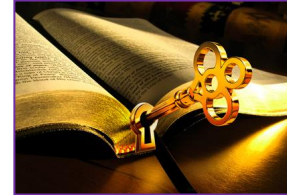




# Revelation

Unlocking the Future



*Lesson 04*

## Judgment Begins at the House of God

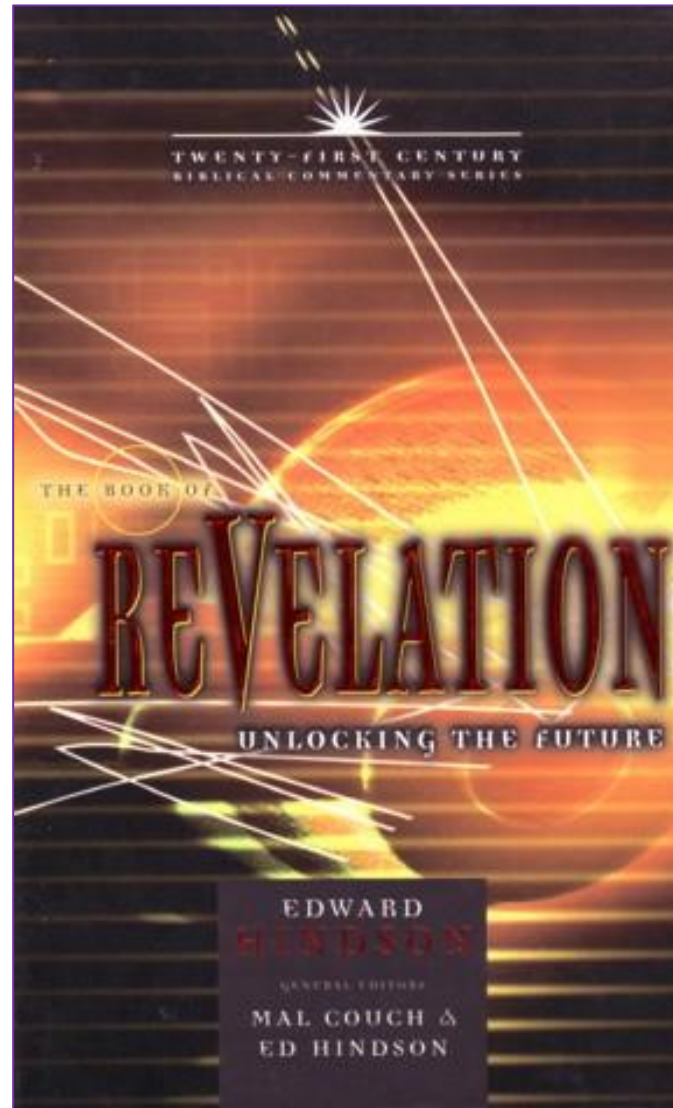
**Revelation 2**

Philip Giorgio

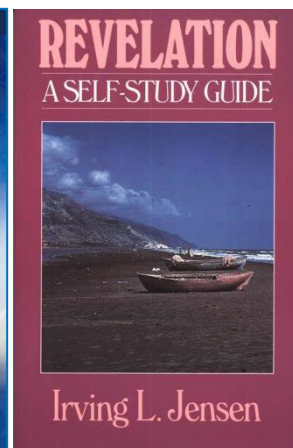
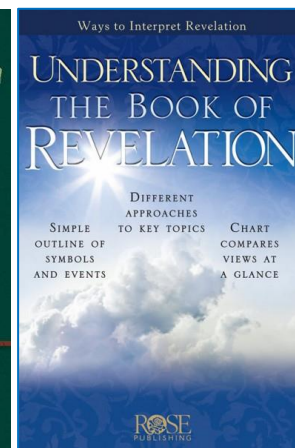
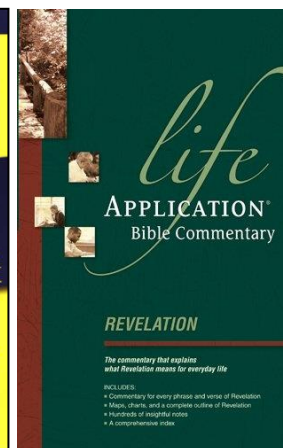
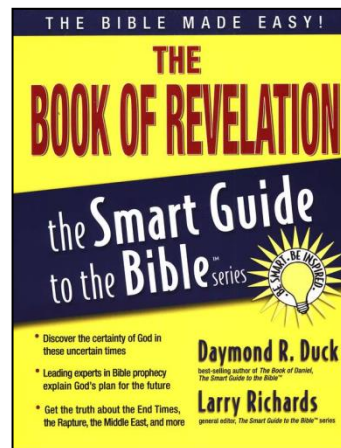
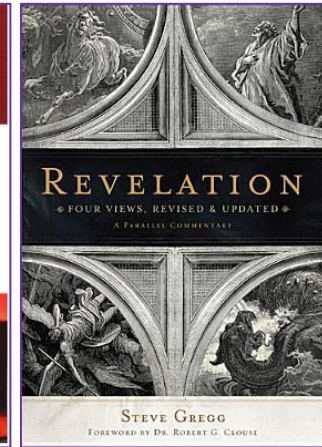
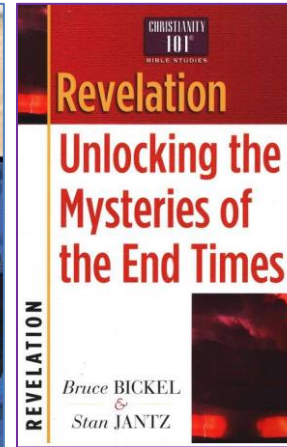
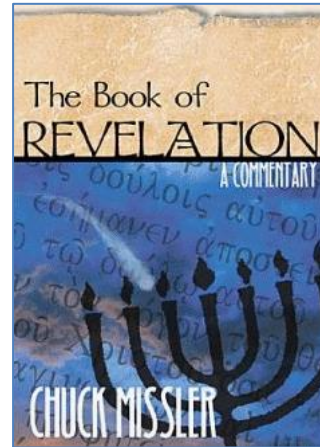
Sojourners Sunday School Class



