

<sup>3</sup> Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near. —  
Revelation 1:3 (NKJV)



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



<sup>11</sup> saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."  
(Revelation 1:11)

**PERGAMOS**

**THYATIRA**

**SMYRNA**

**SARDIS**

**PHILADELPHIA**

**LAODECIA**

**EPHESUS**

**PATMOS**

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Image Landsat / Copernicus

Google Earth



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## TO THE 7 CHURCHES WHICH ARE IN ASIA (CHAPTERS 2 & 3)



Jesus is said to be “in the midst” of the seven golden lamp-stands, which are the seven churches (1:13,20).

The Lord is intimately aware of what transpires within every congregation. — He “knows” their situation, works, faithfulness & sins (2:2,9,13,19; 3:1,8,15; Heb 4:13).

The Lord sees us as we really are (2 Corinthians 5:10).



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## TO THE 7 CHURCHES WHICH ARE IN ASIA (CHAPTERS 2 & 3)



■ **These churches needed hope, courage, comfort & most needed an instructive rebuke**

■ Social disgrace; financial & material loss; physical persecution; loss of physical life - (Acts 14:22; 2 Tim 3:12)

■ Was / is being a Christian "worth it?" - Mat 10:28; 16:24-27; Rev 14:12,13

■ **Instruction needed for all Christians of all ages**



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)

<sup>18</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, ‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: <sup>19</sup> “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and *as* for your works, the last *are* more than the first. <sup>20</sup> Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup> And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)

<sup>22</sup> Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. <sup>23</sup> I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. <sup>24</sup> “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. <sup>25</sup> But hold fast what you have till I come.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)

<sup>26</sup> And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— <sup>27</sup> *‘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; <sup>28</sup> and I will give him the morning star. <sup>29</sup> “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



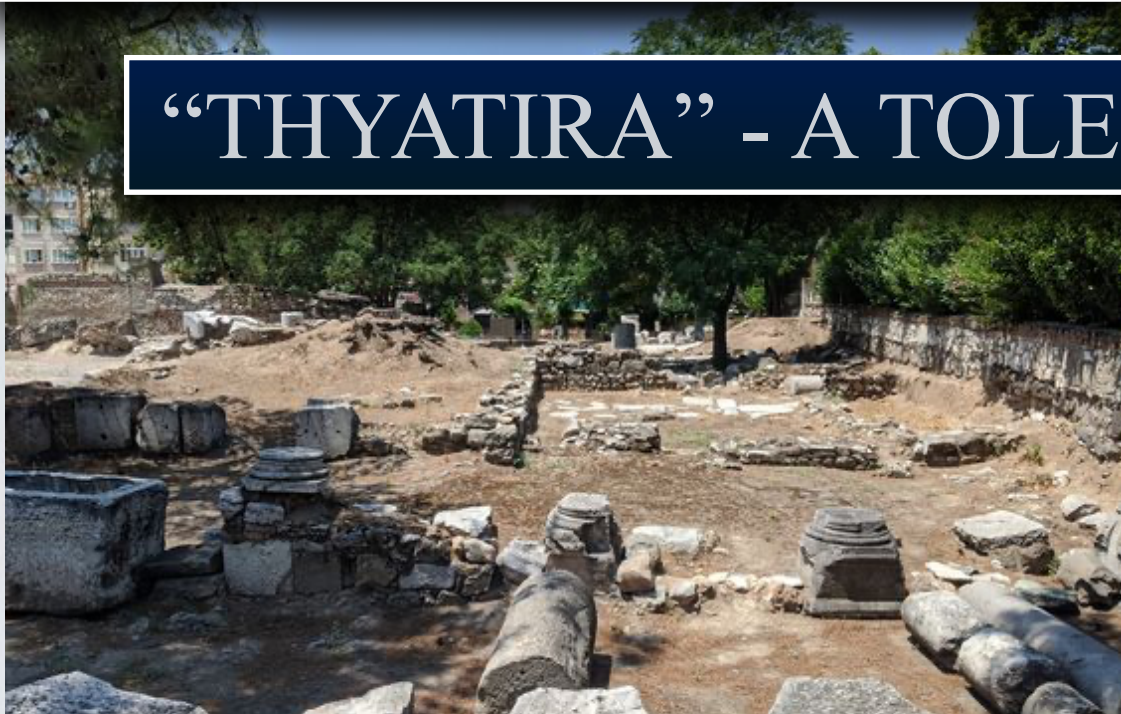
### Background Information

- ❖ Located in northern Lydia, near Mysia, on the Lycas River about 40 miles SE of Pergamum.
- ❖ A Roman city since 190 B.C., originally established as a military outpost.
- ❖ Served as the main business and commercial route between Pergamos and Sardis.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



Theater of Thyatira

## ■ Background Information

- ❖ Their chief pagan deity was Tyrimnos, a.k.a. the Greek sun god Apollo.
- ❖ Boasted several pagan temples, (Asklepios, Baachus, Artemis), including one to the Chaldean goddess Sambethe, which was served by a prophetess who claimed to speak for the deity.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



## ■ Background Information

- ◆ A small, but wealthy city known for its purple dye used in coloring clothing for royalty and the wealthy. One source of this dye was the madder root which grew plentifully around Thyatira. (cf. Acts 16:14).
- ◆ The longest of the seven letters to the least important of the cities.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



Columns of Thyatira

## ■ Background Information

- ◆ Contained a number of trade guilds (wool, leather, linen, bronze, garments, dyers, potters, bakers, slaves, etc.), which practiced pagan religion and engaged in immoral practices.
- ◆ A Christian's livelihood was affected by the issues involved in membership in these associations.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



