
EP49 Revelation 2-3 Promises & Reflections

Before we move to *Revelation 4*, I would like to do one final catch-all on the letters to the seven churches. We will look at the promises and reflect a bit on what we have learned.

The Letters & The Promises

I would like to connect some dots with the letters to the churches and the prophetic way they are linked in terms of the promises which Jesus makes to those who are now overcoming. I will also re-touch on Jesus' hot-button, religion, but first let us consider how the promises speak of the unfolding of the kingdom of God on earth and in eternity.

The *Revelation* is a book that with every turn of the page we find a wonderful surprise to which we can look forward both for our **Eternity Now** and for our **Eternity Then**.

To the faithful at Ephesus, Jesus promised the tree of life in the paradise of God. This is obviously the beginning of our walk with God and pictures our journey of salvation. Hence, Jesus promised to the faithful at Smyrna that they would not face the **Second Death**. Faith has always been the single and solitary pathway of our justification.¹ As such, the faithful will **not** have to face the Great White Throne Judgment, or be sentenced to the **Lake of Fire**, eternally separated from God.

To Pergamum, Jesus promised that they would be special to Him and each one will have a unique relationship filled with surprises and wonderful gifts. He also promised that He will be the very substance of life for everyone who would let Him be their "**I AM**."

From there we jump to the time of the millennial kingdom, the time when Jesus returns to earth to rule and reign for 1,000 years. To Thyatira Jesus promises not just triumph, but the right to rule over the nations with the same authority that the Father gives to Him. He also promises those who are now overcoming, the morning star of **HOPE**. Thus, that no matter what is happening in their lives as they wait for His ultimate rule as King, His light will soon break through and free them from all darkness.

Beginning with Sardis, we are introduced to aspects of our eternity. We are promised that our names will not be blotted out from the Book of Life. We will be clothed in white—in the righteousness of **Yahweh Tsikdenu**—and Jesus will confess before His Father and the angels that we belong to Him. And to Philadelphia, He promises that we will be as strong and stable as pillars fixed in the temple of God. We will never have to leave His presence ever again. We will be citizens of the New Jerusalem and we will have **Yahweh's** new name inscribed on us. We will have a home, a city, a people, and we will belong to **Yahweh** for all eternity.

We will also be given crowns of victory, because all who are victorious will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is. And lastly, to the church at Laodicea, Jesus promises that all who are now overcoming will sit with Him on His throne, just as He sits with His Father on His throne. This is a promise of authority in our now, over every rule, power, and authority in the heavenly realms, and it is a promise for our eternity as we will rule and reign with Christ for all eternity. As the Father did with the Son, Jesus will lift us up above all His creation and we will be exalted as His beautiful and beloved bride.

¹ See *Philippians 3:9*

It is such a powerful progression of promises which paints a prophetic picture of our spiritual existence. As far as His hot-button, I also want to remind you that **Yahweh** absolutely despises religion as it is expressed by those who take His name but do not really know Him by His name. In the letters to both Ephesus and Sardis, who were both extremely religious churches, He had the harshest of all responses. He was far gentler with those who were morally and culturally compromised, and even more gentle with those who were hiding away in their pain.

The morally corrupt know they are corrupt. They are not living in deception regarding their *flesh*. They are panged by their corruption, but they still know the truth and know they are hypocrites who live in error. Whereas those who love their religion, who love to do “good works” in His name, genuinely believe they are doing a service for God. They genuinely believe they are “good” with God because all that they do for Him. And they lead others down the same pathway—a road that is filled with the dead and dying—a pathway that is broad and leads to the **Second Death** upon which so many travel.

It is vital that we understand God’s heart and dig down deep in our souls and choose to live in repentance—which as we have learned is to live in agreement with Him that we will no longer deal with Him, ourselves, or anyone else based on law. Instead, our rule will be **grace by faith**: 100% dependence upon all that He does for us and through us.

He desires us to turn course from loving what **Yahweh** hates and therefore to simply agree with Him in terms of how He sees our lives and its intersection with this world we live in. Agreement with God in the center of our being is how we come to now be having the ears to hear (as a normal part of our life) what the Spirit now says to the churches.

The Letters & Yahweh

Reflections on the 7-letters to the Churches

Who is Yahweh?

What we discovered about **Jesus** in the letters to the 7-chruches was a bit shocking compared to what many of us have understood about our God and His relationship to those in His own household. There are many issues that just jumped out of those letters that are hard to swallow and extremely difficult to accept, because for so long many of us have been taught so much to the contrary.

