

Good Advice from our Best Friend Part 2



THE GREAT CONTROVERSY AND THE WEDDING COVENANT

The great controversy between Christ and Satan after Christ was caught up to God and His throne (Rev 12:5) was focused around the Woman who is God's Church Isa 54:4,5; Eph 5:25-27; Jer 6:2; 2 Cor 11:2. Satan could not attack Christ directly because He was cast out of Heaven Rev 12:9-12. Therefore Satan knew that the best way to hurt Christ was to attack the Woman that Jesus loves which is His Church Rev 12:13-17; Mt 25:40. If we take on Christ as our personal Saviour we become so close to Him that the relationship is likened to a marriage covenant Ezek 16:8; 2 Cor 11:2; Hos 2:19,20. When God's people turn away from Him to other gods they are likened to a treacherous, unfaithful wife Jer 3:7-14,20; 5:11; Mal 2:10,11. Satan wants to seduce Christ's beautiful Bride and marry her because of his great hatred for Christ and the Church Rev 12:17. Jesus because of His great love for us has given us a message to protect us from Satan's great wrath so that we can resist the Devil and defeat him James 4:7,8; 1 Pet 5:8,9. In this lesson we will see how the church became married to Satan and took on the pagan practices he had invented. But Jesus has a wonderful warning of love for His Bride that is found in the message to the Seven Churches Rev 2,3. This message Jesus gave to protect us from Satan so that He can present us to Himself a glorious and spotless church Eph 5:23-27.

PERGAMOS – ACTUAL MARRIAGE – 325 A.D. UNTIL 538 A.D.

1. What was the name of the third Church among the Seven Churches? What is the significance of this name? What title did Jesus use when addressing this Church period? Rev 2:12, 16.

Ans: a. And to the angel of the church in _____ write;

Ans: b. The name Pergamos signifies "actual _____" demonstrating the union of the Church to the world by its adoption of heathen _____ practices. See note below.

Ans: c. These things saith he which hath the sharp _____ with two edges;

Ans: d. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the _____ of my mouth.

Pergamos. The name Pergamos signifies “actual marriage” demonstrating the union of the Church to the world by its adoption of heathen or pagan practices. See Appendix 6 B. For information on the ancient city of Pergamos See Appendix 6 A

Sharp Sword with two edges. The sword represents the word of God Eph 6:17. Jesus uses His word to attack and destroy His enemies Rev 19:13-21. The Word of God is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart Heb 4:12. When the Church of the Pergamos period adopted teachings and ceremonies from the heathen deities Jesus used His word to fight against them when they did not repent Rev 2:16.

2. Whose seat was found in Pergamos? What happened to those that held fast Jesus’ name and did not deny the faith? Rev 2:13

Ans: I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, *even* where _____ seat *is:* and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful martyr, who was _____ among you, where Satan dwelleth.



Zeus holding lightning bolt on his throne or seat

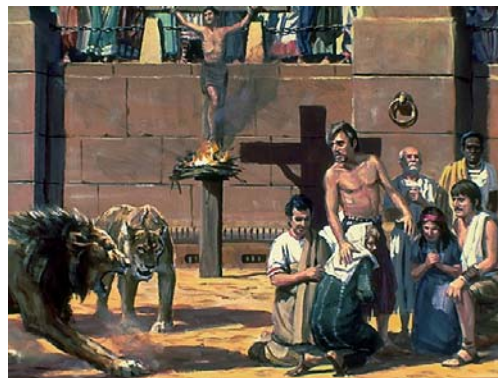
Satan’s Seat The word seat “*qromos*” (*thronos*) in the Greek means throne. This word is translated throne 54 times in the New Testament and seat 7 times. Pergamos is therefore where Satan’s kingdom is based Rev 2:13. Satan is called the god of this world 2 Cor 4:4. Satan has his own synagogue or church. The Devil gives power, authority, and the seat or throne to the Beast Rev 13:2, 12:9. The False Prophet or the Beast with two horns also speaks the words of Satan Rev 13:11-14; 19:20. The Beast, the False Prophet, and the Dragon are the three groups that comprise Babylon which is full of Devils Rev 16:12, 13,19; 18:2. Satan then has set up his throne in the Christian Church even having his

