

LIFE GROUP notes

07 May

Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: 7 Churches of Revelation – week 3



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member what the seven golden lampstands refer to in Revelation 1:20?
2. What are the two reasons John gives us for his persecution in Revelation 1:9? (**Because of the Word of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ.**).
3. What was Jesus' first words to John while John is worshiping in v.11? (**Jesus said; "write, what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches..."**).
4. Who is walking in the midst of the seven golden lampstands according to v.13? (**One like a Son of Man; a prophesy of the Messiah in Daniel 7:13 – 14.**).



Let's go deeper

5. How did Jesus respond to John falling at His feet in v.17? (**Jesus laid His right hand on John, saying, "fear not."**).
6. What did God tell Abram in Genesis 15:1? (**God says, do not be afraid Abram I am your shield. I am here to protect you.**).
7. David says to God in Psalm 23:4? (**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will not fear, for you are with me.**).
8. What did God say to the governor, high priest, and the people of the land in Haggai 2:4 – 5? (**Be strong! Be strong! Be strong, for I am with you, declares the Lord Almighty.**).



Let's apply this

9. Revelation 1:17; 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.

Fear not. Jesus is with you; He is with us. He knows what is going to happen. He knows where he is taking you. He has got it all under control.

- Surrender to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to reveal to you the glorious, all-powerful, all-knowing, and omnipresent Jesus Christ.
- Pray for God's people this week, and encourage them to fear not.

SUMMARY:

7 Churches of Revelation: Week 3 (Fear not).

Read: Revelation 1:9 – 20.

v.9; Tribulation means persecution, pressure and those hard, difficult, painful times in life and John here is experiencing tribulation physically with hard labour. Financially he lost his home, all his possessions and he is in exile. Emotionally he cannot be with the God's people that he loves and he is worried about them. Spiritually he is all by himself with none to minister to him.

v.10 – 11; John is surrendered and filled with the Holy Spirit and he worships God, he does not question God, he worships. The example of John is he started worshiping Jesus before Jesus appeared to him. Jesus speaks to John in a loud voice, and re-directs him to the seven churches, to focus on others and not himself.

v.12 – 13; The seven golden lampstands represent seven churches (see v.20). Each church is a picture of a lampstand reflecting and shining the light of Christ to a dark world. What gives the lampstand light? **Leviticus 24:1 – 4**, tells us that burning oil lamps provided light for the lampstands. A lamp must receive both oil (anointing) and fire (Holy Spirit) before it can shine. **Matthew 3:11**, says that Jesus baptizes with Holy Spirit and fire. Aaron as high priest had to closely inspect and care for the lamps so they would burn continually before the Lord. Jesus, as our Great High Priest walks among the lampstands (God's people) as the Son of Man (see **Daniel 7:13 – 14**). Jesus is both our Great High Priest, and King walking among His people.

v.14 – 16; The **hairs of His head** were white, like white wool, like snow (great wisdom and purity). **His eyes** were like a flame of fire, (authority and judgment). **His feet** were like burnished bronze or fine brass, refined in a furnace, brass was the strongest known metal in the ancient world – an emblem of stability and durability, and **His voice** was like the roar of many waters. His voice is powerful. In **His right hand** He held seven stars, from **His mouth** came a sharp two-edged sword (God's Word is powerful) and **His face** was like the sun shining in full strength.

v.17; Is an act of worship, adoration, and surrender. This is what a servant does in the presence of a king, and a soldier in the presence of a conquering commander.

v.18 – 20; Not only are the churches like lampstands, but each church has an angel or angels that God uses for His plans and purposes, (see **Ephesians 6:10 – 20**). "**Fear not,**" you can hear that as an **angry command**. God points His finger to you and says; "fear not!" Or you can hear it as a **loving invitation**, Jesus puts His hand on John's shoulder, and says, "Fear not." Every time God says, "Fear not," He says something else that is important, that changes the angry command to a loving invitation. He says, "Fear not, for I am with you."