

Rev 1:9-12: The Battle Call To Overcome Antichristian Values In God's Spirit

Introduction and John's identity

Revelation 1:9-12 introduces the readers of The Revelation to its divine source, Jesus Christ; and to the apostle John; its human transmitter. The great voice of the Alpha and Omega, sounding like the battle call of a trumpet, introduces The Revelation as a message to the church to fulfill its great moral purpose of overcoming antichristian values in the Spirit of God.

Throughout scripture, the trumpet, or shophar, is associated with battles and as a signal of Divine judgment. (Joshua 6:5; Judges 6:34; 1 Samuel 13:3; Amos 3:6; Zephaniah 1:16; Zechariah 9:14; 1 Corinthians 14:8; Revelation 8-9) It's in The Revelation that we see the devil as a deceiving enemy combatant of the King Of Kings and Lord of Lords. Antichrist the beast 666 acts deceitfully in his star role disguised as the commander and chief of the world's preeminent military dictatorship and in waging physical, psychological and economic warfare against the overcoming saints comprising the church of the Alpha and Omega. (Revelation 13:4, 7-18)

John, The Revelation's human author, was originally a fisherman who worked in his father's successful fishing business in Galilee. (Mark 1:16-20) His family worshipped Jesus. (Matthew 20:20) He immediately left his family and job to follow Jesus' invitation to become a "fisher of men". As a fisher of men, John became employed as an ambassador serving the kingdom of God and its King Jesus Christ by calling men to repent and follow Christ. (Matthew 4:17-22)

The name John implies the Lord is gracious. Jesus nicknamed him and his brother "Boanerges" meaning "Sons of Thunder" or one who breaks out suddenly into a burst of passion with a loud voice and gleaming eye. (Mark 3:17) He naturally manifested narrow-mindedness, spite and selfish ambition. (Mark 9:38-40; Luke 9:54; Mark 10:35-37) His supernatural mark, however, was his love for God and man. (John 13:23; John 19:26-27; 1 John 4:7-21)

John had known Jesus for over 60 years. At about 90 years old, John wrote *The Revelation* as Jesus' bond-servant or master's slave while suffering under Roman persecution for refusing to bow to the Emperor *Domitian*. All of his fellow apostles had already been martyred. John was the only apostle who would escape the fate of martyrdom.

Unlike those using the Bible and the professing christian church as servants in their selfish pursuit of material wealth and the American Dream, the Holy Spirit classifies John as God's servant. Like his Lord, John had emptied himself of all

in faithfulness to the Father's will.

One of us

John was isolated from the body of Christ; yet he was in intimate fellowship with the Holy Spirit of God as he received the Revelation. (John 1:10) He was being held in one of the evil Roman Empire's places of containment; the island of **Patmos**. (John 1:9) John was in no way to be considered a severed body part who was now divorced from the head of the body because he was no longer serving in the setting of a local church. As Revelation 1:10 tells us, John was in the Spirit. He was being used as an empowered instrument of God in spite of being isolated from the larger professing church because of his loyalty to God over and above the state.

Patmos is an Aegean Isle off the coast of Asia Minor; a large rock about 10 miles long and 6 miles wide located about 45 miles from Ephesus, Greece. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patmos>) Patmos wasn't a deserted island. It was known to contain a gymnasium and a temple of their local God, Artemis. (Craig S. Keener, The IVP Bible Background Commentary, International Bible Society, 1993. Pg. 765.)

In verse 9 of the first chapter of Revelation, we are reminded that the apostle John is one of us. Although one of us, he was a man of exemplary spiritual maturity which is revealed in the statement;

“I, John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation.”

In spite of his unique relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in which John receives special news from the Lord regarding the future of the world, John remains the brother and companion of those that faithfully serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brother and companion

The adjective **brother** used by the Spirit to unite John with his Christian audience is the greek word *adelphos* meaning a fellow believer who is united to another Christian by the bond of affection. The word **companion** means someone who shares with someone else in something. The word is used by the Spirit of God only one other time in the New Testament. In Philippians 2:25 Paul uses it to describe Epaphroditus as his joint partner in the work of the gospel. In Revelation 1:9, John uses it to describe the following three things that he shares with his Christian readers:

- Tribulation
- The kingdom of Jesus Christ
- The patience of Jesus Christ

Tribulation

Tribulation is the greek word *thlipsis* meaning pressure upon a person through affliction and distress. In context *thlipsis* refers to pressure inflicted upon Christians that's a direct result of suffering and persecution for their faith in and obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ.