Columns of Thyatira

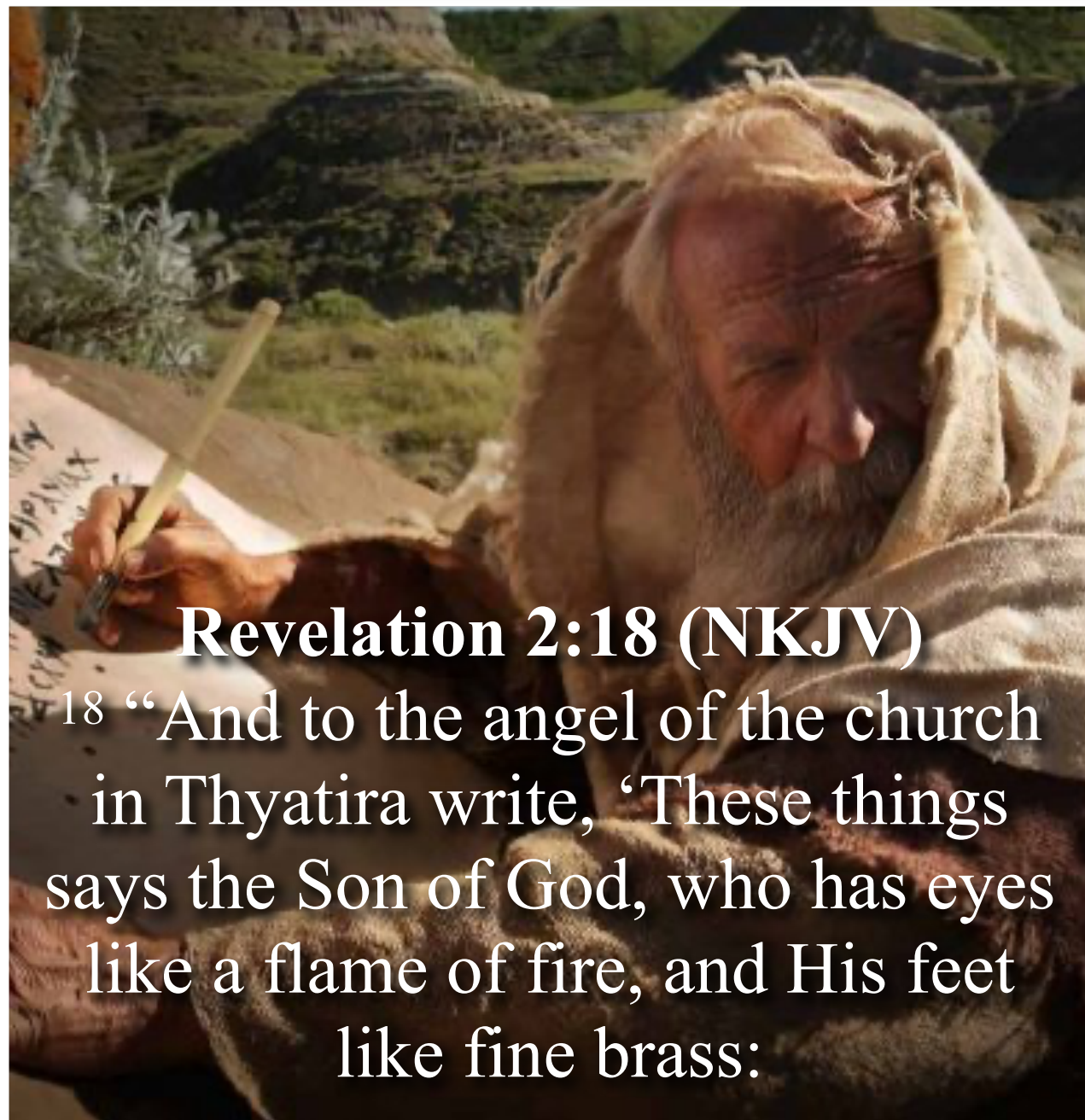
### ■ Background Information

- ❖ It is interesting to contrast the churches at Ephesus and Thyatira.
  - ▶ The Ephesian church was weakening in its love, yet faithful to judge false teachers; while the church at Thyatira was growing in their works, but too tolerant of false doctrine.
- ❖ Both extremes must be avoided in the church.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



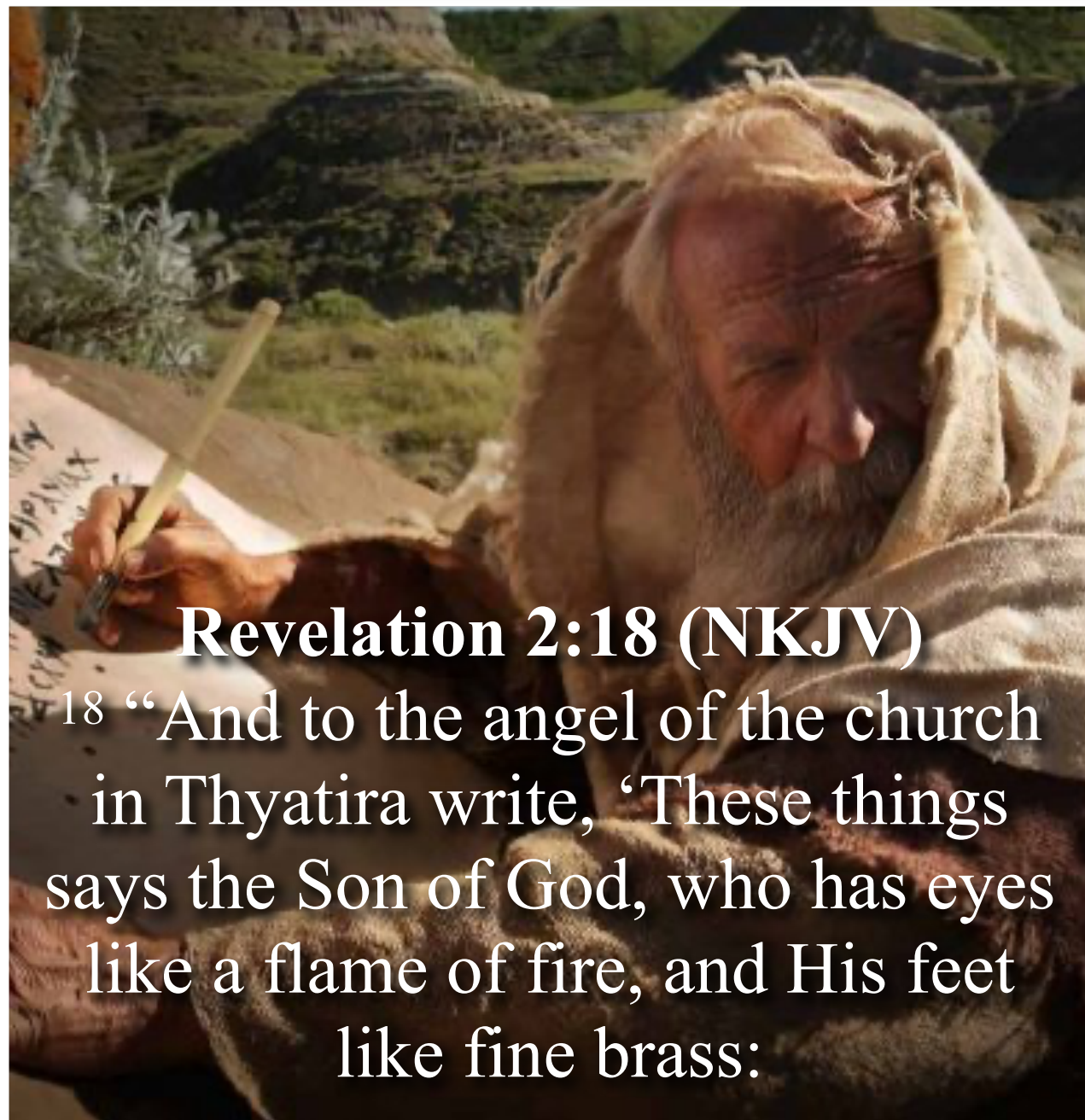
### CHRIST’S SELF DESIGNATION

- ▶ “These things says the Son of God” (cf. 1:18; Mat 17:5; Mk 1:1; Luke 1:35; 1 Jn 4:15).
- ✦ Jesus does not claim to be “A” son of God, but THE Son of God - A direct claim to Deity (Jn 1:1-3; 5:17,18; 8:58; Ps. 2:7; Heb 1:8,9-10; Phili. 2:6)
- ✦ Jesus is the Son of man (human) and the Son of God (deity) (Heb 1:1-4,8)



