

# Behold, I Come Quickly...

## A Study of Revelation

### PART 1

Revelation 1:1 - 3:22

## The Seven Churches

### LESSON 3

Revelation 1:9 - 1:20

## One Like a Son of Man

**Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.** (Revelation 22:7)

### One Like a Son of Man

**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 was experiencing tribulation. We will not go through the Great Tribulation, but we are not exempt from tribulation in our lives. The early Christian endured crucifixion and excruciating tortures, being thrown to animals as sport, set afire as torches, and other tribulations. In this country we have never been tested to prove our loyalty to Jesus in such a manner, but we certainly are not exempt if our government becomes tyrannical enough.

**1TH 5:9** For **God hath not appointed us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

**JOH 16:33** These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. **In the world ye shall have tribulation:** but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

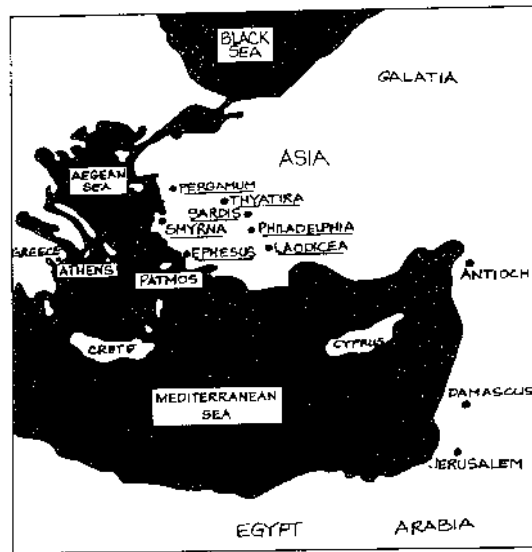
**ACT 14:22** Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that **we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.**

Patmos is a desolate volcanic Island about 25 miles in circumference. Roman prisoners were often banished to islands.<sup>1</sup> It is a rocky, inhospitable Island in the Mediterranean Sea (actually Aegean Sea) about fifteen miles from Ephesus. John was banished there by Domitian because of his witness to the Word of God and for his testimony for the Lord Jesus.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Freedman, "Patmos," *THE ANCHOR BIBLE DICTIONARY*, Vol. V, pp. 178, 179.

<sup>2</sup> Phillips, *EXPLORING REVELATION*, p. 24, 25.

## Ephesus and Patmos Map<sup>3</sup>



### Visions of Tribulation

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

John was in the spirit. He was not so concerned with his worldly situation that he would lose sight of his heavenly citizenship. Many times we take our eyes off Jesus in order to focus on our problems and circumstances. The true Christian lives in Christ's kingdom now. The expression "the Lord's Day" either refers to the "Day of the Lord," or the first day of the week. The prophetic use of the expression "The Day of the Lord" is the subject of Revelation and means the time when the Lord settles his account with the earth. Anyone believing that Sunday is meant needs to account for the fact that the use of the term "Lord's Day," meaning Sunday, was not known until 100 years after the book of Revelation was written. It is most likely that John was transported by the Spirit to the scenes that will take place in the "Day of the Lord."<sup>4</sup> In like manner, Ezekiel was under the influence of the Spirit and he was transported to the scenes he saw in the distant future.<sup>5</sup>

**EZE 1:1** Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, **that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God....**

**3** The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and **the hand of the LORD was there upon him.**

**EZE 8:1** And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I sat in mine house, and the elders of Judah sat before me, **that the hand of the Lord GOD fell there upon me.** **2** Then I beheld, and lo a likeness as the appearance of fire: from the appearance of his loins even downward, fire; and from his loins even upward, as the appearance of brightness, as the colour of amber. **3 And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem,** to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy. **4** And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain.

**EZE 40:1** In the five and twentieth year of our captivity, in the beginning of the year, in the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after that the city was smitten, in the selfsame **day the hand of the**

<sup>3</sup> Duck, Richards, REVELATION: GOD'S WORD FOR THE BIBLICALLY-INEPT, p. 20.

<sup>4</sup> Phillips, EXPLORING REVELATION, p. 25. Morris, THE REVELATION RECORD, pp. 39, 40. Rev. Clarence Larkin, THE BOOK OF REVELATION, Glendale, PA: Rev. Clarence Larkin Estate, 1919, p. 9. Barnes, NOTES ON THE NEW TESTAMENT: REVELATION, pp. 49, 50. Duck, Richards, REVELATION: GOD'S WORD FOR THE BIBLICALLY-INEPT, p. 18. Bullinger, COMMENTARY ON REVELATION, pp. 9-15. Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, pp. 24, 25. Walvoord, THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, p. 42.

