

## EPISODE 32 NOTES - REVELATION 1- PART TWO

In October 2023, my daughter and I visited the sites of the 7 churches mentioned in chapters 1-3. This inspired me to think more about these chapters than I ever had before. As discussed briefly in the previous episode, some Christians find the stern warnings from the glorified Christ disturbing. The Lord Jesus is 'the same yesterday, today and forever'. We must love the Lord Jesus as he is portrayed here as much as we love what we know of his first coming. These messages are very enlivening if viewed properly. They give us a greater glimpse of our Lord's glory and the great rewards promised to overcomers. It is very clear that we are to love Him and not the things of this world. The more attached we are to the things of this world the more unpleasant the end of the age will loom for us.

Imagine these times in about 95 AD.

- Other apostles are all martyred or dead
- Ephesus area among the most developed and knowledgeable
- Jerusalem destroyed and Israel dispersed
- Gentile and Jewish Christians no longer getting along in one body
- False teachings, false traditions, pagan influences, loss of spiritual vitality
- No new writings of the Word of God, but false writings circulating

1:4 uses the pronoun "us" and "our", showing us that this is to the church that was alive at that time, and by extension, to us.

1:7-8 refers to Daniel 7:13-14, which Jesus also prophetically quoted at his trial in Matt. 26:63-66. It also refers to Zech 12:10, about the tribes of Israel mourning when they realize that the returning Christ Jesus is and was their Messiah.

Bullinger and others have noted that there are many more Jewish / Old Testament references in Revelation than in any other book in the Bible. Of course! Revelation is completing the Bible showing how all prophecy will come to pass at the end of the age.

1:10-11. We've covered "The Lord's Day" in detail in the previous episode. It does not mean that everything written in Revelation is after the gathering together or rapture of the church. The Lord's voice like a trumpet is reminiscent of Exodus 19-20, when YHWH spoke to the whole congregation of Israel. The 7 churches are named which are all within about a 100 mile radius in Western Turkey.

Verses 1:12-20 describe the risen, ascended Christ. This description had never been revealed before. These churches have probably been in existence for about 30 years. Jerusalem has fallen, there is persecution, and the Lord has not returned as soon as they thought. Lord Jesus is going to speak directly on what he approves and does not approve in the current state of the churches. Even though there are harsh rebukes and consequences, the main message is that he is lovingly calling them to repent, where needed, and to get on the ball. He will promise great reward to the overcomers. The elements of these descriptive phrases will introduce him to the

7 churches. Many commentaries can be found on [biblehub.com](http://biblehub.com). Here are a few comments about these verses.

- Long robe like a priest
- Golden sash around his chest was what royalty wore to indicate they are at rest on their throne.
- White wool is somehow symbolic of eternity and is pure.
- Eyes like a flame of fire... He can see through anything and his gaze may burn.
- Feet like bronze... stability
- His voice and words cannot be withstood, like the roar of the ocean.
- Seven stars are the messengers, perhaps the leaders, of the 7 churches. They are in his right hand. They have his protection and blessing.

Seven golden candlesticks are the 7 churches. Remember, He speaks to a church as a body that is responsible for what goes on in it. Be sure to understand some of his sayings are to individuals and some to the church as a whole.