

## Revelation 2

Both John and Paul knew the people of Ephesus personally. They had both ministered there. It is believed that a messenger from Ephesus or one of the other cities; at least one had come to Patmos to meet with John during his imprisonment there. We know that Ephesus is the first church that John is directed to address. Remember these were not private letters to each individual church; all the churches were going to see what Jesus had to say not only to them individually but what He had to say all the churches collectively.

Let's look at the backstory of Ephesus from Paul's perspective and see if we see any danger signs for the people of those home churches.

### *The Holy Spirit Received at Ephesus*

[\(Joel 2:28-32; John 14:15-26; John 16:5-16; Acts 2:1-13; Acts 10:44-48\)](#)

**Acts 19:1** And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, **2** He said unto them, **Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?** And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. **3** And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. **4** Then said Paul, John verily baptized with

*the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. **5**When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.*

If you recall when John was baptizing; many people came, and he told them:

***Matthew 3:2** And saying, repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

This Baptism did not have a connection at that time with the “death and resurrection” of the Lord Jesus Christ as Jesus had not yet been crucified. So, John was telling people to

***6**And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. **7**And all the men were about twelve.*

In the early Church one of the signs of Baptism by the Holy Spirit was the application of one or several gifts: IE, speaking in tong’s, meaning in foreign languages previously unknown to the person and prophesying.

I am going to try to explain how I understand this idea of two baptisms. John the Baptist’s mission is identified by his moniker “John the BAPTIST”. That was not a reference to a religious denomination as it is today it described what John’s mission was. He was to prepare a way for the Lord.

***Matthew 3:3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias (Isaiah) saying,***

***Isaiah 40:3 “The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord make his paths straight.”***

Isaiah 4:3 in KJV actually ends this way: “make straight in the desert a highway for our God”.

The point however is clear, John was a forerunner of Jesus the Messiah. His job was to draw the attention of those in Israel that knew they had sinned and needed to repent in a personal way. John’s preaching convicted them of this need and the result was a water baptism seeking the forgiveness of sins from God, not salvation. This had been a practice of the Jewish nation for hundreds of years, doing some act according to the Law to receive a temporary forgiveness of their individual and collective sins as a nation. This baptism was an individual repentance but not unto salvation then or now.

Now here it gets a little challenging. These people that were baptized by John the Baptist were not baptized as a sign of Salvation because the required Sacrificial Lamb of God had not yet been crucified (sacrificed).

The great commission that Christ left for Christianity meaning all Christians was to:

***Matthew 28:19: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 20: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world, Amen.”***

Even though they had believed on the name of Jesus from Pentecost they had not been baptized in His Name and had not received the Comforter (they had yet to receive the full promise of God). So, when they did receive the Holy Spirit, (I believe that equates to a circumcised heart) then they truly understood their first love.

***John 14:15If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. 18I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. 19Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. 20At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. 21He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. 22Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?***

**23Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. 24He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.**

**25These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. 26But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**

The people of Ephesus who made up the home churches had endured a great many challenges to their faith. They had as all believer's done before and after them; started their Christian walk with the basics. They had heard God's Word about Jesus from the disciples; they believed He was the Son of God, born of a virgin, walked a sinless life, was crucified for the sins of the world, died, and was raised from the dead three days later; with that knowledge they just as we asked Jesus into our hearts. We see in Acts that they had not heard the entire Gospel and had at one point not been baptized by the Holy Spirit. These early beginnings of the Church had not heard the entire message of Salvation about Jesus saying to His disciples that He would have to leave in order to send a "comforter" the Holy Spirit.

I believe after Pentecost and the full knowledge of Salvation was known; once you ask Christ into your heart the Holy Spirit is part of the singular event of being born again.

So, to repeat a bit, it may be that when they were asked if they had received the Baptism of John but not baptism into Christ, they did not understand what Paul was saying about the Holy Spirit the Comforter that Jesus would send to them and us. They had heard that they needed to repent, and they did this through baptism into water, but that was not unto Salvation. Paul explains the need to be baptized into the Spirit or Jesus Christ. When they did this a “new heart” was created in them and as an outward sign in these early believers they were given power by the Holy Spirit to speak in other languages and prophesy. The point being they became “born again”.

As the Word teaches all gifts like speaking in tongs are not for all people nor for all times, it was a sign for the early church, a method of getting people’s attention as to the power of God. As the Church grew it was needed less as the message itself was sufficient to draw the hearts of the unsaved to Christ.

So, the stage is set to read what God had to say to the first Church in Revelation or the first “candle stick”.

## Message to the Church in Ephesus



As we begin to read each of the letters to the churches notice in each church introduction that Jesus is called out by a different attribute; the attributes that were used to describe Jesus in Chapter 1 of Revelation.

**(Acts 19:8-12)**

**1Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars**

**in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;**

**Q. We already know what the seven stars and seven candlesticks are?**

***Revelation 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.***

*“Unto the Angel of the Church”*

We will see this introduction for each of the seven home churches, so we only need to cover this once.

Let’s look a little deeper into who this “Angel” is or may be.

**32** *ággelos* – properly, a *messenger* or *delegate* – either human (Mt 11:10; Lk 7:24, 9:52; Gal 4:14; Js 2:25) or heavenly (a celestial *angel*); someone *sent* (by God) to proclaim His message.

***Matthew 11:10 [10](#)For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.***

The same Greek word “aggelos” is used in both this verse in Matthew and in our text verse of Revelation 2:1.

## Strong's Concordance

32 (*ággelos*) is used 176 times in the NT (usually of heavenly angels), but only the context determines whether a human or celestial messenger is intended. For example, [32](#) (*ággelos*) in Rev 1:20 can refer to heavenly angels or key leaders (perhaps pastors) of the seven churches.

The Angel's or messenger(s) to the Church of Ephesus; there are several commentators that believe these are protective angels. You'll have to make your own decision. We will dig a little deeper shortly into the issue of who these "Angels" potentially are.

***Revelation 2:20.....“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.***

Are these words in Rev 2:20 words that a believer would want to hear from God; or would a believer rather hear these words Revelation 3:4?

***Revelation 3: [4](#)Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which **have not defiled their garments**; and they shall walk with me in white: **for they are worthy.*****

The people spoken of in this last verse references those **“which have not defiled their garments”**. If there are those which have not defiled their garments and the number is identified as “few” then the inference is that there are those, which have defiled their garments and again the inference is

more than a 'few'." Those who have not defiled their garments are obviously True Christians walking with Christ and are declared "worthy".

**Q.** We know that there were a number of home churches but together they constituted the Church of Ephesus, which is represented by what?

The candlesticks, but one candlestick represents all of the home churches in each city if there was more than one: seven cities, seven candlesticks. It may be that the candlestick may represent the home churches in each city under the leadership of a Bishop; so, one candlestick for all the churches under one leader or Bishop. Bishops were appointed by Paul and John at various times to lead home churches in the cities they started fellowships in.

So, one more point on definitions.

Pastor; Strong's Concordance  
ποιμήν: a shepherd

Original Word: ποιμήν, ένος, ό

Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine

Transliteration: poimén

Phonetic Spelling: (poy-mane')

Short Definition: a shepherd

Definition: a shepherd; hence met: of the feeder, protector, and ruler of a flock of men.

