SHARP TWO-EDGED SWORD

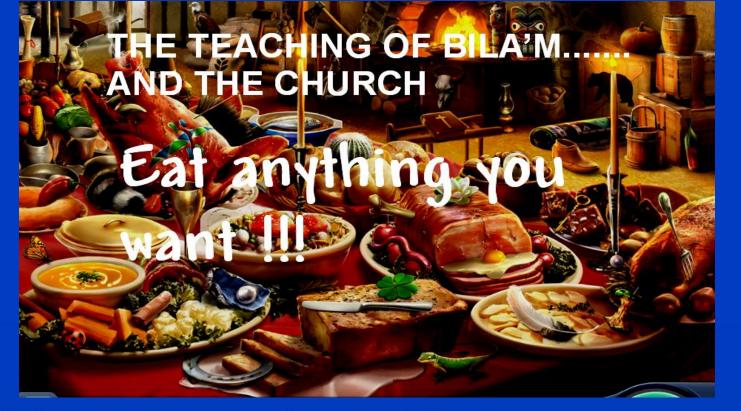


- To this point neither John nor God have assigned a name to the divine being
- Modern Christianity takes the meaning of the sword to be the New Testament
- Victorinus and Jerome said it was the Law and the Gospel
- God considers Pergamum a detestably wicked place
- Commends Believers for holding on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

- 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

FOOD SACRIFICED TO IDOLS





- 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)

- 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

THAT JEZEBEL WOMAN





- 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



- 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 INVINCIBLE KINGDOM OF CHRIST - PSALM 2-

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