

ASIA-MINOR

Letters to the 7 Churches

LENTEN LUNCH
- 3/22/2022

Pergamon

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

Patmos

Thyatira



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Letter to the Church in Thyatira

Turning Southeast and traveling approx. 40 miles

It's the longest of the 7 letters

Enjoyed commercial distinction with numerous trade guilds

Especially known for its reddish-purple dye called “Turkey Red”

- “It is extracted from the madder root and is still manufactured today in the area.”
 - (R. Losch, *The Uttermost Part of the Earth: A Guide to Places in the Bible*, 233)
- Lydia (Acts 16:14) was from Thyatira and “a seller of purple goods”

Madder Plant – *Rubia Tinctorium*



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Madder Plant dye



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Revelation 2:18-29

¹⁸“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: ‘The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. ¹⁹“I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. ²⁰But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. ²¹I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. ²²Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, ²³and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works. ²⁴But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. ²⁵Only hold fast what you have until I come. ²⁶The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. ²⁸And I will give him the morning star. ²⁹He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

Gold on the Surface

- What is significant about the description of Christ in v. 18?
- Jesus knows and commends 6 things (v. 19), what are they? What stands out?
- What does He have against them (v. 20)?
- What are they commanded to do (v. 25)?
- How do we make sense of the promise given (vv. 26-28)?

Digging Deeper

❖ Who is Jezebel?

(See 1 Kings 16:29-33; 19:1-3; 21:1-26; 2 Kings 9:30-37)

❖ What is the danger? What do we learn from vv. 21-23?

❖ Who is the “morning star” (see Rev. 22:16)?

Moving Forward by Faith

- † What do we think of when we hear the word “Tolerance”? Is it ever good and right to be Intolerant?
- † What is the danger of “guilds” today? What is syncretism and why do we need to be careful within the church?
- † Do we know, believe, and tell ourselves and others the truth about Jesus as Judge?
- † How can we grow in holiness, both as individuals and as a church?