
REVELATION

GOD IS IN CONTROL OF ALL THINGS

FAMILY CONVERSATION GUIDE

THE THEME

God is in control of all things.

JANUARY MEMORY VERSE

I am the “Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” **Revelation 1:8 ESV**

JANUARY CHALLENGE VERSE

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in.” **Revelation 3:20a NIV**

JANUARY 21 - LIFE APPLICATION

God calls His church and His people to be holy.

NOTE TO PARENTS

In the **Book of Revelation**, John, the disciple loved by Jesus, is given words and visions of heaven and Jesus, and prophecies about the end of times. Remind your family that **God has a plan**, is over all things, knows all things, and He is with us through all things. Please read the scripture and listen to the sermon, in person or online, before discussing with your family. If this guide is too much in one sitting, break it up and talk through the questions throughout the week.

DISCUSS:

In **Revelation chapter 1**, who told John to write letters to the churches? (**V. 19,20** - *Jesus told him to do this.*) In **Revelation 2, verses 1-11**, John wrote letters to two churches - the church in **Ephesus** and the church in **Smyrna**.

This week, we will see what Jesus had to say through John to the **churches at Pergamum and Thyatira**.

Read each section of scripture and answer the questions. Tell your family: In these passages, Jesus speaks to the churches with “a two edged sword.” (See **Hebrews 4:12** and **Ephesians 6:17**). This is God’s Word. All Christians in Jesus’s church are under the authority of God’s Word. What it says is absolute truth. Jesus judges these churches by his Word. He told the churches the **GOOD** they were doing, but he also told them the **BAD**. It’s important to know that what Jesus told John to write to the churches is *God’s Word*.

The Church at Pergamum

1. **Read Revelation 2: 12-13. What were the GOOD things Jesus said through John’s letter to the church at Pergamum?** (See **v. 13**)
 - They kept their faith, even though they lived in an evil place - where many idols were worshiped and there was much godlessness and sin. It is described as a city “where Satan dwells.” But, the believers in this city did not worship other gods or idols.
 - They did not deny their faith in Jesus, even when one of them named Antipas was killed for his faith in Jesus..
2. **What BAD things did Jesus have to say to the church at Pergamum through John’s letter?** (See **verses 14-16**)
 - Some followed the teaching of Balaam, an Old Testament sorcerer. He had convinced the king of the Moabites to tempt the Israelites as they

left captivity in Egypt, which caused believers to “stumble” and sin, intermarrying with pagan Moabite women. This was still going on in Pergamum.

- Some believed the teaching of the Nicolaitians, who thought they could sin greatly because of God’s grace.

3. **What was Jesus’ warning to this church?**

- They need to repent, because they do not know when Jesus will return, and it could be soon. “Repent” simply means to stop believing and behaving in a godless way.

4. **What does Jesus promise in [verse 17](#) to those who conquer, or overcome?**

- He will give them hidden manna - his daily provision
- He will give them a white stone. Romans who had white stones would have free passage to all the festivals, games, etc. But, this white stone could also mean that their sins were forgiven.
- Written on the white stone would be a new name - we will all have a new name, meant only for us, in heaven! Think how many people in the world have the same name you have. But, no one will have your heavenly name!

The Church at Thyatira

5. Now read [verse 18](#). Jesus comes to Thyatira. **How is He described?**

- As Son of God (*This is the only time he is called this in Revelation.*), implying (meaning) his judgment on us
- Eyes like a flame of fire, implying a fiery judgment
- Feet with burnished bronze, implying stamping out judgment
- He doesn’t like what’s going on!
- He is coming in judgment

6. Read [Revelation 2:19- 27](#). **What GOOD things did Jesus say about this church?**

- He knows the good works they do in his name
- Their love
- Their faith
- Their service
- Their patient endurance

7. Now read [verses 19-24](#). What are the BAD things Jesus has John say in his letter to the church at Thyatira?

- They tolerated an evil woman teacher, a prophetess named “Jezebel.” (*This is probably not her real name but an allusion to the Old Testament character of this name who married Ahab, king of Israel, and brought all her godless idols from the Sidonian culture into Israel.*) She taught: idolatry and immorality - just like what the church at Pergamum had to contend with the teachings of Balaam!
- **What does it mean to “tolerate” sin?** (*To look the other way when someone is doing wrong things, and not confront what they are doing. When we don’t say anything about sin, it implies acceptance of sin.*)
- Because of this tolerance, some people of the church also fell into sin.

8. **What warning did Jesus have for the church at Thyatira?**

- Jezebel and those who sin with Jezebel will be punished - they will have a “sickbed” which means they will be sick, to bring them to repentance. This was seen several times in the Old Testament with evil kings Ahab and Jeroham, but also in the New Testament - **Acts 5, Acts 12, 1 Corinthians 11:10**, for examples.
- Jezebel’s children would die - this could mean her own children or those who followed her.

9. **What does Jesus (through John’s letters) tell the church to do?**

- Repent- turn from their sin
- God sees our hearts, and he knows our true motives, not what the world sees in us. (*Sometimes our “works” are so that other people will think well of us, not to honor God.*)

10. **What does Jesus promise to those who hold fast to their faith, whose hearts are pure? Those who are not caught up in sin? People whose works are for His glory?**

- No other burdens on you
- We will have authority over nations (*In the Millennial Kingdom we will rule and reign with Jesus - see **Revelation 20***)
- We will receive the morning star (**Revelation 22:16**) who is Jesus himself, our greatest sufficiency in life and forever. He is all we need!

DIGGING DEEPER:

- God’s judgment begins with the household of faith, His church, His bride - He gives us a call to holiness (**1 Peter 4:17**). We need to be different from the world. God says: “Be holy as I am holy.”

- God hates for his church/people to compromise with the world and tolerate evil. (See **James 4:4**) **How can we live in the world but not be like the world?**
- **Friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God. Why?**

FAMILY CHALLENGE

1. The believers at Pergamum were living in a place where they were tempted to sin. This is also going on in our city and our world today. **What are some ways we are tempted to follow bad teaching that leads us into sin?** (*Discuss: TV, internet, what people think of us, etc.*)
2. **When you do good works, are your motives to honor God or for the purpose of making others think well of you?** Think of examples. Remember: God knows our true hearts!

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, We know that You want your church and Your people to be holy. Help us to know how to live in this world being holy people who love You and do good things for Your glory, not for our own recognition. We love You! Amen.