

Wednesday Teaching Series
Revelation 1:9-20
February 11, 2009

The Book of Revelation
Lesson #4-Chapter 1 (Part-Two)

Review:

Introduction: (1:1-3)

- Jesus is the revealer and the revealed.
- To reveal what will shortly (in rapid form) come to pass.
- From Christ, to his angel, to John.
- Blessing to the hearer and the doer.

Greeting and the Doxology (1:4-6)

- Greeting (Grace and Peace) from Triune God
- Especially from Christ (faithful witness, firstborn from the dead and ruler over kings of the earth).
- Description of Christ goes further (loved us, redeemed us and made us Kings and Priests).

The Lord who is Coming (1:7, 8)

- Pay attention (behold) imminent return.
- Father, preparing us for the vision to come.

I. The Setting of Revelation

I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea." Revelation 1:9-11 NKJV

A. Island of Patmos

1. Small, rocky island 10 miles by 5 miles.
2. In Aegean Sea; 40 miles west-southwest of Miletus (Modern Turkey)
3. Roman authorities sent offenders here for punishment (probably trying to slow the growth of young church).
4. Enabled him to share in tribulation with them.
5. Banished for preaching.

B. In the spirit on the Lord's Day

1. Some: "I was carried in the Spirit unto the Day of the Lord."
2. Most: State of mind on Sunday (Lord's Day-Sunday) since the Didache in late 1st Century.
3. Because of the resurrection of Christ.

C. A loud voice identified and directing

1. Write what you are about to see.
2. Send it to the 7 churches.

II. The Appearance of Christ

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, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. Revelation 1:12-17 NKJV

A. The seven lampstands (turns to see who is talking but sees this first)

1. 7-branched lamp
2. Priests offered incense in tabernacle
3. Verse 20 says this represents the 7 churches

NOTE: Church as the Light of the World

*"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.
Matthew 5:14 NKJV*

*That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the
midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the
world, Philippians 2:15 NKJV*

Jesus in the midst

*For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of
them." Matthew 18:20 NKJV*

IMPORTANT:

*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. Revelation 2:5 NKJV*

If church fails as the light of the world; its reason for existence fails.

B. The Description of Christ

NOTE: Similar to 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! 6 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. Daniel 10:5-6 NKJV*

4 Exceptions:

- Daniel's messenger had golden band around waist/Jesus-chest
- Voice in Daniel like a multitude/hear like the sound of many waters
- Countenance in Daniel like lightning, but in Revelation it is as the sun shining full strength
- White head and hair, sword, seven stars not in Daniel

1. To reveal the glory of Christ and face like transfiguration.
2. Golden band around chest was emblem of high rank in ancient world.
3. Linen garment; priestly.
4. White hair-aged hand, and wisdom
5. Flaming eyes; penetrating vision.
6. Feet like brass, strength and the irresistibility of his judgment. I will later tread the wine press of his wrath.
7. Two edged sword-His Word
8. 7 stars in his hand (see v. 20)

III. The Commission of John

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. 19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. Revelation 1:17-19 NKJV

A. The Response

1. Fell as dead (similar to Daniel)

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. 9 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. Daniel 10:8-9 NKJV

2. Return to position
3. Identifies himself again
4. Power, even of death; will bring resurrection at the end

NOTE: Not the first time John had heard Jesus say "Don't be afraid."

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." Matthew 14:27 NKJV

But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." Matthew 17:7 NKJV

B. The Directive

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. Revelation 1:20 NKJV

- A. The lampstands; the seven churches
- B. The stars; “angels of seven churches” Greek: angelos; messenger
 - 1. Each letter given to the “angel of the church.”
 - 2. Expected to pass message along to the church.
 - 3. Angels used 60 times in Revelation; usually heavenly beings.
 - 4. Probably human messenger; pastor, bishop.

For this is he of whom it is written: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." Matthew 11:11 NKJV

Conclusion:

In the midst of trial, persecution, tribulation and uncertainty:

- A. In the midst of the church
- B. Holds the leaders in His hand