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

**“THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)**



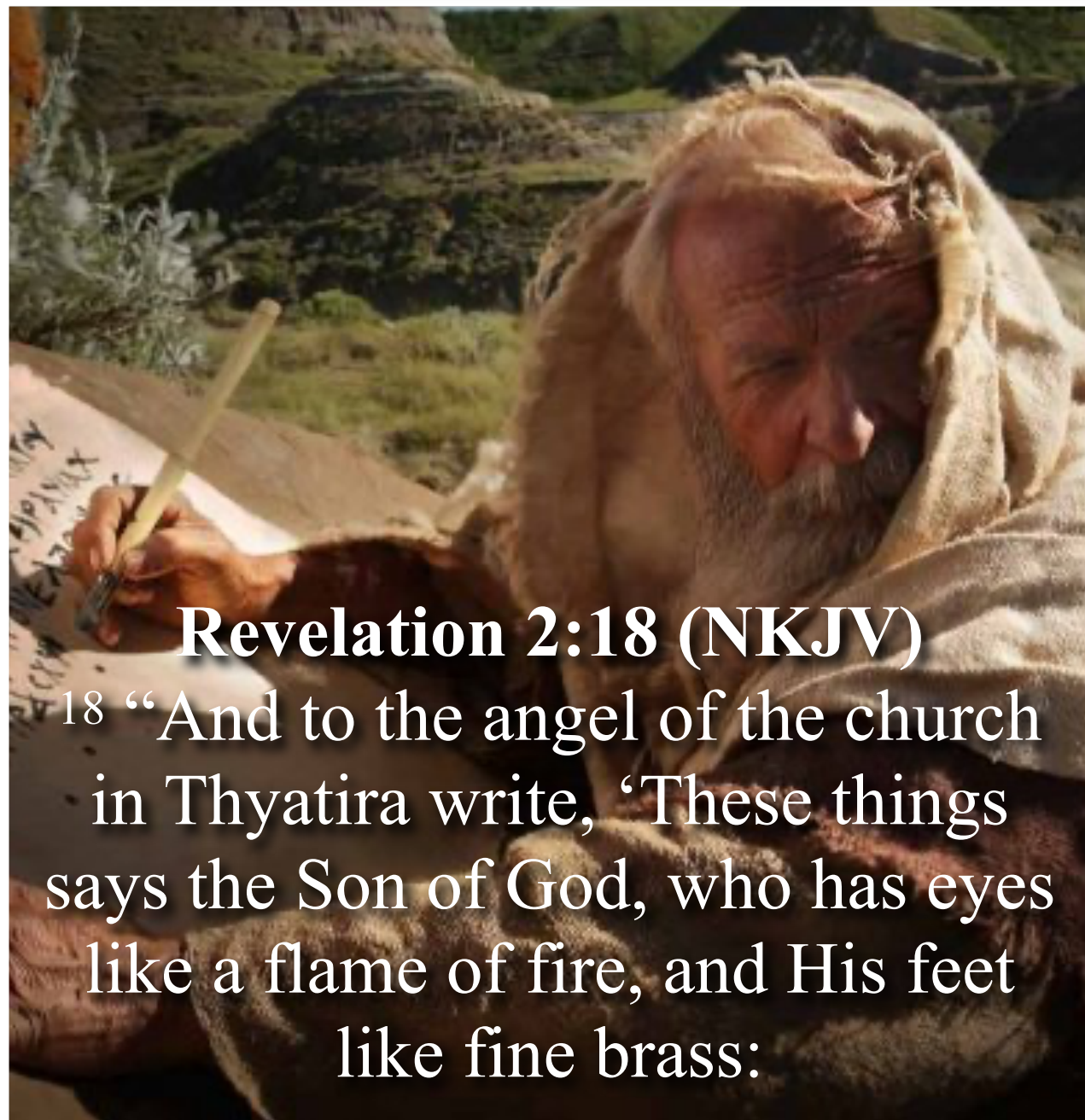
## ■ CHRIST’S SELF DESIGNATION

- ▶ **“Eyes like a flame of fire”**  
– Penetrating vision / omniscient, divine knowledge / & righteous judgment.
- ▶ He knows completely and accurately all we do, say, & think (Rev 1:14; 2:2,9,13, 19; 3:1,8,15; 19:12; Heb. 4:13; Dan. 10:6)



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



### ■ CHRIST’S SELF DESIGNATION

- ▶ “**Feet like fine brass**” (cf. vv. 14-15) — The imagery is that of firmness, strength and purity, ie., Jesus’ durability, justice & authority (Heb 13:8)
- ▶ Jesus, (*not the pagan gods, or human authorities*), has the power to vanquish all enemies - He will not change (cf. 1:15; Dan 2:34-35, 44; 10:6; 2 Thes 1:7-9; Heb. 13:8).



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



### Revelation 2:19 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and *as* for your works, the last *are* more than the first.

### CHRIST’S COMMENDATION

- ❖ “**I know Your works**” As with the other congregations, the Lord knew their “works.” - He knows everything a church is doing or is not doing!
- ❖ Good qualities are similar to the Thessalonians whom Paul praised - “*work of faith and labor of love and patience of hope*” (1 Thes 1:3).



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



### CHRIST’S COMMENDATION

- ❖ **Love** – i.e. active good will - seen in obedience to the Lord & deeds of kindness toward others (1 Cor 13:4-7; Heb 6:10; 1 Jn 3:16-18; / Mk 12:29-31; Jn 14:15; 1 Jn 5:3)
- ❖ **Ministering** - They followed Jesus by diligently serving God and others (Mat 20:25-28; Phili 2:3-8; Heb 10:24,25; 1 Pet 4:10)



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



### Revelation 2:19 (NKJV)

19 “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and *as* for your works, the last *are* more than the first.

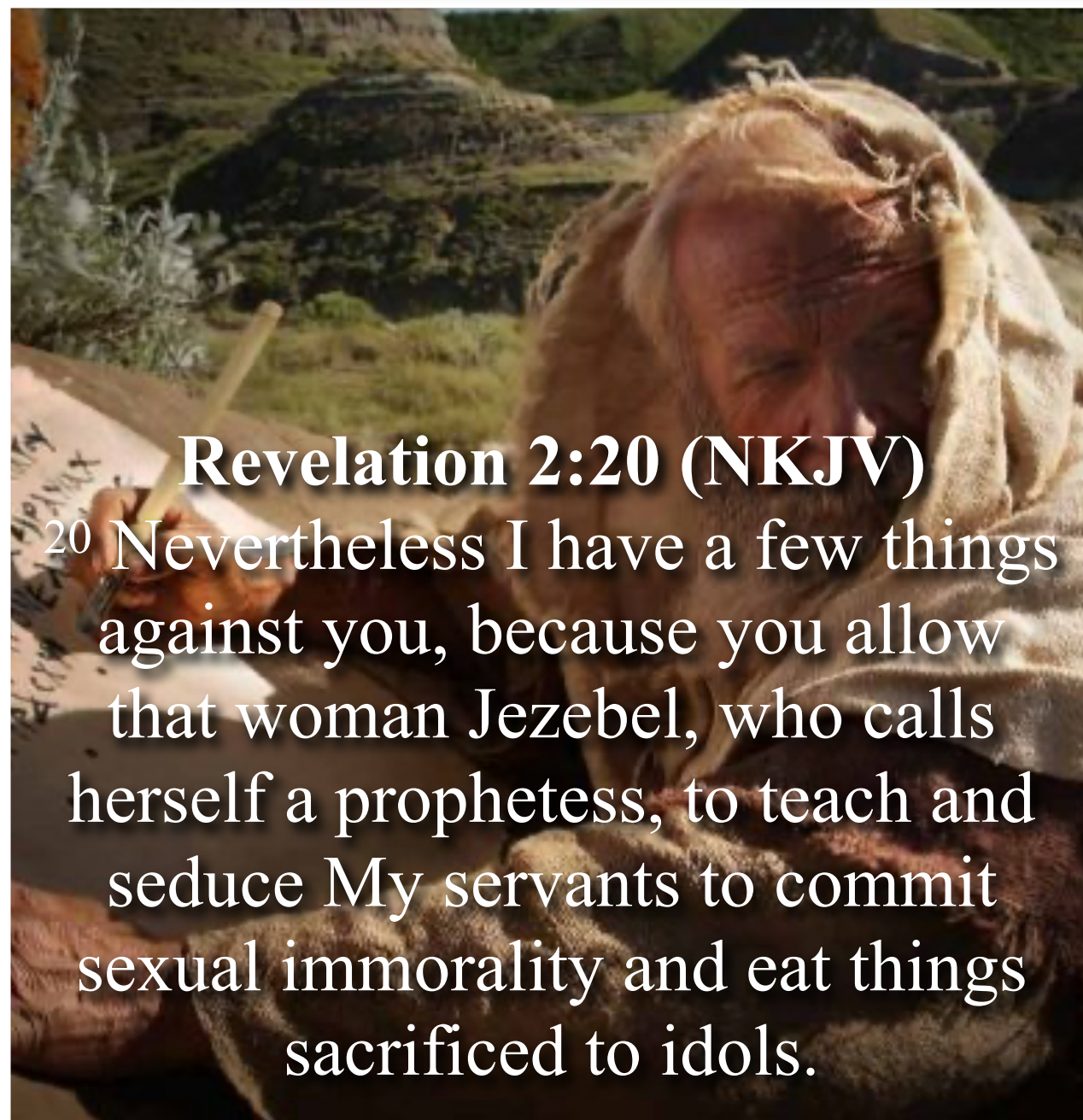
### CHRIST’S COMMENDATION

- ❖ **Faith** - Trusting fidelity / obedience, (*faithful, i.e., reliable, dependable*), in their service (Heb 11:1,6ff; 1 Cor 4:2)
- ❖ **Patience** - i.e., steadfast, enduring, in that work - Endurance in trial (Heb 11; 12:1-3; James 5:10,11)
- ❖ **Progress** – growing increasingly zealous - (cf. 1 Thess 4:1; 1 Tim 4:15; Tit.2:14)



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



### Revelation 2:20 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

### CHRIST'S REBUKE:

- ❖ **“because you allow” —**  
Toleration of Error Pitted Them Against Christ
- ❖ This seemingly wonderful congregation had a serious defect that drew the Lord's condemnation and warning.
- ❖ They tolerated in their midst a woman whom Christ called **"Jezebel,"** . . .

