

Lesson No. 113 - The Revelations To The Seven Churches

Hosted by Donald Crowell

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In the last few Sabbaths we have discussed the Plan of Salvation, The Period of Endurance and In The Last Days. The Plan of Salvation was given to coincide with the Appointed Time of Weeks. The Period of Endurance was given to prayerfully admonish, encourage and provide some spiritual guidance as we prepared to enter that period of spiritual challenges we all call summer, when the challenges of this world appear to a little more challenging due to the increase in activity related to the warmer months. And last week, we discussed that Biblical phrase “in the last days” as we discovered more approximately when these last days began; also discovering that these last days cover a period of more than one day, i.e., more than one thousand years, which will end with that other important Biblical phrase, “in that day”.

Tonight, I want to look at a subject I actually began studying a while ago and never got back to it, which I believe has several very important messages for “the Household of Faith” to consider as we continue to walk through our wilderness towards the next appointed time. This subject is all about the messages given to the seven churches in the Book of Revelations. There have probably been many studies presented on these seven churches. I have heard only one, many years ago and remember very little from that lesson. I know that some present this as 7 time periods or ages leading to the return of YESHUA to claim HIS Kingdom. Well, perhaps the purpose of these churches lies in the fact that they are mentioned in the first place. My thoughts are to simply present what scripture provides to us and allow ELOHIM’s spirit to guide us. So, tonight we are discussing Lesson No.113 – The Revelations To The Seven Churches.

Generally speaking, when these seven churches are spoken of, or taught on, what is the specific flow or content of the lesson or sermon? It typically is only what we see in 2nd and 3rd chapters of the Book of Revelations, which speak directly of the seven churches. And from this comes the speculations as to who, what, when and how these specific churches fit into the plan of ELOHIM.

However, in order to fully understand these messages, we must begin at the beginning of the overall context of what was given to the Apostle Yochanan (called John).

- Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John: Rev 1:2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Rev 1:3 Blessed *is* he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time *is* at hand.

First, we learn that the entire Book of Revelation is the Revelation of YESHUA MESSIAH. Although it was HIS revelation, it was given to HIM by FATHER ELOHIM, to show HIS servants things which must shortly come to pass. So, what we must accept is that the entire Book is a message to HIS servants. Who are HIS servants?

- 2Pe 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: 2Pe 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

First, the Apostle Peter addresses himself as a servant of YESHUA MESSIAH.

He then writes to those that have obtained like precious faith with he and the other apostles. Let's look at one other set of scriptures.

- Mat 25:14 For *the kingdom of heaven is* as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. Mat 25:15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Mat 25:16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made *them* other five talents. Mat 25:17 And likewise he that *had received* two, he also gained other two. Mat 25:18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. Mat 25:19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. Mat 25:20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. Mat 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

So, “in the last days”, YESHUA’s servants are those who “have obtained like faith” as YESHUA’s apostles, and who have been faithful in the talents given them by YESHUA, which we know begins with their growth in ELOHIM’s WORD. As a result, the most important revelation to us as we study this subject is that the entire context of the Book of Revelation is all about YESHUA showing “HIS servants things which must shortly come to pass”.

YESHUA then signified these things by HIS angel to the Apostle Yochanan, who was then “to bare record of the WORD of ELOHIM, and of the testimony of YESHUA MESSIAH, and of all things that he saw”.

All too often in modernity, the reading is underperformed, which effects what things are kept. Very important to us this evening is Revelation 1:3, where the very first thing YESHUA signifies to Yochanan by the angel is that there is a blessing to those who read, hear, and keep those things which are written therein. This establishes a context to all of the words which follow, including the messages to the seven churches. As we continue, answer this question to yourselves. Is this revelation then, only for the seven churches?

Now, we read verse 4 which follows those powerful potential blessings offered in verse 3 to YESHUA's servants. And here is where we must simply accept what we are reading.

- Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Based on this reading of verses 4 and 5, Yochanan is addressing the entire Book of Revelation to the seven churches. So, this entire Book is the Revelation of YESHUA MESSIAH", given to YESHUA by HIS FATHER, and then given by YESHUA to HIS angel, who then signified this revelation to the apostle, who then addresses this revelation to the seven churches. And yet we were already told that this revelation was for the servants of YESHUA, to understand the things that would happen shortly. This is our first important key to understand the entire Book of Revelations, and, the messages to the seven churches.

