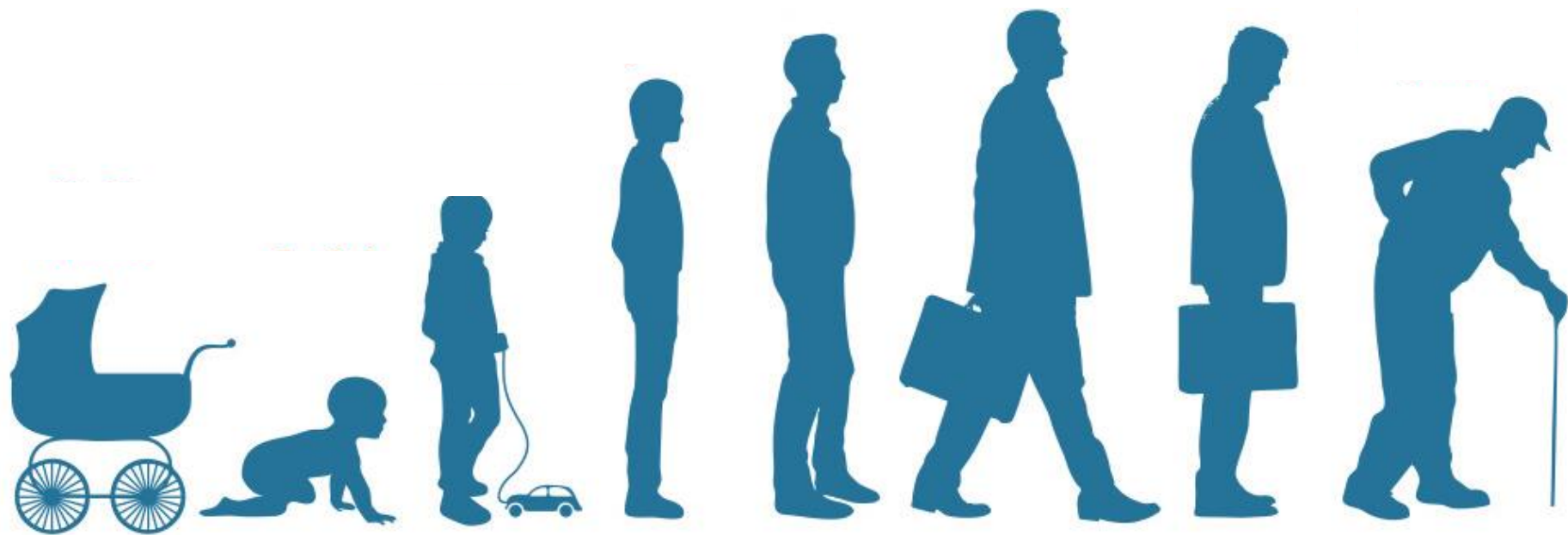


- The catalogue of Thyatira's virtues isn't finished
 - They were *now doing more* than they did at *first*. (v.19)
 - They had learned the often-ignored lesson that the Christian life is a life of growth, progress, development, maturity

- The Christian life is illustrated in the Bible as:
 - The gradual development of a human
 - The growth and fruitfulness of a vine
 - The chemical process involved in refining metals

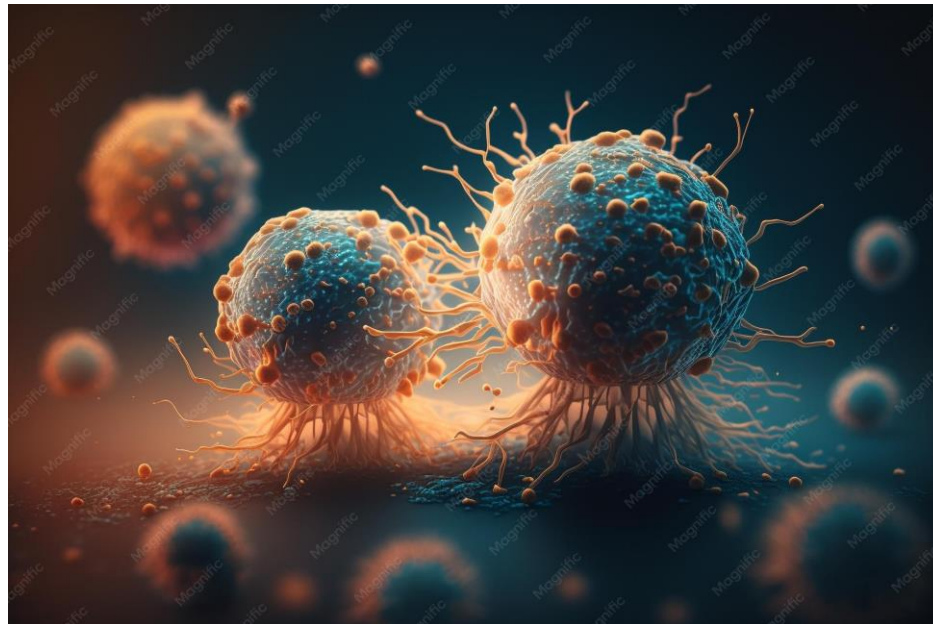
- How are you doing?
 - Going on?
 - Standing still?
 - Falling back?





