

“Victory Of Christ”
Fear Not!
Revelation 1:17b-20

Introduction:

1. Let's Open Back Up Our Bibles:
 - To Revelation 1:
 - As I Pass Out Today's Lesson Guide!
2. The Last Time:
 - We Were In Revelation:
 - We Were Looking At:
 - The First Main Vision (Out Of Four):
 - Given By God To John:
 - Which Goes From 1:9 - 3:22!
3. And - In This Vision:
 - We've Already Looked At:
 - **The Great Setting - Of John's Vision!**
 - In 1:9-10a - Where John Reintroduces Himself:
 - And Says - "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. / I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day!"
 - This Then Led Us To:
 - **The Great Sound - Of John's Vision!**
 - In 1:10b-11 - Where John Tells Us That He:
 - "Heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, / Saying – 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!"
 - This Brought Us To:
 - **The Great Sight - Of John's Vision!**
 - Which Is Especially Found:
 - In 1:12-16 - "And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; / 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. / His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; / And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. / 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!"
4. And - How Does John Respond To All This?
 - To The Great Power & Purity:
 - Of The Brilliant Figure Before Him?
 - 1:17a - "And When I Saw Him, I Fell At His Feet As Dead!"
 - So - John Was Completely Overwhelmed:
 - At This Vision Of Jesus:
 - In All His Glory!
 - And - As We Will See From:
 - The Rest Of 1:17 - He Was Struck With:
 - Great Fear At This Sight!
 - So - He Fell Down At His Feet:
 - Motionless & As If He Were Dead!
5. But Then - Without Any Indication:
 - Of Delay - We Read About:
 - **The Great Encounter:**
 - Between John & Jesus!
 - 1:17b-20 - "And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: / 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. / Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be

hereafter; / 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!”

- These Final Verses:
 - Of Chapter 1 - Prepare Both John & Us:
 - For The Great Substance - Of John’s Vision:
 - Which Is Found In The Seven Letters:
 - Of Chapters 2-3!
 - But - This Is All Very Personal:
 - For John - Because:
 - It Is A Special Encounter:
 - Between Him & The Lord!

- 6. And So - In This Encounter:
 - We First Find:

1. **A Further Invigoration:**

- For John! Because - The One He Saw:
 - In All Of His Brilliance And Glory:
 - Reached Over To Touch Him:
 - In His Condition Of Fear!
 - And - His Right Hand:
 - Which Held Those Seven Stars:
 - Was Not So Full After All!
 - He Was Able To Hold:
 - The Stars!
 - Even As He Touched John:
 - With The Same Hand!
- Again - 1:17b - “And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not!”
 - Though The One Before John:
 - Was Full Of Glory:
 - He Reached Down And Touched John:
 - With The Hand Of Honor!
 - He Didn’t Use:
 - A Scepter Or A Staff:
 - But His Own Hand!
 - Showing John The Same Thing:
 - He Was Telling John!
 - That - He Did Not Need To Fear!
 - Because - His Touch Was:
 - **A Personal Touch!**
 - A Tender Touch!
 - A Comforting Touch!
- And So - Even Though:
 - John Fell Down As Dead:
 - **In Fear!**
 - Jesus Tells John:
 - “Fear **Not!**”
 - And This Then Leads To:

2. **A Further Introduction:**

- To John - By This Glorious Figure Before Him!
 - 1:17c-18 - “I am the first and the last; / 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!”
 - In This Introduction:
 - Jesus Tells John:
 - Who Fell Down As Dead:
 - That He Is Over Death Itself!
 - And - The Truths Of These Words:

