

EP37 Revelation 2:18-19 P4

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, you are 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."

We have covered a lot of material in this very intense letter to those at Thyatira. I would encourage you to go back over these podcasts and to download the transcripts at threshermediagroup.com so you can read, study, and review all the references and footnotes to each point that is addressed.

Let's pick back up with the end of this letter and the promises which Jesus made to those who are now overcoming and are now keeping His deeds until the end.

Revelation 2:26-27

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;

To Rule and Not be Ruled

Jesus says to those who are now overcoming and now keeping His deeds until the end, *"TO HIM I WILL GIVE PRIVILEGE, POWER OR AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS"*. This first promise is a direct slap against "Thyatira" as no longer will anyone be *"ruled by a woman,"* i.e., by the Jezebels of our day and other false authorities, for Jesus will rule. In turn, He will hand His rule over to those who are now overcoming and now keeping His deeds until the end. He will literally give His bondservants the power over the nations of the earth (in the Greek, the ethnicities of the world), and they will rule the ethnicities with a rod of iron.

This comes from a promise that the Father made to the Son: *"Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession. 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.'"*¹ And since the **bondservants** of Jesus Christ are joint heirs with Him, inheriting equally what He receives from the Father, this is a promise in which they get to participate.²

Now, being rendered in the *future* tense, this promise jumps us forward to the end of the tribulation when Christ returns to earth and establishes His governmental rule and authority on this earth for a period of 1,000 years. This is called the millennial kingdom.³

But more than this kingdom on earth, once heaven and earth are destroyed at the end of the millennial, Jesus will establish an eternal kingdom with a new heaven and earth, where this rule by the bondservants of Jesus Christ over the ethnicities (over those who are deemed to be righteous for having treated the Chosen with care and kindness) will continue **forever and ever**.⁴

Revelation 11:15-16

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and **He will reign forever and ever**."

Daniel 7:27

'Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an **everlasting**

¹ **Psalm 2:8-9**

² See **Romans 8:16-17; Luke 22:29; 2 Timothy 2:12; Galatians 3:29; Ephesians 3:6; Titus 3:7; James 2:5**

³ **Revelation 20:1-6**

⁴ See **Revelation 11:15; 20:11; 22:1; Psalm 145:13; Isaiah 9:7, 65:17, 66:22; Daniel 2:44, 4:34; Luke 1:33; 2 Peter 3:10-13**

kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'

Daniel 7:18

But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, **for all ages to come.**'

Revelation 22:3-5

There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His **bondservants** will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; **and they will reign forever and ever.**

Therefore, unlike Ethbaal King of Tyre, the bondservants of Jesus Christ will be the true priests who represent the true Son of God on the new heaven and earth. And unlike the rule and authority of the Beast (through the man we call the Antichrist) who will use religion to rule the kingdoms of the earth, the bondservants of Christ will rule by the sovereign authority of the Son of God—an authority that has been granted to Him by the Father.

The Role of a Shepherd

*"AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE NOW CAUSED TO BE BROKEN TO PIECES."*⁵ When Jesus quotes this verse from **Psalm 2:8-9**, He changes one word to make it applicable to our lives. In the **Psalms**, the Spirit says that *"He will break the nations"*, but in this quote, He says that **"He shall rule the nations"** or literally in the Greek, *"He shall tend as a shepherd"*.

Jesus will conquer and judge the nations (literally break them) and afterwards His bondservants will shepherd them. But unlike most shepherds who have a rod and staff made of wood, His and ours will be of iron. The **Code** is clear, we will carefully tend to those in our care, but our rule will be firm and unbending, like iron.

This is all tied to the promise God made to Israel that one day He would send them shepherds after His own heart, who will feed them on knowledge and understanding.⁶ Those who are now overcoming and keeping His deeds are those shepherds. And His word is an unbending rod.

The Potter

Within the **Codex**, **Yahweh** is referred to as the potter, the one who makes all the vessels of this world, the one who decides each-and-every piece, as *"all of us are the work of His hands"*.⁷ And this is even now

⁵ "shall rule" is rendered in the *future active indicative*; "broken to pieces" is rendered in the *present passive indicative*

⁶ **Jeremiah 3:15, 23:4**

⁷ See **Isaiah 29:16; 64:8**

how He deals the nations, as the Potter who makes and even now breaks the clay.

Jeremiah 18:1-11

The word which came to Jeremiah from **Yahweh** saying, "Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will announce My words to you." Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something on the wheel. But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so, he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make.

Then the word of **Yahweh** came to me saying, "Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter does?" declares **Yahweh**. "Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant it; if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it."

