



T H R E A D I N G T H E P E A R L S . o r g

Threading the Pearls of the Book of Revelation

An Expository Study

Session 2: The Vision of Christ

REVELATION 1:9 — 1:20

Revelation is given to the church as an all-encompassing conclusion —

Unveiling:

the things that **were**,
the things that **are**, and
the things that are **yet to come**

[REV 1:19]

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REVELATION 1

9 I John, your brother and your partner in tribulation, and in the kingdom, and patience in Christ Jesus, was in the island, which is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus.

Your brother

MARK 13:3-4, [Jesus] sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately, ⁴"Tell us, *when will these things be?* And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?"

Your companion

MARK 14:32-34, they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. ³⁴Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. *Stay here and watch*".

Suffering

MATH 10:21-22, "Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. ²²"And *you will be hated by all for My name's sake*. But he who endures to the end will be saved;
JOHN 16:33, In the world *you will have tribulation*; but be of good cheer, I [Jesus] have overcome the world.

Kingdom

MATH 5:10, Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, *For theirs is the kingdom of heaven*;
HEB 12:28, since *we are receiving a kingdom* which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

Patience

JAM 1:2-4, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³knowing that *the testing of your faith produces patience*. ⁴But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Ours in Jesus

1COR 2:12, 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*.

Patmos

Πάτμος = Patmos (pat•mos) Strong# 3963: "my killing" [Strong, James. *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. New York: Abingdon, 1958.]

Word of God

ACTS 4:29-31, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ³⁰"by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." ³¹And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and *they spoke the word of God with boldness*;
PSM 33:4, *For the word of the Lord is right*, And all His work is done in truth.

Testimony of Jesus

REV 12:17, the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and *have the testimony of Jesus Christ*.

CONSIDER THIS —

MARK 14:32-34, John is our companion. He was told, as we are told, to: ³⁴*Stay here and watch*".
— Do you recall, how the disciples failed at this?
They fell asleep.
This is a lesson to us all: Be doing what our Lord has told us to do.
Be about His business until He returns!



REVELATION 1

10 I was in the spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,



In the Spirit

EZE 11:24-25, *the Spirit took me up* and brought me in a vision by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to those in captivity. And the vision that I had seen went up from me. ²⁵So I spoke to those in captivity of all the things the Lord had shown me.

The Lord's day

ISA 13:6-16, Wail, for *the day of the Lord is at hand!* It will come as destruction from the Almighty. ⁷Therefore all hands will be limp, Every man's heart will melt, ⁸And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; They will be amazed at one another; Their faces will be like flames. ⁹Behold, the day of the Lord comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. ¹⁰For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine. ¹¹"I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible...;

JOEL 2:1-2, Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the *day of the LORD is coming*; it is near, ²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations;

AMOS 5:18-20, Woe to you who desire *the day of the Lord!* For what good is the day of the Lord to you? It will be darkness, and not light;

OBI 1:15-16, For *the day of the Lord upon all the nations* is near; As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head;

ZEPH 1:14-18, *The great day of the Lord is near*; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. ¹⁵That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶A day of trumpet and alarm Against the fortified cities And against the high towers. ¹⁷"I will bring distress upon men, And they shall walk like blind men, Because they have sinned against the Lord; Their blood shall be poured out like dust, And their flesh like refuse";
MAL 4:5-6, Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the *great and dreadful day of the Lord*. ⁶And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse".

The Day of the Lord

- An idiom used throughout Biblical prophecy
- No other day will be like it
- No one knows the time it will begin
- The time has been close for nearly 2,000 years
- Only God's mercy has afforded us time before judgment
- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Zephaniah, Zechariah, and Malachi all write explicit descriptions of the Lord's Day
- The references from the Prophets detail the *things to come*

All of these things to come,
we also find written in Revelation!

CONSIDER THIS —

When Jesus began his ministry he explained to his followers that his works would fulfill prophecy. Jesus quotes from Isaiah in — LUKE 4:19, "To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

In his second coming, Jesus will continue this prophecy. For, he will pick up at the very point where he left off: a comma! — ISA 61:2-3, "To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God."



