

# REVELATION II – APOSTLES TO EPISKOPOI CHURCHES

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Revelation 1:17-20

# PROLOGUE – OLD COVENANT VS NEW COVENANT

OT – MENORAH LAMPSTAND



NT – SEVEN LAMPS



# PROLOGUE – TRANSFERRING THE MANTLE: JUDAISM TO CHURCH(ES)

- End of 1<sup>st</sup> 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)

# TRANSFERRING THE MANTLE: APOSTLE(S) TO EPISKOPOI

- Last *Transferring the Mantle* of Revelation: Apostles to Episkopoi, Overseers (2Ki 2:8-14)
  - John the last apostle on the island of *My Death*: Patmos
  - Apostles were gifts {δωρεά, dōrea} to establish the Church and churches in the **One Faith** as there was only One: Christ; Church; Baptism and Spirit (Ep 4:4-14)
  - Paul established qualifications of an Overseer based upon the examples of the apostles demonstrating *New Covenant* living (1Ti 3:1-7)
  - Christianity would follow Judaism which turned God's Law into exclusionary **rules** too burdensome to follow (Mt 23:1-36)
  - Body cannot live forever, not even John's; his end was approaching (Jn 21:20-23; 1Co 15:50)

## HAGIOS MEETS HIEROS: FLESH BEFORE GOD

- As faithful and experienced at living in *hagios* holiness; John's flesh could not stand before Christ's *hieros* holiness; though John knew he was saved (Ro 8:14-17)
  - Christ's Light revealed John's fleshly sinfulness inherent in everyone (1Co 9:11; 1Jo 1:6-10)
  - John's body withered knowing its *natural* sinfulness; like Daniel's flesh (Da 10:4-9; 1Jo 4:18)
- John heard the familiar words of decades earlier, "Stop fearing!" (Mt 14:22-27)
- Christ identified Himself as, *I Am*; also familiar to John, and: (Ex 3:13-15; Jn 8:53-58)
  - First and Last from Isaiah; God of the Prophets (Is 41:4; Col 1:15-20)
  - Living One {Yahweh} who died to live forevermore (1Co 15:20-23)
  - He **only** has keys to Hell-Death through His Death (1Co 15:24-29, 51-55)

# JOHN: STOP *FEARING* DEATH

- Everyone *fears* Death, separation, but not for the same reasons
  - Lost *fear* Death because it unmask their delusion revealing God as The Truth (Ro 1:18-28)
  - Christ *feared* Death because of Separation from the Father as Sin (Lk 22:39-46)
  - Saved *fear* Death due to partial *knowing* and fleshly sinfulness (1Co 13:12)
- Christ visits John strengthening him for his coming Death and to give him his final mission: Write!
  - What he has seen: Prologue and Preamble
  - What he does see: Christ as High Priest, Faithful Witness
  - What he will see: Letters to the Churches; Great Tribulation culminating in Christ's Coming; Millennial Kingdom; Final Judgment and New Heaven and Earth – Eternity

# CHRIST'S EXEGESIS: MAN'S EISEGESIS

- Christ interprets metaphoric images for us; meaning *from* Scripture {Exegete}
  - Golden {does not tarnish; no sin} oil lamps and stands represent the seven churches He previously named
  - Seven stars in His right {Favored} hand represent seven *messengers* given to churches
- People Eisegete, add their meaning, into Scripture creating confusion distorting Christ's meaning; usually looking for mysticism {Predating Scientism}
  - ἄγγελος, *aggelos* means messenger; transliterated as angel if context refers to God's spiritual messengers; i.e., no form: Gabriel; Satan; etc.; even *Angel of the Lord* {Christ}
  - Christ referring to *gift* He gave to each church: Pastor-Teacher, Overseer of Truth; if actual angels protecting each church, they were failing denoting a *weak God!* Really?

# CHRIST REVEALS MYSTERIES: MAN MAKES MYSTERIES

- Revelation reveals Father's mysteries, *mystery* of the stars and lamps is the first but not the last (Re 10:5-7)
  - Christ views Saved as His Friends, He reveals **all** He knows to His Friends (Jn 15:13-17)
  - Father's mysteries are not hidden, incomprehensible to the Lost; different mind (Lk 8:10; Ep 3:1-6)
- Sinners **hide knowing**, mysteries, to advance nefarious schemes (Ps 7:14-15; Pr 1:8-19)
  - Claiming to be wise they are simpletons relying on their lies and your lusts (Pr 1:20-32)
  - They seek to confuse Scripture by reading their reasoning into it as they are unable to discern God's Truth from it: Old versus New Natures
  - Hence, they reason Revelation is confusion: Sin's Mysteries and Man's Mysticisms



# END OF THE BEGINNING: BEGINNING OF *MODERNISM*

- Ancient ways ended with Christ but not abruptly
  - First century transitioned from ancient reasonings because of the Gospel's Light
  - From 2<sup>nd</sup> century onward Satan seeks to subvert God's Truth while building his own kingdom as foretold in Nebuchadnezzar's dream and revealed by Daniel (Da 2)
  - Modern Man either looks back to ancient mysticisms, Babylon-Persian kingdoms or builds upon the scientisms of Greco-Roman *wisdom* which cannot define Truth (Jn 18:38)
- Modernism built upon Churches' gospel interpretations and failures revealed in the Church Letters until replacing Churches' lies with Satan's Lie (2Th 2:3-12)
  - Rejection of apostle's informal leadership for man's authoritarianism replaced Christ with Church hierarchies just as Israel replaced Judges with Kings: Man never learns (ISa 8:4-20; Mt 23:8-12; Ro 11:13-24)