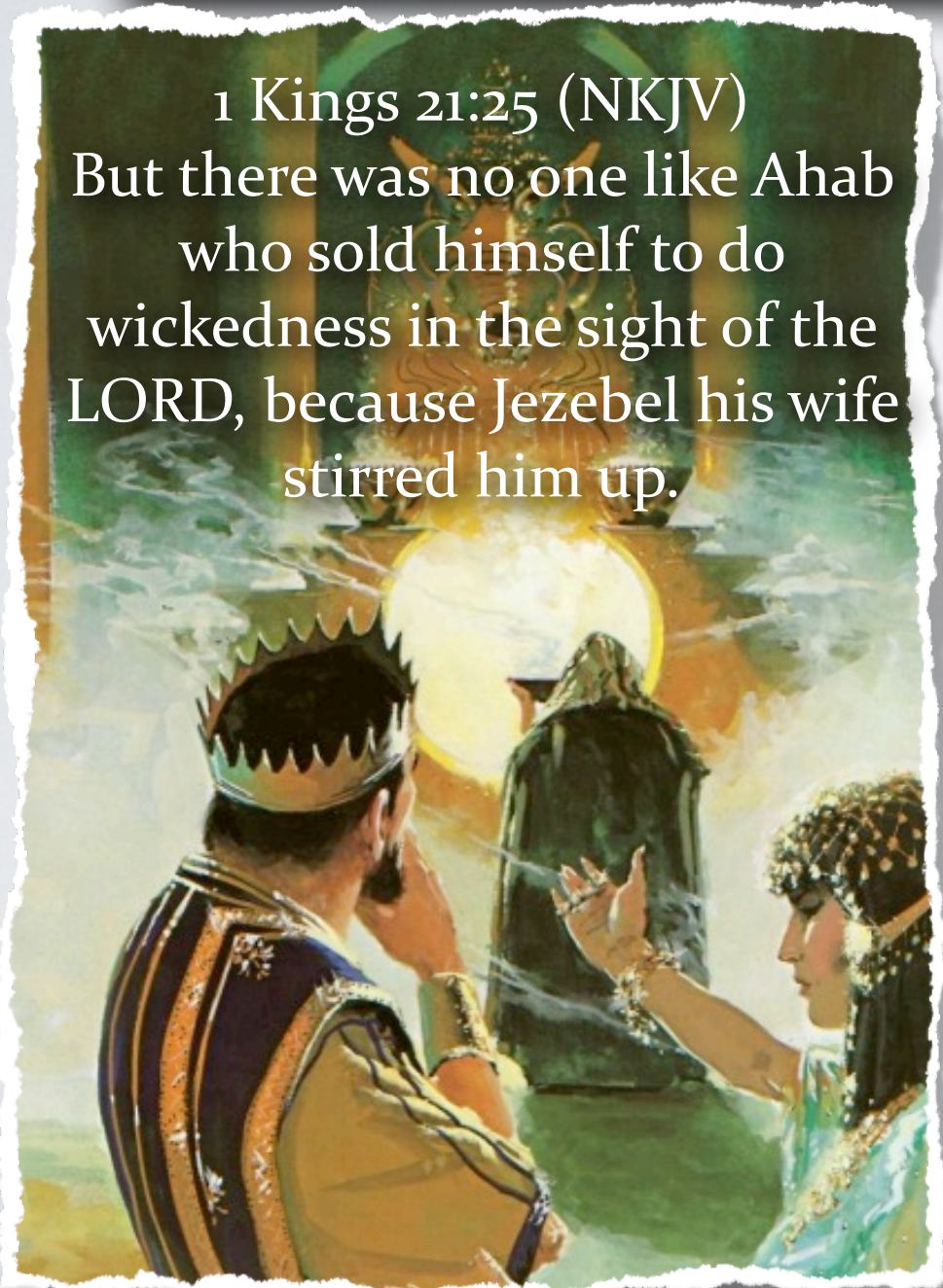


# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)

1 Kings 21:25 (NKJV)

But there was no one like Ahab  
who sold himself to do  
wickedness in the sight of the  
LORD, because Jezebel his wife  
stirred him up.



- The literal Jezebel was the archetype of a wicked woman - OT queen of Israel, daughter of Ethbaal, King of Sidon, wife of Ahab, King of Israel.
- Led her husband and Israel to worship Baal, killed the Lord's prophets, tried to kill Elijah, supported prophets of Baal and of Ashera, and was guilty of "harlotries" and "witchcraft" (cf. 1 Kings 16:31-33; 18:4,19; 19:1-2; 21:25-26; 2 Kings 9:22).



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)

: one who holds that  
under the gospel  
dispensation of grace  
the moral law is of  
no use or obligation  
because faith alone is  
necessary to  
salvation  
*Merriam Webster*

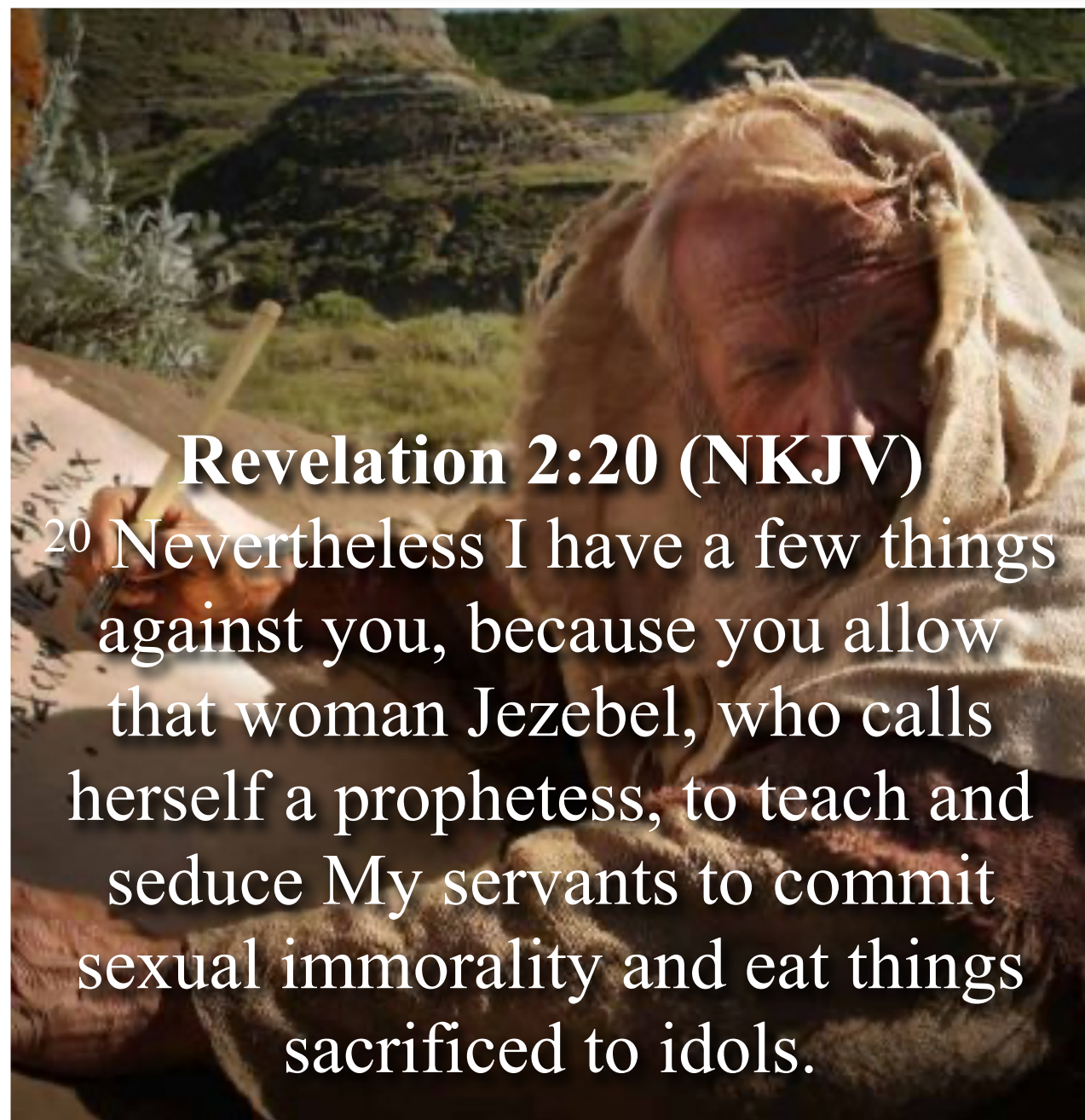
Ιεζαβελ <G2403> “Jezebel” (modern: “Isabel”), wife of Ahab (circa B. C. 917-897; 1 Kings 16:29), an impious and cruel queen, who protected idolatry and persecuted the prophets (1 Kings 16:31 — 2 Kings 9:30); ... the symbolic name of a woman who pretended to be a prophetess, and who, addicted to **antinomianism**, claimed for Christians the liberty of eating things sacrificed to idols, Revelation 2:20.\*

Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



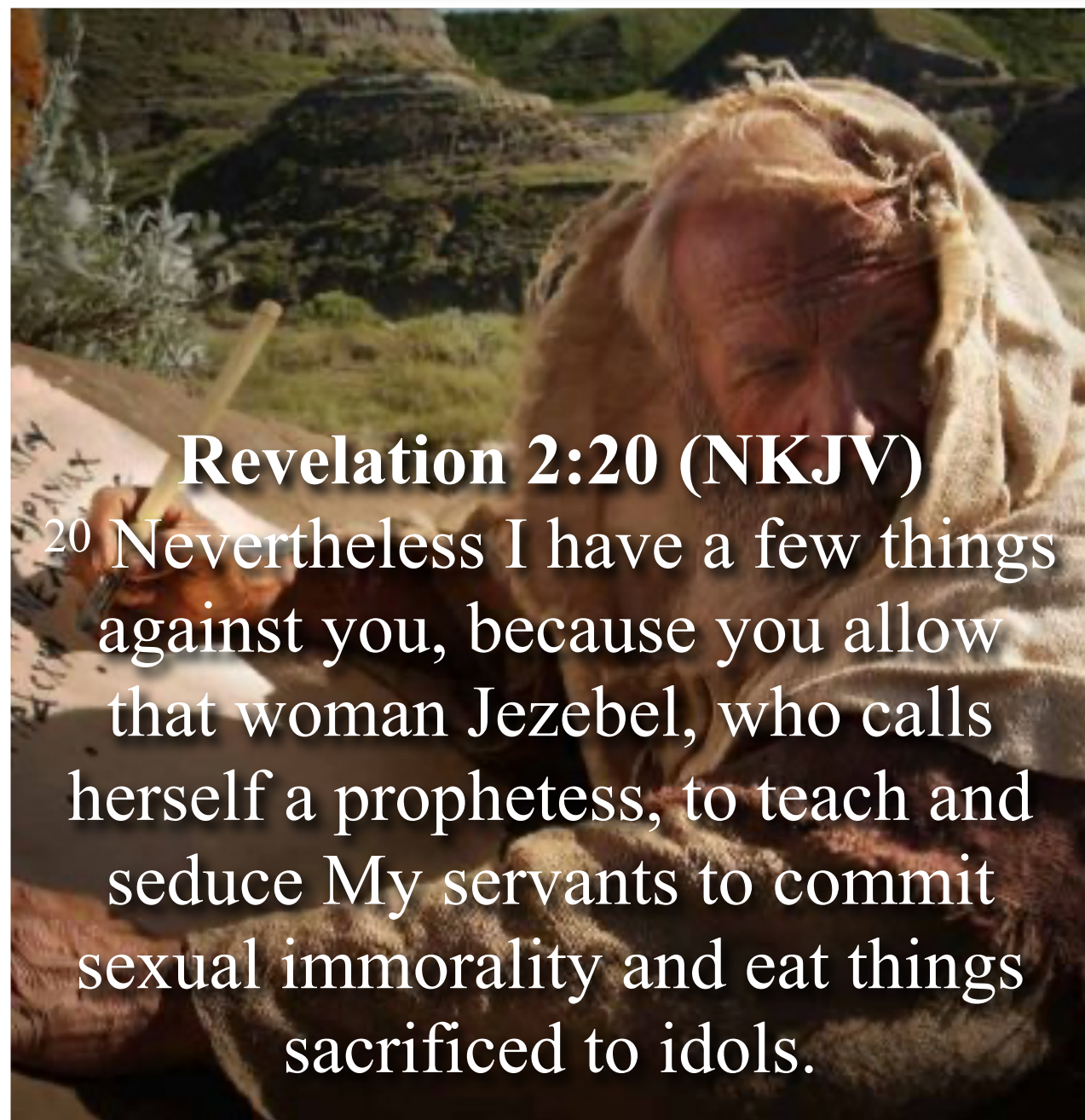
### CHRIST'S REBUKE:

- ❖ **“because you allow” —**  
Toleration of Error Pitted Them Against Christ
- ▶ Jezebel symbolized an influential woman in Thyatira who led Christians to share in the pagan immoralities of Thyatira.
- ▶ Doctrine hated by the church in Ephesus (verse 6), but tolerated in Pergamos (verses 14-15).



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



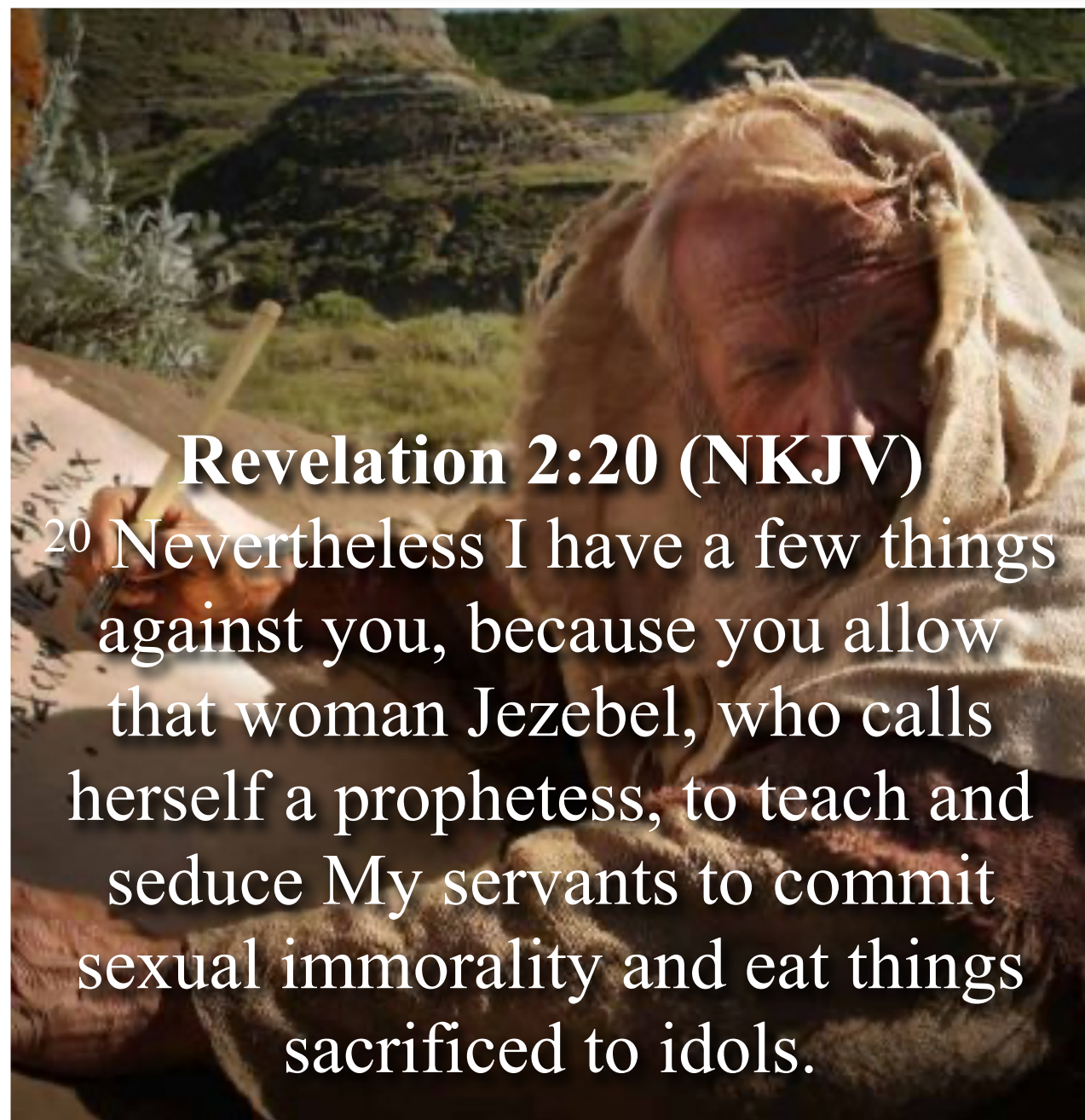
### CHRIST'S REBUKE:

- ❖ **“because you allow” —**  
Toleration of Error Pitted Them Against Christ
- ▶ Her doctrine was that of compromise which would ease their physical hardships & suffering.
- ▶ To commit adultery (*lit. or spir.*) & joining the trade guilds (*with its sacrifices to idols & drunken revelry*) would spare them . . .



