

February 11th, 2024
Revelation 1:9-20 The Keys to Life and Death

Revelation 1:12-16

12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, **13** and 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.

[Show Revelation Chart]

- We are currently in what is called the “**Church Age**”
- The Old Testament is called the **Age of the Law**. Remember you have over 600 laws for the Jewish people to follow. These laws are called the Mosaic Law or the Laws of Moses. The first five books of the Bible is called the Torah. So from **Genesis** to the last book in the Old Testament, **Malachi**.
- Now in the New Testament, starting from Acts 2, the people encountered the Holy Spirit. At Pentecost, the disciples witness the **birth of the New Testament church** in the coming of the Holy Spirit that came to indwell in all believers.
- Even Jesus predicted the Church Age:

Matthew 16:18

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build my church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Jesus has kept His promise and the church has been growing for 2,000 years. The ***Church Age will end when God's people are raptured out of the world*** and taken to be with the Lord. So we are now living in what is called the "Church Age."

[Show Revelation Chart]

Now remember, it is during this short window, we have to bring as many people to Christ. That's why God commands us to **"go and make disciples of all nations."**

Short Review:

What is Revelation?

Revelation (Greek Word: apokalypsis, pronounced ap-ok-al'-oop-sis in English it means "Apocalypse"): an **uncovering**, an **unveiling**, a **disclosure**, or **revealing**.

Revelation is the "uncovering" or "unveiling" of the Person, Power and Plan of Jesus Christ. In other words, the **glory of God** will be revealed. And Revelation is a prophetic book, the second coming of Jesus.

When will this happen?

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be **proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations**, and **then the end will come**.

So when the testimony of Jesus is spread across the whole world,

Revelation 1:3

Blessed is the one who **reads** aloud the words of this prophecy, and **blessed** are those who **hear**, and who **keep** what is written in it, for the time is near.

You are blessed if you

- **read** the words of this prophecy
- **hear** the words of this prophecy
- **keep** the words of this prophecy

Keep in Greek is **tēreō** pronounced **tay-reh'-o** to to attend to carefully, take care of (guard, observe, watch, preserve)

Now the vision begins:

We last left it off with Revelation 1:8. Let's quickly review that.

Revelation 1:8-11

8 "I am the **Alpha** and the **Omega**," says the Lord God, "who is (Present) and who was (Past) and who is to come (Future), the Almighty."

- Alpha and Omega are the Greek meaning the beginning and the end.
- Aleph and Tav are the Hebrew meaning of the beginning (Aleph) and the end (Tav).
- In English we say from A to Z meaning from the beginning to the end.

The idea is that **God is the complete God**. What He started in the beginning, He will finish to the end. That's why when God makes a promise, He will fulfill His promise. This is great for us because we want a God who will fulfill His promises.

Isiah 48:12

"Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called!
I am he; **I am the first**, and **I am the last**."

God is saying, "I have given you the sum total of it all. I am the sum total of everything."

Revelation 1:9-11

9 I, 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 **11** saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

Revelation 1:9 I, 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.

- Remember, John was in prison for sharing the Word. He was sent to an the Island of Patmos: The Island of Patmos is a volcanic, treeless, rocky island. It is about 20 miles off the western coast of modern Turkey. It is here, he receives the visions in Revelation.

Revelation 1:10 I was **in the Spirit** on the **Lord's day**, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet:

Hebrew for Spirit is "**Ruach**" in Greek it is "pneuma," pronounced **pn̩yoo'-mah**: Breath, Wind, Spirit (the third person of the triune God, the Holy Spirit, coequal, coeternal with the Father and the Son)

- In Greek there is no "the" Spirit. It just says "**in Spirit**." The Bible explains to us that the Holy Spirit inspired the authors to write the Bible, but it's more than that. It's like if God took John into an outer body experience. God took John "in Spirit" to a spiritual realm for John to witness things he needs to see and hear.
- "**Lord's Day**": This is not the Jewish Sabbath which is Saturday but on Jesus' Day which is when he rose from the dead, which for us

Christians is why we worship on Sundays (The Resurrected Christ). This is important because you will have Christians tell you, that **you need to worship God on Saturday** because that's the Jewish Sabbath and the Jews worship on Saturday. Here, John is making it clear that **Sunday is the Lord's Day**.

Question: ***What do you think Jesus will look like when He returns the second time?***

[Show image of Jesus 2nd return with all the saints and angels]

Let's see a show of hands. Is this what you would imagine?

Let's read V. 12-16. Here is John ready to describe the Son of Man.

Revelation 1:12-16

12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw **seven golden lampstands**, **13** and 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.

Why the “seven golden lamp stands?”

- We know what “**seven**” means which means wholeness and complete. (Alpha and Omega)
- We know what “**gold**” represents, which means “**purity**,” or something that is pure and has no defect.

[Show image of the Menorah]

- Why the “**lamp stands**?”: Remember, inside the tabernacle the large tent in which God dwells with his people. The only source of light inside the tabernacle was the light. **This light is also called**

“Menorah” [Show bread on the right, altar in the center before the “Ark of the Covenant” and you have the Menorah on the left.]