John's obedience to Jesus led him to suffering on Patmos as an "enemy combatant" of the Roman government. At that time, the governors of Roman provinces decided whether or not enemies of the state were to be executed, exiled or enslaved.

Church historians provide the following account of John's banishment.

Concerned about a seditious movement, Roman Emperor Domitian (A.D. 81-96) summoned John to Rome and asked him about the tradition that Jesus Christ was to reign as king and would abolish all other governments. John replied: "You shall also reign for many years given you by God, and after you very many others; and when the times of things upon the earth have been fulfilled, out of heaven shall come a King, eternal, true, Judge of the living and the dead, to whom every nation and tribe shall conform, through whom every earthly power and dominion shall be brought to nothing, and every mouth speaking great things shall be shut" (Roberts and Donaldson, Ante-Nicene Fathers "Acts of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian," pp. 560-562)

Thankfully, the Lord Jesus chose to banish John to Patmos where he would become a transmitter of the Revelation.

The apostles doctrine taught that patient endurance of much tribulation is the pathway to the kingdom of God for followers of Jesus Christ. (Acts 14:22; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-4) This certainly became true in John's life.

Apostolic tradition of imminent suffering and tribulation

Why do we shy away from teaching this apostolic truth today? Why do we insist on cushioning the death blow to our flesh that would occur if we were to preach a *balanced* gospel fulfilling the other half Great Commission of Jesus Christ teaching His church to observe all things whatsoever he commanded his apostles? (Matthew 28:20)

The true church will enter into the coming kingdom of God through much tribulation. (see link:) Paul knew that the return of Christ was certain, but not imminent. (1 Thessalonians 3:4; Acts 20:22-24)

As was true in Paul's life, suffering and tribulation; not the return of Jesus Christ, is currently imminent for the true believer. This is true because the man of sin, Antichrist the Beast 666, has yet to be revealed. (2 Thessalonians 2:1 -3) 666

and the great tribulation associated with his war on the church is the signpost preceding the second coming of the Lord.

Antichrist will make war against the church during the period of the greatest tribulation the world has ever known, or will ever know. (Matthew 24:15-29) This was the apostolic tradition which Jesus communicated orally to his first disciples. It's part of the teaching we are commanded to teach in fulfilling the Great Commission of Christ recorded in Matthew 28:16-20. This teaching was preserved in the scriptures and in the writings of Irenaeus (120-202) and his disciple Hippolytus (170-236). Irenaeus was a disciple of Polycarp. Polycarp was a disciple of the Apostle John. Irenaeus wrote the five volume work entitled, *Against Heresies*, which lays out the oral teaching of Jesus Christ to his first disciples. Hippolytus wrote *Treatise on Christ and AntiChrist*. These faithful early church martyrs were united in teaching that Antichrist would persecute the true believers of the true church during the last 3 ½ years of the final 7 year period in prophetic fulfillment of Daniel 7:21 and Revelation 13:7, 17:6 and 18:20,24.

Future tribulations will help shape the character of the believer into a more Christ-like image. (Romans 5:3) The comfort God gives his children in these tribulations prepare the brothers and companions of the Apostle John to comfort others experiencing tribulation. (2 Corinthians 1:4) I don't look forward to this tribulation. My body cringes at the potentials of it's emotional and physical pain. (Mark 14:38) My spirit, however, believes in it's eternal benefits and rewards and by faith I know that I can overcome the American led New World Order system because greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

How will you, however, my deceived professing Christian brother or sister, ever overcome an evil enemy if you continue to perceive this evil enemy, the American led New World Order system, as a trusted friend? After all, America is the world, and anyone who chooses to be a friendly associate of the world becomes an adversary of God. (James 4:4) I fear that many professing Christians are on the verge of falling under the same mass psychosis, the strong delusion, that will deceive the future *patriots of Antichrist* into damnation. (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12) Without an acceptance of the apostolic tradition and accurate teaching concerning the nature and timing of the revelation of Antichrist, the professing church which is brainwashed to believe that they will never see Antichrist, will be deceived by his extraordinarily miraculous political accomplishments. (Matthew 24:24)

