

The Fourth Letter

Thyatira

The Corrupt Assembly

Hazon (Revelation) 2:18-29

“And to the messenger of the assembly in Thyatira write, ‘This says the Son of Elohim, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like burnished brass: I know your works, and love, and service, and belief, and your endurance. And as for your works, the last are more than the first. “But I hold against you that you allow that woman Izebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and lead My servants astray to commit whoring and to eat food offered to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her whoring, and she did not repent.

“See, I am throwing her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great affliction, unless they repent of their works. And I shall slay her children with death. And all the assemblies shall know that I am the One searching the kidneys and hearts. And I shall give to each one of you according to your works. And to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not possess this teaching, and who have not known the depths of Satan, as they call them, I am not putting on you another burden. But hold fast what you have until I come.

“And he who overcomes, and guards My works until the end, to him I shall give authority over the nations, and he shall shepherd them with a rod of iron, as the potter’s vessels shall be broken to pieces, as I also have received from My Father. And I shall give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.”

1- Name of Assembly

Now let’s talk about this city, Thyatira.

Thyatira was originally a Macedonian colony, founded during the days of Alexander the Great. It wasn’t a major city like Ephesos or Smyrna, but it was famous for one thing, its cloth and dye industry. The city was known especially for its beautiful purple dye, often called “Royal Purple.” This dye was expensive, luxurious, and widely used in garments worn by kings and nobles.

You might remember a woman named Lydia from the Book of Acts, a believer who met Sha’ul (Paul) in Philippi. She’s described as a seller of purple fabrics and came from Thyatira (Acts 16:14). That tells us something. Even outside her hometown, Lydia carried the trade and reputation of Thyatira with her.

Now, in Jewish tradition, even the blue thread in the tzitzit, the tassels of the prayer shawl, was made using a special dye. So, dyeing had not just economic value, but also spiritual meaning. Still, the spiritual atmosphere of Thyatira was another story entirely.

The city was filled with idol worship and immorality. It was home to temples dedicated to Apollos, the so-called sun god. There were also inscriptions to Artemis,

his mythological twin. These weren't just temples; they were centres of feasting, pagan rituals, and sexual immorality. It was a tough place for believers to live faithfully.

And sadly, this darkness crept into the assembly itself.

This letter from Yeshua comes with a serious tone. He is described as the Son of Elohim, with eyes like a flame of fire and feet like burnished brass. That image alone tells us that He sees everything clearly, and that His judgment is pure and firm.

He begins by acknowledging the good: "I know your works, your love, service, faith, and endurance. And your last works are greater than your first." This assembly wasn't dead. There were believers there who were growing in service and in faith.

But then comes the warning.

Yeshua says plainly, "I hold against you that you allow that woman Izebel..." Now, this name Izebel (or Jezebel) points us back to the wicked queen in the days of Ahab, who led Yisra'el into Ba'al worship. Here, in Thyatira, someone like her, calling herself a prophetess, was teaching believers to compromise. She led them into sexual immorality and taught that it was okay to eat food offered to idols.

Yeshua says, "I gave her time to repent... but she did not." And because of that refusal, judgment is coming. "I am throwing her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great affliction, unless they repent."

Then comes something even more sobering: "I shall slay her children with death." This is not about literal children, but about spiritual offspring, those who follow her teachings.

Yeshua says He will repay each person according to their works. Why? Because He searches the heart. He doesn't just see the outside, He knows our intentions, our motives, our inner condition.

But not all in Thyatira had gone astray.

To the rest, those who had not accepted these false teachings or explored the "depths of Satan", Yeshua says, "I am not putting another burden on you. Just hold fast to what you have until I come."

That's a word of comfort. Amid corruption, some remained faithful. And Yeshua is telling them, just keep holding on. Don't give in.

Then, as with each letter, comes the promise for the overcomer.

"He who overcomes and guards My works until the end, to him I shall give authority over the nations." He will rule with Yeshua, just as it is written in Tehillim (Psalm) 2. Yeshua even says, "As I have received from My Father."

And then this beautiful line:

"I shall give him the morning star."

