

The Church at Thyatira

Grace and peace everyone, this is Pastor Kevin of Christ The Rock Community Church, 556 Main Ave, De Pere. If you're in town please join us for our weekly service on Sundays at 9:30 am.

Revelation series, [read text Revelation 2:18-29](#) – The church at Thyatira

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study of the Book of Revelation and are currently in the midst of Jesus 7 letters to the 7 churches – today examining the church at Thyatira.

By way of review, this book is the unveiling of Jesus Christ as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This book also reveals Jesus as the Kinsman Redeemer of the entire creation, the One who alone is worthy to take the Seven Sealed scroll and break its seals, thus signifying His ownership over the creation as well as the the rightful One who can bring His judgment upon this world.

It isn't just the Revelation which reveals Jesus in His fulness, however. The entire Bible points mankind to Jesus as the Savior and Redeemer of all. [Revelation 19:11](#) tells us that For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Jesus Himself said, "You search the scriptures for in them you think you have life and it is these that bear witness of me ([John 5:39](#)).

In chapter One John is confronted with the image of the risen Christ in all His glory. He is given the commission by Jesus to write the things which you have seen, the things which are, and the things which shall be after these things (Rev. 1:19).

We have labeled chapter one verse 19 as our divine outline for the book. We are currently examining the section known as the "things which are" which includes chapters 2 and 3. We refer to this as the church age. In the Old Testament God called Israel to be His witnesses to the world. In this New Testament age – the Church Age – God calls upon His church to spread the gospel.

When Jesus returns for His Bride – the Church – and takes her back to heaven in the rapture, Israel will once again be called into God's service as His witnesses to the world. This is detailed in Revelation chapters 7 and 14, Romans chapters 9-11 and numerous other scriptures. We will explore those things in greater detail in future studies in this series.

I would also like to remind you of the special blessing attached to those who read, and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things written in it for the time is near.

The phrase referring to "read" in the Greek means to read publicly. To "hear" means to take to heart, to search seriously. To "heed" means to allow the Holy Spirit to change the course of our lives because of this prophecy. And as that verse ends it exhorts us – for the time is near.

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The book of Daniel is considered by many to be the Old Testament Apocolypse. The difference between it and Revelation, however, is that while Daniel was instructed to “seal up the words” of his prophecy until the end (Daniel 12:4,9), John was ordered NOT to seal up the words of this prophecy for the time is near (Rev. 22:10). Even so, come Lord Jesus.

As I said, chapters 2 and 3 record seven unique letters (or epistles) the Jesus Himself wrote to seven churches on the west coast of modern day Turkey. We think of Turkey as a muslim nation and today, in fact, it primarily is just that. In the first century, however, Islam did not exist. Asia Minor, as it was known, was a religious mixture of Greek and Roman gods and the influences of the ancient Babylonian mystery religion which dated back to the Tower of Babel in Genesis 10. There was also a young Christian church was just beginning to spread throughout the Roman Empire. It is to these fledgling churches that Jesus writes these seven letters.

There is a unique structure to these letters. Jesus chose these churches for particular reasons. The **name of the city** (church) has particular meaning which relates to the church. Jesus uses a different **title for Himself** when addressing each church and those titles have bearing on Jesus' message. There is a word of **commendation** for each church (except 2), **condemnation** (except 2), there is a word of **exhortation** (what the church should correct), there is a unique **promise to the overcomers** in each church as well as the **command to hear** what Jesus is saying to the churches.

Levels of Application

- 1) The local church (in John's day)
- 2) All churches (including our church)
- 3) Personal (for you)
- 4) Church Age (the medieval church – 590 A.D. – 1517 A.D.)

