

## DAY 9: THE SON OF MAN'S MESSAGES TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Recap: In Revelation 1, John the beloved misses his dear friend Jesus and now, at the end of his life he sees Jesus in the fulness of who Jesus is, Yahweh God Almighty. In Revelation 2 and 3, we now see prophetic messages given to the seven churches.

### I. THE STRUCTURE OF THE LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

- A. Introductory statement to the angel of the church at hand
- B. Identifying statement about the Son of Man to clarify that one about to make the statement is Jesus
- C. The body, the “meat of the matter” the pastoral message to the church
- D. Universalization of the message to clarify that this is for the present and future church
- E. Closing promise addressed to the victors

### II. THREE VIEWS ABOUT THE SEVEN LETTERS

- A. **HISTORICISTS:** believe that the letters are addressing the church throughout history and that the seven churches represent seven periods of church history
  - 1. Ephesian Age: The church is losing its first love
  - 2. Symrnian Age: End of the Roman persecution
  - 3. Pergamum Age: The church married to the world
  - 4. Thyatiran Age: The “dark ages” of the church
  - 5. Sardis Age: The reformation; some have been found faithful
  - 6. Philadelphian Age: missionary expansion
  - 7. Laodicean Age: age of lukewarmness
- B. **FUTURISITS:** actually tend to agree with the Historicist view
- C. **PRETERISTS:** written prior to 70AD and it is about events that have already passed

### III. THE ANGELS

- A. Each letter begins with “to the angel of the church of...”
- B. Five views about the angels:
  - 1. Refers to actual, heavenly messengers that the Lord is addressing
  - 2. Human messengers like a postman (little evidence for this)
  - 3. Referencing a bishop or pastor of the church
  - 4. A personification of each church
  - 5. There is no clear definition of who these angels are
- C. Worldview of angels: any heavenly being that is not God

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- D. Biblical perspective of angels: There are many heavenly beings, even Jesus is referred to as an angel in the Old Testament
- E. The problem with seeing these angels as literal angels is that the chain of communication doesn't make sense
- F. It makes more sense for John to write these messages down for the bishop

**IV. IDENTIFYING STATEMENTS**

- A. Each letter begins with a statement that identifies Jesus as the speaker
- B. These letters are prophetic messages from the Son of Man
- C. The threads that describe who will be the "Crushing One" and the events surrounding his two comings seem contradictory until we read [Daniel 7](#)
  - 1. Someone who looks like man but is coming on the clouds like Yahweh
  - 2. Jesus refers to himself as "the Son of Man" more than anything else
- D. "who holds the seven stars in his right hand..." ([Revelation 2:1](#))
- E. "the first and the last, who died and came to life" ([Revelation 2:8](#))
- F. "who has the sharp two-edged sword" ([Revelation 2:12](#))
- G. "eyes like a flame of fire, feet like burnished bronze" ([Revelation 2:18](#))
- H. "who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars." ([Revelation 3:1](#))
- I. "He who is holy" ([Revelation 3:7](#))
- J. "the Amen, the faithful and true witness" or martyr ([Revelation 3:14](#))

**V. THE TWO-EDGED SWORD**

- A. The Song of Moses ([Deuteronomy 32](#)) is the foundation of all biblical prophesy
  - 1. A rebuke to Israel given to Moses from God
- B. First mention of the sword; references a literal sword ([Deuteronomy 32:41-43](#))
- C. "Jeshurun" a pet name for Israel ([Deuteronomy 33:5](#))
- D. "He is your shield and helper and your glorious sword." ([Deuteronomy 33:29](#))
- E. "For with fire and with his sword the Lord will execute judgment" ([Isaiah 66:15-16](#))
- F. There is very clear connection from Deuteronomy to Revelation of Jesus as the one who holds the sword, the overcomer

**VI. THE OVERCOMER**

"To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne." ([Revelation 3:21](#))

- A. To be an overcomer in the Bible does not typically look like what we may expect
- B. "...the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God." ([1 John 5:5](#))
- C. Overcoming is often done in weakness, not in strength