

## Revelation 2:1-29 **Letters to: Ephesus Smyrna Pergamos Thyatira**

### Ephesus

<sup>1</sup> "To the angel of the church of **Ephesus** write,

'These things says **He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:**

<sup>2</sup> "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; <sup>3</sup> and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

<sup>4</sup> Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

<sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place — unless you repent.

<sup>6</sup> But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

<sup>7</sup> "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

### Smyrna

<sup>8</sup> "And to the angel of the church in **Smyrna** write,

'These things says **the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:**

<sup>9</sup> "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

<sup>10</sup> Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

<sup>11</sup> "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."

### Pergamos

<sup>12</sup> "And to the angel of the church in **Pergamos** write,

'These things says **He who has the sharp two-edged sword:**

<sup>13</sup> "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

<sup>14</sup> But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

<sup>15</sup> Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

### Thyatira

18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the **Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:**

19 "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.

20 Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman **Jezebel**, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. 22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. 23 I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that **I am He who searches the minds and hearts**. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

24 "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.

25 But hold fast what you have till I come.

26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations — 27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' — as I also have received 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."  
NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

**Ephesus (permitted)** [Revelation 2:1-7]

**Ephesus** is three miles inland from its harbor on the Aegean Sea, on the Western coast of the Roman province of Asia and connected by highways to the chief cities of the province.

✚ "These things says **He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:** [Revelation 2:1]

✧ The reference is back to the original vision of the Glorified Christ. [Revelation 1:12-13, 16]

✧ The seven lampstands represent the seven Churches. [Revelation 1:20]

✧ The seven stars represent the seven angels (messengers) of the seven Churches. [Revelation 1:20]

✧ Jesus is the One walking in the midst of the seven Churches observing all that is done. [Revelation 2:2]

✠ "I know your **works**, your **labor**, your **patience**, and **that you cannot bear those who are evil**. And **you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars**; and **you have persevered and have patience**, and have **labored for My name's sake** and **have not become weary**. [Revelation 2:2-3]

✧ Being omniscient, Jesus knows their areas of faithfulness and commends them for it.

✧ This is a faithful Church doing the things expected for a solid fundamental body of believers, in works, labor for the name of Jesus, and patient endurance.

✧ Like Job, they love good and abhor evil.

✧ They test those who come in claiming to be apostles and are able to discern their lie.

✠ Nevertheless I have this against you, that **you have left your first love**. [Revelation 2:4]

✧ When a person first comes to believe in Jesus having heard the Gospel message, they are filled with excitement for their new found faith and want to run out to save the world with the zeal of youth.

✧ Because they are not firmly grounded in knowledge and understanding, when they come into contact with resistance to their message, they are sobered and lose much of that original zeal as though they "lost their first love."

✠ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place — unless you repent.

[Revelation 2:5]

✧ Now that the Church is seasoned with experience, knowledge, understanding, and discernment, it is time to stir up the original zeal which will be much more effective than it was as new converts.

✧ This is a mental choice and Jesus calls them to repent in this matter.

✧ Failure to repent will result in the removal of the Church from its place.

✠ But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the **Nicolaitans**, which I also hate. [Revelation 2:6]

✧ Some believe the word Nicolaitans is a combination of two Greek words of *nico* meaning ruler, and *laity* meaning the people, thereby implying that the deeds of the Nicolaitans was lordship over the people which Jesus condemned. [Matthew 20:25-26, Mark 10:42-43, 1 Peter 5:3]

✧ This practice is quite common in many major Churches of the world today.

✧ Others think they were a sensual cult started by a man named Nicolas, though there is no such evidence to support the theory.

✠ **He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches**. [Revelations 2:7]

✧ The Lord is a gentleman and allows the reader or hearer to choose whether to listen to the teaching or reject it, but He encourages acceptance because the teaching is from the Holy Spirit to the Churches.

✧ The message is to the Saints everywhere and includes the messages to all the Churches.

✧ People are always called to choose to hear God or reject Him, God wants us to make the choice. [Hebrews 3:7, 15, 4:6-7, Psalm 95:8]

✠ **To him who overcomes** I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God. [Revelation 2:7]

✧ The promise to the overcomer is the right to the Tree of Life, beside the River of Life, in the New Jerusalem, on the New Earth, under the New Heaven. [Revelation 22:1-5]

**Smyrna** (bitterness – shows Messiah's suffering) [Revelation 2:8-11]

Smyrna is a city of Ionia 40 miles north of Ephesus.

