

Notes on the Imagery, speech figures, etc. (chapters 2-3)

- 2:1...in his right hand...the place of power and concern.
- 2:4...thy first love...probably..the first occupation of the heart...the open and warm love for the redeemer that motivates worship.
- 2:6...deeds of the Nicolaitans...and unknown group although the word may suggest the group who sought to rule the masses by dividing the people into a select and common division.
- 2:7...to eat of the tree of life in the midst of the paradise of God...is suggestive of the eternal fellowship of the Lord with His people-glory.
- 2:10...tribulation ten days...probably used in the numerical value of ten to show the fullness of the testing.
- 2:11-12 a crown of life, unhurt of the second death. The first is the believer's reward for particular faithfulness in a troubled time while the second is the eternal life of all who overcome.
- 2:7, 12...an overcomer is one whose faith is in the Lord Jesus and which faith is known to be real in the course of life. (see 1 John 5)
- 2:12...the sharp sword with two edges...probably a reference to the Word of God which the Saviour gives and uses to determine the correctness of our ways (Rev. 19, Hebrews 4:12)
- 2:13...Satan's seat, likely a reference to the reality of Satanic power in the area where the testimony was vested.
- 2:14...the doctrine of Balaam, compromise for temporal gain...always a big challenge for the people of God. Reward more important than good.
- 2:17...the hidden manna...I think refers to daily sustenance in the times of trial, the white stone with one's name in it, the proof of eternal inheritance with the Lord.
- 2:18...eyes like flame, feet like brass, the symbols are those of discernment and judgment
- 2:20...Jezebel, reference to a false religious practice that dishonors the Lord and preys on His people. The judgments are symbolic of the wrath of God against those who flaunt His will.
- 2:26...power over the nations indicates the role the overcomer will have in ruling with the Lord...it refers to the millennial reign. The morning star probably symbolizes the place one has to the glory of God before the forces of the universe (powers and principalities).
- 3:1...seven Spirits...probably a speech figure for the Holy Spirit in the perfection of His ministration to the seven churches.
- 3:5...white raiment...reference to garments that characteristically show purity and justification...the garment showing the true nature .
- 3:6...the key of David is the right to rule by the Word of God (Isa. 22:22)