

I. An Overview of the first three:

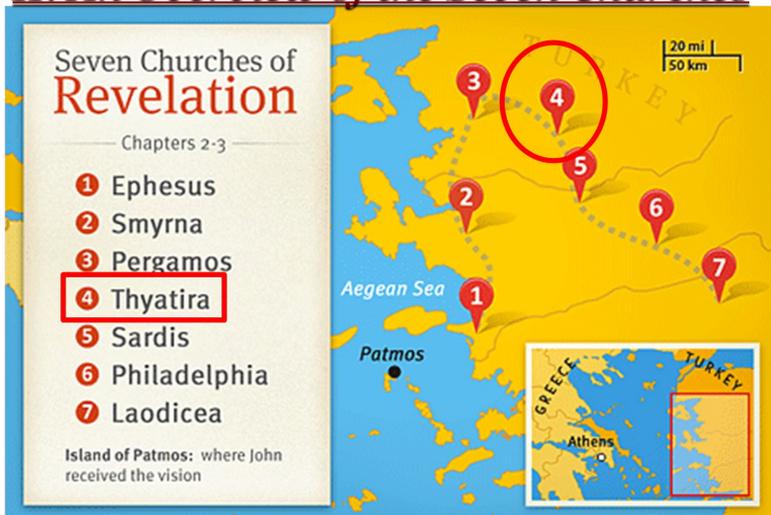
Ephesus – Loveless Orthodoxy

Smyrna – Faithful in suffering

Pergamum – Compromising with false teachers

An introduction to the Church at Thyatira

II. An Overview of the Seven Churches



III. The Church at Thyatira (2:18-29)

Verse 18

An address to a particular congregation
the Angel...Thyatira

- Smallest city “unimportant city”
- Longest letter
- No record of significant persecution
- Full of trade guilds – each with pagan gods and rituals
- Known for dying textiles (purples) even until today

An introduction of Jesus

Son of God

son of man (Rev. 1:13) = humble servant - Son of God = deity
eyes like a blazing fire (Rev. 1:14 – penetrating Judgement)
feet like burnished bronze (Rev. 1:15 – strong and pure)

III. The Church at Thyatira (2:18-29)

Verse 19

A statement regarding the condition of the church

I know your deeds (ergon = energy employed, hard work)

love (agape = selfless deeds, kindness, compassion)

faith (pistis = faithfulness in all things)

service (diakonia = Acts of spiritual leadership)

and perseverance (hypomone = steadfast endurance)

A verdict from Jesus regarding the condition of the church

As for your works

the last are more than the first

Another compliment – their works are increasing!

We get the impression that the church at Thyatira was full of activity and action – doing good and working hard.

III. The Church at Thyatira (2:18-29)

Verse 20

Nevertheless, ...against you

you allow that woman Jezebel

allow = aphieme = to tolerate/not send away

Jezebel – not a persons name – a title/organization

who calls herself a prophetess

self- named authority that is not real (prophetess)

her teaching (didasko = formal methods with authority)

misleads (planao = error) my servants (duolos = slaves)

This person/organization was leading real Christians astray!

sexual immorality (porneyuo = prostitution)

food sacrificed to idols

Verse 21

I gave her time to repent

she is unwilling

We see the mercy and justice of Christ here – no ignorance!

She refused the gift of the Holy Spirit – the gift of grace

Verse 22

I will ...bed of suffering (kline = stretcher for carrying)

I will make those who commit adultery with her

adultery “with her” = going along with her plans

suffer intensely (megas thlipsis = great tribulation)

Unless they repent of HER ways (ergon)

There is always a sense of hope called repentance!

Christ’s discipline is to lead to Godly repentance (2 Cor. 7:10)

Verse 23

I will strike here children dead.

The organization has moved into the next generation!

They will be inflicted with death (thanatos = no life left)

Then all the churches will know

I am he who searches hearts and minds

I will repay each of you

according to your deeds.

Thyatira is an example to other churches

That Christ does not tolerate false teaching!

Our faithfulness is noted and our deeds are expected!

Verse 24

A command from Jesus to the church

I saythe rest of you (remnant)

do not hold to her teaching

have not learned Satan's “deep secrets”

The Gnostic ploy – new revelation – deep secrets

He points out where they really come from – SATAN himself

See Rev. 22:18-19 – don’t add – don’t take away

I will not impose any other burden on you

Verse 25

except – hold (krateo) on until I come

Just a reminder that HE is coming again!

