

October 20, 2019

The Gospel According to...Jesus, The Star Angels and Lead Pastors

In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, Jesus addresses 7 churches which are symbolic of the 2,000-year Church Age. The understanding of the 7 churches is applied **linear, circular and individually**. All 7 churches existed during the writing of the Book of Revelation. Each one represented certain characteristics that would be notable throughout the entire Church Age (circular). They also paralleled the Church Age in chronological order starting with the first church listed continuing to the 7th church (linear). We can also apply these Scriptures individually.

Rev 1:10-11 *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day (Sunday), 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," 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."* John received the revelation of the churches on a Sunday. The words "write" and "written" appear 31x in Revelation. Each church in Asia has its own letter and all 7 letters are in a single book that is sent to all 7 churches.

Revelation chapters 1,2 and 3 describe Jesus as our risen Lord. The manner in which Jesus is described by John and by Jesus Himself is **authoritative**. This is Jesus addressing His Church from His Throne in Heaven. In Chapters 1,2 and 3 Jesus is never referred to as the "Lamb." His eyes are like a flame of fire, His feet like fine brass, His voice like many waters, out of His mouth goes a sharp two-edged sword, His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength and when John saw Him, he fell at His feet as dead out of fear. **Rev 1:17-19** *"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..."*

John saw Jesus in the midst of **7 golden lampstands** and in His right hand He held **7 stars** and out of His mouth was a sharp **two-edged sword**. **Rev 1:20** *The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.* F/N SFLB Rev 1:16, "The seven stars are either the **pastor-messengers** of the churches (1:20) or the **guardian angels** assigned to the churches." I believe the 7 stars are both angels and pastors working together. The word "angels" means "messengers." There are powerful **star angels** over every church that help carry out the battle plans that Jesus gives from His Throne in Heaven. Jesus gives the message to His star angels and they give it to the lead pastors who give it to the church through the power of the Holy Spirit. Every Sunday we have the opportunity to receive a message from the Throne of Jesus that is specifically for our church and each of us individually.

This message is anointed (fresh oil) with an impartation of great authority. In order to be in authority, we must be under God's delegated authority. This can only be done through a humble, submitted, obedient heart. CAUTION! Criticalness comes from a spirit of pride and it causes us to step out from under God's delegated authority and into rebellion. God resists the proud and those who resist authority bring judgment to themselves **Rm 13:2, Jam 4:6, 1 Pet 5:5**. Every Sunday through the Blood and Word of God we purify our heart to be more like Jesus. **1 John 3:2-3** *2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.* Once the Church purifies Herself, they will walk in the Morning Star Authority being like Jesus who is the Bright and Morning Star. The Church is transitioning into the Bride of Christ, making Herself ready **Rev 19:7**.

There is one church, but 7 golden lampstands, and seven different letters written down by 7 different star angels to 7 different churches. Each church is unique in their strengths, weaknesses, and what Jesus instructs them to do. Jesus gives specific promises to each church with the condition they must **repent and overcome**. The church is multifaceted and dynamic built on the manifold wisdom of God. All 7 churches are not the same.

The letter to each church starts out the same way, "To the angel of the church of _____ write," then Jesus identifies Himself in an **authoritative manner**. Jesus complemented the churches, then corrected them, told them what they needed to do, told them to repent and gave them consequences if they didn't repent, and then a promise for all of those who overcome...those who deal with the issues in their heart thus purifying themselves.

Life Song Church: Living the Power of Praise!