

Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #7: Revelation 2:12-29 | Seven Letters for Seven Future Messenger, part 2

Our Previous Conclusion-

- In these two churches, there is nothing that directly fits with a theology of the age of grace, but everything fits in a *futuristic* interpretation.
- This gives hints that *all eyes should be on Turkey* for a future power-area in geo-political influence.

Revelation 2:12-17 | To the Messenger at Pergamos

- Commendations to the messenger:
 - God knows the messenger's **works** – similar to the previous messengers – v. 13.
 - God knows he has been faithful even dwelling **where Satan's seat is** – v. 13.
 - It is twice noted that Satan *sits* (reigns?) there and dwells there.
 - If this is to be taken metaphorically, what is it a metaphor of? Such a reading is required if you interpret historically or dynamically.
 - Satan is defined in Revelation 12:9 as **the devil**.
 - If the passage is taken futuristically, it can have literal meaning. See Revelation 13:2 and 16:10. In such a case, Pergamos must be taken as the *capital city of the Antichrist* (not Rome, as many teach, nor Babylon, neither of which align with Scripture).
 - God knows he was faithful in the days of the martyrdom of Antipas, an unknown (future) martyr of the Antichrist.
- Complaints against the messenger: He tolerated too much!
 - The **doctrine of Balaam** was to get Israel to **eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication** – see Numbers 25:2 and 31:16.
 - The **doctrine of the Nicolaitans**, also mentioned in v. 6.
- Commands to the messenger:
 - **Repent; or else!** If the messenger doesn't repent (the command is in the singular) then Jesus will **come unto thee and fight against them**.
 - The message seems to be *you fight them or I will!*
- The Specific word to the church: *none*
- The general word to the churches: *overcome!*

Revelation 2:18-29 | To the Messenger at Thyatira

- Commendations to the messenger:
 - The messenger was commended for **works, and charity, and service, and faith, and...patience**.
 - He was especially commended that his works were **more than the first**.
- Complaints against the messenger:
 - A single complaint: **thou sufferest that woman Jezebel**.
 - Compare 1 Kings 16:30-34.
 - Bullinger: "This patroness of Baal-worship will have her sinister antitype in the future." – *The Companion Bible*
- Commands to the messenger: *none*
- The Specific word to the church:
 - All those who align with Jezebel and do not repent will experience **great tribulation**, while those who are not aligned with her will have **none other burden**.
 - The assembly must **hold fast to that which ye already have** and must do it **till I come**.
 - These words are very problematic if applied to churches today. Only a futuristic interpretation harmonizes with the age of grace.
- The general word to the churches:
 - The one who **overcometh and keepeth my works to the end** will be given **power over the nations**.
 - As with the material above, there are no circumstances in which this is applicable to the church in the age of grace, it must be taken futuristically, after this age has concluded.
 - To the overcomer, he will be given **the morning star**.
 - Compare Numbers 24:17 to Revelation 22:16.
 - The reigning Messiah is the gift to the overcome.
 - Not only the reigning Messiah but *reigning with* the Messiah – see v. 26.