- Were What Jesus Used:
 - To Cast Out John's Fear!
 - And - Will Do The Same For Us!
 - Especially - Fear Of Death!
- Because - In The First Description:
 - Jesus Expresses:
 - **His Preeminence Over Death!**
 - He Tells John:
 - "I Am The First And The Last!"
 - Which Reminds Us That:
 - All Things Find Their Significance In Him!
 - He Is The First To all Things & He Is The End Of All Things!
 - This Means That:
 - Death Itself Has Absolutely:
 - No Influence Over Him!
 - Of Course - This Description:
 - Could Apply To:
 - Any Member Of The Trinity!
 - But - Then Jesus Further Expresses:
 - **His Prevailing Over Death!**
 - Because - As He Goes On To Say:
 - In 1:18 - "I Am He That Liveth, And Was Dead; And, Behold, I Am Alive For Evermore, Amen!"
 - This Description:
 - Can Only Apply To Jesus!
 - Because - In These Few Words:
 - He Reminds John Of:
 - His Reality:
 - **As - "He That Liveth!"**
 - Or - "The Living One" - And Life Itself!
 - He Is The Living God!
 - But - He Goes On To Remind John Of:
 - His Redemption!
 - Because - He "Was **Dead!**"
 - A Condition That Can Only Be Applied To Jesus!
 - All Others - Who Have Died:
 - "Are Dead!"
 - But - This One:
 - "Was Dead!"
 - And So - He Further Reminds John Of:
 - His Resurrection!
 - And That He Is Dead No Longer!
 - "And, Behold, I Am **Alive** For Evermore!"
 - Fully Restored:
 - In His Nature:
 - Of Life!
 - And - To This - Jesus Adds:
 - "Amen!"
 - All Of This Is Certain & True!
 - And - When Believed:
 - Will Cast Out Fear!
 - And Then - This Figure:
 - Who We Now Know For Certain Is Jesus:
 - Adds Another Description:
 - To Emphasize:
 - **His Power Over Death!**
 - 1:18b - "And Have The Keys Of Hell And Of Death!"
 - Of Course - A Key:

- Is Something You Use:
 - To Lock & Unlock A Door:
 - In Order To Keep It Closed Or Open!
- And So - The Keeper Of The Key:
 - Is In Control Of:
 - What The Keys Are To!
 - So - Keys Are An Ancient Symbol Of:
 - **Authority & Power!**
- And - Jesus Is The One:
 - In Possession Of These Keys!
 - He Is "Having" Them!
 - And - These Keys:
 - Are For Two Places - That Are Keeps / Holds:
 - Hell / Hades & Death!
- **Hell / Hades:**
 - Refers Primarily To:
 - The Abode Of The Wicked Spirits:
 - Of Men Who Have Physically Died!
 - It Was Often Pictured As A "Dark & Dismal Place In The Very Depths Of The Earth!"
 - It Is The NT Word To Describe:
 - The OT "***Sheol!***"
 - Which - According To Proverbs 27:20 - Is Never Full!
 - In Luke 16:23 - Rich Man & Lazarus:
 - The Rich Man Was In "Hell / Hades" - And Was "In Torments!"
 - And - It Is Jesus:
 - Who Holds The Key:
 - To Hades / Hell!
 - Of Who Goes There & Who Doesn't!
 - And - He Also Holds The Key To:
- Death:
 - Which - At Its Core - Is Separation:
 - But Can Occur In Different Degrees:
 - Separation From The Body!
 - Physical Death!
 - Separation From God!
 - Spiritual Death!
 - Separation Forever!
 - Eternal / Second Death!
 - And - Jesus Is In Control Of All Death!
 - **For *Unbelievers:***
 - Jesus Can Permit Or Prevent Death - According To His Own Will!
 - Seen In 9:6 - When - In The Days Of The Fifth Trumpet - "Shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them!"
 - **For *Believers:***
 - Even Their Death Is In His Hand Of Control!
 - And - In 2:11 - "He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death!"
- Now - Hell / Hades & Death:
 - Will Appear Together:
 - 3 More Times In Revelation:
 - But - Not In The Same Order!
 - Instead - In 6:8 / 20:13 / 20:14:
 - It Is Found As "Death & Hell!"
 - And Seems To Be Their Logical Order!
 - Since Death Would Need To Occur Before Hell!
- However - Hell Seems To Be The Worse:
 - Of The Two!