REVELATION 1

11 Saying: What thou seest, write in a book, and send to the seven churches which are in Asia, to Ephesus, and to Smyrna, and to Pergamus, and to Thyatira, and to Sardis, and to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.

What you see

LUKE 10:23-24, He turned to His disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; ²⁴for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired *to see what you see*, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it".

Write on a scroll

HAB 2:2-3, the Lord answered me and said: "*Write the vision* And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. ³For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.

Send it

ACTS 15:21-22, "For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath." ²²Then *it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company* to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren.

Seven churches (REV ch2 – ch3)

Ἔφεσος = Ephesos (hef•es•os);

Strong# 2181: "permitted".

Σμύρνα = Smurna (smoor•nah);

Strong# 4667: "myrrh".

Πέργαμος = Pergamos (per•gam•os);

Strong# 4010: "height or elevation".

Θυάτειρα = Thuateira (thoo•at•i•rah);

Strong# 2363: "odour of affliction".

Σάρδεις = Sardeis (sar•dice);

Strong# 4554: "red ones".

Φιλαδέλφεια = Philadelphieia (fil•ad•el•fee•ah);

Strong#5359: "brotherly love".

Λαοδικεία = Laodikeia (lah•od•ik•i•ah);

Strong#2993: "justice of the people"

Ephesus (REV 2:1-7) "desired"

ACTS 19:1-5, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus...⁴Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." ⁵When they heard this, *they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus*; EPH 2:20-22, been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, *Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone*, ²¹in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Smyrna (REV 2:8-11) "myrrh"

PHIL 1:27-28, let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that... you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and *not in any way terrified by your adversaries*, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God; MATH 23:34-35, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: *some of them you will kill and crucify*, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city.

CONSIDER THIS —

REV 3:22, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

— In chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation, Jesus wrote to the churches that were in existence then.

He was also writing to us – the church that exists today.

His letters are prophetic in that they remain true throughout the time* of the church.

(*the Church Age)

Pergamos (REV 2:12-17) “marriage”

ACTS 13:8-10, Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him ¹⁰and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease *perverting the straight ways of the Lord?*

2COR 4:17-18, our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the *things which are seen are temporary*, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Thyatira (REV 2:18-29) “daughter”

ROM 16:17-18, I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, *contrary to the doctrine which you learned*, and avoid them. ¹⁸For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple;

MATH 15:6-9, you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. ⁷"Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ⁸"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. ⁹And in vain they worship Me, *Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men*".

Sardis (REV 3:1-6) “name”

JAM 1:26-27, If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. ²⁷Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to *keep oneself unspotted from the world*;

GAL 3:13-15, *Christ has redeemed us* from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), ¹⁴that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. ¹⁵Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.

Philadelphia (REV 3:7-13) “city of brotherly love”

1PET 2:15-17, For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men- ¹⁶as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. ¹⁷Honor all people. *Love the brotherhood*. Fear God. Honor the king;

1JON 2:10, *He who loves his brother abides in the light*, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

Laodicea (REV 3:14-22) “people rule”

COL 2:20-23, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations ²¹"Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," ²²which all concern things which perish with the using-*according to the commandments and doctrines of men?* ²³These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh;

PSM 12:2-4, They speak idly everyone with his neighbor; With flattering lips and a double heart they speak. ³May the Lord cut off all flattering lips, And the tongue that speaks proud things, ⁴Who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail; Our lips are our own; *Who is lord over us?*"





REVELATION 1

12 And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks:

The voice

JOHN 10:2-4, he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³"To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴"And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for *they know his voice*.

Speaking to me

EXO 3:4, So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, *God called to him* from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am".

I saw

ISA 48:6-7, You have heard; *See all this*. And will you not declare it? I have made you hear new things from this time, Even hidden things, and you did not know them. ⁷They are created now and not from the beginning; And before this day you have not heard them, Lest you should say, 'Of course I knew them'.

Seven golden lampstands

REV 1:20, 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*.

