

*"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us . . ."*  
John 1:14

*All are welcome at the manger.*

SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

## Looking Ahead –

- Next Sunday evening, Dec. 11, will be our last SNBF for this year.
- We will begin again Jan. 8, 2017, when we will continue our study of the book of Revelation.

## The Church at Thyatira

### *"The Seduction of a Church"*

#### Part 2

**Rev. 2:21-29**

Dec. 4, 2016

## Rev 2:18-29

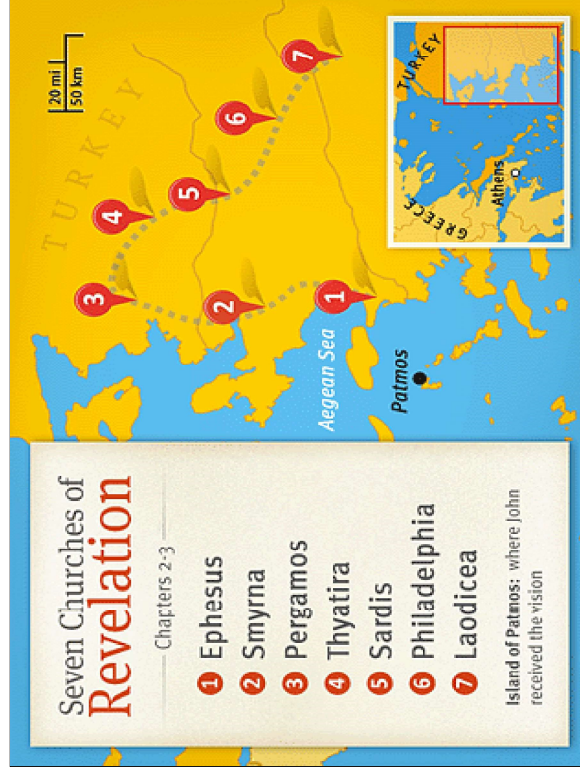
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- 19 'I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.
- 20 'But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.
- 21 'I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality.
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- 23 'And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

## Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3

- 1 Ephesus
- 2 Smyrna
- 3 Pergamos
- 4 Thyatira
- 5 Sardis
- 6 Philadelphia
- 7 Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision



## City of Thyatira

1. Located on a fertile valley.
2. 20,000 population.
3. Not a significant religious center.
4. Main god worshipped: Apollo  
Others: Asclepias, Dionysus, Artemis
5. Known for their trade guilds (labor unions).

### Church at Thyatira

1. Possible ways that was started:
  - Paul when he was in Ephesus.
  - Lydia – Acts 16:12-15.
2. Was pressured to join guilds to make a living.
3. Was out of existence by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century having been swallowed up by the Montanist heresy.
4. Commended for 6 qualities:
  - Deeds
  - Love
  - Faith
  - Service
  - Perseverance
  - Growth

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### Prov 27:2

- 2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

### 2 Cor 10:18

- 18 For it is not he who commends himself that is approved, but he whom the Lord commends.

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### Jezebel

1. Jezebel, a Sidonian woman and Baal worshiper, and King Ahab (a Jewish king) were married. Baal, was a cruel, sensual and revolting false god whose worship involved **sexual immorality and lewdness**.
2. King Ahab became involved in Baal worship. Ahab built a house to Baal in the capital city of Samaria and made an Asherah pole as a tool of pagan worship.

### 1 Kings 16:33

<sup>33</sup> Ahab also made the Asherah. Thus Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

3. After their marriage, **Jezebel cut off and killed many prophets in Israel.**

### 1 Kings 18:13

<sup>13</sup> "Has it not been told to my master what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the Lord, that I hid a hundred prophets of the Lord by fifties in a cave, and provided them with bread and water?"

4. It was during the time of Ahab and Jezebel that Elijah was the prophet in Israel. Satan had his couple on the throne, but God had His man in the field, performing miracles and leading a revival against Baal-worship. The three-and-a-half-year drought that Elijah prayed for was part of God's judgment on the wickedness of the nation and its leaders.

5. After Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal and had them killed at Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18), Jezebel issued a death threat against him (1 Kings 19:2). Despite hearing of the miraculous powers of the Lord, Jezebel **refused to repent** and swore on her gods that she would pursue Elijah relentlessly and take his life.