For instance, the thought that “salvation” is a **2-step** process and is not solely the result of saying the “sinner’s prayer” sounds like heresy and blasphemy. You might be thinking, “who says I must become needy and dependent like a little child? That does not sound very practical, especially given that God gave us a brain and He expects us to use it.” Well, Jesus did. He said it. In fact, He said that those who do not dig down deep into their soul and make the choice to now and continually live like a little child will not enter the kingdom of God.²

Then there was this notion that God divides those within His own household and makes a clear and hard demarcation between those who are now believing (the **Chosen**) and those who are now not believing (the **Called**), despite their loyal and dedicated service to the Lord, and despite all their great ministry deeds. How is that fair? They did and they do so much for God and for His kingdom; they are such

² *Matthew 18:3; Mark 10:15; Luke 18:17*

a witness and a light and have ministered to so many. Yet, those who trust their own wisdom and abilities and do not bet their lives on His name (**Yahweh**), are judged not only in this life, but in eternity. For all their works are lawless, unauthorized by the Father and not performed in the presence, or before the face, of the Father. Remember, **the source matters, the source is everything!**

It was shocking to learn that He will cast out from His kingdom the Called (those so called “friends” who served Him in His household), while at the same time declaring righteous those of the world (who are **not** now a part of His household) but who throughout life choose to treat His Chosen ones with kindness and compassion. They are even called the “**Righteous**.” Tell me, how does it make any sense that they will inherit the kingdom of God while the Called, those who cried out to Him “Lord, Lord” and did all manner of amazing deeds “*in His name*” will not? It all seems so incongruent with what we thought we knew and understood.

I hate to say it, but it is extremely hard to grasp and to get our minds and emotions around the fact that these so called “faithful servants of God” will be cast out of the kingdom and into outer darkness where there will be an eternal existence of wailing and gnashing of teeth, while these others will be permitted to enter the kingdom under the rule of the Bride of Christ. The Righteous, those whose names are written in the **Lamb’s Book of Life**, will know eternal joy; whereas those who should have known better, who should even now be believing, who should now be having ears to hear what the Spirit now says to the churches, will face the **Second Death**.

The Rest of the Story: Yahweh Who Is Jealous!

It seems that for the most part, those in Christianity at large do not know **Yahweh** in that they tend to accept only a part of **Yahweh’s** character and nature—that with which they are comfortable. As a result, far too many “believers” (especially the Called) ignore, dismiss, deny, and explain away so much of who He says He is and what He does. They tend to focus on His love and mercy, His joy and peace, and the grace that He extends to His people (the “sunshine and rainbows”). And those parts of Him are beyond beautiful, but they forget that His name is **Yahweh Qanna (Yahweh whose name is jealous³)**, and He is a jealous God who wants what He wants and is willing to go to war to obtain His claimed possession. And in this war, He deems nothing sacred, He is willing to crush anything (or anyone) that stands in His way.

He Wants His Rightful Possession

In the **Codex**, **Yahweh** says, “*For you are a holy people to Yahweh your God; Yahweh your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.*”⁴ That is quite a lofty and significant statement. However, for those who think that this glorious statement applies solely to the physical nation of Israel, they have not read the rest of the story. This is a statement spoken over those who are a spiritual nation comprised of the true Israel of God, for He makes this very same statement to the Chosen of God, to those who are *now believing*: “*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession...*”⁵

In fact, the Holy Spirit is given as a pledge of inheritance for those *now believing*, with a view of

³ **Exodus 34:14**

⁴ **Deuteronomy 7:6**

⁵ **1 Peter 2:9**. See also **Galatians 3:6-9, 29, 6:15; Romans 9:6-13; Philippians 3:3**

redemption of God's own *possession*.⁶ Jesus Christ "gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed (that would be all our religious deeds), and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds."⁷

SIMPLY SAID, HE WANTS WHAT RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO HIM.

This is Our God!

In that light, we found out that God has a disturbing side to Him, an emotional side, what we might call a grisly and terrifying side, that is fueled by His jealousy. This side of Him expresses Himself in sarcasm, disdain, ridicule, harsh words, snarky comments, anger, wrath, and judgment.

In fact, this is one major reason why many so called "believers" have never read, or have scantily read, much of the Old Testament. That part of the **Codex** is deemed to be, by many, far too unsettling and quite inexplicable. We would rather stay in our "love" delusion (the sunshine and rainbows) and believe that this grisly part of God's nature is reserved for the heathen, the pagan, those who do not know Him, those who have never known Him, those who have never said the "sinner's prayer", and all those in this world who love evil and worship creation instead of the creator (including all manner of spiritual beings who pose as gods).

But even with the most casual read of the **Codex**, one finds that most of His harsh and demeaning words, as well as His outbursts of, anger, wrath, and judgment, are directed to His own people—to those who identify as belonging to Him, those who reside in His household but who are not willing to now be believing in Him to be their "**I AM**" (the **Hayah**, the very embodiment of His name **Yahweh**). In the Old Testament, this aspect of His nature was directed at the unbelieving Jew, and in the New Testament to the unbelieving Christians (both Jew and Gentile).

