### Revelation

## Chapter 2

1‘Write this to the messenger of the congregation in Ephesus. Tell him that the one holding the seven stars in his right hand, and who walks among the seven gold lampstands, said this:  
  
 2‘I know what you’re doing… That you’ve worked hard and endured, that you don’t tolerate evil men, and that you’ve put to the test those who say they’re Apostles (but really aren’t), showing them to be liars.   
  
 3‘You’ve also been patient, because you’ve been bearing my name and you haven’t given up.  
  
 4‘However, you’ve lost the love that you had at first, and I hold this against you. 5So you must recognize how far you’ve fallen and turn around… Go back to doing what you did at the first!  
  
 ‘For if you don’t (and unless you repent), I’ll be coming to you, and I’ll remove your lampstand from its place.  
  
 6‘However, I can say this on your behalf, that you hate what the Nicolaitans are doing, and I also hate what they’re doing.’  
  
 7‘Let those who have ears hear what [God’s] Breath says to the congregations!  
  
 ‘I’ll allow those who conquer to eat from the Tree of Life that’s in the Paradise of The God.’  
  
  
  
 8‘And write this to the messenger of the congregation in Smyrna. Tell him that this is what the one who is the first, the last, and that died and came to life, has to say:  
  
 9‘I know of your problems and your poverty (although you’re really rich), and about the blasphemy of those who say they’re Jews (although they really aren’t, they’re just a synagogue of the Slanderer).  
  
 10‘Don’t be afraid of the things that you’re about to suffer, for {Look!} the Slanderer is about to throw some of you into prison to test you, and you’ll be persecuted for 10 days.  
  
 ‘But if you’ll be faithful to death, I’ll give you the garland of life.’  
  
 11‘Let those who have ears hear what [God’s] Breath says to the congregations!  
  
 ‘The ones who conquer won’t be harmed by the second death!’  
  
  
  
 12‘And write this to the messenger of the congregation in PergaMom. Tell him that the one who has the long, sharp, two-edged sword said this:  
  
 13‘I know that the place where you’re living is the very throne of the Slanderer, and yet you keep hanging onto my name. For you didn’t deny your faith in me even in the days of my faithful witness AntiPas, who was killed among you there where the Slanderer lives.  
  
 14‘However, I still hold a few things against you, for there are some among you who are following the teachings of BalaAm – the one who taught Balak how to set a trap before the Sons of IsraEl [by getting them] to eat sacrifices to idols and to be sexually immoral.  
  
 15‘You also have those following the teachings of the Nicolaitans. 16So turn around! For if you don’t, I’ll be there soon, and [I’ll] fight a war against you with the long sword from my mouth!’  
  
 17‘Let those who have ears hear what [God’s] Breath says to the congregations!  
  
 ‘To those who conquer, I’ll give some of the hidden manna and a white pebble. This pebble has a new name written on it that no one will know other than those who receive it.’  
  
  
  
 18‘And write this to the messenger of the congregation in ThyaTira. Tell him that the Son of The God (the one who has eyes like flames of fire and whose feet are like fine copper) said this:  
  
 19‘I know what you’re doing, and I know of your love, your faith, your service, and your endurance. [I also know that] what you’ve been doing recently is even more than what you’ve done in the past!  
  
 20‘However, I do hold this one thing against you:  
  
 ‘You’re still putting up with that woman JezeBel… The one who calls herself a prophet but teaches and misleads my slaves into immoral sexual acts and into eating things that are sacrificed to idols. 21And although I’ve given her enough time to turn around, she doesn’t wish to repent her immorality.  
  
 22‘So {Look!} I will be throwing her into a stretcher for carrying the dead, and I will bring a time of great difficulty upon those who are enjoying sex with her... Unless they repent over what they’re doing with her. 23I’m also going to put her children to death, so that all the congregations will know I’m the one who searches their kidneys and hearts, and that repays each one according to his deeds.  
  
 24‘But, to the rest of you in ThyaTira (those of you who are unaware of such teachings and that haven’t come to know about what they call the deep things of the Slanderer), I’m saying that I won’t lay any more loads on you. 25Just hang on until I get there.  
  
 26‘For then, I’ll give those who conquer and who’ve obeyed everything that I’ve told them to do down to the end, authority over the nations… 27they’ll shepherd them with an iron rod – with the same [authority] that I received from my Father – and they’ll shatter them like clay pots!  
  
 28‘I’ll also give them the morning star.’  
  
 29‘Yes, let those who have ears listen to what [God’s] Breath says to the congregations!’