6. The queen went on to plot against Naboth, the innocent owner of a vineyard that Ahab coveted. **Jezebel had Naboth killed** so the king could confiscate his land (1 Kings 21).

7. Naboth's sons were also stoned to death, so there would be no heirs. (2 Kings 9:26)

8. She prodded her husband into **many other wicked acts:**

### 1 Kings 21:25

25 Surely there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do evil in the sight of the Lord, because Jezebel his wife incited him.

9. Jezebel was into witchcraft and sorcery.

### 2 Kings 9:22

22 When Joram (Jezebel's son) saw Jehu, he said, "Is it peace, Jehu?" And he answered, "What peace, so long as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?"

10. Ahab's death was predicted by the prophets Elijah and Micaiah (1 Kings 21:19; 22:28).

True to the prophecy, Ahab was killed in a battle with Syria. 2 Kings 9:30-37

**Jezebel's gruesome death** was also predicted by Elijah (1 Kings 21:23).

### 1 Kings 21:23

23 "Of Jezebel also has the Lord spoken, saying, 'The dogs will eat Jezebel in the district of Jezreel.'

### 2 Kings 9:30-37

30 When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it, and she painted her eyes and adorned her head and looked out the window.

31 As Jehu entered the gate, she said, "Is it well, Zimri, your master's murderer?"

32 Then he lifted up his face to the window and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" And two or three officials looked down at him.

33 He said, "**Throw her down.**" So they threw her down, and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall and on the horses, and he trampled her under foot.

34 When he came in, he ate and drank; and he said, "See now to this cursed woman and bury her, for she is a king's daughter."

35 They went to bury her, but they found nothing more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands.

36 Therefore they returned and told him. And he said, "This is the word of the Lord, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 'In the property of Jezreel the dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel;

37 and the corpse of Jezebel will be as dung on the face of the field in the property of Jezreel, so they cannot say, 'This is Jezebel.'""

### So who was the Jezebel in the O.T.?

- idolater
- murderer
- witchcraft and sorcery
- immoral and led Israel through idolatry into immorality.
- powerful personality
- false teacher
- domineering
- unrepentant

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Guild A - Linen  
god: Apollo

Guild B - Outer  
Garments  
god: Dionysus

Guild C - Dyers  
god: Eros

Guild D -  
Leather  
god: Diana

Guild E -  
Tanners  
god: Athena

Guild F - Wool  
god: Zeus

Guild G -  
Potters  
god: Hercules

Guild H -  
Bakers  
god: Asclepius

Guild I - Bronze  
smiths  
god: Poseidon

Guild J -  
Copper smiths  
god: Cronus

***"The most subtle challenge to faith does not usually originate in public amphitheaters but in the daily places where we earn the money we need to live."***

- Earl Palmer

***When Christians were confronted in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century for their compromise with the guilds, they replied, “this is the only way we can live” to which Tertullian, a Christian leader, looked them straight in the eyes and said, “Must you live? Must you?”.***

- No, you don't have to live, and the ultimate service to our Lord is His ultimate claim upon a Christian's life.
- The ultimate loyalty we have is not to our physical life. Not to the kind of life that we must live here upon this earth.
- Our ultimate loyalty is to the Lord God, and if it means death then that's the expression of our ultimate loyalty. The idea you must do this because "that's the way it's done here," is not a Christian idea at all.
- Our Lord does not leave any room for anyone who says, "Well I've got to live, so I have to do these things that are contrary to the word of God."

### Pluralism

1. Pluralism says there is more than one way, there are several ways.
2. Pluralism is based on Postmodernism which is the belief that there is no such thing as absolute truth.
3. That being the case, no religion can claim exclusivity of the truth. All religions are equal.
4. So it is ok to worship Jesus Christ in the morning, and worship Apollo in the afternoon, and Zeus in the evening.
5. Therefore, according to Jezebel, it did not matter if believers "ate things sacrificed to idols."

### Dualism

1. The spirit is good, and the flesh is evil.
2. God is only interested in the spirit, He doesn't care about the body so it doesn't matter what you do with your body.
3. Dualism said the body is material, the body is dirt, the body is earthy, the body is flesh and the body is sinful and that's not going to change, and that's how it is. And the spirit is good and holy and righteous and as long as your spirit is committed to Christ and you're here worshipping Him in spirit, what you do in your body doesn't matter and so you can do both.
4. Therefore, according to Jezebel, it did not matter if believers "committed acts of immorality."
5. This gave believers in the church the license to sin.