God uses the analogy of a shepherd when talking about the office of Pastor. A shepherd was the caretaker of the sheep. God refers to believers as sheep and placed as a caretaker of the flock the Shepherd or Pastor. We have all seen an array of pastors, those who were obviously called by God whether or not they ever attended Bible College or seminary. We have all seen those who attended Seminary sometimes called “cemetery” (a place where aspiring pastors go to have their spirit die), that were obviously not called by God to Pastor and struggle, or they simply were overwhelmed by trying to pastor in the flesh and ultimately failed. There are many examples of pastors and other church leaders who have succumbed to sin, usually sex sin that have had to leave their positions of authority.

We know that God says He will hold those teachers and paster to a higher accountability. Meaning that those who God uses to carry out that task will be judged not only for their personal Christian walk but also how they handled the duties God gave them in their assigned tasks.

Bishops; Transliteration: episkopé

Phonetic Spelling: (ep-is-kop-ay')

Short Definition: visitation of judgment, oversight

Definition: (a) visitation (of judgment), (b) oversight, supervision, overseership.

The reason I wanted to look at these two offices of Pastor and Shepherd is that there are many including some pastors who just assume that the “angel of the Church” is a pastor. I think it is safer within the whole council of God for us to think that this Angel is indeed a human messenger that God is writing to.

A pastor and by extension a bishop, are people that have been gifted by God through His Holy Spirit to have a heart for people; an insatiable desire to help and love people; to care for the entire flock or local gathering not just those who are affluent or well positioned in life.

So, when God tells this “Angel of the Church” it is likely someone within the body that has such a heart for the people that the idea that their having their candlestick removed would be perhaps the most horrible thing they could imagine. The point being that this person that is represented as the “Angel of the Church” would be so

distraught at the possibility of the Church body being removed that they would make haste to correct the problem. Pastors of course would feel this way but there are many people in the Body of Christ that would be devastated to see the local church's Candlestick removed.

One final point, if a person were fellowshiping in a church that is guilty of allowing these sinful harbors, what would be the outcome for the faithful follower. I believe God's relationship is with the individual first and next with the collective but only that part of the collective individuals that are walking with Him. So, the faithful would be protected by Faith. It would likely behoove a believer to separate themselves from those intent on sin or unwilling to confront obvious sin as a collective group or as a single individual.

***2 Corinthians 6:13 Now in return for the same <sup>p</sup>(I speak as to children), you also be open. <sup>14</sup>Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For <sup>1</sup>what <sup>4</sup>fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what <sup>5</sup>communion has light with darkness? <sup>15</sup> And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?***

**Q.** But what about witnessing to unbelievers? That can be done without becoming close friends and potentially damaging one's witness.

We will see how that works out for each of these “Angels of the Church”.

**2I 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:**

This verse is a great description of how a church should operate as it comes to evil. As believers we are individually to test the spirits of those we encounter. The leadership of a local body; pastors, deacons, bishops are all supposed to be vigilant over the flock that God has allowed them to shepherd. I believe those mentioned in vs 2 are some of the works that God is alluding to. But each of us has a personal responsibility as well to these same works.

***Matthew 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.***

We are not to see Satan behind every rock, but we are not to be easily deceived we are not to be gullible. Think things through with the whole council of God; in tactical lingo its called, “situational awareness”. Be observant and sober minded as you weigh the things you hear and see. This is both inside the church and outside the church.

That is what the church in Ephesus did, they listened to those who said they were apostles and found them to be not so. They were false apostles that God, through John and Paul, warned them about.

It is believed that 1 John is a letter written to Ephesus, again warning them about false teachers and apostles. Likewise, it is believed by some historians and commentators that 2 John was written to Mary the mother of Jesus. John cautions Mary not to allow false prophets, teachers, or apostles into her home.

We are told to welcome strangers into our homes, but Mary was in a different category when it came to whom she would allow in her home and whom she would not welcome. Being the mother of Jesus if she were to allow a false prophet or apostles into her home unaware, she would be seen as endorsing that person as a true representative of her Son the Messiah. The same holds true for leadership in churches and our individual lives as well. So, John took his order from Jesus seriously and writes 2 John to Mary to encourage and warn her of false prophets and apostles.

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To reiterate Revelation 1:2 in the Letter to Ephesus

***2I 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:***

Ephesus sat in the center of major trade in Asia, it had three rivers that converged before passing through Ephesus and entering the Mediterranean Sea. The populace had long worshiped Artemis or Diana in the Greek Culture. To the Greek cultists, Diana was the daughter of Zeus and twin sister of Apollo. Ephesus was believed by the early inhabitants to be founded by women warriors from the Amazon. I think they have made a movie about the Amazon warrior Princess called "Wonder Woman". I guess bizarre tales of old die-hard.

***Positivies from God to Church at Epehesus***

- 1. Works - good***
- 2. Labors - good***
- 3. Patience, rejecting evil***
- 4. Testing the spirits of those that claim to be apostles, finding them to be liars***

**3And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.**

1. Borne = Endured while being patient.
2. Labored = worked for the name of Christ

The point of this verse is that God commended those Ephesus Christians for their perseverance and patience. We can read in Acts the outrage that overcame the city when Paul challenged the idol worship of Artemis/Diana and other fake manmade gods and goddesses. There were tradesmen that made a living making these idols for the Greek cultists of the city. The Christians patiently waited on God to deliver them from these idol worshipers. The Christians were unmoved by fear, they held their ground in the name of Jesus.

Do we have any idol worshippers here in America today? People that put power above loving others. People that reject God and His Power for the sake of Satan's power? Those who reject the True and Living God become a playground for Satan and his desire to kill and destroy.

God gave Isaiah a preview of not only what John the Baptist was going to do but who it was that he was preparing the way for. The Believers of Ephesus were obviously tired from their constant battle with the evil of Ephesus. God promised

that He would renew the strength of those who waited on the Lord.

***Isaiah 40: Prepare the Way for the Lord***

***([Matthew 3:1-12](#); [Mark 1:1-8](#); [Luke 3:1-20](#); [John 1:19-28](#))***

***1*** Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

***2*** Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

***3*** The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

***4*** Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

***5*** And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

***The Word of the Lord Stands Forever***

***([1 Peter 1:22-25](#))***

***6*** The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:

***7*** The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

**8The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.**

**Here is Your God!**

**9O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!**

**10Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.**

**11He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.**

**12Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?**

**13Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him?**

**14With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?**

**15Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing.**

**16And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering.**

**17All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.**

**18To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?**

**19The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains.**

**20He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved.**

**21Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?**

**22It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:**

**23That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.**

**24Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble.**

**25To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.**

**26Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.**

**27Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God?**

**28Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.**

**29He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.**

**30Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:**

**31But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.**

The Church at Ephesus must have embraced this dialogue from God to Israel. They were patient and God will reward that with renewed strength. We also, can embrace these words from a God that loves His people and will protect us and will renew our strength.

**4Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.**

If you remember in Acts 19 how when Paul arrived in Ephesus, he found believers there.

**Acts 19: 2He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.**

While talking to those who belonged to the home Church of Ephesus he inquired if they had received the Holy Spirit. When they explained they knew nothing of the Holy Spirit he found out that they had been Baptized into John the Baptists baptism and not into Christ baptism. He rectified that by Baptizing them in the name of Jesus Christ, and they were saved through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now I don't want to get tied into a knot on this issue but let's think about that. A person accepts words about Jesus and is baptized but not into Christ but into John's Baptism. What does that all mean?

