

REVELATION

Revelation 1:9-20 (Jesus Revealed)

- God reveals Himself in all His majesty and glory as a **Trinity**: **Three-in-oneness** (*unity/diversity*)
- No matter what your understanding/interpretation of Rev. = Physical, visible, imminent **Return**
- Jesus gives this Vision/prophecy using many **Symbols**: signify something **REAL**/actual/fut. Hist.

*Symbols are creative expressions to reveal something's character in deeper/more helpful/more revealing & descriptive way: "I'm married to Stan; he's a good husband, a good man & a good father" **OR** Me and Stan are two souls tied together forever in a covenant bond in love; he loves me like a Casanova and makes me feel like an adored queen of a beloved country; Stan has an indefatigable spirit, working like a steam engine and burning the candle on both ends to provide for us; & he's leads our home like an unmoving, steady oak, a guiding light, & our family's anchor"

***Symbols and similes** =helpful description of the nature and character of the subject. **Rev. 1:4....**

(Seven Spirits: *common Hebrewism=**Plurality of majesty** =linguistic tool that God employs to portray His greatness, sovereign supremacy, His matchless might, and His exceeding eminence. =(Elohim=Hebrew plural form of 'El' =the "**God of Gods**) – Same in N.T. (Jewish Jesus) **Spirit=plur**
7 Spirits =the expression of the Holy Spirit's complete & comprehensive nature, a perfect, empowering totality of God's Being: *The Spirit functions as the executor of God's Will-gets it done*

*-Isaiah 11:1-3 "Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, [Messiah/Jesus] And a Branch from his roots will bear fruit. ² The **Spirit** of the **Lord** will rest on Him, The spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**, The spirit of **counsel** and **strength**, The spirit of **knowledge** and the **fear** of the Lord. ³ And He will delight in the fear of the Lord," =7-fold, manifold ministry of the Spirit.

-Rev. 3:1 Jesus holds/sends out the **Seven Spirit's of God**; -Rev. 4:5 Seven Spirits are symbolized as **seven lampstands with burning fire before the throne of God**; -Zech. 4:2 Spirit as a **7-fold lampstand before the throne of God**; -Acts 2:3 Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost=**flames of fire**

READ Revelation 1:9-20

I, John, your brother and fellow participant in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance in **Jesus**, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of **Jesus**. John reflects on his imprisonment on Patmos (**convicted for preaching the Bible and proclaiming Jesus as Lord**) -sentenced to hard labor breaking rocks. He affirms the season he is in as a fellow sufferer in persecution & tribulation; he's a fellow co-laborer in God's Kingdom, advancing God's glory on the earth & on mission to bring the gospel to the lost; AND because of what Christ endured, John is persevering in the faith in deep communion with Jesus.

*Perseverance/steadfastness =(hupomone lit. bear up under the weight)

A. The Church will suffer **persecution** (tribulation/affliction). (1st Century, Christians were accused of **atheism** [rejecting emperor worship]; **paganism** bc they worshiped an invisible God vs. idol; **cannibalism** bc they ate body/drank blood of Jesus, their God; **incest** bc believers referred to each other as "brother and sisters in the Lord"; **Anarchy** [meaning that Jesus taught all were equal in Christ =upset the wealthy/ruling class elite] =so the local governors and emperors wanted to eradicate Christians (**like Nero 64AD**) & Domitian 90's AD =**persecution**

B. We should never be **surprised** by persecution from the *world*: John 15:20 Jesus says, "**because of me the world will hate you; If they persecuted me, they will persecute you.**"

-Matthew 5:10 "**Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**"

-Rev. 2:10 “Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

C. The Church suffering persecution in the Church Age is categorically **different** than the 7yr Tribulation in future when whole world is under the Wrath/judgment of God. Though Jesus may punish His Church at times for unfaithfulness, *The Church* will not be exposed to the wrath (divine judgment) meant for the world, the unrighteous, and satan in the 7 yr. Tribulation. There is a biblical argument to be made that Jesus removes the true church/remnant from the earth BEFORE the great tribulation.

-1 Thess. 5:9 “For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through Jesus Chr.”

-Rev. 3:10 “Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.”

Vs. 10 I was in *the Spirit on the Lord’s day*, -as John was praying and worshiping on that Sunday (the Spirit brought John into a trance-like state [like an out of body experience but you are not daydreaming or asleep]; this is a vision from the Lord. The Bible records that Ezekiel, Peter, Paul had similar premonitions when God showed them something supernatural.

and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound of a trumpet*, ¹¹ saying, “Write on a scroll what you see, and send *it* to the **seven churches**:
to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.” *Local* real flagship churches in large influential cities and towns; prominent & instrumental churches in Asia!

