

**WOMEN IN THE WORD
OF
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH**

THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED
Exploring the Father's Promise to Believers

Scripture Reference Notes
Lesson ELEVEN

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

April 4, 2023

While preparing these lessons each week, I have come to understand that the Lord wants to show us the consistency of scripture from beginning to end. We saw clearly that the Holy Spirit was active starting in Genesis 1:2. Now we will see His undeniable presence to the very end of the writings of scripture. (Revelation 22:17)

The mention of the Holy Spirit occurs over 50 times in the book of Revelation.

Sometimes Revelation refers to "seven spirits". Most commentators agree this verbiage is referring to the Holy Spirit of God in His perfect fullness.

We know that the number "seven" is the number of perfection and fulfillment and completion in scripture.

The reference to "seven Spirits" is best explained in Isaiah 11:1-4

"Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. 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. And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear; But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked."

Here is an explanation from “Truth and Tidings”.

“While the words “Holy Spirit” do not appear in the book of Revelation, there is no other book that so unequivocally sets forth the deity, personality, and activity of the Holy Spirit of God as does this last book in the canon of Scripture. The key reference is the first mention where the Holy Spirit is linked with the other persons in the Godhead in the salutation of grace and peace that opens the book.”

We see this in the following passage:

Revelation 1:4-5 "John to the seven churches that 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, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood"

These verses bear out proof of the Trinity:

1. “from Him who is, and who was, and who is to come”. (This is GOD the FATHER.)
2. “from the Seven Spirits which are before His throne. (This is God the HOLY SPIRIT.)
3. from JESUS CHRIST who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten from the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. (This is God the SON.)

Truth and Tidings goes on to say - “The Holy Spirit is represented in this symbolic way to show the fullness and completeness of His ministry in the ages to follow the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to Glory.”

The background is found in Zechariah 4:1-10

“Then the angel who was speaking with me returned and roused me, as a man who is awakened from his sleep. He said to me, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which are on the top of it; also two olive trees by it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on its left side." Then I said to the angel who

was speaking with me saying, "What are these, my lord?" So the angel who was speaking with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts. 'What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain; and he will bring forth the top stone with shouts of "Grace, grace to it!" Also the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will finish it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. "For who has despised the day of small things? But these seven will be glad when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel--these are the eyes of the LORD which range to and fro throughout the earth."

In this passage from Zechariah – “the seven lamps of testimony in the dark age, require the oil direct from the olive trees. The olive trees are typical of Christ in his dual ministry as priest and prince, and He is the One who, in the gift of the Holy Spirit, supplies all that testimony requires. Complete provision, the Seven Spirits, is linked with absolute deity – before His throne to provide the power for testimony on earth, since there is now a man in Glory.”

We see this again referred to in Revelation 4:5 - "Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;"

And in Revelation 5:6 - "And I saw between the throne with the four living creatures and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth."

There is another distinction in Revelation 11:11 for the Holy Spirit – “But after the three and a half days, the BREATH OF LIFE from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them.”

The wording “breath of life from God” is in some versions and the “Spirit of Life” is in other versions. This is midway into the tribulation and the Spirit is breathing life back into the two witnesses. The Greek word used in all these passages is “pneuma” which we know is the word for the Holy Spirit of God.

Revelation 14:13 - "And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

In this verse the Holy Spirit is giving assurance in this verse concerning the rest that will be provided for those who are "in the Lord". A comforting thought to all of us.

Hopefully this gives us a clearer explanation and understanding that when we read "seven Spirits" in the book of Revelation, we are talking about the Holy Spirit of God.

JOHN'S DECLARATION (1:1-3)

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

JOHN'S MESSAGE (1:4-8)

John to the seven churches that 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, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood--and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father--to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

JOHN'S VISION (1:9-20)

I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the SPIRIT on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. 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. 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, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. "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 angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

There are 4 “players” in these letters to the churches:

- JESUS CHRIST is the author/speaker in the messages.
- John is the writer/scribe of the messages
- the churches/ “angel” are the recipients of the messages
- The Holy Spirit is the deliverer/mediator of the messages.

The letters were Christ's messages to the churches of the day, but obviously for others who would be reading the letters in the future. They are certainly for us today to view and discern if any of the warnings apply to us as believers individually or as the body of Christ. May the Lord grant us wisdom in this examination.

JOHN'S LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES:

EPHESUS (2:1-7)

Ephesus was a fallen church who was in danger of a cooling passion toward the Lord.