- What is interesting is that almost all of the Jewish synagogues have menorah to remind them of the tabernacle and the temple they once had.

But here is ***Jesus’ explanation of the Menorah*** when the temple was there and the seven lamp stand was also there.

John 8:12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “**I am the light of the world.** Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Jesus was referring to the seven lamp stands because it was the only source of light in the Temple and Jesus is saying that He is the light. The tabernacle is not the light. The temple is not the light, but ***Jesus is the light of the world***. Remember, the temple was destroyed in 70 AD, so where is the light of the world? None! but God. So in Revelation, God is reminding us that when He returns at the 2nd Coming, this same God will be the light of the world again.

Revelation 1:14

The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His **eyes were like a flame of fire**,

[Show image of Jesus “**eyes were like a flame of fire.**”]

The Greek word for “**flame**” is ***phloz***, which describes **swirling, whirling, flickering flames that bend, twist, turn, and arch upward.**

The word translated “**fire**” is ***puros***, the Greek word for a burning fire. Thus, the phrase “flame of fire” depicts ***a brightly burning fire with flames swirling, whirling, flickering, twisting, turning, and arching upward toward the sky.*** This, then, is not a depiction of heat but of

the character of fire. “**Fire**” is a symbol in Scripture and frequently represents ***purification*** and ***judgment***

So when Jesus comes there will only be **two types of fire**:

Sanctifying Fire: If we as individuals, or as the Church at large, submit to the pleadings of the Holy Spirit (Obey His Commands and His voice and Walk in His ways or Walk in the Spirit) and “***hear what the Spirit has to say to the churches***,” we will experience the *first* type of fire — a holy fire intended to ***purify and to make us more like Christ***. (Remember, this is a good kind of fire. A sanctifying fire or cleansing fire.)

[Show image of “chaff” or filtering wheat harvest]: During the harvest they would put the wheat in a filter and shake it side to side. The good food would go down but the outer shells would be burnt up or fed to animals.

Second Type of Fire: If we resist (non-repentant, they don’t want to change their ways) the pleadings of the Holy Spirit and stubbornly continue to act in ways that are contrary to Christ’s character, there is **a second type of fire that burns up chaff and consumes everything that stands opposed to God**. Bottom line, if you reject God, then there will be an eternal fire.

[Note: Chaff is dry, scale-like plant material such as the protective seed casings of cereal grains, the scale-like parts of flowers, or finely chopped straw. Chaff cannot be digested by humans, but it may be fed to livestock, ploughed into soil, or burned]

So when Jesus comes again, He will come again with fire.

Revelations 1:14-15

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**.

There is a parallel of the same Jesus in Daniel 10:5-6

Daniel 10:5-6

5 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. **6** His body was like beryl, his **face like the appearance of lightning**, his **eyes like flaming torches**, his arms and legs like the **gleam of burnished bronze**, and the **sound of his words like the sound of a multitude**.

If God reveals Daniel in the Old Testament about Jesus and then in the New Testament God reveals to John about Jesus in the **exact same matter**, then this is a “**great**” news for all believers. Why?

The book of Daniel is in the Old Testament and Revelations is in the New Testament is the same, then God has never changed from the OT to the NT. And if **God has never changed** and that is a “great” news for you and I. Because you want a God that is same, always consistent, and always committed from beginning to the end.

That’s why when we have turned and went on the wrong path (we’ve sinned) and we turn around (repent) and make things right before God, **He is there to receive us with Grace**.

Orr when trials and tribulation come our way, this same God says, “**I will never leave you nor forsake you**.” (**Deuteronomy 31:8**) This is a very comforting news. This is a very comforting news that the God we know will never change.

That’s why in John says to the seven churches:

Revelations 1:4

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: **Grace** to you and **peace** from him **who is** (present) and **who was** (past) and **who is to come (future)**, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

Guys, this is the same God who was with Abraham when he gave a birth at age 100 and Sarah his wife at 90. This is the same God who was with Moses during the **40 years of wilderness**. And, this is the same God who was with all the Apostles when they were thrown in prison. And this is the **same God who is with you today**.

Revelations 1:17-19

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**, **18** and 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.

“**I am the first and the last**”: Alpha and the Omega the Aleph and Tav, He is from A to Z. He is the one who is complete. The one who is the beginning and the same person who is at the end. What God started in you, He will finish to the end.

In Closing

“**I have the keys of Death and Hades**”: Possessing the “**keys of death**” means that the risen Christ has **control** and **authority over death**. It’s like saying, “**Jesus you have the key to the house. You determine, who can go in the house and who does not.**”

This is the most important and the biggest news that everyone should hear, is that Jesus is the one with the key’s to life and death.

Let me ask you a question: If you can give the key to your house to anyone in the world, who would you give that key to? I don’t think

you would give that key to just anyone. Or maybe, the other people don't want to go into the person who is the holder of the key. ***"I don't want to go into your house, no matter how big it is because you are not the person I want to imitate."***

But if God has the key and He determines who would come in to the house. A God that loves you and welcomes you has the key to the house, and He welcomes everyone who's heart turns to the Lord.

Romans 10:9

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

God has the key of life and death and He is open for anyone that believes.

John 3:16-17

16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Revelation Chart