Lampstand

EXO 25:31-37, You shall also make a lampstand of pure gold; the lampstand shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and flowers shall be of one piece. ³²"And six branches shall come out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side. ³³"Three bowls shall be made like almond blossoms on one branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower, and three bowls made like almond blossoms on the other branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower-and so for the six branches that come out of the lampstand. ³⁴"On the lampstand itself four bowls shall be made like almond blossoms, each with its ornamental knob and flower. ³⁵"And there shall be a knob under the first two branches of the same, a knob under the second two branches of the same, and a knob under the third two branches of the same, according to the six branches that extend from the lampstand. ³⁶"Their knobs and their branches shall be of one piece; all of it shall be one hammered piece of pure gold. ³⁷"You shall make *seven lamps for it*, and they shall arrange it lamps so that they give light in front of it.

CONSIDER THIS —

MATH 5:14-16, You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵"Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but *on a lampstand*, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.



REVELATION 1

13 And in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks, one like to the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the feet, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Among the lampstands

2THES 1:10, He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be *admired among all those who believe*, because our testimony among you was believed.

Son of Man

DAN 7:13, "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came *one like a son of man*, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him;

LUKE 22:69-71, "Hereafter *the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.*" ⁷⁰Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?" So He said to them, "You rightly say that I am";

MARK 8:31, He [Jesus] began to teach them that *the Son of Man must suffer many things*, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Dressed in a robe

1CHR 15:27, David was clothed with *a robe of fine linen*, as were all the Levites who bore the ark, the singers, and Chenaniah the music master with the singers. David also wore a linen ephod;

PSM 45:6-8, Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom... ⁸All *Your garments are scented with myrrh and aloes and cassia*, Out of the ivory palaces, by which they have made You glad.

Reaching down to his feet

RUTH 3:8-9, it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was *lying at his feet.* ⁹And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative."

Around his chest

LEV 8:6-7, Moses brought Aaron and his sons and washed them with water. ⁷And he put the tunic on him, *girded him with the sash*, clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod on him; and he girded him with the intricately woven band of the ephod, and with it tied the ephod on him.

Golden sash

DAN 10:5, I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was *girded with gold of Uphaz!*

CONSIDER THIS —

ACTS 15:14-17, "Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles *to take out of them a people for His name.* ¹⁵"And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written:

¹⁶After this I will return ...

— Let's look at this sequence more carefully: Jesus *will* return... after what?

After taking out of the Gentiles a people for His name. What name is that? Christ-ian, perhaps?



REVELATION 1

**14 And his head and his hairs were white, as white wool, and as snow, and his eyes were as a flame of fire,
15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as in a burning furnace. And his voice as the sound of many waters.**

[Head was] white

MATH 17:2, And was transfigured before them: and *his face did shine as the sun*, and his raiment was white as the light.

Hair [was] white like wool, white as snow

Showing his likeness to the Father—

DAN 7:9, the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the *hair of His head was like pure wool*;

As he result of his purity—

ISA 1:18, If your sins are as scarlet, *as snow they shall be white*, If they are red as crimson, *as wool they shall be!*

His eyes were like blazing fire

REV 5:6, And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with *seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God* sent out into all the earth;

DAN 10:6, His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, *his eyes like torches of fire*, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.

His feet

LUKE 7:37-38, behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, ³⁸and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and *she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil*.

Bronze glowing in a furnace

DAN 10:6, His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and *feet like burnished bronze* in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude;

ISA 48:10, Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have *tested you in the furnace of affliction*.

Voice... like the sound of rushing waters

EZE 43:2, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and *his voice [was] like a noise of many waters*;

DAN 10:6... the sound of his words *like the voice of a multitude*.

CONSIDER THIS —

Our hope is in the LORD.

Our current state is hidden – until Christ is revealed:

COL 3:2-4, “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”



REVELATION 1

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars. And from his mouth came out a sharp two edged sword: and his face was as the sun shineth in his power.

In his right hand

GEN 48:17-19, when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. ¹⁸And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; *put your right hand on his head.*" ¹⁹But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations".

He held seven stars

ROM 1:5-6, Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, ⁶among whom *you also are the called of Jesus Christ.*

Out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword

ISA 49:2, He made *my mouth like a sharp sword*; in the shadow of his hand he hid me;

HEB 4:12, For *the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword*, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Face was like the sun

ACTS 26:13, along the road I saw a light from heaven, *brighter than the sun*, shining around me and those who journeyed with me;

MATH 17:2, He was transfigured before them. *His face shone like the sun*, and His clothes became as white as the light;

DAN 10:6, His body was like beryl, his *face like the appearance of lightning*, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.

