
Thursday Night Faith Fellowship Meeting – 07/01/2021

Today's Message: Study – The Book of Revelation Chapter 1 –
Salutations, Themes, The Vision of Jesus

Text: Revelation 1:4-16; Isaiah 11:1-2; John 1:1; John 3:16; 1 John 1:7; Acts 1:10-11;
1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:23; Luke 17:20-21; Romans 14:17; Acts 2:1-4;
and Daniel 12:4

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Notes: www.spiritjournals.orgn -or- <https://chrismc77.wixsite.com/spiritjournals/>

Bible Translation: New King James Version, unless otherwise noted

Greeting and Salutation 1:4-6

⁴John, to the seven churches which 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,

⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

⁶and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The Theme 1:7-8

⁷Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

The Vision of Jesus 1:9-16

⁹I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

¹¹Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

¹²And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

¹³And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

¹⁴His head and *his* hairs *were* white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes *were* as a flame of fire;

¹⁵And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

¹⁶And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance *was* as the sun shineth in his strength.

Teaching Outline:

Introduction to the Book of Revelation 1:4-8

Ten Facts About Jesus Christ – Revelation 1

1. Jesus was both a witness and a martyr (Rev 3:4; 1Pet 2:24; Heb 3:2)
2. The first begotten of the dead (Rev 1:5; 1Cor 15:20-23)
3. The prince of the kings of the earth (Rev 1:5) “ruler” “chief”
4. He loved us (Rev 1:5; cp Jn 3:16)
5. He washed us from our sins in His own blood (Rev 1:5; Mt 26:28; 1Jn 1:7)
6. He made us kings and priests unto God and His Father (Rev 1:6; 5:10; 20:4-6)
7. To Him be glory and dominion for ever (Rev 1:6; Isa 9:6-7; Dan 7:13-14; Lk 1:32-33; Rev 11:15; 22:4-5)
8. He will come with clouds – visibly and physically, as He went away (Rev 1:7; Dan 7:13-14; Mt 24:29-31; Acts 1:11; Rev 19)
9. They pierced Him (Rev 1:7; Jn 19:34)
10. He is God (Rev 1:8; Heb 1:8; Isa 9:6-7; Jn 1:1-2; Acts 20:28)

Teaching Outline (cont.):

The Theme – Revelation 1:7-8

The Vision of Jesus – Revelation 1:9-16

Outline:

Introduction to the Book of Revelation – Revelation 1:4-8

The Book of Revelation is not plural. There is one revelation. That one revelation is Christ. This is the Revelation of Jesus Christ. God reveals Jesus to the church through this book.

When Jesus spoke to His disciples in the Gospel of Matthew, they asked Him, Lord what is the sign of your coming and what's the time of your coming? When will this take place? Jesus told them, nobody knows the hour in which that takes place, me nor the angels in heaven. When Jesus ascended to heaven, the LORD gave Jesus that revelation. Jesus knows when He's coming back.

The Revelation was given to Christ first. Then Christ in turn sent it to John through an angel. Angels are used incredibly often in Revelation. They blow the trumpets. The angels pour out the vials of wrath. They fight at the battle of Armageddon with Christ. They fly into the heavens with messages of woe and warning to the earth. Angels come to John often in this book and talk to him. The angelic hosts are seen in heaven. There are four angels that will be released from the four corners of the earth but they will be releasing demon spirits. They're given the keys to four areas on the earth where a multi-million army of demons will be released upon the earth during the Great Tribulation to torment men.

This book is about Jesus Christ and the things that are soon to come to pass shortly hereafter. It is about the fact that the time is near. The time is at hand. This first chapter sets the tone for the entire book. This is a "revelation."

The theme of this book is the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ back to this earth with The Church. The theme of the Book of Revelation is the physical Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ with The Church at the Battle of Armageddon. To set-up an earthly kingdom on this earth of peace and prosperity in the millennial reign for the destruction of the forces of darkness. For the judgment upon this earth for sin and to bring Israel back to God through a series of judgments called the Great Tribulation Period. That Great Tribulation Period, though it may seem destructive at times, really ultimately is redemptive. It is to bring Israel to her knees. It is to bring her to a place that she has nowhere to turn but above.

When she turns to God and she accepts Christ as her Messiah and Savior, the heavens will open finally and the revelation will be fulfilled.

Outline

Introduction to the Book of Revelation – Revelation 1:4-8 (cont.)

