

The Book Of Revelation

Chapter One

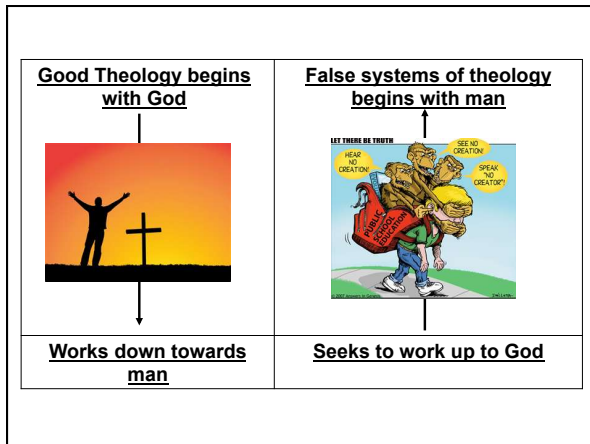
Revelation 1:1

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants — things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John

What Does The Book Of Revelation Reveal?

- The word "revelation" means literally an "unveiling"
- The Book of Revelation is an unveiling of the person of Jesus Christ
- It is God's intention to **reveal** rather than **conceal** His plan of redemption of mankind
- At the core of revelation is the fact that God has spoken. If God did not speak there would be no revelation. Every truth given to us since the beginning of time has been a revelation of the character and person of who God is
- The fulfillment of God's revelation is Jesus Christ

- "This is the foundation truth of all real theology. God is the great originator and initiator. It is the ignoring of this which is the basic error in all human schemes. False systems of theology and philosophy begin with man and seek to work up towards God. But this is the turning of things upside down. We must in all our thinking begin with God and work down to man."—Pink, Gleanings in Genesis



God Is The Originator And Initiator Of All Revelation

- "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, **which God gave Him**
- "We love Him because He first loved us.--1 John 4:19
- **protos (pro'-tos)**; foremost (in time, place, order or importance)
- **When did God first love man?**
- **How does man know God's love?**
- Through Revelation!

- "Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, **according to the revelation** of the mystery kept secret since the world began"-- Rom 16:25
- "[God] who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace **which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began**" (2 Timothy 1:9)

- "Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the **acknowledgment of the truth** which accords with godliness, 2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, **promised before time began**.."--Titus 1:2
- Revelation always begins with God the fountain of all truth. Man never creates the truth but receives the truth as revealed by God.

Jesus Is The Revealed Truth To Man

- "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and **truth** ."-- John 1:14
- "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, **the truth** , and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."-- John 14:6

God Intends For The Believer To Understand

- The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him **to show His servants**
- "to Show" literally means: "to show by making known, to exhibit by proving".
- God desires that His revelation be understood
- "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, **but those things which are revealed belong to us** and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."- Deut 29:29

"If God is the originator of language and if the chief purpose of originating it was to convey His message to humanity, then it must follow that He, being all-wise and all-loving, originated sufficient language to convey all that was in His heart to tell mankind. Furthermore, it must also follow that **He would use language and expect people to understand it in its literal, normal, and plain sense**" [Ryrie]



The Holy Spirit Is Essential To Understand Revelation

"But God has **revealed** them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, **that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.**--1 Cor 2:10-12

What Does God Want The Believer to Understand?

- "[the] **things** which must shortly take place."-- Rev. 1:1
- The "things" or "events" of:
- Events of the whole church age (Rev.1-3)
- Events in heaven (Rev. 4-5)
- Events of the future tribulation (Rev. 6-19)
- Events of the Millennial age (Rev. 20)
- Events of the new heaven and the new earth (Rev. 21-22) [Dake's Bible]


Which Must Shortly Take Place

- The events "**must**" and are going to happen despite what some may think or say
- "knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "**Where is the promise of His coming?**" For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

For this **they willfully forget**: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.--2 Peter 3:3-7

- Jesus Said: "...and the Scripture cannot be broken..."--John 10:35
- It is determined and we are witnessing it first hand

• **Must Shortly Take Place**

- "Shortly" *En taxe* literally means "Quickly, with speed, rapid in execution"
- Tachometer: An instrument used to measure speed of a shaft turning 
- "Behold, I am coming quickly! Rev. 22:6
- The point of the adverb "shortly" is that when the events begin to happen they will be executed **rapidly** or **suddenly** and are certain to take place

**and signified it by His angel to
His servant John**

- "Signified": Gave a sign or a symbol
- Jesus uses the same word in John 12:33
- 32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." 33 This He said, **signifying** by what death He would die.
- "Although symbols occur, they reside within a textual framework which is subject to normative interpretation with due recognition of the meaning conveyed by the symbols. The revelation given to John, symbolic though it be, is to be interpreted just as one would interpret the rest of the Bible." [Thomas]

Revelation 1:2

who bore witness to the word of
God, and to the testimony of
Jesus Christ, to all things that
he saw.

**who bore witness...to all
things that he saw.**

- The verb is in the aorist tense which means that this book has already been completed in the scope of eternity.
- John is projected to a reference point beyond the framework of space and time
- John's frame of reference is beyond our time looking back at the events taking place in the revelation given to him.

