

The Message of Revelation: Session 1

Christ among us

A glowing oval border of lights, resembling a string of small, warm-toned bulbs, frames the central text. The lights are arranged in a slightly irregular oval shape, creating a warm, inviting glow against the dark background.

The Recipients of the Revelation

Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

Patmos

Written by John

- On Patmos
- During Domitian's reign (AD 95-96)

“What good would this book have been for 1st century readers in Ephesus if it only tells of events 2000 later?”

Purpose of the Book of Revelation

To comfort the Church in its struggle against evil:

- *God sees tears (7:17, 21:4), will avenge their blood (19:2)*
- *Their death is precious, yet victory is assured (15:2)*
- *Their prayers are powerful (8:3,4)*
- *Christ reigns and steers world in interest of his church (5:7,8)*
- *Christ is coming to take his people to Himself (marriage supper) and to live with them in a renewed creation (21:22)*
- *Stirs longing for His return (22:17), Yet He is among them (1:12-20)*

Purpose of the Book of Revelation

To correct perspective of the Church in its struggle against evil:

- Though it may *seem* their prayers are ineffective (6:10) we see judgments as result of it (8:3-5).
- Though they *seem* defeated, they reign on earth (5:10), with Christ in 1000yr (20:4 and in new heaven forever (22:5).
- Though it may seem that the dragon (12:3), beast (13:1), false prophet (13:11) and Babylon (14:8) reign – they are all defeated (18:2; 19:20; 20:10)

Theme of the Book: Christ the Victor

Revelations 17:14

“They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

The Lampstands



Seven Seals



Artwork by Pat Marvenko Smith ©1992, 1992
www.revelationart.com

Seven Trumpets



Woman & Dragon



Seven Bowls



Pat Marvenko Smith (c) 1992, 1992

Fall of Babylon



Artwork by Pat Marvenko Smith ©1992, 1992
www.revelationart.com

The Wedding



Christ among the Lampstands


Revelation 1:1-3

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

Christ among the Lampstands

Revelation 1:4-6

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.



Christ among the Lampstands

Revelation 1:7-8


Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Christ among the Lampstands

Revelation 1:9-11

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. 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, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.



Christ among the Lampstands

Revelation 1:12-16

Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

Christ among the Lampstands

Revelation 1:17-20

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the 7 stars are the angels of the 7 churches, and the 7 lampstands are the 7 churches.

Christ among the Lampstands

- Christ is always with his church.
- Christ holds the destiny of his church in his hands.
- Christ preserves and protects his church – even in death.
- Christ works among and through his church.