## Textbook



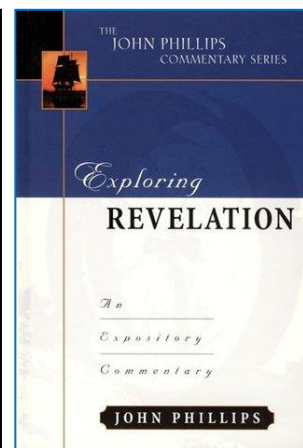
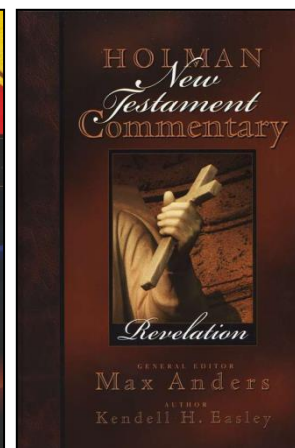
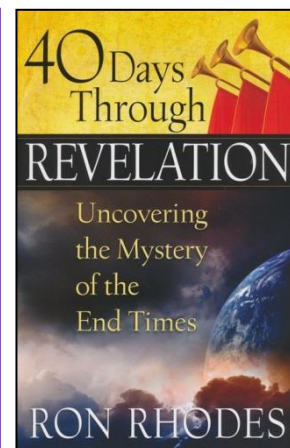
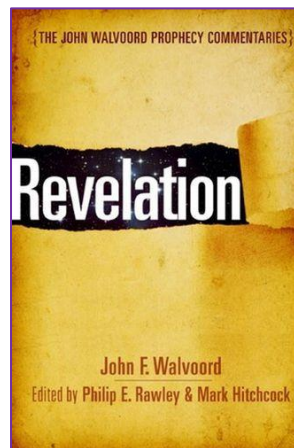
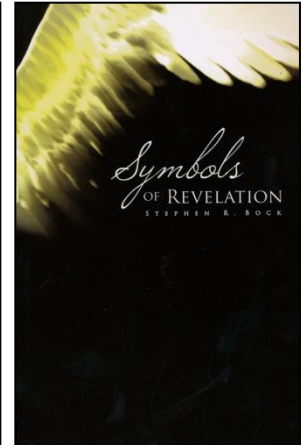
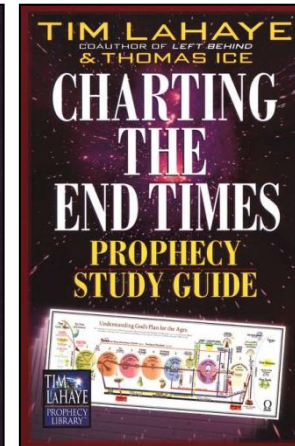
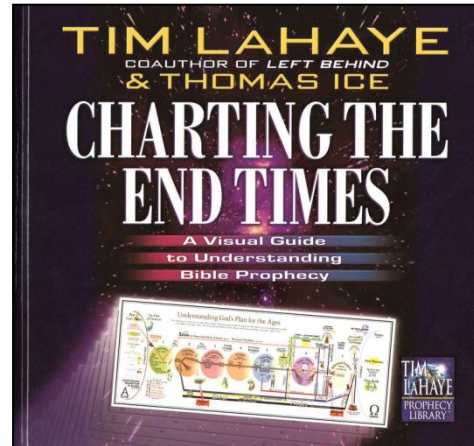
## References



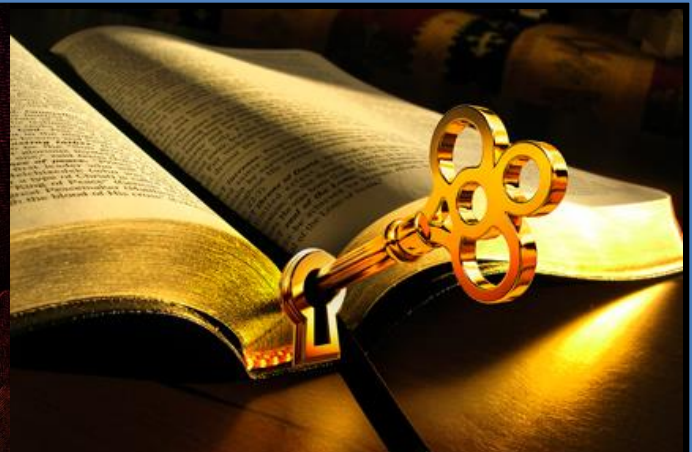




## References









# Course Outline



# Course Outline - Lessons

## ▪ Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 01: Book Survey ... [REVELATION]
- Lesson 02: Major Themes ... [REVELATION]
- Lesson 03: What in the World is Happening? ... [REVELATION 1:1-20]
- Lesson 04: Judgment Begins at the House of God ... [REVELATION 2:1-29]
- Lesson 05: Who's that Knocking at my Door? ... [REVELATION 3:1-22]
- Lesson 06: God is still on the Throne ... [REVELATION 4:1-11]
- Lesson 07: Worthy is the Lamb ... [REVELATION 5:1-14]
- Lesson 08: The Wrath of the Lamb ... [REVELATION 6:1-17]
- Lesson 09: From Tribulation to Jubilation ... [REVELATION 7:1-17]
- Lesson 10: The World at War ... [REVELATION 8:1-13]
- Lesson 11: Demons Unleashed ... [REVELATION 9:1-21]
- Lesson 12: Can it get any Worse? ... [REVELATION 10:1-11]



# Course Outline - Lessons

## ▪ Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 13: Hell on Earth! ... [REVELATION 11:1-19]
- Lesson 14: War in Heaven ... [REVELATION 12:1-17]
- Lesson 15: Rise of the Antichrist ... [REVELATION 13:1-18]
- Lesson 16: Wine Press of the Wrath of God ... [REVELATION 14:1-20]
- Lesson 17: The Seven Last Plagues ... [REVELATION 15:1-8]
- Lesson 18: Battle of Armageddon ... [REVELATION 16:1-21]
- Lesson 19: Riding the Beast... [REVELATION 17:1-18]
- Lesson 20: Fall of Babylon ... [REVELATION 18:1-24]
- Lesson 21: Triumphal Return of Christ ... [REVELATION 19:1-21]
- Lesson 22: The Millennial Kingdom ... [REVELATION 20:1-15]
- Lesson 23: New Jerusalem ... [REVELATION 21:1-27]
- Lesson 24: Inside the Glorious City ... [REVELATION 22:1-21]



# Lesson Outline

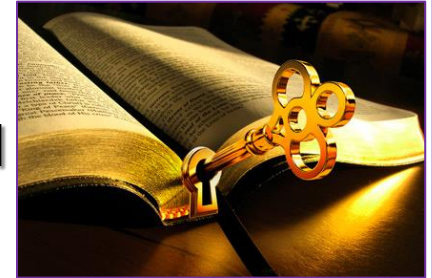
# Lesson 04 - Outline

## ■ Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 04: Judgment Begins at the House of God

### ✓ STRUCTURE

- » Chapter Preview ..... *Introduction*
- » Ephesus: The Loveless Church..... *Revelation 2:1-7*
- » Smyrna: The Persecuted Church..... *Revelation 2:8-11*
- » Pergamos: The Compromising Church .... *Revelation 2:12-17*
- » Thyatira: The Corrupt Church..... *Revelation 2:18-29*







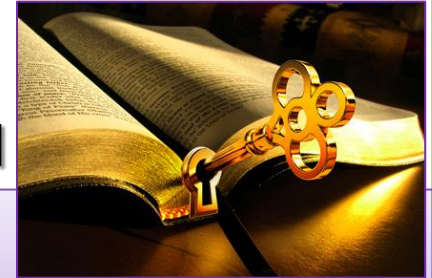
# Judgment Begins at the House of God

## *Structure*

# Lesson 04 - Outline

## ■ Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 04: Judgment Begins at the House of God

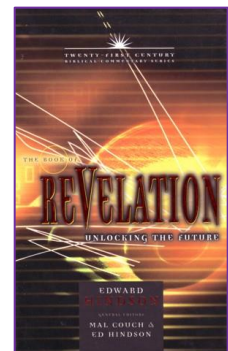


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# Chapter Preview - INTRODUCTION

- Preview
  - The second section of the book of Revelation contains the Letters to the Seven Churches. These are personal epistles from the risen Christ to seven literal churches in Asia Minor. These letters give us an idea of what Christ thinks of the Church.