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And after turning I saw **seven golden lampstands**; in Vs. 20, Jesus identifies these 7 lampstands represent the seven (7) **churches** in Asia. – The Nature of the Church is to burn bright in the darkness (separating the darkness from light) and distinguishing what is LIGHT *by which* all can really **see** around them & identify what they are seeing. *The function of lampstand holds & supports the light-holds hi
A. **The Church exists to shine the light of Jesus to a dark world.** -Phil 2:15 “lights in the world”
B. The Church is to faithfully **represent** Jesus to a watching world (loving, serving, sharing gospel)
*Salt/light = function is to season & shine light IF it doesn’t, what is it good for? **Tasteless salt; a candle that won’t light/flashlight broken=useless**/thrown away. **7 churches=symbolic kinds of ch**
C. 7 churches=completion=THE **CHURCH** -all churches of all time in the church age. =US! **the WELL**

¹³ and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like the son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and wrapped around the chest with a golden sash. [This robe is both noble in description, as fit for royalty, kings, and sovereigns – yet, it is notable this type of robe was worn by the priests. Here this signifies Jesus as the perfected **Prophet, Priest, & King** in His 3 main roles as Messiah.

¹⁴ His head and His hair were white *like white wool, like snow*; and His eyes were *like a flame of fire*. ¹⁵ His feet were *like burnished bronze [fine brass]* when it has been heated to a glow in a furnace, and His voice was *like the sound of many waters*. [power/roar] ¹⁶ In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was *like the sun shining in its strength*. This is a description of Jesus in His exalted glory: Fully man; fully God. Glorified & Preeminent above all Beings in the universe. He is described in His purity (white); nobility; radiant holy glory -resplendent, brilliant, and luminescent. **All-consuming fire* He.12:29

Notice:

Lampstands=**gold**=most valuable, precious metal in world JUST as *the* Church is Christ's Bride, His most precious, valuable asset. **He gave His blood for her!!** (Acts 20:28)

-In His right hand (symbolizing power and authority), Jesus holds Seven Stars (shining lights) which represent the seven messengers of each of the seven churches. (**Can't be angels bc why would John (a human) be given a message by an angel to tell the angels (in heaven)**). No, these messengers are the lead **pastors** of each of these chs, Jesus has authority over 'em & **a message!**

-What comes out of Jesus mouth is like a **sword**. A weapon to cut to the soul. Truth that is unstoppable. The eternal WORD which is irresistible and overpowering!=**Transforms lives/judge**

-Hebrews 4:12 "**For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge/discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**"

-The message to the churches as Truth, sharp as a sword is both piercing & cutting. Jesus will defend the Church, His Bride – and sends a warning to the predators within the church, the wolves in sheep's clothing, those who would cause division, dissension, & harm to His Bride; and to those who bring heresy or permit/ignore heresy within the Church =sword=**judgment!**

17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "**Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last** (Alpha/Omega =**Eternal**), **18** and the **living One**; and I was dead, and behold, **I am alive forevermore**, (Resurrected, **Vindicated**, approved, & justified as THE sinless and accepted sacrifice on behalf of the whole world. All sins/guilt/shame = our debt is PAID and the debt is canceled. We are now forgiven, guiltless, and Justified (righteous); **and I have the keys of death and of Hades. =Conqueror** =because Jesus IS all those things....for us (as we are IN Him), we do not need to be afraid!!!
-No more fear of slavery; of death; of meaningless life = IN HIM we are **conquerors & ambassadors**

19 Therefore write the things which you have seen [history], and the things which **are** [present] and the things which will take place **after these things** [future history]. **20** *As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the Messengers of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.*

APPLICATION

1. Endure hardship with faithfulness.

John identifies himself as a "partner in the tribulation" (v. 9). Following Christ involves trials, but we endure them with the hope of His kingdom and the power of His presence.

2. Stay spiritually attentive.

John was "in the Spirit on the Lord's day" (v. 10). We, too, must cultivate spiritual attentiveness through prayer, worship, and Scripture so we are ready to encounter God's voice and direction.

3. Remember Christ's presence with His church.

The risen Christ walks among the lampstands (v. 13, 20). Our church is never alone—Jesus is present, guiding, correcting, and empowering us to shine His light.

4. Worship Christ in His majesty.

The vision of Christ's glory (vv. 13–16) reminds us that He is not just gentle Savior but also sovereign Lord. Our worship and daily living should reflect awe, reverence, and submission to His authority.

5. Take courage in Christ's victory.

Jesus declares, "Fear not... I am the first and the last... I died, and behold I am alive forevermore" (vv. 17–18). His victory over death gives us courage to face trials, temptations, and even persecution with confidence.

Community Group Questions

1. John describes himself as a "partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus" (v. 9). How does this description shape our understanding of the Christian life today?
2. John received this vision while "in the Spirit on the Lord's day" (v. 10). What does this tell us about the importance of worship and spiritual attentiveness in experiencing God's presence?
3. Jesus is pictured as walking among the lampstands, which represent the churches (v. 12, 20). What does this imagery communicate about Christ's relationship with His church?
4. The description of Christ emphasizes His holiness, power, and majesty (vv. 13–16). Which of these descriptions speaks to you most powerfully, and why?
5. John's reaction was to fall at Jesus' feet "as though dead" (v. 17). Why do you think such a response was natural, and how does reverence for Christ shape our own worship?
6. Jesus tells John, "Fear not, I am the first and the last" (v. 17). How does this assurance give us courage in our personal trials and in the life of our church community?
7. The lampstands represent churches shining the light of Christ in the world (v. 20). In what ways is our community group and church called to shine Christ's light more faithfully in our city/neighborhood?