

EP36 Revelation 2:18-29 P3

The Church at Thyatira

Overall Theme 1: The Word of God Must Be Our Ultimate Authority.

Overall Theme 2: God Really Does Hate Religion—All the Unauthorized Things Done in His Name.

Let's read our text as adjusted for the **Code**.

Revelation 2:18-29

And to the angel of the church of Thyatira write: "The Son of God, who is now having eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like burnished bronze, now says this:

I know your deeds, and your *agape* love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late greater than at first. But I now have this against you, that you now tolerate the woman Jezebel, who is now calling herself a prophetess, and she now teaches and leads My bondservants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. I gave her time to repent, and she has not now determined to repent of her immorality.

Behold, I now throw her on a bed, and those who are now committing adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. And I will kill her children with death, and all the churches will choose to know that I am He who is now searching the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not now hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they now call them—I place no other burden on you. Nevertheless, what you now have, your commanded to hold fast until where I may come.

And the one who is now overcoming, and the one now keeping My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE NOW CASUSED TO BE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. He who is now having an ear, they are commanded to hear what the Spirit now says to the churches."

In our last podcast, we discussed the fact that although given the opportunity, Jezebel refused to repent, but there is still hope for her children. God is granting them time to repent and will throw them on a bed of great tribulation to induce them to choose to repent, but if they do not, He will kill them with death. We also discussed the reality that **faith is a now thing**. When it comes to faith, what we have done,

whether good or bad, in the past does not matter to God, He is looking for those who are now believing.¹

Let's pick back up with a deep dive into understanding the Deep of Satan.

The Deep of Satan

Revelation 2:24

But I **now** say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not **now** hold this **teaching**, who have not known the deep (or depths) of Satan, as they **now** call them—I **now** place no other burden on you.

This is a difficult passage to discern, as there is nothing found in the **Code** or even in the **Codex** that specifically sheds light on what is referred to by the “deep (or depths) of Satan, as they call them.”

With that said, we are not left clueless. I emphasized “**teaching**” or literally “**doctrine**” because that is the subject matter Jesus is addressing—what Jezebel taught and what she is even now teaching believers. This teaching stands in contrast with the authority of the living Word of God.

Many teachers associate the “deep of Satan” with the “*things*” people learned in the secret trade guilds and the ceremonial practices associated with the occult. And that may be, but it seems very narrow and missing the point. Jesus is not addressing the practices of the trade guilds; he never even mentions them. We do not even know for sure if Jezebel encouraged people to participate in them, that was just mere speculation. We simply do not know!

Besides, what the demons lead people to do in all sorts of secret ceremonies are really of no significance, it's all just a show to deceive people, and ultimately to deceive believers. Their secret practices are just performance to conjure up some manifestation of the demons that are already all around them and who have already captured them. But that is not what Jesus is addressing. The demons are not at issue.

What we do know is that Jesus is addressing the **doctrine** that is associated with the deep of Satan, specific teaching which captured the heart, minds, and soul of many believers. This teaching stands in stark contrast to the good teaching which resulted in deeds of “*agape love, and faith and service and perseverance,*” all of which were growing in that community of believers. Thus, understanding the works of God might give us insight into the contrasting deep of Satan.

The Deep of Yahweh

Specifically, **what are the deeds or works that God requires** from His little ones—the type of deeds that will result in *agape* love? Jesus said, “*This is the work of God, that you might now believe in Him whom He has sent.*”² And based on the introduction, we are to **now** believe that Jesus is the Son of God, **Yahweh**, the **Hayah** (the “**I AM**”).

¹ See **Ezekiel 33:12-20**

² **John 6:29** – Note: “believe” is rendered in the *present active subjunctive*

John 6:40

For this is now the will of My Father, that everyone who is **now seeing** (or beholding) the Son and is **now believing** in Him may **now** have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

In fact, the commandment of the Father is that we should always be found in our now to be believing in the name of His Son Jesus Christ (which is **Yahweh**), for it is our unbelief in **Yahweh** that is sin.³ And this is the will of the Father, that everyone who is now beholding the son or seeing the Son (sees Him for who He is, the **Hayah**) and is now believing in Him (as their **I AM**), may now have eternal life.⁴

His name (**Yahweh**) declares that as our **I AM**, He always is what we truly need: our refuge or banner, our Shepherd, our Healer, our companion who is there, our Righteousness, the one who sanctifies us and sets us apart for Himself, the one who is Jealous for us, our Provider and our very Provision, our Peace, the one who commands the hosts of heaven (both angels and demons) to minister or work their deeds on our behalf, and He is our Savior, the one who gives us **unrestrained freedom**.⁵

This is our **Yahweh**, the Son of God, in whom we are to now be beholding in our lives, and upon whom we are to now be betting our lives in active belief.