own ministers 2 Cor 11:13-15. Babylon we will discover in later lessons is a symbol of all the false religions of the world, many of which are Christian. God is calling His people out of Babylon because it is where Satan’s throne is Rev 13:2; 18:4. Lucifer after sin came into his heart (Ezek 28:15,16) wanted to exalt his throne above the throne of God Isa 14:12-14. The Devil as the prince of this world deceives people into disobedience Eph 2:1,2. But our precious heavenly Father has delivered us from the kingdom and power of Darkness into the kingdom of His dear Son Jesus Col 1:13.

Little by little, at first in stealth and silence, and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, "the mystery of iniquity" carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. Almost imperceptibly the customs of heathenism found their way into the Christian church. The spirit of compromise and conformity was restrained for a time by the fierce persecutions which the church endured under paganism. But as persecution ceased, and Christianity entered the courts and palaces of kings, she laid aside the humble simplicity of Christ and His apostles for the pomp and pride of pagan priests and rulers; and in place of the requirements of God, she substituted human theories and traditions. The nominal conversion of Constantine, in the early part of the fourth century, caused great rejoicing; and the world, cloaked with a form of righteousness, walked into the church. Now the work of corruption rapidly progressed. Paganism, while appearing to be vanquished, became the conqueror. Her spirit controlled the church. Her doctrines, ceremonies, and superstitions were incorporated into the faith and worship of the professed followers of Christ. See Appendix 6 B

Antipas The word antipas which is Ἀντίπα (Antipas) in Greek has an interesting meaning which tells us the character of those that held fast Jesus’ name and did not deny His faith Rev 2:13. The word antipas could be translated like the father because this is its Greek meaning. Jesus taught His followers Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect Mt 5:48. Man is to be perfect in his sphere, even as God is perfect in His sphere. How can such a lofty standard be reached? The required perfection is based on

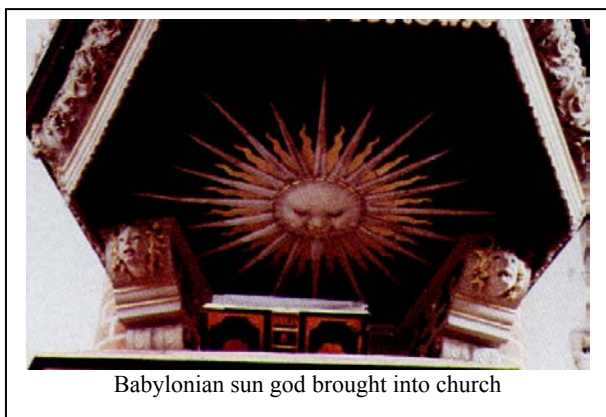
the perfection of Christ, "who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." He gave the command requiring perfection, He who was by birth a human being, though allied to divinity. He has passed over the road we are to tread, and He says, "Without Me ye can do nothing." But with Him we can do everything. Thus a perfect character can be obtained. God never issues a command without furnishing the grace sufficient for its fulfilment. Ample provision has been made that man shall be a partaker of the divine nature. Our Saviour understood all about human nature, and He says to every human being. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." As God is perfect in His sphere, so man is to be perfect in his sphere. Those who receive Christ are among the number to whom the words so full of hope are spoken. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." These words declare to us that we should be content with nothing less than the best and highest character, a character formed after the divine similitude. When such a character is possessed, the life, the faith, the purity of the religion, is an instructive example to others. There are many promises that help us to become like the Father in Character 1 Cor 10:13; Jude 24,25; Phil 4:13; 2 Cor 3:18. Jesus loves us and will do everything possible to have us ready for the Second Coming of Christ Jer 31:3; 1 Tim 2:3,4; Heb 9:28.



