

M O R E T H A N
CONQUERORS
A STUDY OF REVELATION

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT
BIBLE STUDY**

August 21, 2024

First Baptist Church ~ Covington, Louisiana

Waylon Bailey, Pastor

Revelation 1:12-20 RSV

We do not stand alone

vs. 1:12-20 The most reassuring of visions. The church is in the midst of the conflict but the Son of Man is in the midst of the church.

[12] Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,

[13] and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden girdle round his breast;

*v13 The Savior "like the Son of Man." The same Savior but different than in the days of His humiliation. **Daniel 7:13 I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and we presented before him.***

v13-16 the description

[14] his head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire,

[15] his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters;

[16] in his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth issued a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

v17-20 The effect of the Savior on John. Not to terrify but to comfort John.

[17] When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand upon me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last,

v17 The right hand bestows comfort and strength.

[18] and the living one; I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

v18 "Keys" bestow authority and power. Death cannot injure the believer but is gain for the Kingdom and for the believer.

Is this why the death of a saint is "precious in the sight of the Lord?"

What a comfort for believers who would soon die for Christ!

Death and Hades – in this case means “death and the grave.” The power to give life and to take it away OR “the state of death.”

Hades is used in various ways in the Old Testament: (1) The state of disembodied existence, death always precedes Hades in Scripture.

[19] Now write what you see, what is and what is to take place hereafter.

[20] As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

*v20 Lampstand, same Greek word as **Matthew 5:15 Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.***

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REVELATION 2:1 – 3:22

PATTERN OF THE LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES

The Pattern for the 7 churches:

The salutation or address:

"To the angel"

Christ's self-designation:

"he who holds the 7 stars"

Commendation:

"I know thy works"

Warning and threat:

"Remember therefore or else"

Exhortation:

"He that has an ear"

Promise:

"To him that overcomes"

The letters describe situations that occur again and again – in every time past/current.

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Revelation 2:1-11 RSV

vs.2:1 Ephesus, Capital of Asia Minor Acts 19:21-41

Temple of Artemis

Known for idols and other religious articles, major part of its economy.

Nicolaitans, we know little of this sect or cult

Difficult to keep an eye out for evil and keep love at the same time.

[2:1] "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

[2] "'I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear evil men but have tested those who call themselves apostles but are not, and found them to be false;

[3] I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.

[4] But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

[5] Remember then from what you have fallen, repent and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

v.5 Repent in the New Testament means to "change your mind."

Today, Ephesus does not exist. No church in Ephesus.

[6] Yet this you have, you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

*v.6: We do not know the exact wickedness of the Nicolaitans, but they may represent the same general heresy as those who hold the teaching of Balaam (**Revelation 2:14**) and the followers of the woman Jezebel (**Revelation 2:20**)*

All these seemed not to refuse the immoral and idolatrous banquets of heathen but also tired to justify their sinful practices.

The Lord hates compromise with the world.

[7] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

v.7 "He who has an ear" obviously means that the letters are read by all the churches. "To him that conquers" is the one who fights against sin, the devil and his whole dominion and in his love for Christ perseveres to the very end.

Thus, we want to be conquerors! **Revelation 6:2 And I saw, and behold, a white horse, and its rider had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.**

The conqueror is promised the tree of life which is in heaven (paradise). **Also see Genesis 3:22, Revelation 22:2,14,19.**

[8] "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.

Smyrna was a rival of Ephesus on an arm of the Aegean Sea.

The church was possibly founded by Paul on his third missionary journey 53-56AD

Acts 19:10 This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

Polycarp, a disciple of John, may have been the pastor/bishop of the church at this time. (95AD). He was faithful unto death. He was burned at the stake 155AD. He refused to say "Ceasar is Lord."

Polycarp refused to reject Christ. He said, "Eighty and six years have I served him, and he never did me any injury; how then can I blaspheme my King and my Savior."

[9] "'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

v.9 Extreme poverty. Christians were poor anyway, but becoming a Christian in Smyrna meant poverty, hunger, imprisonment and often death by wild beasts.

They were rich in spiritual possessions.

[10] Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

v.10 The devil's plan was to "tempt" the saints but the Lord's plan would be proving/trying them. Ten days is a definite full, but brief period. Be faithful even though you die.

[11] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who conquers shall not be hurt by the second death.'

v.11 Even though believers may be put to death (the first death) they will not be hurt by the second death, meaning to be cast into the lake of fire when Christ returns. (Revelation 20:14)