



REVELATION 12 – READING CHURCH LETTERS

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Revelation

PROLOGUE – CHRIST’S EXEGESIS: MAN’S EISEGESIS

- Christ interprets metaphoric images for us; meaning *from* Scripture {Exegete}
 - Golden {does not tarnish; no sin} oil lamps and stands represent the seven churches He previously named
 - Seven stars in His right {Favored} hand represent seven *messengers* given to churches
- People Eisegete, add their meaning, into Scripture creating confusion distorting Christ’s meaning; usually looking for mysticism {Predating Scientism}
 - ἄγγελος, *aggelos* means messenger; transliterated as angel if context refers to God’s spiritual messengers; i.e., no form: Gabriel; Satan; etc.; even *Angel of the Lord* {Christ}
 - Christ referring to *gift* He gave to each church: Pastor-Teacher, Overseer of Truth; if actual angels protecting each church, they were failing denoting a *weak God!* Really?

PROLOGUE – END OF THE BEGINNING: BEGINNING OF *MODERNISM*

- Ancient ways ended with Christ but not abruptly
 - First century transitioned from ancient reasonings because of the Gospel's Light
 - From 2nd century onward Satan seeks to subvert God's Truth while building his own kingdom as foretold in Nebuchadnezzar's dream and revealed by Daniel (Da 2)
 - Modern Man either looks back to ancient mysticisms, Babylon-Persian kingdoms or builds upon the scientisms of Greco-Roman *wisdom* which cannot define Truth (Jn 18:38)
- Modernism built upon Churches' gospel interpretations and failures revealed in the Church Letters until replacing Churches' lies with Satan's Lie (2Th 2:3-12)
 - Rejection of apostle's informal leadership for man's authoritarianism replaced Christ with Church hierarchies just as Israel replaced Judges with Kings: Man never learns (ISa 8:4-20; Mt 23:8-12; Ro 11:13-24)

PATTERN OF THE LETTERS: BEGINNING AND ENDING

- Church letters follow a similar pattern that is both unique to each church and common to all the churches
 - Each letter addressed to the church through its *messenger*: Overseer-Pastor-Teacher
 - Each letter begins with unique metaphor of Christ from John's vision tailored to each church upon which Christ bases His words {Apostle has complete view of Christ}
 - *I know your works...* begins with any positives before proceeding to any rebukes
 - *He who has an ear, let him hear...* Christ gives each church unique goal-reward metaphor challenging them to remain faithful or return to the faith
 - How are **we** to understand these letters?

LINEAR VIEW: CHURCH HISTORY

- Scholars and various Church denominations have *interpreted* these letters as an outline Church History
 - This is a linear view superimposed onto Revelation but not stated {Eisegesis}
 - Implies ignorance or rejection of the prophetic imagery especially since the Protestant-Enlightenment {Post Medievalism}
 - False Dilemma pitting Scientism against Spiritualism which masquerades as Science against Religion; based upon sinful worldviews {Eisegesis} rather than Bible {Exegesis}
 - Correct pattern for understanding is already given in Scripture by Christ in His vision as High Priest to John

CHRIST IS THE HEAD: CHRIST IS THE PATTERN

- Christ is the *Head of the Church* with the Spirit linking each member, each congregation, together under Christ (1Co 12:12-27; Col 1:15-20)
- John gives us the totality of his *Christ as High Priest* vision; a view unique to the Apostles who saw the risen Christ: John is the Last Apostle
- Each church sees only a part of Christ requiring unity to grasp totality of Christ just as the *Body of Christ* requires interdependence of each member
- Each church has a unique mission but being composed of believers in the Flesh each church falls short as Christ foretold (Mt 13:33; 1Co 13:9-11)
- Maturing believers will have an ear to hear and understand the *whole* Christ like the Apostles who also only partially *knew*: Enigma of the Flesh (Mt 13:34-35; 1Co 13:12)

STRUGGLING TO PRESERVE: WHAT IS THE MISSION

- Christianity has already struggled to grasp New Covenant Gospel, grow and maintain the true belief system: Book of Acts
- These are competing, conflicting priorities that persist today
- What was the mission given to the Apostles, thus to the Churches? (Mt 28:18-20)
 - Make disciples
 - Baptize them into the Body {Church}
 - Teach what Christ has taught {Bible}
- Nowhere in this charge is there **enforcement** of the Truth

STRUGGLING TO PRESERVE: *ADDING TO THE MISSION*

- Believers are to *rest* in Christ; not charge the *gates of Hell* (Mt 11:25-30; Ep 6:10-13)
 - Believers were to *guard* the Spirit-given Truth given them via the Spirit (2Ti 1:13-14)
 - Believers were to rely on Christ alone to protect them, us, from Satan and his minions, earthly and otherwise; Christ will guide our hearts in Truth (2Th 3:1-5)
- Endeavoring to *protect* the Gospel implies Christ is inadequate; churches *added* an enforcement arm to their mission
 - Begins with discouragement over His return; i.e., truth in His promise (2Pe 3:3-4)
 - Many false teachers seek to alter-destroy Gospel Truth (1Jo 4:1-6)
 - Churches relying on forced morality are on the path to apostasy

STRUGGLING TO PRESERVE: IGNORING THE PATTERN

- Each letter gives a different perspective of deviating from the mission and on the path to apostasy forming complete picture of church's failure (Synthesis)
 - Pattern of vision of Christ: Each church received a part {Analysis}
 - Pattern of Christ's Rewards: Each *reward* reflected aspect of New Covenant salvation
- Ignoring Christ's own warning of coming apostasy: **He Allows it!** (Mt 24:3-14)
 - Revelation: Pattern of *Christ-allowed* apostasy to delineate wheat from tares; churches cannot convert the World; not even in Millennial Kingdom (Mt 13:24-30; Re 20:11-15)
- These errors occur throughout modern history with *apostate churches* joining sinners persecuting believers {Letters are Warnings to Churches} **Listen!**