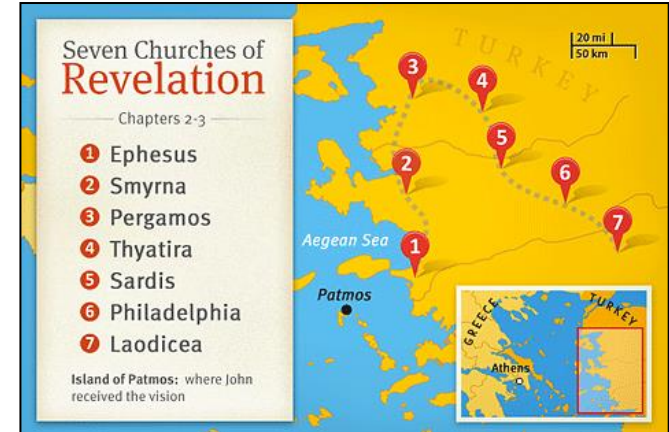




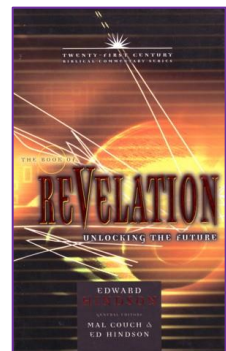
# Chapter Preview - INTRODUCTION

## • Chapter Observations

- John has already introduced us to the **seven churches** in **chapter 1**.
  - Jesus appeared to him and instructed him to write a book (1:11)
  - Send it to the **seven churches** (1:11)
  - The churches are symbolized by the **seven golden lampstands** (1:12, 20)
  - Jesus, the Lord of the Church, is moving **actively** in the churches as our heavenly High Priest. (1:13)
- Before presenting any message of judgment on the unbelieving world, **Revelation** first calls the churches to repentance.
- Judgment must begin at the house of God.
- In these letters, we find the Lord of the Church lovingly but firmly speaking to His Church.



The first four churches are covered in chapter 2.  
The last three churches are covered in chapter 3.



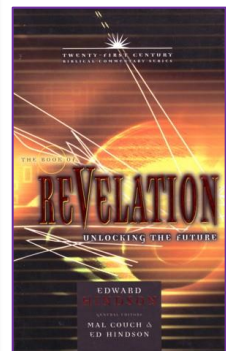
# Chapter Preview - INTRODUCTION

## • What do the Seven Churches Represent?

- Attempts to find prophetic parallel between these churches and a supposed “seven ages of church history” are forced and contrived.
- A careful reading of the entire book of Revelation will reveal that there is nothing in the text to suggest that these seven churches are symbolic of church history.
- The seven churches were **seven literal churches** that existed in Asia Minor. [*“Asia” - province in the Roman Empire*]
  - Each had its own unique characteristics, strengths and weaknesses.
  - Each represents a different type of church.
- The message to each church follows the same sevenfold pattern:

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. COMMISSION:     | <i>“To the angel of the church in ...”</i>   |
| 2. CHARACTERISTIC: | <i>“The one who ... says this”</i>           |
| 3. COMPLIMENT:     | <i>“I know your deed ...”</i>                |
| 4. CRITICISM:      | <i>“But I have this against you ...”</i>     |
| 5. COMMAND:        | <i>“Repent, turn, change ...”</i>            |
| 6. CALL:           | <i>“He who has an ear, let him hear ...”</i> |
| 7. COMMITMENT:     | <i>“To him who overcomes ...”</i>            |

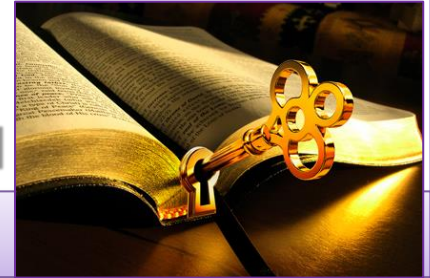
There are  
some  
exceptions  
we will  
cover.



# Lesson 04 - Outline

## ■ Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 04: Judgment Begins at the House of God



### ✓ STRUCTURE

» Chapter Preview ..... *Introduction*

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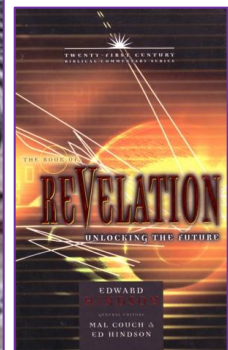
# Ephesus - PROFILE

## • Ephesus: The Loveless Church

- Ephesus was a major center of commerce in the Roman Empire.
- Ephesus was considered a “free city” and was self-governing.
- There was no permanent Roman military stationed there.
- The great temple of the goddess Artemis (Diana), *one of the seven wonders of the ancient world*, was there.
- Ephesus had a population of more than 250,000 people.
- It has a large Jewish population.
- Its theater seats 25,000 people (scene of the riot in [Acts 19:28-29.](#))



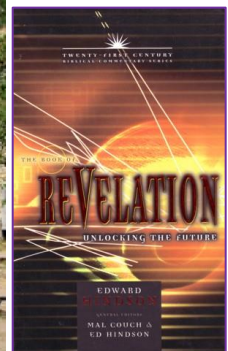
Above: The Temple to Artemis at Ephesus was one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Right: The Theater at Ephesus is believed to have held 25,000 or more!



# Ephesus - PROFILE

- **Ephesus: The Loveless Church**

- The apostle Paul visited Ephesus at the end of his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey (~AD 51) ... [Acts 18:19](#).
- Aquila and Priscilla assisted Paul there and influenced Apollos ... [Acts 18:25-26](#).
- On his 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey, Paul returned to Ephesus and ministered there for 3 years (~AD 52-54)
- Paul later left Timothy in charge ... [1 Timothy 1:3](#)
- Paul wrote the Ephesian epistle from prison in Rome (~AD 60)
- The apostle John arrived (~AD 66) and stayed some 30 years.



# Ephesus - Revelation 2:1 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Ephesus: Characteristic

- Jesus describes Himself as the one
  - Who holds the seven stars in His right hand ([Revelation 1:16](#))
  - Who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands ([Revelation 1:13](#))
  - Stars = angels (Greek *angelos*: messenger) of the seven churches ... *Pastors of the church*
  - Lampstands = the seven churches
- Jesus is not only in the midst of the lampstand as in [1:13](#), but now is walking in the midst
 

- Shows He is active in the churches
  - He is observing their deed and motives

**2** "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

--- Revelation 2:1 ... NKJV

### SCORECARD SNAPSHOT

CHRIST COMPLIMENTS THE  
EPHESIAN BELIEVERS FOR  
THEIR MANY GOOD WORKS  
BUT CRITICIZES THEM  
BECAUSE THEY NO LONGER  
LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS  
THEY USE TO.