In trying to understand what was happening in Ephesus in that they had lost their first love; we had briefly talked about when Paul showed up and discussed baptism with those in the Church or Ephesus.

**Q.** What was John's Baptism?

John baptized for "repentance" seeking the forgiveness of sins.

**Q.** Were men's sins forgiven at that time?

Not to the extent possible while John was baptizing; Jesus had not been crucified and not risen from the dead at that point, so the Law was still the only method available.

Repentance under the law for the most part required the spilling of innocent blood.

***Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.***

Even under the Law there was an element of “Repentance” that accompanied the blood sacrifice at the Temple. In other words with a true repentant heart and the shedding of innocent blood of an animal an Israeli could have temporary forgiveness of sin.

John was baptizing into a doctrine, the doctrine of Salvation by the Blood of Jesus Christ, that had not come to fruition. He was baptizing into a promise that had not been fully realized yet.

John’s Mission!

John was sent to awaken men and women into recognizing that they were all sinners and that all sin leads to death.

***Romans 3:10 [10](#)As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:***

***Romans 3:23 [23](#)For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;***

Jesus' own Baptism with John was a visual representation of the Salvation Doctrine God had created and that would work as planned. When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, He went down into the water and came back up again and then the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove landed upon Him. That was a visual picture of what was going to happen to mankind when they accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit would come upon them and indwell them. This visual picture of water baptism shows that when a person asks Christ into their heart, they are buried with Christ into the tomb, and then rise again from the tomb into new life, eternal life. But this could happen only after Jesus real death, burial and resurrection. Salvation comes not from water Baptism but from Holy Spirit Baptism.

**Q.** When a person was baptized by John the Baptist, were there sins then forgiven?

No, it was a demonstration of what was going to happen, it was an outward sign or display by Jesus Himself of how the “doctrine” that God had created would work for men and women.

Transliteration: baptizó

Phonetic Spelling: (bap-tid'-zo)

Short Definition: I dip, submerge, baptize

Definition: lit: I dip, submerge, but specifically of ceremonial dipping; I baptize.

*John 1: [29](#)The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. [30](#)This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. [31](#)And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come **baptizing with water.** [32](#)And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. [33](#)And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the **same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.** [34](#)And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.*

The HE here at the end of vs 33 in John 1 is Jesus. It is He, Jesus that baptizes with the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit.

So, there are two Baptisms; one of water done by man as a ceremony according to the definition of the word “baptism” and one done solely by Christ IE: Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The common thread in both baptisms is the “immersion” into either the water as a physical display of what happened in the Spirit and “immersion” into Christ and His death, which brings about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit by Christ Himself into eternal life.

***Colossians 2: [12](#) Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.***

So, these men of Ephesus had been baptized into water a ceremony, which has at its core the same idea of repentance of sin but had not come to full fruition of Salvation. So, what was missing according to Paul?

**Q.** Were these baptized by John the Baptist saved or not?

I do not believe they were saved to salvations full potential in that the crucifixion of the Lamb of God had not happened yet. John the Baptist by his preaching had convicted them of being sinners. That is the first step for all believers, acknowledging that we are sinners and need a Savior. They recognized they were sinners, but the Savior had not done His work on the Cross yet.

It seems to me this is the way it works in an illustration of the salvation process, which at its core is Faith Based; you must believe with your whole heart.

A person must first hear the Word of God.

***Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.***

Acceptance and some understanding move from the mind to the heart.

***Ephesians 3: 14For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.***

This verse from Ephesians is all the Spiritual nature, not of the flesh, with one exception. “I bow my knees”. This is a physical outward visual of surrender to our Lord and Savior.

I surrender all.

1. All to Jesus I surrender,  
All to Him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust Him,  
In His presence daily live.
  - Refrain:  
I surrender all,  
I surrender all;  
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,  
I surrender all.
2. All to Jesus I surrender,  
Humbly at His feet I bow;  
Worldly pleasures all forsaken,  
Take me, Jesus, take me now.
3. All to Jesus I surrender,  
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;

- Let me feel the Holy Spirit,  
Truly know that Thou art mine.
4. All to Jesus I surrender,  
Lord, I give myself to Thee;  
Fill me with Thy love and power,  
Let Thy blessing fall on me.
  5. All to Jesus I surrender,  
Now I feel the sacred flame;  
Oh, the joy of full salvation!  
Glory, glory, to His Name!

I Surrender All | Judson W. Van DeVenter

Sung by Carrie Underwood

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Swyra4KIWp4>

Once Faith and understanding even incomplete understanding have reached the heart then the circumcision of the heart begins. It is through that circumcision or separating of the Spirit and the flesh that the sealing of the Holy Spirit takes place. In most cases it is instantaneous and at the point of “Believing”.

***Colossians 2:11–12. “In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.”***

I believe this baptism is a spiritual baptism and does not take place in water; it is in the Spirit. When you believe with all

your heart that Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and raised again to life from the grave you have entered a Spiritual baptism in your heart, the critical baptism to salvation resulting in the circumcision of the heart and indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

To carry out a commandment to be baptized in water as an outward sign of an inward event, all believers should willingly seek to be baptized in water. But remember, baptism in water is not salvation, it is a physical sign to the world; a declaration to the world that you have chosen to follow Christ, salvation is not dependent upon physical baptism, it is most certainly dependent upon Spiritual Baptism and the Sealing by the Holy Spirit. That Baptism of the Holy Spirit begins what is called SANCTIFICATION.

***2 Thessalonians 2: But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:***

Jesus is quoted as saying this in John 17:

***John 17: 17 <sup>x</sup>Sanctify them <sup>y</sup>through thy truth: <sup>z</sup>thy word is <sup>a</sup>truth. 18 <sup>b</sup>As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I <sup>c</sup>sanctify myself, that they also might be <sup>d</sup>sanctified through the truth. 20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also***

*which shall believe on me <sup>e</sup>through their word;  
21 That <sup>f</sup>they all may be one; as <sup>g</sup>thou, Father, art in  
me, and I in thee, that <sup>h</sup>they also may be one in us:  
that the world may <sup>i</sup>believe that <sup>k</sup>thou hast sent me.*

The moment you were saved you were Justified by the Blood of Christ. You were “positionally sanctified” in other words when God looks at you and me, He sees His Son Jesus. We are not Jesus but positionally Jesus stands before God in our place. Our sanctification takes a lifetime of growth, always growing toward our own sanctification if we are obedient to God’s Word.

**Q.** What was that first love that Jesus accuses Ephesus of losing?

As a believer what were the first things, we all did when we became believers?

Our love was to an entity that we had not formerly known, Jesus Christ. We fell to our knees and fell in love with the One that had died for us on the cross. We joined collectively with other believers to worship and praise Him. The understanding of what He had done on the cross for us before we were believers caused a love to grow in our hearts. The Ephesians had done a similar thing but now find

themselves being accused of a heartbreaking accusation;  
“left thy first love”.

God is our first Love, and it is through His Son Jesus Christ  
that we find redemption.

Leaving the “first love” is nothing new in this world. The  
Nation of Israel was guilty of this as well having turned their  
back on the one who saved them.