Thus, His name ensures that nothing can happen in our life that He did not direct, and nothing comes about in our lives over which He is not in control. His name alone implies that there is no other source to turn to, no other well to drink from, no other meat to eat, and no other lover; He alone is the beginning and end of all things. And it is this truth that gives us insight into the deep of Satan.

Satan Loves the Religion of Christianity

We hear of the trade guilds, and we conjure up in our minds all sorts of cultic practices that are probably followed by many Satanists today. But that is just a game which Satan uses to destroy those who volitionally seek to be a part of his dark kingdom. He makes great promises of power and although that seems to be enticing to some, they are ultimately left in abject misery and pain.

And keep in mind, except for those who are now believing in the name of the Son, those in the world already now chose to abide in wickedness, whether they know it or not.⁶ So, by default they are all already in Satan's kingdom, for he does not require a special admittance, pledge of allegiance, a special handshake, or some cultic practice to follow to be admitted into his kingdom. They are already his.

**WHAT SATAN WANTS IS WHAT HE HAS ALWAYS WANTED, THAT WHICH BELONGS TO
THE SON—BOTH HIS THRONE AND HIS PEOPLE.**

³ **John 16:9; 1 John 3:23** – Note: "believe" is rendered in the *aorist active subjunctive*

⁴ **John 6:40**. Note: "sees" and "believes" are rendered in the *present active participle*; "will have" is rendered in the *present active subjunctive*

⁵ **Yahweh Nissi, Yahweh Raah, Yahweh Rapha, Yahweh Shammah, Yahweh Tsidkenu, Yahweh Mekoddishkem, Yahweh Qanna, Yahweh Jireh, Yahweh Shalom, Yahweh Sabaoth, Yahweh Yasha** (Jesus).

⁶ **1 John 5:19**

The **Codex** tells us that Lucifer (Satan) was expelled from heaven because he believed he could ascend the mountain of God, where Jesus sits in judgment at the right hand of the Father. Lucifer believed he could rule in place of the Son. Because of the glory, beauty, and authority which God gave to Lucifer, and due to his unbelievable arrogance and pride, he deceived himself into believing that he could be the One, that he could be like the Most High.⁷

By the way, this was the same deception with which he captured Eve, convincing her that with one little bite, she could be like God.⁸ And this is the same deep of Satan that he uses to capture the people of God. **With just one little bite we can be like God.** And that is why Satan loves the religion of Christianity.

The theme throughout all these letters is the problem with religion, and the propensity for God's people to follow and pursue religious deeds done in His name, for His sake, and for His glory, and for their own personal benefit.

Keep in mind, to gain control over the people of God, Jezebel had to operate within the confines of the church, and she had to capitalize on her spiritual gift to deceive others, all within the confines of good Christianity. Jezebel's "teaching" was likely not obviously blasphemous, but seductively corrupt. In the same way that Satan twisted the truth ever so slightly when he approached Eve, or in his clever challenges to Jesus during His days of temptation, so likely did the teachings of Jezebel.

If she were blatantly promoting idolatry and eating meat sacrificed to idols, it is unlikely that those whose deeds were rooted in *agape* love would have tolerated her, because they were growing in faith not in doubt. Therefore, she came forth with teaching that sounded right, that came from a seat of prophetic authority, and like Eve, many took the bite. This resulted in her followers choosing to no longer bet their lives on the fact that Jesus is the Son of God, their **I AM**, and instead they choose to follow the prophetic word of Jezebel.

This is the spirit of the antichrist. And the same spirit of antichrist is found operating deep within the leadership of our churches, and far too many have taken the bite. They speak with prophetic authority, as **Jude** says, authority which came from their dreams and visions.⁹ And they use this authority, inspired by the deep of Satan, to seduce and capture people unto themselves with all manner of *instinctual religious wisdom*—licentiousness really, lawlessness.

*"For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."*¹⁰ *"But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they were saying to you, 'In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.' These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit."*¹¹

And this issue is not new. Back in the day, **Yahweh** spoke to Jeremiah and instructed him to tell the people to stop justifying their so-called "prophecies" by claiming to have received a "prophecy from

⁷ **Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:11-19**

⁸ **Genesis 3:5**

⁹ **Jude 8**

¹⁰ **Jude 4**

¹¹ **Jude 17-19**

Yahweh”.

Jeremiah 23:36

But stop using this phrase, “prophecy from **Yahweh**.” For people are using it to give authority to their own ideas, turning upside down the words of our God, the living God, **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of Heaven's Armies).

