

The Message of Jesus to
the Church at Thyatira
Revelation 2:18-29

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Background and History
Crossing the Hermeneutical Bridges



Reputation:


- The least known and least remarkable city of the seven
- Founded in 290 B.C. by Seleucus I
- A military outpost guarding the road to Pergamum

Reputation:

- Depended heavily on soldier-citizens
- Fell to the Romans in 190 and became part of the kingdom of Pergamum

Setting:


- 55 miles inland of Pergamum
- South bank of the Lycus River
- On the trade routes from the Aegean Sea to Byzantium

 **Setting:**

- The Imperial post travelled this road
- The gateway to Pergamum

 **Economics:**

- A center for manufacturing and marketing
- Great commercial wealth and prosperity
- Many trade guilds

 **Economics:**

- Wool and dye industries
- Acts 16:11-14 – Lydia

Economics:

- Purple Dye – two sources
 - Madder root
 - Shellfish called murex
 - 1000 denarii for 1 pound





Politics:


- Nothing of note

Religion:

- No significant gods
- Tyrimnos – guardian god
 - Considered a son of Zeus
 - The god of the trade guilds

Religion:


- Tryimnos:
 - Portrayed on coins astride a horse carrying a battle axe
 - Also had a fortune telling shrine


 Christianity:

- ▀ Thriving church
- ▀ Not as much persecution as the previous 3 churches

 Today:


- ▀ A city of about 25,000
- ▀ Industry is weaving oriental rugs




 Message of Jesus

 Message:


- Longest message of all 7 churches

 Person of Jesus


- "Son of God"
 - Perhaps due to Tyrimnos who was the son of Zeus
 - To show Christ's authority over Jezebel

 **Person of Jesus**


- Eyes of blazing fire – sees wrong and right and will judge
- Feet of burnished bronze –
 - Brass is the symbol of the judgement of God – Duet 28:23

 **Praise from Jesus**


- Deeds – love, faith, deeds, perseverance
- Doing more than you did at first
 - Have not grown slack in their love for Christ and others

 **Rebuke from Jesus**


- Toleration of Jezebel
- The “prophetess”
 - Believes she speaks for God.
 - Believe she has authority from God to speak and proclaim

 **Rebuke from Jesus**


- Toleration of Jezebel
 - Wife of King Ahab – 1 Kings 18
 - Daughter of High Priest of baal
 - Idolatry and sexual immorality

 **Judgement of Jesus**


- Judgment upon false teaching
 - Intense suffering and death
- He will judge according to our deeds

 **Encouragement of Jesus**


- Hold on to your faith and wait for Jesus. He is coming! He will judge and sort it all out.

 **Reward of Jesus**

- Authority over the nations to rule with Christ – Psalm 2:9; Rev 20:4-6
- Give the morning star
 - Matt 13:43; Dan 12:3; Rev 22:16

 **Summary/conclusions**

- A church that is mildly persecuted and is loving God and people more and more as evidenced by their deeds
- Yet, there is a false element in the church that is tolerated

 **Summary/conclusion**

- There is a teaching in the church that would lead them to compromise and “fit in” to society
- Remaining faithful in deeds yet tolerating falsehood and immorality within