What Did John Witness?

- "...the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ..."
- We need to take note because what he is witnessing to is "the word of God" and the "testimony of Jesus"
- The Book of Revelation carries all the authority of Jesus and the word of God
- "For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"-- Rev 19:10
- "This means that prophecy at its very heart is designed to unfold the beauty and loveliness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (Walvoord)

The Bible is A Living Organism

- “The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me. The Bible is not antique or modern. It is eternal.” (Martin Luther)
- “For the word of God *is* living and powerful....” Hebrews 4:12



Man Is Called To A Relationship With The Living God

- John 17:3: Jesus says: “...this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”
- The written word and the spoken word should always lead us into a relationship with the living word, Jesus
- "Let your religion be less of a theory and more of a love affair" [Chesterton]

John, "...bore witness to the word of God..."

- John not only "bore witness to the word of God...", but was exiled to Patmos for his belief in the word of God
- John knew the word of God personally: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life

- 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us — 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ."--1 John 1:1-3
- "Without the last book of the Bible, other parts of Scripture would lose much of their significance.....Man's ruin is complete in other parts of the Scripture; man's redemption is perfect in Revelation." [Barnhouse]

Jesus Is The Revealed Word Of God

- "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."--John 1:1-3
- "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."--John 1:14

Jesus Is At The Center Of Scripture

- "39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which **testify of Me.**"--John 5:39
- "Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms **concerning Me.**"--Luke 24:44

John "Bore witness to the testimony of Jesus Christ"

- **Worship God!** For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."--Rev 19:10
- "Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began 26 **but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures** made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith.."--Rom 16:25-26

Jesus Is The Subject Of Prophecy

- Jesus is the One revealed by the testimony of prophecy in Scripture
- John was banished to Patmos "for the **testimony of Jesus Christ**" (Rev. 1:9)
- When the fifth seal is opened, John sees martyrs "who had been slain for **the word of God and for the testimony** which they held" (Rev. 6:9)
- The saints who overcome Satan do so by **the (spoken) word of their testimony** (Rev. 12:17).

- The enraged dragon goes forth to make war against those who **“have the testimony of Jesus Christ”** (Rev. 12:17)
- At the start of the Millennial Kingdom, John sees “the souls of those who had been **beheaded for their witness to Jesus**” (Rev. 20:4).

Prophetic Motivation

"Of this salvation the **prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you,** 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things which angels desire to look into."-- 1 Peter 1:10-12

Revelation 1:3

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

"...Blessed..."

“Blessed...” is from the root word: “to go straight, walk, go on, advance, make progress”

Blessed is not simply Happiness—Why?

Happiness definitely is a part of being blessed, but not necessary to it.

A person who is blessed is on the correct path in life, eyes fully on the Lord and His plan and comprehending the many wonders of a relationship with the Living God In the context of the book of Revelation which vacillates back and forth across the battlefield of a sinful world where in the end Jesus is victorious it is the context of blessing that keeps the believer moving forward!

Start To Finish

- The book of Revelation begins with a blessing: "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near."--Rev 1:3
- The Book of Revelation ends with the same blessing: "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."--Rev 22:7

Six Other Blessings

- Rev. 14:13: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."
- Rev 16:15: "Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."
- Rev. 19:9: "Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!"
- Rev. 20:6: "Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection."

- Rev. 22:14: "Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city."
- "...men and women who are experiencing God's blessing, realize that it is not something external....not a matter of having a good Day, not an occasional run of luck. It is an 'inner strength of soul and the happiness it creates... the blessing thus comprises the power to live in its deepest and most comprehensive sense. Blessing is the vital power...that fills and surrounds the person who is on the way of faith. [Peterson]

1 Peter 1:3-9: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith — the salvation of your souls." 1 Peter 1:3-9

- "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ...If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory." Titus 2:11-13;Col. 3:1-4

Psalm 119:9

How can a young man cleanse his way?

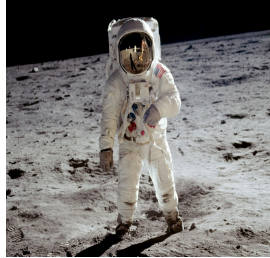
By taking heed according to Your word.

"....young man cleanse his way?"

- It is not that the person is clean or pure
- But his path is clean before him
- The psalmist is asking:
- How can a person keep his way on the right path, moving forward on the journey and not wander away from it?

A person keeps on the right path
“By taking heed according to Your
word.”

Like an astronaut who needs the protection of his space suit to guard him from the elements and give him clean air so that he can walk in space, the believer needs the word of God to guard his path while he walks in the world in these last days!



A person keeps on the right path
by seeking Jesus with a whole
heart!

Psalm 119:10



"With my whole heart I have
sought You; Oh, let me not
wander from You...."

“Oh, let me not wander...”