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



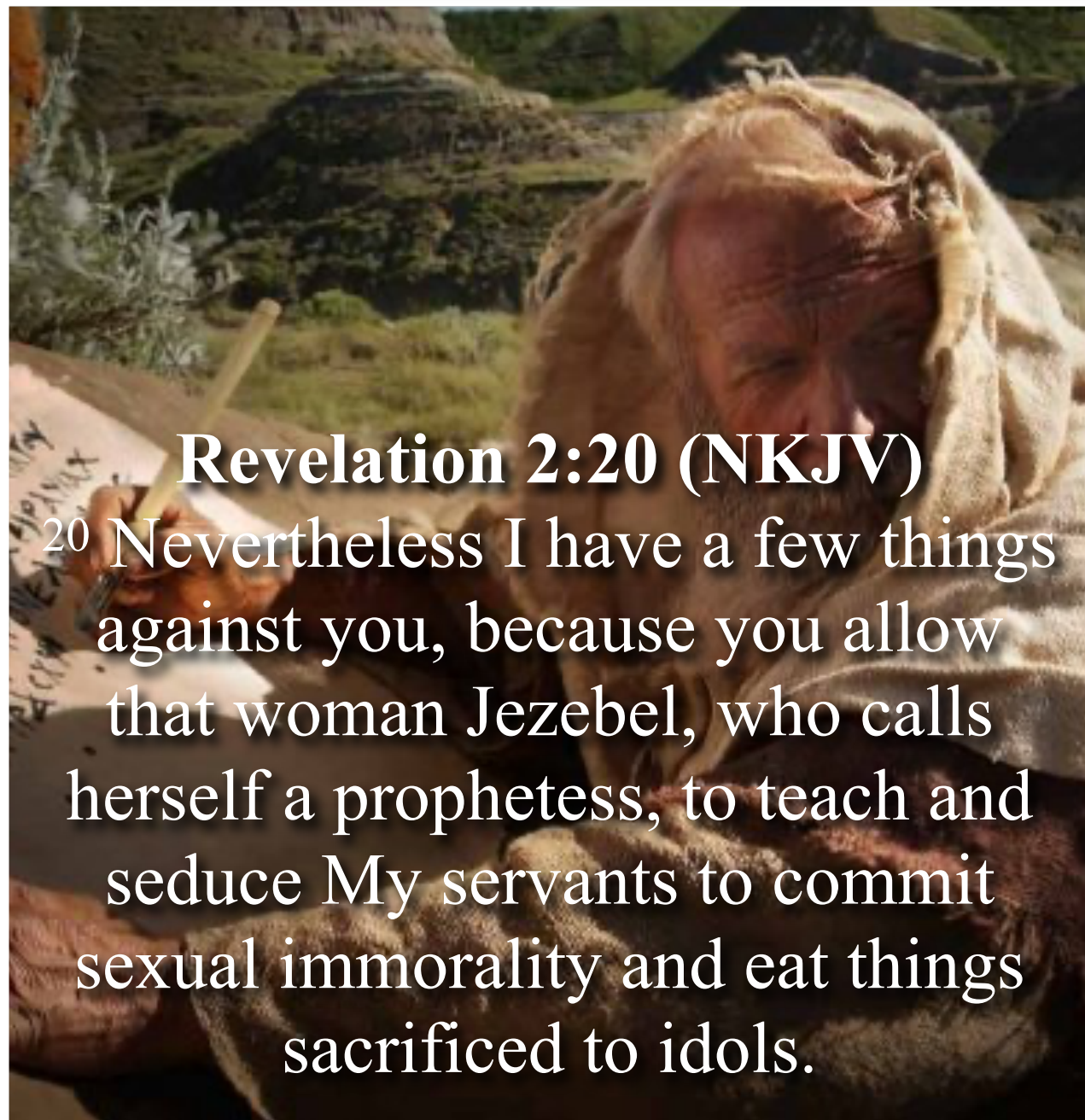
### CHRIST'S REBUKE:

- ❖ **“because you allow” —**  
Toleration of Error Pitted Them Against Christ
- ▶ The churches sin was that of “toleration” - “you ALLOW” (2 Cor 5:1-10)
- ▶ They should have exposed and rebuked the error and marked her as a false teacher (Eph 5:7,11; 2 Pt 2:14-15; Ro. 16:17; Jude 1:3-4,8,11; 2 Jn 1:10)



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



### CHRIST'S REBUKE:

- ❖ **“because you allow” —**  
Toleration of Error Pitted Them Against Christ
- ▶ When one tolerates error, he endorses it. Silence can be an endorsement of error.
- ▶ They were doing everything right except not speaking out against error when it came to their doorstep.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)

### Revelation 2:21–23 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. <sup>22</sup> Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. <sup>23</sup> I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.



### CHRIST'S EXHORTATION

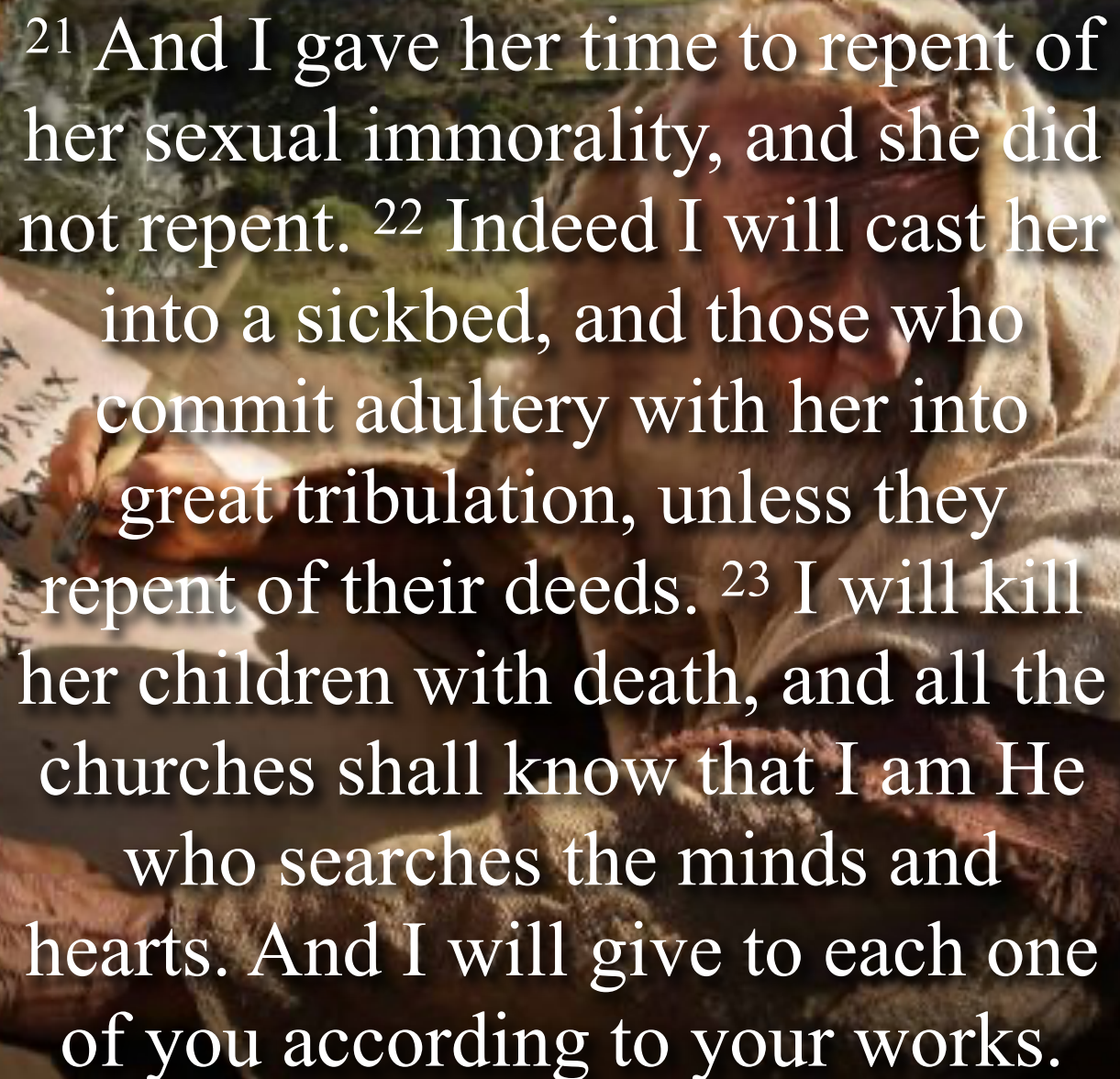
- ▶ Jezebel was given "**time to repent**," but she refused (21),
- ▶ The Lord promised to destroy Jezebel and her followers, if they did not repent (vss 22-23).
- ◆ The Lord is longsuffering but requires repentance (2 Pt. 3:9),
- ◆ His wrath is reserved for those who stubbornly refuse to do so (Romans 2:4,5).