Faithful Martyr From the very beginning of the great controversy between Christ and Satan on this earth there have been martyrs. Abel was the first Gen 4:8. Down through the ages there were many more who gave their lives and suffered persecution in love for God Heb 11:32-38. After the time of Christ’s resurrection the persecutions started against the Christians first by the Jews and later the Romans. The persecutions by the Romans, beginning under Nero about the time of the martyrdom of Paul, continued with greater or less fury for centuries. Christians were falsely accused of the most dreadful crimes and declared to be the cause of great calamities--famine, pestilence, and earthquake. As they became the objects of popular hatred and suspicion, informers stood ready, for the sake of gain, to betray the innocent. They were condemned as rebels against the empire, as foes of religion, and pests to society. Great numbers were thrown to wild beasts or burned alive in the amphitheaters. Some were crucified; others were covered with the skins of wild animals and thrust into the arena to be torn by dogs. Their punishment was often made the chief entertainment at public fetes. Vast multitudes assembled to enjoy the sight and greeted their dying agonies with laughter and applause.

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3. Which two doctrines and corresponding practices did Jesus hate that the Church of Pergamos had embraced? Rev 2:14,15. Which period of History does the Church of Pergamos represent? (See note below)



Babylonian sun god brought into church

Ans: a. But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of _____, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto _____, and _____ to _____ commit _____ . So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the _____, which thing I hate.

Ans: b. From the Bible description of the doctrine of Balaam and of the Nicolaitanes and the verification of

history, the period of the Pergamos Church is undoubtedly _____ A.D. until _____ A.D.

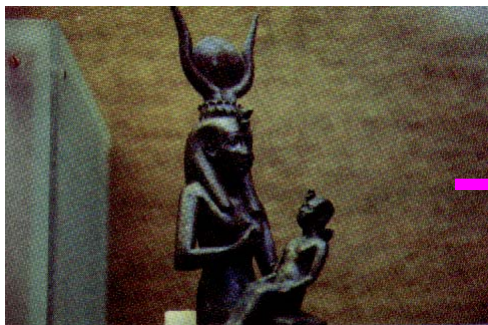
Doctrine of Balaam and Nicolaitanes. During the period of Pergamos there was great compromise between the Church and heathen practices. Constantine brought the world into the Church. The change was so dramatic that the Church as a whole started to become no longer Christian in belief or practice but pagan. Sunday the “venerable day of the sun” was

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introduced instead of the seventh day, as the day of worship in 321 A.D. (See Appendix 6 D). Easter was first introduced (from the pagan Babylonian goddess Ishtar) as a fixed date for every year in 325 A.D. Christmas being celebrated on the 25th Dec was converted from paganism (the birthday of the Babylonian Sun god Tammuz) to become a Christian holy day in 336 A.D. Easter with Christmas were originally purely pagan ceremonies. Many sincere and loving Christians celebrate these festive seasons today. Although it is certainly not wrong to remember Christ and His love for us at these times it is interesting that the Bible is silent on Easter rabbits and Easter eggs and many other things which the Christian Church adopted at this time. The first record of infant baptism (originally a pagan ritual) was recorded in 370 A.D., as Emperor Valen’s son, Galates, was baptized at the Emperor’s order. The Pope of Rome fell heir to two keys from the pagan divinities JANUS and CYBELE and became the Supreme Pontiff of the Babylonian Order in 378 A.D. (See Figure 2 on page 5). Worship of the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God (adopted originally from the worship of the pagan goddess Ishtar of ancient Babylon) was established in 381A.D. Infant Baptism became compulsory in 416 A.D. The pagan practice of burning incense was first used in Church services in 500 A.D. Lent, which was another Babylonian pagan ceremony, was established as being just before Easter in 519 A.D. Wetzel – Chronology of Biblical Christianity p 83-93. The end of the period of history that the Pergamos church represented came when the Roman Emperors that had opened the way for paganism to come into the Church were replaced by the bishop of Rome in 538 A.D. “Thus the Emperor Justinian did give the Pope of Rome power over all the Christian churches, Eastern and Western, and gave him ‘his seat,’ the city of Rome, in the West; he also gave him great or supreme authority in his pandect or code of laws. This was in the year A. D. 538; from which time the Pope exercised his supreme power over the saints and kings of the earth until A. D. 1798 - during 1260 years of Papal supremacy.” - Remarks on Rev.xiii,p,6, published Sept. 1844. “In the West a new power was formed--the Roman Church, the church of the bishop of Rome. This church understood itself as the successor of the extinct Roman Empire. In the political vacuum of the West that was created by the invasion of the Germans and the destruction of the Roman state and administrative apparatus, the church became great and powerful as the heir to the Roman Empire. Only within this vacuum could the idea of the papacy develop in which the great popes, as bishops of Rome, stepped into the position of the vanished emperors.” 1994-1998 Encyclopaedia Britannica article Church and state in Eastern and Western theology.