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. 'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place--unless you repent. 'Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the SPIRIT says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'

The key words to Ephesus are "you have left your first love".

SMYRNA (2:8-11)

Smyrna was a fearful church who was about to suffer difficulty because of the cruelty of persecution.

"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this: 'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the SPIRIT says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.'

The key words to Smyrna are "be faithful until death".

PERGAMUM (2:12-17)

Pergamum was a faltering church who was about to face disaster because of their compromise and patronization.

"And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this: 'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 'But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality 'So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 'Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth. 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the SPIRIT says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'

The key words to Pergamum are to “repent!”

THYATIRA (2:18-29)

Thyatira was a false church who had departed from the truth into corruption and pollution of the faith.

"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this: 'I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. 'But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 'I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. 'Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. 'And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. 'But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them--I place no other burden on you.

'Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come. 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the SPIRIT says to the churches.'

The key words to Thyatira are to “He who overcomes”.

SARDIS (3:1-6)

Sardis was a formal church who was dead because of their contentment and profession.

"To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. 'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. 'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. 'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. 'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the SPIRIT says to the churches.'

The key words to Sardis are “wake up!”

PHILADELPHIA (3:7-13)

Philadelphia was a feeble church who doubted and did not have conviction or power.

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this: 'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 'Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie--I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you. 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 'I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name. 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the SPIRIT says to the churches.'

The key words to Philadelphia are “keep the word” and “hold fast”.

LAODICEA (3:14-22)

Laodicea was a fashionable church who was complacent and suffered poverty of faith.

"To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. 'Those

whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the SPIRIT says to the churches.'"

The key words to Laodicea are “you are lukewarm”.....”I will spit you out”.

“The plural, “churches” emphasizes that beyond the specific church first addressed there is a lesson for all churches existing at that particular time and, indeed, for churches down the whole period of church testimony. This recognizes that the seven churches reflect (a) the seven churches from the Roman province of Asia addressed by name and, (b) the spiritual conditions that can exist at any time and, (c) the stages in church history as they can now be viewed retrospectively.” (taken from “Truth and Tidings”)

These are strong messages from JESUS to each of these churches...to us. Is there anything in these letters that the Lord may be using in your life to draw you attention to something you may need to allow the Holy Spirit to change in you?

My favorite verse shows up at the end of the book.

Revelation 22:17--The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

Again, we know this is the Holy Spirit. The “bride” of course is us, the bride of Christ, the church which Jesus bought and paid for with His own precious blood.

Also notice the invitation to anyone who “hears” to also join in the plea for the rapture of the Church, for the Lord’s quick return.

EVEN SO, LORD JESUS, QUICKLY COME! AMEN!!

SO WHAT?

Why should the presence of the Holy Spirit in the book of Revelation be so important to us?

What does it show us?

Here are a few thoughts:

1. it confirms the sovereignty of God.
2. it shows the completeness and perfection of scripture
3. it shows God's eternal plan of redemption for us
4. it shows the truth of God's Word

Can you come up with other reasons?

God is so perfect and complete in all He has done. And He did it all for us, His children.

Just as John fell on His face at the sight of the Savior, we should be on ours in humble gratitude for all God has given to us.

Further, the plea for the quick return of the Lord should be on our lips every day.

Is it yours?

Our memory verse:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED

Exploring the Father's Promise to Believers

LESSON ELEVEN

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

We have seen the work of the Holy Spirit throughout all scripture. The book of Revelation is no exception.

1---In Revelation 1:10 John says "I was in the Spirit". (Also see 4:2). What did John mean? Other references that may help are Acts 17:3, 21:10, 22:17, Ezekiel 3:12,14, 37:1)

2---Describe John's vision in Chapter one.

3---What was the Lord's message to the church at Ephesus in chapter two?

4---to the church at Smyrna?

5---to the church at Pergamum?

6---to the church at Thyatira?

7---to the church at Sardis in Chapter 3?

8---to the church at Philadelphia?

9---to the church at Laodicea?

10---Who is saying “come” in Revelation 22:17?

11---Who is the “bride”? Check out these references: II Corinthians 11:1-2, Eph 5:22-23, Rev 19:6-8, 21:9.

12---Read Revelation 1:4, 4:8, 22:20. Are you reassured of the coming of our Lord?

Do you look for it?

Do you pray for it?

Do you encourage others with this reality?

May we realize this world is not our home and Jesus is “preparing a place for us in the Father’s house”.

May our prayer be “EVEN SO LORD JESUS QUICKLY COME.”