

Session Seven:

Revelation 1:10-20

I) John's Commissioning To Write The Revelation (Revelation 1:10-11)

- A) **Revelation 1:10-11** *"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 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..."*
- B) As John is locked up as a political prisoner, suffering for the Gospel and chained to the Island of Patmos he hears a loud voice that sounds like a trumpet.
- C) John says that he was in the Spirit when he heard His voice. This doesn't mean he was speaking in tongues, or being led by the Spirit as way of life. But rather that he was in an ecstatic experience.
- D) John is wanting us to know that he is fully under divine inspiration. Much like Paul in **2nd Corinthians 12** where he sees things he can't talk about. This experience is giving John things he couldn't have received on his own.
- E) And speaking of the Lord's Day, John's not saying that it happened on a Sunday. There are a couple of thoughts about this phrase "on the Lord's Day."
- 1) John was referring to the Day of the Lord. Many of us have special days that we love to celebrate and talk about, but so does Jesus. This 22 chapter book is nearly all about Jesus' yet coming Day, when all things are made new.
 - 2) Domitian who ruled around 81-96 A.D. demanded to be addressed by the titled of Lord and God. He demanded universal worship of himself at the penalty of death. Once a year incense was to be thrown on the altar before his image with the acclamation he was Lord. This Day became titled as "the Lord's Day."
 - 3) David Pawson points out "that the word Lord is in the form of a adjective meaning *Lordy or Lordly day.*"

II) Jesus Reveals Truths About His Majesty and Ministry In What He Wears Says and Does (Revelation 1:11-20)

- A) **Revelation 1:12-13** *"Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lamp stands, and in the midst of the seven lamp stands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band."*
- B) As John turns around to see voice that spoke with him he sees Jesus standing in the midst of the lamp stands. It's clear that Jesus has positioned Himself in the midst of His Church. The Church is actually positioned around Christ.

- C) If we want to engage with Jesus right now, it's imperative that we partner with the local Church. Some falsely assume that Church is in the woods, at Cabelas, Nordstrom or at the beach.
- D) But according to Jesus, It's in the Church that He is speaking, leading, directing, correcting, empowering, strengthening, delivering and overseeing.
- E) John was strategically commissioned by Jesus in the previous verse to write what he was about to see and send it to the Churches. It's not a coincidence that when he looks at Jesus, He's dressed as a High Priest and a Prophet standing in the midst of His Churches.
- F) Jesus wants those Churches to know that they can trust His words, His rebukes, His praise, His encouragement and His correction of them, because He is the true Prophet of God and the One who both made intercession for their lives and continues to make intercession for them.
- 1) He is giving those Churches confidence that He is both Tender (Priest) and Truthful (Prophet).
- G) How Jesus is dressed gives us great confidence that He hasn't done away with the Old Testament, nor is the God of the Old Testament different from the God of the New Testament.
- 1) Jesus' apparel here is identifying Him with Old Testament Priests and Prophets (**Exodus 28:4;39:29; Zech. 3:4**). The gold speaks of His divinity and supreme place among the prophets and priests.
- H) **Revelation 1:14** *"His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire..."*
- I) John sees that Jesus, bears the same resemblance of His Father, the Ancient of Days. Jesus is uncreated, eternal, preexistent and preeminent. This is the **Daniel 7:9** Father/Son.
- 1) **Colossians 1:16** *"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the Church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."*
- J) *"...His eyes like a flame of fire..."* These eyes declare what's happening in the heart of this Jealous Bridegroom.
- 1) **John 5:35** *"He was the burning and shining lamp..."* John was burning on the inside and shining out the outside.
 - 2) **Song Of Songs 8:6** *"...For love is as strong as death...it's flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame..."*
 - 3) The passion (fire) in Jesus' eyes will be positive for some and negative for others. David Pawson says "no wonder they blindfolded Jesus while they struck Him. Who could mock Him while looking into those eyes."

- K) **Revelation 1:15** *"His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of mighty waters..."*
- L) His feet like brass speaks of His ready commitment to trample sin and compromise. This Man, as a fierce Judge is qualified to crush His enemies because He has been refined in a furnace of personal affliction. His suffering inflicted by the evil one, empowers Him to deal with sin and wickedness.
- M) And His voice is powerful like the crashing of the waves upon the sea. Nobody talks over this Man and His words will be heard, though many currently neglect and ignore them (**Ezek 1:24**).

Revelation 1:16-17 *"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. 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".*

- N) The right hand of God in the Bible always speaks of His power and His ready ability to deliver. John sees that He is holding these messengers in His right hand.
- 1) There's much conversation around what these star's represent. It's my belief that these stars spoken of here represent people, humans, not angelic beings.
 - 2) **Revelation 1:20** *"The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand...the seven stars are the angels of the seven Churches..."*
 - 3) The Greek word used there for Angel is translated as messenger and it can mean either angelic or human. It seems unlikely that God would give information to an earthly messenger (John) and have him give the message to a heavenly messenger (Angel) to give to the Churches (**Isa. 42:19; Hag. 1:13; Mal. 2:7; Mal. 3:1**).
 - 4) It's also strange to think about a heavenly messenger (Angel) being responsible for an earthly Church. I believe it's best to see these angels as Pastors, Shepherds, Elders, Bishops or Apostles.
 - 5) It's not uncommon for people to be referred to as stars in the Bible (**Genesis 15:5; 22:17; Daniel 12:3; Matthew 13:43; 1st Corinthians 15:39-42**).
- O) **John 10:28-29** *"And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are One."*
- P) Jesus holds His messengers in His hand. He's tender towards weak lovers who share His life with others. Jesus is about to address these Churches, and He wants them to know that He holds them dear. The message is dear to Jesus.
- Q) *"...out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw it I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, I am the First and the Last. 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."*

- R) Jesus' words have always been His weapon. When He said that life and death are in the power of the tongue, He wasn't kidding (**Prov.18:21**). His words slay the wicked man and strip the excuses away those that want to contend with Him.
- 1) David Pawson says "that Roman Soldiers bayonet's were actually shaped somewhat like a tongue."
- S) When John sees the fullness of the Resurrected Lord, he falls as a dead man. He was shining like the sun in its strength. What does this mean?
- T) This is the same John that went up the mount of Transfiguration (**Luke 19:27-36**) leaned His head on Jesus' chest (**John 13:25**) and ate a meal with Him on the sea of Galilee (**John 21:1-14**).
- U) I wonder, based on what Jesus says to John if John was in the Joshua position from **Joshua 5:13-15**.
- V) It's also true that if we could see what John, Paul, Ezekiel, David, Abraham and Peter saw, we could live like they lived. Our struggle is with our lack of sight.
- W) Jesus then touches John and reminds assures John, it's the same Jesus. John's skeptical. And then Jesus reassures John that He is now in possession of the all authority, even death, hell and the grave.
- X) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."
- Y) This is the structure of the Revelation in a nutshell.
- 1) Revelation 1—The things which you have seen.
2) Revelation 2-3—The things which are.
3) Revelation 5-22—The things which are yet to come.
- Z) 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.
- 1) Jesus, like most the Revelation explains the things John was looking at. He makes it clear that the seven lamp stands are the seven Churches and the seven stars are seven apostolic overseers.
- 2) Both the message (Stars) and the Church (Lamp stands) are dear to Him and He's not willing that either suffer.