

Revelation 2 (Conrad Bowman) (February 3, 2008)

I going to take just a few minutes because some of the people asked about the tail end of this paper that I was covering last week called "Babylonianism," Babylonian religion. The reason I brought that up, is because we've just gone through – we've just covered Pergamos. And in Pergamos, it talks about the synagogue of Satan, being – you're tolerating the synagogue of Satan, right there in that church at Pergamos. And so I went back on the synagogue of Satan and pulled this paper up called "Babylonian Religion." And that's this one that we handed out last week, and I still have a couple of copies that I'll give you after I finish this. And I wanted to cover the tail end of it, but I don't want to spend the whole class time on it like I did last week.

Babylonianism grew out of – just to refresh your memory – grew out of the worship of Nimrod's wife whose name was Semiramis. Nimrod died after he got the Tower of Babel started. They were building the Tower of Babel. And you remember from our Genesis studies, the reason they were building the Tower of Babel was so that we might have access to heaven, is what was said by Nimrod at the time. It was believed to be a gateway, or stairway to heaven. It would elevate Nimrod and the people that followed him to the position of being able to rival God. I will send the sides to the North, is what Satan said, in the five thy wills of Satan over in Ezekiel. I will sent the sides of the North. I will be like the most High. So you see those things repeated in the construction of the Tower of Babel, and the reason they were going to do that. Well, Nimrod died, and Egyptian lore has it, and it continued down through the years, that his son, Tammuz, was Nimrod resurrected. You can see the – and his wife, Semiramis, begins to be called the Queen of Heaven. So you can see the unholy family being put together by Satan as a counterfeit of the real. Which was God the Father, God the Son, and His humanity, the Son's humanity came in through Mary. And you begin to see Satan put together a counterfeit to that. Now, that counterfeit became the – come on in [some late arrivals]. This counterfeit came on in and was adopted by Israel, in some instances, and it's being condemned by the Angel to the Church at Pergamos. I have some what against you – we'll come to that in just a minute – because you have a synagogue of Satan operating right there within you. And what he is talking about is a , by the time of the Apostle John, the practice of Babylonionism's worship of the queen. Ezekiel talked about it, because Israel was involved in the same practice when they came out of Egypt. They brought with them honor and worship of the Queen of Heaven, which was Semiramis, or Isis, in the Egyptian tradition. So the Queen of Heaven is mentioned in the Book of Jeremiah and carried on, even today, as St. Joseph's

Table. If you have a Catholic background, you know already the practice of visiting different homes, where they would put up an altar to St. Joseph. And on that altar they would put all sorts of baked goods. And that's where it developed before the Catholic Church became institutionalized in about 300 A.D. So the practices that began under Nimrod, and were associated with the practice of worship of Nimrod, Tammuz's son, and Semiramis, the Queen of Heaven, is carried on in religious liturgical churches today. It's exactly the same thing. It hasn't changed one whit. And in Jeremiah you found, he found the women weeping for Tammuz for a period of 40 days prior to the Feast of Lights that was going to ultimately be the worship of Christ. So it was interwoven into Judaism as well as it would become interwoven into institutionalized Christianity. And that's why this is important. The sign of the cross was sacred to Tammuz worship, symbolizing the life giving principle, and is the first letter of his name – the tower of his name. It is represented upon vast numbers of the most ancient altars in temples and did not, as many have supposed, originate with Christianity. It didn't. It originated with Babylonionism. Abraham is the patriarch, was separated from all of these things by the divine call of God. But the nation that Abraham led continued to fall back into this thing and began to dabble with Babylonionism in all the cults. It was at it's core, Baal worship, or worship of the sun god, and that's what Tammuz had developed into. When Christ came into this world – and I'm on page 4 of the paper in the last paragraph, if you want to follow this – when Christ came into this world, the mystery of antiquity was established universally. It was already out there. Except those areas where the truth of God is revealed in the Old Testament was known. So when early Christians set out on the task of carrying the Gospel to the ends of the earth, they found themselves confronted by this system in one form or another. And I propose to you that that same thing is true today. The number one opposition to the Word of God being carried to people who are unevangelized is the institutional church in it's error. It is not the world of unbelief, but it's the world of false religion. When early Christians set out on the task of carrying the Gospel they found themselves confronted by this system for through Babylon as a city – though Babylon as a city was just a memory, her mysteries did not die with her. When the city and the temples were destroyed, the high priests fled with a company of initiatives, their sacred vessels and images to places like Pergamos, where the symbol of the serpent was set up as the emblem of hidden wisdom. And from there they afterwards crossed the – has anybody ever wondered why the symbol of the serpent is displayed prominently on the caduceus.