<sup>5</sup> Bullinger, COMMENTARY ON REVELATION, p. 152.

**LORD was upon me, and brought me thither. 2 In the visions of God brought he me into the land of Israel,** and set me upon a very high mountain, by which was as the frame of a city on the south. **3** And he brought me thither, and, behold, there was a man, whose appearance was like the appearance of brass, with a line of flax in his hand, and a measuring reed; and he stood in the gate. **4** And the man said unto me, Son of man, **behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears, and set thine heart upon all that I shall shew thee; for to the intent that I might shew them unto thee art thou brought hither:** declare all that thou seest to the house of Israel.

John heard a voice as loud as a trumpet. In the Old Testament the trumpet is especially associated with war, and with the "Day of the Lord."<sup>6</sup>

**ZEP 1:14** The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, **even the voice of the day of the LORD:** the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. **15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 A day of the trumpet** and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. **17** And **I will bring distress upon men,** that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. **18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.**

**JOE 2:1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; 2** A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. **3** A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them....

**11** And **the LORD shall utter his voice before his army:** for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: **for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible;** and who can abide it? **12** Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: **13** And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. **14** Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God? **15 Blow the trumpet in Zion,** sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

**JOE 3:16 The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake:** but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

## **Seven Churches and Seven Candlesticks**

**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.

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

What John sees he is to write in a book and send to all the churches that he ministers to.

<sup>6</sup> Bullinger, COMMENTARY ON REVELATION, p. 153.

## Seven Churches Location<sup>7</sup>



John turned to see who was speaking and saw seven golden candlesticks. We will later see that these candlesticks represent the seven churches.

### One Like unto the Son of Man

**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.

John sees someone who looked like the Son of man clothed in the garment of a high priest. That garment is described in Leviticus 8:7-9. "This garment is a reminder of Christ's glory, beauty, divine authority, and high priestly ministry."<sup>8</sup>

**LEV 8:7** And he put upon him the coat, and girded him with the girdle, and clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod upon him, and he girded him with the curious girdle of the ephod, and bound it unto him therewith. **8** And he put the breastplate upon him: also he put in the breastplate the Urim and the Thummim. **9** And he put the mitre upon his head; also upon the mitre, **even upon his forefront, did he put the golden plate**, the holy crown; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Hebrews 7:17-27 describes Jesus who was made our high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

**HEB 7:17** For he testifieth, **Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec**. **18** For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. **19** For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God. **20** And inasmuch as not without an **oath he was made priest**: **21** (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, **The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec**;) **22** **By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament**. **23** And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: **24** **But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood**. **25** Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. **26** **For such an high priest became us**, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; **27** **Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself**.

<sup>7</sup> Duck, Richards, REVELATION: GOD'S WORD FOR THE BIBLICALLY-INEPT, p. 20.

<sup>8</sup> Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 27.

Jesus called Himself the Son of man, a reference to His humanity.<sup>9</sup>

**MAR 2:28** Therefore **the Son of man** is Lord also of the sabbath.

**JOH 12:23** And **Jesus answered them, saying**, The hour is come, that **the Son of man** should be glorified.

Daniel saw a vision of "one like the Son of man."

**DAN 7:13** I saw in the night visions, and, behold, **one like the Son of man** came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. **14** And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

## The Ancient of Days

**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;

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

John is beginning to describe the seven-fold appearance of Jesus Christ, and shows His divinity by identifying Him in terms that indicate equality with the "Ancient of Days."<sup>10</sup> Daniels description of the Ancient of Days can also be applied to Christ.<sup>11</sup> Noticed the description of the Ancient of Days in Daniel 7:9:

**DAN 7:9** I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and **the Ancient of days** did sit, **whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.**

The whiteness of the hair indicates that God is eternal, the "Ancient of Days." He exists before time.<sup>12</sup> A garment "white as snow" symbolizes absolute purity, or righteousness. It also symbolizes judgment, as righteousness and judgment are connected.<sup>13</sup>

God sets on a throne indicating that He is the sovereign judge of the universe.<sup>14</sup> The fiery wheels allow him to bring judgment anywhere in the universe.<sup>15</sup> Fire in this context indicates wrath and judgment.<sup>16</sup> "His eyes were as a flame of fire" indicates nothing is hidden from Him.<sup>17</sup>

**JER 17:10** **I the LORD search the heart**, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Brass represents judgment. His enemies will be under His feet.<sup>18</sup>

**REV 19:15** And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and **he treadeth the winepress** of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

**ISA 63:3** **I have trodden the winepress** alone; and of the people there was none with me: **for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury**; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.

