

SHARP TWO-EDGED SWORD



- To this point neither John nor God have assigned a name to the divine being
- Modern Christianity takes the meaning of the sword to be the New Testament
- Victorinus and Jerome said it was the Law and the Gospel
- God considers Pergamum a detestably wicked place
- Commends Believers for holding on to His Name

FOOD SACRIFICED TO IDOLS

- God says that some at Pergamum hold to the teaching of Bil'am
- Avoiding food sacrificed to idols goes back to the Exodus
- Numbers 25:1 – 3
- Biblically, food is NOT any edible thing...only that which is permitted
- Big difference between biblically kosher and Rabbinic kosher





THE TEACHING OF BILA'M.....
AND THE CHURCH

Eat anything you
want !!!

- Nicolaitan influence also at Ephesus, so was widespread in Asia
- **Nokhal** = “we will eat” Nokhol > Nikolatan > Nicolaitan
- Nicolaitans seemed to teach of no food restrictions but did not teach unrestrained sexual immorality

“Sword of My mouth” CONNECTS TO BIL’AM STORY



- Bil'am confronted by Angel with a sword
- Later he was killed by the sword
- It fits that God would use the sword to judge the teachers of Bil'am and of the Nicolaitans
- The issue of submitting to God's food laws is one of trust and obedience

Hidden Manna

White STONES

§ A NEW NAME

- Those who turn from these sins receive two rewards
- 1) Hidden Manna = Yeshua the Messiah
- 2) White Stone with a new name
- White Stones were “admission tickets” but also used to vote to acquit
- A new name means a new identity

THYATIRA

- God again gives descriptions of Himself and no name
- Son of God does NOT indicate Christ's deity, but rather His humanity
- Son of God used to describe several Israelite kings
- Son of God = expected Davidic king/Messiah
- Next part of description is: eyes like a fiery flame and feet like burnished brass
- This is a word for word description taken from Daniel and Ezekiel for "The Ancient One" (God the Father)



THAT JEZEBEL WOMAN

- Letter focuses on the damage that ONE person caused the Thyatira Believers
- God says Thyatira's love, trust, service and perseverance are good
- Woman is teaching: 1) Sex sins, and 2) to eat food sacrificed to idols
- A repetitive theme in these letters: sex sin and food



PRACTICE

Tolerance



- Tolerance is today hailed as mankind's greatest virtue
- Tolerance of itself is not evil; it is WHAT we tolerate
- The counter argument to biblical morality is tolerance
- The Jezebel woman gained influence because she claimed to be a prophetess
- The biblical test for a prophet is they can never be wrong!
- True prophets are rare, hated, lose their families and friends, live alone and in poverty

Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

FALSE PROPHETS

Beware of false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but they are ferocious wolves. Many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. The Lord says, these prophets are prophesying in my name. I have not sent them, I have not appointed them, nor spoken to them. They are prophesying to you false visions, divinations, idolatries and the delusions of their own minds. False Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect.

- Jezebel woman taught Believers to deny the Word of God and to accept her new laws and commands
- The 2 most serious of her sinful teachings: 1) eating food sacrificed to idols, 2) sex sin
- Nothing magical happens to food laid on an altar
- Kosher food doesn't increase life span, not necessarily healthier.....it is an issue of trust and obedience!

- Too easy to confuse love and tolerance
- God's judgment:
 - 1) Woman to get fatal disease
 - 2) Followers will receive great troubles
 - 3) "Children" will die
- Why is God being so harsh? Rev. 2:23
- God WILL dispose of evil people to protect the remainder of His people who have not fallen





THE “DEEPER TEACHINGS”

- The Deeper Teachings of the Adversary likely refer to the Gnostic philosophers
- Gnosticism touts intelligence as the means to deeper spirituality
- Psalm 2 is a Messianic Psalm
- Anti-leaders conspiring against God’s chosen leaders

**THE INVINCIBLE
KINGDOM OF CHRIST**
- PSALM 2 -