He then offers these churches the greeting of grace and peace from ELOHIM the FATHER, YESHUA, and the seven spirits which are before the FATHER's throne. As we continue to read, I believe we will see a

very important revelation of our own in regards to these seven churches.

First thing however, let's recall from our previous studies that the word church is translated from the Greek word "ekklesia", meaning "an assembly of called-out ones". So, in this context, the entire discourse from the Apostle Yochanan is to these seven groups of "called-out ones", who represent the servants of YESHUA MESSIAH. I believe there is more to this that we will see shortly.

- Rev 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his FATHER; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Rev 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. Rev 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Now, at the end of verse 5 Yochanan wrote "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood". He completes this statement in verse 6 with "and hath made us kings and priests unto ELOHIM and HIS FATHER". My question is this. Who is this us in verse 6? Is it only the seven churches, or is it something far greater that we should be seeing?

In verse 7 Yochanan connects YESHUA to the words of the prophets and the disciples as he writes of the return of YESHUA which we know shall occur at the beginning of that future time ELOHIM's WORD calls "in that day". And in verse 8, the message to the seven churches and the servants of YESHUA becomes personalized in first person, the same way YAHWEH often spoke to the Children of Yisrael (COY) through HIS prophets.

- Rev 1:9 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. Rev 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Now, Yochanan informs us that the words of this Book are primarily about the collective events we have previously studied on “in that day”. We read where that day was the Day of YAHWEH. Yochanan here says he “was in the spirit on the Lord’s Day”. We know how far too many groups have inaccurately translated his meaning. Some teach that this is speaking of Sunday being the Lord’s day. Well, Biblical reason tells us that that is simply impossible, based on all of the events that will follow.

Notice what happens when he was in the spirit. He heard a great voice that sounded like a trumpet. And then the angel says the following to him.

- Rev 1:11 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.

Again, notice how this angel is speaking in first person, as if he were YESHUA HIMSELF; just like the angel that spoke to Moses from the burning bush. And we finally see these seven churches named; Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

There are several things we need to consider about these specific churches. First, why did YESHUA choose these seven locations to address the things Yochanan is writing about “the Lord’s Day”? We know that the main church of this time was probably in Yerushalaim. There obviously were churches in Rome, Corinth, Philippi, Colossae and Thessalonica.

Why not include these? Second, why address this to only seven churches?

Notice the following map of these seven locations.



These are all in Asia; none in Europe or Yisrael. At first glance, they do not represent any important merchant routes or strategic locations of those times.

As mentioned earlier, some teach that these seven churches represent seven ages the church will endure until the return of YESHUA. Well, let's reason together based on what we have been provided. Earlier I ask the question, were the seven churches the only ones to be made kings and priests. We will return to this first chapter shortly.

One of the most important things we must know and understand about these events Yochanan is seeing as he is in the spirit, are the metaphors being presented. The Book mixes metaphors in the midst of presenting actual events that will occur. To understand these, we must be patient and yet diligent.

- Rev 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door *was* opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard *was* as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

Again, the first thing he hears when the door is opened is the voice of a trumpet, which provides a clue of what follows.

- Rev 4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne. Rev 4:3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and *there was* a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. Rev 4:4 And round about the throne *were* four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

There has been much speculation surrounding these twenty-four elders. I think shortly we will see the metaphorical nature of them being presented here.

- Rev 4:5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. Rev 4:6 And before the throne *there was* a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, *were* four beasts full of eyes before and behind. Rev 4:7 And the first beast *was* like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast *was* like a flying eagle. Rev 4:8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about *him*; and *they were* full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

- Rev 4:9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, Rev 4:10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Some of us have heard a theory of these elders being human, resurrected saints. The fact that they are pictured as having crowns verse 10 may substantiate that possibility. Why, because in fact we have never read of angels receiving crowns.

- Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.
- Rev 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. Rev 5:2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? Rev 5:3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. Rev 5:4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. Rev 5:5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

Here we get a sense of what Yochanan meant as he wrote that he was in the spirit. One of these elders actually spoke to him. Remind you of anyone else?

- Dan 7:1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, *and* told the sum of the matters.

- Dan 7:2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

Here the Prophet Daniel is dreaming great visions.

- Dan 7:9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment *was* white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne *was like* the fiery flame, *and* his wheels *as* burning fire. Dan 7:10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. Dan 7:11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld *even* till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. Dan 7:12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. Dan 7:13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. Dan 7:14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed. Dan 7:15 I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. Dan 7:16 I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.

Is this any different than what we are reading in the 5th chapter of Revelations? Yochanan was dreaming these things and was able to communicate within it because like the Prophet Daniel, the dream was a vision brought upon him from on high. Notice the events of both dreams.

- Rev 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. Rev 5:7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. Rev 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. Rev 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; Rev 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Now notice something quite profound and relevant to our study tonight. First, this song further informs us as to the broad contextual direction to which the words of this Revelation were and are meant. It is written to those who will be made kings and priests, who shall reign on the earth. Second, notice that it was both the beasts and the twenty-four elders who sang this new song. This emphatically teaches us that both the beasts and the twenty-four elders are metaphorically resurrected saints of YESHUA.

- Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. *This is* the first resurrection.

- Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Do we get the full picture of what ELOHIM's WORD is teaching us? Everything in this Revelation of YESHUA MESSIAH, is targeted to HIS servants who must endure all of the events that shall occur during that same period of time we studied last week; "in the last days".

To provide this message to HIS servants, YESHUA picked the names of seven locations in Asia to challenge HIS servants to patience and endurance.

- Rev 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; Rev 1:13 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. Rev 1:14 His head and *his* hairs *were* white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes *were* as a flame of fire; Rev 1:15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. Rev 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance *was* as the sun shineth in his strength.

Are we also noticing how so many things are presented in sevens? The LAMB had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. There were seven golden candlesticks and HE had seven stars in HIS right hand. These metaphors are a lesson unto themselves, to which further understanding will be given shortly.

This is so consistent with all of ELOHIM's WORD. We have studied and know that the first seven days of the Appointed Time of Tabernacles

represents the prophetic seven days YESHUA's servants will exist in their tabernacles of flesh, while striving to remain unleavened. Seven is obviously ELOHIM's number of completions, pictured by the very first Sabbath given in ELOHIM's WORD.

- Rev 1:17 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: Rev 1:18 *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. Rev 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; Rev 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.

And here YESHUA HIMSELF unlocks the metaphor of the seven angels and candlesticks. Earlier we read in chapter 5, verse 6 of the “seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth”. Are these seven eyes, “sent forth into all the earth”, any different than these seven angels “of the seven churches”. And perhaps more importantly, are the seven churches any different than all of those who will become kings and priests and reign on the earth with YESHUA when HE comes into HIS Kingdom, “in that day”?

With these important perspectives, let's look at YESHUA's message to these seven churches.

- Rev 2:1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

To this metaphorical church of Ephesus, YESHUA teaches us that HE

walks in the midst of the seven churches. How does YESHUA accomplish this?

- Joh 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Joh 14:17 *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. Joh 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.
- Joh 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Joh 14:28 Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come *again* unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. Joh 14:29 And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.

Here, through the Apostle Yochanan we are taught how YESHUA walks in the midst of the golden candlesticks. It is through HIS Spirit, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, also pictured as the seven eyes of YESHUA; HIS seven angels to the seven churches.

- Rev 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: Rev 2:3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Rev 2:4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

As we read verses 2 and 3, it seems as though the church of Ephesus is doing the work of a servant. And yet, it is also pictured as having left its first love. This is the only instance of the phrase “first love” in scripture. Whatever it is, having left it caused the church pictured at Ephesus to fall. It is admonished to repent and do the first works, or lose its candlestick. I.e., if this church does not rekindle its first love, it will lose its church status. This is so important to all of us in modernity.

A couple of thoughts here. When YESHUA gave HIS disciples their initial instructions, we read the following:

- Mat 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

The disciples were told they were the “salt of the earth”. I.e., they were the preservers or keepers of something very precious. This charge has been passed on to the “Household of Faith”, the Church of ELOHIM. Yet, we see the warning to them if they lose their seasoning, with Yudas as a prime example. This warning, given first to the disciples, is now given to the church, YESHUA’s called-out ones, through this metaphorical Church of Ephesus.

- Mat 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Mat 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

This is the commission given to the “Household of Faith”. To present itself as a light, a candle on a candlestick “gives light unto all that are in the house”. The seven churches are seven candlesticks, representative of the entire “Church of ELOHIM”. Ask yourself, what was the first passion that led to your calling, drawing and election? Whatever it was, it was

inherently associated with a surge of growth in the WORD of ELOHIM.

- Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

The church of Ephesus was told to repent and do the first works, which began with discerning what was the truth in the midst of this untoward modernity. We developed a passion and excitedly began to share what we were finding unto the lack of acceptance by loved ones that at times may have stunted our passion. YESHUA, through HIS message to the church of Ephesus, is admonishing us to rekindle our first passion and zeal for the knowledge of the truth and standing strong as lights to all that are in the house. An interesting side point, Ephesus was the only church listed to which evidence exists that an apostle visited there.

- Rev 2:6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Rev 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

In researching this lesson, there are several theories that exist about the Nicolaitans. Yet, ELOHIM's WORD does not offer clarity. What is important, and, what we know is that if we maintain the salt given to us, our first love, and endure, we can overcome whatever it is through our knowledge of the truth.

- Rev 2:8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; Rev 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.

Here YESHUA acknowledges the good works, tribulation and poverty. The Apostle Paul spoke on this.

- 2Co 8:1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 2Co 8:2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. 2Co 8:3 For to *their* power, I bear record, yea, and beyond *their* power *they were* willing of themselves; 2Co 8:4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and *take upon us* the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 2Co 8:5 And *this they did*, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God. 2Co 8:6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. 2Co 8:7 Therefore, as ye abound in every *thing, in* faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and *in* all diligence, and *in* your love to us, *see* that ye abound in this grace also. 2Co 8:8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love. 2Co 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

These words speak for themselves. YESHUA also spoke of those who claim to be Jews (Yehudans) and are not; and are of the synagogue of Satan. Who are these? What we do know is that those who inhabit the land of Yisrael today calling themselves Yehudans are imposters. We also know that they have implemented such things as the postponement rules that change certain appointed times. They have adopted a matriarchal system rather than adhere to the patriarchal system established by ELOHIM. These falsehoods existed during apostolic times, as we know that the Romans destroyed Yerushalaim in 70AD and brought in Edomites such as King Herod, to replace the true Yehudans.

- Rev 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

This is a prophecy of the fact that for some in the Household of Faith, this will happen. This message encourages these to maintain their faith, even unto this end. This life is not the end.

- Rev 2:12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; Rev 2:13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan's seat *is*: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. Rev 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. Rev 2:15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

So even though these have good works in the midst of Satan's seat and have held fast YESHUA's name without denying HIS faith, there are those amongst them walking not according to ELOHIM's WORD. The Apostle Paul wrote this commonly taught scripture.

- 1Co 5:1 It is reported commonly *that there is* fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. 1Co 5:2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

- 1Co 5:3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, *concerning* him that hath so done this deed, 1Co 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 1Co 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 1Co 5:6 Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

This is a warning to those who claim to be YESHUA's servants in modernity, yet walk in the ways of the world. The apostle provides further warnings to called-out ones.

- 1Co 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? 1Co 10:17 For we *being* many are one bread, *and* one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread. 1Co 10:18 Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? 1Co 10:19 What say I then? that the idol is anything, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is anything? 1Co 10:20 But *I say*, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. 1Co 10:21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

YESHUA HIMSELF is warning the Household of Faith about fornication and idolatry.

- Rev 2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

- Rev 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it*.

This hidden manna very well might be the mysteries of the Kingdom, hidden from others, and yet given to YESHUA's disciples. This promise is to YESHUA's church in modernity. As we overcome, we will grow in the knowledge of the truth as given us through the Comforter.

- Rev 2:18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass; Rev 2:19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last *to be* more than the first.

Here we have the church having works of charity, service, faith and patience. In fact, all of these seven churches had good works. Yet, they are cautioned about stumbling blocks around and in the midst of them. This reminds each of us just how subtle our surroundings can be, and in fact are.

- Rev 2:20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. Rev 2:21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Rev 2:22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. Rev 2:23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

It would appear that things sacrificed to idols was quite prevalent during apostolic times, as it has been mentioned here more than once. Here also is where we must open our eyes to see clearly what is being said. Is the food being fed that is sacrificed to idols only the physical food to the physical body? We must realize that this is a matter of duality.

