



The DAILY JESUS NEWS #359
The Eternal Ministry of Jesus in Heaven
The Continuing Words and Works of the Risen Jesus Throughout Eternity Future

**Jesus Speaks to the Church in Thyatira,
And All Believers Who Will Listen
Rev. 2.18-29**

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18 *"I command you to write to the messenger of the church in Thyratira:*

"This is what the Son of God is saying, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like polished bronze.

19 *"I know your works, love, faith, service and perseverance, and that your last works are greater than your first ones.*

20 *"However, I am holding this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet, and continues teaching and deceiving my own servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. 21 I gave her some time to repent of her immorality, but she remains unwilling to repent of her immorality.*

22 *"Look! I will surely toss her down onto a bed of agony, and I will cause those who are committing adultery with her to also suffer intensely, if they refuse to repent of her ways. 23 I will strike her children stone dead.*

"Then all the churches will be convinced that I AM the One who searches hearts and minds, and I will give to each of you as your deeds deserve.

24 *"Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to those who are not holding to her teaching and have not learned what they are calling "Satan's deep secrets," that I am placing any other burden on you, 25 except to hold on tenaciously to what you have, until I come.'*

26 *"To the person who is victorious and is staying true to my work in them until the end, I will give authority over the nations— 27 that person 'WILL RULE OVER THEM WITH AN IRON SCEPTER AND WILL SMASH THEM TO PIECES LIKE POTTERY'—just as I have permanently received authority from my Father. 28 I will also give that person the morning star.*

29 *"Whoever has ears, I command them to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible

book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	On the Greek Island of Patmos, Just Off the Coast of Turkey
Timeline	About 60 Years After Jesus Ascended
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IX: The Resurrection and Eternal Ministry of Jesus
	Jesus' Eternal Ministry in Heaven
	The Continuing Words and Works of the Risen Jesus Throughout Eternity Future
Title:	Jesus Speaks to the Church in Thyatira and All Believers Who Will Listen

Jesus' message to the fourth Church in the group of seven gives us another revelation of his expectations toward all Churches and believers. We can learn much from the way Jesus spoke to the Church in Thyatira, for the major issue it confronted is similar to our modern world.

(1) Have you noticed that every aspect of Jesus' own nature that he mentions at the beginning of each message to the seven churches is a reference to his opening revelation to John in Rev. Chap One? Jesus repeated the description of his ***"eyes like blazing fire and feet like polished bronze"*** in today's text, to the Church in Thyatira. Both of these references described Jesus' nature as the appointed Judge of all people.

Jesus' eyes were burning like cleansing fire because his vision, or perception of people is accurate and true. Jesus truly knows all the thoughts and motivations of our minds and hearts. He sees us as we really are, with perfect Divine and human insight into every experience of our lives. This uniquely qualifies him to judge us in love, with the goal of purifying us and making us holy, even as he is holy. The purification that is the outcome of his vision of us is symbolized by fire.

The bronze of Jesus' feet in John's vision also symbolized judgement. Implements made out of this metal were used in the forgiveness and cleansing of sin rites in the Old Testament. Jesus had referred to the bronze serpent made by Moses in the Wilderness in his conversation with Nicodemus, for example. (DJN #039; JN 3:14-15). His feet were glowing with the heat of purifying fire in Chapter One, as he reminded the believers in Thyatira, because he walks in the midst of his people (the Churches) as a puffing fire.

This image of Jesus as the purifying fire of judgement preceded his birth as well. Malachi closed the Old Testament with this description of the coming Messiah:

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver." Mal. 3:1-3

(2) Jesus' spiritual diagnosis of the Church in Thyatira began again with his praise. He mentioned their works, love, faith, service, perseverance, and growth. However, they tolerated the influence of a prophetess in their midst, who was either named Jezebel, or was given that nickname by Jesus because she was acting like the evil pagan Queen of King Ahab, one of the most evil Kings in the history of the northern Kingdom of Israel. Jezebel promoted sexual and religious adultery against God by encouraging

worship of the pagan fertility god, Baal. Sexual promiscuity was a central part of Baal worship, which also included child sacrifices. Sexual immorality was united with spiritual adultery against God in the Baal-worship.

The chances are that “Jezebel” in Thyatira engaged in “good” works of service and perseverance, in addition to her sexual immorality. There was a reason why the believers tolerated her. Jesus had already rebuked her, and given her time to repent, but she had refused. Now he was warning the entire Church that the only way to purify her was intense suffering, which he would bring upon her and those who associated with her. Death would be the ultimate end if she refused the discipline that was coming to her.

If that sounds harsh, think again. Jesus will say to the Church in Laodicea: **“I make a practice of rebuking and disciplining the people I really love.”** (3.19) Jesus wanted “Jezebel” and all who were following her to experience eternal reward and glory through pursuing his good, acceptable, and perfect will for them in their days on earth. The course she was pursuing was causing eternal damage to herself and others. This kind of spiritual cancer can only be cut out by extreme measures. Jesus spoke these tough words concerning Jezebel out of pure love.

(3) Jesus commanded Jezebel and her followers to repent of all their sexual and spiritual adultery. Like David in the Old Testament, he longed for them to be renewed and revived to deep intimacy with him, and eternal rewards in his service. He also gave no new commands to the faithful believers in Thyatira who had resisted Jezebel’s influence, other than they remain tenaciously faithful to him.

(4) Jesus promised those that were victorious in following him, that they would be given positions of authority and responsibility in heaven as a reward for their faithfulness on earth. They would share his throne with him. He also promised them *“the morning star.”* This star, which burns bright in the eastern sky in the minutes before darkness turns to dawn, is a Biblical name for Jesus himself. He used it in his last words to us in the Bible, in Rev. 22.16. **“I AM the root and the offspring of David, and the Bright Morning Star.”**

Jesus is the light of revelation that shines in the present darkness of our sinful age, preceding the dawn of truth that is coming when he returns to this earth to establish his eternal kingdom. This promise to all who are victorious in holiness means that faithful believers would bask in the fullest light of his revelation of himself to them, so they would be best prepared to meet him face to face.

APPLICATION:

We live in the age of Jezebel today. There is more encouragement to pursue sensual and sexual satisfaction in our time than any other. The explosion of technology and communication have only increased the seductive power of sex and self-fulfillment. These leads in turn to spiritual immorality and adultery against God in our beliefs. Faithfulness in pursuing pure devotion to Jesus is desperately needed in our age, perhaps even more than in the city of Thyatira.

These words of Jesus to a church and believers facing enormous sexual and spiritual temptations could not be more appropriate to us today. Jesus is still commanding people who have ears to hear his Word, to keep on listening carefully to what the Spirit is saying to each of us through Jesus’ words to the Church in Thyatira.

How do you experience sexual, spiritual, and religious temptations?

What leads you astray from pure devotion and worship of Jesus more than anything else? This is your Jezebel, no matter what forms it takes. How will you obey Jesus' command to either repent, or to remain faithful?

What form of discipline is Jesus speaking to you through right now? How will take strength from the assurance of his love in the discipline, and move on to purity and transformation?