

ΤΑΩΔΑ

The Book of Revelation

Chapter 2

Verse Notes

Message to the Assembly at Ephesus

Revelation 2:1 NKJV "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

Verse 1 Notes:

1 "To the messenger (pastor) for the assembly in Ephesus write: 'The One holding the seven stars in His right hand, (Jesus, see chapter 1:20) who is walking in the middle of the seven golden lampstands, says this:

Revelation 2:2 NKJV "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;(43)

Verse 2 Notes:

2 "I have observed your deeds, your labor, your endurance, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you tested those calling themselves emissaries and are not, and found them liars;(43)

(43) These were self appointed emissaries (apostles) not commissioned or sent by Jesus, but claiming authority to speak on His behalf (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:13-14). But Jesus only commissioned twelve apostles (emissaries) including Paul. We can see this by reading Revelation 21:14. The Roman Catholic Church continues to the present day this heresy with their doctrine of "Apostolic Succession". Several cults as well as the modern Charismatic movement also continue this heresy.

Revelation 2:3 NKJV "and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.(44)

Verse 3 Notes:

(44) There are a few manuscripts, and the Textus Receptus, that add, "and have not become weary." So it could be read, "and you have patience and endured, and through My name have labored."

Revelation 2:4 NKJV "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.(45)

Verse 4 Notes:

(45) "...first love." This is presumably a waning love for Christ and each other within the assembly.

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Revelation 2:5 NKJV "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent(46) and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand(47) from its place; unless you repent.

Verse 5 Notes:

(46) Notice the necessity of repentance. Repentance is being called a "work" in a lot of modern churches and is being dismissed as a requirement, as Jesus commanded, because we are "in the age of grace."

(47) The removal of the lampstand means that the Spirit/Breath of God would no longer reside among that assembly. Remember, we are talking about assemblies here, not individuals. This can also imply that as the leaders of the assembly do, so does the congregation. That is why it is so important to have good leaders.

Revelation 2:6 NKJV "But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans,(48) which I also hate.

Verse 6 Notes:

(48) The Nicolaitans were followers of Nicolas of Antioch, the only Greek among the seven chosen men in the Jerusalem assembly (Acts 6:3-5). Nicolas apostatized from the Apostolic Faith by embracing the teachings of Plato and blending it with Christianity, which is carried on in today's modern churches. According to Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book I, ch. Xxvi:3, John's Gospel was written in part to counter the teachings of the Nicolaitans who denied that "the Word" became flesh. His Platonic dualism also removed the necessity and possibility of the resurrection of the flesh. Paul first encountered this aspect in the Corinthian assembly (1 Corinthians 15:12-18). For a further description of the Nicolaitans, see: Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Bk. III, ch. xi.

Revelation 2:7 NKJV "He who has an ear,(49) let him hear what the Spirit(50) says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life,(51) which is in the midst of the Paradise(52) of God."

Verse 7 Notes:

(49) This was a common expression of Jesus referring to those inclined to heed His voice. (cf. Matthew 11:15; 13:9; 13:43).

(50) In each of the seven letters, Jesus plainly identified Himself as the one issuing the commands. He was doing so through the Breath of God – the "Helper" (John 14:16-18). The Breath (Spirit) is clearly not a distinct Person, otherwise it would create a severe problem in each of the seven letters as to the source of the command. That the following words attributed to the "Breath" in each letter cannot be a message from a third Person is proven in Revelation 2:26-29.

(51) Ezekiel 47:12; Revelation 22:2, 14

(52) Paradise or Garden (ΠΑΡΑΔΕΙΣΟΣ) - Eden will be restored (Isaiah 51:3 LXX). Its location was where Jerusalem is now located. The Tree of Life will grow on both sides of the River of Life flowing from the Temple (Ezekiel 47:12; Revelation 22:1-2).