Revelation 1:4:

⁴John, to the seven churches which 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,

John is speaking of the seven churches in Asia. But really he's actually speaking of Asia Minor. Asia Minor in Bible days was the area of modern-day Turkey.



Asia Minor is north of Israel.

As you can see, these are the seven churches John was instructed to send this letter to, this revelation. He's addressing the seven churches. The Holy Spirit told him to do it. We're gonna find out that Jesus is gonna appear to John shortly and name these seven churches.

He's gonna name Ephesus. He's gonna name Smyrna. He's gonna name Pergamos. He's gonna name Thyatira. He's gonna name Sardis. He's gonna name Philadelphia. And you've all heard of the Laodicean church. Those are actual churches that existed in Asia Minor which is modern-day Turkey.

Turkey is gonna play a role in the end times. She is gonna be a great persecutor of Israel. Turkey is also one of the four divisions of Alexander the Great's kingdom.

When we get to the empires and you see four beasts in Daniel 8 that came out of the sea, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, and Assyria, was part of the old Grecian Empire.

It was to these seven churches John was addressing. He said in John 1:4, "...Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come..." That verse, "which is, and which was, and which is to come," we read it last night in verse 19.

A lot of the phrases in Chapter 1 that the Holy Spirit uses to speak to John are used over and over. They're repeated.

ACTION: If the phrase is repeated, write the verses down, go back and study it.

Also, there's Thessalonica, the church of Thessalonica. That's where Paul wrote that letter because they thought the Rapture had occurred and he told them not quite yet as the Anti-Christ had not been revealed.

There's Corinth. You've heard about the Corinthians in the Aegean Sea. There's Patmos where John had his vision. There's Constantinople. We deal with Constantinople when we deal with the empires as well. That city is gonna play a role in the end times. There's the area of Galatia. There's Antioch. **They were first called Christians in Antioch.** That church in Antioch is found in the New Testament book of Acts. There's Rome where Paul was beheaded. That's where he sent the great book of Salvation. There's Colossae where he sent the book of Colossians. There's Philippi where he sent the book of Philippians. Of course Ephesus, the book of Ephesians. All of these churches are in the plan of God because Paul wrote letters to these churches.

Outline:

Introduction to the Book of Revelation – Revelation 1:4-8 (cont.)

Revelation 1:4:

...Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come...

John is getting this from Christ. He's speaking from Christ and from the seven spirits which are before the throne.

Isaiah 11:1-2:

¹And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots [speaking of Christ]: ²And the spirit of the LORD [1] shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom [2] and understanding [3], the spirit of counsel [4] and might [5], the spirit of knowledge [6] and of the fear of the LORD [7];

The Holy Spirit is one spirit. There's seven attributes of the Holy Ghost. The word seven spirits before the throne is what John saw. When we get to the "worship" chapters of Revelation 4 and 5, you're gonna see those seven Spirits rest upon the Lamb. The message in that is the Holy Spirit always anoints The Cross. Even in the final book of the Bible, you can't escape the message of The Cross. That is the gonna be the Theme of this book. That the Lamb of God, the Lamb that was slain all the way back in the Garden of Eden, **the revelation of the Lamb** is followed all the way through the Bible. Even in Revelation you can't escape the Holy Spirit and The Cross. That lets you know this book is solid. Even in the midst of Hell itself, the message of The Cross will always be the message of all eternity. And the Holy Ghost anoints it. He's gonna anoint the Lamb throughout this book. You're gonna hear the term, "Lamb" over and over. You're gonna hear what the Holy Spirit is doing over and over.

Outline:

Introduction to the Book of Revelation – Revelation 1:4-8 (cont.)

Revelation 1:5-6

⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

John is saying let it be so! John is giving us ten facts about Christ.

Outline:

Ten Facts About Jesus Christ – Revelation 1

1. *Jesus was both a witness and a martyr (Rev 3:4; 1Pet 2:24; Heb 3:2)*

Jesus was a witness to the New Covenant. He was a witness to the glory of God. He was a witness of the Word of God. He was the Word.

John 1:1:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was faithful to His calling and He was a martyr. Jesus was a martyr. He died for us.

