

THE REVELATION

LESSON 4: THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, PART 2

Review:

Big Idea: Revelation reveals the glorified Messiah who is both transcendent and immanent.

⁹I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, ...

- John self-identifies as their _____ and _____ in tribulation.
- They were all experiencing _____. Persecution was breaking out against them.
- He shares with them the _____ found in Christ to withstand this tribulation.
- John's tribulation was enduring exile on _____, a small Greek island in the Aegean Sea just off the coast of Asia Minor.
- He was there for the testimony of Jesus.
- "*in the Spirit*" or under the _____ of the Spirit much like the visions of _____.
- The loud voice commands him to record what he sees and send it to the seven churches.

What is the significance of this?

¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

- He starts by seeing seven golden lampstands.
- In Zechariah 4:1-7 we see lampstand with _____. "Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit" says the Lord.
- Exodus 25:31ff we see the 7 lampstands in the _____ & then temple.
- "*one like a son of man*" is found in _____ in referring to the eschatological Son of Man who judges the nations.

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- In Ezekiel, the phrase “*son of man*” refers to _____ and is spoken by God. Here it points to one greater than the one receiving the vision.
- Patmos has _____ producing thunderous noise.

Describe Him: What do the various images convey to us?

Bronze is an alloy of copper and tin dating back to the 4th millennium BC in Susa (Babylon, modern Iran). It was harder and more durable than stone, copper and wrought iron. Roman _____ had bronze swords.

What does it mean that THIS Jesus loves you?

How would you respond to seeing something/someone like this?

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. ¹⁹ Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. ²⁰As for the mystery of the seven stars that 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.

- _____ fell on his face (1:28; 3:23; 9:8; 11:13; 43:3; 44:4) often after the _____ fell on him. _____ fell on his face, in a deep sleep (8:17, 18; 10:9).
- “*Fear not*”. John is to draw _____ from the _____ of Jesus.
- “*First and the last*” alludes to the Alpha & Omega.

He died and yet lives. Why is this pertinent to their context?

What has he seen?

All views understand those things that are to be at the time of the Revelation. Where they disagree is the time frame of those to take place after this. Are they past tense to us, or future tense to us? What are the present things?

“angels” can also mean “messengers”. The 7 letters are written to the “*ἄγγελος* of the church. Do you think he’s referring to angels or men?

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- He holds them in His right hand. They are _____ from any enemies there (John 10:28).
- Jesus is among the churches. He is present (immanent as well as transcendent) to _____ and _____.
- The priest often _____ the lamps: pure oil & bright light.
- Jesus has been examining the churches and is about to reveal what He finds.

Pattern:

- Focus on one aspect of Jesus' self-revelation. It pertains to their circumstances.
- Their _____ traits (all but 2 churches) which should continue.
- Their _____ (all but 2 churches) which need _____.
- Promises of _____ and _____.

Historicist	Futurist	Preterist	Idealist
View the churches as each representing successive periods of church history. Only one would directly pertain to us today	Some view them as historic churches with application to us. Some view them as representative of successive periods in church history.	Historical churches whose letters are applicable to us.	Historical churches whose letters are applicable to us.

Typical Historicist Breakdown

- Ephesus Apostolic Age => 100 AD
- Smyrna Church Enduring Persecution 100 => 313 AD

- Pergamos Carnal Church 313 => 500 AD
- Thyatira Papal Church 500 => 1500 AD
- Sardis Reformation Church 1500 => 1700 AD

- Philadelphia Missionary Church 1700 => Present

- Laodicean Lukewarm Church Pre-Rapture?

Discuss the pros & cons of this view?

A Better Option

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The province of Asia comprised modern day Turkey. They are listed in order of delivery if sent by messenger. A circular road held together this “populous, wealthy and influential part of the Province.”¹³

Conclusion: Jesus is not disinterested in the Church. He walks among the churches and evaluates the churches. He offers blessings for faithfulness and threatens discipline for unfaithfulness. All of this is evidence of His love and power.

¹³ William Ramsay quoted in Stott, John. *What Christ Thinks of the Church*. Wheaton, Harold Shaw. 1990. pp. 7.