As the global empire of the future Antichrist takes shape, I foresee American pride increasingly decreasing from the life of the *true* American church. Future antichrists governing the mysterious *whore of Babylon* may use Orwellian legislation previously prescribed by President Bush and his Republican House to silence opponents of the U.S. led New World Order. The professing church in America may become increasingly divided by the issue of patriotic loyalty to a

corrupt American state before the U.S. homeland is destroyed. The wise and discerning will increasingly obey the call of the apostle John to God's people to come out of *Babylon the Great* before she is destroyed. These Christians will be strong and courageous. They will overcome the deluding spirit of AntiChrist animating the American led New World Order system by continuing to resist the antichristian values of the whore and proving the reality of their overriding faith in the word of their Lord Jesus Christ. (Daniel 11: 32 -35; Revelation 20:4) Like the Apostle John and martyrs of the past, these saints will choose loyalty to the principles and commands of scripture over allegiance to the state and suffer as brothers and companions with the Apostle John in tribulation. (see link:)

Are you ready to come out of Babylon before you're eternal destruction; or are you going to continue to "follow the yellow brick road" only to find out in the end that it really was an "American Dream" and that the "wizard" pulling the political puppet strings was really a deceiver whose goal it was to deceive you out of your eternal soul with false promises of peace, prosperity and security?

If you're longing to escape from Babylon, please click her to learn more about the real Jesus Christ and why he is the only answer. (click to link:)

How can we honestly continue to justify Sunday Sabbath?

Revelation 1:10 tells us that John was *in the Spirit* on the Lord's day. Ezekiel 40:2 tells us that Ezekiel was brought into the land of Israel by the visions of God. Here, as in Revelation 4:2, 17:3 and 21:10 the same words, *in the Spirit* are used to communicate that John was in sound mind under the control of the Holy Spirit of God in his receipt of the Revelation. These words don't communicate that he was in an ecstatic trance. Such trances, common in the occult realm, are inspired by unholy demonic spirits. From other uses of the phrase, *in the Spirit*, in scripture, we can conclude that John was in the normal spiritual state of a believer whose gifts are under the operational control of the Holy Spirit in fulfillment of Acts 2:17. The same greek words for *in the Spirit*, [εἰς τὸ πνεῦμα](#)⁴¹⁵¹ [N-DSN](#), are used to describe the normal spiritual condition of the believer in prayer (Ephesians 6:18); daily life (Romans 8:9; Colossians 1:8); and in salvation (Romans 2:29).

The phrase, *on the Lord's day*, should not be assumed to mean that the Revelation was being received by John on Sunday. This verse isn't a justification for changing the seventh day Sabbath to the first day of the week. Not only do we have a professing church in the U.S. today that is fraudulently yoked together under the primary authority of the U.S. government; this same professing church has discarded the divinely ordained holy seventh day Sabbath of Exodus 20 in exchange for it's own revised Sunday version. Before trumping me with the divisive legalist card, please be aware that I'm not advocating a return to keeping the minute details of Old Testament law concerning the Sabbath. Jesus

made it clear that the Sabbath was made for man, not vice-versa. I am, however, advocating prayerful, sincere, teachable consideration of the wisdom of returning to the apostolic tradition honoring the seventh day of the week as the New Testament Sabbath day of rest rather than the currently honored first day. The divisive person is the person that strays from the apostolic traditions taught in scripture and followed by Jesus and his apostles. (Romans 16:17) These faithful, persecuted men were not members of a conservative capitalist, flag wavin', patriotic, war hawkin', Zionist, pre-trib rapture believin', 501-c3 Sunday Sabbath keepin', KJV only 501-c3 religious organization. They were suffering members of the body of Christ; companions and brothers of those today that read their words and desire their ways.

Revelation 1:10 tells us that John was in the Spirit on the Lord's day. This verse shouldn't be used to justify changing the Sabbath from the seventh day of the week to the first day of the week, Sunday. In fact, there is no scripture that can be found to support changing the original seventh day Sabbath of Exodus 20:10 to the first day of the week. Verses such as 1 Corinthians 16:2, Acts 20:7 and John 20:19 and Colossian 2:16 are conveniently and inappropriately woven together today to justify the Roman tradition of Sunday as the Sabbath.

Please recall that Jesus, Paul and the first century church honored the seventh day Sabbath. (Acts 13:44; Acts 17:2; Matthew 12:8; Mark 1:21; Mark 2:27) Jesus even affirms the existence of the seventh day Sabbath as a perpetual reality in his mind by referring to it in the context of the final seven year period of earthly life as we know it just before he returns. (Matthew 24:20) Isaiah refers to Sabbath keepers in the context of the return of the Lord. (Isaiah 56:1-8; Isaiah 58-59)

The nation of Israel's Jewish culture still recognizes the seventh day as the Sabbath day. Why do we want to make it more difficult for Jewish people to turn to Christ and offend them by dishonoring the seventh day Sabbath of Exodus 20:10? Why can't we have Paul's heart for the Jewish people that we see in Romans 9? This heart is a compassionate, sad heart for Jewish people who don't yet recognize that their Messiah has already come and will soon return a second time in judgment upon them unless they repent and receive the Lord Jesus Christ.