These compromises with paganism were the doctrines of Balaam and of the Nicolaitanes, which Jesus hated so much. (See Appendix 6 C and D)

From the Bible description of the doctrine of Balaam and of the Nicolaitanes and the verification of history, the period of the Pergamos Church is undoubtedly 325 A.D. until 538 A.D.



Isis & Horus (Egyptian form of Semarimis & Tammuz) transformed into Mary & Jesus



Figure 1

4. What promise was given to those that overcame in the period of history that the Pergamos Church represented (325-538 A.D.)? Rev 2:17;

Ans: He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden _____, and will give him a white _____, and in the stone a new _____ written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Hidden Manna. Manna was the bread that was provided by the Lord to eat Ex 16:15. It came after the dew in the morning had dried up on the ground Ex 16:14. This bread was given to see if they would keep God’s law or

not Ex 16:4. It was a test to determine whether the children of Israel would keep the Sabbath commandment Ex 16:16-28. Manna was like coriander seed and tasted like wafers and honey and fresh oil Ex 16:31; Num 11:6-9. It was eaten for 40 years Ex 16:32-35. The spiritual lesson that God wanted the Children of Israel to know was that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God Deut 8:1-3. Manna was also given to prove God’s people, and to humble them, that God could ultimately do good to them after all the testing and their characters had been developed to be more like God’s Deut 8:16. Manna was called the corn of heaven, and angel’s food (or the food that angel’s provided) Ps 78:24,25. The Manna was a symbol of Jesus the Bread of Life Jn 6:48-51.

God’s people were also tested through the Pergamos period with the law of God when Constantine brought the change of the Sabbath from the Seventh Day to the first day of the week. They were tested to see if they would live by every Word of God as found in the Bible. They were tested on the keeping of His commandments because of their love for Him when tradition changed the day of worship Jn 14:15; Mt 15:2,3,8,9. The bread of life was a symbol of the Word’s of Jesus or God’s Word Jn 6:58-63, Jn 1:1,14. The same tests come to us today James 1:22; Rom 2:13.



White Stone “A (white) stone to be given to the overcomer in the church at Pergamum, Rev. 2:17 (twice); a white stone was often used in the social life and judicial customs of the ancients; festal days were noted by a white stone, days of calamity by a black; in the courts a white stone indicated acquittal, a black condemnation. A host’s appreciation of a special guest was indicated by a white stone with the name or a message written on it; this is probably the allusion here.” Vines Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words. Those that keep God’s commandments and do His word will be acquitted or pardoned for their sins in the judgement James 2:8-12. We will study the judgement in later lessons.

Name written “The white stone with a name written on it” reflects the custom in the time of the Pergamos period. Special friends would cut a stone and exchange names written on each half of the stone. Whenever a visitor produced this stone they were always welcome. Jesus is our friend if we do what He commands us Jn 15:14. He will welcome us into the heavenly city if we do his commandments Rev 22:14. The commandments are a transcript of His character (See Appendix 2 B). If they are written on our hearts, it is just like the white stone of Pergamos times 2 Cor 3:3; Heb 10:15-17. If we know Jesus as a personal friend and Saviour we will be welcome into His heavenly home Jn 17:3; 14:1-3.

