



SUMMIT

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Seven Churches of Revelation

Understanding the Genre

What is Apocalyptic Literature?

- From *apokalypsis*, meaning “to reveal.”
- Marked by a combining of both the seen and the unseen, typically through images or metaphors, to reveal a deeper understanding of what is actually taking place.
- Typically written to encourage people to persevere or to foretell the overthrow of a kingdom or kingdoms, or both.

Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)

- Set the Stage – When?
 - AD 95. Domitian is Emperor of Rome.
 - The Christian community in Thyatira was probably planted in the early / mid-50s.

Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)

- Set the Stage – Where?
 - Asia Minor (modern Turkey), specifically in the Roman province of Lydia, a region known for material wealth.
 - In the mid-90s it was a trade center with multiple guilds, including a thriving textile industry (see Lydia in Acts 16:14), but also potters, tanners, bakers, and bronze-smiths.
 - Apollo Tyrimnaeus (a son of Zeus) was the patron deity of Thyatira.



† **Pergamum**

† **Thyatira**

† **Smyrna**

† **Sardis**

† **Philadelphia**

† **Ephesus**

† **Laodicea**

● Hierapolis

● Colosse

● Magnesia

● Miletus

● Cos

● Cnidus

● Rhodes

● Xanthus

● Patara

● Myra

● Attalia

● Parga

● Pisidian Antioch

● Iconium

● Lystra

ASIA

Phrygia

Pisidia

Pamphylia

Caria

Galatia

Rhodes

Lycia

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Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)

- Set the Stage – Who?
 - The Christian community in Thyatira.
 - The community was established, probably 40 years old.

Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)

- Set the Stage – What?
 - Failing to participate in the many trade guilds made business extremely difficult.
 - Guild meetings typically included homage to the patron deity and were often immoral.
 - The Christian community was facing both external and internal pressure to conform to cultural norms.

Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)

Overview:

- Jesus is presented as the “Son of God,” the only instance this title is used in Revelation.
- Commendation for steady witness and growth.
- Warning not to follow the false teaching that one could participate in the imperial cult and also follow Jesus.
- Call to repentance (separation from the Roman cult).
- Encouragement to stay faithful to Jesus.

Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)

Some Questions:

- Are you compromising your faith in order to profit economically, socially, culturally, or religiously?
- Do you look away when you see others compromise?
- What does it look like to lovingly engage those who believe it is OK to live like the world and also follow Jesus?