Outline:

Ten Facts About Jesus Christ – Revelation 1

2. *The first begotten of the dead (Rev 1:5; 1Cor 15:20-23)*

Paul said He was the first fruits of the resurrection. He was the first one resurrected. Meaning that when we are resurrected at the Rapture, we're gonna be resurrected like He was. The first begotten of the dead. Nobody else can claim that title but Him. He is the purpose and the subject of this book. **He is the first begotten of the dead.**

Outline:

Ten Facts About Jesus Christ – Revelation 1

3. *The prince of the kings of the earth (Rev 1:5) "ruler" "chief"*

One day every king on this earth, every ruler on this earth, every ruler in heaven, every ruler in hell, every ruler in the universe, will bow at the feet of Jesus Christ and they will proclaim Him the Prince of Kings. He will be called Lord. He is the Ruler. He is the Chief. There is no ruler above Him.

One day He will be crowned as such. God the Holy Ghost is acknowledging this in this very first chapter of Revelation. This ultimately all ends with Jesus as King, Jesus as Ruler, and Jesus as Chief. He's not coming back to be crucified again. He's not coming back to be hung on a cross again. He's coming back without sin unto Salvation. This world will be ruled with a rod of iron. It will be a theocracy and all **the kings of the earth will either submit or be destroyed**. He's coming back to rule this earth.

There will be universal peace. There will be universal salvation. There will be universal prosperity, universal justice. There will be a universe unlike you've ever experienced. Man has not experienced this since the Garden. But it's coming.

Outline:

Ten Facts About Jesus Christ – Revelation 1

4. He loved us (Rev 1:5; Jn 3:16)
5. He washed us from our sins in His own Blood (Rev 1:5; Mt 26:28; 1Jn 1:7)
6. He made us kings and priests unto God and His Father (Rev 1:6; 5:10; 20:4-6)

Then John goes from Who He is into three things that He does. **He loved us**. He washed us. He made us. That's a message in itself.

John 3:16:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

This coming King loves us and washed us from our sins in His own Blood.

1 John 1:7:

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleansed us from all sin.

The way He cleansed us from our unrighteousness is through His Blood.

He's made us kings and priests. As the Prince of the kings and the Ruler of the kings and as the Chief of the kings when He comes back. He has made His body kings and priests unto God and His Father. God is His Father. You are a king unto God. You are a priest unto God. Christ is the Great High Priest.

But we take up a role of priesthood as we pray and as we seek God and intercede for our nation. Just like the High Priest interceded and prayed for the nation of Israel. Just as Jesus is praying at the right hand of the Father for His body, we are to take up that same call.

As kings that means we've been given dominion over this earth. We've been given dominion over the powers of darkness through Christ. That kingship is because we have believed in Christ. You are kings unto God. **He has given you the kingdom of God that is in you.** We can't see it. But He sees it in the hearts of every single individual born-again Child of God. The Holy Ghost is producing the Kingdom of God inside of you.

John gives us three things Jesus is. He's loved us. He's washed us. He's made us.

Outline:

Ten Facts About Jesus Christ – Revelation 1

7. *To Him be glory and dominion for ever (Rev 1:6; Isa 9:6-7; Dan 7:13-14; Lk 1:32-33; Rev 11:15; 22:4-5)*

John praises Him right now. John begins to tell you a little bit about Christ. He has glory and dominion. **All glory belongs to Christ. All dominion belongs to Christ.** No matter how man tries to twist and take credit, all glory and dominion belong to Christ.

Outline:

Ten Facts About Jesus Christ – Revelation 1

8. *He will come with clouds – visibly and physically, as He went away (Rev 1:7; Dan 7:13-14; Mt 24:29-31; Acts 1:11; Rev 19)*

Acts 1:10-11:

¹⁰And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; ¹¹Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

He went into the heavenly as a human being. As a man. **All man, all God.** He will come with clouds visibly and physically as He went away.

Outline:

Ten Facts About Jesus Christ – Revelation 1

9. *They pierced Him (Rev 1:7; Jn 19:34)*
10. *He is God (Rev 1:8; Heb 1:8; Isa 9:6-7; Jn 1:1-2; Acts 20:28)*

Those that pierced Him are gonna see Him as well. All will see Him come back.

You will see all ten facts over and over and over and over again from Revelation 1 through verse 20. There's enough Gospel in that list right now to save this entire world.

The point in this Salutation is that John is saluting the churches and the Holy Ghost anoints the Cross. He anoints the message of Jesus. He anoints the message of the Second Coming. He anoints the message of Christ's Glory. He anoints the message of His dominion. Every eye will behold Him. The world (including those that pierced Him, Israel) will know He is coming back. He's 100% man and 100% God.

Outline

The Theme – Revelation 1:7

This Revelation was given to Jesus by God the Father. This Revelation was then given by Jesus to the angel who gives it to John.

Revelation 1:7:

⁷Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

⁷Behold, He is coming with clouds...

