

# **The Revelation**

## **Chapter 1:9-20**

### **Part 3**

Christ Church

Spring 2026

- vv. 17-20 is John's commission to the task of recording the Revelation



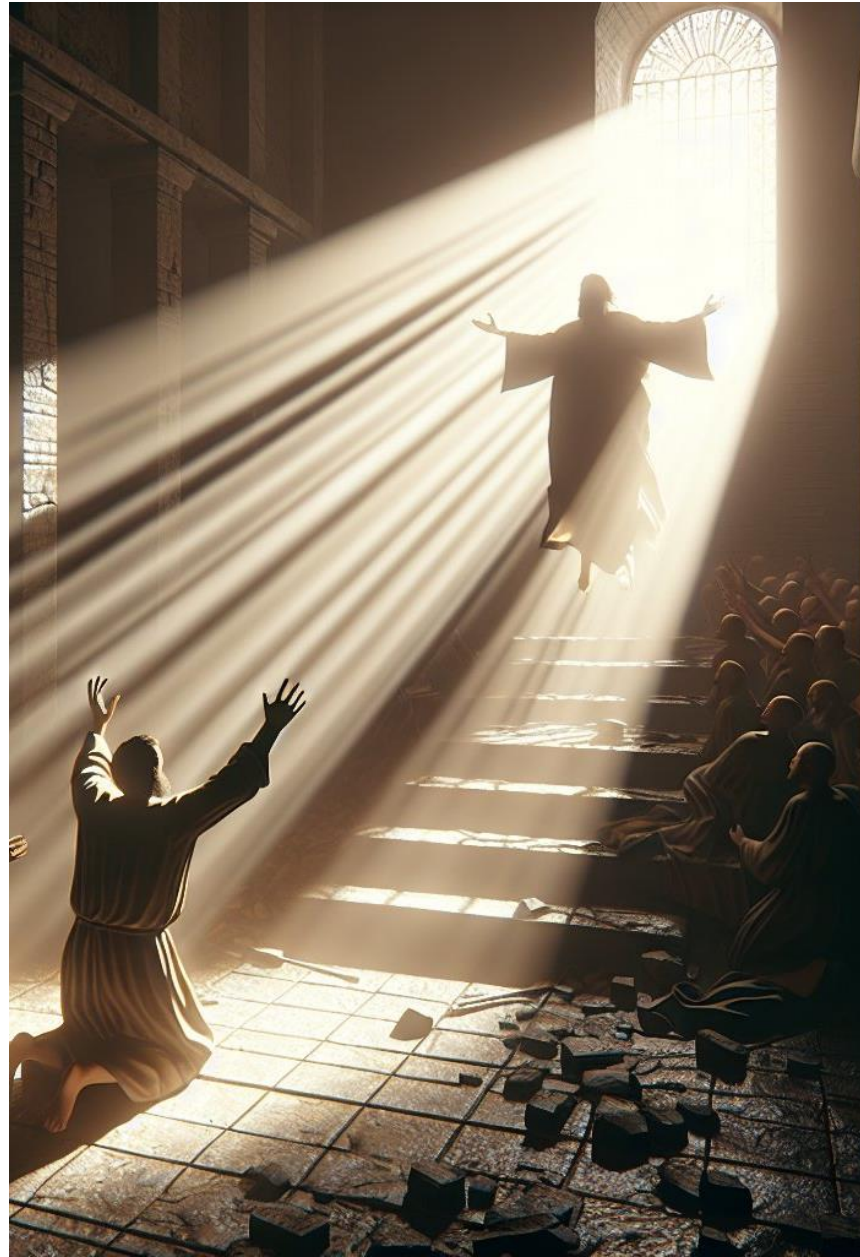
- In vv. 17-18 John “**fell as a dead man**”  
– this is a standard experience for a person called into ministry
- A personal note. In the summer of 1974...







- Compare John to Daniel 10:9-11



- **Daniel 10:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a **deep sleep**, my face to the ground.