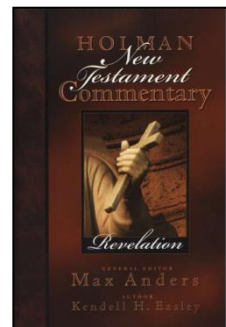
# Ephesus - Revelation 2:2-3 - OBSERVATIONS

- **Ephesus: Compliment**
  - Christ offers three commendations
    1. **Toiling in good deeds**
      - Your works
      - Your labor
      - Labored for My name's sake
    2. **Patient endurance in trials**
      - Patience
      - You have persevered and have patience
      - Have not become weary
    3. **Doctrinal discernment**
      - Cannot bear those who are evil
      - Test those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars

<sup>2</sup> "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; <sup>3</sup> and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

--- Revelation 2:2-3 ... NKJV

**CAN CHRIST SAY THIS ABOUT YOU?**





# Ephesus - Revelation 2:4 - OBSERVATIONS

- Ephesus: Criticism

- Christ's criticism

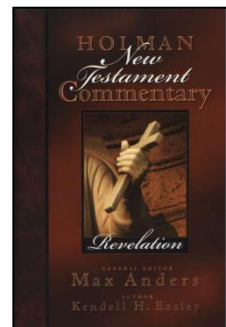
- You have left your first love.
    - The love here can be ...
      - Their love for God [Vertical]
      - Their love for one another [Horizontal]
        - The distinctive mark of the true Christian
    - In their pursuit of truth and their patience in persecution they had allowed a tragic flaw to infect their fellowship. Their good deeds were now motivated by duty and not love.
    - In God's kingdom, love and truth are woven together.
      - Truth without love becomes little more than a cold demonstration of power
      - Love without truth ceases to be genuine love
      - Both are relational disasters

4 Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.

--- Revelation 2:4 ... NKJV

WHAT A STINGING  
INDICTMENT!

LET US NOT NEGLECT OUR  
LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER!





# Ephesus - Revelation 2:5-6 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Ephesus: Command

### • Christ issues a three pronged corrective action

1. REMEMBER from where you have fallen
2. REPENT of your actions
3. Do the first works - *the works of love*

### • Christ issues a conditional warning

IF you do not follow the prescribed correction  
THEN Christ Himself will come quickly and  
remove your lampstand (*church*) from its place

### • Christ offers encouragement

- You hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans

Hate the sin and  
Love the sinner

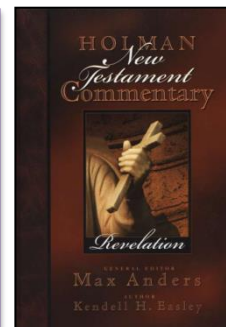
<sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. <sup>6</sup> But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

--- Revelation 2:5-6 ... NKJV

## NICOLAITANS

The Nicolaitan teaching included two moral errors:

- (1) Open practice of sexual immorality
- (2) Open participation in eating food that had been sacrificed to idols.



# Ephesus - Revelation 2:7 - OBSERVATIONS

- **Ephesus: Commitment**

- Christ's Exhortation

- To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life
      - Tree of life is in the midst of the Paradise of God
      - In other words, Christ is promising Eternal Life

- He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches

- All the warnings and admonitions to the churches should be taken as a trigger to examine our own church and our own lives.
    - The church is a collection of people.
    - God deals with, holds responsible, both individuals and collections of peoples.
    - We should strive to improve our own "report card" for our church and for ourselves.

7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

--- Revelation 2:7 ... NKJV

HOW DOES YOUR "REPORT CARD" LOOK?

HOW CAN YOU IMPROVE IT?

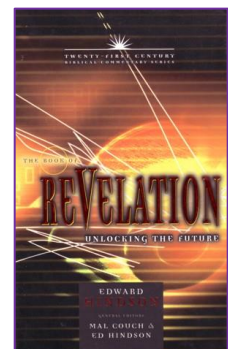
# Ephesus - REVIEW

- Ephesus: The Loveless Church

SCORECARD	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
MESSAGE	Love one another greatly	2:1-7
CHARACTERISTIC	Walks among the lampstands	2:1
COMPLIMENT	Good deeds	2:2-3
CRITICISM	Forsaken first love	2:4
COMMAND	Remember and repent	2:5-6
COMMITMENT	Will eat from the tree of life	2:7



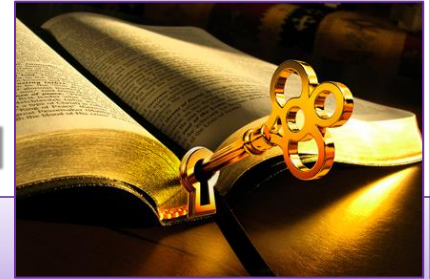
HOW DOES YOUR "REPORT CARD" LOOK?  
HOW CAN YOU IMPROVE IT?



# Lesson 04 - Outline

## ■ Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 04: Judgment Begins at the House of God



### ✓ STRUCTURE

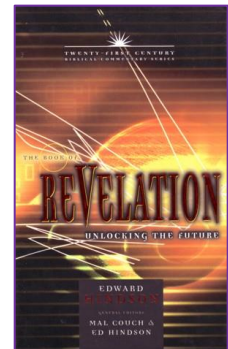
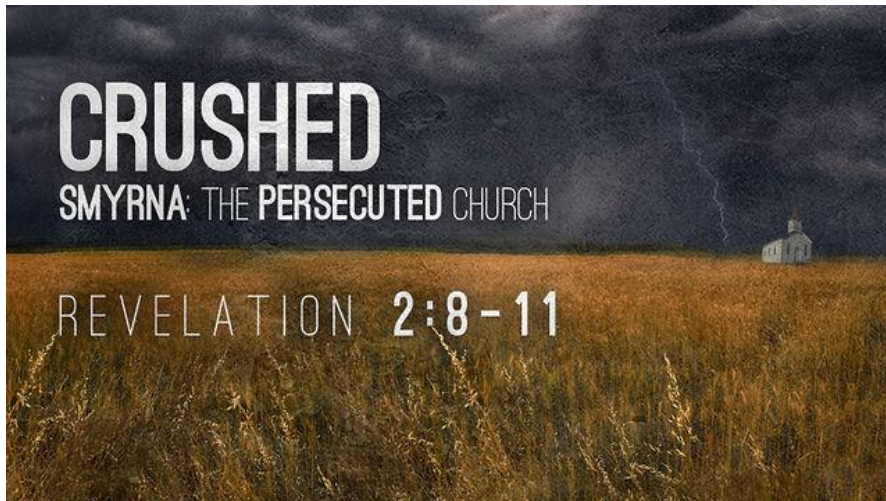
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# Smyrna - PROFILE

## • Smyrna: The Persecuted Church

- Smyrna was just **35 miles** north of Ephesus. It was a vital port city that had the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest number of exports in Asia Minor.
- Smyrna today goes by the name Izmir.
- In John's day Smyrna was a thriving city that had a famous stadium, library, and theater; as well as a diverse population of ~500,000 people.
- In Smyrna, the early Christians faced a large and hostile Jewish population that became a source of persecution ( "*synagogue of Satan*" ... 2:9)
- According to tradition, Polycarp had personally followed the apostle John and later served as bishop of the Smyrnan church.



