**Vs. 21** reminds us of a truth that is reinforced throughout scripture, and in history, down through the ages. God is a **gracious** God. At the end of every dispensation, before **judgment** falls, God provides time or **space** to **repent**! In spite of what some say today the scriptures speak truth. (**Acts 17:30**) Before the great flood God raised up a preacher of righteousness named **Noah** who preached the coming of judment for **120** years. What results did he have? He and his family, a total of **eight**, were saved. If a man's ministry is based solely on results, then I guess Noah was a failure. **Jeremiah** didn't have much to show for his preaching either. Ministries that are founded upon results will **compromise** and cut corners to achieve them!

When we consider **Vs. 21** we must remember that John is in the Spirit on the Lord's day. (**Rev. 1:10**) This "*Lord's day*" is not in reference to Sunday, the first day of the week, but rather to the end times and the 2nd Advent in particular. **Rev. 1:19** gives us the perameters of John's writings. "*Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.*""*The things which thou hast seen*"is speaking of the past. The past is anything up to the **rapture** of the church; "*and the things which are*" is speaking of the present (John's present) and that would encompass everything from the rapture of the church (**Rev. 4:1**) to (**Rev. 20)** the Great White Throne Judgment; "*and the things which shall be hereafter*"is speaking of (John's future) (**Rev. 21-22**) or the new **heaven** and the new **earth**.

With this in mind we can see that God has indeed been gracious! What started in Pergamos with seeds of the doctrine of **Baalam** and the doctrine of the **Nicolaitans**, took root in Thyatira with the **Babylonian Mysteries** and the teachings of **Jezebel** with her **fornication** (both physical and spiritual) and her **idolatries**. It is in full bloom today!The window of **repentance** is still open! The dispensation of **grace** or what we call the "**church** **age**" has not ended yet! And yet, **Vs. 21** is **prophetic**. The last phrase in **Vs. 21** says, "*and she repented not*." The false teachings sown in Thyatira come to harvest in **Laodecia**. This "arm" of the church which over the centuries has fallen away into **apostacy** will not repent but will in fact be the "whorish" church of **Rev. 17**! The Roman Catholic Church is often referred to as "Holy Mother Church" by its devotees. It has been, and is, and will be, anything but! In **Rev. 17:5** it is described as "**MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH**".It is a thoroughly corrupt religious institution that refuses to repent!

**Vs. 22** tells us that those who are "*in bed*" or in **collusion** with this backslidden, apostate church will go into great tribulation. **Prophetically**, this is speaking of this church and all that patronize it, as missing the rapture and thus going into the Tribulation. (**Rev. 17:2; Matt. 7:21-23)** This church along with its congregants will carry on without the Holy Ghost just as they have always done down through the centuries.

**Vs. 23** speaks of "*her children*". These would be the **fruit** or **converts** of her **false doctrines** and **idolatries**. The text says that God will kill her children with **death**. Historically, this might well have been a reference to the "**Black Death**"(1346-1353). This plague killed **50** million people or **60%** of Europe's population. Prophetically, in the Tribulation, according to **Rev. 9:15-21**, a **third** of the **world's** population will die! Given today's numbers, that would be 2 billion,333hundred million, 333thousand 333. I wouldn't want to be here in the Tribulation!

Notice that the One who searcheth the **reins** (kidneys and loins; emotions, feelings,affections) and **hearts** will judge according to their **works**.This apostate church is a church based upon works. There will be a reckoning one day! Nobody is going to get away with anything!

**Vs. 24** sees the author moving away from that segment of the church which had gone astray, to address those who had not accepted the false doctrines of Jezebel, the Babylonian Mysteries and all its idolatry and fornication. He speaks to those who have not known the "*depths of Satan*". There are degrees of