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)

### Revelation 2:21–23 (NKJV)



<sup>21</sup> And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. <sup>22</sup> Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. <sup>23</sup> I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

### ■ CHRIST’S EXHORTATION

► **“I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.”**

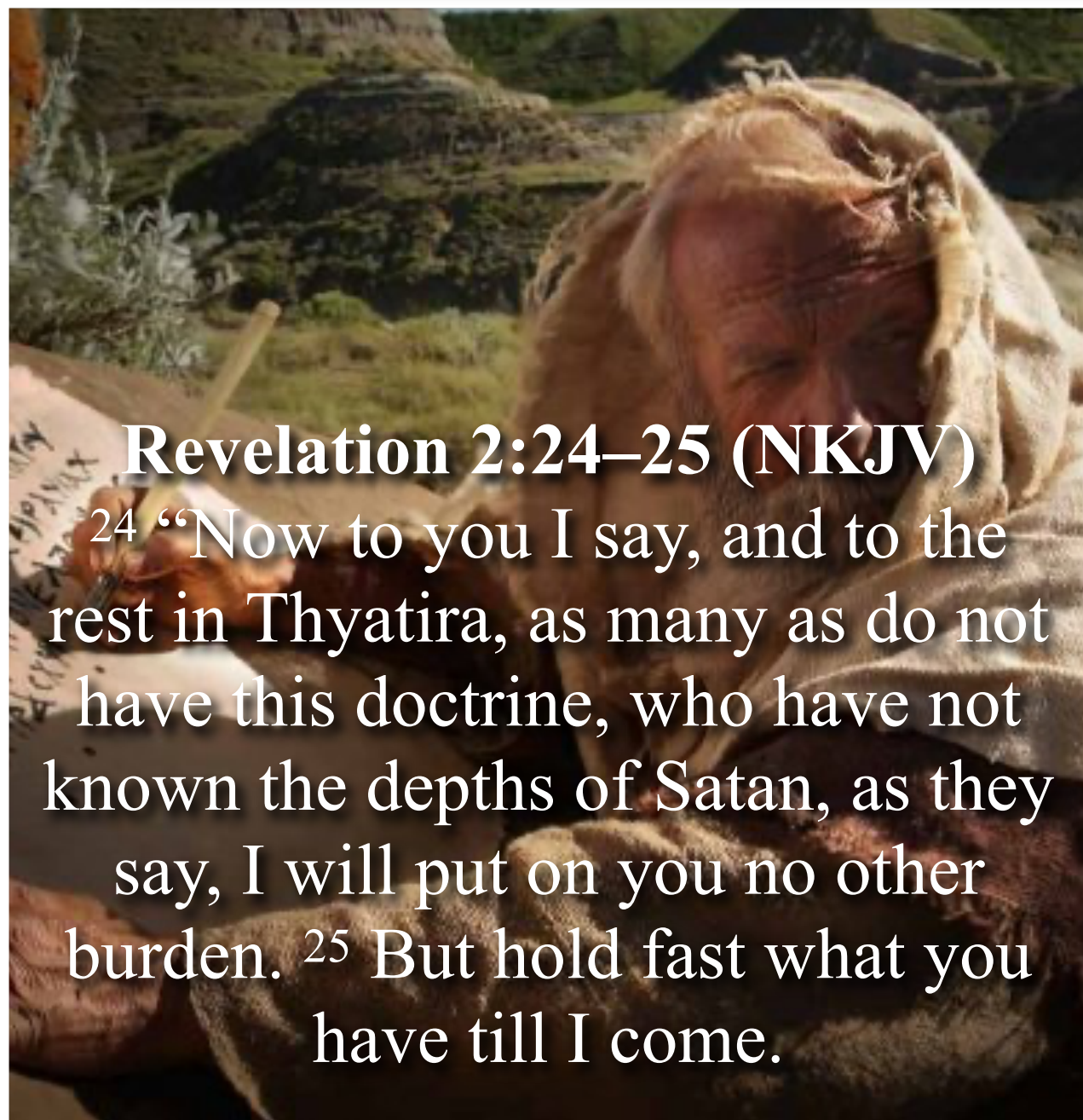
◆ Our true loyalties and motives cannot be hidden from Christ (23; Heb 4:13).

◆ Judgment is individual & impartial (Mt 16:27; Rom 2:5-11; Ro 14:12; 2Co 5:10; Gal 6:5,7-9; 1Pe 1:17; Rev 20:12)



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



## CHRIST’S EXHORTATION



**Faithful are encouraged to hold fast (25)**



All had not embraced Jezebel’s doctrine & had not known the depths of Satan (*the tainted philosophy of gnosticism*)




The Lord required no more than that they remain faithful till He comes to execute His judgment on them (24-25; Acts 15:28,29) 20:12



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



### Revelation 2:26–28 (NKJV)

<sup>26</sup> And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— <sup>27</sup> *‘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; <sup>28</sup> and I will give him the morning star.


### CHRIST’S INVITATION

- ❖ “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end” (1 Th. 5:21; He. 3:6; 4:14; 10:23)
- ❖ “to him I will give power over the nations” — NOW (cf. Rev. 1:5-6; Rom 8:31-39; Ps 2:8,9; Mat 28:18; 1 Cor 15:25)
- ❖ As we conquer sin through Christ, we rule with Him (26-27; Rom 5:17; Rev 5:9-10) in His spiritual kingdom at this present time (Col 1:13; Revelation 1:9).



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



### Revelation 2:26–28 (NKJV)

<sup>26</sup> And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— <sup>27</sup> *‘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; <sup>28</sup> and I will give him the morning star.


### CHRIST’S INVITATION

- ❖ *“He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels”*
- ❖ Christ’s rule is absolute, our ruling over the influential things of this world should be absolute (Rev 1:4-6; 19:15; Ps. 2:6-9; John 18:36)
- ❖ The power of the truth & the consequences of rejecting it - (Jer 23:29; 2 Cor 10:4,5; Heb 4:12; Rev 11:5)



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



### Revelation 2:26–28 (NKJV)

<sup>26</sup> And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— <sup>27</sup> *‘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; <sup>28</sup> and I will give him the morning star.

### ■ CHRIST’S INVITATION

◆ *“and I will give him the morning star.”*

- ▶ The Son of God is the "Bright and Morning Star" (Revelation 22:16) in Whom we have "every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" (Ep. 1:3)
- ▶ Our hope originates, rests and ends in Christ (cf Rev 22:16; 2 Cor 4:14-18)



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



## APPLICATIONS



Jezebel is still at work.



She asks us not to believe in absolutes.



She asks us to give in just a little at a time until there is nothing distinctive about us and the world.



She asks us to tolerate evil



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



## APPLICATIONS



There is GREAT DANGER in looking the other way.



Religion today is very shallow and calls for compromise.