THYATIRA – TO WEAR OUT – 538 A.D. UNTIL 1517 A.D.

5. What was the name of the next Church? What is the significance of the Name? Rev 2:18.

Ans: a. And unto the angel of the church in _____ write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass;

Ans: b. Therefore the term Thyatira is symbolic of the period of time of persecution by the Church when she literally wore out, or _____ the saints of the Most High Dan 7:25

For background information on the literal city of Thyatira see Appendix 6 E

The Greek word for **Thyatira** is Quateira (thoo-at-i-rah). The meaning of this word is “odour of affliction” or “perfume - bruised.” It comes from two Greek words **quasia** (thusia) “a sacrifice” or “victim” and **teiw** (teiro) “to wear away” or “wear out” (An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon article **teiw**) Jesus loved us, and gave himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour” Eph 5:2. In giving His life on the cross Jesus was literally a “sacrifice” or “victim” whose life was “worn out” an “odour of affliction,” or a “perfume – bruised” offering. Jesus was our example when He suffered for us on the cross as a sweet smelling savour 1 Pet 2:21-24; Eph 5:1,2. Many Christians suffered death, like Jesus did, during the Thyatira period.



Jesus was condemned to die by His own people and Church who claimed to follow God Jn 1:11; Mt 27:25,57; Acts 4:1-18. The same happened to God’s people during the Thyatira period by the group of people symbolically known as Jezebel Rev 2:20 (see next Question). **Therefore the term Thyatira is symbolic of the period of time of persecution by the Church when she literally wore out, or killed the saints of the Most High Dan 7:25**

In the sixth century the papacy had become firmly established. Its seat of power was fixed in the imperial city, and the bishop of Rome was declared to be the head over the entire church. Paganism had given place to the papacy. The dragon had given to the beast "his power, and his seat, and great authority." And now began the 1260 years of papal oppression foretold in the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation. Christians were forced to choose, either to yield their integrity and accept the papal ceremonies and worship, or to wear away their lives in dungeons or suffer death by the rack, the fagot, or the headsman's ax. Now were fulfilled the words of Jesus, "Ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake." Luke 21:16, 17. Many good Christians in the Roman Catholic Church today do not agree with the way that their Church persecuted her own people and others that simply wanted to follow the Bible during this period of History known as the Dark ages.

6. Who was the Woman who had a bad influence on Thyatira? Rev 2:20

Ans: Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman _____, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit _____, and to eat things sacrificed unto _____.

Jezebel We have already noticed that a woman is a symbol of a Church Eph 5:22-32; Jer 6:2; 2 Cor 11:2. Jezebel therefore represents the unfaithful section of the Church that existed in the period of time that the Church of Thyatira signified. The Biblical account will help to identify Jezebel in the Thyatira Church. Jezebel is the Hebrew word *lyzebel* (Jezebel) which has the meaning "Baal exalts" or "Baal is husband to" or "unchaste". In the period of the Pergamos Church (325 A.D. – 538 A.D.) the Church became married to paganism. In the period of Thyatira (538 A.D. – 1517 A.D.) the main section of the Church had Jezebel as their leader. She worshipped Baal who was the pagan god of weather and fertility. Jezebel was a Phoenician princess (daughter of Ethbaal, king of Sidon), who married King Ahab of Israel and incited him to sin (1 Kings 16:31; 21:25). This is a perfect picture of the Thyatira Church who adopted the pagan principles from the Pergamos period and added many more of her own (see Appendix 6 E) Jezebel was a devotee of the Phoenician god Baal and a zealous missionary, she supported some 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah (1 Kings 18:19). The priests during the period of Thyatira eventually practiced celibacy. This practice dated back to the ancient cult worship of Babylon (The Two Babylons by Hislop p. 219) which the Bible condemns (1 Tim 4:1,2). Jezebel sought to suppress worship of Yahweh (1 Kings 18:4, 13). The established Church during this period also suppressed those that worshipped Yahweh who were the Waldenses and Albigenses. Asherah was a mother – goddess and these attributes also entered into the Church and changed the name to Mary. See Figure 1 on page 3. (The Two Babylons p 19-55). Jezebel became the formidable adversary of the prophet Elijah, able to instill fear even in him and he ran for his life (1 Kings 19:1-3). The Church during the Thyatira period caused God’s people to run and hide in the Alps in the North of Italy and