First three Churches We Examined

Ephesus: good on doctrine, good on works BUT lost their “first love” (worship not just works)

Smyrna: 'myrrh' (death) – nothing negative said about them. The church closest to Jesus is suffering

Pergamom: Satan's Throne

Ephesus: great political center

Smyrna: great commercial center One world thru **Satan's** coercion – **God** uses invitation

Pergamom: great religious center

2:18 – and to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze says this,

Thyatira – the City

This is the longest of the letters but sent to the smallest city. It was physically located 40 miles

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east of Pergamos (Satan's throne – and the influence of the proximity will show) so it was not a coastal city. There was no harbor it was not on a main trade route which made it a rather unimportant city in Asia Minor. There were, however, two factors which accounted even for the existence of the city.

Number One, Even though it was considered even by Rome as an unimportant city it was a military city – an outpost that acted as a buffer to protect the seat of government to the west of it – Pergamum (the city where Satan's throne dwelled). Many Roman soldiers were garrisoned there which lent itself to being a rough town with a rough crowd.

Number Two: Thyatira was a commercial town. They didn't produce a lot but traded a lot. There were three primary goods in which they dealt.

One was **leather**, which is very common in this area of Asia Minor (Turkey).

Another was **pottery**. They had a good source of clay being in the river valleys. The interesting aspect of the pottery though is Jesus reference to judging with a rod of iron in this letter. In the pottery shops in Thyatira young boys would be hired as apprentice pottery-makers. One of their primary responsibilities was to take out all the flawed pottery and smash it with an iron rod. You see, the Potter didn't want corrupted, incomplete or unwhole pots circulating in the town because that work was a reflection of Himself. The implication is clear regarding God as the potter and ourselves as the clay and we will look at that again down in verse 27.

The third material they produced were **dyes** used for adorning cloth. They produced many colors of dye but the most rare and most valuable was the purple dye, the most expensive of which was extracted from a form of shellfish.

That brings us to a woman named **Lydia** who was a seller of purple and was from the city of Thyatira. More importantly, Lydia is the first Christian convert in Europe. Her story is recounted in Acts chapter 16. When Paul was not allowed to go into Asia Minor in the very areas of these seven churches the Lord instead gave him a vision of man over in Macedonia (modern day Greece). Paul goes there but before even witnessing in the city he takes part in a prayer meeting by the river. Synagogues were developed during the Babylonian captivity because there was no temple in which to worship. However, the Jewish law stated you must have 10 Jewish males in a city before you can form a synagogue. If there was none, the Jews would go to river to hold prayer meetings and that is what was going on in Acts 16. It was permissible for women to lead these prayer meetings. After hearing the gospel through Paul she believed and was baptized along with her whole household. Paul and Silas even stayed at Lydia's house while in Philippi.

As we've said each week, because there were trades there were also a number of trade guilds.

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Wherever guilds were found you also had idolatry and immorality. Before the dinners they offered sacrifices to their pagan gods and after the dinners engaged in sexual orgies.

Each craft or union had a pagan deity at its head. In Thyatira the primary temple was dedicated to Apollo, "the "sun-god", which is why Jesus used the title of Himself here "The Son of God".

Name of church: "Thyatira" means "the castle of Thya" (or 'white-castle') but previously called Semiramis.

Semiramis, who was both Nimrod's wife and Tammuz' mother, was worshiped as the "mother of god" and a "fertility goddess" because she had to be extremely fertile to give birth to all the pagan incarnate gods that represented Nimrod. Where Nimrod is the "sun god", Semiramis is the "moon goddess". She was worshiped throughout the world by each of the titles associated with Nimrod's worship, in addition to many titles unique to herself.

To justify worship of the mother, she was elevated to a divine station just like her god-incarnate son. The deified queen mother was adored as the incarnation of the holy spirit of peace and love.

Under her title, "mother of the gods," the goddess queen of Babylon became an object of universal worship. The mother of the gods was worshiped by the Persians, the Syrians, and with the most profound religious veneration by all the kings of Europe and Asia. When Caesar invaded Britain, he discovered the Druid priests worshipping the "mother of god" as Virgo-Patitura.