Lady. What's caduceus?

Conrad Bowman. The caduceus is the medical emblem that you see. We tend to credit physicians with being the smartest group, intellectually, in our society, as a general rule, and the caduceus is associated with that. It's very easy how the enemy can insert into some of our thought processes the center point of worship of him. Intellectualism is eating us alive today in terms of Christianity. Churches are just wholesale being sold into those institutionalized processes, rather than taking the Word of God and putting it in the forefront of how and why we do what we do to reach the lost. We want to incorporate, we want to incorporate businesses' methods. We want to incorporate things that work for other purposes than evangelism. Well, when you do evangelism, there's not but one method that will draw a person who does not know God to God. And that's direct exposure to the Word. Ok. A few programs won't do it. So we have to be careful that we keep our focus on how we do what we do and keep it Biblical. We have to stay centered in the Word. This is a paper that covers a lot of stuff. It's not but five pages long. I encourage you to read it thoroughly and get familiar with it, and do a little more research on your own. Now, are there any questions on that?

Martin Mosvold. Not as question really. You might find some religious groups that are active. Then all of a sudden you find that when they get into the Word, things change. It's hard to go out and really condemn because there is a fine line with me to begin with. [Inaudible], and God works with them. He can bring them to ... [inaudible]. Right?

Conrad Bowman. Yes.

Martin Mosvold. As long as they're in the Word.

Conrad Bowman. As long as they're in the Word.

Martin Mosvold. Even if their organization has got some glitches?

Conrad Bowman. The organization can be out to lunch. If they're in the Word, they'll get there.

Martin Mosvold. That's what I was ... [inaudible] when you were saying – God really has His ... [inaudible]. He works in so many different ways.

Conrad Bowman. Yes sir. Yes sir. That's absolutely true. Now, open the Word please to

Martin Mosvold. [Inaudible]. We're seeing some evangelicals ... [inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. Yes. Three are some. I have some in my own family, who have a Catholic background, who came to know the Lord eventually. It's significant that every time they did they left their Catholic background and went to a church where they could grow. So raw evangelism, you see raw evangelism there, but it's rare to find growth there. A good example of that is somebody who used – I brought him up six or eight months ago, is Bishop Fenelon, Archbishop Fenelon, who was a Catholic who, through an association with Madam Guyon in France, came to a preeminent knowledge of the Lord. But it never became intimate enough that it led him to break away from his church affiliations, even when they sent him into exile, and he lost his voice with the people of France altogether. He was there when Louis the 16th was there and worked with the family and what-have-you. So God used him for a while but the end of it, other than a couple of people that he reached, the end of it that was not productive.

Now, let's see, the Angel of the Church in Sardis is where we're going to be. Right now, we're in the chapter just before that. Let's start with verse 18 of chapter 2, and I'm going to read a few just to make sure we have covered it, because it's been a couple of weeks.

18. 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:

19. I know your deeds, I know your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

20. But I have this against you,

I'm telling you, those first two verses, verses 18 and 19, sound like exactly what we would like to hear from the Lord, doesn't it. It's commendation, commendation, commendation. And then in verse 20, "BUT."

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.

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

22. So, behold, I'm going to cast her upon a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her in the great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.

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

Now what do you get from that?

Lady. They tolerated sin.

Conrad Bowman. They tolerated sin. They tolerated sin. Specifically, they tolerated Jezebel and her sins. Now, the reason for the paper on Pergamos is because that same religious system was being expressed by Jezebel. Jezebel was simply at one time in history the current agent, or a picture of Semiramis, the Queen of Heaven. Jezebel set herself up as a source of divine truth. Called herself a prophetess, and what she did as a prophetess was "... teach and lead my bondsmen astray, so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things offered to idols." We studied in Paul, the fact that "... I suffer not a woman to teach," was a pronouncement that he made within the Church. And the principle that he was establishing back there, was that men were supposed to be the heads of their family, because Christ is the head of the Church, and they're to depict that. And just like all in the Church, men and women alike, submit themselves to Christ as the head in His leadership, so too should a man's family submit themselves to his leadership as a picture of Christ's headship over the Church. It's not a question of preparation, it's a question of typology. Ok. When the world looks at us, it should see in our families what is seen in the Church because it depicts certain underlying principles. And the principle that it depicts is that Christ Himself, when He was declared to be the Only Begotten Son of God, laid aside His own will and made it submissive to the will of the Father. And how many times did He say that in His own life? When He prayed in the Garden, He said, Father, if there is any other way to do this, let it be done another way. He was facing the cross. I don't want to do that, but I want to do Your will. So,

