



# REVELATION

Jesus Loves His Church (Part 2) | January 21, 2024

## Read Revelation Chapter 2:12-28

Today we will be looking at the Churches at:

- Pergamum
- Thyatira

Before we look at these churches, a brief overview of Leviticus:

- Chapters 1-16: the sin offerings
- Chapter 17: life is in the blood
- Chapter 18: sexual morality

**The call to Israel to be different among the pagan nations in the Promised Land**

**The call to the church to be different among the pagan nations where they are planted**

### THE CHURCH AT PERGAMUM (REVELATION 2:12-17)

Jesus comes to this church with **God's Word** (see Revelation 2:12)

**Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)** - *For the **word of God** is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

**What we know about the city of Pergamum** ("Satan's throne" - temples everywhere)

- Worship of Dionysius: half-goat/half-man
- Zeus worship
- Caesar worship
- Asclepius

### **The Good**

- They held fast to Jesus's name
- They did not deny their faith, even when Antipas "a faithful witness" was killed

### **The Bad**

- Some of them believed in teachings of Balaam (see Numbers 22-24)
- Some held to the teachings of the Nicolaitans (cheap grace / can do anything)

### **Therefore he tells the church to:**

1. Repent
2. Or you will do war against Jesus and the truth of his Word

### **Those who conquer will receive:**

- Hidden manna (the gift of God's provision for your every need)
- A white stone (forgiveness/acquittal, God's will - Urim and Thummim, entrance to all the feasts and festivals that winning athletes received when they won during that time.)
- A new name

### **So, what about you? Examine:**

- Your idolatry (look at your checkbook and calendar)
- Your sexual purity

## **THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA (REVELATION 2:18-29)**

### **Jesus comes to this church with judgment:**

- As the "Son of God" (only time in Revelation Jesus is called this)
- With eyes like a flame of fire
- Feet with burnished bronze

### **The Good**

- They had good works that grew more and more
- They exhibited love, faith, and patient endurance

### **Bad**

- They tolerated Jezebel, a self-proclaimed prophetess, who taught:

1. Sexual immorality

## 2. Idolatry

- Because she would not repent:
  1. A sickbed for her and her followers
  2. Great tribulation
  3. Her children would die (likely her followers, more than literal kids?)
  4. Unless she and they repent
  5. Those who don't hold to these teachings: there was no other burden on them

And all the churches will know God is God...who searches all hearts and minds...the fear of the Lord is developed (which is the beginning of wisdom: Proverbs 1:6)

### **To those who hold fast until Jesus comes, who conquer:**

- Authority over the nations: We rule and reign with Jesus in the Millennial Kingdom
- We possess the Morning Star: Jesus (see Revelation 22:16)

**Final application:** Revelation 2:29: *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

- This means: "Listen up!" - the Doctrine of Immanence
- Sun Tzu (The Art of War): "Victorious warriors win and then go to war."

### **Examine your own life. Is there:**

- Idolatry?
- Sexual purity as God gave Israel in Leviticus 18?