

Thyatira

City of the Corrupt Church



- Modern city of Ackisar in Turkey.
- Location:
 - A city of ancient Lydia.
 - Situated near the border of Mysia.
 - Located on a branch of the Hermus River called the Lycus.
 - Occupied a strategic position in a low lying corridor connecting the Hermus and Caisus valleys.
 - Midway along the road connecting Pergamos and Sardis.
 - Approximately 35 miles southeast of Pergamos.
 - Approximately 35 miles northwest of Sardis.
- Description:
 - The country around Thyatira was well watered. McClintock writes: “And in its numberless streamlets are found the leeches used in medicine throughout Austria and the eastEurope in general.”
 - The area abounded with oaks and acacias.
- Brief history:
 - Two views concerning the founding of Thyatira.
 - One: Founded by Alexander the Great when he sent settlers there from Macedonia just prior to 300 B.C.
 - Two: Founded by Seleucus I around 300 B.C. after the Persian Empire was destroyed by Alexander the Great.
 - Thyatira came under Roman rule in about 133 B.C.
 - Halley says: “Thyatira has no illustrious history, and is scarcely mentioned by ancient writers.”
 - The population of Thyatira in New Testament times is unknown.

However, the modern city of Ackisar has about 50,000 people.

■ Commerce:

- Thy reached its most prosperous era about the time the letter was addressed to the church at Thyatira was written.
- A Thyatira was a trade and manufacturing city.
- It had a large number of highly organized trade guilds of:
 - Tailors
 - Dyers
 - Wool workers
 - Tanners
 - Metal craftsmen
 - Slave merchants
 - Bakers
 - Linenmakers
- Trade practices made it necessary to belong to one of the guilds, and the pagan customs often associated with them offensive to Christians.
- The madder root, which produced the purple dye for which Thyatira was noted, was found in abundance there. The Bible mentions Lydia, a seller of purple from Thyatira. **Acts 16:14**

■ Architecture:

- No significant architecture of the city is mentioned in history, nor has any been discovered by archeologists.

■ Religion:

- Apollo was the principal deity of Thyatira. He was worshipped as a sun god.
- Other gods mentioned in connection with the city.
 - Sibyl — the female divinity.
 - Tyrimos — later assimilated into Apollo's worship.
 - Artemis — the god of the Ephesians.

■ The Church at Thyatira:

- Mentioned only in:
 - **Revelation 1:11**
 - **Revelation 2:18-29**

■ The Letter to the Church at Thyatira — **Revelation 2:18-29**

18 "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:

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

20 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.

21 And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.

23 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.

24 '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.

25 But hold fast what you have till I come.

26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations --

27 '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;

28 and I will give him the morning star.

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

■ Note:

- Longest of the seven letters to the seven churches of Asia.
- Thyatira is mentioned in **Acts 16:14** as the home of Lydia.