***Jeremiah 2:2 Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem,  
saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the  
kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals,  
when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a  
land that was not sown.***

***Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with  
their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but  
their heart is far from me.***

The only way to rectify this situation both for the Israeli  
Nation of the Old Testament and the Church of Ephesus and  
us today is to:

Repent

Study God’s Word

Repent for our failure to study

***2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.***

Fellowship with God and fellow believers

Repent for our failure to Fellowship as God wants us to.

***Hebrews 10: [25](#)Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.***

Praise and Worship God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit

Repent for our failures in Praising and Worshiping God in Truth

***Mark 7:7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.***

***John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.***

Share Christ with people; the Good News

Repent for our failure to share the Good News

From the Berean Literal Translation, Jesus said this:

***Luke 4:43 But He said to them, "It behooves Me to preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because for this I have been sent forth."***

**Mark 16: [15](#)And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. [16](#)He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

**Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.**

**Q.** What is missing in the end of this statement?

“Baptism”, which baptism; the baptism of water or the baptism of the Spirit?

Someone may say but Jesus said there is only “One Spirit and one Baptism”

**Ephesians 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.**

So, there is only one baptism; which do you think is the more important of the two we have spoken of; the ceremony baptism in water or the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

This is not to say that we should not carry out the water baptism, it is an opportunity to publicly declare whom we serve. So by all means get baptized but not until you are Saved and Justified by asking Christ with a pure and contrite heart to save you.

So, to go back to our first love we can start with anyone of those things we listed, but always repent, as we will fall short of God's Glory in our lives at every turn. Never lose site that we are sinners saved by Grace and that not of ourselves; the entire issue of salvation is spiritual centered not flesh centered.

***2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.***

From Pulpit Commentary

Verse 10. - For godly sorrow, etc. "For the sorrow Which is according to God worketh out a repentance unto salvation which bringeth no regret." Sin causes regret, remorse, that sort of repentance (metomeleia) which is merely an unavailing rebellion against the inevitable consequences of misdoing; but the sorrow of self-reproach which follows true repentance (metanoia, change of mind) is never followed by regret. Some take "not to be regretted" with "salvation," but it is a very unsuitable adjective to that substantive. The sorrow of the world. Here sorrow for the loss, or disappointment, or shame, or ruin, or sickness caused by sin; such as the false repentance of Cain, Saul, Ahithophel, Judas, etc. Death. Moral and spiritual death always, and sometimes physical death, and always - unless it is followed by true repentance -

eternal death, which is the opposite of salvation ([Romans 5:21](#)).

***Romans 5: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.***

***Acts 3:19\_Repent you therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...***

**Q.** So what is this Good News we are to share?

**2097** *euaggelízō* (from [2095](#) /eú, "good, well" and *angellō*, "announce, herald") – properly, proclaim "the good message" (good news). In the NT, [2097](#) (*euaggelízō*) refers to sharing the *full Gospel of Christ* – literally, "gospelizing" that announces *the complete message* of "the good news" (the Lord's *glad tidings*).

The Greek word Euangalos is where we get our word Evangelize.

***Proverbs 25:25 Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land. ... Good news from far away is like cold water to the thirsty. ...***

***Hebrews 4:2 For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith ...***

***Luke 2:10 "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ...***

***Luke 8:1 After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good***

**news** of the kingdom of God ...

**Nahum 1:15** Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings **good news**, who proclaims peace

**Acts 13:32** "We tell you the **good news**: What God promised our ancestors ..... "

In vs 4 Jesus condemns the Church of Ephesus for leaving its first love.

**September 19, 2021**

**5** Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Let's put this in the context of the church leadership, pastor, elders, bishops, deacons, deaconesses etc.

Firstly, this letter is to the Angel of the church of Ephesus. It is in essence calling out the leadership, whether pastor, bishop, elder or other leaders. But remember in the end God will not overlook the sins of the congregation for it is each person's responsibility to study God's Word. Leadership will be held to account at a higher level.

**2 Timothy 2:15** Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The first sentence of this verse tells us:

***“Remember therefore from whence thou are fallen and repent and do thy first works;”.***

So, what is the answer for the failures of church leadership? There are three things Jesus tells the leadership to do with the congregation; Remember, Repent and Return.

Well with the Ephesian church it was to REMEMBER where they had fallen from.

Just like 2 Kings 6 when the Prophet Elisha told his students after he had lost the axe head which was a type of the power of the Holy Spirit.

***2 Kings 6:6 And the man of God said, **Where fell it?** And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim.***

REMEMBER where you lost your first love, REPENT and RETURN to ones first works or first love.

***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: 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.***

But how would they know “evil” how would they know “false prophets”, how would they know to have patience? The same question goes for us. Because in the beginning they were totally engrossed in Jesus Christ and if like the Bereans were searching out the scriptures daily. But over time the pull of the world pulled them from that total love of Christ and desire to learn all they could about Him.

***In vs 5 Jesus commands them to REMEMBER from where they have fallen and to REPENT of not doing their first works, and RETURN to those first works, on threat of having their candlestick removed.***

Jesus changes focus of the leadership to something they are doing right.

**6But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.**

There is no small controversy amongst scholars as to who Nicolas was Nicolaitans and how it was prevalent in Ephesus. That aside, the issue is what the Nicolaitans promoted within the church of Ephesus and all throughout Christendom.

This is a quote from Clarke’s Commentary.

*“The deeds of the Nicolaitanes - These were, as is commonly supposed, a sect of the*

*Gnostics, who taught the most impure doctrines, and followed the most impure practices. They are also supposed to have derived their origin from Nicolas, one of the seven deacons mentioned [Acts 6:5](#) (note). The Nicolaitanes taught the community of wives, that adultery and fornication were things indifferent, that eating meats offered to idols was quite lawful; and mixed several pagan rites with the Christian ceremonies. Augustine, Irenaeus, Clemens Alexandrinus, and Tertullian, have spoken largely concerning them....”*

***Galatians 5:13*** <sup>13</sup> ***For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.***

The flesh has many desires that it wants to take in freedom; even the words we speak are sometimes a fulfillment of the desires of the flesh. We cannot take the freedom God has given us through salvation to allow our flesh to do as it pleases. We must restrain our flesh otherwise we will enter sin.

***In vs 6 the Church Leadership and those of the home fellowship at Ephesus were commended for hating the deeds of the Nicolaitans. We cannot lay all the blame at the feet of leadership. If you are going to a church or Bible Study for that matter that is teaching in error, it is incumbent upon you to either reach out to the***

*leadership or teacher with your concerns and if they do not fear God then to leave. This has to do with the basic doctrines of Salvation not merely a disagreement on the definition of a word as long as it is not germane to Salvation's Doctrine.*

**7**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 tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.**

This verse I believe pulls us back to the original intent of God. It was written to leadership of the believers who were in fellowship during this early church age. It is also valuable to understand the progression of the Church over time and to see the impacts that seem to coincide with various periods of times throughout history within the Church. Some believe that you can take the seven churches and find some if not all in any Church in America or around the World today. I think we can find the same if not all the pros and cons of the seven churches in our individual lives today. There is good and bad in all of us. It is our obligation to search out, suppress, defeat, destroy the flesh and bad in our lives and walk more closely today with Jesus than we did yesterday. The Holy Spirit will help but we need to resolve to reject sin in our lives.