the South of France (History of the Ancient Christians by Perrin p. 1-745). Jezebel’s influence in Israel was strong during the reigns of her husband Ahab and her two sons Ahaziah and Jehoram and extended to the southern kingdom of Judah, where her daughter Athaliah became queen (2 Kings 8:18). The story of the appropriation of Naboth’s vineyard (1 Kings 21) illustrates Jezebel’s disregard for Israelite custom and ruthless use of royal power. The intolerance of the Church of Rome toward the Albigenses and Waldenses during this period of which many sincere Roman Catholics disapprove of today is well documented (Wetzel – Chronology of Biblical Christianity p.131). Elijah’s prophecy, ‘The dogs shall eat Jezebel within the bounds of Jezreel’ (1 Kings 21:23), was fulfilled when Jehu seized power (2 Kings 9-10; cf. Hosea’s later prophecy regarding the bloodshed at Jezreel, 1:4). Jezebel met her death with characteristic audacity: she painted her eyes, adorned her head, and greeted Jehu from her window with a caustic insult (2 Kings 9:30-31). Jezebel was pushed out the window at Jehu’s command, and when they later went to bury her, only her skull, feet, and palms remained. Not only did Ahab introduce Baal worship at the capital city, but under the leadership of Jezebel he erected heathen altars in many "high places," where in the shelter of surrounding groves the priests and others connected with this seductive form of idolatry exerted their baleful influence, until well-nigh all Israel were following after Baal. "There was none like unto Ahab," who "did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up. And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all things as did the Amorites, whom the Lord cast out before the children of Israel." 1 Kings 21:25, 26. This gives a comprehensive picture of how idolatry came into the Christian Church during the Thyatira period with the worship of images saints and many other pagan practices.

In the time of Jezebel there were seven thousand that would not bow the knee to Baal 1 Kings 19:18 and during the period of Thyatira God had His faithful in the mountains who refused to follow the pagan practices that

became widespread and mandatory through the Church of Rome. For Historical background on the doctrine of Jezebel in the Thyatira period see Appendix 6E.



Left: Cybele (Babylonian god) with Mitre on head. This practice was adopted in the Christian Church (right) and is universally used in the Roman Church today



Mitre worn by priest in Christian Church

7. Did Jezebel and the Church she represented repent of her fornication? Rev 2:21 What solution does Jesus have for those that are in any Church that does not repent of their fornication? Rev 18:4.

Ans: a. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented _____.

Ans: b. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, _____ of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

8. What will happen to those who do not come out of the Churches that have the doctrine of Jezebel? Rev 2:22,23

Ans: Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will _____ her children with death; and all the churches shall know that _____ *Figure 2* _____ I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Cast her into a bed When God’s Church are unfaithful to Him it is likened to an unfaithful woman who has left the worship of God for idols Ezek 23:17-30. The bed is symbolic of God’s people breaking the commandments of God especially in the worshipping of idols Ezek 23:39-49.

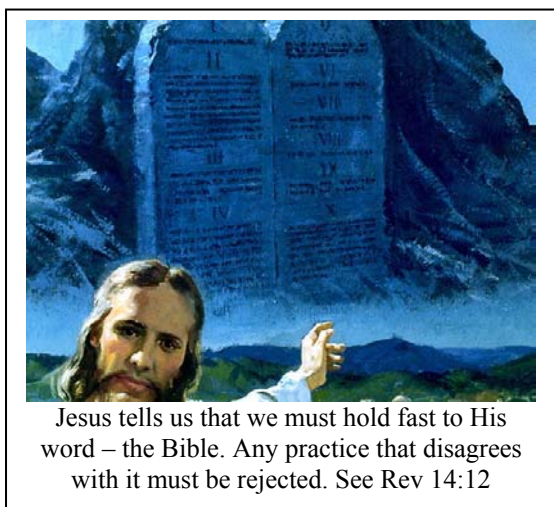
Kill her children with death Those that hold on to sin will have to pay the penalty for sin which is death Rom 6:23. Those that follow the pagan practices of Jezebel are heading for destruction of death similar to that of an immoral woman Prov 2:16-19; 5:1-5; 7:1-27. The followers of the pagan doctrines and practices of Jezebel are called her children even as the followers of God are called His Children Mt 5:9; Jn 11:52.