In Egypt, as the "queen of heaven" she was the greatest and most worshiped of all the divinities. During Egyptian bondage, the Israelite's repeatedly departed from the one true invisible Elohim and worshiped the pagan mother. When the Israelite's fell into apostasy under King Solomon, they worshiped this mother goddess as Ashtaroth (Asherah), a name by which the pagan Babylonian goddess was known to the Israelite's

Later, during the time of the prophet Jeremiah, the Jews worshiped the **queen of heaven** so devoutly that they could not be convinced to give up this paganism even after Jerusalem had been burnt and the land desolated due to this very pagan worship

Semiramis was worshiped in Ephesus as the pagan fertility goddess DIANA who represented the generative powers of nature. She was referred to as a fertility goddess because she mothered all the numerous pagan gods representing the god-incarnate Tammuz. Diana was pictured with numerous teats so that she could nurse all the pagan gods, and she wore a tower-shaped crown symbolizing the Babylonian tower of Babel.

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Legend has it that after Semiramis died, she ascended into heaven and was returned to earth inside a large egg which fell into the Euphrates river. The egg was pushed ashore by a dove and she emerged from the egg as Astarte or Ishtar (in English, Easter).

To show her gratitude to the dove, she turned it into an egg-laying rabbit, all signs of fertility. Another sign or symbol found throughout Babylonia is the obelisk, a phallic symbol. These can also be seen in Egypt, Rome and Washington DC (largest in the world). The obelisk in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican was brought there to Rome from Egypt. They were raised and carefully positioned so that the first and last light of day **would** touch their peaks to honor the sun god. It was brought to Rome originally by Caligula.

Babylonian Mystery religion began in the plain of Shinar (Babylon) by the first world dictator, Nimrod (see Genesis 10:8-10; 11:1-4). That demonic false religion migrated throughout the world incrementally but in the tribulation will migrate back to the plain of Shinar according to Zechariah 5:5-11. When the time comes, it will be marked by commerce (ephah), false religion (the woman), speedy accomplishment (the wings of a stork), and will be preparatory to the final judgment of Rev 18.

Tammuz (Ezekiel 8:14) born to Nimrod and Semiramis

Associated with the sun-god

he dies at the winter solstice (Dec. 24) and is resurrected at the summer solstice as the days get longer

He is celebrated by burning a log ("yule") which is replaced the next day by a trimmed tree (Jer. 10)

Satan's counterfeit migrated from Babylon to Tyre to Pergamum to Rome to Europe

Title of Jesus: The Son of God (versus the Queen of Heaven, Jezebel)

Only place in Revelation He is called this (in 1:13 He refers to Himself as the Son of Man")

Description of Jesus: "eyes of fire" (1:14-15): penetrating judgment; refinement

"burnished: brilliance when polished.

"bronze": firm, strong, unchanging (brazen laver, bronze serpent)

Does Jesus get angry?

Mark 10:14 – 'moved with indignation' (send the children to me)

Mark 3:5 – healing withered hand on Sabbath

John 2:15 – money-changers

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vs. 19 – I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first (Rev 2:2, Rev 2:9, Rev 2:13)

It's what we do, not what we say that reflects what we truly believe.

Jesus saw their deeds (he sees your deeds as well)

Heb 6:10-11 “for God is not unrighteous to forget your work and the love which ye showed toward his name, in that ye ministered unto the saints, and still do minister. And we desire that each one of you may show the same diligence unto the fulness of hope even to the end: (James 1:27; Psalm 68:5)

We don't practice good works/deeds in order to BE born again – but if we ARE born again that fact will be reflected in our lives by how we live and where our affections lie.

Luke 6:46 -- “Now why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?

