

Session 6: Revelation 2:17- 29

(“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:
These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword)

17 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

- a. **“To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna.”** – the victorious believer, who will not compromise the Word in his/her teachings/activities, may suffer deprivation and persecution. But, God will provide a sustenance of spiritual strength: **“hidden”** = *in, with, and under*. A *“bread of life”* as He fed the children of Israel in the wilderness.
 - a. **Exodus 16:32.** *Moses said, “This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Take an omer of manna and keep it for the generations to come, so they can see the bread I gave you to eat in the wilderness when I brought you out of Egypt.’”*
 - b. Word and Sacrament provide the same **“hidden manna,”** as God’s reassurance of His (real) presence, His love, and His forgiveness of us. It’s “hidden” nature is a ‘mystery’ (sacramentum) requiring faith to trust that it’s real.
- b. **“a white stone with a new name written on it”** –
 - a. **“white stone”** – (*National Geographic*) In eastern cultures a white stone is given, when extending an invitation to a feast.
 - b. **“a new name”** **Isaiah 62:2-4.** *The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. ³ You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord’s hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴ No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah,^[a] and your land Beulah^[b]; for the Lord will take delight in you*
 - c. **“A new name”** offers a whole new life perspective:
 - i. A new identity (not rooted in race, gender, tribe, nationality, etc., but as a ‘Child of God.’
 - ii. A new belonging (not individualistically or alone, but in a community of faith, hope, and love – with God as “our Father.”
 - iii. A new purpose in life as a steward/servant (not ownership/control of self or others, but service which glorifies God).
 - iv. A new measure of worth/value (not determined by the world’s standards, but by God’s **“delight in you”** by grace.

18 “To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.¹⁹ I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

- a. **“Thyatira”** – smallest of the seven cities, it lay in an open valley southwest of Pergamum. Though it did not support a large worship center, it did have a fortune-telling shrine. It was the center of the dyeing industry and active in the trade of woolen goods. The many trade guilds held communal meals in which food sacrificed to idols was commonly served, and associated with drunkenness and orgies. There would have been economic pressure on the church members to participate in these events, as a way to promote business and network.
- b. **“your deeds, your love and faith, your service...”** – Jesus commends them for the work they have been doing; and the fact that they have progressed
- c. **“that you are now doing more than you did at first.”**

²⁰ Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. ²² So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. ²³ I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

- a. **“You tolerate that woman Jezebel...a prophet”** – Jesus condemns their tolerance of a woman, who claims to be prophet, and who is being allowed to influence the believers.
 - a. ***1 Kings 16:29-31.*** *In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab son of Omri became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria over Israel twenty-two years. ³⁰ Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him. ³¹ He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him*
 - i. **“considered it trivial to commit the sins”** – an O.T. king, who followed Solomon’s death. As king of Judah, he brought idolatry to Judah by erecting pagan temples (Solomon had actually built temples to provide a worship ‘safe place’ for his many pagan wives). His “sin” was to attempt to syncretize pagan worship with the worship of Yahweh: his attempt to unify the kingdom through religious compromise.
 - ii. **“Jezebel”** – the princess of Tyre, who upon marrying King Ahab, brought sorcery and harlotry to the northern kingdom of Israel.
- b. **“she misleads my servants into sexual immorality”** – Jesus condemns this faux prophetess, as she is literally seducing the servants in the Thyatiran church.
- c. **“and the eating of food sacrificed to idols”**

- d. **“I have given her time to repent...she is unwilling.”** – Jesus demonstrates His patience AND her rejection of faith in Him. She, who claims to be a prophet speaking in God’s name, will answer to Him!
- e. **“I will cast her on a bed of suffering”**
- f. **“make those who commit adultery with her suffer”**
- g. **“I will strike her children dead.”** – those who claim Jezebel as their spiritual mother will suffer Jesus’ justice and punishment.

²⁴ Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets, ‘I will not impose any other burden on you, ²⁵ except to hold on to what you have until I come.’

- a. **“have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets”** – Sorcery’s source is Satan. Jesus commends those who do not seek that knowledge.

²⁶ To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— ²⁷ that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’^[b]—just as I have received authority from my Father.

²⁸ I will also give that one the morning star. ²⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

- a. **“I will give authority over the nations”** – sharing in the kingdom of Jesus who reigns eternally.
- b. **“will rule with an iron scepter”** – nations who reject the gospel will be crushed like pottery.
- c. **“I will also give that one the morning star.”** – all who remain faithful to Jesus will be in relationship with Him forever.

a. Revelation 22:16. *“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you^[a] this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”*