- Salutation
- Commendation
- **Accusation – vv. 20-23**
- Admonition
- Exhortation
- Declaration

- In v. 20 we tragically read of Thyatira's *moral compromise*
 - In that vineyard there is a poison weed growing
 - In that healthy body is a malignant cancer



- Thyatira showed love, faith, service, and endurance, but holiness and righteousness were missing or dwindling
- They tolerated “**that woman Jezebel**” (v. 20)

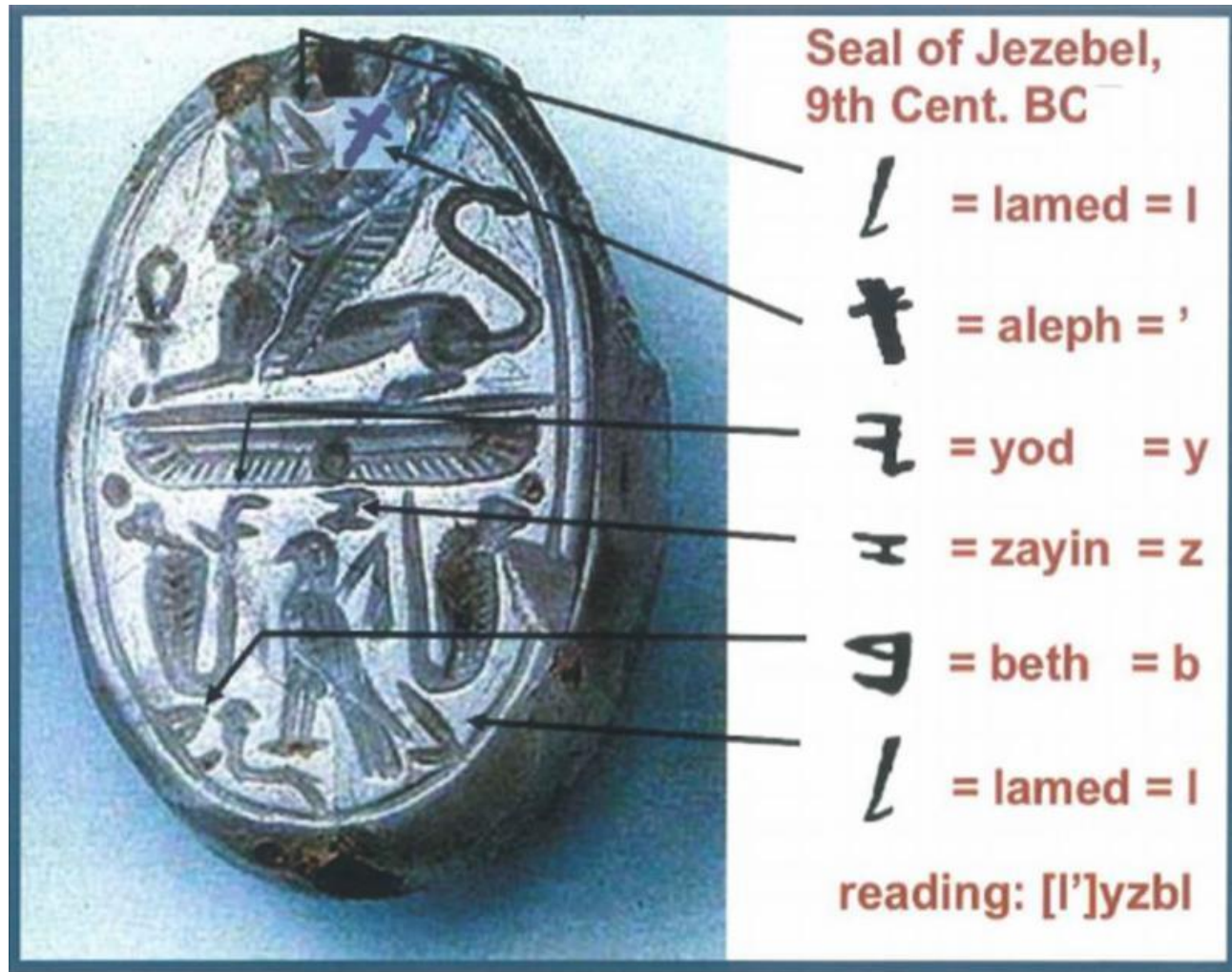
- Who was ‘***that woman***’?
 - She was a real person
 - The Greek expression in v. 20 is literally – “***you tolerate your wife Jezebel***”
 - That suggests she was the pastor’s wife
 - The symbolic name points us to the OT

- Queen Jezebel was the wife of King Ahab
 - She was a foreigner – a Sidonian
 - Her father was a priest of Astarte



- Queen Jezebel was the wife of King Ahab
 - She was a foreigner – a Sidonian
 - Her father, Ethbaal, was a priest of Astarte who murdered the king of Sidon and took his place
 - Astarte was the Phoenician version of Aphrodite/Venus = the divorce of morality from religion, which was replaced by sexual immorality
 - “**Jezebel**” means ‘pure’ or ‘chaste’ (LOL)

