

Revelation Chapter 2

2:1 To^(c) the angel of the congregation which is at Ephesus, write: These things says the Almighty who has the seven stars in his right hand, walking among the seven golden candlesticks:

2:2 I know your works^(c), your toiling and your perseverance, and that you are unable to bear wickedness, and you have tested those who claim to be Apostles but they are not, and you found them to be false;

2:3 and you have perseverance and have endured because of my name, and you have not faltered.

2:4 But I have a charge against you, because you have left your first love.

2:5 Therefore, remember where you have fallen and repent, and do the former works, because if *you do* not I will come to you quickly and if you do not repent I will remove your light.

2:6 But you have this in your favour: you have abhorred the work of the Nicolaitans, which I also abhor.

2:7 He that has ears^(c), *let him* understand what the Spirit says to the congregations. To the one who is victorious, I will give you to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise^(c) of my God.

2:8 To the angel of the congregation which is in Smyrna, write: These things says the First and Last, he who was dead, but has risen:

2:9 I know your works, your affliction and your poverty (but you are rich); and the blasphemy of those who claim to be Jews but they are not, but they are a congregation of Satan.

2:10 Do not have fear of the things which you are going to suffer. Look! The adversary will throw some of you in jail to be tested, and you will have troubles for ten days. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

2:11 He that has has ears, *let him* understand what the Spirit says to the congregations. To the one who is victorious, *he* will not suffer harm by the second death.

2:12 To the angel of the congregation which is at Pergamum*: This *is what he* who has the two-edged sword says:

2:13 I know your works and where dwell, where the throne of Satan *is*. But you have been holding fast to my name^(c), and have not renounced faith in me* in the days when my faithful witness appeared, who was slain among you, and was made a spectacle where Satan is.

2:14 However, I have some charges against you. There are 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 unfaithfulness*.

2:15 So also you have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. Therefore, repent,

2:16 for otherwise I will come to you quickly, and *bring a fight* against them with the sword of my mouth.

2:17 He that has ears, let him understand what the Spirit says to the congregations. He that is victorious, I will give to eat the hidden manna^(c). And I will give *him* a white stone, and upon the stone *will be* written a new name^(c) that nobody knows, but only he that receives *it*.

2:18 To the angel of the congregation which is at Thyatira: These things says the Son of God, who has his eyes like a flame of fire, and his feet like fine bronze:

2:19 I know your works, love, faith, and service, as well as your perseverance; and that these your latter works are greater than the former.

2:20 But I have a charge against you, because you *have continued to* permit that woman Jezebel, who says she is a prophetess, to teach and seduce my servants to commit unfaithfulness and eat things sacrificed to idols.

2:21 And I gave her a season for repentance, yet she continues to remain unrepentant of her unfaithful works.

2:22 Behold, I have cast her upon a bed, and those who commit adultery with her *will be* in great affliction if they do not repent of their works.

2:23 And I will slay her children with a plague*. Then all the congregations will know that I am who searches the minds and hearts, and render to each of you according to your works.

2:24 And to you I say, to the others who are in Thyatira, to all those who have not received this doctrine, those who have not known the profound things of Satan, as they say, I will not impose another burden upon you.

2:25 But what you have, hold fast until I come^(c).

2:26 And to he who is victorious and who observes my works unto the end, I will give to him power over the nations,

2:27 and I have received the same from my Father, and he shall rule with an iron rod, and will break them like vessels of pottery,

2:28 and I will give to you the morning star^(c).

2:29 He that has ears, *let him* understand what the Spirit says to the congregations.

Study Notes for Chapter 2

2:12 “Pergamum”, others “Pergamos”

2:13, “faith in me”, or “my faith”

2:14, “unfaithfulness”, or “fornication”; the word “fornication” can refer to both a spiritual and a physical act of unfaithfulness

2:14, “to eat things sacrificed to idols”, this is referred to in the Encyclical of the Apostolic Council around 50 C.E., referred to as the “Limudah” (Teaching), and commonly known as the “Didache” in the Greek. (See Acts 15)

2:23, “plague”, or “death”

Additional Study for Chapter 2

2:1, These two next chapters, contains seven places, according to the number and condition of those congregations which were named before in 1:11 shown in 1:12 and distributed most aptly into their pastors and flocks. Every one of these seven passages has three principal parts, an introduction taken from the person of the reprehension of that which is evil: an instruction, containing either an exhortation alone, or a dissuasion opposite to it, and a conclusion stirring to attention, by divine promises. This first passage is to the spiritual leaders of the congregation at Ephesus.

2:2, “I know your works”, The proposition first condemning the spiritual leader of the congregation in which he is supposed to be caring for then reproving him after informing him, and threatening that he will move the congregation to another place. This threat of divine vengeance Messiah mitigates by a type of correction, calling to mind the particular virtue and piety of the congregation, which God never leaves without recompense.

2:7, “He that has ears”, The conclusion containing a commandment of attention, and a promise of everlasting life, shown in a figure - See Gen 2:9, “Out of the ground Mar-Yah [Yahweh] God made every tree to grow that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the middle of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” (AESV).

2:7, “paradise”, That is, in paradise after the manner of the Hebrew phrase. Thus Messiah speaks as Mediator.

2:13, “holding fast to my name”, The faith of those at Pergamum is so much the more highly commended, because they remained constant even in the very heat of persecution.

2:17, “hidden manna”, The bread of life, invisible, spiritual, and heavenly, which is kept secretly with God, from before all eternity.

2:17, A sign and testimony of newness of life in righteousness and true holiness, by putting on the new man, whom no one inwardly knows, but the spirit of man which is in him, which is not praised by men, but by God.

2:26, The conclusion, in which Messiah assures to His servants the communion of His kingdom and glory, in this verse, and that following: and commands a holy attention in the last verse.

2:28, “morning star”, The brightness of the glory and honour approaching to the light of Messiah the Son of God; the light referring to His earthly-spiritual servant often referred to in the Dead Sea Scrolls as the “Teacher of Righteousness.”