- "Wander": to get off the path and into a rut
- Do you ever feel like you are living in rut?
- The path has been set before us!
- “Hebrews 12:1& 2 “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance **the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus....**”

The Book of Revelation is the
only book in the whole Bible that
comes with a blessing

- "3 Blessed is he **who reads** and those who hear the **words of this prophecy**, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near."--Rev 1:3
- Reads; **anaginosko**; ana (again) ginosko (learn to know)
- Literally: Study until you learn the **words of prophecy** written in the Book of Revelation and throughout the Bible

Blessings From The Book Of Revelation

- It arms the believer for the coming conflict
- Those who study are not surprised about world events that seem out of control
- It helps to eliminate fears of an evil age and the terrible judgments to come
- It helps to keep the believers priorities in focus
- It helps to Keep our destiny in focus

"....those who hear the words of this prophecy...."

- Hearing implies to listen with the intent towards action
- Hearing and obedience are joined together
- How do we know if our children have heard us?
- ROM 10:17: " so then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
- The believer not only needs to study to learn but the believer also needs to listen to the words of the prophecy.

Careful Of A Spirit Of Stupor

- "God has given them a **spirit of stupor**, eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear, to this very day."--- Rom 11:8
- Stupor: "numbness, suppression of sense" [Webster's]
- "God has given them a spirit of stupor..."--Ouch
- This is speaking of Israel today
- Apathy to the things of God
- Seek God on our own terms
- Religion can get in the way of relationship
- Change God's word to fit our thinking

"....and keep those things which are written...."

- "Keep" literally means to, "hold fast, guard"
- To keep here implies to prepare to undergo something that is a difficulty, a trial
- Build a fortress around your heart for difficult times
- Keep is a term used frequently for watching prisoners, i.e. "guard"

"But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble. My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."-- Prov 4:18-23

"...for the time is near."

- This phrase indicates that we are living in the last days.
- The word for "time" is *kairos*. It does not speak of an era or time span, but signifies "the right time," "the right moment," "the opportune time."
- "4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law..."-Galatians 4:4
- The word for "near" is "eggus". It means an event predicted by the Old Testament prophets

- "7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. 8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, **for the coming of the Lord is at hand.**"-James 5:7-8
- "7 **But the end of all things is at hand;** therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers."—1 Peter 4:4

Hebrews 1:2

2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds

"...has in these last days ..."

- This phrase was also used in the Septuagint to translate a reference to the days when a prophecy is fulfilled.
- "Last": "eschatos" "ends of, last, latter end, uttermost, lowest"
- The Hebrew phrase is "*be'aherith hayyamim*" and means "in the end of the days"
- It is a rabbinic term used to indicate the time of the Messiah.
- **Man because Jesus the Messiah has come is living in the last days waiting for the Day of the Lord which will inaugurate the Age to Come.**

The Hebrew Phrase "*be'aherith hayyamim*" Usage

- Jacob's prophecy in Gen. 49:1
- Balaam's prophecy in Num. 24:14
- Deut. 4:30; Deut 31:29
- Isaiah 2:2
- Jer. 23:20; Jer. 30:24; Jer. 48:27; Jer. 49:39
- Ezek. 38:16
- Daniel 10:14
- Hos. 3:5
- Micah 4:1

Revelation 1:4

"4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia:
Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne..."

"John, to the seven churches which are in Asia:"

- Seven is a number that is prominent throughout the book of revelation, and is a study in and of itself. Seven is mentioned at least twenty-eight times and is the number of completion.
- "John, to the seven churches in the province of asia."
- John is the Apostle John and he has been exiled to the island of Patmos. This is also the first of the **sevens** that appear in the book of Revelation

The Island of Patmos



Why Just These “Seven Churches”?

- Since seven is the number of completeness they represent all churches
- The Lord chooses seven churches that reveal seven sets of conditions representing the church age throughout history
- They were local actual churches with valid needs during the time of John

“Grace to you and peace from Him...”

- “Grace” is something granted as a favor rather than a right.
- Titus 2:11-13: “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ....”
- God’s grace brings salvation.
- God’s grace teaches us to “say no” to ungodliness. The world is in a mess because man has tried to do it without God. We want to be our own master; God’s grace teaches us that God will do it for us!

Thoughts About Grace

- Grace is God acting freely, according to His own nature as Love; with no promises or obligations to fulfill; and acting of course, righteously--in view of the cross.
- Grace, also is sovereign. Not having debts to pay, or fulfilled conditions on man’s part to wait for, it can act toward whom, and how, it pleases. It can, and does, often, place the worst deservers in the highest favors.

- Grace cannot be earned
- There is no cause in man why Grace should be shown, man must quit from trying to give God reason for His Grace.
- The flesh has no place in the plan of Grace. This is the great reason why Grace is hated by the proud natural mind of man. But for this very reason, the true believer rejoices! For he knows that "in him, that is, in his flesh, is no good thing"; and yet he finds God glad to bless him, just as he is!

