

REVIVAL NEWS

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THE MYSTERY OF GOD WOULD BE FINISHED A journey through the book of Revelation- Part 1

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An amazing declaration

An amazing angel, literally *messenger*, made known to the apostle John on the island of Patmos that, “*in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished...*” **Revelation 10:7**. This verse is cosmic in its scope! *The mystery of God would be finished!* All God’s eternal purpose and His revelation and manifestation of Himself will be complete! The mystery of who He is and His purpose will have been fully accomplished in the earth! What an exciting declaration! To fully appreciate this proclamation let us have a look at the context of the Book of Revelation itself. It is an unfolding revelation to us.

The purpose of the Book

Many have attempted to explain the meaning of the Book of Revelation and interpret it in the context of the period of time we live in, rather than simply interpret it according to the Word of God and in its context. The apostle John wrote, “*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants*” **Revelation 1:1a**. Here is the purpose of the book! It is the *revelation of Jesus Christ!* The word *revelation* is the Greek word *apokalupsis* which means a *disclosure, an immediate and progressive unveiling, taking the cover off*.

The purpose stated in the first verse of the book is that primarily this is an immediate and progressive unveiling of Jesus Christ. He is revealing Himself to us. He is the “*faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth...who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood*” **Revelation 1:5**. So, do not jump to try and see “what will happen in the end times”. Instead, look for the revelation of Jesus to take hold of you, encourage you and edify you for the days ahead.

Things which must take place

The next part of verse 1 says, “*things which must shortly take place*” **Rev.1:1b**. The word *shortly* could be translated *quickly or swiftly*. So, yes, there is an aspect of revelation of things which must swiftly take place. But always see this in the context of Jesus Christ being revealed and His purpose coming to pass through all the “*things which must shortly take place*”! Notice also that these things *must* take place. It is of necessity and under the guiding

sovereign hand of God and of the Lamb! It is God's eternal purpose coming to manifestation. To understand these things we must be ***"in the Spirit"*** Revelation 1:10.

In the Spirit

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day" Revelation 1:10a. Where was John? Physically he was on the ***"island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ"*** Revelation 1:9. But more importantly than that, John was ***in the Spirit***. The Book of Revelation is a book of heavenly vision, filled with prophetic symbols that come out of the Scriptures. To fully understand the Book we must be filled with the ***"Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him [Christ]"*** Ephesians 1:17. We also need to be in the Spirit!

Intellectual, academic and worldly knowledge will not give us the message of the Revelation. Reading the newspapers to align it with the Book of Revelation is not how to understand it. It is a revelation and vision into the eternal spiritual reality of Christ, His kingdom, His Church and the victory they experience over the world and Satan. Let us be moved in these days to seek God and worship Him in the Spirit. God has revealed His awesome unknowable plans for those who love Him, ***"to us through His Spirit"*** 1 Corinthians 2:9-10.

A voice like a trumpet

When John was in the Spirit he says, ***"I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet"*** Revelation 1:10b. This is important to know as it helps us prophetically understand the ***trumpet***. It was a voice. It was someone speaking, but it was ***as of a trumpet***. The word that is to be declared is to be like a trumpet – calling people to attention to hear the announcement being made. This is helpful to see later on where more and more trumpets are mentioned throughout the Book.

The Son of Man revealed in the midst

When John turned to ***"see the voice that spoke"*** (Revelation 1:12) he ended up seeing seven golden lampstands and ***"in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man"*** Revelation 1:13. This was an awesome revelation of Jesus the Messiah as He is now, ***"head and hair were white like wool ... His eyes a flame of fire; His feet like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters"*** Revelation 1:14-15. This is Jesus glorified. This is Jesus as He appears now, in victory and triumph!

And where is He? ***In the midst of the seven lampstands***. What are the seven lampstands? Jesus interprets this for us in Revelation 1:20 by saying, ***"The mystery of the ... seven golden lampstands ... the seven golden lampstands which you saw are the seven churches"***. Now we know that the symbolism of the lampstands is interpreted by Jesus for us as ***churches***. Lampstands are churches! Jesus is in the midst of His church! Jesus said, ***"For where two or three gather together in My name, I am there in the midst of them"*** Matthew 18:20.

**One of the first revelations of Jesus that John received was that He is
found in His glory in the midst of the church!**

The Seven Churches

“The seven golden lampstands which you saw are the seven churches” Revelation 1:20. For the next two chapters, in **Revelation chapter 2 and 3**, John records Jesus’ message for the seven churches. Number seven is significant in the Bible. God rested on the seventh day, when creation was complete and finished. Seven days make up one whole week. John also records that there are *“seven Spirits of God” Revelation 4:5*. The apostle Paul records that *“there is One Spirit” Ephesians 4:4*. This is not a contradiction. *Seven Spirits* speaks of the fullness or completeness of the Spirit of God. **Isaiah 11:2** gives a picture of the *seven Spirits of God*, which helps us understand what the fullness of His One Spirit looks like; *the Spirit of Yahweh, wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge and the fear of Yahweh*. The *seven churches* then is the complete church. The *seven* messages Jesus has for the churches are the complete message to His church and the encouragement to overcome all the spiritual and doctrinal obstacles we face.

Seven angels/messengers

Jesus also interpreted what the *seven stars* in His right hand are; *“The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand ... the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches” Revelation 1:20*. It is important to mention this word *angels* as it is often used in the Book of Revelation. The word *angels* is the Greek word *aggelos* and does not inherently mean a heavenly spiritual being. It literally means *messenger*. It can mean a heavenly or earthly messenger depending on the context that it is written in.

The *seven angels (messengers)* in **Revelation 2 and 3** are delivering the message that Jesus has given for those churches. Who in the New Testament is given the responsibility to bring the Word to the churches? Not heavenly angels, but earthly messengers, even apostles and other ministers of the gospel. Through the Book of Revelation it is important to look at the context and leave yourself open to who the *angels* may be – whether human beings or heavenly angels. Jesus has sent from *His right hand* His messengers, to share with the churches the message they needed to hear, to overcome and receive His rewards!

The message to the Church

Many have tried to teach that **Revelation 2 and 3** shows a progression down the ages of the message to the church in different eras since the death and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah. However, anyone who reads these seven messages honestly can see that they are all relevant to the church of every generation for the last two thousand years.

- We are to keep our *“first love”* and stay committed to the *“first works”* (**Revelation 2:4-5**).
- We are to stay *“faithful until death”* in the face of the trials of the devil (**Revelation 2:10**).
- We are to repent of the *“doctrine of Balaam”*, ministering for money and thinking the gospel is a means to worldly wealth, only to find ourselves eating at the table of idolatry (**Revelation 2:14**).
- We are to repent of the *“doctrine of the Nicolaitans”* (**Revelation 2:15**). This is where a clergy class of priesthood emerges to rule over the people – a division and separation between the “clergy” and the “laity”, which is prevalent in Catholic and Protestant

church systems of today, and many other churches. “*Nico*” is Greek for “conqueror or victory” and “*laitans*” is Greek for “laity – the people”. The *Nicolaitan* doctrine teaches that there are elite and superior Christians who are the ministering class to whom the people must obey.

- We must not “*allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My (Jesus’) servants*” **Revelation 2:20**. Jezebel is a false prophetic voice that undermines the God-appointed ministries and elders in His church. The Jezebel spirit is still an issue we face today.
- We are to be truly alive and not only having “*a name that you are alive, but you are dead*” **Revelation 3:1**. Many churches today are trying to be trendy and “contemporary” and with their high energy music look like they are “alive” but it is not the anointing of the Holy Spirit.
- We are to have our “*works perfect towards God*” **Revelation 3:2**.
- We are to walk through the open doors that Jesus has for us and “*keep His command to persevere*” **Revelation 3:10**.
- And we are not to be “*lukewarm*” due to our comfortable lifestyle but receive Jesus’ love in “*rebuke and chastening*”, to go after the eternal riches which come through revelation and refining of faith (**Revelation 3:16-19**).

This summary of the complete message of Christ to His church, through His messengers, is still relevant today in its entirety as it reveals the challenges that face the church of every generation!

The Overcomers

We are exhorted and invited to overcome these challenges. The rewards are great for His church that overcomes. If we will overcome we will:

- “*eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God*” **Revelation 2:7**. Not a reference to a life in heaven, but a reality of life right now as we are restored in our first love and continuing in the first works
- Be given “*the crown of life*” and will “*not be hurt by the second death*” **Revelation 2:10-11**. This is if we are faithful even until death not “*fearing any of the things which you are about to suffer*” **Revelation 2:10**
- Be given “*some of the hidden manna to eat...a white stone...a new name written*” **Revelation 2:17**. This is being given the mysteries of God, the “*hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory*” **1 Corinthians 2:6-7**. If we overcome wrong doctrine we will have revelation of the mysteries and walk more fully in the new creation which we are!
- Be given “*power over the nations*” just like Jesus (**Revelation 2:26-27**). Overcoming the Jezebel spirit will cause us to walk in the authority of Christ so we can be effective in “*making disciples of all nations*” **Matthew 28:19**.
- Not be blotted out from the “*Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father*” **Revelation 3:5**. We are to overcome the temptation to look “alive” but not have the reality of His life. We are to stand and “*confess Me (Jesus) before men*” (**Matthew 10:32**) no matter how degrading in the world’s eyes that is.

- Be a ***“pillar in the temple of My God”*** and we will be part of the New Jerusalem, the Bride (**Revelation 3:12**). This is if we persevere in the face of severe religious persecution of those of the ***“Synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie”*** **Revelation 3:9**. We must stand in the truth and not be intimidated by religious Christianity to be part of the pure Bride!
- Be granted to ***“sit with Me (Jesus) on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne”*** **Revelation 3:21**. We are to overcome lukewarmness and allow Jesus to come in our ***“door”*** **Revelation 3:20**. We then learn to ***“reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ”*** **Romans 5:17**.

Overcoming is the door into another realm

In **Revelation 2 and 3** we are in the realm of the *seven lampstands*. In the Tabernacle that God instructed Moses to build the golden lampstand was to be placed in the **Holy Place**. This was the second compartment entered into by priests from the **Outer Court**. This is the realm of the Church learning to overcome. It is the place where the Church is growing up and being sanctified by the Spirit and the Word. The Church is hearing the message of Jesus and receiving His instructions on how to overcome the challenges so as to grow into more maturity and revelation.

Revelation 2 and 3 are in the **Holy Place**. Then John says, ***“After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this”*** **Revelation 4:1**. As a result of overcoming, we are called up into a new realm! From the Holy to the **Most Holy Place – a door opened in heaven!** The Trumpet Voice was heard. We ***“speak wisdom among the mature”*** **1 Corinthians 2:6**. The mature hear this voice. The ***“things which must take place after this”*** is not speaking of chronological time. It is as we are called up into maturity to have the mysteries revealed that ***“the things which must take place”*** can begin to unfold! Jesus is calling His church to ***“Come up here”***.

It is time to enter the Most Holy and see beyond the veil!

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