

REVELATION: CHAPTER 1

Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John:

- From God to Jesus to His angel (*Gk.32-messenger*) to John. (*Here we see the only N.T. book revealed to its writer minus the inspiration of Holy Spirit with the exception of 1:10 and 4:2.*) The Old Testament prophet Daniel was told to "seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now" (*ESV- Dan. 8:26*). That vision concerned Antiochus in 164 BC (*Dan. 8:23*). *Dan. 12:4* states "shut up the words and seal the book" which had to do with things that were not to happen in Daniel's lifetime (*12:13*).

Here we see the phrase "shortly come to pass" and in chapter 22:10 John is told to "seal not "...for the time is at hand"; just as the kingdom (*church*) spoken of by John the immerser and Jesus came on the day of Pentecost shortly thereafter.

Mat 3:2 "Repent ye: for the kingdom of Heaven is **at hand**." (*Emp. added*)

Mar 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is **at hand**: repent ye and believe in the Gospel. (*Emp. added*) (*The kingdom of God and of Heaven is synonymous with the church of Christ- Mat 6:10.*)

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Rev 1:2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

- bare record- testified. (*Jn. 1:14/ 1 Jn. 1:3*)
John bore witness concerning Jesus.

- testimony- (*Gk.3141-witness/evidence*)
John saw first-hand the life of Christ and His death, burial and resurrection (*Act 1:21-22*). Here also, is his testimony concerning all things that he saw.

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Rev 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

- readeth- Gk.314- to *know again*, that is, to *read*. Thus, there is a certain amount of going back over the reading to re-familiarize one's self with the subject over and over. As a learned brother in the church once said, when you don't understand a particular passage of scripture before going immediately to a commentary, read it over several times, taking breaks in between, before relying on the comments of an uninspired, fallible human being. Remember always the Bereans of Act 17:10-12?

- hear- Gk.191- to *hear*: -understand. Obviously, after rereading anything we will soon have a grasp on the subject where we will understand it. The whole purpose of this (*definite article*) prophesy to the churches was to have them ready for the, then, at hand, coming persecution.

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing (*Gk.3718- dissect [expound] correctly [the divine message]*) the word of truth.

- How will we ever understand the word of God unless we dissect it through intense Bible study? Jesus promoted the same thing when He warned His disciples to flee Jerusalem when they saw the signs of the encroaching Roman army.

Mat 24:1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and His disciples came to *Him* for to shew Him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. 3 And as He sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, (*a*) when shall these things be? and (*b*) what *shall be* the sign of Thy coming, (*c*) and of the end of the world?

- It was at that point when Jesus revealed to them the end of the Mosaic age with all the suffering that would befall Jerusalem first at the hands of the rebel Jews and then at the hands of the Roman government. His coming then had to do with a visitation of judgment on Jerusalem for not accepting Him as the Messiah. Only those who heeded His warning, just as those of the faithful churches of Asia, overcame. With the reading and hearing the churches of Asia were then blessed if they were to keep the words of that particular prophesy. Keep-Gk.5083- to *guard* (from *loss* or *injury*, properly by keeping *the eye* upon). John

revealed to the churches of Asia of the impending persecution that was coming from Rome. Jerusalem was sacked in 70 AD (*Ray Murray, Jr.-The Destruction of Jerusalem*) but the church wasn't yet out of danger then. John's writing of the Revelation (*around 68-69 AD*) was definitely before the fall of Jerusalem. As Paul told the Thessalonians to continue to watch for the coming of the Lord, we also don't know when Jesus will return. We only know that He will. Read 1 Thes 5:1-6.

- As long as we read, understand and stay alert, knowing Jesus could return even as we read this, we will continually be blessed by Him. The events prophesied to the churches of Asia were to transpire in the then, not too distant future. (22:10)

"Don't you see that the message of Revelation is not about world politics two thousand years removed from those persecuted saints? Of what interest would those things be to suffering disciples of Christ of the first century?"

"Would he be writing to them about the European common market or a great conflict between the two great twentieth century superpowers and their allies?"

Mack Lion

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Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before His throne;

John is commissioned to write to the seven churches of Asia.

