



# THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

## *“Morning Star-gazers”*

2:24-29

**Revelation 2:24** "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 But hold fast what you have till I come.

**Revelation 2:26** And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations -

Revelation 2:27 'HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON; THEY SHALL BE DASHED TO PIECES LIKE THE POTTER'S VESSELS' - as I also have received from My Father;

Revelation 2:28 and I will give him the morning star.

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

In junior college I had a professor who met with four of us to study poetry. In particular we read the poems of William Butler Yeats. We would read them to discover and discuss the author's philosophical meaning.

I was pretty good at it until we were assigned the poem titled *The Second Coming*. Try as I might I could not get a handle on it. I called my prof and asked him about it. About ten minutes into our conversation he realized that I had no idea what the title, *The Second Coming*, referred to! When he told me that Christians believe Jesus is coming to earth a second time to rule over the kingdom of heaven on earth I was flabbergasted. **I had never heard anything about it.**

Well, there **is** a second coming. There are something like eight-times more references in the Bible to Jesus' Second Coming than there are to His first coming. Our text tonight is a strong word of prophecy regarding the return of the King.

Revelation 2:24 "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine...

The best reading of this from the original language is something like, **Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching.** Jesus was readdressing the believers who had held out against the false prophecies of the woman in Thyatira He labeled **Jezebel** after her Old Testament counterpart.

It's getting harder and harder to hold out against false doctrines. Some of them are so subtle that, when you oppose them, you seem old fashioned at best and judgmental at worst. We need to be encouraged to listen for the commendation of Jesus.

**...who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say...** Recall from our last study that there was a woman in the church claiming to be a prophetess. She was telling the believers that it was OK for them to compromise with the world by participating in the pagan ceremonies and rituals of their trade guilds. She was further encouraging them to introduce those pagan practices in the church.

What she and others called prophecy Jesus identified as **the depth of Satan**. Her source was not divine but devilish. **As they say** refers probably to the Satanic label those who opposed Jezebel and her followers put on her teaching and ministry. Kudos to those in the church warning the believers about the evil in their midst.

Jesus promised them **I will put on you no other burden**. It comforts me to realize that Jesus knows life can be a **burden**. Circumstances need not cancel out my joy or rob me of walking in victory; but there are times of burden as well as blessing, of being abased as well as of abounding. It comforts me, too, to realize it is the Lord who sets the boundaries for all of these circumstances.

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

By **holding fast** against paganism and idolatry they were poised to lose business and with it their economic and social standing. Anything you can **hold fast to till Jesus comes** must therefore be those spiritual blessings in Jesus Christ that can not ever be taken from you. We are to value the spiritual over the material.

It's probably also a reference to solid biblical doctrine. **Hold fast** to the faith once for all delivered to the saints. While we can and should update our methods we must never tamper with the message.

**Revelation 2:26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end...**

**Overcoming** these perils and pitfalls is the normal Christian life. Every believer has enough discernment and discipline to be an overcomer because the Lord sets the boundaries.

Overcoming is more the negative; **keep [Jesus'] works until the end** is more the positive. We are not saved by works but after we are saved we are to discover the good works God has set before us.

**Don't be distracted and derailed but instead discover the good works of God for your life.**

The **end** is whenever you see Jesus face-to-face. Seeing Him will mark the end of all struggles and the end of **works** in the sense you will receive your rewards for them.

Jesus talks a little about just how **the end** will begin:

**Revelation 2:26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations -**

Revelation 2:27 'HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON; THEY SHALL BE DASHED TO PIECES LIKE THE POTTER'S VESSELS' - as I also have received from My Father;

The quote is from Psalm two where God the Father promises His Son that He will one day rule over the nations of the earth. We would call it the Second Coming of Jesus Christ since in His first coming His rule over the earth was rejected.

The promise to believers is that we will share the rule promised by God to His Son in Psalm two. It is our promise to claim as well as His.

Why **the rod of iron** dashing **the potter's vessels**? Check any reference to ancient Thyatira and it will mention that although there were many industries, pottery was one of its chief industries. The Thyatirans who were in guilds, like the potters guild, were suffering persecution. But one day they would rule the earth with the Lord. Just as pottery cannot withstand being dashed with a rod the **nations** – the nonbelievers – will not be able to withstand the righteous rule of Jesus and His resurrected followers.

Revelation 2:28 and I will give him the morning star.

The **morning star** is by dictionary definition *a planet, especially Venus, visible in the eastern sky before sunrise*. The **morning star** is by the Bible's definition Jesus Christ Himself:

Revelation 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

One more important factoid – something we might miss because we're not always familiar with Old Testament symbols and language. When predicting the return of Jesus Christ to rule over the earth and establish the kingdom of heaven, the prophet Malachi recorded these words:

Malachi 4:1 "For behold, the **day** is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch.

Malachi 4:2 But to you who fear My name The **Sun of Righteousness** shall arise With healing in His wings...

The coming **day** is the future Great Tribulation. It is the darkness that precedes the dawning of the new day - the kingdom of heaven on the earth. The kingdom begins with the return of the King. Jesus' return is described as a sunrise over the earth that is characterized by righteousness.

Now if the Second Coming of Jesus at the end of the Great Tribulation is like the sunrise, then what is His coming as the **morning star**?

**It's His coming first for His church before He comes as the Sun of Righteousness. It is the Rapture of the church!**

Notice something else. Jesus **is** the **morning star** but here He says to you **I will give** [you] **the morning star**. We could certainly apply that romantically and say that at His coming He is giving Himself to us in the sense we will be together forever. But it makes more sense to me if He's talking about giving us the promise of the Rapture of the church.

Either way we are looking for the **morning star**, not the **Sun of Righteousness**. We are **morning star-gazers**!

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

*Any individual believer in any particular church in any age is to receive and respond to these promises.*

Jezebel takes many forms. We want to be known for Who we are for and not what we are against. We are **for Jesus!**

There will be times that **Jezebel** needs to be resisted and rebuked. **Hold fast!**