

OCC Connections Bible Study (Group or Personal)

Among the Lampstands: Fear Not the Living One - Revelation 1:9-20

(read Zechariah 4:1-6; Daniel 7:9-14; Isaiah 49:2; Hebrews 2:14-15 for context)

Big Idea: Jesus Christ walks among His churches as the Living One who holds the keys of Death and Hades. John's vision reveals Christ's glory and authority. We respond by living together in Christ, worshiping in the Spirit, and shining as His lampstands as we endure with patient perseverance.

1) Read Revelation 1:9-20 aloud.

Consider reading: **Zechariah 4:1-6, Daniel 7:9-14, Isaiah 49:2, Hebrews 2:14-15.** (These provide important background!)

Ask the Lord for understanding and obedient hearts.

2) Observe the Text (choose 2-3)

- How does John identify himself in verse 9, and what three realities does he share with believers?
- What is John's state in verse 10, and what does he hear?
- Describe the vision of "*One like a Son of Man*" in verses 12-16. What details stand out to you?

- How does John respond to the vision in verse 17, and what does Jesus say to him?
 - What do the seven stars and seven lampstands represent in verse 20?
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3) See the Connections

- **Context:** John is exiled on Patmos for his faithful witness. During worship, he receives a vision of the risen Christ among His churches. He is reassuring believers that Jesus is present, powerful, and in control.
- **Word Work:**
 - *Tribulation* (θλίψις) - G2347 (Strong's): pressure, affliction, distress
 - *Patient endurance* (ὑπομονή) - G5281 (Strong's): steadfast perseverance, remaining faithful under trial
- **Cross References (from the reading plan):**
 - **Zechariah 4:1-6:** The Spirit's power, just like in Revelation: "*Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit*"
 - **Daniel 7:9-14:** Vision of the Ancient of Days and the Son of Man
 - **Isaiah 49:2:** The sword from God's mouth
 - **Hebrews 2:14-15:** Christ's victory over death frees us from fear

4) Interpret (what it means)

- **Tribulation, Kingdom, Endurance Go Together:** Reigning with Christ happens by enduring with Christ. We live in the Kingdom, and even during trials or tribulations, Christ is there for us. John shows us a reality: the word can be opposed but never stopped.
 - **Christ Walks Among His Lampstands:** The seven lampstands represent the (universal) church. Jesus is present in every local congregation as the good shepherd, holding the messengers (stars) in His hand as the sure foundation.
 - **"Fear Not" the Living One:** Jesus is the First and Last, the Living One who conquered death and holds its keys. His presence brings both comfort (to His people) and judgment (through His word). We need not fear because He is victorious.
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5) Apply (how we live)

- **Live together in Christ with the power of the Spirit:** Don't face tribulation alone. Be in Christian community. Pray for one another. Stand firm on the solid rock as we endure together.
- **Worship on the Lord's Day "in the Spirit":** Prepare your heart for corporate worship. Let the Spirit lead and transform you. Respond in faith and obedience to God's

conviction.

- **Shine as Christ's lampstand:** Guard your witness with integrity and love. Let your good works point to Jesus. Pray for your church and its leaders. Memorize Scripture and share it with others.

Commitment log: For 7 days, keep a simple log:

- **Pray:** *"Lord Jesus, help me endure with patient perseverance and shine as Your light."*
 - **Plan:** Choose one way to strengthen your church community this week.
 - **Practice:** Prepare your heart for Sunday worship—what will you do Saturday night and Sunday morning?
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6) Pray the Text (Revelation 1:9-20)

- **Praise:** *"Jesus, You are the First and the Last, the Living One who walks among us."*
- **Surrender:** *"I fall before You in reverence; touch me and raise me up."*
- **Dependence:** *"Strengthen me to endure tribulation with patient perseverance."*

- **Mission:** *"Make me a bright lampstand that shines Your truth and grace to the world."*
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7) Life Stage Helps

- **Parents/Kids:** Talk about how Jesus is always with His church. Draw or color seven lampstands with Jesus in the middle.
- **Couples/Roommates:** Discuss together: *"Where is Jesus inviting us to trade comfort for patient endurance?"*
- **Students/Young Adults:** Identify one pressure you're facing. How can you face it with patient endurance instead of avoidance?
- **New to Faith:** Ask a mature believer what it means that Jesus "walks among His churches" and how this changes our daily lives.
- **Singles/Widows/Seniors:** Pray for your church's leaders (the "stars") and encourage one pastor or leader this week.

Additional Notes or Questions: