

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Who is the writer of Revelation?
2. Who is the author of Revelation?
3. How do you think every eye shall see Him?
4. Who are they that pierced Him?
5. Why will all the kindreds of the earth wail?
6. What comfort can we take from the salutation in verse 9, “who also am your brother and companion in tribulation”?
7. What does it mean to be in the Spirit?
8. Why would the churches be compared to candlesticks?

SUMMARY:

John had been banished to the Isle of Patmos because of his witness concerning God’s Word. While there, he received this blessed heavenly revelation, hearing the voice of the Lord and seeing Him. What an encouragement this must have been to Him in exile to be reminded that God is eternal, from beginning to end, that there is no variation with Him and His promises are sure and steadfast. He not only heard His voice but saw Him in His glory and majesty, purity and righteousness.

Men quaked at the appearance of our Lord and great fear fell upon them, but just as He told John to “fear not” so likewise did He speak on other occasions. We too, should look to Him in awe and fearsome trembling as the one who is over all things. Then if we look to Him in this way, He will say to us also, “fear not.”

NOTES:

[SoF:4] We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, born of a virgin, and lived a sinless life. He died on the cross for us. His shed blood is the atonement for our sins.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #1

October 4, 2020

Fourth Quarter

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

LESSON TEXT: *Revelation 1:1-20*

LESSON SETTING: John receives the message to the seven churches while exiled on the isle of Patmos.

TIME: Approximately 96 A.D.

I. WITNESS UNTO CHRIST. Revelation 1:1-9

- A. Witness of Eternal Things (vs. 5) John 3:31-32, 8:14
- B. His Love (vs. 5) John 15:9; 2 Corinthians 5:14; Galatians 2:20
- C. His Sacrifice [SoF:4] (vs. 5) Galatians 1:4; Ephesians 5:2; Titus 2:14
- D. All Shall See Him (vs. 7) Matthew 24:30; Luke 21:25-27
- E. Lord Eternal (vs. 8) Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 41:4

II. VISION OF CHRIST. Revelation 1:10-16

- A. His Voice Heard (vs. 10) John 3:29; 10:4; Acts 9:4
- B. His Visage (vs. 13-16) Daniel 7:13; Mark 9:2-3; Revelation 19:11-12

III. COMMISSION FROM CHRIST. Revelation 1:17-20

- A. Overpowering (vs. 17) John 18:6; Acts 9:3-4
- B. Life in Christ (vs. 18) John 1:4; 11:25
- C. Death Vanquished (vs. 18) Isaiah 25:8; 2 Timothy 1:10; Revelation 21:4
- D. Inspiration of the Word (vs. 10) Jeremiah 36:2; 2 Peter 1:21; Revelation 14:13

GOLDEN TEXT: *I AM HE THAT LIVETH, AND WAS DEAD; AND, BEHOLD, I AM ALIVE FOR EVERMORE, AMEN; AND HAVE THE KEYS OF HELL AND DEATH.*

Revelation 1:18

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Revelation 2:1-11

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Isaiah 55:1-11; Joshua 23:6-16

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ, the Triumphant Lord

TOPIC: CHRIST WARNS EPHESUS AND SMYRNA

INTRODUCTION:

Our lesson introduces Jesus who holds the seven stars, the angels of the seven churches, in His right hand as He walks amid the seven churches.

Ephesus was the location of one of the churches in Asia Minor, being the capital city. It also was the location of the temple of Diana, the moon goddess.

Jesus told the church *"I know thy works."* Nothing is hid from Him. Works involve labor and patience, consecration, obedience and humility. They hated the works and workers of evil. They rightly judged between the false and the true, those who said they were apostles but were not. Yet in spite of these worthy traits and commendable virtues, they were judged because they had lost their first love. This first love is the love that places Christ foremost in our lives and leads us to surrender all to Him and have a compassion for the souls of others. Ephesus was warned to repent, a warning, which must not have been heeded, because Ephesus no longer exists.

The Church of Smyrna, also located in Asia Minor, quite near to Ephesus, did not receive any message of reproach but was told they would go through much tribulation and persecution. The Lord told them too that He knew of their works and tribulation and poverty. He knew also those who proclaimed to be Jews (God's people) but in reality belonged to Satan. He called this blasphemy. To declare Christianity but deny the power of it is blasphemy. The ten days of tribulation included ten years of terrible suffering under Diocletian, a Roman Emperor. Those who are faithful even to the point of martyrdom shall be given a crown of life.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Every believer needs a personal revelation of the living Christ.

GOLDEN TEXT: TO HIM THAT OVERCOMETH WILL I GIVE TO EAT OF THE TREE OF LIFE, WHICH IS IN THE MIDST OF THE PARADISE OF GOD.

Revelation 2:7

As we study Christ's messages to the churches we will note a special promise given to each church, rather to those in each church who give a listening ear to the message. The message to the church of Smyrna was *"be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life."* He that overcometh will not be hurt of the second death.

The message to the church at Ephesus is our Golden Text. Note that in each case the promise is given to those who overcome. Think of the promises, "eat of the tree of life" and receiving a "crown of life." The promise of life eternal is based upon our overcoming. If we are not victorious in this we will have no part in His kingdom. Let us also remember that if we are to eat of the tree of life we must repent of our shortcomings and return to that first love. It is not enough to say we have love. We must live it. We cannot condemn others for a lack of this if we ourselves do not have a spirit of love.

Who overcometh shall of the fruit be eating
From off the tree in Paradise above.
No Longer pain or care or sorrow meeting,
Because we serve the Lord of life in love! Z.H. 304:1

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF October 5 – 11

- M. Noah Warns His Generation. Genesis 6:13-22
- T. Moses Warns Pharaoh of Judgment. Exodus 8:1-6
- W. God's Warning to Israel. Amos 3:1-11
- T. God's Prophet Warns Nineveh. Jonah 3:1-10
- F. Warning Against Unbelief. Luke 10:10-16
- S. *The Message to Ephesus. Revelation 2:1-7
- S. *The Message to Smyrna. Revelation 2:8-11

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