Someone outside/inside



1. Mishandles Scripture: -ignore -wrongly interpret -twist
2. Seeds are planted.
3. Create a following.
4. Majority of the church: -believe -undecided and tolerate
5. Belief and practice of the church.



Satan is in the business of putting churches out of existence.

Emergent Church Movement  
 Word Faith Movement  
 Open Theism  
 Worship of Angels  
 Wider Mercy  
 New Perspective on Paul  
 Latter Rain  
 Manifest Sons Of God  
 Shepherding Movement  
 Evangelical Feminism  
 Spring Harvest  
 Church Growth Movement  
 Liberalism  
 New Apostolic Reformation (NAR)  
 Third Wave Movement  
 Contemporary Christian Worship Movement  
 The Neo Evangelicals  
 Manhattan Declaration  
 International Apostolic Council (IAC)  
 International Coalition of Apostles (ICA)  
 Evangelicals and Catholics Together Document  
 Prosperity Gospel  
 New Breed

Oneness Trinitarianism  
 A Common Word Document  
 Ecumenism  
 Centering Prayer  
 Contemplative Spirituality  
 Labyrinth  
 Mysticism  
 International Coalition of Apostles  
 The New Legalism  
 Process Theology  
 Antinomianism  
 Pelagianism  
 Semi-Pelagianism  
 Perfectionism  
 Free Spirit  
 Dualism  
 Montanism  
 Arianism  
 Anti-Reformationism  
 Emotionalism  
 The New Pantheism  
 Toronto Blessing  
 Universalism

False apostles  
 False brethren  
 False circumcision  
 False prophets  
 False words  
 Savage wolves  
 Deceitful spirits  
 Doctrines of demons  
 Men of depraved mind  
 Men deprived of the truth  
 Imposters  
 Ungodly persons  
 Hidden reefs

1) Phygellus 2 Tim. 1:15

2) Hermogenes 2 Tim. 1:15

3) Hymenaeus 2 Tim. 2:17

4) Philetus 2 Tim. 2:17

5) Jannes 2 Tim. 3:8

6) Jambres 2 Tim. 3:8

7) Demas 2 Tim. 4:10

8) Alexander the coppersmith 2 Tim. 4:14

9) Diotrephes 3 John 9-10

### Barna Research Survey -

The individuals surveyed considered themselves "born again", defined as:

1. Those who have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is important in their life today.

2. Those who say they know they will go to Heaven after they die solely because they have confessed their sins and accepted Christ as their Savior.

1991 - 52% did not believe in absolute truth

1994 - 62% " " " "

2001 - 68% " " " "

2001 - 91% teens " " " "

These same "born again" individuals:

40% - it does not matter what religious faith you follow because all faiths teach similar lessons about life.

77% - man is basically good by nature.

84% - in the matter of salvation, "God helps those who help themselves". They said it was the most well known verse in the Bible.

33% - we all pray to the same God and therefore faith in Christ is not absolutely necessary, so long as one is a good person.

55% - the Holy Spirit is merely a symbol of God's power and presence.

34% - Jesus sinned.

45% - deny Satan is a real being.

35% - deny the physical resurrection of Jesus.

### Most important goal in life:

0% - to be a committed follower of Christ.

1. having good physical health.

2. having a successful career.

3. having a functional family.

4. reap as much fulfillment as we can from our daily pursuits.

5. live a comfortable lifestyle.

6. have a close relationship to God.

### We're Losing Our Youth

• **93%**: will never return to the church 18 months after they graduate.

• **88%**: of the children raised in evangelical homes leave church at the age of 18, never to return.

- "Youth At Risk" - Josh McDowell

-Research study of family life in America by the Southern Baptist Convention's Family Life Council in 2002

• **70%**: LifeWay Research

• **66%**: Assembly of God study

• **61%**: Barna study in 2006

• **20%**: The number of Americans who say they have no religious affiliation - **Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life**. Labeled "nones" because they claim either no religious preference or no religion at all, their ranks have hit 46 million people. Much of the growth is among young people — one in three U.S. adults under 30 are now considered "nones".