So, yes, even today, the vessels of the great potter are even **now** caused to be broken to pieces. That is the work of the Father. And *"does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use another for common use?"*⁸

The Source of Authority

"... as I also have received authority from My Father." We already mentioned that as joint heirs of Jesus Christ, His bondservants are granted the very same authority from Jesus which His Father gave to Him. This alone is quite a shocking revelation as Jesus said, *"All authority has been given to me in heaven and earth."*⁹ This is the same authority that He will give to His bondservants. Jesus received His authority, but He feely attributed this gift to His Father. He did not glorify Himself; rather, He glorified or honored the Father by acknowledging the giver, and in turn the Father glorified Him.¹⁰

This claim of authority is a slap in the face to Jezebel who claims her authority over the people through her gifting, something she was given. Her claim to rule and her leadership over people is not an innate right; rather, it is a right she took by leveraging a gift which God had given to her. And instead of worshiping the giver of the gift, instead of glorifying the giver, she claimed it as her own and caused others to, in effect, worship her and not God.

Revelation 2:28

...and I will give him the morning star.

⁸ ***Romans 9:21***

⁹ ***Matthew 28:18***

¹⁰ ***See John 8:54, 12:28, 13:32, 17:5***

The Morning Star of Hope

This second promise is not just an insignificant dangle on this long difficult passage; rather, it speaks of unimaginable power that is accessible to us in this life, and that is the power which comes through **HOPE**.

The “*morning star*” provides us an allusion regarding the planet Venus which appears super bright as the darkness of night passes away; it is an indication that that the rays of sun are soon coming to light up and warm the earth. This is a picture of **HOPE**.

This is Jesus’ promise that no matter how dark the night or how much weeping there is, His joy comes in the morning as He arrives.¹¹ Therefore, if we are now believing, we can have hope about our lives in the now and hope about our future. Therefore, we must now be overcoming and keeping His deeds until He *arrives*—it is how we learn to abide in **HOPE** as we look forward to the morning star.

HOPE is one of the most powerful attributes that a believer can possess, for it enables a person to see beyond their current circumstances, see beyond the impossible, and see beyond their own limitations to what God, as our **I AM**, can do and will do when He *arrives*.

HOPE helps us still our soul and wait in silence for God only.¹² Jesus calls Himself the bright morning star.¹³ In other words, He is our **HOPE**, and He will give us Himself.¹⁴ Thus, He is our assurance that everything He has promised He will fulfill, it is just a matter of time.

HOPE assures us that all His words are true, they are the ultimate authority, and that we can bet our lives upon all that He has said. “*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**. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*”¹⁵

HOPE is so powerful to the soul that it crushes despair and the despondency of suffering which tempts us to be our own “god” and to take matters into our own hands, to find our own solutions and fix our own problems, or to turn to others to be our source of authority.¹⁶

HOPE overcomes the unfathomable, as with Abraham who in hope against hope believed. “*Without becoming weak in faith, he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. Therefore, it was accredited to him as righteousness.*”¹⁷

HOPE defies the victim mentality which tempts us to blame others for what is happening in our lives (people, demons, the universe, and even ourselves), for it fixes our eyes on the light that shines, on the

¹¹ **Psalm 30:5**

¹² **Psalm 62:5**

¹³ **Revelation 22:16**

¹⁴ **1 Timothy 1:1**

¹⁵ **2 Peter 1:19-21**

¹⁶ **Psalm 42:5-11, 43:5**

¹⁷ **Romans 4:19-22**

God of the night and the God of the morning, the God of all creation.¹⁸

HOPE defies the fear of death, as Job said, *“Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.”*¹⁹

HOPE assures us of His love and care even during great tragedy. *“Behold, the eye of **Yahweh** is on those who fear Him, on those who hope for His lovingkindness, to deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for **Yahweh**; He is our help and our shield.”*²⁰

HOPE is our confidence,²¹ which empowers us to wait on **Yahweh** to act on our behalf. David said, *“I wait for **Yahweh**, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope. My soul waits for **Yahweh** more than the watchmen for the morning; indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in **Yahweh**; for with **Yahweh** there is lovingkindness, and with Him is abundant redemption.”*²²

HOPE is developed through our suffering, and it displays itself in God’s *agape* love. *“And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, **hope**; and **hope** does not disappoint, because the (agape) love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”*²³

HOPE is revived through remembering the truth about God. *“The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words. I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet I still dare to **hope** when I remember this: The faithful love of **Yahweh** never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, ‘**Yahweh** is my inheritance; therefore, I will **hope** in him!’ **Yahweh** is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him. So, it is good to wait quietly for salvation from **Yahweh**. And it is good for people to submit at an early age to the yoke of his discipline: Let them sit alone in silence beneath **Yahweh**’s demands. Let them lie face down in the dust, for there may be hope at last.”*²⁴