The Place Of Man Under Grace

- Man stands complete under grace accepted by Jesus as he is while growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord
- He is not "on probation."
- As to his life past, it does not exist before God: he died at the Cross, and Christ is his life.
- The failure of devotion does not cause the withdrawal of bestowed grace

Proper Attitude Of Man Under Grace

- To believe, and to consent to be loved while unworthy, is the great secret.
- To refuse to make "resolutions" and "vows"; for that is to trust in the flesh.
- To expect to be blessed, though realizing more and more lack of worth.
- To testify of God's goodness, at all times.

- To be certain of God's future favor; yet to be ever more tender in conscience toward Him.
- To rely on God's chastening hand as a mark of His kindness.
- A man under grace, if like Paul, has no burdens regarding himself; but many about others.

Things Gracious Souls Discover

- To "hope to be better" is to fail to see yourself in Christ only.
- To be disappointed with yourself, is to have believed in yourself.
- To be discouraged is unbelief,--as to God's purpose and plan of blessing for you.
- To be proud, is to be blind! For we have no standing before God, in ourselves.

- The lack of Divine blessing, therefore, comes from unbelief, and not from failure of devotion.
- Real devotion to God arises, not from man's will to show it; but from the discovery that blessing has been received from God while we were yet unworthy and undevoted.
- To preach devotion first, and blessing second, is to reverse God's order, and preach law, not grace. The Law made man's blessing depend on devotion; Grace confers undeserved, unconditional blessing: our devotion may follow, but does not always do so,--in proper measure.

ROMANS VERSE BY VERSE, WILLIAM R. NEWELL

"GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU....."

- This a familiar greeting of Paul also
- Grace is how God reaches out to man, but is also how man reaches out to God.
- Without grace man would still be separated from God, with only a fearful expectation of judgment.
- But grace has brought man and God back together and it is by grace that we are saved.
- Grace necessarily brings peace of mind to the believer

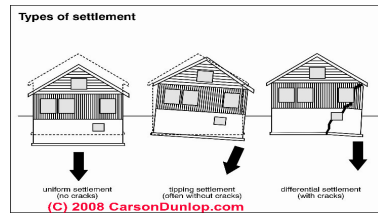
John 1:17-18

17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

Think about it when the God of the universe appeared, He appeared in grace form to die for us!!!!

"...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, **not according to our works**, but according to His own purpose and grace which **was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began**, 10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.."
II TIMOTHY 1:9-10

A Strong Foundation



- The grace of God is the solid foundation that believers need in **facing the Last Days** while the world becomes more and more shaken by the disturbing events that are unfolding.

HEBREWS 13:9--"...FOR IT IS A GOOD THING THAT THE HEART BE ESTABLISHED BY GRACE..."

A HEART ESTABLISHED BY THE GRACE OF GOD IS A HOPEFUL HEART BELIEVING THAT HIS COMING IS SOON AND HIS VICTORY SURE!

Revelation 1:4-5

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ,

"...who is and who was and who is to come..."

- This is a reference the eternity of God the Father
- "Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times **things that are not yet done**..."--Isa 46:9-10
- He is and was and He can come at any moment fulfilling the things "...not yet done".

"...and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne..."

- Isaiah provides a list of qualities of the Spirit which shall rest upon the Messiah who shall come from the stem of Jesse (David's father): "The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD" (Isaiah 11:2).
- Seven is used again here in completeness of the Spirit's activities to the seven churches.
- At the end of each address to the seven churches it states: **"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."**

Revelation 1:5-6

"...and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Seven Titles Of Jesus

- "...the faithful witness.."
- "...the firstborn from the dead..."
- "...the ruler over the kings of the earth."
- "... who loved us..."
- "... washed us from our sins in His own blood..."
- "...has made us kings and priests to His God and Father..."
- to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever

Jesus Is The Faithful Witness

- When we know the character of God we know that He can be relied upon
- The Lord is in control of the world and we can rely upon Him fulfilling the things which He said He would do in His word
- In looking at the landscape of history we can see that God is moving His plan of redemption in a specific direction and will fulfill faithfully that which He has promised

Hebrews 6:16-19

"16 Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. 17 Because **God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised**, he confirmed it with an oath. 18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which **it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. 19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."**

Jesus Is The Firstborn From The Dead

- "Firstborn" indicates His supremacy as King and Lord of all
- "I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: 'Your seed I will establish forever, and build up your throne to all generations. "...I will make him **My firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.**"--Psalm 89:3-4;27

Jesus Is The Ruler Of The Kings Of The Earth

- The Book of Revelation is the final chapter of God's conflict between the forces of evil energized by Satan which culminates in the victory of Jesus' redemption of the world and His kingdom reign upon the earth.
- All the powers of humanity will be in united action at the end of the age in deliberate designed conflict with God

A Battle For Control

- “These will make war with the Lamb , and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”-Rev. 17:14
- The word "power" occurs 29 times; "authority" 20 times; "reign" and "rule" 11 times; "war" 8 times; "sword" 7 times; "throne" 43 times; and "king" 21 times

The Book of Revelation culminates the whole history of God’s redemptive work, man’s rejection of God’s plan, man’s struggle and frustration to replace God’s plan with a human kingdom, and finally God dealing with man and establishing His eternal kingdom and reign.