The point is that all those in His household should know that they are dealing with a jealous lover who wants what He wants. His name **Yahweh Qanna** declares it so. Moreover, despite what we want to believe, and even though He is *agape* love itself,⁸ His love is not all about sunshine and rainbows. Rather, His *agape* love is the kind of love that is as strong as death, its jealousy demanding as the grave (or literally, Sheol, the place of the dead).⁹ Death is after everyone and it is relentless, and so is God's love; it's on a continual and aggressive pursuit. And like Sheol, **Yahweh** does not seek to possess only a part of us, and He is not ever satisfied with the pieces we give Him, He wants it all. He wants all of us.

His jealousy explodes like sudden flashes meted out in anger, wrath, and judgment. They are flashes of fire, the very flame of **Yahweh**. These are the sparks of His love. Many waters cannot quench this love, nor will rivers overflow it. It is just too powerful. The force of the strongest river or ocean is powerless next to the strength of God's jealous love.

We are told that if a man were to give all the riches of his house for this love, that gift would be utterly

⁶ *Ephesians 1:13-14*

⁷ *Titus 2:14*

⁸ *1 John 4:8, 16*

⁹ *Song of Solomon 8:6-7*

despised. Why? Because **Yahweh** does not want our stuff, He wants us in our entirety: our heart, mind, soul, and strength. He wants it all!

Notwithstanding all of that, this jealous love of **Yahweh**, which burns throughout His being, demands a choice by those who would receive His love. He never forces anyone to receive Him much less reciprocate the love He has for them; He always lets them choose if they want to know Him and if they want to have Him. In fact, every single day, those in His household get to make a choice if they want to stay with Him or leave Him in apostasy. Hence, the cry for His people to **now** be believing—a present and ongoing act.

Those who want only what they can get from Him, will find that they do not get to have Him. But those who want Him to be their entirety, their **I AM**, and want Him to fill and possess their being, will get Him even though they stumble and fall along the way. And for now, they will get Him in part, but in eternity, completely. For they will be like Him, and they will see (or receive) Him as He is (not as they want Him to be).¹⁰

As painful as it maybe for Him, **Yahweh** will absolutely and unequivocally let those in His household choose to go their own way and give their heart, mind, soul, and strength to any manner of things, including idolatry and immorality—even to the Deep of Satan and the depths of religion. **Yes, His love demands a choice!**

Accept Him or Reject Him

We must come to grips with the reality that we will either accept **Yahweh** for who He is, with no reservation, or reject Him because He does not act like we want Him to act, and He does not speak like we want Him to speak.

The reality is that the sunshine and rainbows love is an expression that He makes to the Chosen, to those who are **now** believing. Remember, in His letters to **Smyrna** and **Philadelphia**, He spoke only blessing and encouragement (the equivalent of sunshine and rainbows), but to those in **Ephesus**, **Pergamum**, **Thyatira**, **Sardis**, and even **Laodicea**, He spoke terrifying words of judgment bringing up such ghastly things as the **Second Death**, **Great Tribulation**, falling away (apostasy), removing the Lampstand, waging war with the sword of His mouth, Killing with Death, and vomiting them out of His mouth. Yes, all these were spoken to those who identified as Christians, for all of them had been converted by God (they took **Step 1**) but had not chosen to take **Step 2** and become that little child dependent only upon God determined to live by grace through faith (and remember, faith is always a now thing).

Yet, the most amazing thing to realize is that what He does in His jealousy is never a reaction as we would understand it, but it is an interaction, and opportunity for His people to repent (or to agree with Him) and return to Him in active belief. As He said to those in Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea, *"I know your deeds."* Nothing we do catches Him off-guard or by surprise. He knows. And because He knows, His jealous nature interacts with those He pursues in His love to bring their choice to the surface—to their conscience level of comprehension.

As the **Alpha** who knows all and initiates all, and as the **first and the last**, He explains what He is going to do if they do not repent and choose to now be believing and live in agreement with Him. And as the

¹⁰ **1 John 3:2**

Omega, He brings about the results of their choice, either for life or for death. But make no mistake, it is their choice. He places the responsibility for the choice clearly within our hands, but He will always honor our choice.

What He Says and Does Reveals Who He Is

Over-and-over in His judgment of His own people, He states that His purpose is that they might know that He is **Yahweh**—the Sovereign Lord. As He says, *“Know therefore today, and take it to your heart that **Yahweh**, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.”*¹¹

Just like any person, **Yahweh** wants to be known for who He is and not for who we want Him to be or who we have created Him to be. In fact, a big piece of the idolatry rampant within the religion of Christianity is connected to a Jesus that only kind-of fits the image of **Yahweh**, but which falls far short of capturing who He is. Thus, far too many people call on the name of Jesus, and say, “Lord, Lord” but they are not calling on the person of **Yahweh**, the **Hayah** (the **I AM**), but on a god of their own imagination—a god that fits what they think He should be. After all, if He is the **I AM**, we should live as if He is the only source of all that we need for life and godliness, not just a part of what we need.