To be very clear it is not written to organizations, foundations, or corporations; it is written to leadership and people; to you and me. It is God's final attempt to reach out to a world lost in sin. If you have an ear; LISTEN.

And God also included the phrase:

***“let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;”***

So, God's intent was that all the home churches leadership and fellowship learn from the errors of each other. The same is true for us, we need to learn from each other's mistakes.

Just like the wording used in each introduction, we will see that closing is used in a similar way. Each closing includes the term, “he that hath an ear”, and then an outcome that all believers hope for in our respective lives with Christ.

***7He 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 tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.***

***Jesus is encouraging not only the Church Leadership and those attending there at Ephesus to “hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches”. But all the churches and all the leadership and people in those churches are told to “hear”. If they, if we can “hear what the Spirit saith”, then to “him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life....”***

## Message to the Church in Smyrna

**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;**

Jesus identifies Himself by the thing that only He had done. He had existed with God from eternity “the first and the last” a long-held name for God. And then names Himself as the One of the Trinity who had died in the flesh and came back to life.

**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.

Jesus references the leaderships and believers “works” along with their “tribulation” and “poverty”.

We know that salvation does not come by works; salvation comes by Faith. Jesus continually refers to “works” as He speaks to each home church.

**Q.** Why does He keep bringing up works?

Works are evidence of what we believe or in a slightly different way of saying it; belief is not based on works but works are the evidence of those beliefs.

***James 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.***

Works should be based on several things in this order.

1. Inspired by God
2. Done in Love not out of obligation
3. Done in obedience to God's Word
4. Done to the Glory of God and not to any person or any organization.

There may be other things to consider but these cover the basics.

The final point on this verse;

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

<https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/study/module/polycarp/>

The story of Polycarp and his martyrdom.

What is this "blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not but are of the synagogue of Satan"?

The issue is a bit challenging but worthy of understanding.

There were two church letters that address the same issue:

this one to Smyrna and the other to the Church in Philadelphia.

***Revelation 3:9* Behold, I will make them of the **synagogue of Satan**, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.**

The short answer is God had chosen Israel as His own, and Israel had rejected His Son Jesus the Messiah. God then extended His love to the gentiles; you and me. When the Roman's took over Israel, they extended religious exemptions from following Roman law as to Roman pagan worship; Jews were exempted in order to keep the peace. By association, the early Christian Church was made up of many Jews and would often meet in Synagogues thus gaining the same religious exemption as the Jews.

However, when the larger Jewish community started to persecute the Christians, Rome removed the religious exemption from the Christians and often at the behest of the Jews persecuted the Christians.

In God's eyes, His Chosen people Israel had turned their back on Him and now were turning their back on His second chosen people, Believers in His Son Jesus Christ. By

second chosen I do not mean Israel was replaced it was simply added to by gentile Christians.

***Romans 9:6*** ***Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:***

God had declared what a True Jew was in Romans 2:

***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.***

John the Baptist when address religious leaders and jews said this in Luke

***Luke 3: Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.***

Jews were warned not to lay their Jewish heritage to who their ancestors were as God can see the heart of all men. It is and was a heart condition.

I am going to try to make a point here that actually comes back to what Jesus was saying in Revelation 2:

***“Revelation 2:9...I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.”***

It is all about the heart both for the Jew and the Gentile, both during the Abrahamic Covenant, the Old Covenant through Moses, and the New Covenant through Christ. The only difference is that when God called the Nation of Israel to be His He made a covenant with them that was sealed by circumcision of the Flesh starting with the Abrahamic Covenant and continuing into the Old Covenant.

***Genesis 17: [9](#)And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. [10](#)This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. [11](#)And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. [12](#)And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed. [13](#)He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. [14](#)And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.***

Do you think God is serious when He makes a covenant?

Here we have in the 7 churches God declaring that He will

remove the Lamp Stand representing a church. Do you think He would actually do that?

How much do you suppose God loved Moses? Did you know that God was going to kill Moses for failing to circumcise his own son?.

**Exodus 4: [24](#)And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him. [25](#)Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me. [26](#)So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision.**

Our God is a Covenant keeping God. He will not be mocked, not by Moses, not by Moses wife Zipporah and not by the 7 churches and their leadership or their attending believers. It is all about the heart with God. Can our hearts be circumcised and yet we walk in disobedience and unrighteousness? One testifies of the other, it is dangerous ground to stand on with a presumed circumcised heart and a body driven by the flesh.

**[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.**

Jesus is warning the angel of this Church and I believe in extension all those who attended this church about the things which they “shalt” not may but “shall” suffer.

Jesus has every authority to speak on this issue; He knew all too well the extent of commitment needed here and by extension to us as well.

***Galatians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.***

It really comes down to this; to what distance are you willing to take your flesh for Christ’s sake; Jesus took His flesh all the way to the Cross, we can do no less.

Martyrs like Polycarp in about 160 AD, who was the Bishop to the Church of Smyrna stood fast with Christ and died for it. When arrested Polycarp did not resist and when the Sheriff Herod told him he had wild animals, Polycarp told him to bring them out. That infuriated Herod so he said he would burn him alive. Polycarp only said they did not need to nail him to wood as God would protect him. And who of the city of Smyrna rushed to gather wood for the fire, the Jews of Smyrna.

A quote about Polycarp’s martyrdom

<https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/study/module/polycarp/>

*“It was all done in the time it takes to tell. The crowd collected wood and bundles of sticks from the shops and public baths. **The Jews, as usual, were keen to help.** When the pile was ready, Polycarp took off his outer clothes, undid his belt, and tried to take off his sandals – something he was not used to, as the faithful always raced to do it for him, each wanting to be the one to touch his skin – this is how good his life was. But when they went to fix him with nails, he said, “Leave me as I am, for he that gives me strength to endure the fire, will enable me not to struggle, without the help of your nails.” (emphasis in color mine)*

Polycarp's goal was the crown of life as promised by Jesus in vs 10.

This term 10 days has been given a goodly number of interpretations, but none seem to be very satisfying. The only other place in Scripture that the term of 10 days is specific is when Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had been taken into captivity. They were given the finest of the King's food and wine. They refused to eat it and asked to be tested 10 days of eating only vegetables and drinking water.

***Daniel 1: [12](#) Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.***

We are left with no clear meaning of the 10 days, other than to understand it to mean a time of testing which seems to comport with “**and ye shall have tribulation ten days**”

**11He 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.**

Born once, die twice, Born Twice, die once! Meaning being if you only experience a natural birth in the flesh, you will eventually die as flesh, but you will also die a second death of the Spirit at the Great White Throne Judgement to eternal damnation. If on the other hand you are born twice, IE: born naturally of the flesh and born in the Spirit (born again Christian) then you will only die of the flesh and not die in the Spirit.

These Seven Churches as a whole all struggled in one way or another, some with defiance of God on what He has already judged to be sin and what His desire in their lives was. Some churches were seen to have lost ground they had already taken, others with outright sin within the church. So as the true Christians within these churches struggle to walk with God as a group, they all receive in a sense a report card on how they are doing as a group, yet Jesus calls them out individually to repent. A church or a nation

that repents is a collective of convicted individual people who get on their knees and repent of their individual sins and collectively for their sins as a group or nation.

