

REVELATION SERIES - LESSON 3

REVELATION 1:12 - 2:7

(Vs 12)

“7 Golden Lampstands” - It’s a “Menorah” it’s a 7 branched candelabra.

It’s the only source of light in the temple.

In Revelation 1:20, it literally tells us what the lampstands represent.

(Vs 20)

The 7 Lampstands represent the 7 churches in Rev 2 & 3.

So each “menorah” represents a church.

We are to be light in a very dark world. It’s symbolic but we are to be light in the midst of darkness.

He sees these 7 lampstands and one like the “Son of Man”

That title is a Messianic title straight out of Daniel 7:13.

He sees Jesus and he describes Him in vs 13-16.

Description of Jesus

(Vs 13) - Majesty

(Vs 14) - Purity

(Vs 15) - Authority

(Vs 16) - Glory (Shekinah)

(Vs 13) - This is a full on description of Jesus.

Hair & head white = purity

Eyes like flame of fire = Idea of Judgement

Sharp two edged sword = it's the picture of the word of God going out of his mouth.

(Vs 17) - "Fell at feet as dead" - not slain in the spirit but basically just undone.

17b - 18 - The Lord declares himself to be the risen Lord.

(Vs 19) - He tells John to write the things which you've seen.

It's an outline of the entire book.

1 - Have seen Ch 1 (Appearance of Jesus)

2 - Which are Ch 2-3 (Church Age)

3 - Which will take place after this (Ch 4 - 22)

12 times he is told to write it down.

(Vs 20) Circle - Angels

Ch 2:1 - Angel = "Angelos" = "Messenger"

In the context of this it actually "messenger". It can be a human vessel communicating secretly on behalf of the Lord.

Its a letter to the messenger of the church. I believe the messenger is the Pastor.

Every time you see messenger in 2 - 3, it's to the Pastor of these churches.

Ch 2 - 3 - deals with these letters to the 7 churches.

Few things we need to understand about these churches:

1 - Literal in Existence

Each church was located in Turkey in 1st century.

It was Asia Minor in Biblical times but today it's Turkey.

All of these were literal churches. So it's not merely symbolic.

2 - Spiritual in Relevance.

Each church represents and addresses issues relevant to believers today.

3 - Historical Significance

Each of the letter represents a different era in church history even including up to this present day.

Similarities in the 7 letters

1. All began with a special title for Jesus.
2. All are addressed to the “Angel” or Pastor of each church.
3. All begin with Jesus knowing their works.
4. All contain a commendation and a complaint of both.
5. All close with a reference or allusion to Jesus second coming
6. All close with a special promise or reward to the “overcomers”.

7. All close with same challenge “He who has an ear, let him hear.”

Church Timeline Chart

Each church points to a time line in church history.

Ephesus is basically 33AD - 100 AD.

So 100 AD is roughly the time frame of when the Apostle John died. (End of Apostolic Age).

When you come to Philadelphia and Laodicea they each have things relevant to today.

Philadelphia 1750 - Rapture

In the mid 1700's we had the great awakening take place.

The "great awakening" - brought us the evangelical church.

However around 1900 something else happened.

Liberal theology really began to creep into the church.

And 2 paths became very divergent in the protestant church.

1. Evangelical Christianity

2. Liberal Theology

The church at Philadelphia gets no rebuke.

The church at Philadelphia will be raptured.

The Laodicea church is the liberal church that really rejects a personal relationship with Christ. It's theology that discounts the Deity of Christ.

(Ch 2) - It begins with letter to church at Ephesus.

Ephesus was the Apostolic Church.

Title of Jesus: "Him who holds seven stars in His right hand, who works in midst of 7 Golden Lampstands".

Commendation - Hard working, persevering, discerning of false doctrine . . . The Nicolaitans.

Complaint - Left their first love.

Reward - "To eat from tree of life in Paradise".

(2:1-7)

Ephesus - located on Eastern shores of Turkey on Aegean Sea.
Population of 300 - 500K people.

It was extremely prosperous and was on a major trade route and as a port.

Also known for rampant immorality.

There was a temple there to the goddess Diana.

It was large and was considered one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world.

Diana was goddess of sex and fertility.

It was the Las Vegas of Roman Empire.

Paul's ministry was descended in Acts 19 - 20.

When you read Acts 19 - 20, people who were engaged in sorcery and witchcraft were bringing and burning their books and material.

So great things were happening but 30 years later it's gone.

(Vs 4) - "Left" = who is the first Love? Jesus.

Jesus commends and compliments them. “Works, labor, perseverance”.

He wants us to respond to His initialing love by us responding in love.

Another aspect of this compliment is there dealing with the (Nicolaitans).

Nicao = to conquer

Nire = victory

Loas = laity

Nicolaitans = to conquer the Laity.

It is this hierarchical system where there is someone between man and God.

That is a form of “conquering the Laity” - Nicolaitans

Jesus is only mediator between God and man.

(Vs 5) - calls them to repent.

Interesting that we haven't heard about tree of life since Genesis 2.

And the tree of life was relinquished, but here it's regained.

Here we are told we will see it again. It's like it was uprooted in Gen 2 and replanted in Rev 22.

