

Wednesday in the Word  
Digging Deeper  
April 6, 2022  
Any Minute Now

Revelation 1:9-20 KJVS

[9] I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. [10] I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, [11] Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. [12] And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; [13] And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. [14] His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; [15] And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. [16] And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. [17] And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: [18] I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. [19] Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; [20] The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

This section of scripture excites us because as Christians we want so deeply to finally see the Revelation of Jesus Christ. We want Him to come again. We want to see Him appear to us as the Mighty God that He is. We want to see Him finalize His plan of salvation, redemption and vindication. As we read and study this it all seems so fresh and we are prepared for this final act on the world stage. We tend to forget these words were penned nearly 2000 years ago. Believers down through the ages have sat at the edge of their seats when studying this, anticipating God's Any Minute Arrival. An imminent rapture (from the Latin 'rapere' meaning rapid) and a speedy second coming have occupied the hearts and minds of the faithful for two millennia. Jesus chose 7 churches to represent His earthly kingdom and entrusted to them the responsibility of spreading this message of the two edged sword. One edge giving hope to His children. The other edge shouting doom to the rebellious. Hebrews 4:9-13. These churches form a small circuit in ancient eastern Asia, now modern Turkey. They were centrally located to the rest of the New Christian world growing along Roman roads and growing as well under the pressure of persecution. These same churches were also close to the island of John's exile, Patmos, (Greek; my killing) allowing John to pass his message along when he gained his freedom. Jesus' second coming was so desperately needed at this time due to the horrors that His people endured and yet as immediate as it all sounded He did not come. He still taries

today. Two opposing characteristics explain why. While population growth today joyfully increases the size of God's kingdom, every generation creeps ever closer to the day when His number is full. Romans 11:25. That being the fact that the last person saved initiates the phase of time when all remaining humanity will be in full rejection of the offer of the Savior. Luke 10:16, John 1:11. That great and Dreadful Day will see the rapture followed swiftly by the Day of the Lord's Wrath. Revelation 6:15-17. Why? John 3:36. Could we be at this final stage? Could our generation experience this trauma? The stage is set and most of the actors have arrived. Listen to the news with the Bible in your lap. As we will see, Jesus, being among the 7 churches, does not necessarily leave all of them with good news. He desires to hand off His Message to the faithful but many will fail Him. John survived attempted execution and then exile, yet faithfully recorded this apocalypse. This same recording issues stern warning to 5 of the 7 recipients. Imagine the apparent frustration our Lord endured when his followers proved Him right in His prophecy of their failure. Matthew 26:34. His disciples split on Him out of fear, one betrayed Him and one denied Him. We Christians can be a miserable lot when we shed our fidelity to the One Who died for us. But bless us all, He fully loves us, forgives us and joyfully awaits our fellowship. Hebrews 12:2. By the way, verse 19 of today's passage is our most simple, basic outline of the book of Revelation. Hast seen, which are and shall be. Don't believe Jesus? Your choice. To those of us who do believe, that simple outline is all we need to secure our faith in the God of the Universe. Amen.