(7)- Symbol for completeness (*Gen 2:1-2*). The message was addressed to a cross section of the church thus to the church as a whole. (*Here addressed to seven historical congregations.*)

- Asia- A Roman province combining the former Mysia, Troas, Aeolis, Lydia, Ionia and Caria. [Wikipedia] (*There were more than seven churches in the province at that time- Colossae [Col. 1:2], Troas [Acts 20:5], Hieropolis [Col. 4:13] and probably Magnesia and Tralles.*)

- Him- The God of the past, present and future. Eternal gives assurance that God is not temporal. He has seen kingdoms come and go. Read also Ex 9:16; Est 4:14; Dan 4:34-37.

- seven Spirits- The perfection of the Holy Spirit. (*Zech. 4:10*) (*Rev. 3:1; 4:5; 5:6*) (*The phrase "before His throne" means that He has access to God.*)

Thus, the Revelation not only came from Jesus (v.5) but from the Father and the Spirit as well.

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Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, *Who is the faithful Witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood,*

- faithful (*Gk.4103- trustworthy*) Witness (*Gk.3144- by analogy a "martyr"*)- The Father trusted the Son to finish His mission to become the final atonement for the sins of mankind. In His coming there existed the possibility that He could have failed thus He

had to “learn obedience through what He suffered” –Heb 5:8. Read Jn 5:30-39.

- first begotten of the dead- Read Heb 2:9-18.

Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the body, the church: Who is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* He might have the preeminence.

1Co 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.

- Christ at one time was “the only begotten of the Father” (*Jn 1:14*) beginning at His resurrection until afterward when He became the “first begotten of the dead”, which now includes the righteous who have been “given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts” (*2 Cor 1:22*). All others who have been resurrected from the dead died again. Read Mat 27:50-53; Lk 7:11-15; Jn 11:43-44.

Jesus is the first to **never** die again.

Rom 6:9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over Him.

- Prince of the kings of the earth-

Dan 4:32 ... the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will.

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth.

1Co 15:25 For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet.

Read Eph 1:20-23; 1 Tim 6:15; Rev 17:14;
19:16.

- As Selfless Ruler, He allowed His creation to spill His own blood to redeem them from their sins.

Joh 19:11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power *at all* against Me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered Me unto thee hath the greater sin.

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Rev 1:6 And hath made us (Christians) kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

- priests- 1 Pet 2:5; Heb 13:15

Exo 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people: for all the earth is Mine: 6 And ye shall be unto Me **a kingdom of priests**, and **an holy nation**. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. (*Emp. added*)

1Pe 2:9 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood**, an **holy nation**, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light: (*Emp. added*)

Rev 5:10 And hast made us (*presently*) unto our God **kings** and **priests**: and we shall **reign on the earth**. (*Emp. added*) (*The church/kingdom on earth is made up of "the meek" of Mat 5:5 who have inherited the earth via the Great Commission. Only the meek can enter into the kingdom through obedience to the King.*)

- unto God- Speaking of Christ here as Deity as also in Acts 20:28. As the priesthood we (*the church*) serve both Father and Son.

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Rev 1:7 Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they *also* which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen.

- Most of Jesus' actions and words point to His second coming and judgment. Here is a repeated promise to visit judgment on the enemies of the church, especially on all kindreds of the earth (*here pertaining to the kingdoms under Roman rule, specifically where the Jews lived*) that would wail because of Him (16:21), i.e. on account of the way they treated Him via the Romans, the Roman method of punishing dissenters and the Jews in having them crucify (*which pierced*) Him (*Zec 12:10*). His “coming” with clouds here is a metaphor showing these events were of Divine origin.

Mat 26:64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. (*Judgment on Jerusalem in AD 70*)

"comings" that refer (*or have referred*) to judgment: Jer 6:15 (*KJV*); Rev 2:5; 3:3, 11.

"comings" that refer to Christ's coming to commune: Rev 3:20.

...and in the kingdom (*Acts 2:1 ff.*): Mat 16:28; Dan 7:13-14.