With that in mind, all of us need to take a journey through the **Codex** so we can learn what **Yahweh** says about Himself, about His jealous love, and how it is often expressed in sudden flashes (the sparks of His love) meted out in anger, wrath, and judgment toward His own people. It is hard to swallow, but **Yahweh** is not all sunshine and rainbows, *“for **Yahweh** your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.”*¹² And *“it is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”* As He says:

Hebrews 10:28-31

Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses **now** dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has been trampling underfoot the Son of God, and has been regarding as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has been insulting the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who has been saying, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY.” And again, “**THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE.**” It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

He judges all His people (the Called and the Chosen). But for those who are *now believing* (the Chosen) it is a purifying experience resulting in a deeper relationship with Him. In fact, His judgment is a beautiful expression of His mercy, and it is the only pathway to an established and unmovable faith which defines all His bondservants.

But for the Called, those who are **NOT** now believing, but should be, it is a terrifying experience, an act of vengeance which causes many to turn from Him and leave their first love. Yes, they have beheld the Son for who He is (**Yahweh**), but they have not chosen to be believing—to be that little child who relies on **Yahweh** for all things all the time.

¹¹ **Deuteronomy 4:39**

¹² **Deuteronomy 4:24**

In that light, much of what we will discover in the **Codex** will be shocking, but it is time we get to know our God so that we might be those who know His name and believe that He alone is **Yahweh**, for the Lord will judge His people. Only then, through judgment, will they be equipped to make a true choice about Him. Only then will they be able to decide if they want to be a bondservant (one of the Chosen) who knows Him and accepts Him for “**who He is**” and for “**what He does**” in His jealous love, or not. But either way, His people, all who have been called into His household, are and will be without excuse.

To facilitate this journey, I have gone through the **Codex** and collected many (but not all) of the statements which capture the sparks of His jealous love meted out in anger, wrath, and judgment toward His own people. It is a lot, because He has a lot to say to His own people, as He cries out to us to simply agree with Him that He is a good lover and that He is the only pathway to life.

I have attached this collection as an [addendum](#) at the end of the **Revelation** study, for those who are courageous and want to know all about our God, even the grisly side of His love. I encourage you to print it out and study His own words and expressions.

I know it is a lot, but it is important that we digest what **Yahweh** says about Himself and about those in His household and choose not to neglect the parts of His character and nature that do not fit the modern **fictions** that have been propagated about Him. Yes, He is *agape* love, and He is full of mercy and in that mercy, He extends His grace to those in His household. But His grace is an extension of His identity as the **I AM**—the provider of all we need all the time.

Therefore, those who come to Him must receive Him for who He is, the ultimate source of all—**the source matters, the source is everything!** Those who are bent on doing things for themselves simply do not know Him as their **I AM**.

God Hates Religion

WHAT WE LEARNED IN THE LETTERS TO THE 7-CHURCHES IS THAT GOD HATES AND COMPLETELY DEPLORES RELIGION!

Yahweh hates the pretense of those who say they know Him and love Him and serve Him, when in reality they do not know Him and are actually loving themselves and serving themselves by the exercise of their own power and authority, of course all done “in His name”. Yet, they are lawless and all they do is lawlessness; and lawlessness is sin.

1 John 3:23-24

This is **now** His commandment, that we believe in the *name* of His Son Jesus Christ {the name is **Yahweh**—the One who is our **I AM**}, and **now** love one another, just as He commanded us. The one who is **now keeping** His commandments **now** abides in Him, and He in him. We **now** know by this that He **now** abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

This perfectly captures what God wants of us. After having beheld the Son as **Yahweh**, the **I AM**, we

are to choose to **now and continually** be that little child who is dependent upon their Father for all things all the time and therefore **now and continually** bet our lives on all that He is and all that He says He will be for-us-and-through-us when we let Him. That is what it means to be believing. And the fruit of that believing is that through His life in ours, we will love one another with His *agape* love.

Let us now be believing and having ears that are now hearing what the Spirit says, for the events that will unfold from **Revelation 4** through the end of the book make it clear that those who are not now believing **now** abide in death, and they will experience death in the most horrific of ways.

Therefore, let us strap-in and be prepared for the unveiling of our God as His majesty and glory is manifest upon this earth in a jealousy for His people; a jealousy that is expressed in judgment, anger, and wrath towards those who are now not believing and in deliverance, salvation, and **unrestrained freedom** for those who are now believing and now overcoming.

Let's pick up in our next podcast with **Revelation 4**, where we get our first glimpse into the heavenly realms.