

REVELATION 1:9-20 HANDOUT LESSON 4



Revelation 1:9 (AMP)

⁹I, John, your brother and companion (sharer and participator) with you in the tribulation and kingdom and patient endurance [which are] in Jesus Christ, was on the isle called Patmos, [banished] on account of [my witnessing to] the Word of God and the testimony (the proof, the evidence) for Jesus Christ.

Persecution helps churches grow

This is in response to the "Outside the Church Doors" commentary about Christian persecution that ran Monday. I am glad to see Mr. [Ernest] Williams bring to light what so many believers/followers in Jesus Christ are experiencing around the world. Thank you, sir.

It is something that is not often mentioned or even discussed in the modern-day American church. Christ told us in the Bible that persecution would come for those who truly follow Him. Believers are to expect it, and be blessed because of it.

The Lord has blessed me with being able to work with 115 different churches in Africa, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, South America and here in the States. Most of the churches overseas where we have been face enormous persecution each day — murder, torture, kidnapping, prison, etc. It is the life that they live.

What I have seen is that in areas where the church is suffering persecution, the good news of Christ is spreading like wildfire. In these areas, the church is flourishing, healthy and believers live out a poured-out existence in following the Son of God. All that they are, and all that they have, is attributed to Jesus Christ. The Spirit of God moves in and around these people. They are truly filled with the Holy Spirit.

I went to Somalia this past January with a fellow preacher to contact the underground church there. The first Christian that we came in contact with was highly offended when I asked her if she was in fact a "Christian." She told us that in that part of the world, the term "Christian" is offensive.

She went on to say, "There it identifies them with a person who only goes to church now and then and does not truly serve Christ ... you know, like the Christians in America. We want to be called 'believers' because everything about our lives points to following Jesus Christ." Wow!

I must say that I was surprised, but it is something that I have seen and heard many times around the world. Every time I return home here to the States, I see so many churches — not all churches, but most — that are barely getting by, very weak in power and very unknowledgeable of the Word of God.

They are not reaching out to people in their community on a daily basis. The members say that they love God, but do not keep His commandments. The Bible says that people like this are liars, plain and simple. Many are only interested in feeling better about themselves and do not follow the God of the Bible.

The members say that they do follow God, but are not found studying God's Word, living a sacrificial existence or fulfilling the Great Commission. The Great Commission commands believers to go unto all of the world telling of the good news of Christ, teaching, baptizing and making disciples.

Not until persecution reaches our shores, and not until America is broken of its comfort, will the church begin to truly flourish here. A missionary who I am good friends with in China said this to me recently; "All of the servants of God that I work with in China pray daily that America will be broken for God and that persecution will reach the American church."

It is time for Christians here to step up to who they are supposed to be.

In His service,
Carthage Dye
39 Matthew Drive, Paris
maryandcarthage@hotmail.com

Rev. 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet,

Exodus 19:16 (NASB95)

¹⁶So it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

Ezekiel 3:12 (NASB95)

¹²Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard a great rumbling sound behind me, “Blessed be the glory of the LORD in His place.”

Rev. 1:11 saying, “Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

Ray Stedman in his commentary God’s Final Word says:

I find that many people tend to skip over these seven letters to the churches, so eager are they to hurry on to those juicy, action-packed blood and thunder sections of Revelation. We would rather hear about the great cataclysms of the last days than be confronted with the urgent challenge of our own present moment. How tragic!

These seven letters to seven churches are powerful letters, burning with urgency. Their message is still as vital and timely today as when first written. So many churches in the 1990’s could be cured if we would only listen with attentive ears to the message Jesus gave us through the pen of John nearly 2,000 years ago.

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION, Chapters 2 & 3

	Christ	Commendation	Rebuke	Exhortation	Alternative	Promise	Historical View
<i>Ephesus (2:1-7)</i>	Holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks in	Works, labor, patience, cannot bear those who are evil, judged the false apostles,	Left their first love.	Remember, repent, do the first works.	I will come quickly and remove the candlestick out of his place	Will eat of the Tree of Life.	The Church of the first century.

	the midst of the seven candlesticks (1:20).	hates the deeds of the Nicolaitans.			(1:20)		
Smyrna (2:8-11)	First and the Last, Who was dead and is alive.	Works, tribulation, poverty.	—	Fear not, be faithful unto death.	—	Will receive the Crown of Life, Will not be hurt of the second death.	The persecuted church of the second and third centuries.
Pergamos (2:12-17)	Has the sharp sword with two edges (Heb. 4:12)	Works, Hold fast Jesus' name, have not denied the faith.	Hold the doctrine of Balaam. Hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans.	Repent	I will come quickly and fight against them with the sword of my mouth.	Will eat of the hidden manna, and receive a white stone with a new name written within it.	The Church from about 312 (Constantine) to about 500 A.D.
Thyatira (2:18-29)	Eyes like flame of fire, feet like fine brass.	Works, charity, service, faith, growth in works.	Tolerated false prophet, Jezebel, to teach immorality and idolatry.	Repent, hold fast to that which you already have until I come.	Great tribulation, children will be killed.	Will give power over the nations, will receive the Morning Star.	The Church of the Dark Ages till the 16 th century.
Sardis (3:1-6)	Has seven spirits and seven stars.	Works, a name (reputation) of being alive...	...but are dead.	Be watchful, strengthen the things that remain, that are ready to die. Remember how you have received and heard, hold fast, repent.	I will come on you as a thief.	Will be clothed in white raiment. Name will not be blotted out of the Book of Life. Jesus will confess his name before the Father.	The Church of the Renaissance and the Reformation.
Philadelphia (3:7-13)	True has the key of David.	Works, has kept Jesus' word and not denied His Name. Has kept the word of His patience	—	Hold fast that which you have...	...That no man take thy crown.	Be kept from the hour of temptation. Be made a pillar in the temple of	The Church of the revival of the 19 th century.