Why aren't we willing to stop calling Sunday the Sabbath when it could potentially offend Jewish people who honor the traditional seventh day Sabbath? (1 Corinthians 8:13) Why aren't we willing to become as a Jew to win the Jews as Paul was? (1 Corinthians 9:20)

The elders of the church Paul's day were careful to avoid unnecessary offending the Jewish mind in establishing behavior guidelines for Gentiles converting to the Christian faith within the Jewish culture of his day. (Acts 15:1-21) Among this

list we don't find a command to abstain from honoring the seventh day as the holy Sabbath. Christian-Zionist pastors; would you please tell me why you don't "support Israel" on the Sabbath day issue?

At the time that the Revelation was written, the church didn't recognize the first day of the week, Sunday, as the Sabbath. John's readers would have never considered Sunday as the Lord's day. "Sundaykeeping" originated decades later during the reign of Emperor Hadrian from 117-138. John uses the phrase "the first *day* of the week" in John 20 to pin down Sunday as the day Christ was resurrected. In writing the Revelation during the same period of time, however, John never uses the phrase the Lord's day. Why would he refer to the Sabbath in the Revelation using a new term to his contemporary readers, "the Lord's day", when the church of his day was still honoring Saturday as the Sabbath? Clearly, the modern church is reading our culture into Revelation 1:9 in teaching that John is conveniently referring to Sunday as the Lord's day.

Why do we choose to potentially offend both believing and unbelieving Jews by honoring a man-made Sunday Sabbath as if it's the seventh day Sabbath ordained by the Lord? How do we justify changing the law of God which he never commanded us to change when we know it could offend the Jews and potentially create an unnecessary obstacle between them and repentance and faith in Jesus Christ as their Messiah? How can we legitimately justify changing the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first day of the week on the weak one-legged support of isolating Colossians out of its greater context. Colossians 2 is intended to remind the church that faith in Jesus Christ, not obedience to law, is the only true basis of salvation. It isn't a command to write off the seventh day Sabbath as just another day.

Neither is it correct to teach that John is saying "I was in the Spirit on Easter Sunday" since the seven churches of Asia Minor strongly rejected Rome's Easter-Sunday custom in recognizing the Passover on Nisan 14. It's possible that John is referring to the great day of God he uses in Revelation 16:14 to describe the day the Lord Jesus Christ will return in glory to destroy the forces of Antichrist the beast 666.

My heart is aching for a professing church that is willing to discard the current constraints imposed upon us by unbiblical methods and human traditions and is longing to follow with fresh zeal the apostolic teaching found in the word of God. I believe the prophecy of Isaiah 58:11-14; couched within the greater context of Isaiah 58-59 which calls God's people to humble repentance concerning antichristian values before his return in glory, offers the promise of God's comforting and nourishing presence to those that will return to the foundational teaching of the apostles found in the scriptures.

And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

7 Golden Candlesticks

Revelation 1:12 tells us that John looked behind himself to see the great voice. After turning around, he saw 7 golden candlesticks before he was shown the glorified Lord. His vision of the Son of man is recorded in Revelation 1:13-17.

According to Revelation 1:20, the 7 golden candlesticks represent the 7 churches in Asia. John was commanded by the Lord to address the book of The Revelation to the churches listed in Revelation 1:11 as Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.

The 7 stars of the 7 churches are angelic beings

Do these 7 churches represent a specific period of church history as is commonly believed? Not necessarily. The scriptures don't state that each of these churches represents a particular time period in church history.

Revelation 1:19-20 tells us that John is writing about both present and future things. The future things, the things which shall be hereafter, include the *mystery* of the 7 stars in the right hand of the Lord and the 7 golden candlesticks or the churches.