Matthew 7:21-23 -- “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. **22** Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ **23** And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; LEAVE ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’

John 13:17 -- If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

It's not surprising the first of the "deeds" listed was love. God is love and our character and nature must reflect the same. It is, after all, the first of all the fruit of the spirit listed in Galatians 5:22. In Ephesus there was much zeal for doctrine, but little love (I Cor. 13:1-8); in Thyatira there is much love, but a carelessness about false doctrine.

vs. 20 – “but I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads my bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Jesus again uses an Old Testament reference (Balaam last week), this week Jezebel.

who is Old Testament Jezebel: daughter of Eth-baal, King of Tyre, Priest of Astarte, [Astarte or Ashtoreth same as goddess Ishtar, goddess of fertility] (groves/high places: 1 Kings 16:63; 1Ki 14:23; Hos 4:13). She is a type of the Queen of Heaven [Jeremiah 7:18; 44:17-19,25]

Jeremiah 7:18 – The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead

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dough to make cakes for the Queen of Heaven, and they pour out liquid offerings to other gods in order to provoke me.

Now for those of you listening by radio I apologize because it would be helpful to be looking at a map for the next several minutes.

Remember – before Satan's seat (throne) migrated to Pergamum (which we discussed last week), it migrated from Babylon to Tyre (Ezekiel 28:11-17).

In fact, if you trace a world map you will see Satan initially set up his false kingdom right where God established the cradle of civilization, the Plain Of Shinar. He prompted the people to build a tower of false worship and called it Babel – which became Babylon.

When God brought the Israelites into the promised land Satan followed along and set up his throne on the outskirts of Israel in the city of Tyre.

Literally married King Ahab to cement an alliance between Israel and Phoenicia. Attempts to exterminate the prophets of YHWH (1 Kings 18:13). Kills and steals Naboth's vineyard (1 Kgs. 21)

- the king desires Naboth's land
- the queen arranges an inquisition (Spanish/Catholic inquisition)
 - ➔ false witnesses
 - ➔ guilty verdict
 - ➔ execution
 - ➔ seizure of lands and property

In Thyatira, Ephesus had not been fooled by false apostles, these were fooled by false prophet

- “Jezebel” is a “self-proclaimed” prophetess” (female prophets could be legitimate in the church: Miriam, Deborah, Huldah, Anna, Philip's daughters)
- The church not only tolerates (permits/fails to confront her heresy) but entrusted her with a position of teaching leadership.
- Jesus holds them accountable for NOT PROTECTING THE PURITY OF HIS CHURCH
 - Jezebel both teaches and leads those in the church to join in the cultural practices of temple prostitution and orgiastic feasting with friends in their pagan temples so as to avoid unnecessary antagonism with the world. The Christians were also under pressure to “fit in” in order to remain in the trade guilds and she taught that love and good works were what mattered – not sound doctrine.

(1 Tim. 2:12-15) – But I do not allow a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. **13** For *it was* Adam *who* was first created, *and* then Eve. **14** And *it was* not

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Adam *who* was deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a wrongdoer.

Many people believe this section of scripture does not “fit” with our modern culture today. IN FACT, SOME WILL EVEN SAY THEY HAVE “A PROBLEM” WITH the Apostle Paul and accuse him of being against women. At the Christ The Rock Church in De Pere we hold to the authority and inspiration of scripture – which means the teachings of Paul are really God's teachings – not Paul's personal biases.

In **First Timothy 2:11** the Holy States, thru Paul, “A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.”

First of all, submissiveness is not “subjugation”. The original Greek word for “submissiveness” literally means to “rank under”. Think of it in military terms. “Rank” has to do with order and authority, not with value or ability. A captain is higher in rank than a private but that does not mean that the captain is necessarily a better man than the private. The captain simply has a higher rank, meaning, more authority – but with that increased authority also higher accountability before God.

God has established order in His creation according to 1 Cor. 14:40). With no levels of authority we would have chaos, discord and confusion. Just as the husband in the home is the head of the wife, the parents are the authority over their children. Employees are commanded to submit to their employers (Eph. 6:5-8). As citizens we are to submit to governmental authority (1 Peter 2:13-20; Romans 13).