The word clouds in Greek, in the original language means saints. The word clouds means saints. Meaning great number of saints.

We know there are two comings of Christ. He's coming with The Church. He's coming for The Church. If He's coming for The Church, He's not coming to this earth. He's coming in the clouds. What John is talking about is His Second Coming **with ALL the saints**.

... and every eye will see Him...

John is referring the physical Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. All who will be in the immediate vicinity of Jerusalem will see Him come.

... even they who pierced Him...

That speaks of national Israel. The Jews then will know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus is Messiah and Jesus is Lord.

... And all the tribes of the earth **will mourn** because of Him...

The earth is not gonna be glad to see Jesus come back. We will, we will be with Him. The earth's playday of sin will end. The corruption will end. The poverty will end. The age is gonna end. Sin is gonna end. The rebellion is gonna end. Man's inhumanity to man is gonna end. Everything that is tearing this world to pieces is gonna end when He comes back. As we move forward into Revelation, that the Theme of this book has everything to do with the Second Coming of Christ with the saints.

1 Thessalonians 4:16:

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1 Corinthians 15:23:

But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Outline:

The Theme – Revelation 1:8

Revelation 1:8:

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

Alpha and Omega are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. The beginning and the end. **Everything begins with Christ. Everything ends with Christ.** This is Jesus speaking. He’s telling John, I am the beginning and the end, the first and the last. The alpha and the omega.

...says the Lord “who is...”

He’s a present God. We don’t live in the past. God works from what is because he exists now. He is “who is.” He is anything you need him to be.

“...and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

He had no beginning. He’s been in existence forever. This great salvation plan has been drawn up for man. He is “who was.” You don’t have to worry about your present or your past. His “Who is” and “Who was” is inside of you through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Cross follows the narrative of the Bible from Genesis and it follows it all the way into Revelation. All of this is done because of The Cross. He is who is. He is who was. He’s also who is to come.

You can say this about God the Father because we call him Almighty God. You can say this about God the Son. You can say this about the Holy Spirit. They’re three in one. One God expressed in three people. This applies to all three. Jesus is speaking to John. The Holy Spirit is speaking this into John’s spirit.

We’ve gone through the Introduction, the Salutation, and the Theme of the book.

The next thing John deals with is **he’s about to see a vision that’s about to change his life.**

Outline:

The Vision of Jesus – Revelation 1:9-16

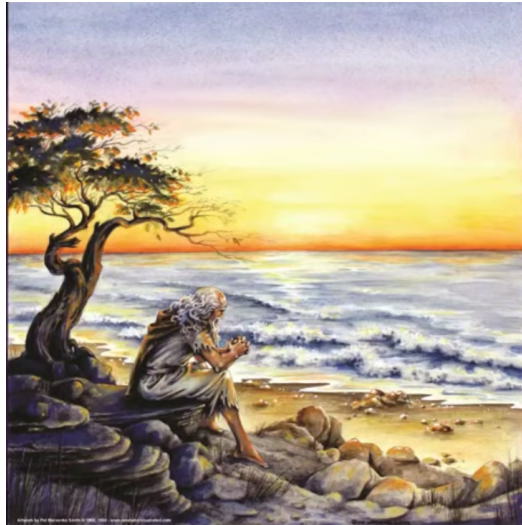
Revelation 1:9:

⁹I John, who also am your brother, and companion **in tribulation**, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

That word tribulation does mean that John was in the Great Tribulation as of yet. The church was being persecuted unmercifully by Rome. John had been thrown on the Isle of Patmos. He was thrown there for the Word of God **and the testimony of Jesus**. John is the only one of the original 12 disciples that survived without being martyred.



In AD 70, the Romans had come in and they had ransacked Jerusalem with Titus. The Jews were no longer in control of their own affairs. The Romans controlled Israel. The Roman ruler Domitian took John and exiled him to this little tiny island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea. John is speaking of the persecution that was going on in all the church at that time.



Artist rendition of John on that island. That body of water is the Aegean Sea. John sitting in isolation. John was an old man. This is a great illustration of the fact that even if you live close to God, as close to God as a human being could possibly be, it does not shield you from persecution. It does not shield you from isolation. It does not shield you from being thrown on an island to die.

People would have rather died than deny Christ. That is not a spirit that exists today in America, which is sad. People would rather stay in this world than give up their life for Christ. It's not so much that you die for Christ as much as if you live for Christ.

QUESTION: Are you willing to live for Christ?