# Smyrna - Revelation 2:8 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Smyrna: Characteristic

- Christ introduces Himself in a manner that reminds the Christians in Smyrna of ...
  - His Majesty - *“the First and the Last”*
  - And His Power - *“the one “who was dead, and came to life”*
- These words are an echo from **Revelation 1:17**
- The title, “the First and the Last” is used exclusively for the God of Israel

<sup>6</sup>“Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I *am* the First and I *am* the Last; Besides Me *there is* no God. --- Isaiah 44:6 ... NKJV

<sup>12</sup>“Listen to Me, O Jacob, And Israel, My called: I *am* He, I *am* the First, I *am* also the Last.

--- Isaiah 48:12 ... NKJV

- As the one who was victorious over death, *“who was dead, and came to life”*, Jesus can sustain the Christians in Smyrna facing persecution.

<sup>8</sup>“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

--- Revelation 2:8 ... NKJV

## SCORECARD SNAPSHOT

CHRIST COMMENDS THE SMYRNAN BELIEVERS FOR ENDURING PERSECUTION AND PLEDGES THEM ETERNAL LIFE, EVEN THOUGH THEIR TROUBLES ARE ABOUT TO INTENSIFY FOR A SHORT TIME.

**JESUS CAN SUSTAIN YOU IN WHATEVER YOU ARE GOING THROUGH!**

# Smyrna - Revelation 2:9 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Smyrna: Compliment

- I know: Jesus' knowledge of their tribulation was more than theoretical knowledge - He knew firsthand the kind of suffering and pain they were enduring at the hands of sinners.
- In the midst of their tribulation and poverty, Jesus calls them rich. Contrast with the church in Laodicea, who presume to be rich but were actually poor.
- This church had to also endure "blasphemy".
  - The Jews in Smyrna were possibly calling the believers "false Jews". Jesus turns the tables and refers to them as "those who say they are Jews and are not".

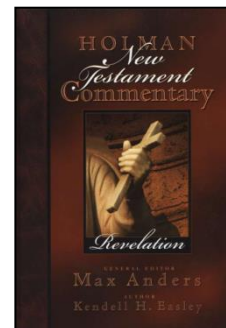
<sup>9</sup> "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and *I know* the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan.

--- Revelation 2:9 ... NKJV

ON YOUR SPIRITUAL  
"REPORT CARD", CAN  
JESUS CALL YOU RICH?

## • Smyrna: Criticism

- Jesus has no criticism for the church at Smyrna
- The only other church with no criticism is the church at Philadelphia



# Smyrna - Revelation 2:10 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Smyrna: Command

- Do not fear:
  - The suffering in Smyrna is about to get worse.
  - The tribulation will expand to the point that some believers will be thrown in prison.
  - The intense persecution will be restricted to ten days - symbolic number for a *"limited period of time"*. This persecution will extend to the point of death. Behind it stands the devil - Satan - *the enemy of our souls*.
- Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life - *The Victor's Crown ... Eternal Life*
  - This suffering from Satan does not prove the Lord is powerless - He is the First and the Last
  - This suffering comes because God has determined to test you. The prize being the crown of life.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

--- James 1:12 ... NKJV

<sup>10</sup> Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

--- Revelation 2:10 ... NKJV

IN THE MIDST OF THEIR  
SUFFERING, JESUS CAME  
TO THE CHURCH IN  
SMYRNA WITH A MESSAGE  
OF HOPE!



# Smyrna - Revelation 2:11 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Smyrna: Commitment

- The commitment Jesus makes to the believers in Smyrna - *and to us* - is: He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.
- The Lord who "*died and came to life again*" is powerful enough to keep His faithful people safe.
- The first death is the death of the body.
- The second death is eternal separation from God

<sup>28</sup> And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. --- Matthew 10:28 ... NKJV

<sup>8</sup> But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

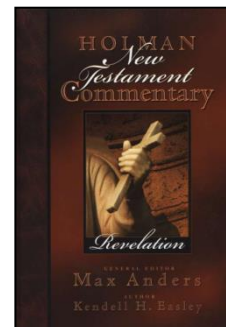
--- Revelation 21:8 ... NKJV

<sup>11</sup> "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."

--- Revelation 2:11 ... NKJV

GOD DOES NOT PROMISE  
TO REMOVE US FROM  
OUR PERSECUTIONS -  
HE DOES PROMISE TO BE  
WITH US ...

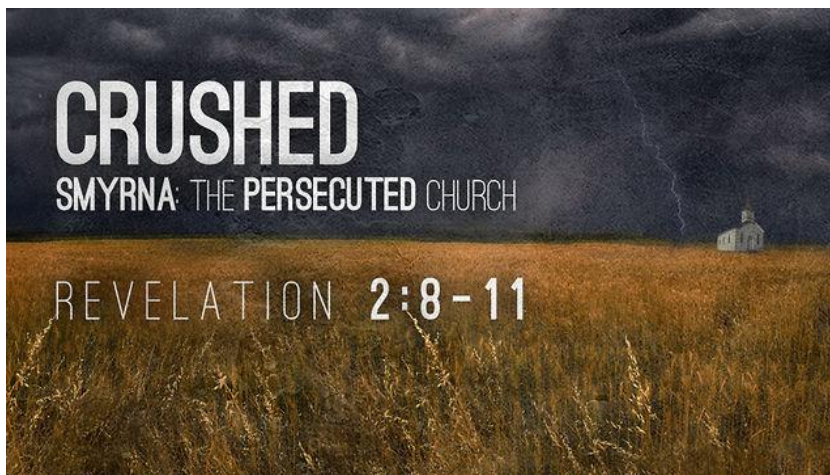
WHICH IS FAR GREATER!



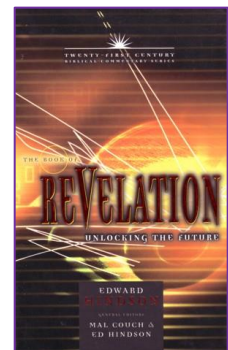
# Smyrna - REVIEW

- Smyrna: The Persecuted Church

SCORECARD	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
MESSAGE	Be steadfast in persecution	2:8-11
CHARACTERISTIC	The First and the Last	2:8
COMPLIMENT	Patient in afflictions	2:9
CRITICISM	None	----
COMMAND	Do not be afraid	2:10
COMMITMENT	Second death will not hurt	2:11



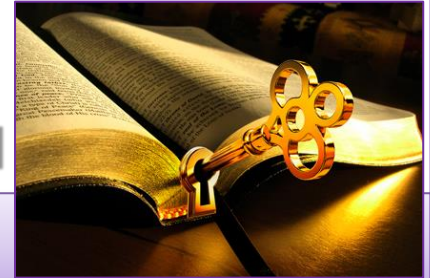
HOW DOES YOUR "REPORT CARD" LOOK?  
HOW CAN YOU IMPROVE IT?