The word *mystery* is used in association with the 7 stars in Revelation 1:20. *Mystery*, Strongs #3466 *musterion*, refers to a hidden thing. What is the *mystery* of the 7 stars? The 7 stars are the angels of the 7 churches according to Revelation 1:20. The word *angel*, Strongs #32 *aster*, means messenger. Do these 7 angels represent human messengers? The scriptures don't tell us that they represent prophets, preachers, pastors or teachers. In Revelation 8:2 the 7 stars or messengers are seen as 7 angelic beings that are responsible for sounding the 7 trumpets introducing the 7 seal judgments of God.

Why would John be asked to write The Revelation to angelic beings as Revelation 2:1,8,12,18; 3:1,7,14 tell us he was? Revelation 10:7 tells us that the *mystery* of God was declared to his servants the prophets and that when the 7th angel sounds the *mystery* of God will be finished. 1 Peter 1:12 explains that angelic beings had a longing to understand the prophetic mysteries of the Old Testament; but God revealed them to the Old Testament human prophets first. 1 Peter 1:12 teaches us that God's human messengers can know more about the mysterious hidden plans of God than his angelic messengers do. This truth itself

is a mystery to the human mind.

In the Revelation we see the same order of revelation regarding God's truth. God reveals the hidden things of the present and future to his human messenger John. John, in turn, reveals God's mystery to the angelic messengers of the 7 churches.

The 7 angelic messengers were around when John wrote The Revelation to them. The same angelic messengers will be around when The Revelation is fulfilled. Since all *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works; the book written by John to the 7 angelic messengers of the 7 churches is applicable to all periods of church history.

Angelic spiritual beings minister

Hebrews 1:14 teaches that angels have an active role of ministry within the church. I believe that the Revelation was written to the 7 angelic beings assigned to the church in order that they fulfill their role in ministering its truth to the body of Christ throughout church history. The details of how the 7 angels accomplish this ministering role remains a mystery to us. We do know for certain, however, that the angelic spirits serve the church in its wrestling match with the evil spirits in the heavenlies over the thought life of the Christian. In order to prevail over the demonic powers, the 7 angels must be armed with the sword of the spirit which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:10-17; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

The spiritual truth of The Revelation transcends time and applies to both the Asian churches of John's day and all periods of church history thereafter. The truthful principles of the message written by John to each of the individual angelic messengers of the 7 churches is applicable not only to the angelic messenger assigned to that particular Asian church of John's day. It's also applicable to future churches in various locations around the globe as its meaning and applications are revealed to human messengers within the body of Christ. These human messengers prophesy to the church. (Acts 2:7-8; Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10; 13:2, 9; 14:1, 24, 31, 39; 2 Peter 1:9; Revelation 11:6)

Existence of the false prophet today proves the existence of the true

Jesus and his first apostles were clear that there will be *false* prophets with us until the time of his return. (Matthew 24:11, 24; Mark 13:22; 2 Corinthians 11:13; 2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 4:1; Revelation 16:3) Since false prophets exist today, *true* prophets must also exist. The scriptures indicate that prophecy exists today; and a person that prophecies would be called a prophet. The gift of prophecy is not a

foundational gift that has disappeared; though many false prophets of 501 -c3 churches act as if they wish that prophecy was history considering the careless way that some of these pastors treat the truthful messenger.

The true prophet has an accurate view of both God and His church

Again, please note in Revelation 1:10-11 that John's initial desire was to catch a glimpse of the God behind the great voice he heard. God, however, provided John first with a glimpse of 7 golden candlesticks; representative of the true moral state and purpose of the church. The Lord then proceeded to give John an awesome glimpse of the Son of man. From this encounter we can conclude that the Lord is concerned that his servants have more than just an accurate understanding of God's character. The flow of John's experience revealed to us in this prophecy teaches us that knowing God and making him known involves a correct view of both God and the moral state of the body of Christ. As the Lord Jesus Christ models for us in the Revelation; balanced pastoral teaching involves communicating a correct view of God's holy nature and how that holiness is lived out through the life of His church in the world.

In Chapters 2 and 3 of The Revelation John writes to expose the error of the following list of philosophies and practices in the church:

- Fundamentalism (Revelation 2:4)
- Zionism (Revelation 2:9, 3:9)
- Balaamism (Revelation 2:14)
- Nicolaitanism (Revelation 2:6,15)
- Jezebelism (Revelation 2:20)
- Satanism (Revelation 2:24)
- Capitalism (Revelation 3:16)

In further studies I plan to examine these errors in depth. At this point I mention them to illustrate that the gift of teaching communicates more than correct theology. It also makes practical application of correct theology to thought and life. It's aimed at uniting the body of Christ in biblical truth and maturing the body into Christ's image. (Ephesians 4:12-16; Colossians 2:6-8; 1 Corinthians 1:10-3:14)