- The kings and the rulers of this world seem to want to lead by their own laws and not God’s
- Man since the beginning of time has wanted to do his own thing in rebellion against God
- However, independence from God will result in bondage to the things that man would naturally have dominion over.
- Man is created to have dominion and rule under God’s authority and within His created order
- Outside God's created order results in abuse by force or manipulation.

What Jesus Did For Man

- He has loved us! (Rev. 1:5)
- He has washed us from our sins in His own blood! (Rev. 1:5)
- He has made us kings and priests to His God and Father! (Rev. 1:6)

1 JOHN 4:18-19

**“THERE IS NO FEAR IN LOVE; BUT
PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR,
BECAUSE FEAR INVOLVES TORMENT.
BUT HE WHO FEARS HAS NOT BEEN
MADE PERFECT IN LOVE.**

**WE LOVE HIM BECAUSE HE FIRST
LOVED US.”**

Imperfect Love

- Our idea of love has become so distorted by a culture that is a product of sin. Our first experience with love originates with our parents but they are human and can influence our lives with their imperfect love



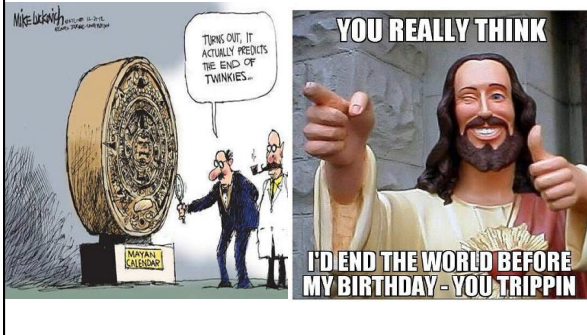
What Is Perfect Love?

- 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.--- Rom 5:8
- "...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.-- Rom 5:5
- 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."
16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,---Rom 8:15-16

Psalms 103

- "Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, 4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies..."
- "8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.
- "10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.
- "12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. 13 As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. 14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust."

The End Of The World Didn't Happen On December 21, 2012



Jesus Offered His Own Blood

"Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, **by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,** and having a High Priest over the house of God, **let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,** having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.**

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:19-25

- "But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption."-Hebrews 9:11-12

Believers Will Rule With Jesus

- "To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."- Rev 1:6
- "...for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."- Rev 5:9-10

- "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'" - Matt 25:21
- "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy." - 1 Peter 2:9-10

Revelation 1:7

"Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen."

"Behold, He is coming with clouds..."

- A reference to Psalm 68:4 and Daniel 7:13-14
- "Sing to God, sing praises to His name; extol Him who rides on the clouds..."
- "I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom..."

The Jewish Tribes Mourning For Him Who Was Pierced

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced . Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. 11 In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem..." --- Zech 12:10-11

Revelation 1:8

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

- In the original language "Alpha" is spelled out whereas "Omega" is just the letter itself
- "I am the Alpha and the **"W"**
- This phrase with "Omega" as an unfinished letter speaks to the work of Jesus as the Lamb which has been finished but his coming as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah has not been completed yet.
- John 17:4--"I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do."

"...the Beginning and the End..."

- "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. **All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things,** and in Him all things consist."---Col. 1:13-17
- "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.'--Isa 44:6

HIDDEN TRUTH:

GENESIS 1:1

אֵת שָׁמַיִם וְאֵת אֲדָמָה בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים רִאשִׁית

LITERAL TRANSLATION

"In the beginning God [aleph tau] created the heaven and the earth".

ZECHARIAH 12:10

אֵת דָּקְרָהּ זָבְנוּ

LITERAL TRANSLATION

"...and they shall look upon me [aleph tau] whom they have pierced..."
THE ALEPH AND THE TAU, THE FIRST AND LAST LETTERS OF THE HEBREW ALPHABET ARE THE SAME AS THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA IN THE GREEK.

This Aleph and Tau, that created the heavens and the earth, is the same Aleph and Tau whom they pierced on the wooden cross erected in Judea almost 2,000 years ago.

אֵת

"sign (marker) of the definite direct object, not translated in English but generally preceding and indicating the accusative case."

- THE DIRECT OBJECT IS GOD
- WHO IS THE BEGINNING AND THE END

Revelation 1:9

I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

"I, John..."

- At the time of writing the Book of Revelation John was the last living of the original Apostles.
- It is believed that John died around 100 A.D. and some believe he died around 104 A.D.
- He was a pastor of the Church of Ephesus
- John was able to return to Ephesus around 96 A.D. after the Emperor Nerva became Emperor of Rome
- Nerva pardoned all the prisoners who had been wrongly imprisoned during the reign of Domitian

The Disciple Jesus Loved

- Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me." Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?" This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.--John 21:20-24

John's Name

- John identifies himself in the Book of Revelation four times. (1:1;1:9;21:2;22:8)
- He says his name three times in the emphatic by stating "I, John".
- This an unusual practice for his writing considering that he never mentions himself in his gospel or his letters
- Since John was the last of the living Apostles all believers at the time would have known his name and his name would have come with authority to believe that the revelation that was given to him was true and sure.