Revelation 2:8 NKJV "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

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Revelation 2:9 NKJV "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich);(53) and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.(54)

Verse 9 Notes:

(53) Cf. Revelation 3:17

(54) This area of Asia Minor, Phrygia, was known for Jewish mysticism which had blended Greek mythology and philosophy with Judaism, including an elaborate and fanciful theology concerning angels. The Essenes were of this type. The Letter to the Colossians (also in Phrygia) was written by Paul in part to counter the same Jewish/Greek mysticism (of the kind found in the Book of Enoch) which Jesus Himself hated, calling them "the synagogue of Satan." Compare: 1 Timothy 1:3-4; Titus 1:14-16. Cabala (Kabbalah) is the contemporary counterpart.

Revelation 2:10 NKJV "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days.(55) Be faithful until death,(56) and I will give you the crown(57) of life.(58)

Verse 10 Notes:

(55) Some commentators have understood this to refer to ten periods of persecution from Nero to Diocletian, or specific to the Diocletian persecution which lasted ten years exactly after which Constantine ended the official Roman persecution of Christians. However, it may have a more enigmatic reference directly to the end times, as there are ten literal days from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur, which is the Day of Jesus' return. The darkening of the sun and moon that accompany His return may begin on Rosh Hashanah and last for ten days. Also, ten days was the period of testing for Daniel and his three friends (Daniel 1:12-15).

(56) Polycarp, who was appointed to the place of bishop by John in Smyrna prior to his imprisonment on Patmos, was "faithful until death," suffering martyrdom at Rome shortly after Revelation was written.

(57) Wreaths were given to victors of a struggle.

(58) James 1:12 – the "wreath of life" is given to those who successfully endure testing.

Revelation 2:11 NKJV "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."(59)

Verse 11 Notes:

(59) Revelation 20:14, 21:8. In the first death there remains hope of resurrection to life again. Not so in the second death, which is permanent annihilation (See Matthew 10:28).

"ΔΕΙΓΜΑ ΠΥΡΟΣ ΑΙΩΝΙΟΥ" is translated in the KJV/NKJ as "...an example of eternal fire." (Jude 1:7). Yet, the Greek word "ΔΕΙΓΜΑ" (δείγμα G1164) means a specimen (of the same thing) and not merely a representation. Thus, the fire that fell on Sodom and Gomorrah was indeed "ΠΥΡΟΣ ΑΙΩΝΙΟΥ" This shows that "ΑΙΩΝΙΟΥ" which is rendered "eternal" in the KJV does not mean that the fire burns forever, **but that the effects of the fire are permanent.** Sodom and Gomorrah were completely obliterated so that absolutely nothing remained.

Message to the Assembly at Pergamos

TACWA

Revelation 2:12 NKJV "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

Verse 12 Notes:

The sharp two-edged sword implies that He has the authority to judge. Compare it with Revelation 1:16; 2:16; John 5:22-27; Hebrews 4:12.

Revelation 2:13 NKJV "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne(60) is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas(61) was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

Verse 13 Notes:

(60) The city of Pergamos was noted for an enormous pagan altar. It contained a 371 foot long sculpture of the war of the gods against the Gigantes, a mythological race of giants. This myth was also circulated among some mystical Jewish sects such as the Essenes, as taught in the Book of Enoch (with the pagan gods replaced by angels, and connected to the fall of the sons of God {Sethites} in Genesis 6). The pagan altar was moved, and is currently housed in the Pergamon Museum in Berlin.

(61) The only thing we know of Antipas is that he was bishop of Pergamos during the reign of Domitian. We find this in the Catholic Encyclopedia article of "Oil of Saints". And even this is not verifiable. This requires that Revelation was written during Domitian's reign. He is the one that began to persecute Christians towards the end of his reign. He was assassinated in 92 AD.

Revelation 2:14 NKJV "But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed(62) to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.(63)

Verse 14 Notes:

(62) In reference to eating food sacrificed to idols, Paul said, "You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons" (1 Corinthians 10:21-22).

(63) See Numbers 25. The "Incident of Peor" was instigated by Balaam, whereby after being prevented by the "Angel of the LORD" (Messenger of YHVH) from cursing Israel, he instead counseled the Moabites to invite the Israelites to join with them and to intermarry with their women. This led to reprehensible idolatry, including participating in pagan rituals for Baal of Peor (eating idol's sacrifices). Because God forbid Israel from marrying pagan women, idolatry was often spoken of metaphorically as "fornication" and "adultery" in the Scriptures. Thus the crime of some of the members of this assembly was in tolerating and excusing forms of idolatry.

