

Revelation 1

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 — For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God...

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"In the second extreme, the symbols are used for unchecked speculation and sensationalism, as they are explained in terms of current events. Such speculation has resulted in date setting and far-fetched interpretations that change with the current events. Thus, the Book of Revelation has suffered at the hands of its friends." -Fructenbaum

"It's important to understand that in interpreting the book of Revelation, sensationalism should be avoided, and the identification of any current human being [or event] is not appropriate. It is very difficult to go beyond Scripture without the feeling that the Word of God has been pressed beyond its intention." -MacArthur

"Golden Rule of Interpretation"

"If the plain sense makes good sense, seek no other sense lest it result in nonsense."

~David L. Cooper

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Revelation = apokalypsis(ἀποκάλυψις); 1) laying bare, making naked; 2) a disclosure of truth, instruction

-Apo = Separation away from + kalyptō = to hide/veil

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How to interpret "must shortly take place"?

-Shortly can mean soon.

-It can also mean suddenly.

-What part was coming shortly?

-Shortly can also imply imminently.

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1:4-8 Greeting the Seven Churches

*7 Churches Map

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“from Him who is and who was and who is to come”

Exodus 3:13 — Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?”

Exodus 3:14-15 — 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.’” Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.’”

“Tetragrammaton” = YHWH

“the LORD” = YHWH

Adonai = Lord, El or Elohim = God, El Adonai Shaddai = The Lord God Almighty

YHWH + AdOnAi = Jehovah

YHWH > YaHWeH

I AM WHO I AM = e’haya asher e’haya

יְהוָה(YHWH) vs. הָיָה(haya)

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“and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne”

Less likely

Isaiah 11:2 — 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.

More likely

Zechariah 4:2-10

Zechariah 4:2 — And he said to me, “What do you see?” So I said, “I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps.

Zechariah 4:10 — For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the LORD, Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth.”

Revelation 5:6 — And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

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“firstborn from the dead”

1 Corinthians 15:20 — But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Jesus was the first to be resurrected from the dead into His “new” body. While others were technically only revived, Jesus was truly Resurrected.

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“and has made us kings”

2 Timothy 2:12 — If we endure, We shall also reign with Him.

Revelation 20:6 — ...but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Herod was a “king,” and he reigned over a kingdom, yet he was still under Caesar

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“and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him.”

Zechariah 12:10 — “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.

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“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End”

Isaiah 41:4 — Who has performed and done it, Calling the generations from the beginning? ‘I, the LORD, am the first; And with the last I am He.’ ”

Isaiah 44:6 — “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.

Isaiah 48:12 — “Listen to Me, O Jacob, And Israel, My called: I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last.

Isaiah 43:10b — “...understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.”

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1:9-20 Vision of the Son of Man

“The Lord's Day”

-kyriake hēmera/κυριακῇ ἡμέρᾳ

-kyriakos is an adjective only used here and 1 Cor. 11:20 (The Lord's supper)

-Never used in the NT or OT to describe the Day of the Lord.

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Early Church Sabbath/Lord's Day Quotes

But every Lord's day do ye gather yourselves together, and break bread, and give thanksgiving...

Didache Chapter XIV.11 — A.D. 70 or earlier

Wherefore, also, we keep the eighth day with joyfulness, the day also on which Jesus rose again from the dead.

Epistle of Barnabas Chapter XV.— A.D. 74

...[having] come to the possession of a new hope, no longer observing the Sabbath, but living in the observance of the Lord's Day, on which also our life has sprung up again by Him and by His death

Letter to the Magnesians Chapter IX.—A.D. 110

...Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly, because it is the first day on which God, having wrought a change in the darkness and matter, made the world; and Jesus Christ our Saviour on the same day rose from the dead.

Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho —A.D. 155

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“Then I turned to see... And having turned I saw”

-Lit. Then I turned to “blepō” [to see with the eyes]

-And having turned I “horaō” [to see, perceive, become acquainted with through experience]

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“in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man”

Daniel 7:13 — “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.

Irregardless of if “two or three are gathered,” Jesus is always in the midst of His Church.

“clothed with a garment down to the feet”

While some emphasize that this wording is used 6 out of 7 times in the OT to refer to the high priest (Mounce), Morris and others note that it was common of any high official, including general or king.

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“and girded about the chest with a golden band”

Worn by the high priest (Ex 28:4, 29:5, 39:29)

-Also part of the angelic (heavenly) wardrobe. c.f. Daniel 10:5 & Rev. 15:6

Daniel 10:5-6 — I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! 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.

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“His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow”

Daniel 7:9 — “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. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;

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“out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword”

Hebrews 4:12 — For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Sword = máchaira(μάχαιρα) = short sword or long knife. A “side arm”

-Vs. here in Revelation

-Sword = romphaia(ρόμφαία); a kind of long sword usually worn on the right shoulder; said to have been able to cut a man in half, top to bottom

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“His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength”

1 Timothy 6:16 — [Christ...King of kings and Lord of lords] who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

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12-16 Recap

While He walked the earth, it was as the Prophet.

John 6:14 — Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

-John 7:40 — Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, “Truly this is the Prophet.”

While He walked the earth, it was as the Prophet.

As He now intercedes for us in heaven, it is as Priest.

Hebrews 4:15 — For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 7:25-27 — Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

While He walked the earth, it was as the Prophet.

As He now intercedes for us in heaven, it is as Priest.

When He returns with power and great glory, it will be as King

Revelation 19:11&16 — Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war... And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

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“And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead.”

2 Corinthians 10:12 — For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

It is easy to feel good about yourself when you compare yourself to all of the struggling people...

Isaiah 6:5 — So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.”

Daniel 10:8-9 — Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength. Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

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W. A. Criswell
Our Living Lord

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“And I have the keys of Hades and of Death”

-Hades- the place

-Death- the problem/event leading there

-He has full control of all who have died (in Hades) and who will die (Death)

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THE DIVINE OUTLINE: Write the things

-which you have seen (Ch1)

-and the things which are (Ch2-3)

-and the things which will take place “after this”. (Ch4-22)

“After this” = Meta tauta

Revelation 4:1 — “After these things” [Meta tauta] 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.”

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Angels = angelos(ἄγγελος); a messenger, envoy, one who is sent, an angel, a messenger from God; Translated 179x as angel, 7x as “messenger”

Why do angels need a letter from Jesus?

-Why would Jesus use John to write to His angels?

-Why is He holding angels in His hand? Etc

The problem with this meaning a literal angel:

“It presumes that Christ is sending a message to Heavenly beings through John, an Earthly agent, so that it may reach Earthly churches through angelic representatives.” ~Robert Thomas

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“Stars” are used to symbolically represent leaders elsewhere in the Bible.

Genesis 37:9 — Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, “Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.”

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Stars should not be visible if the Sun is in its proper place.