The Church of Smyrna we just finished with had done everything right, yet they were still going to suffer at the hand of Satan.

***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.***

God set the goal for them to hold firm to the faith even unto death and they would receive the “crown of life”. God expects our walk to center on Jesus Christ; the believers in Smyrna had done that and Satan hated them for that and brought persecution to them. You might think that doesn’t seem fair. There are all kinds of cute sayings like: “The world ain’t fair” etc. The fact is as long as Satan rules the world it will not be fair or pleasant to believers; all of the persecuted believers who have walked before us wear their persecution as a badge of honor. Can we do any less?

**Q.** Is it possible to do the right thing with the right motive but with a wrong heart?

**2 Chronicles 25: [2](#)And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart.**

This verse in 2 Chronicles is about King Amaziah, King of Judah.

**Q.** What do you suppose the sin was for this King Amaziah of Judah and what was the outcome?

**2 Chronicles 25: [14](#)Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them. [15](#)Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand? [16](#)And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Art thou made of the king's counsel? forbear; why shouldest thou be smitten? Then the prophet forbore, and said, I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel.**

Unlike those believers in Smyrna King Amaziah had committed Idol worship, which in God's Spiritual criminal code is the same as Adultery against God. The Church of Smyrna had done the right things for the right reasons and the right heart before God. They were just to hold fast to what they had. If only King Amaziah had done that? How

about you and me, how about America, are we in Amaziah's camp or Jesus's Camp?

**September 26, 2021**

### **Message to the Church in Pergamum**

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

We have a good deal to discuss about Pergamum, but let's start with what it means; it is from the Greek word Purgos and means a tower or fortified structure. So, who made this place a fortress? We will see.

Jesus describes Himself as "He which hath the sharp sword with two edges".

This two-edged sword or double edged sword is from the Greek word;

**1366** *dístomos* – properly, two-mouthed (having two edges), like a "two-edged" sword with both sides of the blade sharpened to an edge; (figuratively) what penetrates at every point of contact, coming in or going out.

*[A two-edged sword is an ideal defensive-offensive weapon and was known as "a drinker of blood" (Souter).]*

The description given of Jesus in this verse speaks to His ability to see the heart of man, attack the enemy of the Kingdom; this sword, which is the Word of God the Logos, can cut to the very marrow of man and woman. Regardless of the fleshly defenses we employ to keep God out, we cannot, He is All knowing and All-powerful.

We never see Jesus defending His Kingdom, He is always on the offensive searching out evil to destroy it. Jesus does not wait for evil to show up, He aggressively looks to destroy it. Perhaps a flaw in the churches and Christians today, we find ourselves defending Christianity never aggressively searching out the enemy to destroy it wherever we find it.

Satan cannot stand against the Word of God.

*Vs 12 Jesus addresses the leadership of the Church in Pergamos and describes Himself as a two edged sword. A weapon of righteousness destroying the enemy where He finds it.*

**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.**

In answer to the question of who made this a fortress?

Probably the guy who lived there, Satan.

As we start to study this, we must recall what we learned of where else Satan had a seat on the earth. Satan is not omnipresent he can only be in one place at one time just like angels both good and evil. Where ever Satan is he brings death and destruction including to those who walk around the Body of Christ the Church but are not saved.

**Q.** Does anyone remember where Satan's seat was according to Isaiah?

***Isaiah 14:4" ...take up this proverb against the king of **Babylon**, and say, ...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! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." (Isaiah 14:4-14)***

**Q.** Does anyone remember where God said Satan's seat was that we learned in Ezekiel?

**Tyre**

***Ezekiel 28: 11Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 12Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of **Tyrus**, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. 13Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the***

***beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. [14](#)Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. [15](#)Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.***

**Q.** Does anyone remember who was the King of Tyre?

Ethbaal means “toward the idol”

**Q.** Does anyone remember who the daughter was of Ethbaal?

Jezebel means “chaste” seems to be a bit of an oxymoron. Chaste means virtuous or faithful. Well Jezebel was definitely faithful to Satan and King Ahab and the norther tribes of Israel into their nest of vipers.

So, in this time period Satan’s seat was in Pergamos;

*“According to Hastings Bible Dictionary Christians were brought to Pergamos to be tried and sentenced to death. John alluded to this when he wrote of Antipas the “faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth” (Rev.2:13).”*

We are told to cling to the Rock, to hold fast to God's Word and to His Son Jesus the Rock. We are to cling to Jesus as the Rock, that unmovable thing that brings us life.

***Psalms 18:2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.***

***Vs 13 Jesus describes where Satan is seated and that the body of Believers should hold fast to Christ's name.***

**14But 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.**

There is an Old Testament prophet who was not a Hebrew by the name of Balaam.

If you recall Numbers 22 where Balak the King of Moab hired Balaam who was widely known to be able to curse or bless people; Balak wanted Balaam to curse the Israelites.

Balaam consulted with God as to what to do; God told him NOT to assist Balak. Balaam continued to press God as Balak continued to press him and God finally told Balaam to do only what God told him to say and do.

**Numbers 22: [20](#)And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him, If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do.**

God then put an angel in Balaam's path to slay him and his donkey bailed him out. God knew Balaam's heart and that he wanted to make money by cursing Israel in disobedience to God.

**Numbers 22: [22](#)And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants were with him. [23](#)And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way. [24](#)But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side. [25](#)And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again. [26](#)And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. [27](#)And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff. [28](#)And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times? [29](#)And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee. [30](#)And the ass said unto Balaam, Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto**

***this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay.***

The Midianite King also wanted help from Balaam; when God would not let Balaam curse Israel but instead Balaam continued to bless Israel.

Herein lies the curse of Balaam that is spoken of here in.

***Revelation 2:14* 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.****

Balaam finally told the kings of Midian and Moab how to defeat the Israelites by having them put their attractive young women around the camp of the Israelites. God had forbidden Hebrew men from cohabiting or marrying women from Moab or Midian. The kings did as suggested and caused the Hebrew men to fall into sin thus bringing God to the point of punishing the Israelite men who rebelled against His Word.

This was then known as the doctrine of Balaam or Balak. The connection then comes between Nicolaitans who promoted the idea that married women could engage in adultery with the men of the congregation. They also taught the idea that they could eat meat sacrificed to idols.

God hates adultery especially spiritual adultery or idol worship. God uses physical adultery as an example that we humans could understand about the idea of violating our oath of loyalty to our spouse. Unfortunately, Jesus expanded or clarified the idea of adultery to men, who look at women with lust having committed adultery in their hearts without have physically committed adultery. Again it is a heart thing with God.

***Vs 14 Jesus complaint is that there were some there in the church that held to the doctrine of Balaam and Balac, casting stumbling blocks before the children of Israel to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.***

**15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. 16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.**

So, there is a similarity between the doctrine of Balaam and the doctrine of Nicolaitans. It is spiritual adultery or spiritual idol worship.

**Q.** What is the solution to adultery?

Repent

**Q.** Does that include both physical and spiritual adultery?

I believe it does.

**Vs 15 and 16 Jesus accuses some of holding the doctrine of the Nicolaitans the thing which He hates.**

**17He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;**

**Q.** Again, who is this, written to?

Church leadership, also Churches as plural, referring to the several home churches or gatherings in each city called out. It is also addressed to anyone that has at least one ear or some method of understanding what God is saying.