<sup>9</sup> Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 26.

<sup>10</sup> Walvoord, THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, p. 44.

<sup>11</sup> Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 27. Walvoord, THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, p. 44.

<sup>12</sup> David Jeremiah, THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL, Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1992, p. 140. Mauro, THINGS WHICH SOON MUST COME TO PASS, p. 70.

<sup>13</sup> Jeremiah, THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL, p.140. Arthur E. Bloomfield, THE END OF THE DAYS: A STUDY OF DANIEL'S VISIONS, Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1961, p. 123.

<sup>14</sup> Jeremiah, THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL, p. 140.

<sup>15</sup> Jeremiah, THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL, pp. 140, 141.

<sup>16</sup> Daymond R. Duck, DANIEL: GOD'S WORD FOR THE BIBLICALLY-INEPT, Lancaster, PA: Starburst Publishers, p. 189.

<sup>17</sup> Mauro, THINGS WHICH SOON MUST COME TO PASS, p. 70.

<sup>18</sup> Mauro, THINGS WHICH SOON MUST COME TO PASS, p. 70.

Ezekiel described brass feet in his vision of the judgment on Jerusalem.

**EZE 1:7** And their feet were straight 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**.

Ezekiel also described the "glory of the God of Israel" as having a voice of "many waters," symbolic of God's authority, power, and majesty.<sup>19</sup>

**EZE 43:1** Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east: **2** And, behold, **the glory of the God of Israel** came from the way of the east: and **his voice was like a noise of many waters**: and the earth shined with his glory. **3** And it was according to the appearance of the vision which I saw, even according to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city: and the visions were like the vision that I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face. **4** **And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east.**

Jesus will return to the temple through the east gate.

### The Power of God and the Word

**REV 1:16** And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

The "right hand" represents His power.

**EXO 15:6** Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

**PSA 118:15** The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: **the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly**. **16** **The right hand of the LORD is exalted: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly.**

The Lord saves by His "right hand."

**PSA 17:7** Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O **thou that savest by thy right hand** them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them.

Moses said "All His saints are in Thy hand."

**DEU 33:3** Yea, he loved the people; **all his saints are in thy hand**: and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words.

Jesus said:

**JOH 10:28** And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, **neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand**.

This verse says that His churches are even in His protecting care.<sup>20</sup> Notice this reference in Isaiah 49:1 and 2.

**ISA 49:1** Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name. **2** And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; **in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me**, and made me a polished shaft; **in his quiver hath he hid me**;

"A sword is mentioned six times throughout the book (1:16; 2:12; 16; 6:8; 19:15, 21), referring to Christ's word of divine judgment."<sup>21</sup> The Word of God is called "the sword of the Spirit" in Ephesians 6:17.

<sup>19</sup> Levy, *REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word*, p. 28.

<sup>20</sup> Mauro, *THINGS WHICH SOON MUST COME TO PASS*, pp. 71, 72.

**EPH 6:17** And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**

**HEB 4:12** For **the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword,** piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**JOH 6:63** It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**

The Word of God is used in Judgment.

**JOH 12:48** He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: **the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.**

**REV 19:11** And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. **12** His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. **13** And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: **and his name is called The Word of God.** **14** And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. **15** And **out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations:** and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. **16** And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS....

**20** And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. **21** And **the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth:** and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

The glorified Christ is the supreme light giver of the spiritual world as bright as the sun shining in strength.

**MATT 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.**

**REV 21:23** And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

**JOH 1:9** That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

**2CO 4:6** For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**ACT 26:13** At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

**HEB 1:1** God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, **2** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by **his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; **3** **Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person,** and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:

Jesus Christ appears here as the Glory of the Father and the express image of His Person.

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<sup>21</sup> Levy, *REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word*, p. 28. Walvoord, *THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST*, pp. 45, 46.

