

## Lesson 7

### Church at Thyatira

<p><b>Thyatira Background</b></p> <p>Thyateira (also Thyatira) was the name of an ancient Greek city in Asia Minor, now the modern Turkish city of Akhisar ("white castle"). It lies in the far west of Turkey, south of Istanbul and almost due east of Athens. It is about 50 miles (80 km) from the Aegean Sea.</p> <p>The name "Thyatira" means "the castle of Thya." Other names which it has borne are Pelopia and Semiramis. Before the time of Nicator the place was regarded as a holy city, for there stood the temple of the ancient Lydian sun-god, Tyrimnos.</p> <p>Another temple at Thyatira was dedicated to Sambethe, and at this shrine was a prophetess, by some supposed to represent the Jezebel of Revelation 2:20, who uttered the sayings which this deity would impart to the worshippers.</p>	<p>Smallest town of the seven churches. It was a frontier fortress to protect Pergamum. During the Roman era, (1st c. AD), it was famous for its dyeing facilities and was a center of the purple cloth trade. <b>(Acts 16:14 A certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, one who worshiped God, heard us; whose heart the Lord opened to listen to ...)</b></p> <p>Among the ancient ruins of the city, inscriptions have been found relating to the guild of dyers in the city. Indeed, more guilds are known in Thyatira than any other contemporary city in the Roman province of Asia (inscriptions mention the following: wool-workers, linen-workers, makers of outer garments, dyers, leather-workers, tanners, potters, bakers, slave-dealers, and bronze-smiths).</p>
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### **STUDY OF THYATIRA Rev 2:18-29**

**This letter is the longest of all seven letters to the churches.**

<sup>18</sup>“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: ‘The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

Question 1: Why do you think the eyes of God are referred to as being like a flame of fire?

Question 2: What characteristic of God is signified by reference to “bronze feet”?

#### **The Commendation:**

<sup>19</sup>“I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.

Question 3: List the five things that this church has to its credit.

*Note that the Lord starts with the positives to soften the blow they are about to receive.*

### **The Condemnation of Tolerance:**

<sup>20</sup> But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols

*Jezebel married wicked King Ahab (I Kings 16:30-31). Kings were to marry virgins, not prostitutes. She tries to kill all the prophets of God (I Kings 18:13). She picks up all the teachings of idols and evil practices under King Ahab.*

Question 4: How might you contrast this church with the church at Ephesus?

*Thyatira failed to protest against false teaching but were too tolerant of this individual.*

Question 5: What does this tell us about the tolerance of some Christians?

Question 6: How tolerant should a Christian be?

<sup>21</sup> I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality.

Question 7: What does this tell us about the tolerance of God?

<sup>22</sup> Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, <sup>23</sup> and I will strike her children dead.

Question 8: What does this tell us about the judgement of God?

### **The Application to All Churches:**

And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

Question 9: Where does the flaming eye of God look?

<sup>24</sup> But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden.

Question 10: What does this tell us about some of the members of this church?

<sup>25</sup> Only hold fast what you have until I come. <sup>26</sup> The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, <sup>27</sup> and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority 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.'

Question 11: What lessons and promises does this passage have for our church?