The rationalizing 501-c3 pastor

In general, American 501-c3 pastors rationalize that think they've been faithful because they communicate a biblical view of God. This, however, is only part of their teaching and preaching responsibility as God's shepherds. The irresponsibility of the typical 501-c3 pastor lies in their failure to expose unbiblical, immoral, antichristian philosophies, policies and practices operative within government, business, education and service establishments because of

their entanglement in the 501-c3 corporate religious system. As a result of this silence, many professing conservative evangelical Christians have been and are still being led away from devotion to the pure, heavenly wisdom of the Word of God into a lukewarm state. Led by blind shepherds, deceived believers are being corrupted; oftentimes unawares, by unbiblical philosophies such as capitalism, neo-conservatism, globalism, Zionism, patriotism, fascism, psychology, Thelema, "New Age", Freemasonry, "Rock", Satanism, and others.

Philippians 2:8 warns the church about the power of antichristian thinking to lead us astray. How do we know if we've been led astray from the truth by a way of thinking? We have been led astray from pure devotion to Christ when we make choices that disobey biblical commands and principles and or offend, "snub", discriminate against, or even reject other professing Christians because of our unbiblical beliefs. We can be sure that we're off track with the Lord when we can't objectively and lovingly face the error of our way of thinking; when we can't face facts; when we turn on someone that exposes our false ideas; when we "can't stand" someone who disagrees with us; when we label someone as "kooky" because they present truth that goes against what we have always believed to be true.

The great moral purpose of the church

In the scriptures gold is to describe something with a great purpose. The golden cup held by the woman in Revelation 17:4 filled with the abominations of her idolatry is one example where gold highlights a gross immoral purpose; the covetous idolatry of this great nation; Babylon, mysteriously disguised as the United States of America. (for further study see the link:)

In other places throughout The Revelation, gold is used to describe the following items of great moral purposes:

- Crowns of the 24 elders (Revelation 4:4)
- The censor of the angel at God's altar (Revelation 8:3)
- The altar before God (Revelation 14:13)
- The crown of the Son of man holding the sharp sickle of judgment (Revelation 14:14)
- Girdles of the 7 angels with the 7 last plagues (Revelation 15:6)
- Vials full of God's wrath (Revelation 15:7)
- Reed to measure the city (Revelation 21:15)
- Construction of the holy city (Revelation 21:18, 21)

The 7 candlesticks representing the churches are described as golden illustrating that they have great moral purpose. The overlay of the Ark of the Covenant, it's mercy seat, 2 cherubim and 7 candlesticks were all constructed of gold. (Exodus 25:10-40) The 7 golden candlesticks of Israel's tabernacle held

the 7 lamps that provided light within the tabernacle. In like manner, Jesus has given his people the purpose of being pure moral lights in a morally impure world in order to show the truthful reality of God's great holiness. (Matthew 5:14-16) Jesus warned that the light within his people can be snuffed out by the darkness of worldly philosophy and its immoral purposes; leaving the world in great darkness. (Matthew 6:19-24)

The Revelation is a call to overcoming antichristian values through faithful obedience to the word of God. It's a call to repentance in light of the inevitable judgment and appearance of the all-knowing God on the world scene.

Chapters 2 and 3 of The Revelation call the church to the following things:

- charity and unselfish love in meeting human needs (Revelation 2:4 -5)
- fearlessness in the face of persecution (Revelation 2:10)
- separation from false teachers and false doctrine promoting idolatry and fornication (Revelation 2:14-15, 20)
- Vital, watchful union with God's spirit and awareness of spiritual dangers (Revelation 3:2-4)
- Willingness to suffer trials for zealous, obedient faith and biblical values (Revelation 3:15-18)

Chapters 2 and 3 also promise the following rewards to "*he that overcometh*" or live in holiness; consistent, sincere obedience to the commands and principles of God's Word through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and God. Those rewards are listed as follows:

- The right to eat of the tree of life which is in the midst of the paradise of God (Revelation 2:7)
- Shall not be hurt of the 2nd death
- The right to eat of the hidden manna
- A white stone with a new name written in it that is known only by the person and the Lord
- Power over the nations
- The Morning star
- Clothed in white raiment
- Name left in the book of life and confessed before God the Father and his angels
- Become a permanent pillar in God's temple with the name of God and his city and Jesus' new name written on them
- A seat with Christ in his throne