

**Rev.1:4** 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,

V.5 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—

**V.10** I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet,

V.11 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."

V.12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;

V.13 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.

V.14 His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire.

V.15 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.

V.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.

V.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,

V.18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

V.19 "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.

V.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 angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Review:

1:13 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.

a) This speaks of His **humanity**

V.14 *His head and His hair were white like white wool,* like snow; and *His eyes were like a flame of fire.*

1) "His head and His hair were white like white wool"

a) It speaks of His **deity**!

2) "His eyes were like a flame of fire"

a) His eyes speak of His **omniscience**

V.15 (NP)

V.15 *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*.

- 1) "His feet were like burnished bronze"
  - a) His feet of bronze speaks of **judgment**
- 2) "His voice was like the sound of many waters"
  - a) His voice sounded like many waters – speaks of His **glory**

V.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*.

- 1) "In His right hand He held seven stars"
  - a) The seven stars are angels – **messengers** – pastors of churches
- 2) "a sharp two-edged sword"
  - a) Speaks of the **Word of God**
- 3) "His face was like the sun shining in its strength"
  - a) Speaks of His **glory** & **majesty**

V.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*,

- 1) "Do not be afraid"
  - a) We are to **be in awe** of Him – the lost are to fear Him
- 2) "I am the first and the last"
  - a) This is **statement of deity**
  - b) Quote from **Isa.44 declaring Himself God**

V.18 and the living One; and *I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore*, and *I have the keys of death and of Hades*.

- 1) "I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore"
  - a) Speaks of His **humanity**
  - b) He **defeated death** forever
- 2) "I have the keys of death and of Hades"
  - a) **Keys** represent **authority, control** and **power**
  - b) Even hell trembles at His presence
  - c) He is King over all who are **alive** on earth or the **dead** in it
  - d) He is King over life and death and everything  
**Phil.2:9(NIV)** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,  
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

V.17 x (NP)

V.17 x 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,

V.18 x and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

V.19 "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.

1) "Therefore"

a) The **textus receptus** – which is the Greek manuscripts from which the King James Version of the Bible was translated left out a particle that is essential to understand **V.19**

i) **οὐν** – "Therefore" / "because"

ii) HE told John – b/c of Who I am & b/c I have the keys to death & Hades – write!

(1) "write the things which you **have seen**"

(2) 'Which **are**'

(3) 'Which **will take place**'

iii) The rest of this book is recorded **based on Who Christ is**

(1) It is His **unveiling!** (ἀποκάλυψις) of Christ

b) This book outlines itself

i) #1. **have seen** – what had he seen – **glorified Christ**

ii) #2. **which are** – **7 churches**

iii) #3. **which will take place** – the **rest of the book**

**Rev.2:1** "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:

1) "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write"

a) Ephesus was one of the **truly great cities** of antiquity

b) Ephesus was the most easily accessible city in Asia, **both by land and sea**.

c) Its harbor could easily handle the largest ships in the world

d) Ephesus was probably the fourth largest city in the world, with a population estimated at 250,000. Some have guessed (during the first and second centuries), about a 500,000

e) A modern city w/ the temple of Domitian, gymnasiums, public baths, a theater with seating for 24,000, a library with 200,000 scrolls

f) **McGee** says there was a large amphitheater there seating over 100,000 people

g) Because of the **games** held there each year the city at times had as many as **2 million people** in it

h) It had a beautiful view; a great climate, and **the soil** of the valley was unusually fertile

- i) It favored its religious, political and commercial **development**
- j) The famous Temple of Artemis / Diana was one of the **seven wonders of the ancient world**.
  - i) Almost four times larger than the **Parthenon** in Athens
  - ii) The temple was a museum
  - iii) The greatest bank in the world was in the temple
  - iv) Also an asylum. IF man committed a crime & could get to Temple of Diana he could avoid arrest.
    - (1) At first the precinct (**safe zone**) of the **Temple** was a bow shot distance (200 yds).
    - (2) Mark Anthony extended boundaries to include a part of the city.
    - (3) Augustus Caesar made the boundaries **1/4 mile** from the wall of temple.
    - (4) Here in the **same place** was a collection of the most notorious criminals and a largest bank
- k) The great theater in Ephesus, into which the rioting mob carried Paul's traveling companions, had a capacity of about 24,000
  - i) Referred to in **Acts**:
 