## The Overpowering Vision of a Man Clothed in Linen

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:**

18 I am he that **liveth, and was dead;** and, behold, **I am alive for evermore,** Amen; and have **the keys of hell and of death.**

This vision was overpowering to John just as it was to Daniel centuries earlier.

**DAN 10:15** And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb. **16** And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, **by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength.** **17** For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway **there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me.** **18** Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me,

Revelation chapter 1:17 and 18 is the clincher as to the identity of the One that is speaking. This is Jesus Christ "that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore." And noticed that He is also describing Himself directly as "the First and the Last."

Daniel saw in a vision "a certain man" similarly dressed. Let's look at these similarities:

**DAN 10:5** Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold **a certain man** clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: **6** His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.

"A certain man" refers to Jesus Christ.<sup>22</sup> Notice the similarity of this description in Daniel chapter 10 to the description of Christ in Revelation chapter 1:

### A Man Clothed in Linen<sup>23</sup>

#### **Daniel 10:5, 6**

- A certain man
- Clothed in Linen and girded with gold
- Body like beryl
- Face as the appearance of lightening
- Eyes as lamps of fire
- Feet like polished brass
- Voice like a multitude

#### **Revelation 1:13-15**

**Like the Son of Man**  
**Long garment and golden girdle**  
**(Not mentioned)**  
**(Not mentioned)**  
**Eyes as flames of fire**  
**Feet like burnished brass**  
**Voice like many waters**

The interesting thing about the vision in Daniel is that it is of Christ, not in His pre-incarnate appearance, but as He will appear when He returns to earth at His Second Coming.<sup>24</sup>

He has the keys of hell (hades) and death signifying that His power is absolute and universal, embracing heaven, earth, and hell itself.<sup>25</sup>

### Things Which Are and Things Which Will Be.

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

This verse is a short outline of the book of Revelation.<sup>26</sup> The things already "seen" is found in chapter 1 where we are introduced to Jesus Christ. Chapters 2 and 3 show us "the things which are" with the letters to the

<sup>22</sup> John Phillips, Jerry Vines, EXPLORING THE BOOK OF DANIEL, Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1990, pp. p. 160.

<sup>23</sup> Bloomfield, THE END OF THE DAYS: A STUDY OF DANIEL'S VISIONS, pp. 185, 186.

<sup>24</sup> Noah W. Hutchings, DANIEL THE PROPHET, Oklahoma City, OK: Hearstone Publishing, Ltd., pp. 261, 262. Daymond R. Duck, DANIEL: GOD'S WORD FOR THE BIBLICALLY-INEPT, Lancaster, PA: Starburst Publishers, p. 262.

<sup>25</sup> Mauro, THINGS WHICH SOON MUST COME TO PASS, p. 76. Walvoord, THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, p. 47.

<sup>26</sup> Walvoord, THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, p. 47.

churches. "The things which shall be hereafter" means those things from chapter 4 onward, the processes of future judgment, the kingdom, and the New Earth.<sup>27</sup> Notice the similar expression in Revelation chapter 4.

**REV 4:1** After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee **things which must be hereafter.**

### **Seven Stars and Seven Candlesticks**

**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.

The message here is the interpretation of the earlier mentioned symbols. Some commentators believe that angels are assigned to the churches represented by the stars and candlesticks respectively.<sup>28</sup> They believe that angels are assigned to the churches just as in the book of Daniel we find that angels are assigned to nations.

**DAN 12:1** And at that time shall **Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people:** and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

There are innumerable angels.

**HEB 12:22** But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to **an innumerable company of angels,**

Heirs of salvation have ministering spirits.

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

People have angels assigned to them.

**MAT 18:10** Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven **their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.**

Angels walk among us.

**HEB 13:2** **Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.**

Commentators are divided over the identity of the angels of the seven churches. Some believe that this refers instead to the "leaders or pastors" of these churches. That this may be the correct interpretation is due to what is recorded to the churches in chapters 2 and 3. The leaders of these churches were to give forth light as stars give forth their light.<sup>29</sup> The candlesticks or lampstands symbolize that the function of the churches is to give forth light as a witness.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Walvoord, THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, p. 48. Morris, THE REVELATION RECORD, p. 44, 45. Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 30. Bullinger, COMMENTARY ON REVELATION, p. 159.

<sup>28</sup> Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 28.

<sup>29</sup> Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, pp. 28, 29. Walvoord, THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, p. 45.

<sup>30</sup> Walvoord, THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, pp. 43, 45