The sun shining in all its brilliance

MATH 13:43, *the righteous will shine forth as the sun* in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

CONSIDER THIS —

MATH 13:43, *the righteous will shine forth as the sun* in the kingdom of their Father.
He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

— Who are the 'righteous'?
Who is the One who is 'righteous'?



REVELATION 1

17 And when I had seen him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying: Fear not. I am the First and the Last,

When I saw him

JOHN 12:44-46, Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. ⁴⁵"And *he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.* ⁴⁶"I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

Fell at his feet

JOSH 5:13-15, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" ¹⁴So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." And Joshua *fell on his face to the earth and worshiped...*

1CHR 21:16, David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the Lord standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. So David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, *fell on their faces.*

As though dead

ISA 59:10, We grope for the wall like the blind, And we grope as if we had no eyes; We stumble at noonday as at twilight; *We are as dead men* in desolate places;

EPH 2:1, you He made alive, *who were dead* in trespasses and sins.

He placed his right hand on me

NUM 27:18-20, the Lord said to Moses: "Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and *lay your hand on him;* ¹⁹"set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight..."

Do not be afraid

GEN 21:17, the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said to her, "What ails you, Hagar? *Fear not*, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is;

ISA 41:10, *Fear not, for I am with you;* Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand;

DAN 10:18-19, Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me. ¹⁹And he said, "*O man greatly beloved, fear not!* Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!" So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me".

The First and the Last

ISA 44:6-8, 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. ⁷And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. ⁸Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one'.

CONSIDER THIS —

REV 1:16, He had *in His right hand* seven stars...

REV 1:20, The seven stars are the angels of *the seven churches*...

ISA 41:10, Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, *I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.*



REVELATION 1

18 And alive, and was dead, and behold I am living for ever and ever, and have the keys of death and of hell.

I am the Living One

JOHN 1:14, *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.

Was dead

MATH 17:9, as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until *the Son of Man is risen from the dead*";

JOHN 20:9, For as yet they knew not the scripture, that *he must rise again from the dead*;

ACTS 17:30-31, The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked. But now he commands that all men everywhere should repent, ³¹because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained; whereof he has given assurance to all men, in that *he has raised him from the dead*".

I am alive for ever and ever!

ROM 6:23, the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is *eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*.

Keys of death

1COR 15:21, For as by a man came death, *by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead*;

JOHN 5:21, as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so *the Son gives life to whom He will*.

Keys... of Hades

EPH 4:8, Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he *led a host of captives*, and he gave gifts to men" [PSM 68:18].

CONSIDER THIS —

JOHN 20:9, For as yet they knew not the scripture, that *he must rise again from the dead*

— Which 'scriptures', that is Old Testament scriptures, give us a clear indication that Christ must rise from the dead?

(see ACTS 8:30-31, Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"³¹ And he said, "How can I, *unless someone guides me?*")



REVELATION 1

19 Write therefore the things which thou hast seen, and which are, and which must be done hereafter.

Write

REV 1:11, What you see, *write in a book* and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia.

What you have seen*

* NOTE — REV chapter 1: regards Jesus among the churches;

REV1:13, *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;

1JON 3:2, Beloved, now we are children of God; and *it has not yet been revealed what we shall be*, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

What is now*

* NOTE — REV chapters 2 & 3: regards the churches throughout time;

REV 3:22, "He who has an ear, let him hear *what the Spirit says to the churches*";

ROM 11:25, For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that *blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in*.

What will take place*

* NOTE — REV chapters 4 through 22: regards what follows the church age: the Day of the Lord's wrath; REV 4:1, After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you *things which must take place after this*"; ROM 9:22-28, What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, ²⁴even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? ²⁵As He says also in Hosea: "I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved." ²⁶"And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God." ²⁷Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved. ²⁸For *He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness*, Because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth.

CONSIDER THIS —

ROM 11:25, For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that *blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in*.

— What will be the indication that the 'fullness of the Gentiles' *has* 'come in'?