Case in point. If I as a professed teacher of ELOHIM's WORD profess that I will not wash anyone's feet at YESHUA's Passover, knowing that my congregation will follow my lead, what spiritual food am I serving? Think about it.

- Rev 2:24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. Rev 2:25 But that which ye have *already* hold fast till I come. Rev 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: Rev 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. Rev 2:28 And I will give him the morning star. Rev 2:29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

YESHUA realizes that not all of the Household of Faith have adopted these doctrines of fornication and idolatry, and these are encouraged to hold fast and endure.

- Rev 3:1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Rev 3:2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

- Rev 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Rev 3:4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. Rev 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. Rev 3:6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

It is obvious that some of you do a far greater job of watching the events that surround each of us in modernity. It is interesting that HE spoke of this as HE announced HIS having the seven Spirits of ELOHIM and the seven stars.

- 2Ch 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

WE as Brothers and Sisters in the Faith are to perform service to one another, for we are all about to die of this flesh. Remember our prior lessons. Even those who fall away from the truth have the ability to be corrected before they die this death. This is a vital part of our broad commissions towards one another.

- Zec 1:8 I saw by night, and behold a man riding upon a red horse, and he stood among the myrtle trees that *were* in the bottom; and behind him *were there* red horses, speckled, and white. Zec 1:9 Then said I, O my lord, what *are* these? And the angel that talked with me said unto me, I will shew thee what these *be*.

- Zec 1:10 And the man that stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, These are they whom the LORD hath sent to walk to and fro through the earth. Zec 1:11 And they answered the angel of the LORD that stood among the myrtle trees, and said, We have walked to and fro through the earth, and, behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest.
- Zec 4:1 And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, Zec 4:2 And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:
- Zec 4:10 For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

This is what the seven stars constantly do, even unto this day. Likewise, we serve one another, we watch for one another, until the end.

- Rev 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; Rev 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Rev 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Rev 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Obviously, these have maintained and endured in such a manner that they will be protected from the great tribulation which is to come. I say the great tribulation because HE says it shall come upon all the world to try them. We all go through our individual tribulations. This is a part of the walk. However, the tribulation to come has never been seen before.

Regarding those who claim to be Yehudans and are not, there are several devastating prophecies about them.

- Amo 9:11 In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: Amo 9:12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this.
- Oba 1:8 Shall I not in that day, saith the LORD, even destroy the wise *men* out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau? Oba 1:9 And thy mighty *men*, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.

This is sad stuff we are reading. And we see where all of this will happen “in that day”.

- Rev 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Rev 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is* new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him* my new name. Rev 3:13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Again, these metaphorical messages given to the seven churches is all about repentance, overcoming and endurance.

- Rev 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; Rev 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. Rev 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Finally, YESHUA cautions those servants who are lukewarm in their walk. Some of you may recall Lesson No. 35 - For Righteousness Sake, Is It Cold, Hot or Lukewarm, where we saw that YESHUA would rather we all be cold or hot, and never lukewarm. For if we are lukewarm, HE will spue us out of HIS mouth. What does that mean? The Greek word “spue” is emeo, which means to vomit or spit. This can only mean one’s utter separation from YESHUA, leading to the ultimate destruction.

How does one become lukewarm in the first place? In life we call it many things, like straddling the fence; like seeing both sides yet refusing to choose a side. Being lukewarm in a spiritual context means having knowledge and choosing to play both sides. The Apostle Paul spoke on this.

- Heb 6:4 For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, Heb 6:5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, Heb 6:6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.

These were once hot, they were enlightened, they were convicted, they understood the plan of salvation. Yet, they looked back. Someone planted

a seed of tares which through the lack of faith uprooted their knowledge.

- Heb 6:7 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: Heb 6:8 But that which beareth thorns and briars *is* rejected, and *is* nigh unto cursing; whose end *is* to be burned.

YESHUA gave us another important blueprint of this.

- Mat 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: Mat 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, *there* thou hast *that is* thine.

This person had been given a talent, yet refused to allow his light to shine. He knew he had the talent and hid it rather than allowed it to grow.