"...both your brother and companion in the tribulation.."

- At the time of John's revelation the early church was enduring incredible suffering under Roman rule, they were a sick people and culture; they enjoyed watching the killing of people for sport, The Emperor Nero set fire to Rome and blamed the Christians
- Nero burned believers as street lights
- The Romans started killing Christians but early believers spoiled their fun by singing praises while being tortured

- The word for "companion" is "**sunkoinonos**" and literally means a "co-participant".
- The word had the idea of experiencing at a deep level what others are experiencing because a person is going through the same thing that others are going through.
- John uses this word because he was experiencing the persecution by being exiled to the island of Patmos "for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."
- The word for "tribulation" is "*thlipsis*" and means a pressing, pressing together or pressure

- *Thlipsis* was graphic word that described a torture method where by adding stones a person was crushed to death by adding stones unless a person confessed his crime
- Therefore *Thlipsis* meant to depict events where a person feels trapped or pinned and a person feels smothered or crushed by the devastating experience



"...kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ..."

- **WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?**
- **The kingdom of God is God Himself working out his plan in this world**
- **The kingdom of God is "the reign of God" in the heart of man**
- "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, **the kingdom of God is within you.**"-- Luke 17:20-21

- **The kingdom is not separated from this world**

- "Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom , and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.
- **Believers are to seek first the kingdom of God.**
- "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."--Matt 6:33-34

- **Believers are preparing the world for the reign of Jesus on the earth.**

- "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.--Matt 24:14
- "And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God."- Acts 19:8

- **The kingdom of God is the final government that will be reigning on the earth from Jerusalem during the Millennium**

- Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

- **Believers should be praying for the kingdom to be established on the earth**

- "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."- Matt 6:10
- In the mean time believers need to wait with patient endurance for His coming kingdom
- "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God....."-Heb 12:28

The Patience Of Jesus

- Why has Jesus never asserted his position of ruling authority over the devil and his angels in this world which belongs ultimately to him?
- Jesus has never used his absolute power to bring an end to global injustice, demonic activity, and suffering.
- Jesus allowed wicked men to crucify Him and to take His place of honor as king and ruling authority.
- Jesus **seems** to rule from a remote and distant place.

2 PETER 3:8-10

“But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Revelation 1:10-11

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

- John was **"...in the Spirit on the Lord's Day..."**
- In the original Greek text it simply says "In Spirit"
- John suddenly found himself elevated to a different realm where he witnessed the incredible Revelation of Jesus
- Most traditions except the "Lord's Day" as being Sunday but the use of the Lord's Day for Sunday did not come about until 100 years after John!
- This is the closing of the day of mercy and the beginning of the day of wrath that John is about to witness known in Scripture as "the Day of the Lord"

A Voice Like A Trumpet

- Note it is "...like a trumpet..."
- The word for "trumpet" that is used here in verse 10 literally means a "quavering or reverberation"
- The trumpet could be the shofar which is used in the Old Testament
- Shofar literally means a "rams horn"
- The blowing of the shofar was associated with "Rosh Hashanah" also know as "the feast of trumpets" it was a call to repentance at the head of the Jewish new year
- It is also blown to call a gathering to the dwelling place of God (Numb. 10:1, Matt. 24:31, 1 Thess. 4:16)



- The Lord will blow the shofar at His coming to save His people in the Last Days.
- "Then the LORD will be seen over them, and His arrow will go forth like lightning. **The Lord GOD will blow the trumpet (shofar)** and go with whirlwinds from the south. The LORD of hosts will defend them; The LORD their God will save them in that day..."--Zech 9:14-16
- The blast of the shofar emanating from the thick cloud on Mount Sinai made the Israelites tremble in awe (Exodus 19:16).

Exodus 19:16-18

"Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and **the sound of the trumpet (shofar) was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.** And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain."

The Shofar's Significance

- "The shofar' purpose is to rouse the Divine in the listener it may not be constructed of an artificial instrument. It must be an instrument in its natural form and naturally hollow. It's sound is produced by human breath which symbolizes God Who breathes into human beings. This pure, and natural sound symbolizes the lives it calls Jews to lead."--[Jewish Virtual Library](#)
- The shofar is bent to symbolize mans tendency towards sin and when blown man is called to repentance

"What you see, write in a book and send it..."

- John is commanded by Jesus to write in a book what had seen
- John is commanded to "send" the book of Revelation to the seven churches
- Daniel was commanded by the Lord to "seal up" the words that were given to him from the Lord (Dan. 8:26;12:4,9)
- The Lord knows the time is right for the world to know the Book of Revelation
- The question is: Will we take the time to read and study the Book of Revelation?