						God in the New Jerusalem. Jesus' new name will be written on him.	
Laodicea (3:14-22)	The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning (originating source) of the creation of God	—	Lukewarm, neither cold nor hot. Wretched and miserable, and poor, and naked.	Buy from Jesus refined gold white clothes, and eye salve. Be zealous and repent.	I will spue you out of my mouth.	Fellowship with Christ – I will come in to him and sup with him and he with me.	The end-times lukewarm church.

¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;

¹³and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.

²⁰As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Matthew 5:14–16 (NASB95)

¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;

¹⁵nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

¹⁶Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

¹³and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.

Daniel 7:13 (NASB95)

¹³"I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him.

high priest

Aaron was the first who was solemnly set apart to this office (Ex. 29:7; 30:23; Lev. 8:12). He wore a peculiar dress, which on his death passed to his successor in office (Ex. 29:29-30). Besides those garments which he wore in common with all priests, there were four that were peculiar to himself as high priest:

- 1. The "robe" of the ephod, all of blue, of "woven work," worn immediately under the ephod. It was without seam or sleeves. The hem or skirt was ornamented with pomegranates and golden bells, seventy-two of each in alternate order. The sounding of the bells intimated to the people in the outer court the time when the high priest entered into the holy place to burn incense before the Lord (Ex. 28).**
- 2. The "ephod" consisted of two parts, one of which covered the back and the other the breast, which were united by the "curious girdle." It was made of fine twined linen, and ornamented with gold and purple. Each of the shoulder-straps was adorned with a precious stone, on which the names of the twelve**

tribes were engraved. This was the high priest's distinctive vestment (1 Sam. 2:28; 14:3; 21:9; 23:6, 9; 30:7).

3. The "breastplate of judgment" (Ex. 28:6-12, 25-28; 39:2-7) of "cunning work." It was a piece of cloth doubled, of one span square. It bore twelve precious stones, set in four rows of three in a row, which constituted the Urim and Thummim (q.v.). These stones had the names of the twelve tribes engraved on them. When the high priest, clothed with the ephod and the breastplate, inquired of the Lord, answers were given in some mysterious way by the Urim and Thummim (1 Sam. 14:3, 18-19; 23:2, 4, 9, 11-12; 28:6; 2 Sam. 5:23).
4. The "mitre," or upper turban, a twisted band of eight yards of fine linen coiled into a cap, with a gold plate in front, engraved with "Holiness to the Lord," fastened to it by a ribbon of blue.

To the high priest alone it was permitted to enter the holy of holies, which he did only once a year, on the great Day of Atonement, for "the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest" (Hebrews 9; 10). Wearing his gorgeous priestly vestments, he entered the temple before all the people, and then, laying them aside and assuming only his linen garments in secret, he entered the Holy of Holies alone, and made expiation, sprinkling the blood of the sin offering on the mercy seat, and offering up incense. Then resuming his splendid robes, he reappeared before the people (Lev. 16). Thus, the wearing of these robes came to be identified with the Day of Atonement.

The office, dress, and ministration of the high priest were typical of the priesthood of our Lord (Hebrews 4:14; 7:25; 9:12, etc.).

Hebrews 2:17–18 (NASB95)

¹⁷Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

¹⁸For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

Hebrews 3:1 (NASB95)

¹Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;

Hebrews 4:14 (NASB95)

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Hebrews 7:25 (NASB95)

²⁵Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 9:12 (NASB95)

¹²and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

Rev. 1:14 His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire.

Daniel 7:9–10 (NASB95)

⁹I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow And the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, Its wheels were a burning fire.

¹⁰A river of fire was flowing And coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, And the books were opened.

Hebrews 4:13 (NASB95)

¹³And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Rev. 1:15 His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.

Ezekiel 43:2 (NASB95)

²and behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the way of the east. And His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory.

Rev. 1:16 In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

Rev. 1:20^v As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

1 Timothy 3:1–7 (NASB95)

¹It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.

²An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

³not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.

⁴He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity

⁵(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),

⁶and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.

⁷And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Hebrews 4:12 (NASB95)

¹²For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of

soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Matthew 17:1–2 (NASB95)

¹Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves.

²And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

Rev. 1:17¹⁷When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man.

Daniel 10:8–9 (NASB95)

⁸So I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength.

⁹But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

Ezekiel 1:28 (NASB95)

²⁸As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell on my face and heard a voice speaking.

Ezekiel 3:23 (NASB95)

²³So I got up and went out to the plain; and behold, the glory of the LORD was standing there, like the glory which I saw by the river Chebar, and I fell on my face.

Ezekiel 44:4 (AMP)

⁴Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; I looked, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord, and I fell upon my face.

Rev. 1:17¹⁷When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,

¹⁸and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

Matthew 17:7 (AMP)

⁷But Jesus came and touched them and said, Get up, and do not be afraid.

¹⁹"Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.

²⁰"As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.