

REVELATION SERIES - LESSON 6

REVELATION 2:18-29

THYATIRA

Chapters 2 - 3 deal with 7 letters to 7 churches and God dictates 7 letters to 7 churches.

We are dealing with 7 letters and as we do, remember:

1 - Literal in Existence

2 - Spiritual in Relevance

3 - Historical in Significance

Quick review of Pergamos:

Each letter has a commendation, complaint, command and then a reward for the true followers.

312 AD - Constantine became Emperor of Rome and this had been a power struggle. After a few battles, Constantine emerged and from history he claims to have a vision of a fiery cross and he heard in Latin “go forth and conquer”.

Christians are now all of a sudden protected when they had been persecuted by the 1000's before.

State religion ignores the issue of the heart and it becomes a ritual.

During this time frame, Christianity becomes to look more Roman than Christian.

Why is it called the Roman Catholic Church?

Because it has its roots in Rome and has been elevated by a Roman Emperor to the State Religion.

In 380 AD, Emperor "Theodius" - declares an edict and declares Catholicism the State Religion of Rome.

Out of this time period, several practices came into existence as a part of the Roman Catholic Church.

- 1) Praying for Dead (Purgatory)

- 2) Worship of Saints and Angels

- 3) Worship of Mary

- 4) Priests wearing robes and collars to separate themselves from laity.

So the Christian church began taking on these rituals and traditions as a State run Church with the Capital in Rome.

It also begins to “morph” into the Roman Catholic Church in 606 AD.

One of the things Constantine did when he became emperor was to relocate the capital of the Roman Empire to “Byzantium” and renamed it “Constantinople” that became the capital of the Roman Empire.

“Constantinople” - became the seat of the state church.

In 606 AD, things begin to change and the Roman Catholic Church emerged.

606 AD begins the era of “Thyatira”.

Rev. 2:18-29 = 606 - 1517AD

Church at Thyatira is known as the "Idolatrous Church".

606 AD - Roman Catholic Church emerged and is ongoing today.

1517 AD - Protestant reformation begins with Martin Luther nailing his 95 thesis to the wall of the church in Wittenberg.

He is struggling to reconcile the Bible with the man made rituals of the state church.

He believes the Roman Catholic Church was promoting a works oriented religion.

The Protestant reformation is Martin Luther's objection to the doctrine and practices of Roman Catholic Church.

He nailed his thesis to the door on October 31, 1517.

There is only 1 other reference to city of Thyatira outside of Revelation and it's in Acts 16:14.

It was Lydda and was Paul's first convert on European soil.

Her occupation was a dealer of purple cloth.

This gives us some insight into the city because it's known for its purple dye.

Thyatira is situated about 30 miles west between Pergamos and Sardis.

Today it's called "Akhisar" with a population of 50K.

Jesus mentions this lady “Jezebel” and the city had a temple for fortune tellers.

606 - 1517

In 606 AD something happened to make the Roman Catholic Church like it is today.

Phocas wrote a letter making an imperial edict making universal Bishop over all the churches in Roman Empire.

He gave him the title of POPE. So that’s why I say 606 AD.

He then transfers the Capital away from Constantinople back to Rome.

So 606 AD was when “Roman Catholicism” was born in its final form.

Kissing feet

Holy Water

Mechanical Praying

Transubstantiation - Believe it miraculously turns literally into body and blood of Jesus.

They believe as you ingest the wafer and cup, you are taking in flesh & blood of Jesus.

“Only Priest Read Bible” = up until 1960’s Mass was taught in both latin and layman couldn’t even understand what was being said.

“Son of God” = only time used in Revelation. His description of “Eyes of Fire”, “Feet of Brass”, it’s His being the Righteous Judge.

“Eyes of fire” = Upset about something.

“Bronze” = Judgement

He also commends them: WORKS, LOVE, SERVICE, FAITH & PATIENCE

He also adds in vs 19 that their last are more than their first.
It means good works are increasing.

Complaint = Tolerant of sin and this Jezebel issue.

There is a debate if Jezebel here is a real person, or is it merely a Jezebel spirit like the one in O. T. days.

She was a daughter of King of the Sidonians. “Eth Baal” = means with Baal.

II Kings 9:22 - says she practiced idolatry and witchcraft.

Some commentaries believe it's a literal woman named Jezebel.

Either way Idolatry is in the church and they were tolerating it.

Lots of icons, statues, pictures and they literally pray, worship and kneel and kiss them.

They pray and idolize people (Mary & David).

Vs 21-22

It doesn't mean they all are going into tribulation, but rather anyone that repents can be forgiven and saved.

Rewards

Vs 24 - Here He speaks to a remnant that don't possess this doctrine.

2 Fold Reward

1. Power over the Nations
2. Give them the morning star

Rev. 22:16 - He is the Morning Star (Jesus)

It is actually a fulfillment of Malachi 4:2.