- Mat 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, *Thou* wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Mat 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and *then* at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Mat 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give *it* unto him which hath ten talents. Mat 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

This talent was given by ELOHIM. When we recognize the talent, it is meant to grow. The more we grow, the more we eliminate the space in our lives for vanity to creep in. We fill up on righteousness. We begin to become more perfect. If we don't grow, we become lukewarm and allow

space for false doctrines to replace the truth we once knew. We then lose our invitation.

Finally, YESHUA warns the church against the vanity of materialism.

- Rev 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: Rev 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.

YESHUA closes this chapter of the Revelation in a direct opposite of what HE said to the first church where HE said HE knew their works and poverty (but thou art rich). They were rich on the things from above. The riches of this world will fade away, even if it is maintained until death. This cannot be the goal of the church. We are called to a greater form of gold. We anoint our eyes with the eye salve of ELOHIM's WORD.

As HE closes this chapter of the Revelation, it should become a little clearer that this message to these metaphorical seven churches is a collective message of completeness and endurance to the entire "Household of Faith", "in the last days".

- Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. Rev 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. Rev 3:22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

YESHUA concludes this introduction to the Revelation with the ultimate invitation on how HE first introduced HIMSELF. HE rebukes and chastens those HE loves. These messages to these churches are chastenings and rebukes to those HE invites to sup with HIM.

To the church of Ephesus, YESHUA announced HIMSELF as “HE that holdeth the seven stars in HIS right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks”. This is HIS desire to the “Household of Faith”. To the church in Smyrna, HE was “the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive”. To the church of Pergamos HE was “HE which hath the sharp sword with two edges”. To the church in Thyatira HE was “the SON of ELOHIM, who had HIS eyes like unto a flame of fire, and HIS feet like fine brass”. To the church in Sardis write; HE had “the seven Spirits of ELOHIM, and the seven stars”. To the church in Philadelphia HE was holy, true, had the key of David, HE opens and no man shuts; and HE shuts, and no man opens. And to the church in of the Laodiceans HE is the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of ELOHIM. All of these descriptions of HIM teach us of HIS completeness.

Notice also the promises to each church.

1. He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.
2. To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it*.
3. He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:
4. I will give him the morning star.
5. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.
6. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of

my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is* new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him* my new name. And finally,

7. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

HIS final promise is in perfect tone with what happens at the end of this Revelation to the seven churches and “the Household of Faith” at the first resurrection, when those who endured shall live again and reign with YESHUA, and be priests of ELOHIM and of the MESSIAH a thousand years.

Here again is conclusive proof of the fact that the messages from ELOHIM, through HIS SON, through HIS angel, through HIS servant Yochanan, to the seven churches, are but metaphors to the entire Church of ELOHIM, admonishing it to recognize that the times as described in the chapters that follow these messages will be very, very difficult.

Yet through it all, HIS church must endure and stand.

After the messages to the seven churches, the Revelation of the final view of the Day of YAHWEH is given. Notice how it starts.

- Rev 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door *was* opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard *was* as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

We read through this 4th chapter earlier. And at the absolute end of the Revelation, we conclude with the following.

- Rev 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star. Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. Rev 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: Rev 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book. Rev 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Rev 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

So, we should clearly see that the seven named churches are but arbitrary locations chosen to send a final message of caution, humility, repentance and endurance to those who are heirs to the Kingdom of ELOHIM.

YESHUA provides a final update to the writings HE gave to HIS prophets as YAHWEH, and to HIS apostles when HE came in the name of HIS FATHER as YESHUA. If we remember our lessons, after seven weekly Sabbaths was the FIRST FRUITS. After seven Sabbaths of years shall be the Yubilee. After seven prophetic days shall be the Last Great Day; the Day of YAHWEH; the Day of the LORD. YESHUA wants HIS elect, the Church of ELOHIM, to be encouraged while at the same time warned, for the following purpose.

- 2Pe 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

- Jud 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Jud 1:21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. Jud 1:22 And of some have compassion, making a difference: Jud 1:23 And others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Jud 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, Jud 1:25 To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

If we continue to walk in HIM and with HIM, we know these events to be true, and yet, we have no fear. And that, Brothers and Sisters, is the purpose of the Revelations to the seven churches, which is, “the Household of Faith” “in the last days”.

Shalom!!