# Lesson 04 - Outline

## ■ Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 04: Judgment Begins at the House of God



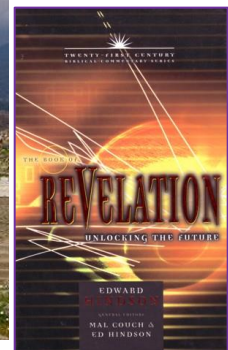
### ✓ STRUCTURE

- » Chapter Preview ..... *Introduction*
- » Ephesus: The Loveless Church..... *Revelation 2:1-7*
- » Smyrna: The Persecuted Church..... *Revelation 2:8-11*
- ➔ » Pergamos: The Compromising Church .... *Revelation 2:12-17*
- » Thyatira: The Corrupt Church..... *Revelation 2:18-29*

# Pergamos - PROFILE

## • Pergamos: The Compromising Church

- Pergamos is about 18 miles from the sea, about 80 miles north of Smyrna.
- The present city of Bergama has a population of only 20,000 (vs. almost 200,000 of old).
- Zeus is said to have been born there.
- The great altar stood on a foundation 125 ft by 115 ft, over 50 ft high, set in a colonnaded enclosure - *"Satan's throne"* ... [Revelation 2:13](#)
- In John's day Pergamos became famous for its medicine.





# Pergamos - Revelation 2:12 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Pergamos: Characteristic

- Christ emphasizes to the believers in Pergamos that He has the sharp two-edged sword.
  - The sword symbolizes Jesus' power to judge and conquer His enemies.

<sup>15</sup> Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

--- Revelation 19:15 ... NKJV

- The sword also refers to the Word of God

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

--- Hebrews 4:12 ... NKJV

### **JUS GLADII [LEGAL TERM]**

THE "RIGHT OF THE SWORD"  
THE HIGHEST OFFICIAL AUTHORITY;  
THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH.

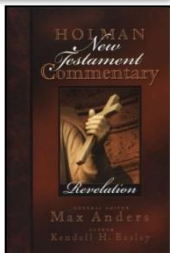
According to the New Testament account of the death of Jesus, the Jewish leaders had the right to imprison someone within their territory, but only the Roman rulers were permitted to claim *jus gladii*. Therefore, Jesus had to be brought up for judgment before the Romans in order for an execution to be legal.

<sup>12</sup> "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

--- Revelation 2:12 ... NKJV

### SCORECARD SNAPSHOT

CHRIST COMMENDS THE  
CHURCH IN PERGAMOS  
FOR MAINTAINING THEIR  
COMMITMENT TO HIM,  
EVEN THOUGH SOME  
THERE HAVE PERVERTED  
MORAL TRUTHS.



# Pergamos - Revelation 2:13 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Pergamos: Compliment

- Twice Jesus notes the presence of Satan in the city
  - Some believe this is a reference to the throne of Zeus
- The devil had used his stronghold in the city to make life miserable for the believers there.
- One of the faithful witnesses to the gospel was Antipas the martyr - who paid the ultimate sacrifice (killed for his faith)
- Jesus compliments the believers who did not deny their faith.

<sup>13</sup> "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne *is*. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas *was* My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

--- Revelation 2:13 ... NKJV

WOULD JESUS FIND YOU FAITHFUL, EVEN TO THE POINT OF DEATH?

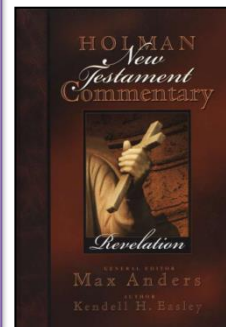
<sup>44</sup> You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

--- John 8:44 ... NKJV

SATAN IS REAL.

HE IS NOT SOME CHARACTER IN RED TIGHTS AND A PITCHFORK.

JESUS CALLED HIM A LIAR AND A MURDER.



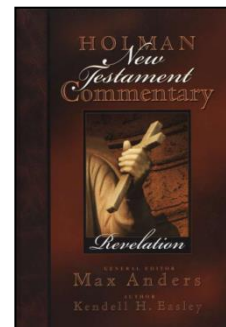
# Pergamos - Revelation 2:13 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Antipas - The Faithful Witness

- A martyr for the Christian faith
- Described as a "faithful witness" of Christ Jesus
- Described as dwelling and ministering where Satan had his seat (Pergamos).
- While Antipas was martyred late in the lifetime of the Apostle John, precious little else is factually known about Antipas from respected historical sources.
- Traditions originating within the Eastern Orthodox Christian church, around and after AD 1,000, describe Antipas as the Bishop of the Christian church at Pergamos, during the reign of the Roman emperor Domitian, and that he was martyred for his faith because of his consistent faithful witnessing in the face of all the satanic evil present there.
- Antipas was supposedly roasted alive in a hollow life-size bull, which had a bonfire under its belly, because Antipas refused to renounce his faith in Christ Jesus.

**13** "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne *is*. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas *was* My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

--- Revelation 2:13 ... NKJV



# Pergamos - Revelation 2:14-15 - OBSERVATIONS

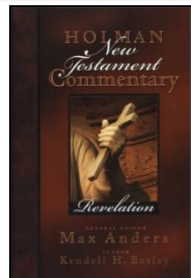
## • Pergamos: Criticism

- Pergamos had the opposite problem of Ephesus
  - Rather than testing and rejecting false teachers
  - They had uncritically accepted people who hold the doctrine of Balaam
  - Christ levels a stinging criticism and compares it to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans.
- The strange incident of Balaam and Barak is found in [Numbers 22-24](#).
  - The false prophet (Balaam) and the king of Moab (Barak) at first seemed to fail in their direct attempts to curse the Israelites. [*Balaam was rebuked by his donkey ... [Numbers 22](#)*]
  - Later they succeeded in leading the people of God astray indirectly, by idolatry and immorality

**14** But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.**15** Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

--- Revelation 2:14-15 ... NKJV

**25** Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. **2** They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. --- [Numbers 25:1-2](#) ... NKJV





# Pergamos - Revelation 2:14-15 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Pergamos: Criticism

- Doctrine of the Nicolaitans
  - We saw this in [verse 6](#)

<sup>6</sup> But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. --- [Revelation 2:6 ... NKJV](#)

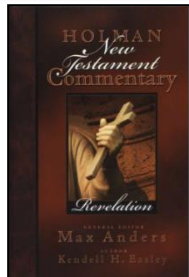
### **NICOLAITANS**

The Nicolaitan teaching included two moral errors:

- (1) Open practice of sexual immorality
- (2) Open participation in eating food that had been sacrificed to idols.

<sup>14</sup> But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. <sup>15</sup> Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

--- [Revelation 2:14-15 ... NKJV](#)



# Pergamos - Revelation 2:16 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Pergamos: Command

- To summarize - some believers in Pergamos were tolerating falsehood by teaching that in morals, violation of the conscience or of the marriage bond is perfectly all right. **SOUND FAMILIAR?**
- Jesus will not condone such behavior.
- Those engaged in such behavior must repent, recognizing and forsaking their sins.
- For those who do not personally (come to you) repent, the penalty will be quick and severe -
  - Christ Himself will fight against them with the sword of His mouth.