nevertheless, not My will but Thine be done. Ok. Now you look at that as the pattern, and you see a pattern family like that's beautifully laid out there. Because, in the family as the head of the family, I'm charged with the responsibility – the buck stops here. I'm charged with the responsibility of making decisions for my family. It's perfectly legitimate for Norma to say, I think that's the wrong thing to do. Ok. I don't want to do that. However, if that's what you decided to do, I'm in. You know, we've faced that every time we've ever moved. You know. Every time we've ever moved. [Laughter]. You know. She's not a mover. She's a nester. And just about the time she gets all the pictures exactly right, and the colors exactly right, and the carpet is exactly right, I come home with the news that it's time to move. Well that's, you know, that can be, that's a traumatic thing for her. I am going to leave one office I'm working in and somewhere else and go to another office. And somebody else is going to clean it up and get it ready to go and all that kind of stuff. When we move from house to house, it starts with – you put everything on the truck, shake it up and scramble it for about a 1000 miles, and dump it out at the new location, and there she is. And she's got to deal with all of that. And new friends and new circles, and I'm – the company I'm dealing with – a previously arranged set of friends. Ha. So that's the way the Lord's relationship to the Church is displayed in a family. Same thing in a church. That's the reason we have elders. Elders are the responsible head of the Church. We might disagree with them, and we say, I don't think that's what we ought to do. But their decision is a decision that we should be able willingly to lay our own wills aside and accept their leadership. And we pray that God will lead them to keep us out of trouble. Ok. So those illustrations – there more than illustrations, there're types. Our Church body is a type of Christ's relationship to the Church and His relationship to His Father. And the family is a type of that Church relationship and His relationship. So when Jezebel comes in, Jezebel is a type of Semiramis, the Queen of Heaven, the false queen of heaven. And you see those types playing themselves out across history, and the same results continuing to follow.

So to the angel of the church, the messenger to the church at
Thyatira, write the Son of God:

His title is emphasized there, because Jezebel is a false type of leadership. And it's the Son of God who laid His prerogatives of God aside in order to walk as a man so that He effectively represented every man in submission to God. Do you see that? Ok. That the reason the Son of God is emphasized is because the Son of God laid His will aside – and that's the Doctrine of Kenosis – in order to show, that in His strength as God, He laid that down and submitted to the Father's will,

just like every man. That's what He did in His humanity. He made Himself to be a little lower than the angels in terms of His will and His submissiveness to the will of the Father. And He did the Father's will. Hebrews tells us that

8. Though He was a Son, He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

And thereby He became the author of our salvation. The finisher of our faith. If He had not done that, He would have been an imperfect type of every man being submissive to God. Any questions on that? That's such an important building block. That is such an important building block. Ok. You want to go back and visit that often. Read chapters 5, 6, and 7 of Hebrews, and you'll see that unfold.

Lady. Conrad, is that why in our generation we see the blurring of the lines between male and female?

Conrad Bowman. Absolutely.

Lady. And that's Satan ...

Conrad Bowman. Absolutely. It destroys, it destroys the unity and the picture of leadership, and the submission to leadership. It breaks it down. It breaks down the family. But more importantly, it breaks down submission to God. That's what it is. We tend to think – well, breaking up the family is not too big a deal. You know. Families are going all over the place anyway. But it is a big deal. Because then you have an incorrect picture of the Son's relationship to the Father and our relationship to the Son. It's incredibly important. So there's another huge stone. So,

18. The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:

19. I know your deeds,

Man, He said that over and over, didn't He?

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.

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 ...

Toleration. We've said so much about this, I don't want to dwell on it. This is the Age of Toleration. The Age of Toleration. How can you be so discriminating that you would not tolerate thus and so? You know, we have to be able to tolerate everything. Well, toleration is what God in Thyatira burned.

I have this against you, you tolerate the woman Jezebel ...

