

Are you a Nicolaitan?

As the world hurtles toward total chaos and self-destruction many people are looking for answers. Powerful earthquakes; super storms; drought/famine; pestilence; pandemics; etc. all of these things have people worried and wondering: What is going on???

To make the social scene even worse; many state governors have shut down their states' businesses, putting hundreds of thousands out of work and unable to keep up with bills. Many have been quarantined to their homes; unwillingly, which has created or added to already high stress and anxiety levels in some people. This in turn has led to higher suicide and homicides rates. As media; and certain political figures ramp up their scare tactics, others are looking for answers. Among those looking for answers are those who are searching The Scriptures; and in particular, the prophets.

Recently there seems to be a lot of interest in the book of Revelation, and for good reason; for most of John's writing in this book is for "the end times". And looking at the conditions we find in the world today, it appears safe to say that we are entering that period of time. While many tend to focus their attention on the 'seven seals'; the 'woe's'; the plagues; etc. most neglect the warning given to the "seven assemblies" in chapters 2+3. Yet; these warnings have very dire consequences if not heeded!

It is not the intent of this study to delve into each warning and its consequence; but rather, to focus on the one which appears to be the least understood.

Before doing so, I believe it is pertinent to explain that; contrary to popular belief and 'accepted' theology, these warnings are not directed toward the Christian church; but rather, to attitudes and

actions of and within these assemblies which are founded on the governing principles outlined in the teachings of The True Messiah and His original apostles.

That being said let us now proceed to our topic. To do so we must first understand who or what is a “Nicolaitan”!

From Genesis to Revelation we only find that word/name mentioned twice, and then it is only in the second chapter of Revelation. The first mention is in verse 6 and is in reference to the assembly at Ephesus, who hate the “wicked deeds” of the Nicolaitans, as does YaHuaH. The second mention is in verse 15 and is in reference to the assembly of Pergamus; which assembly holds to those teachings.

The primary problem here is that the “works and teachings” are not clearly defined in those verses. And so; we must do some background work into that name to understand who the Nicolaitans were, and what were they ‘teaching’?

There are two primarily accepted views regarding the Nicolaitans. Both are based on ‘etymology’; the study of word origins. One uses the Aramaic word ‘nichola’ which means “let us eat” (this comes from a google search as well as a comment from Andrew Gabriel Roth’s AENT/Aramaic English New Testament”) According to early writings, the name referred to their willingness to disregard the Torah instructions concerning “unclean” meats and food offered to idols.

The second uses the Greek; which some still consider the language used by the apostles, even though historic facts point otherwise.

The following comes from the online site: RickRennerMinistries. The name Nicolaitan is a compound word based on the Greek words; ‘nikos’ meaning “to conquer” or “to subdue’ and the word ‘laos’ the Greek word for “the people”. When these two words are combined in Greek we get the name Nicolas; which means “one who conquers and subdues the people”. Those who hold to this

interpretation say that the Nicolaitans were a sect that maintained control of adherents through a rigid hierarchy or government.

In either case, what we end up with is an attitude which is contrary to the overall teachings of The Torah as well as the teachings of Messiah; YaHushua”, as seen in Matt.5:17-21!!! In Acts 6 we read about a dispute between the Hebrew disciples and the Hellenistic disciples, which led to the appointment of seven men chosen to serve the needs of the people in their assemblies. One of those chosen is a proselyte from Antioch whose name is Nicolas. As we continue reading in Acts we see a group of men referred to as “Libertines” who; along with others from Asia; Alexandria; and Cyrene who rise up against Stephen. These Libertines were pagan converts and it is most probable that Nicolas was of; or had once been a member of this group.

Antioch was a great and major city of Syria and steeped in paganism. Nicolas was from Antioch; had converted to Judaism and later became a follower of the Natzerim apostles. Although it can not be stated with certainty, there is the likelihood that Nicolas was still holding on to those former pagan traditions and practices. Thus the term; “Nicolaitan” could refer to those of the same liberal attitude, if such be the case.

What we can learn concerning the “wickedness” of the Nicolaitans is what we find mentioned in relation to comments regarding the other assemblies and what is going on within them. So let us look at these now!

Following the admonition to Ephesus, we next come to Smyrna; verse 8. While there is no mention of any spiritual problems there is a warning about trials and persecution.

In verse 12 we find Pergamus mentioned. It is here that we find the negative comment regarding the Nicolaitans, following a condemnation of those holding to the doctrines of Baalim, i.e.

eating what was sacrificed to idols, and sexual sins.

The next assembly; Thyratia, receives condemnation for allowing a false prophetess among them who teaches and seduces the people into temple prostitution and partaking of eating sacrifices to idols

In chapter 3, verse 1 we find Sardis mentioned. Although they “have a name that they live” they are dead because they have no works, (James 2:17) This something we need to consider in our own lives!

Rev. 3:7 addresses the assembly at Philadelphia, Which has no condemnations against it, but only words of encouragement.

So now we come to the last assembly mentioned; Rev. 3:14 Laodicea. YaHuaH warns this assembly that they are neither “hot nor cold”. They lack the fire and zeal needed to be ‘hot’ for preaching and teaching The Word. They apparently are the culmination of all the weaknesses and short comings mentioned in the other assemblies. While they think they are rich (in spiritual matters), they are really poor because they are not zealous for YaHuaH; for His Word; and for His Name!!! Verse 18 holds the key to who the Nicolaitans were/are and what they represent! The admonition to “buy of Me gold tried in fire” signifies purity; spiritual purity!

What Jezebel, (verse 20 chapter 2); the “teachers of Baalim” (verse 14 chapter 2; and the Nicolaitans all had in common is that they were all attempting to mix paganism and false teachings with The One True Faith as taught by YaHushua and The Tanak. All true followers of YaHuaH are admonished to “come out of her”; meaning Babylon. What is Babylon? Confusion!

Are we following and teaching only truth? Are we zealous for The Torah; for the Set-Apart/Kodesh things of YaHuaH? Or; are we mixing truth with the lies and deceit of pagan filled churches? That is confusion!

Will we be classified with the Laodicean's; neither hot or cold? Or will we be like Ephesus and hate the mixing of the Kodesh with the profane? Being Kadosh is being Set-Apart to YaHuaH! YaH's Torah is Set-Apart and as Natzerim /branches (Acts 24:5) we too must become Set-Apart. We should be looking at the pagan practices of the Babylon church system as one would a leper and pronounce them "unclean". Loathing even the touch of it in our lives! The Christian churches are a product of mixing the profane with The Set-Apart word of Elohim and as Natzerim we need to take the admonition to Thyratia personally, and get the Jezebel church and all of its lies and deceit (including the false names which bring no honor to our Master) out of our lives, every unclean/non-kosher aspect of it. And out of our assemblies.

Following is a list of Scriptures which we should all be familiar with and use in establishing ourselves in YaH's favor! There are many others which could be added to this list, but I would admonish all to look these up and allow the Ruach HaKodesh lead you into YaH's presence! Lev.18:21b; 19:12; 21:6; 22:15; Ezek.22:26; Ezek. 44:23; Ps.16:3-4; Hos.2:17; I Pet.1:16; I Cor. 5:6-7; Gal.5:9; and IIPet.3:17

And although there are many which encompass the concept of The Set-Apart Name, I will only post a few; but I would admonish each and everyone who reads this to search out the many places throughout The Scriptures where Abba YaHuaH declares Himself Kadosh! Lev. 11:44; Lev.21:8; Ps. 99:9.

Psalm 111:9

He sent redemption to His people: He has commanded His Covenant forever: kadosh and awesome is His Name!