The "morning star" speaks of hope. It's the light that appears before the dawn. It's the promise that darkness will not last forever.

So, the message to Thyatira is a mixture of commendation and correction. It is a call to reject compromise, to stay pure, and to keep doing the good works we're called to, without being led astray by teachings that allow sin to dwell comfortably in the assembly.

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

2 - Character Description of Yeshua

Hazon (Revelation) 2:18

"This says the Son of Elohim, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like burnished brass."

Here in this verse, we're given a powerful picture of Yeshua, not just as a teacher or a servant, but as the Son of Elohim Himself. His eyes are like flames of fire. His feet shine like burnished brass. This isn't poetic fluff; this is the Word showing us His divine nature.

Let's pause and really take in this image.

His **eyes like fire** speak of something more than simple vision. This is about Yeshua's ability to see everything, every heart, every thought, every motive. Nothing is hidden from Him. His eyes are pure, holy, and burning with truth. When he looks at someone, it's not like how we look; he sees through the surface, right into the soul. His judgment is never blind. It's clear, perfect, and true.

And then it says His **feet are like burnished brass**, shining, strong, unshakable. In Scripture, feet often represent dominion, authority, and movement. These feet are not dusty or worn out. They are refined and gleaming, just like metal tested in fire. This tells us that when Yeshua moves, He moves with power and purpose. He stands firm, and His path is holy.

Now, here's something even deeper. This part of the letter links us back to what we saw in Revelation Chapter 1, that grand vision of Yeshua walking in the midst of the seven golden lampstands. That image wasn't random. It reflects the **menorah**, the seven-branched lampstand from the Tabernacle and the Temple, a symbol of YHWH's presence and light among His people.

The **central branch** of the menorah was always the tallest, the strongest, the servant branch that lit the rest. And here, Yeshua is standing in the middle of the seven assemblies. He's not off to the side. He's not distant. He is right in the centre. Like that middle branch, He is the source of the light. The life. The strength. Everything flows from Him.

When we look at all seven letters to the assemblies, we find seven different descriptions of Yeshua, each one unique, each one unique, each one revealing something special about who He is. But right in the middle of those seven, we come to this image: **His eyes like flames of fire**. That's not a coincidence. It's a message.

Yeshua is not just the Redeemer. He's not only the Shepherd or the King. He is also the One who sees. The One who judges righteously. The One whose eyes never miss a thing.

And this reminds us: He is the light in the midst of His people. He is the heart of the Body. When we lose sight of Him, we lose direction. But when He stands at the centre, everything comes into alignment.

So, when He speaks to Thyatira, or to any of us, He does so as the One whose eyes burn with truth and whose feet never falter. He sees our struggles. He sees our works. But He also sees our hearts. And His light reveals everything, not to shame us, but to refine us. To draw us back into His purity and His strength.

2- Recognition - Yeshua Knows Their Works

Hazon (Revelation) 2:19

“I know your works, and love, and service, and belief, and your endurance. And as for your works, the last are more than the first.”

Before the correction comes, Yeshua starts with something every heart longs to hear: “I know.”

Not, “I see from a distance,” but **I know**. That means He’s involved, He’s present, and He’s paying attention.

He names five things He sees in the believers at Thyatira:

Their **works**. Their **love**. Their **service**. Their **belief**. And their **endurance**.

These weren’t just words or feelings; they were lived out. This was an assembly where people were actively doing good, helping others, standing firm in faith, and holding on through hard times. In a place like Thyatira, full of pagan pressure, idol worship, and moral decay, this was no small thing.

Let’s talk about their **love**. It wasn’t just a feeling they had during worship or a word they said out loud. It was shown in their actions, how they treated one another, how they served the poor, how they carried the burdens of the weak. This love wasn’t passive. It moved their hands and feet.

And **their belief**, their faith, wasn’t shallow. They didn’t just believe when things were easy. They believed when it cost them. They believed when the world said, “Bow to idols” and they said, “No, we bow only to the King.”

Yeshua also commends their **endurance**. They didn’t quit when the pressure came. They didn’t walk away when things got hard. They kept showing up. They kept serving. They kept believing.