Revelation 2:15 NKJV "Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans,(64) which thing I hate.

Verse 15 Notes:

(64) See the notes at verse 6.

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Revelation 2:16 NKJV 'Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Revelation 2:17 NKJV "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden(65) manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone,(66) and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

Verse 17 Notes:

(65) A portion of manna was hidden in the Ark of the Covenant, along with the stone tablets and Aaron's rod. These three items hidden away in the Ark symbolize God's work in the end times: The stone tablets represent the restoring of the Law of Moses for Israel's repentance (Daniel 9:27); Aaron's rod represents the anointing of the restored Levitical priesthood by Elijah (Malachi 4:4-6); The hidden manna represents supernatural provision for God's covenant people (Micah 7:15; Revelation 12:6, 14). The promise in this instance for those being victorious is supernatural provision.

(66) In the ancient courts, the accused was condemned by judges giving him black pebbles, and acquitted by receiving white pebbles. Here, the sense seems to be not only acquittal, but a new beginning (new name).

Message to the Assembly at Thyatira

Revelation 2:18 NKJV "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, "These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:

Revelation 2:19 NKJV "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.

Revelation 2:20 NKJV "Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel,(67) who calls herself a prophetess,(68) to teach(69) and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.(70)

Verse 20 Notes:

(67) 1 Kings 18-21. Jezebel is used metaphorically because of her devotion to idolatry.

(68) Self-appointed prophets and prophetesses are abundant today in the Charismatic movement. See also note at verse 2.

(69) Paul forbade women teaching in the assemblies (1 Timothy 2:12-14). The Charismatic and modern ecumenical movements not only encourages self-appointed "prophets" and "prophetesses" but also women teachers and pastors.

(70) See notes on verse 14.

Revelation 2:21 NKJV "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

Revelation 2:22 NKJV "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation,(71) unless they repent of their(72) deeds.

Verse 22 Notes:

(71) See: Matthew 24:21 & Revelation 7:14

(72) The Textus Receptus has "their deeds". Most other manuscripts have "her deeds".

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Revelation 2:23 NKJV "I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts.(73) And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

Verse 23 Notes:

(73) Hebrews 4:12-13 identifies the one searching the minds and hearts as "Word (Logos) of God," a title given to Jesus Christ. See John 1:1, as well as the up and coming Revelation 19:13.

Revelation 2:24 NKJV "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.

Revelation 2:25 NKJV "But hold fast what you have till I come.

Revelation 2:26 NKJV "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works(74) until the end, to him I will give power over the nations;

Verse 26 Notes:

(74) "My works" refers to doing the works of Jesus Christ, obeying His commandments and carrying on His mission (Matthew 5:14-16; John 9:5).

Revelation 2:27 NKJV 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces(75) like the potter's vessels'; as I also have received from My Father;

Verse 27 Notes:

27 'He shall shepherd them with a rod of iron; As the vessels of pottery are crushed'(75) as I also have received from My Father.

(75) Psalm 2:9. God's Son was promised the inheritance of all the nations, and that He would "shepherd them with a rod of iron." Here Jesus quoted the LXX, (the Hebrew has "break them," while the LXX has "shepherd them"). In this verse Jesus promised to share His power and reign with His faithful followers. This Psalm is referenced again in Revelation 12:5 and Revelation 19:15, and this Psalm is fulfilled in Revelation 20:1-4.

Revelation 2:28 NKJV "and I will give him the morning star.(76)

Verse 28 Notes:

(76) Compare to 2 Peter 1:19, and Revelation 22:16 coming up.

Revelation 2:29 NKJV "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit(77) says to the churches."

Verse 29 Notes:

(77) That "the Spirit/Breath" is not a third divine Person is clear from these verses. The words are clearly those of Jesus Himself, since He used the first person pronouns. But He was speaking to the assemblies by means of the holy Breath.