"We live in a time when confidence in the Word of God is getting rare. These are desperate times for the church. Many churches and pastors have forsaken God's Word in favor of the words of men. Other churches have a reputation of honoring the Scriptures, but have largely pushed them aside in favor of programs, gimmicks, and entertainment. The Church Growth Movement and the Contemporary Christian Worship Movement offer user friendly techniques and styles to bring in large numbers of people, but into what? Churches where God's Word is muzzled, sanitized, packaged, and spun until all that's left is a combination of religious happy talk and self-help messages! Finding a church in which God's Word is believed, taught, and confessed in its purity is not easy. What people want today is not the message of sin and grace found in the scriptural gospel of salvation for sinners through faith in Jesus Christ; they want to feel good about themselves, they want some self-help advice, and they want to be entertained."

- William P. Terjesen



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### Ezek 13:17-23

17 "Now you, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people who are prophesying from their own inspiration. Prophesy against them and say, "Thus says the Lord God, "Woe to the women who sew magic bands on all wrists and make veils for the heads of persons of every stature to hunt down lives! Will you hunt down the lives of My people, but preserve the lives of others for yourselves?"

19 "For handfuls of barley and fragments of bread, you have profaned Me to My people to put to death some who should not die and to keep others alive who should not live, by your lying to My people who listen to lies.""

20 Therefore, thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am against your magic bands by which you hunt lives there as birds and I will tear them from your arms; and I will let them go, even those lives whom you hunt as birds.

21 "I will also tear off your veils and deliver My people from your hands, and they will no longer be in your hands to be hunted; and you will know that I am the Lord.

22 "Because you disheartened the righteous with falsehood when I did not cause him grief, but have encouraged the wicked not to turn from his wicked way and preserve his life,

23 therefore, you women will no longer see false visions or practice divination, and I will deliver My people out of your hand. Thus you will know that I am the Lord."

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## Acts 5:5

5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it.

## Acts 5:11

11 And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.

24 'But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them — I place no other burden on you.

25 'Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.

26 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;

27 AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father;

28 and I will give him the morning star.

29 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

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## Ps 2:8,9

8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance,

And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.

9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron,  
You shall shatter them like earthenware. "'

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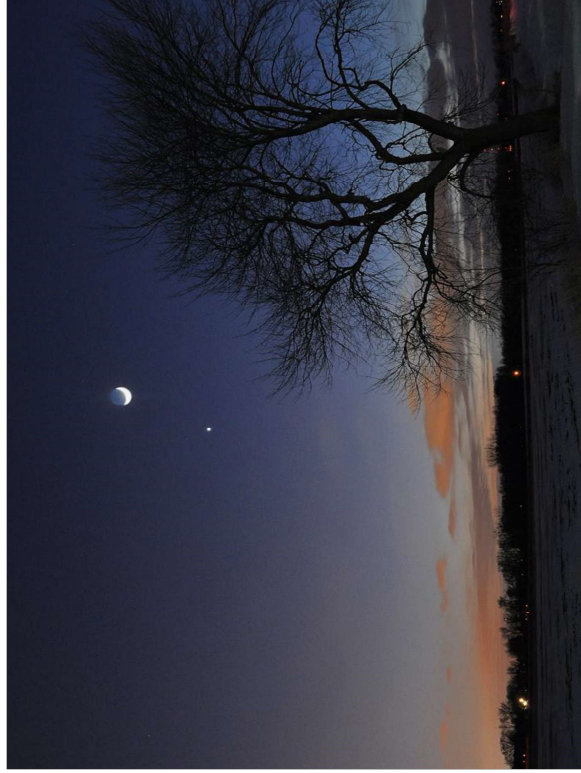
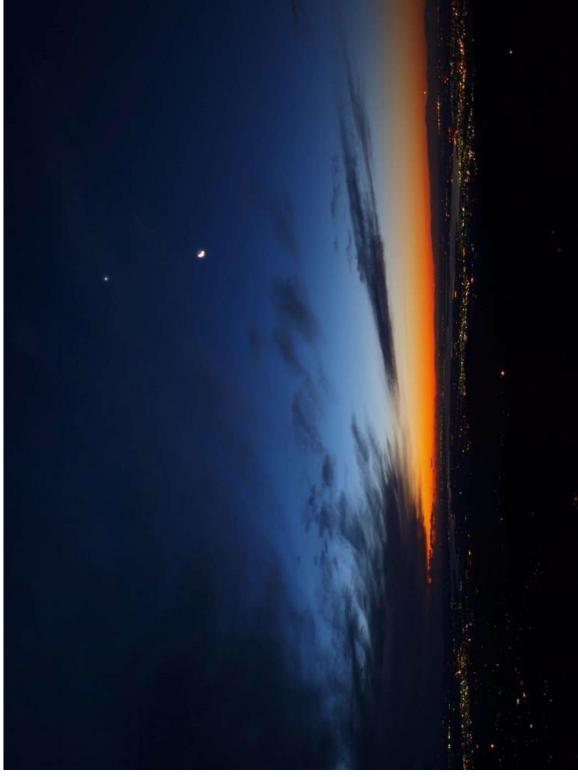
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## Rev 22:16

