REVELATION 2:

8 And unto the angel of the **church in Smyrna write**; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

*Notice first each church has a message directed to it and it comes to the angel which is a messenger and then it is the messengers place or ministry to address the error which has been revealed not by education but by the Word Himself.*

*Is this message a past tense to a church in history or can we find the attributes in a church surviving today?*

HEBREWS 11

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

JOHN 1:

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God

REVELATION 2:

9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich )

*I cannot say every church or religion that receives persecution is this church Smyma but I can testiy that in most of the world today to be a Christion take on a dangerous role with many risking life or imprisonment by claiming Christ.*

*and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.*

ROMANS 2:

28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

ROMANS 10:

12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

COLOSSIANS 3:

10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

*In flesh we are identified by our nationality or nature but in Spirit we are only identified with Christ.*

*When people speak of a time that Israel will be restored and accept Christ, they fail to see that time is now and has been since the day of Pentecost*

*No matter when we would read these scriptures they cannot be voided in order to give the nation of Israel another chance.*

REVELATION 2:

10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

*This continues to show tribulation that some would receive a time of 10 days for this group for others we may never understand the period or length of suffering.*

11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

*The message is for the whole church but only those with spiritual ears will hear.*

MATTHEW 13:

14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

*The message to each church would also apply to every church meaning every overcomer will receive of every church, The first church will partake of the tree of life and so will every overcomer also be safe from the second death.*

II TIMOTHY 3:

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

*This group is called to overcome tribulation, poverty, prison and death as many places in this world today are facing the same situation.*

*Some people glory in tribulation by using it to point to themselves and sometimes I do not believe we should suffer persecution if we can avoid it.*

MATTHEW 10:

23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

LUKE 9

5 And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.

*The gospel is the only source given to reach the lost and that by hearing when people will not hear there is nothing else that can be done other than commit them into the Lord.*

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REVELATION 2:

12 And to the angel of the **church in Pergamos** write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

*Christ again identifies Himself as the Word of God.*

HEBREWS 4:

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

*Pergamos was located in the country of turkey and was under the control of Rome for about 133 BC. The martyr may have been an action to scare the Christians into silence as Pergamos was the location of temple of Augustus and emperor worship.*

*We see this again in the beast from the sea the seed that started in Pergamos grew into the monster of Revelation 13.*

REVELATION 13

2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the REVELATION 13:2

2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: **and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.**.

14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

REVELATION 2:

15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

*The deeds of the Nicolaitans had now become doctrine as happens in nearly every group what happens as tradition then in time becomes doctrine. The doctrine of Balaam is explained fully in the scriptures. It led to a false worship of idols and also it concerned payment for service.*

JUDE 1

11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after **the error of Balaam for reward**, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

REVELATION 2:

16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

*The sword of His mouth is the Word of God*.

17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

*To overcome mean all error just exposed and the messenger was to purge out these things by the Word of God. If he did not, then this group would also be removed from its position. I believe all these groups that fail to repent will become a part of Babylon.*

*Babylon is where Israel was carried captive because of sin in the Old Testament when God declares a Church to be removed by His mercy he also calls out anyone that may be left in the system that can hear.*

*The true church is never carried into spiritual Babylon but always calls those who believe no matter where they have imprisoned themselves in sin or in religion.*

*Whoever the messenger was for the Pergamos church they had failed to purge out the old leaven if that messenger fails to deliver the message from God, then they would be also rejected*

II CORINTHIANS 6:

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

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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;

*The Lord reveals Himself as a Lord of Judgment.*

II THESSALONIANS 1:

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

REVELATION 2:

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.

*I am not sure why works in mentioned in this scripture because there is only one kind of work accepted by God and that is through faith or deeds to the church of God. I think possible their first work was by faith and the second work was their ability that is an opinion not a doctrine.*

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.

*Paul plainly teaches that a woman is not to teach or have authority more than a man.*

I TIMOTHY 2:

11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

REVELATION 2:

21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

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.

23 And 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.

*When God calls anyone to repentance, he allows a space of time for that repentance to take place and God alone knows when that time or space ends but when it does the person and I believe it also means a church and all its converts are spiritual dead.*

*The “GREAT TRIBULATION” is not a time in the future but a present tense occurrence to those who do not repent.*

*You will find the next church which is Sardis has already died.*

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.

25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

*That shows the two groups one that was allowing Jezebel to convince people she had a gift of prophecy and was a prophetess as she claimed to be, but some knew better and then a promise to any who could hear*.

26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth **my works** unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

*Notice the works were not church works by works of the Lord Himself.*

27 And 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.

28 And I will give him the morning star.

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

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**WHAT ARE WE TO DO WHEN WE ARE AFRAID, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE ARE AFRAID OF GOD?**

**Job 23:14-15***“For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with him. Therefore am I troubled at his presence: when I consider,* ***I am afraid of him.”***

**HERE IS WHAT WE ARE TO DO:**

**Psalm 56:3;  “*What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee*.”** When the storm of appointed afflictions passes our way, let’s trust in the one who sent them. Our Heavenly Father knows best.

**When trouble comes our way and we find ourselves afraid, let’s:**

**1). Trust Him who is infinitely wise.** He makes no mistakes.

**2). Trust Him who is infinitely good.** Let’s not judge God’s goodness by circumstance.

**3). Trust Him who loves you with infinite love, everlasting love.**

**4). Trust Him who has already taken care of the weightier matters, our salvation.** Remember, our troubles are not a matter of God’s power to deliver, but a matter of His will.

**5). Trust Him who is head of all principalities and powers (Ephesians 1:21-23).**

**6)**. **Trust Him who is God.** Who plants his foot upon the storm and rides upon the wings of the wind.

**As Job said,** **Job 13:15;***“Though he slay me,* ***yet will I trust in him****: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.”*

**Pastor John Chapman**

*Bro. Joe:* I JOHN 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.