

REVELATION 10 – LAMPSTAND TO LAMPS

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Revelation 1:12-16

PROLOGUE – CHURCH-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE: JERUSALEM TO ASIA

- End of 1st Century Christianity's HQ moved from Jerusalem to Asia (Ephesus)
- Early persecution of Christians increased
- Jerusalem destroyed A.D. 70 disrupting Judaism {Pharisees}
- Council of Jamnia declared The Way: Not Judaism; not Rome sanctioned
- Ephesus Temple of Artemis (A.D. 56)
(Ac 19:23-41)
- Paul-John HQ there to reach Mediterranean Basin and North Africa



PROLOGUE – PATMOS: ISLAND OF HIS DEATH

- Patmos was more a title than a name: it was one of several penal islands where political prisoners were exiled to hard labor: Patmos means My Death
 - Ephesus, *neokoros* city to Artemis {Diane}, built a temple to Domitian to be declared *neokoros*, temple guardian of Domitian; i.e., special status above other cities (Ac 19:23-41)
 - Showed shift from *ancient* paganism to *modern* man-worship as Domitian arbitrary and capricious in his frequent retributions: Promoted godless society (Pr 28:21; 29:12; 30:27)
 - Theorized John spoke against this temple, and as a leader of a non-state approved religion, Ephesus exiled him to penal island to work himself to death (A.D. 90s)
 - Apostles *never* exalted themselves above others; this move was already underway in church hierarchy resulting in official church offices: Pope, Bishop, Priest, Pastor (Mt 23:8-12)

OLD COVENANT VS NEW COVENANT

OT – MENORAH LAMPSTAND



NT – SEVEN LAMPS



SEVEN LAMPS *SPIRITUALLY* LINKED TO CHRIST

- Menorah's lamps linked to central physical source, Temple (Ex 25:31-40; 1Ki 8:46-51)
- Illuminated, reinforced, veil of separation between Holy and Holiest Place (He 9:1-3)
- Old Priesthood examined then rejected Christ as unworthy (Mt 27:64-66; 1Pe 2:4)
- Christ's sacrifice in the Flesh removed the veil: New Covenant (Ex 26:30-35; Mk 15:37-39; He 9:25-26; 10:19-20)
- Church lights, Gospel, linked to Christ via Spirit; not independent {Two Jerusalems} (Mt 5:14-16; 1Co 12:4-11; Ga 4:21-31; Ep 2:18; Col 1:15-19)



CHRIST HIGH PRIEST BEFORE THE WORLD

- John sees Christ as *High Priest*; but Daniel also saw Christ as *High Priest*, so when did Christ become *High Priest*? (Da 10:4-7)
 - Christ made *High Priest* like Melchizedek when He presented Himself to the Father after the stauros at the *Mercy Seat* under the auspices of the Four Angels {Holiness} (Ex 25:17-22; Nu 7:89; Ez 1:5-14; 10:9-15; Jn 19:28-30; 20:11-18; He 5:1-10; 9:11-26; 10:19-22; Re 4:6-11)
 - Christ's sacrifice **in ALL aspects** stretched backward and forward in time (Ro 3:21-26)
 - Heaven **outside of time**; thus, Christ's *High Priesthood* began at His monogenesis **before** He created Heaven and Earth (Ge 1:3-5; Col 1:15-19; He 5:5-6)
 - This implied in Daniel's visions when He labeled Christ, *Ancient of Days* (He existed **before** Days), saw Him as *High Priest* {Christ already knew every stauros agony!} (Da 7:9-10; 10:1-8; Mal 4; Re 20:11-15)

TRANSFERRING THE MANTLE: JUDAISM TO CHURCH(ES)

- End of 1st century Christ informs John (Us) that His people for spreading His Gospel is the Church(es); Judaism wanted no part, has no part
 - Begun with Peter's vision taking the Gospel to the Gentiles (Ac 10:9-48)
 - Menorah *broken* into seven lights fed by Christ via Spirit; Temple in Heaven (He 9:23-24)
 - Jews were to be priests but rejected Messiah to be agents of His sacrifice (Ex 19:5; Ez 23)
 - Jews were set aside while Christ takes Gospel to Gentiles; however, Gentiles will also fail via pride and Jesus will graft Jews back into His vine fulfilling His Promises to them (Is 61:6; Ro 11, 28-32)
 - Physical Temple replaced by *spiritual* Temple made without hands composed of living believers: Hagios to Hieros holiness – New Covenant {No animal sacrifices – Ever} (Is 28:16; Da 2:44-45; Ep 2:18-22; 1Pe 2:4-10)

CHRIST'S IMAGE DEPICTS HOLINESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- John's Revelation: Hieros holy Christ holding ALL accountable for their rebellion while embracing Sin, following Satan {Church; Jews: True-False; Sinners}
 - Eyes of flame: Fire purifies (1Co 3:10-15)
 - Bronze: Metal of judgment; just as feet bring the Gospel, the Gospel holds sinners accountable {Wheat-Tares} (Ps 110:1; Is 26:5-7; Mt 13:24-30; Jn 1:1-5; Ro 10:14-15; 1Co 15:25; He 2:6-8; 10:12-13, 29)
 - His face shines with Father's glory revealing Truth sinners hide (Mk 9:2-8; Jn 17:4-5; Ro 1:18-28)
 - Sword of His mouth is the Father's Word: Bible-Absolute Truth (Is 49:1-7; Jn 12:47-50; Ep 6:17)
- Christ's warning: He is coming to establish His Kingdom on earth (Mt 25:31-46; He 9:27-28; 10:26-31)

ONLY ONE WAY: JESUS

- Sin, many paths to Second Death; but only **One Path** to Second Life (Mt 7:13-14)
 - Jesus proclaimed He is the only way to the Father (Jn 14:4-7)
 - Jesus, as Head of Body His Church, is The (only) Mediator between Father and Man (Jn 10:1-18; Ep 1:22-23; Col 1:18; 1Ti 2:5-6)
- Mantle for being witnesses to the world transitions from Jews to Christians
 - Christianity does not spring forth independently of Judaism; it extends from it
 - *False Jews* failed and are put aside now; Jesus return for *True Jews* {Millennial Kingdom}
 - Church(es) also fail their charge; judgment begins with us before the World (1Pe 4:17-19)