And here’s what’s truly beautiful: He says, “The last are more than the first.” In other words, they were growing. They weren’t just clinging to a memory of how they used to be. They were becoming **stronger** over time. Their love grew deeper. Their works grew more faithful. They didn’t go backwards, they moved forward.

This shows us something important. Yeshua sees not only what we do, but the **direction** we’re going in. He watches how we finish the race, not just how we start.

The Assembly in Thyatira wasn't perfect. As we'll see, there was sin that had to be dealt with. But before that, Yeshua stops and says, "I see the good. I see the love. I see the faith. I see the growth."

That's the heart of our Master. He doesn't just point out the wrong, He sees the right. He honours those who are trying. He notices the one who chooses to serve again and again, even when no one else sees. And He celebrates faith that grows stronger with time.

So let this be a reminder to all of us, no matter where we are, Yeshua knows. He knows the small sacrifices. He sees the quiet endurance. He knows the works of love that nobody else applauds. And He says to us, "Keep going. I see you."

3- **Shortfalls - The Spirit of Izebel Among the People**

Hazon (Revelation) 2:20 -23

"But I hold against you that you allow that woman Izebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and lead My servants astray to commit whoring and to eat food offered to idols.

"And I gave her time to repent of her whoring, and she did not repent. See, I am throwing her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great affliction, unless they repent of their works. And I shall slay her children with death. And all the assemblies shall know that I am the One searching the kidneys and hearts. And I shall give to each one of you according to your works."

Now, here's where the letter takes a sharp turn. After praising the believers in Thyatira for their love, faith, and service, Yeshua brings correction. And He's not gentle about it.

He says plainly: "I hold this against you."

What is it? They **allowed** a woman, Izebel, who called herself a prophetess, to influence the assembly. She wasn't sent by YHWH. She wasn't walking in truth. She was using her platform to lead believers, His servants, into sin. She taught them it was okay to commit sexual immorality. She encouraged them to eat food offered to idols, a clear violation of Torah.

Now, the name "Izebel" isn't just symbolic; it draws us straight back to the wicked queen from the days of **Ahab** in the Book of Kings. Jezebel was one of the most wicked women in the Tanach (Hebrew Scripture). She introduced Ba'al worship into Yisra'el, seduced the people into idolatry, and hunted down the prophets of YHWH.

In the end, her death was brutal; she was thrown from a window, and her body was devoured by dogs. But her legacy didn't end there. The spirit that worked through her, a spirit of seduction, control, rebellion, and false teaching, carried on.

And here, in the assembly at Thyatira, that same spirit had taken root again. And it wasn't just operating outside; it was tolerated **inside** the assembly. That's the real tragedy. They allowed it. They turned a blind eye. Maybe they feared confrontation. Maybe they were deceived. Either way, Yeshua says, "This, I hold against you."

But notice something about His character, He says, “I gave her time to repent.” Even to someone like Izebel, the mercy of YHWH was extended. He gave her time. He gave her space to turn around. But she **refused**. And now, judgment was at the door.

“I’m throwing her into a sickbed,” He says. And those who committed adultery with her, who joined in her sin, would face great suffering unless they also repented. That’s not just physical. That’s spiritual. That bed of pleasure was about to become a bed of pain.

Then He says something even more serious:

“I shall slay her children with death.” Now, this is a Hebrew idiom; it means a certain and final judgment. Her “children” aren’t just literal; they’re her followers, those who carried her teachings in their hearts and spread them around.

Yeshua makes it clear why this judgment must come: “So that all the assemblies will know...”

He wants His people to understand that He is the One who **searches the kidneys and the heart**, the deepest parts of our being. In Hebrew thought, the kidneys speak of emotion and conscience, and the heart speaks of desire, thought, and will. He sees what’s hidden. He knows what no one else can see.

And He says, “I shall give to each one of you according to your works.” That’s not a threat. That’s truth. Righteous judgment, pure and exact.

This isn’t just history. The spirit of Izebel is still at work today. Among assemblies. Among leaders. Even among sincere believers who slowly drift into compromise.