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Rev 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

- A and Ω are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Is...was...is to come- He is the eternal One. (21:6) Almighty-(Gk.3841-absolute, universal, sovereign, omnipotent)

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Rev 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

- John here reminded the churches that he was a fellow Christian, experiencing the same struggles of persecution the recipients of the Revelation were (13:10). He shared in the reality of the kingdom/church (*Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son*), was steadfast in the trials and shared their *endurance* in “the kingdom... of Jesus Christ” (*Lk 21:19*). John was on Patmos for the word of God (Mat 4:4) and for the testimony (Gk.3141-evidence) of Jesus Christ (John was firm on his teachings concerning Jesus- Mat 5:10-12; Jn 15:20). (Concerning Paul- Act 22:22)

- Patmos is located off the coast of Asia Minor. It was known as a place of exile for imperial prisoners. John's work in evangelism led to his arrest and exile.

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Rev 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

- Lord's day- Arthur Ogden- “From the context, it is also apparent that this day is not just a period of 24 hours but of days, weeks, months, and even years!” “...pictures the events of judgment upon Israel as already in progress...”

- Spirit- (Gk.4151)

Rev 4:2 And immediately I was in the Spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in Heaven, and *One* sat on the throne.

Rev 17:3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness: ...

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in the spirit (*mental disposition*) to a great and high mountain,

- in the Spirit- 2 Cor 12:1-4.

- Under the **influence** of **the** Spirit, John heard a voice. (*On 21:10 see the comments concerning the context of the situation.*) He bid him to pay attention because of the alarming nature of what was to be revealed. A trumpet sounding usually depicts warning. (*Ex 19:12-23*)

Jer 6:17 Also I set watchmen over you, *saying*, **Hearken** to the **sound of the trumpet**. But they said, We will not hearken. (*Emp. added*)

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Rev 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

- The coming vision was to be revealed in a book (*scroll*) and circulated among the seven (*complete*) churches of Asia listed on a map in order from Patmos.

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Rev 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; _

- candlesticks- (*Gk.3087- lampstands*). The number seven here represents the seven churches (*v. 20*): Mat 5:14; Php 2:14-16; 1 Tim 3:15. (*See also Ex 25:31-40 concerning the lampstand.*)

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Rev 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks One like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Mat 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you *always*, *even* unto the end of the world (*Gk.165- age; specifically a Messianic period*). Amen. (*This shows that Christ is always with His people.*)

- And there are many other passages where Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of man (*Dan 7:9-14*). He came to the earth as the Son of God (*"born of woman"- Gal 4:4*) and only after His baptism, did He begin to refer to Himself as the Son of man. Doing so He made the opportunity available to all who are sons of man to become sons of God.

Php 2:7 But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in **the likeness of men:** (*Emp. added*)

Mat 3:13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbad Him, saying, I have need to be baptized of Thee, and comest Thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so* now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness (*“every righteous ordinance”- Adam Clarke*). Then he suffered Him. 16 And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and he (*John*) saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: 17 And lo a voice from Heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.

Mat 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted (*Gk.3985- to test*) of the devil. (*In human form with human nature Satan was able to tempt Him. Jesus was not resistant to temptation: Heb 2:18; 4:15; Jas 1:13-14.*)

Luk 4:1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

- We have no record of Jesus ever performing a miracle before He became full of the Holy Spirit which He received **after** His baptism in the Jordan River.

Joh 2:11 This **beginning of miracles** did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth His glory; and His disciples **believed on Him**. (*Emp. added*)

(1Co 14:22 Wherefore tongues [*Gk.1100-language (specifically one naturally un-acquired)*] are for a **sign**, not to them that believe, but to them that **believe not**: ...) (*Emp. added*)

- garment- (priestly): Heb 4:14-15; 7:12-14; 9:11.

- golden girdle- Heb.73- belt. (*golden because it was worn by the King of kings*).

Exo 28:4 And these *are* the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a broidered coat, a mitre, and a **girdle**: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto Me in the priest's office. (*Emp. added*)

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Rev 1:14 His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire;

- Read Ex 34:29-35.

- Jesus was in the presence of God. The ‘whiteness’ of His hair attests to His deity: Ex 33:17-23.

- ...His glory, purity and righteousness.

Mat 17:1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, 2 And was transfigured before them: and His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light.

- eyes like a flame of fire- (as “the Word” [Jn 1:1] Jesus is able to “[discern] the thoughts and intents of the heart” –Heb 4:12)

Heb 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do.