**Acts 19:23** About that time there occurred no small disturbance concerning the Way.

**V.29** The city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia.
- l) Paul wrote the book of Ephesians **to** the church in Ephesus
- m) Paul wrote **1 Corinthians** from Ephesus,
- n) John wrote **1 John** from there
  - i) John is **buried** there
- o) You can get the **feel** for the church at **Ephesus** by reading **Acts 18-20 & Book of Ephesians**
- p) The Church had some **great preachers**:
  - i) **Paul, Timothy, John**
- q) Once a year they held the **Artemesian / Ephesian** games
  - i) They rivalled the **Olympic games of Greece** in their glory
- r) It was a great church Paul wrote in **1 Cor.16:8**  
**1 Cor.16:8 (NP)**

**1 Cor.16:8** But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost;  
V.9 for a wide door for effective service has opened to me,  
and there are many adversaries.

s) Look at **Acts 18-20 – Ephesians** for some **background**

V.2 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;

1) "I know your deeds"

a) He **knows** our works – the word is in perfect tense

i) He sees clearly what we are doing & why – even if we don't know

ii) Remember – He walks among the lampstands!

b) "...our deeds" – our works

i) We are not saved by works

**Titus 3:5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

ii) But He has called us to do good works for Him

**Titus 2:6** Likewise urge the young men to be sensible;

7 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified,

**V.14** who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

**Titus 3:14** Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

\*The Ephesians worked to the point of **exhaustion**<

2) "your toil"

a) There is a sharp distinction between "**deeds**" above and **toil** here

b) The word "**toil**" means to work to point of exhaustion – pain – fatigue

c) They worked hard for Christ – they considered it serious – being a believer

3) "perseverance"

a) ὑπομονήν – hupo=under – meno=abide + hupomeno = **to abide under**

i) Picture of suffering under trials for Christ sake

ii) It wasn't easy being a believer in Ephesus

iii) Example:

a) Speaking of the Ephesian games mentioned earlier

- b) At the end of each day during the week of the games, after all was over, the last thing on the program was to march the prisoners who were condemned to death into the great amphitheater
  - i) There they would **turn loose** the starving wild animals on the prisoners; lions, tigers, wolves, dogs, etc. The people cheered as the animals tore the prisoners apart
  - ii) Paul was very aware of what they did each year –
    - (1) He was there over 2 years
  - iii) He made 2 comments that referred to that awful exhibition in depravity

**1 Cor.4:9** For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles **last of all**, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

**1 Cor.15:32** If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, LET US EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE.

\*The believers in Ephesus had to stand strong for their faith

#### 4) "you cannot tolerate evil men"

- a) In our day the more radical someone is the more spiritually enlightened they are thought to be
- b) The Ephesians didn't put up w/ such nonsense
- c) It was just the opposite at Corinth – they considered themselves enlightened b/c they tolerated evil.

**1 Cor.5:1**(NIV) It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife.

2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this?

- d) When men see tolerating evil as the intellectual thing to do their devolution is a quick spiral into insanity

- i) Man becomes numb to sin after a while

**2 Cor.11:13**(NIV) For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

**V.19 (NP)**

**V.19** You gladly put up with fools **since you are so wise!**

V.20 In fact, you even put up with anyone who **enslaves you** or **exploits you** or **takes advantage of you** or **pushes** himself forward or **slaps you in the face**.

\*This was **not** the Ephesian Church

5) "you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not"

- a) They didn't take what someone said at face value w/out testing it against Scripture
- b) Today someone can **say** something directly opposite Scripture & we say – well it's just semantics – that isn't what they mean – We give them a pass as though what was said isn't that important
- c) I grow very suspicious of someone's commitment when they say that
- d) **Words matter!** – how else do we communicate – Liars lie! That is what they continue to do
- e) **Words matter** even in government – for some that is their native language

**Mt.8:44**(NIV) You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

V.3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.

1) "and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary"

- a. **Laboring** to fatigue – keeping **steady** even under pressure – **not tolerating evil** – **questioning** what doesn't sound right spiritually – **is hard work!**
- b. It will wear you out! – but we are called to do just that
- c. I remember telling Barb one time – why do I have to keep paddling against the current – why does it have to bug me when it doesn't bother others concerning inaccuracy of Scripture?
- d. That is what I love about our elders – they're not tolerant of false doctrine
- e. Ephesus was a good Church!
- f. Paul loved them – 35 years earlier he **warned** them that false teachers would come

**Acts 20:28** "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers<sup>(elders)</sup> to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. **V.29 (NP)**

V.29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;  
30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

\*After all this time they **still** watched out for wolves

\*But they had done **one** thing wrong! **V.4**