

Jesus Evaluates His Churches, Part 1

Introduction and Laying a Foundation

Revelation Chapter 1 -- 02/07/2016

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

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Today's TEXTs: The Church as a Household of God / of Faith.

Revelation chapter 1

The **Revelation** of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants — things which must shortly (or *quickly*) take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, ² who bore witness to the **Word of God**, and to the **testimony of Jesus Christ**, to all things that he saw. ³ **Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.**

⁴ John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: (*Asia Minor is Modern-Day Turkey*)

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the LORD, "who IS and who WAS and who IS TO COME, the Almighty." [→ "Great I AM" of Exodus 3:13-16]

⁹ I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the **Word of God** and for the **testimony of Jesus Christ**. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the LORD's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, ¹¹ saying, "I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA, THE FIRST AND THE LAST," [Isaiah 44:6] 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."

¹² Then I turned to **SEE THE VOICE** that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands **One** like the **SON of MAN** (see Daniel 7:9-10,13-14), clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. ¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His **VOICE** as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 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**. ¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ Write the things which you **HAVE SEEN**, and the **THINGS WHICH ARE**, and the **THINGS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THIS**. ²⁰ 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**.

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God." **Isaiah 44:6** → Jesus is equated with God, in verses 11 & 17

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 → displays God the Father as "The Ancient of Days" and the Messiah, as the Divine "Son of Man" whose Kingdom will have no end (i.e. the Eternal Kingdom of God)

1. Jesus has Every Right to Evaluate Every local church family on the Planet Earth.

Jesus is the King of kings, the God of All gods, the LORD of lords, the Master, Redeemer and Savior. He is also the HEAD of the CHURCH (all believers) and of each local assembly of believers (i.e. local church) We see in Ephesians 1:22-23 & Colossians 1:18 that Jesus Christ is designated as the HEAD of the church

And God put all things under His feet (under Jesus' feet), and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. **Ephesians 1:22-23**

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. **Colossians 1:18**

2. Jesus wants All His Disciples to Be Blessed → Rev. 1:3

3. The Titles, Word Pictures, and “Job Description” of Jesus Christ should lead us to Worship Him → see verses 8 thru 17 ... John fell at His feet like a dead man ... John was overwhelmed with this Vision ... as we should be ...

4. The Overall Plan of the Book of Revelation are Explained in Verses 19-20

a. **That Which You Have Seen** (the Church Age up to that point – History for John's time)

b. **The Things which ARE** (The Church Age – as described in Rev. chapters 2 & 3)

c. **The Things which will take place after THIS** (from Rev. chptrs 4 and onward ... after the Rapture and future . . .)