



Revelation 2:12-29

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- i. Class notes, info & Directory posted to www.SJCalvaryBerean.com or scan the QR code
- ii. **Understanding The Times:** Jan Markell interviews Alex Newman to reveal how the New World Order crowd is busy, in part, worshipping the creation rather than the creator. Their 2030 agenda is racing towards reality as they prepare for heaven on earth. The coming CBDC system will ensure that you cannot buy or sell. Also discussed:
 - a. How 'Earth worship' becomes the 'new gospel'; The lie that CBDC "For your safety & your security"; How the UN will assume global control in time of crisis (Sept "Summit for the Future"); How 'mass migrations' destroy "the Nation-State" globally & establishes One World Gov't
 - b. **OliveTreeViews:** <https://bit.ly/31WMM0s> YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/3pr5ur25>
- iii. **Understanding the Times Prophecy Conference:** THIS Thursday, 5:00-7:00PM, Fireside Room
- iv. **Amir Tsarfati Weekly Newsletter** - Newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/4k58cpcw>
 - a. Breaking News video (24 hrs ago) <https://tinyurl.com/mr2wbvmb>
 - v. **Curtis Bowers Weekly Agenda:** "Pushing Perversion to Collapse the Culture": <https://tinyurl.com/3vahkcw4>
- vi. **God continues to unfold Biblical Prophecy & fulfill HIS plan:** <https://tinyurl.com/42xfyfht>
- vii. **Prophecy News Watch asks is history repeating itself?** <https://tinyurl.com/3975tmh>
- viii. **What time is the eclipse in San Jose?** In the Bay Area, the *partial* eclipse will **peak** at 11:13 a.m., with the moon covering 34% of the sun's face. But the entire event will take around two hours, beginning at 10:14 a.m. and ending at 12:16 p.m.

II. Questions from last week:

- i. Who are the members of the 'Synagogue of Satan' (Revelation 2:9 & 3:9)
 - a. The synagogue of Satan was a group of unbelieving Jews who were persecuting Christians. These groups were guilty of slandering the church in Smyrna and opposing the church in Philadelphia in some way.
 - b. They CLAIMED they were Jews (the people of God), but persecuted those who believe in Jesus the Messiah (the true people of God). By rejecting the Jewish Messiah, they renounced their status as "true" Jews, & that's why Jesus calls them "liars."
 - i. See also [Romans 9:6](#) and [Romans 2:28-29](#).
 - c. By their persecution they were actually following Satan's priorities.
- ii. Who were the Nicolaitans (Rev 2:6 & 14-15) ... 2 prominent theories
 - a. 1) a heretical sect following the teachings of Nicolas (whose name means "one who conquers the people"), a Deacon of the early church mentioned in [Acts 6:5](#). Nicolas became an apostate, denying the true faith and holding "the doctrine of Balaam," who taught Israel "to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. "
 - b. Nicolaitans were not so called from any man, but from the Greek word *Nicolah*, meaning "let us eat," as they often encouraged each other to eat things offered to idols.
 - c. Whichever theory is true, Nicolaitans were an abomination to Christ.

III. A Reading of Revelation 2:12-29 and a Study of The Churches at Pergamum and Thyatire

- a. **The Church of Pergamum**
 - i. Pergamum was the political capital of the Roman Province of 'Asia the Less'. When John recorded what Jesus revealed to him, Pergamos had been the capital city of the region for more than 300 years.
 - ii. Pergamum was a noted center for culture and education, having one of the great libraries of the ancient world, with more than 200,000 volumes or scrolls.
 - iii. Pergamum was also an extremely religious city. It had temples to the Greek and Roman gods Dionysus, Athena, Demeter, and Zeus. It also had three temples dedicated to the worship of the Roman Emperor.
 - iv. **What did Jesus know about the Church of Pergamum:**
 - a. **"I know your works":** Jesus said this to each church. It is also true of each one of us. He knows our **works**, even if there isn't much to know.
 - b. **"And where you dwell, where Satan's throne is":** In many ways, Pergamos was a stronghold of Satanic power.
 - c. Many opinions as to why Pergamos was such a stronghold of Satanic power. Some believe it is because Pergamos was a center of pagan religion, especially of "*Asclepios Soter*" or "*Asclepios Savior*", the Greek god of medicine
 - d. Some believe it was because Pergamos had a huge throne-like altar dedicated to the Roman god Zeus.