✠ These things says **the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life**: [Revelation 1:17-18, 2:8]

✧ Jesus Who died and lives again is the source of life for His Saints. [John 5:21, 10:28, 17:1-2, James 1:12, 1 John 2:25]

- ✠ I know your **works, tribulation, and poverty** (but you are rich); and I know the **blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.** [Revelation 2:9]
  - ✧ The Lord sees things altogether differently than we do. We see our poverty and problems in this life which are passing away, but Jesus sees our eternal reward in all its fullness.
  - ✧ Gentiles who call themselves Jews are a synagogue of Satan. [Revelation 2:9, 3:9]
  - ✧ This is a reference to those who teach that the Gentile Church became spiritual Israel and replaced the Jews in the economy of God when the Jews rejected Jesus and caused Him to be crucified.
  - ✧ God has not cast away His People the Jews, Israel, nor will He. [Romans 11:1-32, Psalm 94:14, Jeremiah 33:25-26]
  - ✧ Gentiles do not replace the Jews, but believing Gentiles are grafted into the promises of God by faith along with believing Jews and all are counted as sons of Abraham because of their faith. [Galatians 3:1-9, Romans 3:27-31, 11:1-36]
- ✠ **Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer.** Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, **that you may be tested,** and you will have tribulation ten days. **Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.** [Revelation 2:10]
  - ✧ Jesus is calling His Saints to endure the suffering that is to test their faith, which has a specific time frame and will end. [Matthew 24:9-13, Mark 13:12-13]
  - ✧ This is in keeping with the teachings of Jesus calling us to choose between life in the flesh and Eternal Life with Him. [Matthew 16:25-26, Mark 8:35-38, Luke 9:24-26, 17:33, Hebrews 13:6, Matthew 10:28, Luke 12:4-5, Revelation 12:17, 13:5-7, 14:12-13]
  - ✧ The promise of Life is given for those who are faithful to the death. [Revelation 2:10, 7:9-16, 12:17, 20:4-6, 2 Timothy 2:11-12, Hebrews 10:36, James 1:12]
- ✠ **He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.** [Revelation 2:11]
  - ✧ The message is to the Saints everywhere and includes the messages to all the Churches.
  - ✧ People are always called to choose to hear God or reject Him, God wants us to make the choice. [Hebrews 3:7, 15, 4:6-7, Psalm 95:8]
- ✠ **He who overcomes** shall not be hurt by the second death. [Revelation 2:11]
  - ✧ The Second Death is the Eternal Lake of Fire. [Revelation 20:14-15]

#### Pergamos (married) [Revelation 2:12-17]

- ✠ These things says **He who has the sharp two-edged sword:** [Revelation 2:12, 1:16, 19:15, 21]
  - ✧ Sharp two edged Sword represents the spoken **Word of Christ to execute judgment** used to destroy His enemies. [Revelation 2:16, 19:15, 21, Hebrews 4:12, Zechariah 14:12]
- ✠ **I know your works, and where you dwell,** where Satan's throne is. **And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith** even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. [Revelation 2:13]
  - ✧ The Lord knows the suffering and faithfulness of His Saints in their time of testing. [Exodus 3:7, Isaiah 66:18]
  - ✧ Pergamos was a major city in the Roman province of Mysia.
  - ✧ Pergamos is known as the city in which Satan dwells, this is a reference to the temples of idols and the prominent use of the symbol of the serpent representing Satan, and possibly included worship of the Roman Emperors.
  - ✧ The altar of Zeus was believed to be the seat or throne of Satan.
- ✠ **But I have a few things against you,** because you have there those who hold the **doctrine of Balaam,** who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. [Revelation 2:14, Numbers 31:16]
  - ✧ The **doctrine of Balaam** is clearly described. [2 Peter 2:15-16, Numbers 22:1 through 24:25, 31:16, Jude 1:11, Revelation 2:14]