Jezebel caused this same sort of division between the children of God and her children. She taught them spiritual licentiousness, all backed by the word of God, and due to her craving and lust for power and authority (the **apostasy of Korah**), she refused to repent.

Grace into Licentiousness

Just consider the “Christianity” of our day and how many “Jezebel’s” have taught that grace will support us, and grace will be available for us when we have come to the end of our abilities. We are to do our best at serving and loving God, and His grace will carry us through.

This is likely the heartbeat of the **Deep of Satan**. It is so seductive as it combines what we can do for God with what God can do for us. And we all, at the core of our being, down deep where only the One whose eyes are like fire can see, want God to be proud of us and to accept our offerings of love, faith, service, and perseverance to Him. The legacy of Cain still abounds in our souls.

The Thumbprint of Satan

From a Satanic perspective, the beauty of the religion of Christianity is that it is so easy to push people over the line of faith and into spiritual licentiousness where they are convinced that they are good with God because they said the “sinners’ prayer,” go to church, read their Bible, say their prayers, give their money, witness to others, are involved in ministry and outreach, and so on, and are not doing anything blatantly wrong or seemingly unbiblical.

This is the unmistakable mark or thumbprint which identifies the work of Satan.

But those are not the deeds which God requires; the Father requires that we now and continually behold the Son for who He is (**Yahweh**) and are found to now be believing in Him who is our **I AM**. This is another way of saying that we are to live 100% dependent upon the grace of God—upon all that He does for us as our **I AM**. Grace is a 100% to 0% arrangement. All that God does and nothing of what we do (After all, **Only God is Good and the source matters, the source is everything**). He only wants us to be **willing** to receive His grace now believing that we have nothing but our willingness to offer to God.

Any deviation from this formula, even if it is 99.99 the grace of God and .01 what we do, is an apostasy of the truth. That one little bite of what we can do to be like God, to be good, is the bite of death.

Thus, the “**Deep of Satan**” is any teaching which contrasts from this truth, even by a little bit, and yet claims the authority of the name of Jesus, for it turns grace into licentiousness, or lawlessness—something which has not been allowed or authorized by the Father.

1 John 3:4, 8

Everyone who is **now** practicing sin also **now** practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness...the one who is **now** practicing sin is **now** of the devil; for the devil **now** sins from the beginning.

Consider, for example, the temptations which Satan cast at the feet of Jesus. They were all spiritual and religious in nature and targeted at tempting Jesus to take one little bite, one little step on His own authority, and to take a hold of what is rightfully His, in reliance on 1) His own gifting ("*If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread*"), 2) His own wisdom, pride, and display of spiritual authority ("*If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command His angels concerning you' and 'on their hands they will bear you up'*"), and 3) His own desires and lusts, including the human propensity for adultery ("*All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.*")¹²

But Jesus would have none of it. He was committed to only do what the Father told Him to do, only say what the Father told Him to say, only go where the Father told Him to go, and then only **when** the Father authorized and directed His steps. He took nothing into His own hands; rather, the Son lived 100% in dependence upon the Father and did nothing on His own authority.¹³

In contrast, when Satan asked to sift Peter like wheat and later came to Peter with a veiled threat of "*you were with that man,*" fearing for his life Peter did not trust **Yahweh** to protect him and so he chose to be his own "I Am." Peter chose to take matters into his own hands and protect himself. As a result, 3x he denied Jesus.¹⁴

When it is all said and done, the Deep of Satan, his doctrine, is rooted in fear as he tempts us to trust ourselves or to trust someone else to be our "I Am" – our provision for life. And Satan's undeniable mark (his thumbprint) is seen most often in the use of religion.

Satan trusted in the "**Me**" – in his own wisdom, knowledge, beauty, gifting, and capability believing he could be like **Yahweh**. And he wants us to do the same. He wants us to take matters into our own hands, regardless of the area of perceived need. And he does not mind if we do it all in the name of **Yahweh**, in fact, that gives it just the little extra umph that likely brings a smile to his face.

The **Thumbprint of Satan** is clearly identifiable in the leadership of many churches and ministries all throughout the religion of Christianity, and it is a fear that ultimately displays itself as the lust of the *flesh* (the **apostasy of Cain**), the lust of the eyes (the **apostasy of Balaam**), and the boastful pride of life (the **apostasy of Korah**), all done in the name of Jesus Christ. This is the essence of the number of the Beast: **666**.

These teachers rely on both their spiritual and natural gifting to gain their authority to manipulate and control others to their own aims; and they pervert the words of God to seduce people into licentiousness, idolatry, and eating the things sacrificed to idols.