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Rev 1:15 And His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters.

- feet- Destructive power belongs to the One Who bears such feet.

Mic 4:13 Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make **thy hoofs brass**: and thou shalt **beat in pieces many people**: and I will consecrate their gain unto the LORD, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth. (*Emp. added*)

Eze 1:7 And their feet *were* straight (*Heb.3477-righteous, upright*) feet; and the sole of their **feet** *was* like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of **burnished brass**. (*Emp. added*)

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- voice- of majesty and power.

Eze 1:24 And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like **the noise of great waters**, as the **voice of the Almighty**, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings. (*Emp. added*)

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Rev 1:16 And He had in His right hand seven stars: and out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and His countenance *was* as the sun shineth in his strength.

- right hand- place of honor, power and authority: Gal 2:9; 1 Pet 3:22; Rev 3:21; Mat 26:64; Mk 16:19; Heb 1:3.

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- seven stars- Christ has the seven messengers (*v. 20*) in His hand. He has control over their message. A comforting

thought to those who were about to go through many persecutions.

- two-edged sword-

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, sharper (*Gk.5114-more keen*) than any two-edged sword, piercing (*Gk.1338-reaching through*) even to the dividing asunder (*Gk.3311-separation, distribution*) of soul (*Gk.5590-animal sentient [capable of feeling, conscious] principal only*) and of spirit (*Gk.4151-[human] rational soul, vital principle [crucial standard], mental disposition [mindset]*), and of joints and of marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- It helps us to know the difference between what 'feels' right and what 'is' right.

... of joints and of marrow (*the physical makeup of the human being*), ...

(*Mat 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell.*)

... discerner (*Gk.2924-discriminative, distinguisher*) of the thoughts (*Gk.1761-deliberations*) and intents (*Gk.1771-moral understanding*) of the heart (*Gk.2588-mind*).

- The word of God helps us to decide between good and evil by creating a conscience within us based on the study of it: Isa 11:4; Eph 6:17; Heb 5:14; 1 Pet 3:21; Rev 2:12, 16; 19:15, 21.

- countenance was as the sun- as in His transfiguration (*Matt. 17:2*) and like the woman of Rev. 12, this shows His divine authority.

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Rev 1:17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the First and the Last:

- John is overwhelmed with the suddenness and majesty of the vision, just as Daniel was in Dan. 10:7-11. Their (*as was Paul's on the road to Damascus- Acts 9*) separate visions were of the same Person: Dan 10:5-8; Act 9:3-7. Christ, unlike angels, is worthy of such humility and praise (22:8).

- In his commentary on Daniel, Jim McGuigan stated "It wouldn't hurt us to be more awed by sacred things".

Php 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

- First- (*Gk.4413-πρῶτος-pro'-tos-foremost [in time, place, order of importance], before, beginning, best, chief [-est]*)

"I was there before anything was created."

Joh 8:58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. (*Gk.1510-exist*).

Note, He didn't say "*I existed*" but "*I exist*" thus revealing His eternal nature.

- Last- (*Gk.2078-ἐσχάτος-es'-khat-os- in the sense of contiguity [touching], farthest, final [of place or time]*)

"I will be there when all things end." (*2 Pet 3:7*)

Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from Whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

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Rev 1:18 I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of Hell (*Hades*) and of death.

Rom 6:9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead **dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over Him.** (*Emp. added*)

Rev 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain,

- keys- Equal to authority...

2Ti 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, Who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel:

...here over mortality and the Hadean realm,
the place of **separation**.

*Hades (Gk.86-unseen, place [state] of
departed souls.)*

Jesus controls access to and from Hades.

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock (*Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ*) I will build My church; and the gates of hell (*Gk.86- Hades*) shall not prevail against it.

- Hades/death did not prevent Jesus from resurrecting and building His church, which was established on the first day of the feast of Pentecost of 30 AD (*Act 2:1*).

Act 2:24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it.

Act 2:27 Because Thou wilt not leave My soul in Hell (*Hades*), neither wilt Thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. (*Jesus' body would not decay in the grave.*)

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Rev 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

- hast seen- Past/history. are- Present. hereafter- Future. The Revelation encompasses all three aspects of time.