It's hard not to watch your grandkids and what they're bringing home from school, because there's the indicator, and it's scary. We're almost to the point where we're not able to trust ourselves to public schools any longer with our children. But the Church is going to have to get in the teaching business if we hope to preserve the next generation. Jezebel calls herself a prophetess,

20.... so she teaches and leads my bondservants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

This wasn't coffee party shenanigans. This was really serious because – commit acts of immorality or sexual immorality – and it talks about adultery and everything that goes with it. Yes?

Ed Welbourn. In the prophetess, did that have a spiritual dimension to it ... [inaudible]?

Conrad Bowman. In it's prophecy?

Ed Welbourn. [Inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. Yes. Jezebel

Ed Welbourn. Prophetess.

Conrad Bowman. Yes. The things she prophesized come straight from the master deceiver. Satan himself. So she's issuing prophecies that contradict the clear Word of God. No question about that. You know. Now one of the remnants, by the way, of Babylonianism, is the – you can pick up your newspaper daily and there's your Zodiac. You can go there and find out how good a boy you're going to be today. Or how bad. And so it's not ever your fault because it said that, right

there in your daily horoscope. The horoscope is a perversion of that. That's one place where you find it. The stars were put in the heavens. The signs and seasons, as well as for light, Genesis told us. And in that, the gospel story is displayed, as Paul said in Romans. In the heavens, and have been since the day they were created, the gospel has been there. Ok. And it's a marvelous study, all it's own. It's the study of the gospel in the stars, or the Mazzaroth, is what the Hebrew called it. The Mazzaroth. And it's the story of Christ coming. The Church. The evangelism. The battle between the Church and Satan. The bruising of his heel and the crushing of the head of Satan that occurs. All of that is right there in the Mazzaroth that unfolds right over your head all night every night. That was the gospel. It has been reduced to the horoscope, so that we don't even appreciate or deal with that on an intelligent basis. We only know it as the signs of the Zodiac in the horoscope. Well, there's truth there that Satan buried before Semiramis began to fade from the minds of everybody that wasn't attuned to Babylonianism. Now Jezebel, as the prophetess, revives that whole approach to the worship of the sun god, which is what Babylonianism was, leads His bondservants astray, so she's convincing them, by clever argument, that this is true, so that they then can commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols, without even knowing what there're doing. And,

21. And I gave her time to repent,

As He has. He's given her, so far, 1900, 2000 years to repent,

21.... and she does not want to repent of her immorality.

22. Behold,

Here's her end.

22.... I'll cast her upon a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her in the great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.

If you loosely connect – you look at AIDS today which is spread largely by sexual misconduct, and you can see one way that this prophecy is coming about today. That's just one way. One way. Since I read medical journals on a daily basis, I could give you a dozen others. Chlamydia is just ...

Phil Richman. Can I ask you a question? If I could. Or make a comment. I was watching ... [inaudible. Something about asking Obama about homosexuality].

He said that, well, I belong to a denomination that frankly allows gay marriage. That was his statement. So here's a man running for office, who is very popular, who is extremely popular – everybody was cheering – [inaudible]. Something about being in a so-called Christian denomination where that's Ok].

Conrad Bowman. Toleration.

Phil Richman. Toleration. And you have to ask yourself, well why does the Church at Thyatira tolerate it? It says you're tolerating it. But why? Why? Obviously, when it was these unbelievers, presumably. So that it's really, why do you slide? And these churches were not around – they were around 30 or 40 years, or so. [Inaudible]. So, this is just some thoughts on this – this toleration. The tolerant church. And they're going down a wrong path. You know... [Inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. Yes.

Phil Richman. Jezebel, is that just a figure of a name, or is that a real name? Jezebel?

Conrad Bowman. Well, Jezebel was a known character historically. We reached back and picked up her name because her name stood for something. And it stood for this toleration of immorality and that sort of thing. Phil, since you brought the thing up, what do you see as the answer to it?

Phil Richman. The answer to toleration?

Conrad Bowman. To that church sliding off in that direction.

Phil Richman. I think as any church you – well first of all, I think the root is, are the elders tolerating this? And it starts there, because there the – when you go liberal, when you go that way and move away from the Word ... [inaudible]. A leadership that leads, and it's a slow process. It's slow in terms of, you know, taking several years, but it does happen. And I would say that, as that begins to happen, you know, people do give up, and leave that church and go elsewhere. That's what I think, that's the progression of it. It's not something that just happens. It takes time. It's a slow creep. And it looks good, and it sounds good, and it even sounds Christian. But as you move away from, I would say the leaders move away from, and move that way as a collective body, that's how it happens. That would be my observation, because they're supposed to be

guardians of the doctrine. They're supposed to keep out the worldly stuff. But, you know, we're in the world, and the world has a great influence on us.