She whispers,

“It’s not that bad.”

“Surely Elohim understands...”

“It’s just tradition.”

“It’s only a small sin.”

But these little compromises lead to big falls.

Hoshea (Hosea) 4:6 said it clearly:

“My people have perished for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest for Me. Since you have forgotten the Torah of your Elohim, I also forget your children. ”

When we turn our backs on YHWH’s truth, when we allow seductive teachings to creep into the assembly, the consequences are real.

This is a call to wake up. A call to discern. A call to guard our assemblies from anything or anyone that leads Elohim’s people away from the narrow path.

4- Corrective Action - A Word to the Faithful Remnant

Hazon (Revelation) 2:24

“And to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not possess this teaching, and who have not known the depths of Satan, as they call them, I am not putting on you another burden.”

After all the strong warnings, after confronting the darkness that had crept into the assembly, Yeshua now speaks a word of encouragement. And oh, how merciful it is.

He turns to the faithful ones. He says, **“To you, and to the rest in Thyatira ...”**, the ones who had not fallen into the trap of Izebel’s teachings, the ones who stayed away from what He calls “the depths of Satan.”

Now that’s strong language, “the depths of Satan”, but it fits. These were not light sins. This was deep, spiritual corruption that masked itself as wisdom, as freedom, as a kind of deeper “knowledge.” But Yeshua sees it for what it is, deception straight from the enemy.

And yet, there were still those in Thyatira who remained pure. Who did not follow after that seductive spirit. Who kept themselves from idols, from immorality, from compromise. They didn’t chase after the so-called “deeper” teachings. They didn’t sell their souls to blend in with the culture around them.

To them, Yeshua says this: **“I am not putting on you another burden. ”**

What a beautiful thing to hear from our Master.

He doesn’t overload the faithful. He doesn’t stack more requirements on top of them. He simply tells them, “Hold on.” **Keep walking in what you already know. Stay true to what you’ve been given.** In other words: you don’t need a new burden; just stay faithful with the truth you already have.

And what is that truth?

It’s the **Torah**, the foundation of how we walk in holiness. As it says in 1 Yohanan (1 John) 3:4:

“Everyone doing sin also does lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.”

That word lawlessness is Torah-lessness. Sin is not just a mistake; it is walking apart from the instruction of Elohim. And the faithful in Thyatira understood this. They didn’t abandon the path. They didn’t call evil good or good evil. They stood.

This is the heart of the message to the faithful remnant:

“I see you. I honour your obedience. Keep holding fast. You don’t need to carry more, just continue to walk in what is right.”

And beloved, this message still speaks today.

Because even in the midst of assemblies filled with compromise...
Even in a world that celebrates confusion and false freedom...
There are always those who remain faithful.

To you, Yeshua says:

“I know your walk. I see your heart. Keep going. No need for a new burden, just hold on to the truth. Stay rooted in Me. Stay grounded in My Word. Your endurance will be rewarded.”

5- Challenge - Hold Fast Until I Come

Haazon (Revelation) 2:25

“But hold fast what you have until I come.”

This line is short, but powerful.

Yeshua’s message here is simple: **Don’t let go.**

Hold on to what you already have. Don’t trade it. Don’t water it down. Don’t drift. Just stay the course.

What had the faithful in Thyatira been holding onto? It wasn’t some new Revelation. It wasn’t complicated theology. It was **faithful obedience**, walking in love, serving one another, believing in the promises, and doing the works of the Torah.

They were living out exactly what Yeshua said in Yohanan (John) 14:15:

“If you love Me, you shall guard My commands.”

That’s what He’s asking here, “Just keep doing what you’re already doing. Keep guarding what is true. Don’t lose your grip.”

In a world full of noise and shifting morals, this message couldn’t be more relevant. Many people start strong but lose their footing over time. They grow tired. They get distracted. Or they compromise, little by little.

But Yeshua is saying: “You’re on the right path, now keep walking it. Until I come.”

That’s the real challenge, isn’t it?

Not just to start well, but to end well.