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Rev 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in My right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

- golden candlesticks- (*lampstands*) Seven in all: Num 8:2; Php 2:14-16.

When we look at the Old Testament tabernacle in the Holy place, we see on the south (*our left going in*) the lampstand.

The priests were to light (*dress*) them in the morning and in the evening every day. Not only do they represent the word of God, they represent the N.T. priesthood that is supposed to support it.

*(Exo 30:7 And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense **every morning**: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. 8 **And** when Aaron lighteth the lamps **at even**, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.) (Emp. added)*

1Ti 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is **the church** of the living God, the **pillar and ground of the truth**. (Emp. added)

*(Zec 4:2 And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a **candlestick** [Heb.4501-chandelier] all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his **seven lamps** thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:) (Emp. added)*

- seven stars=angels- (Gk.32-ἄγγελος-ang'-el-os-to bring tidings, a messenger, by implication a pastor)

Thayer: "The angels of the churches' in Rev 1:20: 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14 are not their presbyters or bishops, but heavenly spirits who exercise such a superintendence and guardianship over them that whatever in their assemblies is worthy of praise or censure is counted to the praise or the blame of their angels also, as

though the latter infused their spirit into the assemblies”. Example:

1Co 11:8 For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. 9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. 10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on *her* head **because of the angels**. (*Emp. added*)

- There was a gender issue that came up in the church at Corinth and Paul had to address the topic concerning it. Whatever affected the church there affected the angel who was her guardian as though he was responsible for it. When Paul wrote to Timothy, he informed him how what was wrong there was being seen by one of the angels who “present(*ed*) themselves before God” (*Job 1:6; 2:1*).

1Ti 5:20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. 21 I charge *thee* before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, **and the elect angels**, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. (*Emp. added*)

- Throughout history, angels have been involved in God’s plan to save man. In Dan 10 we find an instance where Daniel’s humble prayer was answered personally by an angel who was “withstood” until Michael (*archangel*) aided him. This helps understand that truly “we do not war after the flesh” (*2 Cor 10:3-6*) and gives us an idea of what goes on behind the scenes in the spirit realm (*Job 1 & 2; Eph 2:2*). But angels are on the same level as man according to what John was told in Rev 22:9

after he tried prostrating himself before his heavenly visitor. For John to “write” (*Gk.1125- to write; figuratively to describe*) to the angels of the seven churches of Asia, it showed his relationship as intermediary and on the same level as those heavenly beings that were guardians of the seven churches. Angels were (*are?*) also taught via the church. They are not omniscient which the following verses will show: Eph 3:8-10; 1 Pet 1:10-12.

- Other ways in which angels serve even today are noted in the following verses.

Heb 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Luk 16:22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

Act 27:23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, Whose I am, and Whom I serve, 24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

Another Thought

- The question begs: Why would John have been told to address these letters to the seven churches, through angels who could have delivered them directly from God since they would have already been in His

presence? Why would God even need John for this purpose?

Answer: These were most likely messengers (*possibly elders*) from these congregations who were seeing to John's needs as those who saw to Paul's needs in 2 Timothy 4:9-13.

angels- (*Gk.32-ἄγγελος*-ang'-el-os-to bring tidings, a messenger, by implication a pastor)

Worksheet
Revelation: Chapter 1

1. What does “must shortly come to pass” mean concerning the timeframe of The Revelation? (*v. 1*)
2. Who are those of the three categories of people who would receive a blessing from The Revelation? (*v. 3*)
3. What group makes up the “kingdom” and “priests” of The Revelation? (*v. 6*)
4. Who are those being referred to who “will wail because of Him” in verse 7?
5. Explain “Alpha and Omega” as Jesus applies them to Himself. (*v. 11*)
6. What “tribulation” and “kingdom” did John share with the recipients of The Revelation? (*v. 9*)
7. What are the “seven golden candlesticks”? (*v. 12*)
8. Describe the appearance of the One Who spoke to John and the significance of it. (*vs. 13-15*)
9. What do the “seven stars” and “sharp two-edged sword” represent? (*v. 16*)
10. What are “the keys of Death and Hell”? (*v. 18*)