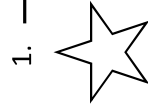
16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

## 2 Peter 1:19-20

19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

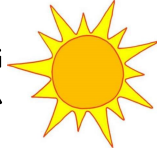
## The "Morning Star" represents:

1. A passing from darkness to light.
2. A preview of the coming sun.



Morning Star  
Rapture of the Church

1. ----->> 2.

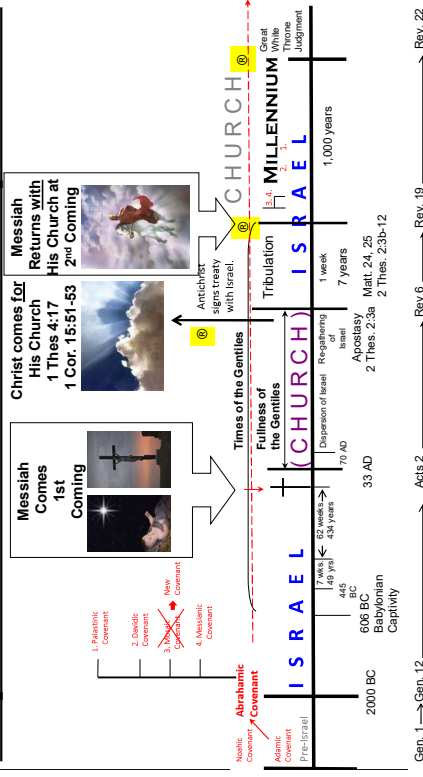


Sun of Righteousness

Millennium

**Mal 4:2**  
2 "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings;

## Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events



Ⓜ = Resurrection



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**Ephesus tells us - "Do not let your love for Jesus Christ grow cold," (Revelation 2:1-7).**

**Smyrna says - "Do not fear the persecution of the world," ( Revelation 2:8-11).**

**Pergamum says - "Trust the Word of God to keep you strong and faithful," (Revelation 2:12-17).**

**Thyatira tells us - "Avoid both sexual and spiritual adultery. Keep your moral standards strong." (Rev. 2:18-29)**



**Charles William Fry and Family  
1838-1882**

Charles William Fry also helped the Christian Mission in Salisbury, and his family band accompanied Salvation Army founder William Booth on many evangelism campaigns.

**"The First Bandmaster of the Salvation Army"** was unveiled on a monument over his grave. On it was inscribed a verse Fry wrote:

*The former things are past,  
And ended is the strife,  
I'm safe home at last!  
I live an endless life!*

The hymn that Charles William Fry wrote 1 year before his death and was published for the first time in the Salvation Army's magazine, "War Cry", on Dec. 29, 1881 was . . . .

### **The Lily of the Valley**

1. I have found a friend in Jesus, He's everything to me,  
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul,  
The Lily of the Valley, in Him alone I see  
All I need to cleanse and make me fully whole.  
In sorrow He's my comfort, in trouble He's my stay,  
He tells me every care on Him to roll.

### **Refrain**

**He's the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star,  
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.**

2. He all my grief has taken, and all my sorrows borne;  
In temptation He's my strong and mighty tower;  
I have all for Him forsaken, and all my idols torn  
From my heart and now He keeps me by His power.  
Though all the world forsake me, and Satan tempt me sore,  
Through Jesus I shall safely reach the goal.

### **Refrain**

3. He will never, never leave me, nor yet forsake me here,  
While I live by faith and do His blessed will,  
A wall of fire about me, I've nothing now to fear,  
From His manna He my hungry soul shall fill.

Then sweeping up to glory to see His blessed face,  
Where the rivers of delight shall ever roll.

### **Refrain**