<sup>16</sup> Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

--- Revelation 2:16 ... NKJV

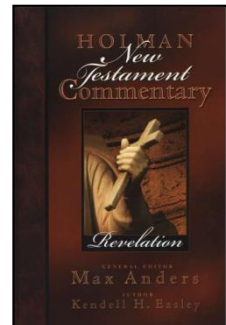
<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

---1 John 1:9 ... NKJV

## ANTIDOTE TO SIN

**CONFESS** - TAKE OWNERSHIP OF IT.

**REPENT** - TURN FROM IT (180°).



# Pergamos - Revelation 2:17 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Pergamos: Commitment

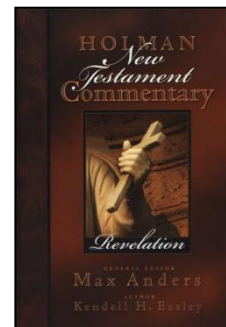
- Jesus makes a double commitment
 

1. To give some of the hidden manna to eat
  2. To receive a white stone with a name on it
- These are two different symbols for eternal life
  - The **First** is Jewish
    - Hidden pot in the Ark of the Covenant  
[Exodus 16:32-35](#)
    - Miraculously preserved and would feed God's people when the Messiah came
  - The **Second** is Gentile
    - In the ancient pagan world, special white stones were often used as admission tickets for public festival.
    - Possessing a stone with a special name means admission to heaven is absolutely assured for believers in Christ.

17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives *it*."

--- Revelation 2:17 ... NKJV

WHAT IS THE NAME ON THE WHITE STONE?



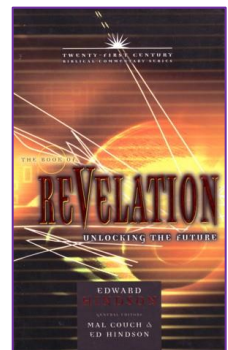
# Pergamos - REVIEW

- Pergamos: The Compromising Church

SCORECARD	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
MESSAGE	Hold to the truth	2:12-17
CHARACTERISTIC	Wielder of the sharp sword	2:12
COMPLIMENT	True to Jesus' name	2:13
CRITICISM	Tolerance of falsehood	2:14-15
COMMAND	Repent	2:16
COMMITMENT	Will receive manna and a white stone	2:17



HOW DOES YOUR "REPORT CARD" LOOK?  
HOW CAN YOU IMPROVE IT?

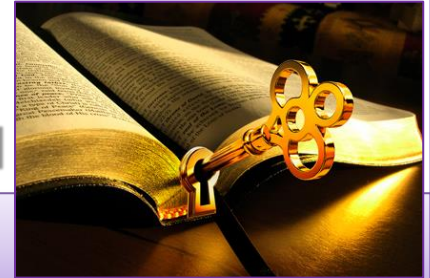




# Lesson 04 - Outline

## ■ Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 04: Judgment Begins at the House of God



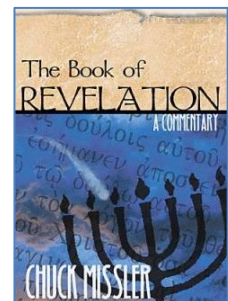
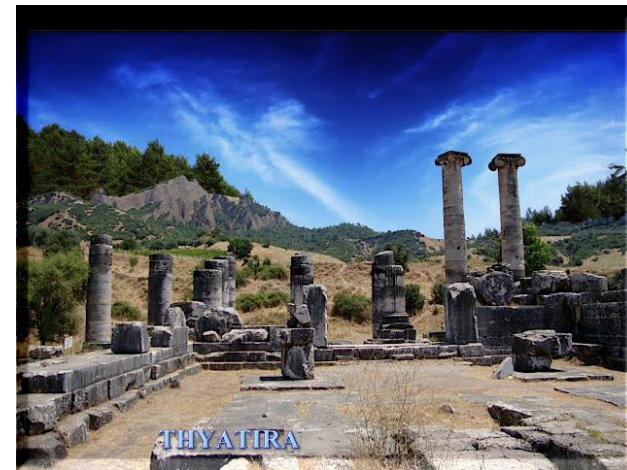
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- ➔ » Thyatira: The Corrupt Church..... *Revelation 2:18-29*

# Thyatira - PROFILE

## • Thyatira : The Corrupt Church

- Thyatira was a small town in the shadows of larger and more famous cities.
- In New Testament times, Thyatira stood at the junction of three main roads leading to Pergamos, Sardis, and Smyrna.
- Thyatira was known for its dyes – particularly its purple *(which was scarlet rather than purple, derived from the madder-root which is prolific in the area)*.
  - Lydia, a wealthy sales rep for Thyatira dwelling in Philippi ...[Acts 16:14-15](#)
- The danger to the church at Thyatira did not arise from the persecutions of imperial Rome nor from the animosity of Jewish attitudes. It arose from within the church itself – *all the more serious and dangerous to deal with.*



# Thyatira - Revelation 2:18 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Thyatira: Characteristic

- This is the longest of the 7 letters - written to the smallest of the 7 cities.
- Jesus tell the congregation of Thyatira that He is the Son of God *[the only mention in Revelation]*.

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." --- Matthew 16:16 ... NKJV

- Eyes like a flame of fire & Feet like fine brass
  - Jesus asserts His power and authority for judgment
  - These are "similes" ... "like", "as" statements

<sup>14</sup> His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; <sup>15</sup> His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; --- Revelation 1:14-15 ... NKJV

<sup>12</sup> His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. --- Revelation 19:12 ... NKJV

<sup>18</sup> "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:

--- Revelation 2:18 ... NKJV

## SCORECARD SNAPSHOT

A FALSE TEACHER WAS LEADING MANY BELIEVERS OF THYATIRA TO EMBRACE OPEN IMMORALITY, BUT AN ALL-KNOWING, ALL-POWERFUL LORD WILL PUNISH HER FOLLOWERS SEVERELY.

# Thyatira - Revelation 2:19 - OBSERVATIONS

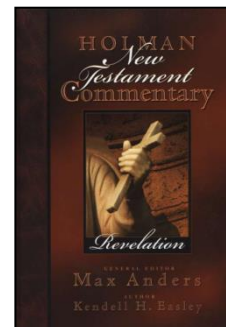
## • Thyatira: Compliment

- Parallels what was said to the Ephesians
  - They are growing in their works - the last are more than the first.
  - They are known for their love, service, faith and patience. *[Note "love" was missing from the Ephesian list]*
    - Love for others produces service.
    - Faith in Christ assures patience - *perseverance*.
- They were not content to stand still in loving deeds and faithful perseverance.
- They had grown in faith and were stronger in love than when they first came to Christ.

19 "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and *as* for your works, the last *are* more than the first.

--- Revelation 2:19 ... NKJV

IS YOUR LOVE,  
SERVICE, FAITH AND  
PATIENCE ON THE  
INCREASE?