**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.**

*Thayer's Greek Lexicon*

***Psephos***

Phonetic Spelling: (psay'-fos)

*a voting-pebble, small stone*

*From the same as [pselaphao](#); a pebble (as worn smooth by handling), i.e. (by implication, of use as a counter or ballot) a verdict (of acquittal) or ticket (of admission); a vote -- stone, voice.*

*1. since in the ancient courts of justice the accused were condemned by black pebbles and acquitted by white*

The aim of all Christians is to “overcome”. Those that do receive several promises; “Eat of the hidden manna.”

**Q.** What is the manna we consume today?

God’s Word

**Q.** What is hidden from the Church today in God’s Word?

There are mysteries that are contained in God’s Word. What it pertains to, we do not know, but there will be a day when it is revealed to us, and we can feast on that hidden manna, gain true understanding.

***Vs 17 a similar warning to churches to listen to Him.***

### **Message to the Church in Thyatira**

**The adulterous church.**

**18And 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;**

Thyatira has a dark history and Chuck Missler states that the meaning of the name is “daughter”.

“Eyes like unto a flame of fire” reflects Jesus’ penetrating ability of search out man’s hearts.

***Deuteronomy 4:24 For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.***

We know that the Word is Jesus and Jesus is the Word so with that in mind and relative “The Son of God who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire” let’s go to Hebrews:

***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.***

And “feet are like fine brass” is a sign of Jesus being tested by taking the entire weight of man’s sin upon Himself.

Bronze is a type and shadow of sin, and the burnished look is that bronze that has been exposed to fierce fire of testing and punishment.

***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.***

These are similes, descriptions, metaphors, of what Jesus did and endured; consider this fiery furnace to like that of the Lake of Fire where anyone other than Christ Himself would

have been destroyed by the weight of the sin and heat of the place.

***Vs 18, to the leadership of the Church Jesus describes Himself as one that has been tested by fire.***

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

We know that works of man are of no benefit to the Kingdom; on the reverse side we know that all works generated by and for God and the Kingdom are of great value. So, these works that God is aware of are apparently of a Godly nature as Jesus did not condemn them.

We also know that charity or love, service, faith, and patience are attributes, gifts or blessing of the Holy Spirit; and God has recognized and extoled those virtues in this verse. God recognizes Christian growth as He says that the last were more than the first and this too is Godly growth.

As human beings we sometimes seem to focus on the negatives that our friends, coworkers, and bosses have to say about us. In this case, God the Creator knows every thought of our heart and can evaluate us as no human ever

could. His eyes can penetrate the dark places in our hearts and reveal our darkest secrets.

***Vs 19 Jesus says He knows there works, love and service have increased from the first to the last. They have improved on those things.***

***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.

Apparently, a woman with the spirit of Jezebel, unknown if she had the name Jezebel but regardless, she was evil to the core like her namesake the daughter of Ethebaal King of Tyre and Sidon and the wife of perhaps the worst of all Northern Tribe Kings, King Ahab.

The issue here is that they “sufferest” Jezebel? The term sufferest in the Greek is;

*Transliteration: aphiémi*

*Phonetic Spelling: (af-ee'-ay-mee)*

*Definition: (a) I send away, (b) I let go, release, permit to depart, (c) I remit, forgive, (d) I permit, suffer.*

So, the context here is that they allowed this spirit of Jezebel to remain in their midst and allowed her to operate in contradiction to God’s Word.

There is a commentator (Gill) and others that allude to the papacy as an ongoing source of evil in the world. Their claim is that women dominated this city and specifically this church in Thyatira. Gill also claims that a woman sat as Pope, which I am sure the Catholic Church would object to. I do not care to make any comment beyond that but will instead focus on what God focused on here.

There are several facts that we have not disclosed yet about the City of Thyatira. It was once called Semiramis.

**Q.** Does anyone remember who Semiramis was?

She was the consort of Nimrod who founded Babel which later became Babylon (one of the seats of Satan) and the source of much idyllic worship; many if not all idol worship and mythical gods have some connection to what Nimrod did in Babylon. One of the tales that became the source for creating gods and goddesses was the story of Nimrod's and Semirami's offspring Tammuz.

*This is a quote from;* Bible verses about Nimrod, Semiramis and Tammuz

**(From Forerunner Commentary) Bible Tools**

*“Semiramis was initially included in the pagan Babylonian trinity as the holy spirit or seed of the divine son in his*

*mother's womb. With time, however, the father Nimrod was practically overlooked and worshiped only as the god-incarnate son in his mother's arms. In other words, the father became invisible and was no longer worshiped, whereas, the mother with the god-incarnate son in her arms became the grand object of worship. Numerous Babylonian monuments show the goddess-mother Semiramis with her son in her arms. This worship of mother and child spread throughout the known world, and given different names in the various languages of the world. Ancient Germans worshipped the virgin Hertha with child in arms. Scandinavians called her Disa pictured with child. The Egyptian mother and child were worshiped as Isis with the infant Osiris or Horus seated on his mother's lap. In India, the mother and child were called Devaki and Krishna, and also Isi and Iswara as they are worshiped to this day. In Asia, they were known as Cybele and Deoius; in pagan Rome, as Fortuna and Jupiter-puer, or Jupiter, the boy; in Greece, as Ceres, the great mother with babe at her breast, or as Irene, the goddess of peace, with the boy Plutus in her arms."*

**Ezekiel 8:14 Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.**

*In verse 14, Ezekiel expresses his "dismay" at yet a greater abomination: "women . . . weeping for Tammuz." This is another pagan practice, a very sexual one involving ritual prostitution. Ezekiel saw them involved in a rite in which they were [mourning](#) the death of a Mesopotamian [god](#) whose myth said he was resurrected to new life, a mockery of the redeeming death and life-giving resurrection of the true Son of God. This vision reveals that paganism had deeply affected the women in Israelite society as well.*

*The Catholic Church has elevated Mary to divine status and given her titles and responsibilities reserved to [God](#) the Father and His Son! In fact, she becomes the third member of a [trinity](#) modeled after the pagan trinities of ancient times. These heathen trinities, found in most polytheistic religions, follow the Father-Mother-Son pattern: Osiris, Isis and Horus; Nimrod, Semiramis and Tammuz; Zeus, Diana, Dionysus; Jupiter, Venus and Cupid; etc.”*

If you study the cult created around Tammuz, you will see how many of the very things they did in their pagan worship of Tammuz is identical to how we celebrate Christmas.

So how do we square that with God? Quite simple we as a Christian nation have fallen into a trap by Satan and that is to unwittingly delve into pagan worship.

**Q.** In any given home in America during Christmas what is the most important thing that is seen and practiced?

Giving of presents.

Ostensibly it was perhaps first thought of as giving presents to Jesus; really is that how it is really practiced in America?

As Christians our hearts may be pure in our celebration of the birth of Christ our Savior, but to the world we look just like them.

Our entire economy revolves around this date of Christian Worship of the Birth of Jesus yet there is a fight going on about even saying Merry Christmas in stores.

All of America takes off this date called Christmas yet many of those who take this day off are Atheists, Muslims, Buddhists, and any other cult you can name yet they don't refuse to take it off and just go to work. They may not celebrate it as Jesus' Birth (which it is not correct in the date used anyway) but all of America takes this time off and exchange presents or at least stays home from work. It is a Christian Holiday created to honor the Birth of Christ, but its manner and source is clearly from pagan worship.

