

“But I say to you, and to the rest among the Thyatirans, as many as do not hold this teaching, and who acknowledged not the depths of the Satan as they speak; I will cast upon you no other burden.

“Moreover, that which ye have, hold fast to the time that I may come. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my appointments until an end. I will give to him dominion over the nations; and he shall govern them with an iron sceptre: (as the potters’ clay vessels it is breaking to pieces) as also I have received from my Father. And I will give to him the Morning Star.

“He that hath an ear, let him hearken to what the Spirit saith to the Ecclesias”.

Translation by Dr John Thomas taken from Eureka.

Suggested reading from Eureka sections 4, The depths of the Satan as they speak, section 5, The Reward promised, section 6, The Morning Star.

Brown & Blue p334 – 351

Red

p286 – 301

Jezebel was a system of perversion of a spiritual nature which had eaten into the early Ecclesias deluding many who were not focused on Christ and had caused the need to separate from such, as we have seen in the last consideration. She caused death. All her children would die. None born to her had any life in them although they might fake such a claim, as many do even today. The multitudes of false churches echo the same situation.

All those who remained in the Ecclesia at Thyatira did not hold this false teaching. They had resisted the temptation to compromise with the sympathisers who showed their affections by sharing the bed with Jezebel. The eldership of the Ecclesia and the congregation had to unite against the position of Jezebel and her sympathisers. It was not a case of accepting that sympathisers remained in the Ecclesia, but that Christ was not

speaking to them, only to those who remained. The spirit spoke to all the Ecclesias including Thyatira. The information in verse 24 must not be put in opposition to the information in verse 29. Each active member of the Ecclesia in Thyatira had to avoid acknowledging *“the depths of the Satan as they speak”*. There was no fence sitting in this spiritual war, no people who were hangers-on. Those who did not choose to stand against Jezebel stood with her and surrendered to her deception of sweet-talking blasphemy.

Which specific doctrine or teaching does Christ emphasise here? Is it to commit fornication? Is it to eat thing sacrificed to idols? There were “a few things” not just one thing that were of concern to Jesus. Why does it say, “this doctrine” rather than “these doctrines”? It seems to be because the corporate teachings of a false system are grouped together as one complete doctrine – the doctrine of Jezebel. So it is with other false churches, the doctrine of the Methodists, the doctrine of the Catholics, the doctrine of the Mormons etc. We can consider the false teachings of a sect or group as a whole and brand it as unacceptable, even if some elements on their own would be okay. It is the complete “form of doctrine” that needs to be identified and either accepted or rejected. There is therefore a duty to seek after heresies and resist them.

What burden did the Lord Jesus place upon these faithful disciples, who stood against Jezebel? This burden had already been placed; it was not a new burden. *“I will cast upon you no other burden”*. That burden was the actual need to disfellowship themselves from the blasphemers and adulterers. This is never an easy thing to leave behind those who were once friends and even family for the sake of the purity of the Truth. Such burdens or weights are also spoken of in Acts 15v28 *“For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things”*. Constraints and prohibitions are burdens because they are not easy to maintain. They are weights which

spiritually press down upon the disciples, as literally that is what the word means.

Anyone who takes delight or relishes such severe action is not approaching this grave matter as a burden which Christ has placed upon us. It is a weight upon the new man which will slow him down. That is what weights do. We cannot make the same progress when we are encompassed with weights as when we are free from all burdens.

Some regard the burden as holding fast to what they already had. But this is not a separate burden from the painful need to take action against the Jezebel sympathisers who had been found previously in the Ecclesia. You cannot hold fast to what you have received from Christ if you compromise with those who do not.

In his translation, Dr Thomas has “**moreover**” rather than “**But**” as the KJV translates it. “*I will put upon you none other burden but what you have already*”. The NET has “*I do not put any additional burden on you. **However**, hold on to what you have*” There is a distinction between these two sentences, they are not joined by the conjunction “*But*”. So the KJV implication of running these concepts together is a poor translation.

Dr Thomas points out that the Satan is plural – “*the depths of Satan as **THEY** speak*”. Those who read the Bible should be aware that Satan is a Hebrew word meaning adversary or opponent, and that both God and His faithful angels are so described, Numbers 22v22, 1 Chron 21v1 (with 2 Sam 24v1). Many satans continue working against the Truth today as they have done down through the annals of history. The enemy of God is not an immortal fallen archangel but the multitude of selfish and ignorant men and women who refuse to accept their Creator and sustainer despite all He has done and does do for them. Let us not be amongst their number.

“*The depths of the satan*” (there is a definite article in the Greek, it’s a description not a name) warns the reader that the effects of

false teaching run deep. Most people only attach themselves superficially to this teaching, but this false system stands in contrast to the deep things of the spirit, 1 Corinthians 2v10. They will be dragged down by it!

The rewards promised here, show the special privilege that follows from the close relationship which each must establish with Jesus. As he has received from the Father because God is the head of the Christ, 1 Corinthians 11v3, so he will graciously share this reward with his brethren and sisters *“even as I have received of my Father”*. Jesus has a father, as a son he is derived or begotten, he also has a God, John 20v17.

These rewards are conditional upon two works. Conquering and enduring, both of which are required to be evidenced in all true believers. Belief being the wellspring of activity. *“And he that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give.....”*

The first reward mentioned is *“power over the nations”*. This is a future reward promised only to faithful saints, not a temporal reward to the church in the times of the gentiles. It is only when accompanied by the presence of Jesus Christ when the immortal saints will be so entrusted with any political power. Until then this is not a sphere of activity which any disciple gets involved in. Instead, they should draw back from any such association lest they become compromised. It should be remembered that Jezebel was a queen first and foremost who also dabbled in false religion. She was rooted in this world and the mortal and temporal elements which the faithful shy away from.

The idea that the saints will rule over the nations *“with a rod of iron”* and *“break them in pieces”* is alien to the mind of those who are unilluminated by the scriptures. That Christ is destined to rule in the midst of his enemies (Psalm 110v2) and that the saints have the responsibility to execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people (Psalm 149v7) is not appreciated by those who do not take time to read the scriptures

unless it is their own sanitised popular passages. The need to discipline the nations and not spare the rod is not part of their understanding as they know better than God how to raise the unruly. They might drag up a child in a certain way, but it will be twofold more the child of hell than themselves.

“As the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers”. This is not only a great word picture which demonstrates the vulnerable status of the wicked, who will crumble before the manifestation of divine power, but also that the potter is indicative of the creator Himself, as they will be doing God’s work at such a time and in pursuing such an activity. They will be the agency of His Will as the immortalised Body of Christ as a corporate entity, with the Lord Jesus at their head.

“I will give him the morning star”. This speaks of more than the celestial bodies which rule the night and are the stars above which together with the moon adorn the sky at night. This morning star is usually regarded as Venus which is bright enough to be seen during the day, in the morning, and will together with the sun of righteousness rule the new day that dawns in the millennial age under Christ and the saints. What Jesus is saying here is that if you follow him and endure to the end as his disciples you will shine brightly enough to be individually seen as a supportive light in the sky to compliment his shining as the Sun of the New Age. What an honour! What a privilege! What a responsibility!

As before each of the seven Ecclesias is individually exhorted to hear not just their own specific message but the message of the other six. This can only happen if they are paying attention. By extension, the same exhortation can apply to others also such as ourselves, in these latter days of the gentiles, if we are indeed a truly Apostolic Ecclesia and not just another church or sect.