Conrad Bowman. Ok. Yes ma'am?

Lady. Why do they search Scripture to find approval of what they've done, but they don't search it to find out where they are not abiding by the law of God so they can correct their course. They only want to look at the good ... [inaudible]. They don't look to see where they are wrong and fix it.

Conrad Bowman. Ok. Alright. That's an interesting observation. It's hard to drive yourself to Scripture to find something that criticizes what you're doing.

Lady. But you should do that.

Conrad Bowman. Yeah. But you need to do that.

Don Fruin. They also broke the rule insofar as allowing people to come and be leaders in the church without first testing them. Because she set herself up as a prophet.

Conrad Bowman. Yes.

Don Fruit. Which evidently she had no credentials to do.

Conrad Bowman. Right.

Don Fruin. And they still allowed her to come in and teach without investigating her background at all.

Conrad Bowman. So you don't set somebody up based on their own testimony as to how good they are. Jackie?

Jackie Parks. Is it because she's a woman? Being a leader in the church?

Conrad Bowman. There would be ...

Jackie Parks. I'm curious about ...

Conrad Bowman. _____ that would be true. That would be true. There were prophetesses legitimately in the history of Israel and of Christ dealing

coming through. But – were they any New Testament prophetesses, Phil, that you're aware of?

Phil Richman. Well, only in the transitional time in the Book of Acts you see a little bit. But it's ..

Conrad Bowman. And then it went away.

Phil Richman. It went away. It went away. It's – I think the role of women is very explicit in the New Testament, and it's a very great role. It's a tremendous influence. Done right, they have tremendous influence.

Conrad Bowman. Yes. Alright. So that's

Phil Richman. The elder who doesn't talk to his wife and get her feedback and get ... [inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. All the smart ones do. [Laughter].

Lady. [Inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. In the Old Testament? You're absolutely right.

Phil Richman. She was a fallback. Because there're were no men. That's usually what happens. The men abrogate the position. They back off, and women take over because they want to get it done. And that's what happens.

Lady. They're doing it now.

Bruce Davis. You know that verse came up in a Sunday school class in a previous church that we were in. Caused a huge uproar. And the guy that was teaching the class said, we'll have the pastor come in and explain our position. I was kind of looking around ... [inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. I'll make a statement and I don't want it to sound like a criticism of current circumstances. But the explicit duty of the elder is to teach the Word and to guard the spiritual vitality of the Church. It's the specific duty of the deacon to take care of the business of the Church. And as long as those two don't get intermingled, you can remain in pretty good shape. You can function the way God allows you to function. You drop off of that, and you're going to get in trouble.

Norma Bowman. Conrad, there's a question over here somewhere.

Helen Morgan. I was just going to comment about what Phil was talking about. There was a church in our area when we first moved out in our area and it's there for maybe twenty years. A certain denomination that became more and more liberal. That pastor lived down the street from us. He still lives down the street from us. But he left that church. It completely closed down because of the liberalism. And we really admire him for doing that. He now is involved in another denominational in the area. He's very active and teaches and everything, but he left that church ... [inaudible].

[Comments back and forth. Inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. Now it's a Walgreens store. That seems to fit, because in 22, the solution that's promised by the Son of God says,

22. Behold, I will cast her upon a bed of sickness,

So I guess if you've got a sick church like that, sell the property to a Walgreens.

... and those who commit adultery with her into the great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.

I want you to watch that, because that's a very sneaky little change. You see,

Behold I'll visit her, I will cast her upon a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her in the great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.

You see there? In other words, once you've decided to follow somebody like this, and pick up the doctrine they're teaching, and act on that basis, God says, when I deal with her, I'm dealing with her. When I come to you, you're going to have to repent of everything she did. Guilt by association? Absolutely. Absolutely. There's Dad's advice again. You lay down with dogs, you come up with fleas.

Bruce Davis. That's the same pattern that God uses in everything.

Conrad Bowman. Absolutely.

Bruce Davis. We have to be personally responsible or repent personally for all the sins that we have committed ...

Conrad Bowman. And all the sins that the one who we followed committed. We have to deal with it all.

Bruce Davis. Their personal sins [inaudible]... is what we need to repent from.