There's no indication that John the Apostle ever lost faith on that island. God's eyes never left John. The Lord's eyes never left John. John was the only Apostle at the Last Supper that laid his head on the bosom of Jesus. This was the closest Disciple that Jesus had of the 12. When all the other Apostles fled that night. When all the other Apostles left Him on the night of His crucifixion, John was there. He didn't go nowhere.

He was never going to deny his faith for an easy out. He was setting the stage for one of the greatest revelation that we have been given in the entire Word of God.

The Book of Revelation is not the revelation of John, it's the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

John not only was a faithful witness and a person willing to die but he was one that loved Jesus with all of his heart, all of his soul, and all of his mind.

All the Romans emperors had a demon-inspired hatred for Christianity. They wanted every Christian eradicated from the face of the earth.

It was ordained that John was the only Apostle that never got martyred. All the rest of them died a horrible martyr's death. All of them, except John.

This is the backdrop of this book. This is the **powerful** Theme of this book. This book of Revelation is an encouragement to let you know, that no matter where you're at, God is with you!

Revelation 1:9:

⁹I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and **patience** of Jesus Christ...

What that means is that **the Kingdom of Christ is not here yet**. We're not in the physical kingdom yet. But we must wait patiently for it. It is established in hearts. It will be established in the earth later. It's not here yet.

Luke 17:20-21:

²⁰And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: ²¹Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Romans 14:17:

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Some of us may be dead before we see the Rapture of The Church but we will see the Kingdom of God on earth one day. It's not here now.

Outline:

The Vision of Jesus – Revelation 1:9-16 (cont.)

Revelation 1:10:

¹⁰**I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day**, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

John was Pentecostal. John was there on the Day of the Pentecost.

Acts 2:1-4:

¹And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴And **they were all filled with the Holy Ghost**, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

John was very familiar with the Holy Spirit. What happened to him on that island was different. It was something more powerful than even he had ever experienced. **The Holy Ghost came on him.**

1 Thessalonians 4:16:

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Trumpets are used quite a bit in Scripture to talk about the Second Coming **both for The Church and with The Church.**



This is a rendition of John turning and hearing that voice behind him. He hears this great voice as of a trumpet.

Outline:

The Vision of Jesus – Revelation 1:9-16 (cont.)

¹¹Saying, I am **Alpha and Omega, the first and the last:** and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Here's another repeated verse (Rev 1:8) and Jesus repeats to John again. I am **Alpha and Omega, the first and the last.** That **must be important** for us to remember. It all starts with Christ and it all ends with Christ. And everything in between is Christ.

... What thou seest, write in a book...

He's talking about the book of Revelation. Jesus has put his hand and seal of approval on the book of Revelation.

These repeated words are emphasized that Christ wants you to take away from His book.

Christopher McDonald "nuggets" –

Daniel was told the same thing. The difference between Daniel and John is that Daniel was told to seal-up his book. Daniel was never allowed to release his book until years after he died. His book actually compliments Revelation and Revelation compliments Daniel. God told Daniel through Christ, what you see, seal it up.

Daniel 12:4:

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, *even* to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.



...write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia Minor [modern day Turkey]; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation deal with the churches of Asia Minor and the letter that he wrote. These churches were presented personally by Christ and they're gonna represent church periods, the entirety of the church ages. They were actually churches with pastors. It all starts with leadership. Christ was concerned about the leadership.



Jesus wrote those letters to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea, all in modern-day Turkey.

Outline:

The Vision of Jesus – Revelation 1:9-16 (cont.)

Revelation 1:12:

¹²And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw **seven golden candlesticks**;



Look at the stars on Jesus' hand. Seven golden candlesticks that are representing the churches. Seven stars representing the pastors. This is telling you that He has the pastors in His hand. **A God-ordained pastor is one that is in the hand of Jesus.** A God-ordained church is gonna have Jesus in its midst. **He stood in the midst.**

Revelation 1:13:

¹³And **in the midst** of the seven candlesticks **one like unto the Son of man**, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

In Revelation 1:20 Jesus will tell John what those stars and candlesticks represent.

Jesus is in the midst of the churches except Laodicea. Laodicea represents the **modern church of the world.**

Jesus speaks to the church the final time in Revelation 3:14-22. Where He's walking in the midst of the other six, when he gets to Laodicea, He's outside the door knocking waiting to get in. Laodicea represents us. He's outside knocking because Laodicea has reached a point that they do not feel like He needs to be in their midst. They can carry on without Him in their midst.
