

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Lesson 5

SECOND MAJOR DIVISION

REVELATION 1

19 "Write the things which **you have seen**, and **the things which are**, and **the things which will take place after this**.

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.

WHAT DID JOHN SEE?

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And
having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,
13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the
Son of Man.

WHAT DID JOHN SEE?

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.

SEVEN STARS: Seven angels of the seven churches

SEVEN LAMPSTANDS: Seven churches

WHAT DID JOHN SEE?

JESUS:

“In the midst of the seven lampstands”

MESOS: among, middle

(At the cross, Jesus in the center)

(Jesus stood in the midst: Peace to you)

WHAT DID JOHN SEE?

JESUS:

“In the midst of the seven lampstands”

JESUS WAS MOVING IN THE CHURCHES

“watching”

“I know (eido) your works”

(Perceive with eyes)

WHAT DID JOHN SEE?

JESUS:

Priestly (robe, golden sash).

Wise and glorious (white hair like snow).

Omniscient (eyes like flame of fire).

Judge (feet like burnished bronze).

Powerful Word (voice like sound of many waters).

Defends His church (sharp two-edged sword from His mouth).

Glorious (face like sun shining).

The things which you have seen:

(past)

The things which are:

(present: seven churches)

The things which will take place after this

(future)

We read every New Testament in our churches

REVELATION:

(only a few portions)

Chapters 2 and 3?

SEVEN MESSAGES FROM JESUS

NOTICE TO THE CHURCH

Many of today's errors appeared because we have not
paid attention to Jesus' exhortation in Revelation
chapters 2 and 3

SEVEN CHURCHES:

“Chosen”

1,000 townships in Asia Minor in the 1st century

Many other churches

ORDER:

Ephesus

North to Smyrna

North to Pergamos

East to Thyatira

South to Sardis

South to Philadelphia

South to Laodicea



EACH MESSAGE BEGINS WITH:

“I know (eido) your works”

Perceive with eyes

Tribulation, persecution

Worldliness, false teachers

False doctrines, compromise

INDIFFERENCE

FORMAT:

I. Commendation

II. Exhortation

III. Counsel

IV. Promise

(NO COMMENDATION to Sardis and Laodicea)

EACH MESSAGE BEGINS WITH:

“I know (eido) your works”

Perceive with eyes

EACH MESSAGE ENDS WITH:

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to
the churches.”

“To him who overcomes (nikao)”

Conquer, carry the treasures after triumph

EPHESUS

60 miles from the island of Patmos

Greatest city in Asia Minor

Economy: a hub for goods and trade

Politics: self-governing (no Roman troops)

Religion: Diana/Artemis

Worship: perversion, hysteria, mutilation

TEMPLE OF DIANA

REVELATION 2

1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

PRIEST AND JUDGE

SEVEN STARS IN HIS RIGHT HAND

Angel: messenger

MATTHEW 11

10 "For this is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send
My messenger (aggelos) before Your face, Who will
prepare Your way before You.'

JOHN THE BAPTIST

LUKE 7

22 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them.

24 When the messengers (aggelos) of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?

LUKES 9

51 Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,

52 and sent **messengers (aggelos)** before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him.

ANGEL: messenger

One that speaks or delivers the Word of the Lord

ASIA MINOR:

Pastors or prophets through whom the message was
to be delivered to the congregation

EPHESUS

ACTS 19

10 And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

11 Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul,

Aquila, Priscila, Apollos, Paul, Timothy, Tychicus, and John

EPHESUS

ACTS 19

(Demetrius, a silversmith)

27 "So not only is **this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute**, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship."

TEMPLE WAS ONE OF THE SEVEN WONDERS OF
THE WORLD

After Paul left...

Timothy became the pastor

Apostle John succeeded Timothy

30 years later...

REVELATION 2

1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands.

To hold: to hold with power

JOHN 10

28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

MESSAGE:

2 "I know (see) your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

(PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS)

3 "and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary (fainted)

The Lord commends the Ephesians for:

1. Deeds, Toil, and Perseverance:

Worked to the "point of exhaustion" for the kingdom.

2. Intolerance of Evil Men

Sensitive to sin, hated evildoers

Opposed anything from Satan

3. Discernment of False Apostles:

You put them to the test

The Lord commends the Ephesians for:

4. Hatred of the Nicolaitans

The Nicolaitans were a heretical group characterized by extreme indulgence, immorality, and perversion.

5. Endured for Christ's Name's Sake:

Their motive was the honor of the Lord, not personal ambition.

6 "But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

SECT:

NIKAO: to conquer and LAOS: people

ACTS 6

5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.

6 "But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, **which I also hate.**

Abomination and impurity

Libertines

Pagan feasts eating food offered to idols

“WE ARE TOTALLY FREE IN CHRIST”

BUT...

4 "Nevertheless, I have this against you, that you have left
your first love.

5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen;
repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you
quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--
unless you repent.

“Your first love, you have left”

“AGAPE”

Devotion, fervency, depth or meaning
that it once had.

(EMOTIONS?)

THE PROBLEM WAS IN THEIR HEARTS

EPHESIANS 1

15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

GALATIANS 5

6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

FAITH IN CHRIST SHOWS MY LOVE

CHURCH IN JERUSALEM

ACTS 2

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart.

SOLUTION:

5 "Remember (metanoia: change the mind, attitude) therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place-- unless you repent.

YOU WILL NOT BE THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS

Other portions of Scripture:

Paul: The love of money is the root of all evil

John: Love not the world, the things of the world

Keep from idols

Substituting love for idols

ANYTHING THAT HINDERS THE LOVE OF JESUS

ANYTHING THAT ROBS YOU OF YOUR FAITH

7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

INVITATION: respond!

PROMISE: THE TREE OF LIFE

GENESIS 3

22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.

REVELATION 22

2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

1 JOHN 5

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith.

OUR FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD

JESUS

5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