# Thyatira - Revelation 2:20-22a - OBSERVATIONS

## • Thyatira: Criticism

- All their growth was overshadowed by their allowance of one false teacher - referred to as “that woman Jezebel”. **1 Kings 16:31-21:25; 2 Kings 9**
  - The original Jezebel passionately promoted the worship of the Canaanite deity Baal.
  - Judged by God, she met a violent death.
- The Jezebel in the church of Thyatira was also leading people away from the true God, by ...
  - Called herself a prophetess to gullible believers.
  - Established a reputation for teaching believers.
  - Deliberately led believers into sexual immorality.
  - Encouraged violation of conscience regarding eating things sacrificed to idols.

<sup>20</sup> Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup> And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. <sup>22</sup> Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.

--- Revelation 2:20-22a ... NKJV

DO YOU SEE ANY PARALLELS TO THE CHURCH TODAY?

WHAT ISSUES DOES THE CHURCH FACE REGARDING “TOLERANCE”?

# Thyatira - Revelation 2:22b-25 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Thyatira: Command

- These verses identify three kinds of persons
  1. Those who commit adultery with her
    - This does not mean that Jezebel had literally opened a brothel
    - But that some church members were struggling with her teaching, falling into some degree of moral compromise
    - They faced the prospect of intense suffering unless they repent.
  2. Call her children
    - This is not literal, but refers to those who had wholly committed themselves to Jezebel's doctrines.
    - She had become like their spiritual mother, and like their mother they were unwilling to repent - Christ was about to kill them.

<sup>22</sup> Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. <sup>23</sup> I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

<sup>24</sup> "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. <sup>25</sup> But hold fast what you have till I come.

--- Revelation 2:22b-25 ... NKJV

# Thyatira - Revelation 2:22b-25 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Thyatira: Command

### 3. The rest in Thyatira

- These are the faithful believers who do not have this doctrine (teachings of Jezebel).
- Christ is so pleased with these believers that He will not put on them no other burden.
- They are to hold fast what they had until Jesus comes for them.
- This promise of the risen Lord does not guarantee His return for these 1<sup>st</sup> Century Believers during their lifetime, i.e., Rapture.
- The faithful of Thyatira represent believers of all ages - Christ's message is the same - **HOLD ON!**

WE ARE TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE SIMPLE TRUTHS AND MORAL STANDARDS OF THE GOSPEL.

THERE IS NO NEED FOR "NEW" TEACHING.

IF ITS NEW THEN IT ISN'T TRUE.  
IF ITS TRUE THEN IT ISN'T NEW.

<sup>22</sup> Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. <sup>23</sup> I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

<sup>24</sup> "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. <sup>25</sup> But hold fast what you have till I come.

--- Revelation 2:22b-25 ... NKJV

# Thyatira - Revelation 2:16-29 - OBSERVATIONS

## • Thyatira: Commitment

- Jesus includes a special word to the one who keeps My works until the end.
  - Another reference to the need to persevere in Christian morals until He comes.
- All the promises to the overcomers so far could be summarized as various metaphors for **eternal life**.

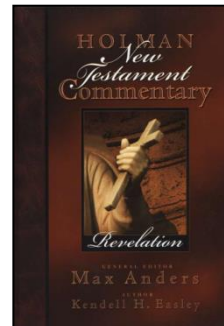
- **Ephesus** - eat from the tree of life (2:7)
- **Smyrna** - receiving the crown of life (2:10)
- **Pergamos** - receiving hidden manna and a white stone (2:17)
- **Thyatira** - indication of what overcomers will be doing as they enjoy eternal life (2:26)

<sup>26</sup> And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—  
<sup>27</sup> 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'— as I also have received from My Father; <sup>28</sup> and I will give him the morning star.  
<sup>29</sup> "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

--- Revelation 2:26-29 ... NKJV

HEAVEN IS A PREPARED PLACE FOR  
 PREPARED PEOPLE!

ARE YOU PREPARED TO GO?





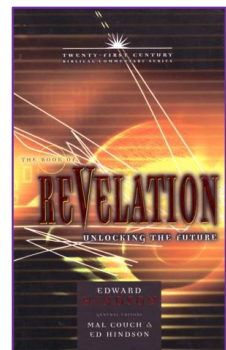
# Thyatira - REVIEW

- Thyatira : The Corrupt Church

SCORECARD	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
MESSAGE	Be morally pure	2:18-29
CHARACTERISTIC	Blazing eyes and burnished feet	2:18
COMPLIMENT	Increasing in good works	2:19
CRITICISM	Tolerance for immorality	2:20-22a
COMMAND	Hold fast to purity	2:22b-25
COMMITMENT	Will rule nations and receive a star	2:26-29



HOW DOES YOUR "REPORT CARD" LOOK?  
HOW CAN YOU IMPROVE IT?







Instructor: Philip Giorgio  
[www.GiorgioMinistries.com](http://www.GiorgioMinistries.com)

# Revelation

*"Unlocking the Future"*

## End of Lesson



Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. **Rev. 1:3 NKJV**

Revelation Illustrated - Pat Marvenko Smith



# Revelation: Unlocking the Future

## Lesson 05: Who's that Knocking at my Door?

[Revelation 3]

***Next Week's Lesson***



# Next Week's Lesson

## ▪ Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 01: Book Survey ... [REVELATION]
- Lesson 02: Major Themes ... [REVELATION]
- Lesson 03: What in the World is Happening? ... [REVELATION 1:1-20]
- Lesson 04: Judgment Begins at the House of God ... [REVELATION 2:1-29]
- Lesson 05: Who's that Knocking at my Door? ... [REVELATION 3:1-22]
- Lesson 06: God is still on the Throne ... [REVELATION 4:1-11]
- Lesson 07: Worthy is the Lamb ... [REVELATION 5:1-14]
- Lesson 08: The Wrath of the Lamb ... [REVELATION 6:1-17]
- Lesson 09: From Tribulation to Jubilation ... [REVELATION 7:1-17]
- Lesson 10: The World at War ... [REVELATION 8:1-13]
- Lesson 11: Demons Unleashed ... [REVELATION 9:1-21]
- Lesson 12: Can it get any Worse? ... [REVELATION 10:1-11]



# Next Week's Lesson

## ▪ Revelation: Unlocking the Future

- Lesson 13: Hell on Earth! ... [REVELATION 11:1-19]
- Lesson 14: War in Heaven ... [REVELATION 12:1-17]
- Lesson 15: Rise of the Antichrist ... [REVELATION 13:1-18]
- Lesson 16: Wine Press of the Wrath of God ... [REVELATION 14:1-20]
- Lesson 17: The Seven Last Plagues ... [REVELATION 15:1-8]
- Lesson 18: Battle of Armageddon ... [REVELATION 16:1-21]
- Lesson 19: Riding the Beast... [REVELATION 17:1-18]
- Lesson 20: Fall of Babylon ... [REVELATION 18:1-24]
- Lesson 21: Triumphal Return of Christ ... [REVELATION 19:1-21]
- Lesson 22: The Millennial Kingdom ... [REVELATION 20:1-15]
- Lesson 23: New Jerusalem ... [REVELATION 21:1-27]
- Lesson 24: Inside the Glorious City ... [REVELATION 22:1-21]