And, when the blindness is lifted from Israel: What, or who, will they finally 'see'?



REVELATION 1

20 The mystery of the seven stars, which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches. And the seven candlesticks are the seven churches.

The mystery*

DAN 2:27-28, Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. ²⁸"But there is a *God in heaven who reveals secrets*, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these;

* NOTE — μυστήριον = Musterion, moos-tay'-ree-on, Strong# 3466: 1. hidden thing, secret, mystery; 1a. generally mysteries, religious secrets, confided only to the initiated and not to ordinary mortals; 1b. a hidden or secret thing, not obvious to the understanding; 1c. a hidden purpose or counsel; secret will; 1d. of men; 1e. of God: the secret counsels which govern God in dealing with the righteous, which are hidden from ungodly and wicked men but plain to the godly; 2. in rabbinic writings, it denotes the mystic or hidden sense; 2a. of an OT saying; 2b. of an image or form seen in a vision; 2c. of a dream.

The seven stars

REV 3:1, "These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God *and the seven stars*."

In my right hand

REV 2:1, These things says *He who holds the seven stars in His right hand*, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands.

Seven golden lampstands

EXO 25:34-37, On the lampstand itself four bowls shall be made like almond blossoms, each with its ornamental knob and flower. ³⁵"And there shall be a knob under the first two branches of the same, a knob under the second two branches of the same, and a knob under the third two branches of the same, according to the six branches that extend from the lampstand. ³⁶"Their knobs and their branches shall be of one piece; all of it shall be one hammered piece of pure gold. ³⁷"You shall *make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it*. ³⁸"And its wick-trimmers and their trays shall be of pure gold. ³⁹"It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils;

REV 4:5, Before the throne, *seven lamps were blazing*. These are the seven spirits of God.

Angels of the seven churches

JOHN 1:51, He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and *the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man*";

2COR 8:23, If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker concerning you. Or if our brethren are inquired about, *they are messengers of the churches*, the glory of Christ.

Seven churches

EPH 5:30-32, For *we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones*. ³¹"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³²This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

CONSIDER THIS —

The more of our lives are placed under the Lord's control, the more assurance we are given that He is able to sanctify us, and present us to himself as "a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish" [EPH 5:27].

— The church should know her betrothed. Since, we are to be married to the Son!



GROUP DISCUSSION

REV 1:9, I John, your brother and your partner in tribulation... Other scholars have speculated that the John who wrote the Book of Revelation is not the same John who wrote the Gospel of John.

- ⊕ **1. Whether or not this is the case, what difference would it make to our understanding of God's Word?**

REV 1:10, I was in the spirit on *the Lord's day*...

With surprising cohesiveness, all that the prophets speak of the Lord's Day (or, Day of the Lord) coincides with the events presented in Revelation, chapters 4 through 20.

- ⊕ **2. How might this understanding help us to make better sense of the things that occur in the Book of Revelation?**

REV 1:11, Write on a scroll what you see...

- ⊕ **3a. What does it mean that John saw this revelation?**

Considering REV 1:10, I [John], was in the Spirit.

- ⊕ **3b. How might the phrase, 'in the Spirit' be similar to, or differ from, seeing a vision?**

(Compare Ezekiel's experience in EZE 11:24-25, *the Spirit took me up* and brought me in a vision by the Spirit of God...)

REV 1:11, ...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.

Looking over the list of these seven churches, we might notice many notable ones are missing from the list; such as the churches in Jerusalem, in Antioch, in Corinth, and in Rome.

- ⊕ **4a. What are some possible reasons that Jesus would only choose the seven churches that He did choose?**

REV 1:20, ...the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches;

REV 1:13, and in the midst of the seven lampstands [is] One like the Son of Man.

- ⊕ **4b. How might this understanding change the significance of Jesus' choice of seven churches?**

REV 1:19, Write therefore *the things* which thou hast seen, and which are, and which must be done hereafter.

- ⊕ **4c. How might these seven churches represent the entire Church Age?**

REV 1:14-15, His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace...

- ⊕ **5. Why is this description of Jesus different from His appearance in the Gospels?**

NEXT SESSION —