

Among the Lampstands: Fear Not the Living One

October 5, 2025 | *Revelation 1:9-20*



Observation: What is happening here?

- **V. 9:** John identifies as "brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance." He is exiled on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.
- **V. 10:** John was "*in the Spirit*" on the Lord's Day; carried along by the Spirit. A trumpet-like voice tells him to write to seven churches.
- **V. 12-16:** The vision: **Seven** golden lampstands with One like a Son of Man among them. This powerful imagery is like what is shown in Zechariah 4:1-6.
- **V. 17-18:** John falls "*as though dead*." Jesus touches him, saying: "Fear not... I am the First and the Last... the Living One... I have the keys of Death and Hades."
- **V. 20:** Christ explains the symbols: stars = angels (messengers/pastors), lampstands = churches (and *can* mean people).
- Parabolic connection:
 - The Parable of the Ten Virgins. They had oil in their **lamps** and waited for the bridegroom (Christ). (*Matthew 25:1-13*)
 - The Parable of the Lamps: The importance of letting the light (**lamp**) shine. (*Matthew 5:14-16; Mark 4:21-25; Luke 8:16-18*)

Ontario Community Church: Encouraging, Equipping and Engaging lives for Christ. John 6:47 (ESV) "*Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.*"

Interpretation: What can we learn?

Tribulation. Kingdom. Endurance.

- We are part of the kingdom. When we face tribulation, we will endure until the end.
- The word of God can be opposed by man but not stopped.
- **Scriptures:** *Revelation 1:9; Acts 14:22; 2 Timothy 2:12; 1 Peter 4:12-13.*

The Son of Man Walks with His Churches and His People

- Jesus stands among the seven lampstands (representing the universal church). Christ is present in every local congregation as the good shepherd.
- He holds the stars (angels/messengers) in His right hand. Christ is the sure foundation.
- Zechariah 4:1-6 shows the powerful imagery connected with John's description.
- **Scriptures:** *Revelation 1:12-13, 16, 20; Zechariah 4:1-6; Matthew 28:20; John 10:28-29.*

"Fear Not" the Living One Who Rules Over Death

- Jesus is the First and Last, the Living One who died, rose again, and now lives forever, holding the keys of Death and Hades. Christ rules and reigns victorious.
 - The sword from His mouth (His spoken word) and the voice like many waters show that His speech both saves and judges.
 - **Scriptures:** *Revelation 1:17-18; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57; Isaiah 49:2; Hebrews 4:12.*
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Application: How should we live?

Live Together in Christ with the Power of the Spirit

- We are better together. We are members of His kingdom. Through trials and tribulations, God is there for us, and we are here for each other. We endure the race to the end; let us never do this alone.
- Stand firm on the solid rock. Live like Christ. This world needs Christ more than ever.
- **Scriptures:** *Revelation 1:9; James 5:7-8; Hebrews 10:36; Romans 12:12.*

Worship on the Lord's Day "in the Spirit"

- Worship the Lord, be in His presence. Let the Spirit lead and guide you personally and corporately (in the church). Let your mind, heart, and spirit be transformed by Him.
- It's all about response; respond to salvation in faith, respond to His leading (conviction).
- **Scriptures:** *Revelation 1:10; Psalm 95:6-8; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:24-25.*

Shine as Christ's Lampstand (Personal and Corporate)

- Guard your witness with integrity and love. Let your good works point people to Jesus. Let your own lamp shine, and the lampstand of the church shine brightly.
 - Pray for your church, brothers and sisters in Christ, shepherds ("stars"), and encourage one another.
 - **Scriptures:** *Revelation 1:12, 16, 20; Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Timothy 2:1-2.*
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