<sup>10</sup> A **hand** touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. <sup>11</sup> He said, “Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you.” And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

- “...**right hand**” – is the hand of authority
- In vv. 17, 18a we have a chiasm
  - A. I Am
  - B. First
  - C. Last
  - D. Living One
  - C'. Dead
  - B'. Alive
  - A'. For ever and ever

- Jesus is ‘**the First and the Last**’
  - ‘*protos*’ – prototype, protozoa, protocol
  - ‘*eschatos*’ – eschatology
- In the American Church we study ‘*last things*’
- I had a class in seminary called “*The Four **Last Things***”
  - Resurrection
  - Judgment
  - Heaven
  - Hell



◆ Adrio König ◆

THE  
ECLIPSE  
OF  
CHRIST  
IN  
ESCHATOLOGY

*Toward a  
Christ-Centered  
Approach*

- Eschatology should be about Jesus Christ
- It is in our study! The *Eschatos* is Jesus

- **“the First and Last”** – see Isaiah 44:6; 48:12
- **“the living One”** – see Deuteronomy 5:26; Joshua 3:10; Psalm 42:2; Jeremiah 10:10
  - Self-existent – AKA ‘aseity’
  - Independent
  - Sovereign
- **‘I was dead...alive forever’** – see Romans 6:9

- **“the First and Last”** – see Isaiah 44:6; 48:12
- That translation is too colorless, try:
  - ‘Origin and Destination’
  - ‘Source and Goal’
  - ‘Planner and Overseer’
  - ‘Starting Block and Winner’s Circle’
  - ‘Dawn and Dusk’
  - ‘Call and Dismissal’
  - ‘Author and Perfecter’
  - ‘Plan and Execution’

- **“the keys of death and Hades” –**
  - “The Empire claimed to have all authority, to possess the power over life and death, and over the grave; Jesus declares instead that He – and not the State, nor the emperor, nor Satan, nor the ruler of the synagogue – has command over all reality. He is the Lord of Life and Death, of all history, and of eternity; and it is in terms of this complete dominion that He commissions St. John to write this book which so clearly and unequivocally sets forth the truth of His eternal and comprehensive government.” Ibid, p. 78

- “**keys**” – links to Isaiah 22:22 where Shebna can open or shut the house of David
- This image is repeated in Revelation 3:7





- v. 19 – “**Write**” is a repeated commission from v. 11
- Some scholars treat this as a three-part outline of the book
  - ‘**what you have seen**’ – chapter 1 (past)
  - ‘**what is now**’ – chapters 2, 3 (present)
  - ‘**what will take place later**’ – chapters 4-22 (future)

- More likely it is
  - **‘seen’** – Jesus among the lampstands
  - **‘what they are’** – what the symbols mean
  - **‘what will take place later’** – v. 1 **‘must soon take place’**
- It is a parallel to v. 4 **‘is...was...is to come’**. In other words, history reflects the nature of God

- In v. 20 Jesus explains the ‘**mystery**’
- Mystery *does not* mean what we think it means



- “It is indeed something hidden, but not in such a way that you can follow a series of clues and eventually find it out; rather, it is a truth which you either know, or you do not know, depending on whether or not it has been revealed to you”

Michael Wilcock, I Saw Heaven Opened, p. 153

This is the **300<sup>th</sup>**  
slide in  
our notes for  
Revelation 1



- The seven **stars** correspond to, and are interchangeable with **angels**
- Angels and stars are often linked in the Bible
  - Judges 5:20; Job 38:7; Isaiah 14:13; Jude 13; Revelation 8:10-12; 9:1; 12:4
  - They are associated with government and rule – Genesis 37:9; Daniel 8:9-11; 10:13, 20-21
- Angels and prophets are also connected
  - Isaiah 6:1-8; Jeremiah 15:19; 23; Ezekiel 1-3, 10

- Notice which hand the angels are in
- John is thus made an ‘**angel**’
- “**angel**”
  - Spirit being
  - Messenger
- In Revelation 2, 3 the ‘**angels**’ of the churches are the *pastors*, those who bring God’s message to their churches