- And So - The Order Here:
 - Is Meant To Provide Further Comfort To Believers Who Face Death, Like John Himself!
- Jesus Is In Complete Control:
 - Of Both The:
 - Spiritual Realm Of The Dead:
 - Where Punishment Is Meted Out:
 - For The Wicked!
 - And The:
 - Actual Entrance Into That Realm:
 - Through Death!
- And - These Truths About Jesus:
 - And His Preeminence & Prevailing & Power:
 - Over Death:
 - Is Our Comfort As Well!
 - And This Leads To:

3. **A Further Instruction:**

- To John - Next In - 1:19:
 - **“Write** the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter!”
 - So - John Was Told To:
 - “Fear Not” & “Write!”
 - Don’t Let Fear Paralyze You!
 - Write & Serve!
 - And - He Is To Write About:
 - Three Things - In Terms Of Time:
 - Which We Already Looked At:
 - When We Looked At The Different Structures Of Revelation!
 - “The Things Which Thou Hast Seen!”
 - Refer Primarily To:
 - The Vision Which He Just Had Of Jesus!
 - So - Not Just *What* He Saw:
 - But *Who*!
 - In Terms Of Time:
 - This Is What John Saw:
 - In The Immediate Past!
 - “The Things Which Are!”
 - Refer Primarily To:
 - The Current Condition & State Of Things:
 - Which Jesus Is About To Reveal To Him!
 - So - In Terms Of Time:
 - This Is What John Will Hear:
 - About The Present!
 - “And The Things Which Shall Be Hereafter!”
 - Refer To Future Things:
 - From The Perspective Of John!
 - As We Move Forward:
 - In The Book:
 - There Are Some Things:
 - That May Have Been Present & Future:
 - For John - That Are Now Past:
 - For Us!
 - But Then - Jesus Offers To John:

4. **A Further Illumination:**

- Of Some Of The Things He Just Saw!
 - 1:20 - “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!”
 - A “Mystery” In The Bible:
 - Is A Truth That:
 - Though Hidden In The Past:
 - Is Revealed In God’s Word!
 - And So - Jesus Himself:
 - Decodes For John:
 - Some Of They Mysterious Symbols:
 - That He Saw In His Vision!
- The Seven Stars:
 - **Are “The Angels Of The Seven Churches!”**
 - And - These “Angels” Are In:
 - The Right Hand Of Jesus!
 - A Place Of Control & Care & Honor!
 - But - Who Are These “Angels?”
 - And - In What Way Are They:
 - Related To:
 - The Seven Churches?
 - The Word Translated Here:
 - “Angel” Is The Common Word:
 - For The Ministering Spirits Of God! “Angels!” (Hebrews 1:14)
 - Found 32 Times In Rev!
 - And - Its Basic Meaning Is:
 - **“Messenger!”**
 - But - In Connection With The Churches:
 - These Angels Seem To Have:
 - A Special Relationship With Them!
 - A Special Responsibility For Them!
 - And Even Are:
 - Special Representatives Of Them!
 - Because Jesus’ Care For These Angels:
 - And Communication To These Angels:
 - Is Meant For:
 - The Churches They Represent!
 - Now - To Us:
 - The Way Jesus Uses The Term:
 - “Angel” Is A Mystery!
 - But - This Is Not The Mystery:
 - That Jesus Explains To John!
 - Instead - He Explains That The Stars Represent The Angels!
 - So - John Must Have Understood:
 - What / Who These “Angels” Were!
 - So - These Angels Seem Most Likely To Be:
 - The Personal Representatives:
 - Of The Churches John Is To Write To!
 - **Perhaps Even The Leaders:**
 - Of Those Churches!
 - Pastors?
 - Regardless Of How One Understands:
 - These “Angels” - It Is Clear That:
 - What Is Directed To Them:
 - Is Meant For Their Churches As A Whole!
 - The Seven Candlesticks / Lampstands:
 - Are Much Easier For Us To Understand:
 - Because - They Simply Stand For:
 - **“The Seven Churches!”**
 - With This - Jesus Wants John To Realize:
 - That - In His Visions:

- There Will Be More:
 - Than Meets His Eyes & Ears!
- Just Like These Objects:
 - That He Saw - The Stars & Lampstands:
 - They Will Tell Him Something More:
 - About What They Represent!
- And - This Will Be The Way:
 - To Look At Things:
 - Even As We Go Forward!

Conclusion:

1. But - Jesus Wants John To Know That:
 - He Not Only:
 - Holds The Angels Of The Churches:
 - In His Hand - He Is Present:
 - In The Midst Of The Churches:
 - Themselves!
 - And - This Is A Comfort:
 - For All Of God's People!
 - He Holds Us & Is Present With Us!
 - And - We Don't Need To Fear:
 - Even Death Itself!
 - Even Though Death Is Rampant In The Pages Of Revelation!
 - John 10:28 - "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand!"

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