Searcheth the reins and hearts The Greek word rein *nefrov* (nephros) is describing the inmost thoughts and feelings of the mind that control the actions. The heart or *kardia* (kadia) in the Greek is the centre of the will and character. Searching the hearts and reins is God judging the motives and characters of all. We will study this process of the judgement in detail in a later lesson.

9. What is the doctrine of Jezebel likened to? What advice did God give to those who did not follow the teachings of Jezebel during this period of time? Rev 2:24,25.

Ans: a. But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the _____ of _____, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

Ans : b. But that which ye have *already* _____ fast till I come.



Depths of Satan Had the church remained pure and steadfast, Satan could not have deceived them, and led them to trample on the law of God. In this bold plan, Satan strikes directly against the foundation of God's government in heaven and on earth. Those that follow Satan are against the law of God and are His enemies Jn 8:44; Rom 8:7; James 4:4. Those that were led by Satan under the teaching of Jezebel thought that in killing God's people they were doing God service Jn 16:2. The followers of Satan have always persecuted God's people down through the centuries Heb 11:33-38.

Hold fast till I come The great hope of all of God's Children has always been the Second coming of Christ Titus 2:13; Jude 14. If we can hold fast to righteousness (Job 27:6), to that which is good (1 Thes 5:21), to the sound words of the Bible (2 Tim 1:13), to the confidence and the rejoicing until the end (Heb 3:6), to our profession of our faith (Heb 4:14; 10:23),

and to that which we have received and heard from Jesus followed by repentance (Rev 3:1-3), and endure unto the end we shall be saved Mt 24:13.

The very existence of the Waldenses, holding the faith of the ancient church, was a constant testimony to Rome's apostasy, and therefore excited the most bitter hatred and persecution. Their refusal to surrender the Scriptures was also an offense that Rome could not tolerate. She determined to blot them from the earth. Now began the most terrible crusades against God's people in their mountain homes. Inquisitors were put upon their track, and the scene of innocent Abel falling before the murderous Cain was often repeated.

10. If we do overcome and keep the works of Jesus unto the end what will be our reward? Rev 2:26-28.

Ans: a. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give _____ over the _____: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

Ans: b. And I will give him the morning _____.

Power over the Nations At the Second Coming of Christ the wicked nations shall be defeated by Jesus Rev 19:11-21. The Righteous then shall rule for a thousand years with Jesus Rev 20:4-6. The nations will eventually be destroyed at the end of the thousand years Rev 20:8-15. Then the righteous shall reign with God for ever and ever Rev 22:5.

Morning Star Jesus is the morning star Rev 22:16. Jesus is the greatest gift that the Father could give to us because it brings us eternal life and makes us joint heirs with Him of the whole universe Jn 3:16; 1 Jn 5:11-13; Rom 8:16,17. The Father has given Jesus to us forever, because Christ has become betrothed to the Church, later to be married to her throughout eternity Eph 5:31,32; Rev 7:15-17; 21:22-26; Rev 19:7,8.

The angels or messages to the Seven Churches were also called stars Rev 1:20. In the fourteenth century arose in England the "morning star of the Reformation." John Wycliffe was the herald of reform, not for England alone, but for all Christendom. The great protest against Rome which it was permitted him to utter was never to be silenced. That protest opened the struggle which was to result in the emancipation of individuals, of churches, and of nations.

11. Would you like to hold fast to Jesus and His good advice even if it means turning away from tradition? _____