HOPE flows from the joy and peace which only God can provide. *“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*²⁵

HOPE is an anchor for the soul, both sure and steadfast, and one which enters into God’s most holy place.²⁶

*“How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose **HOPE** is in **Yahweh** his God.”*²⁷

The Prophetic Word & the Morning Star

I do not know if the Spirit had Thyatira in mind when He spoke through Peter about those who introduce destructive heresies, those with eyes full of adultery, who seduce believers with their false

¹⁸ *Ephesians 3:9; Revelation 4:11; Psalm 146:6*

¹⁹ *Job 13:15*

²⁰ *Psalm 33:18-20*

²¹ *Psalm 71:5*

²² *Psalm 130:5-7*

²³ *Romans 5:3-5*

²⁴ *Lamentations 3:19-29*

²⁵ *Romans 15:13*

²⁶ *Hebrews 6:17-20*

²⁷ *Psalm 146:5*

words. But it sure sounds familiar and is remarkably like what we learned in *Jude*.

2 Peter 2:1-3, 17-22

But **False Prophets** also arose among the people, **just as there will also choose to be false teachers among you**, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even **now** denying the Master who bought them, **now** bringing swift destruction upon themselves. Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in their greed they will **choose** to exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is **now** not idle, and their destruction is **now** not asleep." ...

These are springs without water and mists **now** being driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved. **For now speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely are now escaping from the ones who are now living in error, choosing to now be promising them freedom while they themselves are now slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.**

For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are **now** overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire."

In contrast, Peter was clear that he and the disciples of Jesus follow the true prophetic word of God and not all the plethora of religious deceptions.

2 Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"— and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven **now being** with Him on the holy mountain.

So, we **now** have the **prophetic word** made more sure, to which you **now** do well to **now** be paying attention as to a lamp **now** shining in a dark place, **until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts**. But you are **now** knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is **now** a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men **now being** moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Peter likely had experience with the Jezebels of his day as clearly did Jude. Peter makes it clear that Jesus is the source of the true prophetic word, and His Word gives us **HOPE**, or light in a dark place, until

the one who is our **HOPE** arrives, or takes possession of our being and shines in-and-through our lives as we walk by faith. Yes, He will make Himself so visible, in glory, within our lives that He will be the living **HOPE** that enables us (and others) to endure whatever it is that this world brings our way.

THE TEST OF ALL PROPHECY COMES BACK TO THE WORD OF GOD.

It does not matter how powerful Jezebel may be, how authoritative she speaks, and how much she utters in the name of God, nor how accurate she has been in the past, if her prophetic words cannot be supported by the prophetic and living Word of God, she is destined for a bed of great tribulation along with those who follow her in the Deep of Satan.

WE MUST EXAMINE ALL PROPHECY AND HOLD FAST TO THAT WHICH IS GOOD.²⁸

He is our **HOPE**. He is our **morning star**. He is our guarantee of all that He has promised is ours. He is our assurance that the Son is rising and will soon *arrive* to fulfill everything He said, it is just a matter of time.

Ears to Hear

Revelation 2:29

He who is **now** having an ear, they are commanded to hear what the Spirit **now** says to the churches.

Once again, we must not forget that this message is to all the churches, and it is a message which the Spirits even now says. And although it is a message to all those within the household of God, the command to hear is given to those who now are having an ear tuned to the Spirit. It is a cry for perseverance—for those who are now believing to keep on keeping on. And the Spirit is clear that those who do now hear His voice are those who are now being of the truth.²⁹ And they stand in contrast to those who are not now having an ear to hear and not now being of the truth.

Hopefully, this notion of our always being found in our **now** holding fast, overcoming, and keeping His deeds, and not our deeds, is starting to have a transforming effect on our entire being: our heart, mind, soul, and strength. Sadly, unless we are those who are now having an ear, we will never comprehend what the Spirit now says to the churches. It will be, and remain, a mystery to our soul.

And without the ears to hear, it is likely we will not live in **HOPE** for Jesus's arrival and instead find that we will be like those who let the Jezebel's of our world rule and control our lives. The result is terrifying: a bed of judgment and **Great Tribulation**. Let's choose to be **willing** to let God make us those who are

²⁸ *1 Thessalonians 5:21*

²⁹ *John 18:37*

now overcoming and are **now** keeping His deeds of *agape* love.

And remember, **faith is a now thing!**