It is these spirit centric things that we must take great care in lest we fall into pagan worship. Satan uses these demons and spirits to cajole mankind into doing things that seem so benevolent yet are based in evil sources and intent.

Back to Jezebel and the spirit of Jezebel.

If we go to Acts 16:16 we can get a glimpse of the spirit of Jezebel and interactions with Paul in Thyatira.

**[\(Acts 16:11-15\)](#)**

**Acts 16:16** And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: **17** The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. **18** And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

**19** And when her masters saw that **the hope of their gains was gone**, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, **20** And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, **21** And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.

**22** And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. **23** And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: **24** Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

The problem is that the believers in Thyatira allowed the ideals of Jezebel to operate within and without of their presence. Remember Thyatira is called “the adulterous church”. Against Paul’s warning of allowing women a leadership role in the church the Church of Thyatira allowed this woman a prominent place and paid the price for it.

We had already recalled what we learned in Ezekiel about Jezebel; when Jehu was anointed King, he was given direct orders from God to destroy Ahab and his wife Jezebel.

**2 Kings 9: [7](#)And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel. [8](#)For the whole house of Ahab shall perish: and I will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel: [9](#)And I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah: [10](#)And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the portion of Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her. And he opened the door, and fled.**

What was the outcome for Jezebel?

**2 Kings 9:[30](#)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. [31](#)And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, Had Zimri peace, who slew his master? [32](#)And 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.**

**[33](#)And 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. [34](#)And 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. [35](#)And they went to bury her: but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands. [36](#)Wherefore 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: [37](#)And the carcase 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.*

We know Jezebel was not alive in Thyatira so it is a “spirit” or emulation of Jezebel and the evil she embraced and effused, and this woman may have been the name’s sake of Jezebel.

***Vs 20 Jesus accuses the leadership of allowing some to walk as Jezebel walked, calling themselves prophetesses and teaching and seducing Jesus’s servants to commit fornication and eat things sacrificed to idols.***

**[21](#)And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.**

We know that God is patient and long suffering allow mankind the opportunity too not only recognize Him as the Benevolent Creator God but that every human being is a sinner in need of a savior.

***Romans 3:[23](#)For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God; [24](#)Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: [25](#)Whom God hath set forth to be a **propitiation through faith in his blood**, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the **forbearance of God**;***

***Vs 21 Jesus declared He gave this person or persons, apparently a woman or women in the Church at Thyatira the opportunity to repent but she or they would not.***

**22Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.**

God has already judged the sin of adultery and all other sin. The result of sin is death; but God has called out Jezebel and all those who walk in her sins for “great tribulation”. This adultery is a Spiritual adultery, it can manifest itself in physical adultery as well, but the crux of the issue is worshipping other or false gods.

God declares that this church may go through Great Tribulation. How can that be, we know that the only Great Tribulation is not until the last three years of the seven years of Tribulation. That is the point of looking at each of these churches in respect to a timeline over the history of the Christian church which we will do in a week or two. It is this type of church that exists today and those who fellowship in this manner that will enter tribulation of 7 years.

***Vs 22 Jesus declares the punishment is to be sent into “Great Tribulation” unless they repent of their deeds. Interestingly the only time I can think of that Jesus calls a time the “Great Tribulation” is at the end times. It appears He may be addressing two time periods here;***

***one that was current at the writing of this letter and a time near the end when within the church (small c) that there were those who were doing the same thing and that they would not be included in the rapture but have to go into the Great Tribulation?***

**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.**

This death that Jesus speaks of may well be the second death at the Great White Throne Judgment; that would flow with His admonition about the Great Tribulation. Also, when Jesus says He will give everyone according to your works.

***Revelation 20: 12And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.***

***Clearly Jesus is speaking of this final judgment in vs 23. Any person who enters the Great Tribulation that may have head knowledge of Christ but not a circumcised heart filled with the Holy Spirit will endure being hunted. If they are able to come to a true saving knowledge of Christ without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (they are empowered by the Holy Spirit as in the Old Testament) then they will be martyred and by that means enter into the Kingdom of God through death and persecution.***

## **October 3, 2021**

As a reminder the false doctrine that Thyatira endured was this from vs 20

***Vs 20 Jesus accuses the leadership of allowing some to walk as Jezebel walked, calling themselves prophetesses and teaching and seducing Jesus's servants to commit fornication and eat things sacrificed to idols.***

**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.**

There is a remnant within Thyatira that has not soiled their garments, rejected Jezebel and her teachings. They had focused on Jesus and not on Satan, so Jesus says they had not known the depths of Satan or more likely the deep things of Satan the vastness of his evil nature. That was their only saving Grace that Jesus would put not further burden on them, meaning if they continued to focus on Him, they would not burden their souls with more sin in their midst to deal with. They were to walk in obedience from here on out. The question is, will they?

***Vs 24 Jesus addresses the rest of the Church in Thiatyra and confirms their obedience by walking in righteousness, rejecting the doctrines of Satan, false teachers and false prophets and Jesus says He will put no other burden on them.***

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

Jesus is suggesting here that these types of churches that existed at the time of this writing will exist at His return.

***(Hold fast until I come)***

You do not have to search hard to find these types of evil things taking place in local churches, religions and denominations around the US and the world. In the name of openness and non-judgmentalism churches have become the breeding ground for evil and the “deep things of Satan”. When a leader and those who fellowship declare the things of God evil and accept the lie of humanism, socialism, communism, racism and all the other the isms; they are racing to the bottom of the barrel so to speak.

***Romans 1: 18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and***

**Godhead; so that they are without excuse: [21](#)Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. [22](#)Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, [23](#)And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.**

**[24](#)Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: [25](#)Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.**

**[26](#)And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:[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.**

In Psalms 2 God declared that His Son would rule the nations with an iron rod and now Jesus is passing on that shared rule to His Bride, the Body of Christ the Church.

***Psalms 2:*[1](#)Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?[2](#)The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,[3](#)Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.[4](#)He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.[5](#)Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.[6](#)Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.[7](#)I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my**

***Son; this day have I begotten thee. [8](#)Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. [9](#)Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. [10](#)Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. [11](#)Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. [12](#)Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.***

**[28](#)And I will give him the morning star.**

The Messiah is the Morning Star according to

***Revelation 22: [16](#) I 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.***

As a side note, you may remember that Satan in Isaiah is also called the “morning star”. Note the difference, Jesus is the “bright and morning star” while Satan is only called the “morning star”. Satan is a created being and can only radiate that which was given him at his creation and try to mimic what Jesus the Christ is. Jesus on the other hand is God and is the source of all light being the brightest of all creation, so His moniker is “bright and morning star”.

There are other comparisons in the Bible of Satan and Jesus but don't think for a moment there is any similarity in Spirit in the two. Satan is a Lion that prowls about seeing whom he

might destroy. Jesus is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, benevolent, trustworthy, loyal unto death. So, Satan is a liar that has come to kill and destroy while Jesus is the Truth and giver of life, life more abundant.

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

***Vs 25 – 29; If we look back over the four churches, we have studied we will find these are the things Jesus declares to each person in each Church if they would “overcometh”.***

**To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.**

**shall not be hurt of the second death.**

**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 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.**