Not just to believe in hard times, but to **persevere until the end** .

This is a message of encouragement and endurance.

He’s not asking for perfection. He’s asking for **persistence** .

Not flawless obedience, but **faithful obedience** .

So, if you’re tired, hold fast.

If you feel alone in your walk, hold fast.

If the world around you mock your commitment to YHWH’s ways, hold fast.

He is coming. And He’s not coming empty-handed. He’s coming with reward, with justice, and with joy for those who stayed faithful.

6- Reward - Ruling with the King

Haazon (Revelation) 2:26 -29

“And he who overcomes, and guards My works until the end, to him I shall give authority over the nations, and he shall shepherd them with a rod of iron, as the potter’s vessels shall be broken to pieces, as I also have received from My Father.

And I shall give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies."

This is where the letter to Thyatira ends, not in judgment, but in promise. A deep, powerful, beautiful promise.

Yeshua says: "To the one who overcomes... to the one who guards My works until the end..." This is someone who doesn't just start the race but finishes it. Not just someone who believes once, but someone who walks it out, day after day, guarding His ways, guarding the Torah, keeping the faith.

To that person, He says, "I will give authority over the nations."

This is a kingdom promise. This is about reigning with Yeshua in the Messianic Age, the time when the King returns and sets up His throne on earth. It's not a symbol. It's not a metaphor. It's real. Those who remain faithful will rule and reign with Him.

Psalm 2 speaks of this, a prophecy of the coming Messiah:

"You are My Son... Ask of Me, and I make the nations Your inheritance..."

Yeshua is that, Son. And just as the Father gave Him authority, He will share it with those who overcome. He says we'll shepherd the nations, even break them like clay pots if needed, just as He will do.

But here's where it gets more personal.

Yeshua says, "And I shall give him the morning star."

Now that phrase, "the morning star," is not just poetic. It's intimate. It's personal. It's Himself.

Later in Revelation, Yeshua calls Himself the Bright and Morning Star *Hazon* (Revelation) 22:16. So when He says He will give the overcomer the morning star, He's saying, "I will give you more of Me." Not just rulership. Not just position. But presence. Relationship. Light within. And here's something powerful: this reward isn't given to the whole assembly, it's individual.

It's personal.

"To each one who overcomes."

Now, some people ask, "What will this ruling look like?"

And Scripture gives us two different views:

First, some believe that only the righteous Believers who survive the Battle of Armageddon will enter the Messianic Age, the earth will be renewed, restored like Eden, and only the pure in heart will dwell there.

Second, others believe that all who survive, both righteous and unrighteous, will enter that age, and will be governed by Yeshua and His Bride. This view comes partly from *Zekaryah* (Zechariah) 14:16, where even the nations that once fought against Jerusalem are still expected to go up to worship the King.

Either way, the heart of the message remains: Those who stay faithful, those who guard Yeshua's works, will be part of His reign. They will sit on thrones, as it says in Hazon (Revelation) 20:4, and reign with Him as kings and priests.

Sha'ul (Paul) also said it:

"If we endure, we shall also reign with Him..." (2 Timothy 2:12)

And this reign, let's be clear, is not a worldly, power-hungry rule. It is not about dominion in this age, as some false teachings claim.

Movements like Dominion Theology or Kingdom Now wrongly teach that we will take over the world before Yeshua returns. That's not Scriptural.

The rule of Yeshua, and our rule with Him, begins when He returns. Not before. Not through politics or empires or church institutions. But through the real, visible return of the King of Kings, when He sets all things right.

And when He does, He will rule with justice. With righteousness. With power. And we, His Bride, His overcomers, will share in that reign, not by our own strength, but because He lives in us. As Sha'ul said in Galatiyim (Galatians) 2:20:

"It is no longer I who live, but Messiah lives in me..."

That's what the Morning Star means. His light, His rule, His life, in us and through us.

So, to the Assembly in Thyatira, and to us, the call is the same:

Hold fast. Overcome.

Stay faithful. Don't compromise.

And when He comes, He will give you the crown, the throne... and Himself.



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Shalom and Blessings in Yeshua's Name