A short archaeological digression



- Jezebel had Ahab build a temple and altar to Astarte in Samaria. She supported 850 prophets to Baal/Astarte
- She was famous for her “**harlotries and sorceries**” or “**idolatry and witchcraft**” (II Kings 9:22)

- “This first Jezebel had been dead nearly a thousand years. She met a horrible end. But her evil spirit had, as it were, become reincarnate in a prophetess of the first century A.D. Her religion too had little connection with morality. Laying claim to divine inspiration, she was succeeding in beguiling the servants of Christ to indulge in immoral practices. R. H. Charles thought that she was encouraging the Christians of Thyatira to attend ceremonies and feasts of the local trade-guilds which were ‘dedicated no doubt to some pagan deity’ and “too often ended in unbridled licentiousness. This new Jezebel

and her followers prided themselves on their mature experience of life. Like the later Gnostics, they were delving into the secret mysteries of which they a private, esoteric revelation denied to the mass of Christians.” Stott, p. 73

- This Jezebel is similar to, if not identical with the Nicolaitans and the Balaamites
 - Sexual immorality
 - Food offered to idols

- In v. 22 we see Jezebel's judgment. It is a case of 'the punishment-fits-the-crime'

Bernard Oczkowski was convicted in 2004 for illegally dumping chromium from his Houston, Texas, metal-plating business instead of disposing of the toxic chemicals properly. ***A judge sentenced him to a punishment involving drinking a nasty mix of toxic sludge,*** though officials later determined that drinking any amount of chromium was dangerous. [A+E Networks EMEA](#)



- *“Do you want to ‘get in bed’ with her?” –
Very well, go ahead”*



- The expression “**of suffering**” is in actually, literally – “**great tribulation**”
- “ Every Biblical indication regarding the Great Tribulation leads to the plain conclusion that it took place during the generation after Christ’s death and resurrection – just as He said it would (Matt. 24:21, 34).” Chilton, p. 114

- We have a **pleonasm** in v. 23. A pleonasm is using more words than necessary to express an idea
 - Free gift
 - End result
 - Safe haven
 - PIN number
 - ATM machine
 - Added bonus
 - Personal friend

*This guy will
kill you to death
inside of three
rounds*



- “***From whence***” – Psalm 121:1
- “***And I, only I alone, escaped***” – Job 1:15
- “***Abba, Father***” – Romans 8:15
- “***And I will kill her children with death***”
– Revelation 2:23

- In v. 23 Jesus inspects our '**hearts and minds**' (which refers to our motives, goals, inclinations, desires, emotions), but He judges our '**deeds**'
- Deeds are done by the whole person

- Salutation
- Commendation
- Accusation
- **Admonition – v. 24**
- Exhortation
- Declaration

- “**her teaching**’ = “**Satan’s so-called deep secrets**’. That is “...the most ancient heresy in the world, and one that has been manifested in every culture from the beginning: *salvation through chaos*.” Chilton, p. 115
- The concept is : There is “...one common hope: destroy order to create order afresh, or even more bluntly, destroy order to create order.” Rushdoony, p. 105



- Not all members of the church in Thyatira had been infected with Jezebel's cancer

- Salutation
- Commendation
- Accusation
- Admonition
- **Exhortation – v. 25**
- Declaration

- Jesus does not lay on the faithful Christians any other burden; but urges them to “**hold fast**” to what they already have

- Salutation
- Commendation
- Accusation
- Admonition
- Exhortation
- **Declaration – vv. 26-29**

- In v. 26 the *first* promise brings imagery from Psalm 2:8-9
- Jesus shares His authority with His church
- Jesus has been granted the rule of the whole world
 - Psalm 22:27-31; 46:4, 10; 65:2; 66:4; 68:31-32, 72; 86:9; 102:15-22; 138:4-5; 145:10-11

- God has already given Jesus “all authority in heaven and earth” (Matthew 28:18-20)
- And the same is true of His Church (Isaiah 60:12: Psalm 47:1-3)
- See also Matthew 25:21, 23; Luke 19:17; I Corinthians 6:2

- The second promise is the gift of the
“**Morning Star**”
 - See Revelation 22:16; Numbers 24:17;
Luke 1:78-79

- “To be a faithful Christian in Thyatira meant hardship and suffering, and not necessarily a very glorious, headline-making sort of suffering, either....But those who remained faithful were promised that they would overcome, that they would rule with Christ....the tables were about to be turned. Christ was coming, to save and judge.... What may have seemed like the approach of a long, dark night was really the herald of Christ’s triumph over the nations.

- The conflicts they experienced were not a sign of Christ's defeat by the world, but simply the assurance that the battle had finally been joined; ...It was paganism, statism, and Judaism which were about to enter the darkness, as Christ turned the lights out all across apostate Israel and the Roman Empire. But for Christians the night was just ending; the redeemed and liberated universe was rushing headlong into a bright Day. Christ was about to give these overcomers **the Morning Star.**"

Chilton, pp. 117, 118