v. **What did Jesus know about the Church at Pergamum ... & how does it apply to us today**

- a. Despite the fact they lived in such a difficult city, the Christians of Pergamos “held fast” to their faith in Jesus (“hold fast to My name”... “did not deny My faith”).
- b. The church at Pergamum is to be an example to us today to hold fast to Jesus, even under persecution, and not to deny the faith.
- c. We are seeing more and more ‘antagonism’ towards Christians.
- d. Will we be persecuted because of where we attend church, what we believe, organizations we believe, where we give money?
- e. Google advising FBI what IP addresses watch certain videos or post certain ‘catch phrases’
- f. What is the “doctrine of Balaam”? (vs 14)
 - i. Parallel warnings in [2 Peter 2:15](#) and [Jude 1:11](#) (deceit & financial gain).
 - ii. The OT character of Balaam (Num 22) tried unsuccessfully to prophesy against God’s people.
 - iii. He eventually advised [King Balak of Moab](#), the enemy of Israel, to pursue a campaign of seduction against them ([Numbers 31:16](#)).
 - iv. The doctrine of Balaam is not only a serious problem, but a devious one. When the frontal assault failed, Balaam took a back-door approach.
 - v. Balaam knew Balak was God’s enemy & tried to sell his prophetic gifts to help him. When that didn’t work, Balaam counseled Balak on the most effective way to weaken Israel: seduction!

b. **The Church of Thyatira**

- i. The smallest & least important of the seven cities in [Revelation 2](#) and [3](#).
- ii. In history, we have no record that the Christians of Thyatira suffered any significant political or religious persecution.
- iii. Pliny the Elder dismissed Thyatira with the contemptuous phrase ‘Thyatira and other unimportant cities.’” (Barclay’s Bible Commentary)
- iv. Still, it was a center of *business & trade*, having many active trade guilds, each with their own patron deity of Greek & Roman gods.
- v. How does Jesus describe Himself to the Church at Thyatira?
 - a. “Whose eyes like a blazing fire”: Jesus chose this description of Himself to emphasize the idea that His eyes look with penetrating judgement.
 - b. NOTE: This is how He will look at EACH ONE OF US AS WELL... (gulp)
 - c. “Whose feet are like fine (‘polished’) brass”
 - d. Jesus chose this description of Himself from [Rev 1:15](#) to emphasize His PURITY
 - e. Brass is pure & highly refined in the fire.
 - f. It also emphasized His STEADFASTNESS, because brass was the strongest known metal in the ancient world, and feet like fine brass would be strong and UNMOVABLE (faithful).
- vi. What Jesus knew of the Church & Christians in Thyatira (verse 19)
 - a. “I know your works.”
 - b. Love, service, faith, and your patience: In many ways, the church at Thyatira was a model church. They had four great essential qualities:
 - i. DEEDS - (works) in thought (attitude) & service (action)
 - ii. LOVE - both for the Lord and for one another.
 - iii. FAITHFULNESS - trust, confidence
 - iv. PERSEVERENCE - patience, endurance
 - v. “That your deeds of late are greater than at first” - This was another compliment to Thyatira
 - vi. Not only did they *have* these works, but they had them in *increasing measure*
 - vii. The Christians in Thyatira were GROWING in love, faith, service, & perseverance.
- vii. **Jesus still had a few things against the Church at Thyatira (verse 20)**
 - a. “... you allow that woman Jezebel”
 - b. The center of the corruption at the church at Thyatira was a woman Jesus called Jezebel.
 - c. Probably not her literal name, but a title that clearly represented a self-styled prophetess
 - d. After the pattern of Jezebel in the Old Testament ([1 Kings 16-21](#) & [2 Kings 9:30-37](#)).
 - e. Notice she isn’t a real prophetess of God, she only “calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray” ... Again, another warning of FALSE TEACHERS
- viii. **Warnings, Admonitions, & Promises to US through Thyatira**
 - a. “I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.”
 - b. This applies to the ‘modern day church’ (... and maybe MODERN DAY GOVERNMENTS!) as much as it does to the ancient church at Thyatira.
 - c. Vs 25: “HOLD FAST UNTIL I COME” ... AMEN & AMEN
 - d. Note: I believe Rev 2:26-27 are directly tied to Rev 5:10 & Rev 20:4 & 6
 - e. ²⁶ He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the ¹⁴nations;
 - f. ¹⁰ “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”
 - g. ⁶ but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years