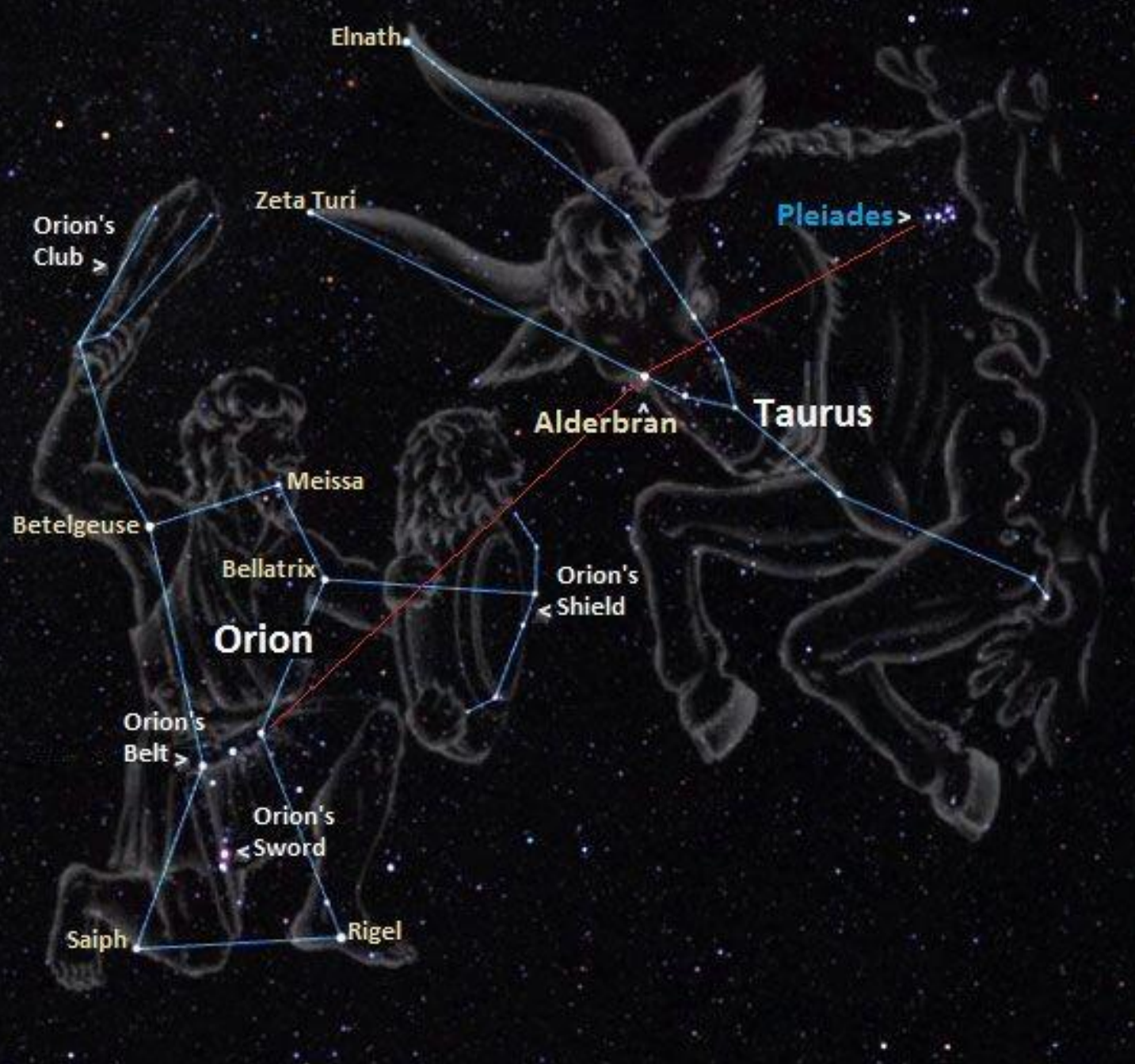
If that is the case then...





- “**seven stars...angels...churches**”  
links again to the Pleiades
  - Seven daughters of Atlas pursued by Orion
  - The sisters changed into pigeons (Greek *peleiades*), then into stars

# Seven Sisters



# A S I A

(Modern Eastern Turkey)

● Pergamum  
● Thyatira

● Sardis

● Smyrna

● Philadelphia

● Ephesus

● Laodicea

Patmos









- **Would John have missed the rich associations of doves, persecuted sisters, churches, stars, clocks?**
- **Would his readers?**
  - Perhaps some
  - But not all of them