

CHRIST IN THE MIDST OF HIS CHURCHES
REV. 1:12-13,20 ; [10-20]

Introduction:

- A. This is a revelation of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. "The revelation of Jesus Christ." v1
 - 2. The book reveals Jesus Christ to us.

- B. Here He is veiwed as being in the "midst of seven golden candlesticks."
 - 1. These are the seven churches of Asia.
 - 2. They represent His churches in any age.

I. JOHN'S POSITION FOR THIS VISION. V9-10

- A. John writes of his position.
 - 1. "in the isle that is called Patmos," Penal Colony.
 - 2. "in the Spirit," "on the Lord's day."

- B. In the Spirit on three other occasions.
 - 1. 4:2, "I was in the Spirit."
 - 2. 17:3, "he carried me away in the Spirit."
 - 3. 21:10, "he carried me away in the Spirit."

II. JOHN NOT ONLY SAW, HE HEARD. V10

- A. John's commission.
 - 1. 10,11, "What thou seest, write in a book."
 - 2. "send unto the seven churches in Asia."

- B. We have a commission.
 - 1. We expect John to have been faithful.
 - 2. We should be faithful.

III. JOHN'S VISION OF JESUS. V12-16

- A. John's description of Jesus.

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1. v12-15.
 2. Not what the shepherds saw!
- B. The mystery he saw.
1. Seven Candlesticks. v12.
 2. Seven stars. v16.
- C. The character of Jesus. v16.
1. "out of his mouth went a sharp two edged sword."
 - a. Heb. 4:12.
 2. "his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength."
 - a. Churches are lamps, Pastors are Stars, and Christ is the Sun.

IV. JOHN'S FRIGHT AT THIS VISION. V17

- A. "And when I saw him I fell at His feet as dead."
1. The sight of His majesty!
 2. Silent, unmoving, shaken.
- B. Men continually respond in this manner if they have understanding.
1. There is no better place for man.
 2. This should lay aside the moder theory of being a "buddy" to Jesus.
 3. John didn't command Jesus to bless him, Kenneth Copeland, Jimmy Swaggert, Shuler, etc.

V. THE ASSURANCE OF JESUS. V17b,18

- A. "Fear not, I am the first and the last."
1. There is no fear in perfect love.
 2. He is from time to time.
- B. "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore."

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1. Jesus literally died on the cross.
 2. He will never die again!
- C. "Amen. and have the keys of hell and of death."
1. Keys are symbols of authority.
 2. Jesus has authority over death as a process and the grace, its end.

VI. JOHN'S COMMISSION AFFIRMED. V19

- A. The writings have three classifications.
1. "things which thou hast seen."
 2. "and the things which are."
 3. "and the things which shall be hereafter."
- B. The mystery explained. v20
1. The stars are messengers, Pastors.
 2. The lampstands are churches.
- C. The relationship today.
1. Pastor preachers.
 2. Church witnesses.
 3. God blesses.