Conrad Bowman. I checked this very carefully because it does say, unless they repent of her deeds. In other words, if you choose to follow somebody, and follow her in what she's saying, and what she's doing – false religion – to me, either or, it doesn't matter, that God will deal with that individual personally. But, that when you decide to repent, you're going to have to deal with all the things that she did. In other words, if you choose to follow Conrad, and Conrad goes out there and you become associated with me, and then I go out there and begin to commit whatever. Ok. When God deals with me, He's going to deal with me on the basis of the things I've done. He's going to deal with you and you're repentance of everything that I've done. Because you have led other people into following me. And if you don't repent – and apparently that's openly repent, of every misdeed that I've done, then you haven't cleaned your slate. Ok. Your pathway still lacks some things. Now,

Joyce Wood. Tolerance is not accepted.

Conrad Bowman. Tolerance is not accepted. No ma'am. No ma'am. God is not going to be tolerant of His bondservants. He's not going to be. What you know – with knowledge comes responsibility. I mean, you could almost stamp that on the top of every page. What you know, you're responsible for. And in the case of His bondservants, what you ought to know you are responsible for because He's opened it up to you. He never gives us a test except first He gives us the answer in our lessons. He always does it first. He does not test us in order to teach us. He teaches us in order to test us. And that's true over and over and over again. Too often we like to treat the tough times as tests. That God is testing us. But that's not the case. The tough times are there. Look at your experience before they got there, because the lesson is there. The lesson is preceding the test. Ok. God never surprises us like that. Now,

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

So the reason He's going to deal with us like that is because He searches the minds and hearts and knows specifically what we're about.

24. But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them--I place no other burden on you.

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

26. And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end,

Now when He says, nevertheless hold fast to what you have until I come, He's looking forward to the Second Coming. That's a far reach. Ok.

26. ... hold fast until I come. And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;

Repeat.

26. ... and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE GENTILES;

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.

Now I want you to read that carefully. "He who overcomes, and he who keeps my deeds until the end, to that one I will give authority over the Gentiles. And he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces." Now who's going to do the ruling with the rod of iron? The over-comers, are going to be the ones who – see what we're talking about now is Tribulation promises and Millennial reign. Ok. This is not talking about Christ is going to rule with a rod of iron over the Gentiles. But those who overcome, who hold fast to the doctrines that they've been taught, "who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the Gentiles, and he shall rule them with a rod of iron as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces ..." In other words, that one who is a over-comer is going to be ruling over the Gentile nations while the vessels of the potter – who are those? That's the Church vessels. The ones who followed after Jezebel. They are being broken to pieces – that is what He is taking care of. They will be broken to pieces,

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 to do that,

28. and I will give him the morning star.

That's a title of Christ. And

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

The final thought I want to remind you of this morning is this. That one who rules with a rod of iron is going to receive the Morning Star, or Christ's title. Verse 29 says,

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

I remind you that in the upper room at Pentecost, 120 Galileans were gathered. And when the Spirit distributed Himself and indwelt everyone of them, everybody who hear them speak, heard in his own language, the language in which he was born. It was a miracle of hearing. A miracle of hearing. What He's saying here, as the truth is proclaimed, the Spirit enables those of God's elect, "... who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches." The message will not be heard by all, but will be understood by those who are holding to the deeds that they've been taught to do, and holding to the doctrine that Paul planted in him fifty years before. Ok. And while the deeds are driving those guys to overcome, they will hear additionally from the Spirit what they need to hear to keep directing their actions. What's the Lord doing? He's breaking those vessels of dishonor, as Matthew would call them. Breaking them to pieces. Those are the children of Jezebel, that have committed, and those that have committed adultery with her. That's the beginning of their tribulation. Now, are there any questions? We're going to start next week on the church at Sardis in chapter 3. Ok.

Martin Mosvold. We're talking about the languages. Will there be one language?

Conrad Bowman. In the Millennial Kingdom? I think it's so. And if not, at the very least, every man who speaks will be understood by every person who's there. So the same net effect will be there. Let's have a word of prayer.

Father we thank you so much for the Word that's clear. We pray Father that You would continue to direct us in our studies. Keep us, Father just keep us centered on what you would have us to know. Burn out our individual prejudices, burn out our individual experiences, and show us the path clearly that You would have us follow, as a church and as individuals bound to You. We thank You, in Christ's name. Amen.