
Revelation – Msg 2
Amongst The Church
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Key Passages: Revelation 1:9-20

Overview

Revelation begins as a prophecy given by Jesus to the 7 churches in early Asia Minor, which is now modern Turkey. Although the 7 churches to which the letters were written were historical churches, the letters seem to also be to the church today. The book of Revelation is full of historic and future revelations given to John. In message two, we will begin to look at the seven churches and who Jesus is addressing in his prophetic word to the church.

Revelation 1:9-20 The Seven Churches and Jesus Christ

9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Based on verse 9, what do you think is taking place to the seven churches and John?

(1) According to Revelation 1:9, the churches in Asia along with John are suffering from a great Persecution

When John says that the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance are ours in Jesus, what do you think he means by such a statement?

Look at **Matthew 16:24** for a hint

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

John is leading by example, just as Christ led by example
These guys gave it all for the glory of God.

Do you struggle with making your faith known in a place where the level of persecution is minor compared to what John and the believers in Asia experienced?

What are some ways in which you can change that based on John’s words in Revelation 1?

10 On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

What does John mean by “I was in the Spirit”?

Look at **John 4:23-24** and look at the day that John is referring to.

*23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father **in the Spirit** and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 **God is spirit,** and his worshipers must **worship in the Spirit** and in truth.”*

(2) John was Worshiping when he had the visions in the book of Revelation

11 which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”

(3) In Rev 1:11, Jesus is speaking a prophetic word to be delivered to the churches in Asia minor.

12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. 15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

In Rev:12, what do the golden lampstands represent? (there is a clue in verse 11)

(4) The seven golden lamp stands represent the seven churches in Asia minor.

Who was amongst the lampstands? (Look at **Matthew 19:28**)

28 Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

(5) According to Rev. 1:13, Jesus is amongst the Church

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. 18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

John and Jesus were close friends.

Do you believe that John did not recognize who he was at first?

Read Daniel 8: 15-19

15 While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man. 16 And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision."

17 As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision concerns the time of the end."

18 While he was speaking to me, I was in a deep sleep, with my face to the ground. Then he touched me and raised me to my feet.

19 He said: "I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath, because the vision concerns the appointed time of the end."

Do you see any similarities between Daniel 8:15-19 and Revelation 2:17?

19 "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. 20 The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

(6) According to Rev. 1:20, angels have been assigned to churches

Conclusion

- (1) According to Revelation 1:9, the churches in Asia along with John are suffering from a great Persecution
- (2) John was Worshiping when he had the visions in the book of Revelation
- (3) In Rev 1:11, Jesus is speaking a prophetic word to be delivered to the churches in Asia minor.
- (4) The seven golden lamp stands represent the seven _____ in Asia minor.
- (5) According to Rev. 1:13, Jesus is amongst the church
- (6) According to Rev. 1:20, angels have been assigned to churches