Verse 26

A promise of reward

To the one who is victorious (nikeo)

Does my will (ergon) to the end (telios = completion)

I will give authority over the nations

quote from Psalms 2:1-12

Verse 27

The one will rule them with an iron scepter
will dash them to pieces like pottery

Speaking of the millennial kingdom rule of Christ

Just as I have received authority from my father

We have the promise that we will rule with Christ (Dan 7:21; 2 Tim. 2:12)

Verse 28

I will also give that one the morning star!

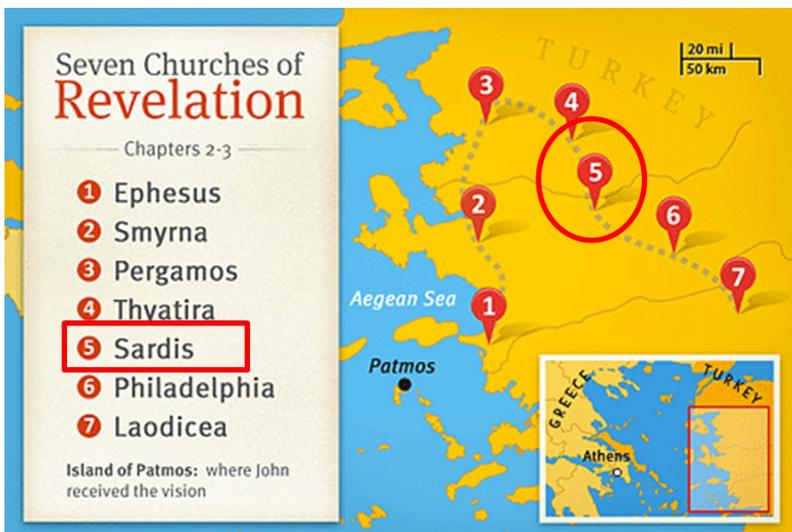
Who is “the morning Star”? – Jesus Himself (Rev. 22:16)

A general exhortation to all Christians

Verse 29

Whoever has ears

Let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches



IV. The Church at Sardis (3:1-6)

Verse 1

An address to a particular congregation

the Angel...Sardis write

- in decline after years of wealth and ease
- First coins came from Sardis
- Soft luxury with a love for pleasure
- “decadence”
- City was protected on a high cliff (false sense of security)

An introduction of Jesus

The words of him

who holds the seven spirits of God

seven = completeness – therefore the “whole” spirit of God
and the seven stars (seven stars = seven churches)

Verse 1

A statement regarding the condition of the church

I know your deeds (ergon)

You have a reputation (onamo)
of being alive (zoa)

**A verdict from Jesus regarding the condition of the church
but you are dead (nekros = devoid of power, presence)!**

A command from Jesus to the church

Verse 2

Wake Up! (gregoreo = watch, protect, examine carefully)

Strengthen what remains

and is about to die

There is some remnant of hope still remaining

for ...your deeds unfinished (pleroo = filled to the brim)
in the sight of my God

Verse 3

Remember! (mnenoneuo = to call to mind, restate, proclaim)
What you have received and heard

Hold it fast (toreo = carefully guard it)

Repent

But, if you don't wake up (watch)

I will come (upon you) **as a thief** (I Thess. 4:16-17)
you will not know when I am coming

Verse 4

Yet

You have some who have not soiled their clothes.

The remnant remains (Jude 23 – “unspotted by the flesh”)

They will walk with me (unity and purpose)

Dressed in white (purity, holiness, and triumph)

They are worthy (axios = measured accurate)

Remember Daniel 5 - Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin?

Verse 5

A promise of reward

The one who is victorious (nikao)

will, like them, be dressed in white

I will never blot out the name of that person
from the book of life

The book of life (Rev. 20:12, 15, 21:27, 13:8, 17:8; Luke 10:20)

I will acknowledge (homologeoo = to declare) **that name**
before my Father and his angels

It is not only important that we know Christ, but that He knows us as well!

Verse 6

A general exhortation to all Christians

Whoever has ears let him hear what the Spirit says to
the churches