WHEN A PERSON DOES NOT LIVE DEPENDENT UPON THE GRACE OF GOD FOR ALL

¹² See **Matthew 4:1-11**

¹³ **John 4:4** (He was literally bound by the Father to go to Samaria), **34; 5:19, 30, 36; 8:28; 12:50**

¹⁴ See **Luke 22:31, 54-62**

THINGS, THEN THEIR RELIGIOUS DEEDS, WHETHER PRAYING, READING, GIVING, SERVING, ETC., ARE JUST EXERCISES IN IMMORALITY (LAWLESSNESS) AND ANY “GOOD” RESULT IS JUST THE MEAT THEY EAT OF THINGS SACRIFICED TO IDOLS.

No Other Burden

Revelation 2:24

But I **now** say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not **now** hold this **teaching**, who have not known the deep (or depths) of Satan, as they **now** call them—I **now** place no other burden on you.

Jesus requires nothing more of those who did not subject themselves to the teaching of Jezebel, to the deep of Satan. They were now believing in Him, and that is the only burden He puts on them and it is the only burden He puts upon us, no other. He just wants us to continue to now be believing that He is our **I AM**, and there is no other, and to hold fast believing until He comes.

Jesus once stated: “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”¹⁵ He could say that with a straight face because the actual burden that He places on us is that of believing—**NOT** doing, just believing. The Father only wants us to behold the Son for who He is (**Yahweh**) and then for us to be believing in Him or to be trusting Him as our **I AM**, every moment of our now. It’s a simple request for sure, but one that for many turns out to be one of the hardest things to sustain.¹⁶

Hold Fast

Revelation 2:25

Nevertheless, what you **now** have, you are commanded to hold fast until where I may arrive or come

What they now have, they are commanded to hold fast, seize upon, or to retain, until where He may arrive; and being rendered in the *aorist* tense, “to hold fast” is to be how they live.

What do they now have? The deeds of believing which results in God’s *agape* love, and faith and service and perseverance being poured forth from their lives in greater and greater magnitude as they allow Him to love others in-and-through their lives. They have *agape* love, which means they have Him.

In effect, Jesus is commanding them to keep on believing and never let go of their dependency upon Him and upon His Word. If He was speaking from the 70’s, He would have probably said, “keep on trucking” or “keep on keeping on,” but the meaning would be the same.

¹⁵ **Matthew 11:29-30**

¹⁶ **Matthew 11:30; John 6:40**

Until He May Arrive

And they must hold to believing until, as He says, “*where I may come or arrive.*” Practically all the translations do not include the “*where*” as it is odd and hard to make work in the sentence, so they just choose to leave it out and say: “until I come.”

In fact, this whole sentence is odd, as it also includes a Greek *particle* which adds the notion of a wish or a hope, indicating some level of uncertainty. And that is coupled with “arrive” or “come” which is also rendered in the *aorist subjunctive*, which represents something as probable but not certain. This often indicates that the act is contingent upon something else.

So, what does all that mean? He is likely saying that if the children of Jezebel choose to repent (remember, there is still time for them, though not for her), He won’t have to arrive. Their repentance is the contingency, and He expresses it as a hope or a wish. He said that He **now** casts them onto a bed into great tribulation. This is a present and violent judgment aimed at getting them to repent and inducing them to never venture down those paths of immorality/idolatry following the **Deep of Satan**. But if they do not repent, He will arrive where He said, at that bed, and He will bring forth the judgment He declared: He will kill them with death.

His command is communicating that even though they are surrounded by those who indulge in immorality and idolatry, all done in the name of Jesus, He wants them to hold on, even if those others refuse to repent. He will likely have to deal with it and will likely have to come to bring about a cataclysmic judgment (though He wishes He doesn’t), and when He does, *He will kill with death*. Therefore, this is an exhortation for those who are now believing to hold on and to keep and keeping on and not to compromise out of exhaustion or peer pressure. That way if He has to come, they will not be killed with death.

Now Overcoming + Now Keeping

Revelation 2:26-28

And the one who is **now** overcoming, and the one **now** keeping **My deeds** until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE PRIVILEGE, POWER OR AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE (or tend as a shepherd) THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE **NOW** CAUSED TO BE **BROKEN** TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star.

Conditional Promise

The promises made to those believers who do not know the **Deep of Satan** is oddly conditional, as both “*is now overcoming*” and “*is now keeping*” are rendered in the *present active participle*. The point is that it does not matter what we did in the past nor how faithful we were, **what matters is the NOW**—every moment of our now—and the now will matter all the way to the end. **Faith is always concerned with the now! Again, faith is a now thing!**

Are we those who are now overcoming and are now keeping His deeds (the deeds of believing that

manifests itself in *agape* love and faith and service and perseverance) until the end? Remember, the works of God is for us to now be believing in the Son.¹⁷ Whereas, *agape* love is a fruit of the Spirit, a result of believing.

