

## Revelation 2 Part 5

Jesus only taught in parables. Jesus is God. And God wrote the bible. The whole bible is actually parables. And that also applies to our current lesson in Revelation chapter 2 which we're going to pick up in verse eighteen.

The churches, the seven churches of Asia, aren't just churches that existed in a historical time. Each letter is a prophetic statement of what will happen in church history during specific times.

This is Richard Oliver, and we're discussing the revelation, the book of Revelation and we're in chapter two from verse eighteen.

*'And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;'*

That description, of course, is also in chapter one of Revelation.

Jesus says, *'I know thy works, and charity,'* or love, *'and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.'*

It's quite often the case that people work hard, really, really hard. They try and make Christianity work for them. They assume that if they do the right things in the right way that they will gain salvation. Well, works isn't the way, as we'll see in the next church age in chapter three.

But these people worked hard.

And verse twenty, *'Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.'*

Now Jezebel was the wife of the Old Testament king Ahab. She was a false prophet, a false prophetess. She was a high priestess of Baal. And she corrupted her husband Ahab, and Israel. And, if you recall, the final showdown was when Elijah the prophet came along and challenged her prophets to a – well, we'd call it a dual I suppose, the chance to have fire, to call fire down from heaven on a sacrifice on Mount Carmel. Of course the prophets of Baal failed dismally, but Elijah, when he called fire, it devoured everything.

So Jezebel here is representative of the church leadership. She has become a false prophet, a false teaching, a false worship.

And, verse twenty-one, *'And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.'*

God has given the church of that period time to change and she wouldn't.

And it says in verse twenty-two, *'Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.'*

This Jezebel spirit will carry on right unto the very end into tribulation. The church is to be taken out before the tribulation, again we'll come to that later in our study. But the false church, the Jezebel spirit, will go into great tribulation, and everyone with it except they repent of their deeds.

*'And I will kill her children with death;'*

Now the children of Jezebel are the churches that came from Jezebel, and that would include all the churches that literally came from Rome, or defective from Rome, all the Protestant churches.

*'And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.'*

Now, the key thing here is searching the reins of the hearts. Why do we do things? What is controlling us? Is it our own desires? Our own ambitions? Our own political – what is it? If it's the love of God, then we're pure.

*'But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.*

*'But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.*

*'And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:*

*'And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.*

*'And I will give him the morning star.'*

That is Christ of course.

*'He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.'*

This period covers the Dark Ages. This is the time when Rome had control over kingdoms of the earth, appointed kings, disposed of them and so on. This is also the time when the bible was only available in Latin, which very few people knew, and of course the general populous could not read or understand. It was indeed the Dark Ages.

Thanks for reading, this is Richard Oliver signing off for today.