Error cannot be permitted to be taught - if we tolerate error, we endorse it.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



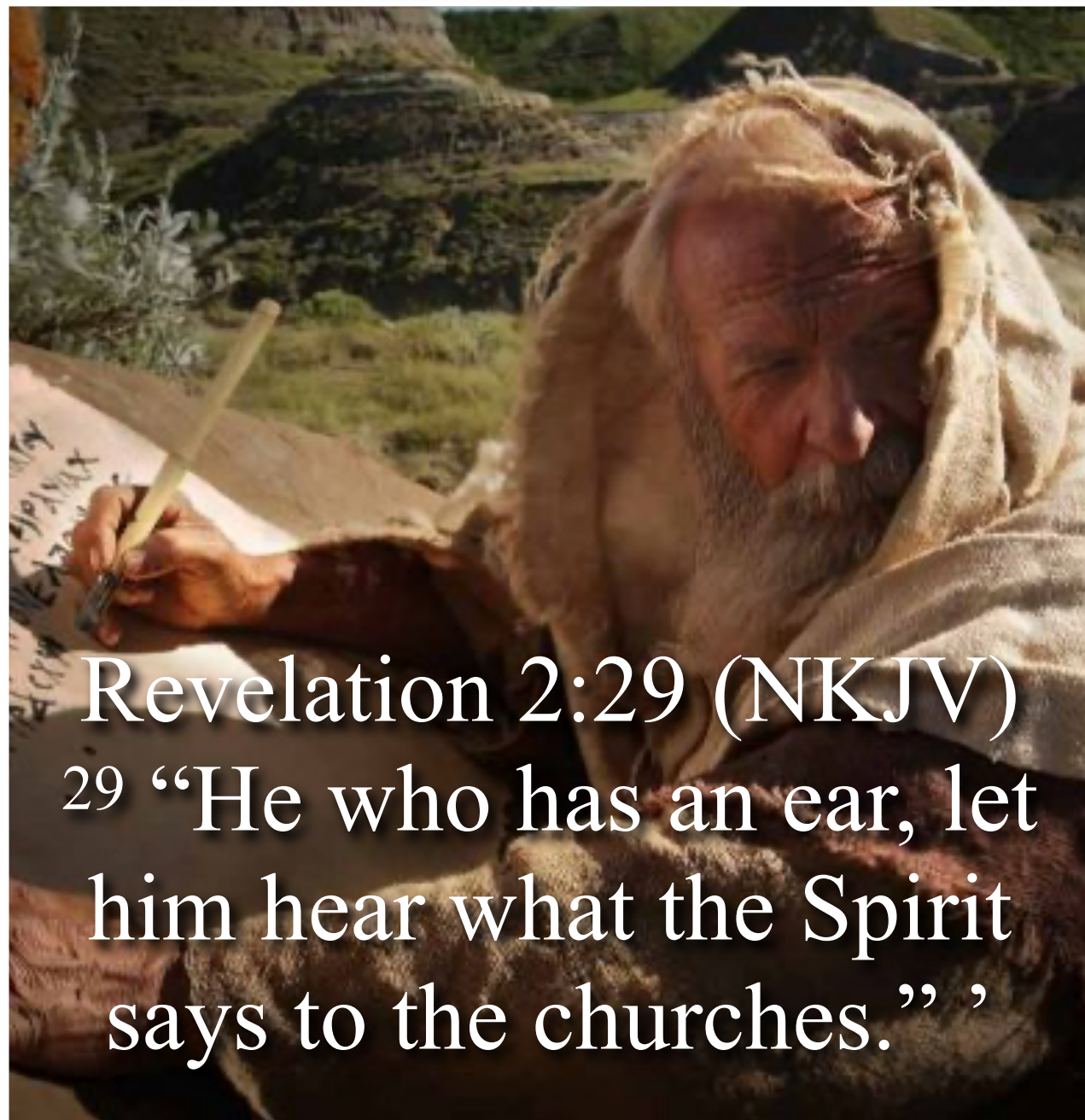
## APPLICATIONS

- ❖ Compromising with error & worldliness forfeits positive influence for good.
- ❖ The membership of a congregation is not finally judged collectively, but individually.
- ❖ Repentance & faithfulness is necessary to avoid condemnation!



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## “THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)

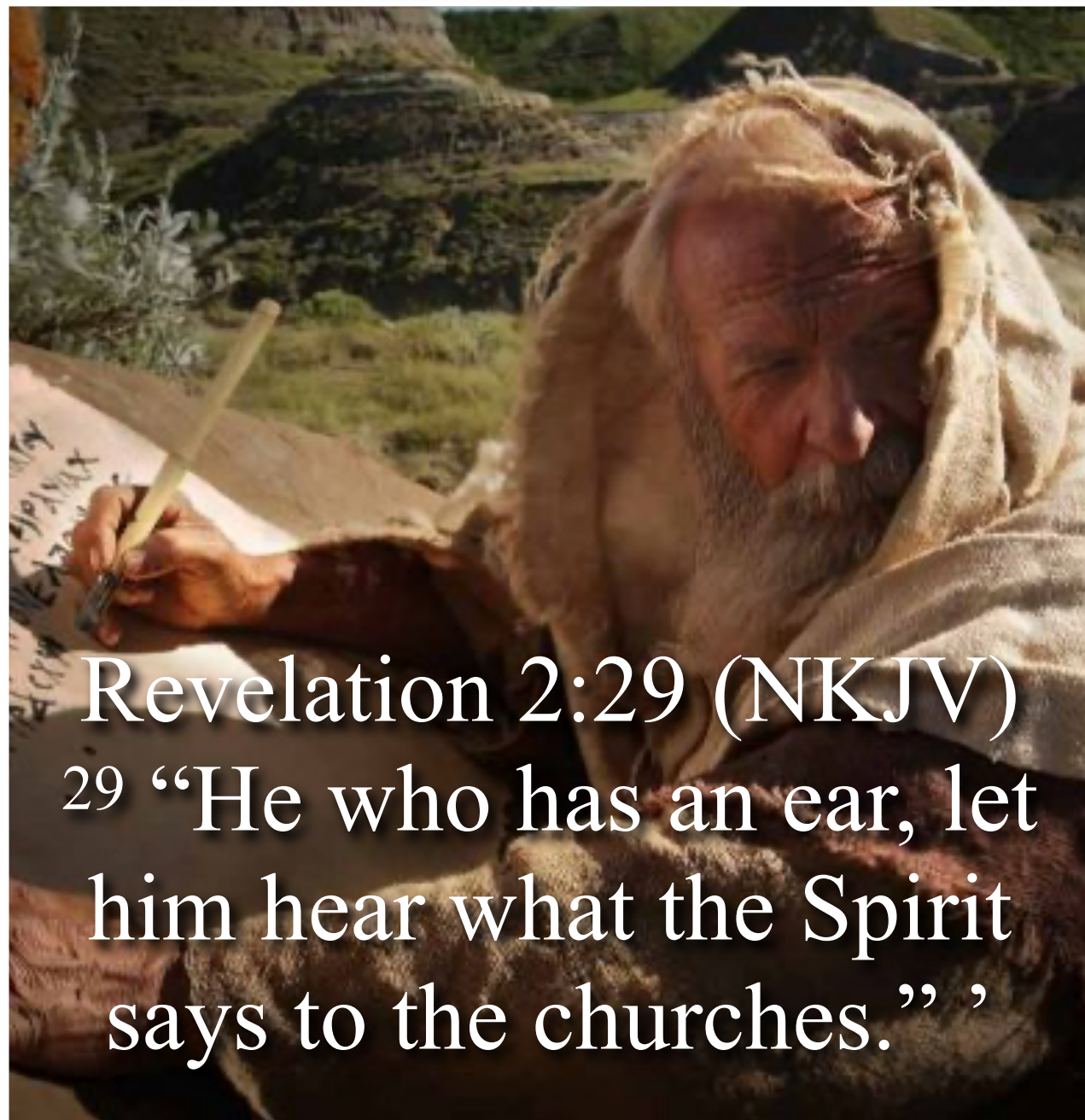


- ❖ We are not to be CONFORMED to this world but to be transformed - demonstrating the good, acceptable and perfect will of God - Rom 12:1,2
- ❖ Let us NEVER take the path of compromising matters of faith and conscience - but be separate - 2:Cor 6:14-7:1
- ❖ Is your faith strong enough to stand for the truth through trials, & sacrifice popularity and comfort?



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)



Revelation 2:29 (NKJV)

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

- ❖ Will we / you hear?
- ❖ Will we / you overcome?
- ❖ Will we / you live forever with God in heaven?



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“THYATIRA” - A TOLERANT CHURCH” (Rev. 2:18–29)

A photograph of a person, likely a prophet, in a desert setting. The person is wearing a head covering and has a beard. They are holding a scroll or book. The background shows a rocky, arid landscape.

**Hear the gospel  
Believe the gospel  
Repent & Confess  
Be baptized into Christ  
for the remission of  
your sins**

**Be faithful /  
submitting to, serving  
& trusting Jesus**

## **Revelation 22:14 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.







*"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which  
God gave Him to show His servants—  
things which must shortly take place."*

*Revelation 1:1*

## **Charts by Don McClain**

Preached March 27, 2022

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# THE BOOK OF **REVELATION**

**"THYATIRA" - A TOLERANT CHURCH" (Rev. 2:18–29)**



# 1 Corinthians 5:1–8 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> It is actually reported *that there is* sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! <sup>2</sup> And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. <sup>3</sup> For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. <sup>4</sup> In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,



# 1 Corinthians 5:1–8 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> Your glorying *is* not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? <sup>7</sup> Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. <sup>8</sup> Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.