According to **Vs.20** it would appear that the church in Thyatira was guilty of suffering or allowing **compromise** from within. With a church being divided the temptation is to overlook or disregard **doctrine** for the sake of **unity**. Unity is not real unity if comes at the expense of **truth**. It wasn't the threat of **persecution** from without (Government; Society) but the acceptance of **heresy** from within that threatened to undermine the church. What was the nature of this compromise?

They allowed or permitted **Jezebel**, who called herself a prophetess, to **teach**. Her teachings were such that she **seduced** the Lord's servants to commit **fornication** and to eat things sacrificed to **idols**. Now, we can approach this passage in two ways, both of which, may have application. First, we can look at this in the **literal** sense. This passage is speaking of an actual woman in the church in Thyatira. Obviously, this was not Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab. The name is used here as a **description** of the type of woman that apparently rose to a place of **leadership** in the Thyatira church. The **character**, **nature** and **spirit** of this woman is epitomized by Jezebel. If we get a picture of Jezebel, we get a picture of this woman.

**1 Kings 16:31**: She was the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Zidonians, a Baal worshiper.

**1 Kings 18:4, 13**: She persecuted to the death the prophets of the LORD.

**1 Kings 18:19** She was a patron to the prophets of Baal and the prophets of the grove. She fed them at her table.

**1 Kings 19:1-2**: She threatened to kill Elijah.

**1 Kings 21**: She was the one who had Naboth falsely accused and put to death so that her weak kneed husband, Ahab, could have his vineyard. She was a **manipulator**. She was a **usurper of authority**. She was **ruthless**!

Notice that our "Jezebel" in Thyatira **calls** herself a prophetess. The text doesn't say that she is! A lot of folks make claims that are just not valid. We are told that she **teaches** and **seduces** the Lord's servants to commit **fornication** and eat things sacrificed to idols, thus commiting **idolatry**!

This woman rebels at the thought of **submission**. She is **domineering**. She is **subtle**. She knows how to **flatter** and she knows how to get to a man's heart, through his **stomach**! A **seductress** never barges though the front door but slithers in the back way!

**1 Tim. 2:12**, if adhered to, would nip this kind of thing in the bud. Women are wonderful servants in the church when they function in their God given roles. For that matter, there is no greater blessing in the home than a Godly woman, who **compliments** and doesn't **compete**. Men and women are different. One is not greater and one lesser. They have different roles to play. When in harmony, a sweet melody is heard. When in discord, it's just a lot of noise! Same thing in a church! A woman can teach Bible to other women and children. She is not to teach the Bible to men. (I didn't say she couldn't. I said she shouldn't! It's not ability but suitability that is the issue.)

If this Jezebel or any of her "descendants" were true prophetesses they would have to acknowledge that **1 Cor. 14:37** is true. They would have to abide by **Biblical doctrine**. **Visions** and **voices** and **"special revelations"** from God would have to be **subject** to, "**Thus saith the LORD**". Because doctrine was lightly esteemed, fornication, both spiritual and physical, was tolerated. (**James 4:4**) Because doctrine was ignored, idolatry, in all its forms was accepted. Sadly, it reminds us of the average church of today!

We can also look at this church and its acceptance of Jezebel as being symbolic or representative of the church at large during this time of the "early dark ages" (500 AD to 1000 AD). Remember, Jezebel, historically, was the daughter of a Zidonian king, a worshipper of Baal. Baal is just a morphed form of Bel. The people of Zidon worshipped a managerie of gods, Bel, the Babylonian god, being one of them.