Above everything, however, husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her (Ephesians 5:18-33).

Regarding the church, women ARE permitted to teach. Older women are to teach the younger women (Titus 2:3-4), women are to teach the children in the home (Timothy taught by his mother and grandmother – 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15). Even regarding another man, women may instruct them privately under certain conditions (Acts 18:24-28). In their ministry, however, women must not “lord it” over men and must not assume authority in the church over a man.

Men and women are both created in God's image. One gender is not more equipped nor more necessary than the other. It is strictly a matter of order. If you have two leaders – you have no leader!

- **Mat 13:33** “Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto *leaven, which a woman took, and hid* in three measures of meal, till it was all leavened.”

vs. 21 – “ I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality”

Jezebel was not merely misguided...she had been confronted and warned. Her attempt, like Balaam previously, was to purposely and consciously lead God's people away from the truth of

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God. (James 4:4-5; 1 Cor. 8) and corrupt them from the inside out.

Idolatry in the Bible is pictured as fornication and unfaithfulness in the marriage vows (Jer. 3:6; Hosea 9:1).

We will see the climax of this principle when the one world false religious system is judged in **Revelation 17:1-2**: Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.”

Vs. 22 – “behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.”

“Bed of sickness” vs. bed of adultery
Great tribulation (Matthew 24:21; Rev. 7:14)

The ancient Greek word used here for **bed** “is also the word for a *banqueting couch*; and if that meaning is taken, the meaning is: ‘I will strike her down as she sits at her forbidden feasts.’”

Vss. 23 – “and I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and the hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.”

God's use of pestilence as a form of His judgment is not unique here in Revelation. In the Book of **Ezekiel chapter 14 verse 21** God said, “For thus says the Lord GOD: How much more when I send upon Jerusalem my four disastrous acts of judgment, sword, famine, wild beasts, and pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast!

In fact, in Revelation chapter 6 we will discover these same judgments executed upon the Earth. The Second Seal judgment is “the sword”, the Third Seal judgment is famine, and the Fourth Seal judgment is pestilence/wild beasts (6:8)

By the way some Greek scholars render that Greek word for “beasts” (therion) :

- **Therion**, Greek for "wild animal" or "beast" **Therion** (genus), a genus of wasps.
- **Therion** (Thelema), a god in Thelema, consort of Babalon.
- Acts 28:4 – used for a serpent
- Can also refer to microscopic beasts (diseases)

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- Beast **zoon** primarily denotes "a living being" (zoe, "life").

The Eng., word "animal," is the equivalent, stressing the fact of a higher form of life as the characteristic feature. (man cannot interact with microscopic organisms)

we are not saved by our **deeds/works** but we are rewarded according to them

Both **Romans 14:10** and **2 Corinthians 5:9** speak of the "judgment seat." This is a translation of one Greek word, the word *bema*.

This word was taken from Isthmian games where the contestants would compete for the prize under the scrutiny of judges who would make sure that every rule of the contest was obeyed (cf. **2 Tim. 2:5**). The victor of a given event who participated according to the rules was led by the judge to the platform called the *Bema*. There the laurel wreath was placed on his head as a symbol of victory (cf. **1 Cor. 9:24-25**).

In all of these passages, "Paul was picturing the believer as a competitor in a spiritual contest. As the victorious Grecian athlete appeared before the *Bema* to receive his perishable award, so the Christian will appear before Christ's *Bema* to receive his imperishable award. The judge at the *Bema* bestowed rewards to the victors – not punishment or judgment.

Scripture teaches that the child of God under grace shall not come into judgment (**John 3:18; 5:24; 6:37; Rom. 5:1; 8:1; 1 Cor. 11:32**); in his standing before God, and on the ground that the penalty for all sin—past, present, and future (**Col. 2:13**)—has been borne by Christ as the perfect Substitute, the believer is not only placed beyond condemnation, but being in Christ is accepted in the perfection of Christ (**1 Cor. 1:30; Eph. 1:6; Col. 2:10; Heb. 10:14**) and loved of God as Christ is loved (**John 17:23**).

