

2. I turned to see the voice...

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

(Revelation 1:3)

Greek: *apokalypsis* an uncovering or unveiling

The revelation of Jesus Christ

Overview of the first section

Chapter 1

- Introduction
- The first vision Christ in the midst of the lampstands

Chapters 2 & 3

• The Lord's messages to the seven churches

Chapters 4 & 5

- All heaven worships God upon His throne
- The Lamb takes the sealed scroll and is worshipped

Chapters 6 & 7 and 8:1

• The scroll's seven seals are opened



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I, John, your brother and partner

- in the **tribulation**
- and the kingdom
- and the patient endurance

that are in Jesus...

(Revelation 1:9)

Good soil ... bear fruit with patience... (Luke 8:15) In the world you will have tribulation... (John 16:33)

One Lord, one faith, one baptism... (Ephesians 4:5)

I, John, your brother and partner

- in the **tribulation**
- and the kingdom
- and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of
 - the word of God
 - and the **testimony of Jesus**.

(Revelation 1:9)



I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying,

> "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches... (Revelation 1:10-11)



(Revelation 10:4, 14:13, 19:9, 21:5)







What have we seen?

➤ A written revelation (an unveiling) is being given to real churches.

Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me,

and having turned

I saw seven golden lampstands,

and in the midst of the lampstands

One like a son of man...

(Revelation 1:12-13)



clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow,

and His eyes like a flame of fire;

His feet were like **fine brass**, as if refined in a furnace,

and His voice as the sound of many waters;

He had in His right hand seven stars,

out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword,

and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

The long robe (what colour?) may signify a priest or king.

His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow,

and His eyes like a flame of fire;

His feet were like **fine brass**, as if refined in a furnace,

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The Ancient of Days...
His garment was white as snow,
And the hair of His head
was like pure wool.
(Daniel 7:9)

clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow,

and His eyes like a flame of fire;

His feet were like **fine brass**, as if refined in a furnace,

and His voice as the sound of many waters;

He had in His right hand seven stars,

out of His mouth went a **sharp two-edged sword**,

and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire...

(Revelation 19:11-12)

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His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow,

and His eyes like a flame of fire;

His feet were like **fine brass**, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as **the sound of many waters**;

He had in His right hand seven stars,

out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword,

and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

Or "that has been heated in a furnace until it glows."

(Also, Revelation 2:18)

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and His eyes like a flame of fire;

His feet were like **fine brass**, as if refined in a furnace,

and His voice as the sound of many waters;

He had in His right hand seven stars,

out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword,

and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings... (Revelation 19:6)

clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow,

and His eyes like a flame of fire;

His feet were like **fine brass**, as if refined in a furnace,

and His voice as the sound of many waters;

He had in His right hand seven stars,

out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword,

Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great. (Psalm 18:35)

and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow,

and His eyes like a flame of fire;

His feet were like **fine brass**, as if refined in a furnace,

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He had in His right hand seven stars,

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To Pergamos:

These things says
He who has the sharp
two-edged sword...

Repent, or else
I will come to you quickly
and will fight against them
with the sword
of My mouth.
(Revelation 2:12,16)

clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow,

and His eyes like a flame of fire;

His feet were like **fine brass**, as if refined in a furnace,

and His voice as the sound of many waters;

He had in His right hand seven stars,

out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword,

and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

He was transfigured before them.

His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

(Matthew 17:2)

clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow,

Thyatira => and His eyes like a flame of fire;

Thyatira => His feet were like **fine brass**, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as **the sound of many waters**;

Ephesus, Sardis => He had in His right hand seven stars,

Pergamos => out of His mouth went a **sharp two-edged sword**, and His countenance was like **the sun shining in its strength**.

- Ephesus => [In the midst of the lampstands...]
 clothed with a garment down to the feet
 and girded about the chest with a golden band.
 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow,
- Thyatira => and His eyes like a flame of fire;
- Thyatira => His feet were like **fine brass**, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as **the sound of many waters**;
- Ephesus, Sardis => He had in His right hand seven stars,
 - Pergamos => out of His mouth went a **sharp two-edged sword**, and His countenance was like **the sun shining in its strength**.

(Revelation 1:13-16)

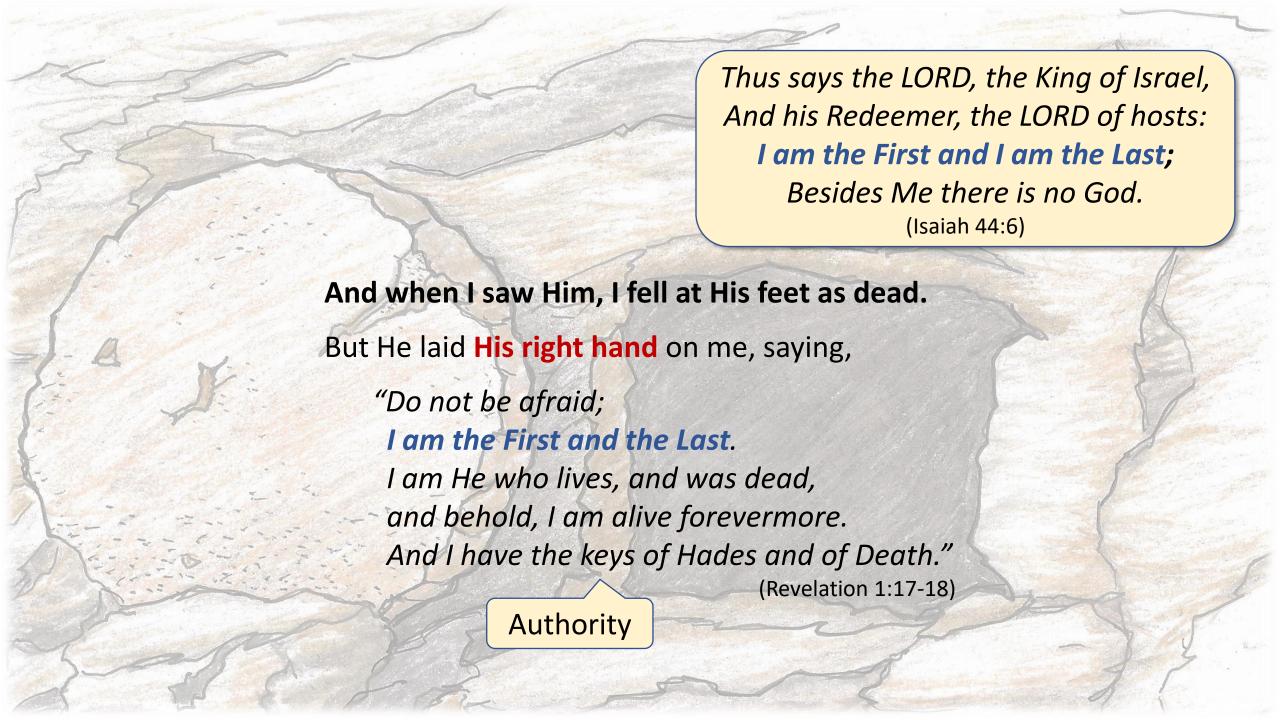
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Smyrna => "...I am the First and the Last.
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Smyrna => I am He who lives, and was dead,

Smyrna => and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen.

And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."

(Revelation 1:17-18)







What have we seen?

Christ is revealed as the One who sees, knows and judges.

"Write

- the things which you have seen,
- and the things which are,
- and the things which will take place after this."

(Revelation 1:19)



The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches

The mystery of

- the seven stars which you saw in My right hand,
- and the seven golden lampstands...

(Revelation 1:20)

The seven lampstands are the seven churches

The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches

Or "messengers" (see Malachi 3:1)

How should we understand this?

- O Guardian angels for the churches?
- o The bishop or principal elder?
- o The church's spiritual character?
- O All the believers in that locality?

Those who are wise shall shine
Like the brightness of the firmament,
And those who turn many to righteousness
Like the stars forever and ever.

(Daniel 12:3)

The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches

The mystery of

- the seven stars which you saw in My right hand,
- and the seven golden lampstands...

(Revelation 1:20)

The seven lampstands are the seven churches

The seven lampstands are the seven churches

How should we understand this?

- Witnesses in the world (Rev 11:3-4)?
- o The Lord's presence among the churches?
- The Spirit's role in the life of the church?
- The new people of God (not a menorah but now individual lampstands)?



...the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

(Ephesians 3:9-10)



What have we seen?

- > A written revelation (an unveiling) is given to real churches.
- Christ is revealed as the One who sees, knows and judges.
- > The life and role of the church is spiritual.



To the angel of the church of Ephesus write...

(Revelation 2:1)