Divinely Inspired Outline

- "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."--Rev 1:19
- "Write the things which you have seen.." (Ch. 1)
- "Write ...the things which are..." (Ch. 2-3)
- "Write ..the things which will take place after this." (Ch. 4-22)
- "...after this." is literally *meta tauta* "after these things"

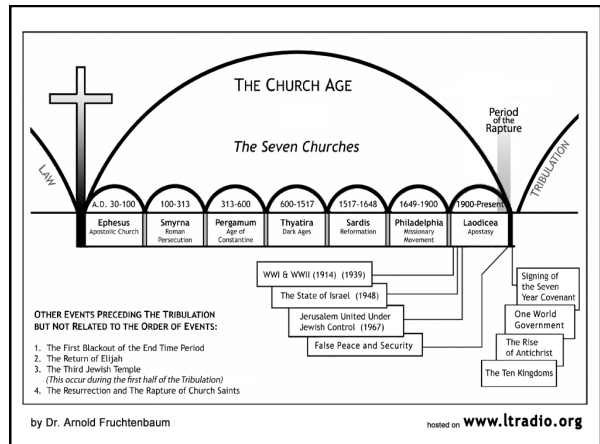
"...to the seven churches which are in Asia."

- Why these churches?
- Why not churches in Galatia, Philippi, or Antioch, or even Jerusalem?
- We are told that all of the Book of Revelation is "prophecy"-Vs. 3
- They were actual churches in history
- These seven churches apparently lay out the entire history of the church age!
- If these churches had been in any other order than the inspired order given to John from Jesus it could not lay out the prophecy of the Church Age

CHURCH	NAME	DATES (A.D.)	COMMENDATION	CRITICISM
EPHESUS	"MAIDEN OF CHOICE, DARLING"	< 100 EARLY CHURCH	REJECT FALSE APOSTLES	LEFT FIRST LOVE
SMYRNA	"MYRRH, BITTER, AFFLICTION"	100—313 PERSECUTION	FAITHFUL IN PERSECUTION	NONE
PERGAMOS	"MIXED MARRIAGE"	313—590 FALSE DOCTRINES CREEP INTO THE CHURCH	FAITHFULNESS	TOLERATE TEACHERS WHO TEACH FALSE DOCTRINES
THYATIRA	"CONTINUAL SACRIFICE"	590—TRIBULATION FALSE DOCTRINES RULE THE CHURCH	LOVE, SERVICE, FAITH PATIENCE, GROWING	TOLERATED EVIL DOCTRINES TO SPREAD
SARDIS	"REMNANT"	1517—TRIBULATION REFORMATION	REMNANT OF GOD'S PEOPLE WHO HAVE KEPT THEMSELVES PURE	ALIVE IN NAME ONLY
PHILADELPHIA	"BROTHERLY LOVE"	1730—RAPTURE MISSIONARY CHURCH	KEPT GOD'S WORD AND DID NOT DENY HIS NAME	NONE
LAODICEA	"RULE OF THE PEOPLE"	1900—TRIBULATION MODERNISM, DOCTRINES OF MAN	NONE	CHRIST ON THE OUTSIDE

EPHESUS	SMYRNA	PERGAMOS	THYATIRA
MAIDEN OF CHOICE	MYRRH	MIXED MARRIAGE	CONTINUAL SACRIFICE
LOSS OF FIRST LOVE, AND CLASS OF CLERGY BEGINNING TO FORM WHERE THE GOSPEL IS ENTRUSTED TO THEM "PRACTICES OF THE NICOLAITIANS"	THE BEGINNING OF DOCTRINES OF TRUE GRACE REPLACED WITH LEGALISM AND SYNAGOGUES OF SATAN ESTABLISHED	THE CHURCH BECOMES MARRIED TO THE WORLD. THE PRACTICE OF THE NICOLAITIANS BECOMES CHURCH DOCTRINE	JEZEBEL IS EXALTED IN THE CHURCH AND BEGINS TO SPEAK FOR THE CHURCH. "JEZEBEL"—WOMAN WHO IS NOT THE BRIDE. THE WORD OF GOD KEPT FROM THE PEOPLE
REMEMBER AND REPENT	REPENT	REPENT	"I HAVE GIVEN HER TIME TO REPENT BUT SHE IS UNWILLING" 2:21
PAST: 0>100 AD	PAST: 100>312AD	PAST: 312>590 AD	FUTURE: 590> TRIBULATION. "HOLD ON TO WHAT YOU HAVE UNTIL I COME. WHO DOES MY WILL TO THE END I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS"
NO MENTION OF SECOND COMING	NO MENTION OF SECOND COMING	NO MENTION OF SECOND COMING	MENTION OF SECOND COMING AND SUFFERING FOR JEZEBEL: FALSE CHURCH