It is frightening to think that Jesus once pondered, “*When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?*”¹⁸ Sadly, many choose to not hold on to the end.

Did you notice the specificity of what we are to be keeping? He says, “**My deeds**” This is another clue about the heart of God vs the **Deep of Satan**. Our deeds are meaningless, all that matters are keeping His deeds, what He wants to do in-and-through our lives, the things which the Father has appointed for us that result from our now believing. And His deeds are separate and distinct from her (Jezebel’s) deeds that are identified as the Deep of Satan.

Once again this highlights the **Substitution Principle**, which include His works for our works, and the **Design Point** where His life is lived in-and-through ours.

**THE SOURCE MATTERS, THE SOURCE IS EVERYTHING.
ONLY GOD IS GOOD SO ONLY GOD CAN DO GOOD!**

We might ask, how do we know if we are doing His deeds? Our lives will be marked by *agape* love, for he who does not *agape* love does not know God, as God is *agape*.¹⁹ And the fruit of the Spirit of God in our lives is *agape*.²⁰ And as with those in Thyatira, it should be ever increasing.

There are many different faces or expressions of *agape* love, but fundamentally it is marked by selflessness. It is a love which considers other people more important than ourselves. It can be summed up in this one passage:

Philippians 2:1-5

Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of *agape*, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. **Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.**

Moreover, since **Yahweh** is *agape*²¹ (*agape* defines His character and nature), then this form of love is expressed from our lives when He is the one who is living in-and-through our lives doing His Father’s work. And as we have learned, that comes via the **Substitution Principle** and the **Design Point** where we allow

¹⁷ ***John 6:28-29***

¹⁸ ***Luke 18:8***

¹⁹ ***1 John 4:8***

²⁰ ***Galatians 5:22***

²¹ ***1 John 4:8, 16***

Him to crucify and destroy all that is within us that stands in opposition to Him being our **I AM** such that He becomes our life, and it is Him who others experience through us.²² If we are now allowing Him to wage His war to possess our being, then we will be one of those who are now keeping what He calls “**My Deeds.**”

Unto the End

It would be far too easy to skip over this little phrase: “*until the end*”. **Yahweh** is looking for those who will now be overcoming and now be keeping **His Deeds until the end**. It is not enough that our flame burned bright in the past, but our flame needs to continue to burn bright until the end. Once again, **faith is a now thing**.

Think of the story of the 10-virgins who all started with lamps burning bright having been filled with oil. But over time, as they became weary of waiting for the end (waiting for the bridegroom to come), five of the virgins let their oil run dry, and as a result were excluded from the marriage feast. The door was shut, and they were left behind! When they later tried to gain access, they came saying, “*Lord, Lord open up for us.*” But he answered, “*Truly I say to you, I do not know you.*”²³ Those are harrowing words.

The terrifying point is that there are no second chances. If we are NOT now overcoming and now keeping His deeds *until the end*, we will miss the marriage supper of the Lamb no matter how hard and how long we have waited for Jesus to return. There will be no second chances for entry into this beautiful relationship. Even being a virgin (spiritually clean) is no guarantee of entry. One does not have to be an idolater coming acts of immorality to be refused entry into His eternal kingdom, one simply must let the oil in their lamp be exhausted and the flame die out.

Going back to the image of the Son of Man who has *eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like burnished bronze*, this frames for us a perspective that He wants us to adopt. He sees all, He therefore knows all, and He judges all. There is no escape from His eyes and there is no avoiding His judgment.

Therefore, if we know this characteristic or attribute about Jesus, if we accept it as a real-time part of His character and nature, and in turn allow Him to know us (or to possess us), we will be those who are overcoming that desire to be ruled by someone other than Him, including being ruled by our own wisdom and capability where we take matters into our own hands and “*in His name*” do what we want to do when we want to do it, saying what we want to say when we want to say it, and going where we want to go when we want to go there.

Until the End, we are to be those who are now rejecting the Deep of Satan, all that is rooted in fear and cloaked in Christianity (which is Satan’s thumbprint): that which tempts us to trust ourselves or someone else to be our “I Am” – to be our provision for life.

Let’s stop here and we will pick back up with the promises of God to those who are now overcoming and now keeping His deeds until the end.

²² See **Galatians 2:20; Romans 8:10; John 14:13-14**

²³ See **Matthew 25:1-13**