This event will occur immediately following the rapture or resurrection of the church after it is caught up to be with the Lord in the air as described in **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**.

Vs. 24 – "but I say unto you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not know the deep things of Satan, as they call them, – I place no other burden on you

Deep Things of Satan (versus the deep things of God – 1 Cor. 2:10): Babylonian cultic practices invading the church (**Rev, 13:14 (Zech. 11:17); 2 Cor. 2:11; 11:13-15; Eph. 6:11-12;**

What is a "cult?" In his book, *Rise of the Cults*, Walter Martin defined cultism as "...any major deviation from orthodox Christianity relative to the cardinal doctrines of the

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Christian faith.” Of course the major “cardinal doctrine” is the true gospel message itself. Are we born again and brought into the family of God by grace through faith in Christ's shed blood alone – or are there “other means” to salvation?

In Galatians 1:6-9 Paul states, “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—

Gal 1:7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

Gal 1:8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

Gal 1:9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

Remember the context of this letter. These Christians

the gospel offends our *pride*. It tells us we need a savior, and that we cannot save ourselves. It gives no credit to us at all for our salvation; it is all the work of Jesus for us. Second, the gospel offends our *wisdom*. It saves us by something many consider foolish - God becoming man and dying a humiliating, disgraceful death on our behalf. Third, the gospel offends our *knowledge*. It tells us to believe something which goes against scientific knowledge and personal experience - that a dead man, Jesus Christ, rose from the dead in a glorious new body that would never die again.

The purposes of Satan are to destroy, or render useless the gospel of Christ. It is the tendency of man to gravitate towards good works, to “earn our way” into God's graces. Any corrupt gospel will lead to the denial of the necessity of dependence on the merits of the Lord Jesus for salvation, and would substitute dependence on rites and ceremonies.

A mark of a cult is the claim that it “is the only organization on earth that is following God's will” and that its leader is “uniquely chosen by God to lead God's people” and that it alone “offer[s] the Bible's ‘true’ interpretation on all matters.”

Mormons must blindly obey Joseph Smith and his successors, JW's dare not question The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, and other cultists must submit to their leaders. Such authoritarianism is the primary mark of a cult. The same blind submission is

required of all Catholics.

For the Catholic, salvation does not come through personally receiving Christ as Savior but is a lengthy process that begins with baptism and thereafter depends upon one's continued relationship to the Church. Salvation comes through participation in the sacraments, penance, good works, suffering for one's sins and the sins of others here and/or in purgatory, indulgences to reduce time in purgatory, and almost endless masses and Rosaries said on one's behalf even after one's death. Catholic "evangelism" is by works, the very antithesis of "the gospel of the grace of God"

Acts 20:24 – But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Vs. 25 – Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.

hold fast (2 Tim. 1:13-14), first explicit reference to Christ's second coming (Rev. 1:7; 22:7)

Vs. 26 - “He who overcomes, and he who keeps my deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations

power over the nations (Rev. 20:4) (Jezebels desire)

Vs. 27 – and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from my father;

Jesus “rod of iron” (**Psalm 2:9**)

- young apprentices in pottery shops smashes flawed pots with iron rods.
- Points to the imagery of the Potter and the clay – **Isaiah 45:9** (individually);
Jer. 18:2-6 (corporately with nations)
- the saints will rule (tend, feed) the world (1 Corinthians 6:2; Daniel 7:18, 27; 1 Cor. 6:3-4)

Vs. 28 – and I will give him the morning star.

the “bright and morning star” is Christ Himself ; Luk 1:78-79; 2Pe 1:19)

Rev. 22:16 -- “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

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Vs. 29 – He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."