

When Jesus Comes To Church

5) Saving Jezebel's Children

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

(Rev.2:18-19)

**Jesus came to this church as One with
eyes as flames of fire**

***'There is no creature hidden from His
sight, but all things are naked and open
to the eyes of Him to whom we must
give account'
(Heb.4:13)***

**'I know what is going on there', i.e.
the positives and the negatives**

**Jesus commends this church for love, faith,
ministry (i.e. serving others). And the last
works were even more than the first – that's
spiritual progress**

***'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'***

(Rev.2:20)

**Jesus had a few things against this church
which were all related to a woman known as
Jezebel**

- **The OT Jezebel opposed the prophets of God**
- **She taught and seduced the servants of God to commit spiritual fornication**
- **She introduced idolatry into Israel through syncretism**
- **The Thyatira 'Jezebel' encouraged compromise for the sake of business through the trade guilds. Idolatry and immorality took place at the pagan meals**
- **She was a self-styled prophetess and the church leaders appeared to be weak, allowing her to become established and to operate**
- **She had a considerable influence in the church, making it difficult to remove her**

Is there such a thing as a 'Jezebel spirit'?

If Satan wants to get into a church he does it through an evil spirit operating through individuals

This can take many different forms. Examples:

- ✓ **A controlling family**
- ✓ **A substantial financial donor**
- ✓ **Someone sent in to distract through attention-seeking**
- ✓ **Power-hungry people who sow seeds of discord, etc.**
- ✓ **A dominating pastor or controlling leadership**

Satan's agenda in this is to hijack the church, take it off course and divert it from its mission

- ✓ **People like 'Jezebel' always appear to be spiritual and claim to speak on God's behalf**
- ✓ **They claim to have greater revelation than the leadership and 'pray' for the pastor in a condescending way (e.g. the pagan feasts)**
- ✓ **They look for weak individuals to control, and create a following of vulnerable people**
- ✓ **They believe they have the right to help themselves to the inheritance of others**
- ✓ **Their influence is often the result of the failure of leadership. 'Allow' suggests they didn't agree with her, but unlike the Ephesians didn't have the courage to deal with her and allowed her to rise to a position of prominence in the church**

So, whilst the leaders rejected her teaching and refused to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed to idols, yet they failed to deal with her false teaching and tolerated her in their midst

'And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent'

(Rev.2:21)

God is longsuffering, but sadly sometimes this is misconstrued, as it was here

'Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds'
(Rev.2:22)

The church hasn't dealt with her, so Jesus will

**But He gives opportunity for her 'children'
to repent and be rescued**

'Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh'
(Jude 22-23 NIV)

'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'
(Rev.2:23)

'Children' does not always mean biological offspring, but can mean the followers of a person's doctrine and example, e.g. we are sons of Abraham

Her teachings, in effect, gave birth to others who embraced her doctrine and her ways

They came under her spell

'...all the churches shall know...'

**God's judgment of her would be an example
to others**

It would have an effect on those who see it

**All would know Who it came from and why. It
would be so obvious; there would be no doubt**

*'Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence
of all, that the rest also may fear'*

(1 Tim.5:20)

'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. But hold fast what you have till I come'
(Rev.2:24-25)

We need to distinguish between two groups seen in the church at Thyatira:

Compare 'And I will kill her children' (v.23) with 'Now to you I say, and to the rest...'

**Through false prophets like Jezebel, Satan
disguises himself as an angel of light**

**So the deep things of Satan are disguised
as truth**

**Note: There's a difference between incorrect
teaching and false teaching**

**No other burden would be placed upon them,
only to reject Jezebel and her teaching on
immorality and idolatry**

'And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— "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'
(Rev.2:26-27)

All believers will be in the reign of Christ and in the kingdom, but not all will share in that reign

Those in Thyatira who remain faithful to God's Word and do not succumb to Jezebel's power would reign with Christ in the age to come

***'...and I will give him the morning star'
(Rev.2:28)***

The morning star is the planet Venus, a star that appears just before the dawn. It appears as the darkness passes away and the morning comes

The morning star is the herald of a new day after a long, dark night

'I, Jesus, ...am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star' (Rev.22:16)

Jesus is saying there will be an appearing of Himself for His own before He comes in power and glory, visible to the world, i.e. the rapture