- ✠ Thus you also have those who hold the **doctrine of the Nicolaitans**, which thing I hate. [\[Revelation 2:15\]](#)
  - ✧ Some believe the word Nicolaitans is a combination of two Greek words of *nico* meaning ruler, and *laity* meaning the people, thereby implying that the doctrine of the Nicolaitans was the lordship over the people which Jesus condemned. [\[Matthew 20:25-26, Mark 10:42-43, 1 Peter 5:3\]](#)
  - ✧ This practice is quite common in many major Churches of the world today.
  - ✧ Others think they were a sensual cult started by a man named Nicolas, though there is no such evidence to support the theory.
- ✠ **Repent**, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the **sword of My mouth**. [\[Revelation 2:16\]](#)
  - ✧ The only solution to human error is to repent and change one's ways to the ways of the Lord.
  - ✧ The result of failing to repent is to find oneself fighting against God Himself. The weapon of the Lord is His spoken Word. [\[John 12:48\]](#)
  - ✧ Sharp two edged Sword represents the spoken **Word of Christ to execute judgment** used to destroy His enemies. [\[Revelation 2:16, 19:15, 21, Hebrews 4:12, Zechariah 14:12\]](#)
- ✠ **He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches**. [\[Revelation 2:17\]](#)
  - ✧ The message is to the Saints everywhere and includes the messages to all the Churches.
  - ✧ People are always called to choose to hear God or reject Him, God demands of us to make the choice. [\[Hebrews 3:7, 15, 4:6-7, Psalm 95:8\]](#)
- ✠ **To him who overcomes** I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it. [\[Revelation 2:17\]](#)
  - ✧ The reward for the faithful Saint is a special recognition from the Lord, and a promise of special care and provision.

#### Thyatira (odor of affliction) [\[Revelation 2:18-29\]](#)

Thyatira was located between Pergamos and Sardis.

- ✠ These things says the **Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass**: [\[Revelation 2:18\]](#)
  - ✧ He Who was called the **Son of Man** in [\[Revelation 1:13\]](#) is now called the **Son of God**. [\[Revelation 2:18\]](#)
  - ✧ His eyes like a flame of fire represents His **omniscience knowing and discerning all truth**.
  - ✧ His feet like fine brass stands for His **authority in judgment**.
- ✠ **I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience**; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. [\[Revelation 2:19\]](#)
  - ✧ This is an excellent Church in manifestation of much desired characteristics, and one that appears to be growing in their performance of Christian values.
  - ✧ The Judge of all, commends them for their good points.
- ✠ **Nevertheless I have a few things against you**;  
Because you allow that woman **Jezebel**, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. [\[Revelation 2:20\]](#)  
And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. [\[Revelation 2:21\]](#)

Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. [\[Revelation 2:22\]](#)

I will kill her children with death, and **all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts**. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

[Revelation 2:23]

- ✧ Sexual tolerance is a major problem among Churches today, and has been a problem from the beginning among those who confuse tolerance of evil for love.
- ✧ This practice was forbidden from the start as the Counsel in Jerusalem voiced guide lines for the Gentile Churches. [Acts 15:1-29, 21:25, Romans 1:18-32, 1 Corinthians 5:9-13, 10:8, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5]
- ✧ It continues to be a cause for judgment even to be mentioned in the final chapters of Revelation. [Revelation 9:21, 21:8, 22:15]
- ✧ The Lord gave time for repentance, but when it did not come in the time allotted, it is now the cause of Judgment. [Ezekiel 18:30-32, Acts 17:30, Romans 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9]
- ✧ When God has brought upon the unrepentant His Wrath and Judgment, then all the Churches will know that the Lord is the One Who searches the minds and hearts of the people.
- ✧ Judgment will be according to the works of the individual. [Psalm 62:12, Proverbs 24:12, Matthew 16:27, Romans 2:5-6, 2 Corinthians 5:10, 1 Peter 1:17]
- ✧ Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have till I come. [Revelation 2:24-25]
  - ✧ Those who have kept themselves pure, receive no other burden.
  - ✧ The call is still a call to endure, by clinging firmly to the Scriptures first given, and remaining faithful to the end of life or the return of Jesus.
  - ✧ Seeking to know the depths of Satan is very dangerous.
- ✧ **He who overcomes**, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations — 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' — as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. [Revelation 2:26-28]
  - ✧ Those who remain faithful through all the tests and over come Satan are promised a place in the Kingdom with authority over civil governments of the Gentiles. [Revelation 20:4-6, Daniel 7:27]
  - ✧ To overcome they are to keep the works of the Lord to the very end.
  - ✧ The Morning Star is a reference to Jesus and to be given the Morning Star is to be given a part in the Body of Christ, a nearness to the Lord for all eternity. [1 Peter 1:19, Revelation 2:28, 22:16]
- ✧ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
  - ✧ The message is to the Saints everywhere and includes the messages to all the Churches.
  - ✧ People are always called to choose to hear God or reject Him, God demands of us to make the choice. [Hebrews 3:7, 15, 4:6-7, Psalm 95:8]