SARDIS	PHILADELPHIA	LAODICEA
REMNANT	BROTHERLY LOVE	PEOPLE'S RIGHT
THE CHURCH FOCUSED ON NAME ONLY DENOMINATION: "ACT OF NAMING" MARTIN LUTHER BRANCHED OFF FROM CATHOLICS; THUS REFORMATION FEW GOOD PEOPLE AMONG LOTS OF BAD	OPEN DOOR PLACED THAT NO ONE CAN SHUT; KEPT WORD AND DID NOT DENY JESUS' NAME	NEITHER COLD NOR HOT, SELF SUFFICIENT THE RIGHT OF PEOPLE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE RULE OF GOD. DOCTRINES FORMULATED THAT ATTACK GOD'S WORD, EVOLUTION, ACLU FOUNDED, PRAYER REMOVED FROM SCHOOLS, THE BIBLE REMOVED FROM SCHOOLS
WAKE UP, STRENGTHEN, REMEMBER	NO PROBLEMS	REPENT AGAIN
FUTURE: 1517 > TRIBULATION	FUTURE: 1730—RAPTURE	1900—TRIBULATION
SECOND COMING = WAKE UP OR HE WILL COME LIKE A THEIF	RAPTURE: I WILL KEEP YOU FROM THE HOUR OF TRIAL THAT IS GOING TO COME ON THE WHOLE WORLD	SECOND COMING: BE EARNEST, THROUGH REBUKING AND DISCIPLINE, JESUS STANDS AT THE DOOR, OPEN THE DOOR.



The Church Age Progression

- If chapters two and three are read in one sitting one cannot help but recognize the mood change of these seven letters addressed to the Seven Churches
- This is the logical conclusion of the exaltation of the church over the Word of Christ. It begins with the practice of the Nicolaitians; the deeds are then transformed into a doctrine that supports power over the people; the clergy are then married to the world for financial and political purposes and then it pretends to speak for God!

- THE FALSE CHURCH CLAIMS INFALLIBILITY FROM ITS PROPHETS AND **MUST NOT BE TESTED OR QUESTIONED**; WHEREAS THE WORD OF GOD CLAIMS INFALLIBILITY AND UNDERGOES EVERY KIND OF SCRUTINY AND CRITICISM **BUT HOLDS UP AND HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME.**

Revelation 1:12-16

Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

Seven Golden Lampstands

- The word for "lampstand" is "*luchnia*" which means a "portable lamp fed with oil on a lamp stand"



Menorah

- Some believe it to be the Menorah which is a seven-branched lampstand used in the ancient Tabernacle in the desert and the Temple in Jerusalem.



"...in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man.."

- "In the midst someone like a Son of Man"
- "I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven!"--Dan 7:13
- **Where is Jesus right now?**
- "Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."-- Rom 8:34

Priestly Description Of Jesus

- He is clothed with a garment down to the feet
- He is girded about the chest with a golden band.
- His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow
- His eyes like a flame of fire
- His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace
- His voice as the sound of many waters
- He had in His right hand seven stars
- out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword
- His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.



John's Vision Is Of Jesus In All His Glory

- Jesus' clothes speak of His priestly position
- His head and hair: "I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool."-Dan 7:9
- Eyes like a flame of fire: There is no den of iniquity so dark that Jesus is not there. There is no work of man which will get past His piercing gaze

- His feet brass and refined in the fire speak of the judgment that is coming upon the world
- His voice is as many waters is a common description in the Old Testament for God's voice.
- His right hand held seven stars. These *stars* are the seven angels of the churches as explained in Revelation 1:20
- Out of His mouth went a two edged sword which is the word of God (Heb 4:12)
- His countenance like the sun speaks of Jesus being the source of light. Jesus is the light of the world

"Everything in this vision speaks of strength, majesty, authority and righteousness. There is an impressive difference between this vision of Jesus and the many weak, effeminate portrayals of Jesus seen today. But the Jesus that John saw is the real Jesus, the Jesus that lives and reigns in heaven today." Guzik

Revelation 1:17-20

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

John Falls At The Feet Of Jesus

- John walked with Jesus and knew Him intimately both in the flesh and His risen body
- John also witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus
- However nothing that John had witnessed prepared him to witness Jesus in His heavenly glory
- Jesus lays His right hand on John in a compassionate touch demonstrating His love for John telling him "do not be afraid."

Jesus Is The Great "I am"

- "'And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM ." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"--Ex 3:14
- "I am the First and the Last."
- "I am He who lives, and was dead..."
- "I am alive forevermore..."

Jesus Holds The Keys Of Hades And Death

- The Devil is not "Lord of Hell"
- Jesus destroyed the Devil's power over death through His death and resurrection
- As believers we know that when we die we'll go to the place Jesus is preparing for us!
- Our lives have difficulties and if the Lord doesn't return soon our lives will end in death. But death leads to eternity

1 Corinthians 15:51-58

"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

The Mystery Of The Seven Stars And Lampstands

- The Book of Revelation is not a book of guess work.
- When symbolism is used an explanation is always given.
- "The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches."

"What do you see in Christ's right hand? Seven stars; yet how insignificant they appear when you get a sight of *his face!* They are stars, and there are seven of them; but who can see seven stars, or, for the matter of that, seventy thousand stars, when the sun shineth in his strength? How sweet it is, when the Lord himself is so present in a congregation that the preacher, whoever he may be, is altogether forgotten! I pray you, dear friends, when you go to a place of worship, always try to see the Lord's face rather than the stars in his hand; look at the sun, and you will forget the stars." (Spurgeon)